## Package 'foster'

October 13, 2022

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Type Package

2 accuracy

## **R** topics documented:

	accuracy	4
	calcIndices	4
	defaultTemporalSummary	6
	edges	7
	focalMultiBand	8
	getSample	9
	getSampleValues	11
	matchExtent	12
	matchResolution	14
	partition	15
	predictTrgs	16
	scatter	17
	temporalMetrics	18
	theilSen	20
	tile	20
	trainNN	21
	varImp	23
Index		25

accuracy

Calculate accuracy metrics

## Description

Calculate coefficient of determination (R2), root-mean square error (RMSE) and bias between predictions and observations of continuous variables.

## Usage

```
accuracy(obs, preds, vars = NULL, folds = NULL)
```

## Arguments

obs	A vector of observed values
preds	A vector of predicted values
vars	Optional vector indicating different variables
folds	Optional vector indicating the folds

accuracy 3

#### **Details**

R2 is calculated with the following formula:

$$R^{2} = 1 - \frac{\sum (y_{i} - \hat{y}_{i})^{2}}{\sum (y_{i} - \bar{y}_{i})^{2}}$$

RMSE is calculated with the following formula:

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum (\hat{y}_i - y_i)^2}$$

Bias is calculated with the following formula:

$$Bias = \frac{\sum (\hat{y}_i - y_i)}{n}$$

Relative RMSE and bias are also calculated by dividing their value by the mean of observations.

If accuracy assessment was performed using k-fold cross-validation the accuracy metrics are calculated for each fold separately. The mean value of the accuracy metrics across all folds is also returned.

#### Value

Data frame with following columns:

vars Response variable

R2 R2

RMSE RMSE

RMSE\_rel Relative RMSE

bias bias

bias\_rel Relative bias

count Number of observations

4 calcIndices

 ${\tt calcIndices}$ 

Calculate spectral indices from multispectral data

## **Description**

Calculate spectral indices (e.g. NDVI, tasseled cap coefficients etc.) from multispectral data. Calculations are based on the functions spectralIndices and tasseledCap. Refer to the documentation of these functions for more details.

## Usage

```
calcIndices(
  х,
  indices = "NDVI",
  sat = NULL,
  blue = NULL,
  green = NULL,
  red = NULL,
  nir = NULL,
  swir1 = NULL,
  swir2 = NULL,
  swir3 = NULL,
 coefs = list(L = 0.5, G = 2.5, L_evi = 1, C1 = 6, C2 = 7.5, s = 1, swir2ccc = NULL,
    swir2coc = NULL),
  filename = "",
 par = FALSE,
  threads = 2,
 m = 2,
  progress = TRUE,
)
```

## **Arguments**

X	Raster* or SpatialPointsDataFrame object or list of Raster* or SpatialPointsDataFrame objects.
indices	Character vector indicating Which indices are calculated. Tasseled Cap indices are abbreviated as TCB, TCW, TCG, TCA, TCD. For a list of other supported indices see spectralIndices
sat	Character. If calculating tasseled cap indices, name of the sensor needs to be provided. One of: c("Landsat4TM", "Landsat5TM", "Landsat7ETM", "Landsat8OLI", "MODIS", "QuickBird", "Spot5", "RapidEye"). See tasseledCap.
blue	Integer. Blue band.
green	Integer. Green band.
red	Integer. Red band.

calcIndices 5

nir	Integer. Near infrared band (700-1100 nm).
swir1	temporarily deprecated
swir2	Integer. Shortwave infrared band (1400-1800 nm)
swir3	Integer. Shortwave infrared band (2000-2500 nm)
coefs	Coefficients necessary to calculate some of the spectral indices (e.g. EVI). See spectralIndices.
filename	Character. Output file name including path to directory and eventually extension. If $x$ is a list, filename must be a vector of characters with one file name for each element of $x$ . Default is "" (output not written to disk).
par	Logical. Should the function be executed on parallel threads
threads	Number of parallel threads used if par = TRUE
m	tuning parameter to determine how many blocks will be used (m blocks will be processed by each cluster)
progress	Logical. If TRUE (default) a progress bar is displayed when using parallel processing.
	Other arguments passed to writeRaster or writeOGR.

#### **Details**

If x is a Raster\* or list of Raster\* objects, each layer should be one of the spectral bands used to calculate the indices. If x is a SpatialPointsDataFrame or list of spatialPointsDataFrame, each column should be a spectral band. When calculating tasseledCap indices, bands should be provided in a specific order specified in tasseledCap.

