Package 'pbo'

May 9, 2026

Type Package

Title Probability of Backtest Overfitting

Version 1.3.5

Description Following the method of Bailey et al., computes for a collection of candidate models the probability of backtest overfitting, the performance degradation and probability of loss, and the stochastic dominance.

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URL https://github.com/mrbcuda/pbo

BugReports https://github.com/mrbcuda/pbo/issues

Encoding UTF-8

RoxygenNote 7.1.2

Depends R (>= 4.0.0)

Imports utils (>= 4.1.2), lattice (>= 0.20.45), latticeExtra (>= 0.6.29), foreach (>= 1.5.2)

Suggests PerformanceAnalytics, grid, testthat, doParallel, parallel, knitr, spelling

VignetteBuilder knitr

Language en-US

NeedsCompilation no

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Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2022-05-26 14:40:02 UTC

Contents

`pbo-package` *Probability of backtest overfitting.*

Description

Computes the probability of backtest overfitting

Details

Implements algorithms for computing the probability of backtest overfitting, performance degradation and probability of loss, and first- and second-order stochastic dominance, based on the approach specified in Bailey et al., September 2013. Provides a collection of pre-configured plots based on `lattice` graphics.

Author(s)

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References

See Bailey, David H. and Borwein, Jonathan M. and Lopez de Prado, Marcos and Zhu, Qiji Jim, The Probability of Back-Test Overfitting (September 1, 2013). Available at SSRN. See https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2326253.

`dotplot.pbo` *PBO in-sample selection dot plot.*

Description

Draws an annotated dot plot of study selection sorted by in-sample selection frequency.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'pbo'
dotplot(
  x,
  data = NULL,
  main,
  xlab = "Sorted Study Number (N)",
  ylab = "IS Selection Frequency",
  show_config = TRUE,
  show_grid = TRUE,
  sel_threshold = 0,
  ...
)
```

Arguments

x	a pbo object as returned by pbo.
data	should not be used
main	plot title, default computed internally, passed to dotplot.
xlab	x-axis label with default, passed to dotplot.
ylab	y-axis label with default, passed to dotplot.
show_config	whether to show the study dimension annotations, default TRUE
show_grid	whether to show the grid panel, default TRUE
sel_threshold	the minimum in-sample frequency subsetting threshold, default 0; selection frequencies at or below this value will be omitted
...	other parameters as passed to dotplot.

See Also

pbo, histogram.pbo, xyplot.pbo

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histogram.pbo *PBO rank logits histogram.*

Description

Draws an annotated histogram of PBO rank logits.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'pbo'
histogram(
  x,
  data = NULL,
  show_pbo = TRUE,
  show_regions = TRUE,
  show_config = TRUE,
  col_bar = "#cc99cc",
  col_line = "#3366cc",
  ...
)
```

Arguments

x	an object of class pbo as returned by pbo.
data	should not be used
show_pbo	whether to show the PBO value annotation, default TRUE
show_regions	whether to show the overfit region annotations, default TRUE
show_config	whether to show the study dimension annotations, default TRUE
col_bar	histogram bar fill color passed to histogram panel
col_line	density plot line color passed to density plot panel
...	other parameters passed to histogram, densityplot, or panel.abline.

Details

Uses **lattice** function histogram, densityplot, and panel.abline panels together with class-specific annotations.

See Also

pbo, dotplot.pbo, xyplot.pbo

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pbo *Probability of backtest overfitting*

Description

Performs the probability of backtest overfitting computations.

Usage

```
pbo(m, s = 4, f = NA, threshold = 0, inf_sub = 6, allow_parallel = FALSE)
```

Arguments

m	a TxN data frame of returns, where T is the samples per study and N is the number of studies.
s	the number of subsets of m for CSCV combinations; must evenly divide m
f	the function to evaluate a study's performance; required
threshold	the performance metric threshold (e.g. 0 for Sharpe, 1 for Omega)
inf_sub	infinity substitution value for reasonable plotting
allow_parallel	whether to enable parallel processing, default FALSE

Details

This function performs the probability of backtest overfitting calculation using a combinatorially-symmetric cross validation (CSCV) approach.

Value

object of class pbo containing list of PBO calculation results and settings

References

Baily et al., "The Probability of Backtest Overfitting," https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2326253

Examples

```
## Not run:
require(pbo)
require(PerformanceAnalytics)
n <- 100
t <- 1000
s <- 8
m <- data.frame(matrix(rnorm(n*t,mean=0,sd=1),
  nrow=t,ncol=n,byrow=TRUE,
  dimnames=list(1:t,1:n)),
  check.names=FALSE)
p <- pbo(m,s,f=Omega,threshold=1)

## End(Not run)
```

---

pbo_show_config *Writes grid text to a default predetermined location.*

Description

Writes grid text to a default predetermined location.

Usage

```
pbo_show_config(p)
```

Arguments

p	an object of class pbo as returned by pbo.

Note

Meant for internal use only.

`xyplot.pbo` *PBO xy-plots*

Description

Draws an annotated plot of performance degradation and probability of loss.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'pbo'
xyplot(
  x,
  data = NULL,
  plotType = "cscv",
  show_eqn = TRUE,
  show_threshold = TRUE,
  show_config = TRUE,
  show_rug = TRUE,
  show_prob = TRUE,
  show_grid = TRUE,
  increment = 0.01,
  osr_threshold = 0,
  sel_threshold = 0,
  xlab,
  ylab,
  main,
  lwd = 1,
  ylab_left,
  ylab_right,
  col_bar,
  col_line,
  col_sd1 = "#3366cc",
  col_sd2 = "#339999",
  lty_sd = c(1, 2, 4),
  ...
)
```

Arguments

x	a pbo object as returned by pbo.
data	should not be used
plotType	one of cscv, degradation, dominance, pairs, ranks or selection.
show_eqn	whether to show the line equation annotation, default TRUE
show_threshold	whether to show the probability of loss annotation, default TRUE
show_config	whether to show the study dimension annotations, default TRUE
show_rug	whether to show scatter rugs near the axes, default TRUE
show_prob	whether to show the probability value in dominance plot, default TRUE
show_grid	whether to show the panel grid, default TRUE
increment	stochastic dominance distribution generator increment, e.g. 0.1 steps
osr_threshold	out-of-sample rank threshold for filtering, default 0
sel_threshold	selection frequency threshold for filtering, default 0
xlab	x-axis label, default computed if not provided
ylab	y-axis label, default computed if not provided
main	plot title, default computed if not provided
lwd	line width, default 1, passed to panels and legends
ylab_left	dominance plot left-hand axis label
ylab_right	dominance plot right-hand axis label
col_bar	histogram bar fill color
col_line	density plot line color
col_sd1	color of two first-order stochastic dominance lines
col_sd2	color of the single second-order stochastic dominance line
lty_sd	line type array for stochastic dominance plot, e.g. c(2,3,5)
...	other parameters passed to xyplot or its panels

Details

Provides several variations of xy-plots suitable for presentation of PBO analysis results. Use the plotType argument to indicate which variation or result to plot:

- The cscv type shows in-sample and out-of-sample results by CSCV iteration case (default).
- The degradation type shows the performance degradation regression fit results and the probability of loss.
- The dominance type shows the results of the first-order and second-order stochastic dominance analysis using two axes.
- The pairs type shows the in-sample and out-of-sample case selections.
- The ranks type shows the sorted performance ranks results.
- The selection type shows the case selection frequencies.

See Also

pbo, histogram.pbo, xyplot.pbo

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