Tasseled Cap Angle (TCA) and Distance (TCD) are calculated from greenness (TCG) and brightness (TCB) as follows:

$$TCA = \arctan(\frac{TCG}{TCB})$$

$$TCD = \sqrt{TCB^2 + TCG^2}$$

If x is a list of Raster\* objects, the processing can be parallelized using cluster. In that case the user has to set par = TRUE and provide the number of parallel threads threads. You can control how many blocks will be processed by each thread by setting m (see cluster).

## Value

Raster\* or SpatialPointsDataFrame object or list of Raster\* or SpatialPointsDataFrame objects.

#### See Also

spectralIndices, tasseledCap, cluster

## **Examples**

defaultTemporalSummary

Default temporal summary

## Description

Calculates median, IQR and Theil Sen slope (sens.slope). This function is usually called within temporalMetrics

## Usage

```
defaultTemporalSummary(x)
```

## **Arguments**

v

Vector of numeric values

## Value

Named vector with median, IQR and slope

#### See Also

```
temporalMetrics, sens.slope
```

```
x <- rnorm(100)
defaultTemporalSummary(x)</pre>
```

edges 7

edges

Assign NA values to the neighborhood of a boundary cell

## Description

Assigns NA value to all cells having a NA values within their w x w neighborhood.

## Usage

```
edges(x, w, filename = "", ...)
```

## **Arguments**

X	A Raster* object
W	Numeric. Size of the window around each cell. Must be an odd number.
filename	Character. Output file name including path to directory and eventually extension. Default is "" (output not written to disk).
	Additional arguments passed to writeRaster

## Value

Raster\* object

#### See Also

focal

```
# Load raster package
library(raster)

# Open and stack ALS metrics
elev_p95 <- raster(system.file("extdata/examples/ALS_metrics_p95.tif",package="foster"))
cover <- raster(system.file("extdata/examples/ALS_metrics_cov_mean.tif",package="foster"))
Y_vars <- stack(elev_p95,cover)

# Remove edges in a 3 x 3 neighborhood
Y_vars_edges <- edges(Y_vars, w=3)</pre>
```

8 focalMultiBand

focalMultiBand Apply a span

Apply a spatial filter to a Raster\* object

## Description

Apply a spatial filter to a RasterLayer or all layers of a RasterStack or RasterBrick object. The mathematical operation applied within the neighborhood can be done by using a function (fun) or by setting the weights of the matrix w.

## Usage

```
focalMultiBand(
    x,
    w,
    fun,
    filename = "",
    na.rm = FALSE,
    pad = FALSE,
    padValue = NA,
    NAonly = FALSE,
    keepNA = TRUE,
    ...
)
```

## Arguments

x	Raster* object or list of Raster* objects.
W	Matrix of weights (moving window). A 3x3 windows with weights of 1 would be w=matrix(1,nr=3,nc=3) for example.
fun	Function (optional). The function should accept a vector of values and return a single number (e.g. mean). It should also accept a na.rm argument.
filename	Character. Output file name including path to directory and eventually extension. If x is a list, filename must be a vector of characters with one file name for each element of x. Default is "" (output not written to disk).
na.rm	Logical. If TRUE (default), NAs are removed from computation
pad	Logical. IF TRUE, rows and columns are added around x to avoid removing border cells.
padValue	Numeric. Value of pad cells. Usually set to NA and used in combination with na.rm=TRUE $$
NAonly	Logical. If TRUE only cell values that are NA are replaced with the computed focal values.
keepNA	Logical. If TRUE (default), NA cells of x are unchanged
• • •	Additional arguments passed to writeRaster

getSample 9

#### **Details**

If x contains NA values and na.rm = TRUE is used, using fun or w with weights adjusted to apply equivalent mathematical operation might not produce the same outputs (in that case using weights would give wrong results). See the documentation of focal for more information.

Also, cells of x with NA values might get a non-NA value assigned when located in the neighborhood of non-NA cells and na.rm = TRUE is used. In that case, setting keepNA = TRUE (default) ensures that NA cells of x still have NA values in the output raster.

#### Value

Raster\* object or list of Raster\* objects.

#### See Also

focal

#### **Examples**

```
# Load raster package
library(raster)
# Open and stack ALS metrics
elev_p95 <- raster(system.file("extdata/examples/ALS_metrics_p95.tif",package="foster"))</pre>
cover <- raster(system.file("extdata/examples/ALS_metrics_cov_mean.tif",package="foster"))</pre>
Y_vars <- stack(elev_p95,cover)
#Define 3x3 filter with weights of 1
filt <- matrix(1, nrow = 3, ncol = 3)
# Smoothing
Y_{vars\_smooth} \leftarrow focalMultiBand(x = Y_{vars},
                                  w=filt,
                                  fun=mean,
                                  pad=TRUE,
                                  padValue=NA,
                                  na.rm=TRUE,
                                  keepNA = TRUE)
```

getSample

Stratified random sampling

### **Description**

Performs kmeans clustering to stratify x and randomly samples within the strata until n samples are selected. The number of samples selected in each strata is proportional to the occurrence of those strata across the classified raster.

10 getSample

## Usage

```
getSample(
    x,
    strata = 5,
    layers,
    norm = TRUE,
    n,
    mindist = 0,
    maxIter = 30,
    xy = TRUE,
    filename_cluster = "",
    filename_sample = "",
    ...
)
```

#### Arguments

Х	A Raster* object used to generate random sample
strata	Number of strata (kmeans clusters). Default is 5.

layers Vector indicating the bands of x used in stratification (as integer or names). By

default, all layers of x are used.

norm Logical. If TRUE (default), x is normalized before k-means clustering. This is

useful if layers have different scales.

n Sample size

mindist Minimum distance between samples (in units of x). Default is 0.

maxIter Numeric. This number is multiplied to the number of samples to select per strata.

If the number of iterations to select samples exceeds maxIter x the number of samples to select then the loop will break and a warning message be returned.

Default is 30.

xy Logical indicating if X and Y coordinates of samples should be included in the

fields of the returned SpatialPoints object.

filename\_cluster

Character. Output filename of the clustered x raster including path to directory

and eventually extension

filename\_sample

Character. Output filename of the sample points including path to directory. File will be automatically saved as an ESRI Shapefile and any extension in

filename\_sample will be overwritten

Further arguments passed to unsuperClass, writeRaster or writeOGR to con-

trol the kmeans algorithm or writing parameters

#### **Details**

x is stratified using kmeans clustering from unsuperClass. By default, clustering is performed on a random subset of x (10000 cells) and run with multiple starting configurations in order to find a convergent solution from the multiple starts. The parameters controlling the number of random

getSampleValues 11

samples used to perform kmeans clustering and the number of starting configurations can be provided as additional . . . arguments. More information on the behavior of the kmeans clustering can be found in unsuperClass. The default kmeans clustering method is Hartigan-Wong algorithm. The algorithm might not converge and output "Quick Transfer" warning. If this is the case, we suggest decreasing strata. Also, if mindist is too large, it might not be possible to select enough samples per strata. In that case, the warning "Exceeded maximum number of runs for strata" is displayed. In that case you can decrease the number of samples n or increase maxIter to control the number of maximum iterations allowed until the required number of samples are selected.

#### Value

A list with the following objects:

```
sample A SpatialPoints object containing sampled points clusterMap The clustered x raster, output of unsuperClass model The kmeans model, output of unsuperClass
```

#### See Also

unsuperClass

#### **Examples**

getSampleValues

Extract raster values at sample points

## **Description**

Given a Raster\* object and a SpatialPointsDataFrame object, the functions returns a SpatialPointsDataFrame objects with the values of the raster at sample points.

12 matchExtent

#### Usage

```
getSampleValues(x, s, keepCols = FALSE, filename = "", ...)
```

## **Arguments**

X	A Raster* object
S	$Location \ of \ the \ sample \ points. \ Object \ of \ class \ Spatial Points Data Frame \ generated \ with \ get Sample$
keepCols	Should the columns of s be retained? Default is FALSE
filename	Character. Output filename including path to directory. File will be automatically saved as an ESRI Shapefile and any extension in filename will be overwritten
	Additional arguments passed to writeOGR

#### Value

SpatialPointsDataFrame object

#### See Also

extract

## **Examples**

```
# Load raster package
library(raster)

# Open and stack ALS metrics
elev_p95 <- raster(system.file("extdata/examples/ALS_metrics_p95.tif",package="foster"))
cover <- raster(system.file("extdata/examples/ALS_metrics_cov_mean.tif",package="foster"))
Y_vars <- stack(elev_p95,cover)
names(Y_vars) <- c("p95","cover")

# sample_points is a SpatialPointsDataFrame calculated and saved from getSample
# Load it into memory
load(system.file("extdata/examples/sample_points.RData",package="foster"))
getSampleValues(Y_vars, sample_points)</pre>
```

matchExtent

Match the extent of a reference raster

#### **Description**

This function crops or extends the extent of a raster to the extent of a reference. Some cells of the reference raster can optionally be masked based on their values.

matchExtent 13

## Usage

```
matchExtent(
    x,
    ref,
    mask = FALSE,
    inverse = FALSE,
    maskValue = NA,
    filename = "",
    ...
)
```

#### **Arguments**

x Raster\* object or list of Raster\* objects.

ref Raster\* object. x extent will be matched to ref extent.

mask Logical. Should x be masked by ref cells that have the value maskValue

inverse Logical. If TRUE, cells of ref that are not maskvalue are masked

maskValue Value of ref cells that should be masked in x. Default is NA.

filename Character. Output file name including path to directory and eventually exten-

sion. If x is a list, filename must be a vector of characters with one file name

for each element of x. Default is "" (output not written to disk).

... Other arguments passed to writeRaster

## **Details**

x and ref need to have the same CRS, spatial resolution and origin. If this is not the case, you can use matchResolution before matchExtent.

## Value

Raster\* object or list of Raster\* objects.

#### See Also

```
crop, extend, mask
```

```
# Load raster package
library(raster)

# Open ALS p95 and mask of forested areas as Raster objects
BAP_2006 <- stack(system.file("extdata/examples/Landsat_BAP_2006.tif",package="foster"))
mask_forest <- raster(system.file("extdata/examples/VLCE_forest_2008.tif",package="foster"))
matchExtent(BAP_2006, mask_forest, mask = TRUE)</pre>
```

14 matchResolution

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Match the resolution of two Raster\* objects

## **Description**

Successively projects (if necessary) and resamples a raster coordinate system and spatial resolution to the reference

#### Usage

```
matchResolution(x, ref, method = "bilinear", filename = "", ...)
```

#### **Arguments**

X	Raster* object or list of Raster* objects.
ref	Reference Raster* object with parameters that x should be resampled to.
method	Character. Method used to compute values for the resampled raster. Can be 'bilinear' for bilinear interpolation or 'ngb' for nearest neighbor interpolation. See resample.
filename	Character. Output file name including path to directory and eventually extension. If x is a list, filename must be a vector of characters with one file name for each element of x. Default is "" (output not written to disk).
	Other arguments passed to writeRaster

#### **Details**

x and ref must have defined CRS (can be assigned using projection). If the CRS don't match, x is projected to ref CRS prior to resampling. x doesn't inherit the extent of ref.

#### Value

Raster\* object or list of Raster\* objects.

## See Also

```
resample, projectRaster, projection
```

```
# Load raster package
library(raster)

# Open ALS metric and Landsat BAP imagery
elev_p95 <- raster(system.file("extdata/examples/ALS_metrics_p95.tif",package="foster"))
BAP_2006 <- stack(system.file("extdata/examples/Landsat_BAP_2006.tif",package="foster"))
matchResolution(x = elev_p95,ref = BAP_2006,method='bilinear')</pre>
```

partition 15

partition	Split data into training and testing sets	
-----------	---	--

## Description

Returns the row indices of x that should go to training or validation.

## Usage

```
partition(
    x,
    type = "group holdout",
    p = 0.75,
    kfold = 5,
    groups = min(5, length(x)),
    returnTrain = TRUE
)
```

## Arguments

X	A vector used for splitting data
type	Character. Type of partition. Valid values are "random holdout", "group holdout" or "kfold"
p	percentage of data that goes to training set (holdout). Only relevant if type = "random holdout" or type = "group holdout"
kfold	Number of folds for cross-validation. Only relevant if type = "kfold".
groups	For "group holdout" and when $x$ is numeric, this is the number of breaks in the quantiles
returnTrain	Logical indicating whether training or validation indices should be returned. Default is TRUE.

#### **Details**

Three types of splits are currently implemented. "random holdout" randomly selects p percents of x for the training set. "group holdout" first groups x into groups quantiles and randomly samples within them (see createDataPartition). "kfold" creates k folds where p percent of the data is used for training in each fold (see createFolds). This function is a wrapper around two functions of caret package: createDataPartition and createFolds

#### Value

List containing training or validation indices

#### See Also

```
createDataPartition
```

16 predictTrgs

## **Examples**

```
# sample_points is a SpatialPointsDataFrame calculated and saved from getSample
# Load it into memory
load(system.file("extdata/examples/sample_points.RData",package="foster"))
partition(sample_points$cluster, type = "kfold", kfold = 5)
```

predictTrgs

Impute response variables across the landscape

## **Description**

This function finds the k-NN of target observations and imputes response variables. X is a raster object where each layer correspond to one of the predictor variable used to train the k-NN model model obtained from trainNN.

## Usage

```
predictTrgs(
  model = NULL,
  x = NULL,
  nrows = 200,
  nnID = TRUE,
  nnDist = TRUE,
  filename = "",
  par = FALSE,
  threads = 2,
  progress = TRUE,
  ...
)
```

## **Arguments**

model	A trained kNN model obtained from trainNN
X	Raster object where each layer corresponds to a predictor variable calculated at
	targets
nrows	number of rows processed at a time. Default is 200.
nnID	Logical. Should the ID of each target's nearest neighbor used for imputation be returned?
nnDist	Logical. Should the distance to each target's nearest neighbor used for imputation be returned?
filename	Character. Output file name including path to directory and eventually extension.Default is "" (output not written to disk).
par	Logical. Should imputation be performed on parallel threads?
threads	Integer. Number of parallel threads (relevant only if par=TRUE)
progress	Logical. If TRUE (default) a progress bar is displayed.
	Other arguments passed to writeRaster

scatter 17

#### **Details**

The method used to impute the NN is set from the kNN model trained by trainNN. If k=1 the value of the single closest NN is imputed. If k>1, the closest, mean, median or weighted distance mean (default) of all k NN values is imputed. This is set using the impute.cont and impute.fac arguments of trainNN.

The raster x is processed as blocks of nrows to avoid creating very large objects (several Gb) that couldn't be stored in memory. However, low values of nrows slow down processing. Depending on the amount of RAM available on your computer and on the size of the area where k-NN need to be calculated, it is possible to process more rows at the same time and considerably reduce processing time.

#### Value

A RasterStack object where the first layers correspond to the imputed response variables and the remaining layers to the nearest neighbor(s) ID (if nnID = TRUE) and nearest neighbor(s) distance (if nnDist = TRUE)

#### See Also

```
newtargets, impute.yai
```

## **Examples**

```
# Load data
# kNN_model: trained kNN model (from trainNN)
# X_vars: RasterStack of predictor variables
load(system.file("extdata/examples/example_predictTrgs.RData", package =
"foster"))

Y_imputed <- predictTrgs(model=kNN_model, x = X_vars, nnID = TRUE,
nnDist = TRUE)</pre>
```

scatter

*Scatterplot with information on the errors between x and y.* 

## **Description**

Scatterplot between a vector of observed data and a vector of predicted data with information on the errors between them.

```
scatter(obs, preds, vars, info = TRUE)
```

18 temporalMetrics

## **Arguments**

obs	A vector of observed values
preds	A vector of predicted values
vars	Optional vector indicating different variables
info	A logical value indicating whether information on count, R2, bias and RMSE
	should be added to the plot

## **Details**

Accuracy metrics are calculated from accuracy

#### Value

A ggplot2 object or a list of ggplot2 objects (one per variable)

#### See Also

```
accuracy
```

## **Examples**

temporalMetrics

Calculate temporal summary metrics

## Description

This function calculates a set of user-defined or default statistics from spectral indices time series.

```
temporalMetrics(
    x,
    metrics = "defaultTemporalSummary",
    filename = "",
    stack = TRUE,
    par = FALSE,
    threads = 2,
    progress = TRUE,
    m = 2,
    ...
)
```

temporalMetrics 19

#### **Arguments**

X	List of Raster* or SpatialPointsDataFrame objects.Input Raster or SpatialPoints- DataFrame object containing a time series (may be generated with calcIndices)
metrics	Name of a function used to process the time series provided as a character.
filename	Character. Single output filename including path to directory and eventually extension. Each spectral index is written separately and the name of the spectral index is automatically appended to the file name.
stack	Logical. Should the output be returned as a single RasterStack (TRUE) or as a list containing one Raster per vegetation index (FALSE)
par	Logical. Should the function be executed in parallel threads
threads	Number of parallel threads used if par = TRUE
progress	Logical. If TRUE (default) a progress bar is displayed.
m	tuning parameter to determine how many blocks will be used (m blocks will be processed by each cluster)
	Other arguments passed to writeRaster or writeOGR.

#### **Details**

Spectral indices can be calculated with calcIndices. The input to TemporalMetrics is a list where each element is a Raster\* or a SpatialPointsDataFrame object with layers or columns being spectral indices. Each element should be one step in the time series and elements should be ordered in the time series ascending order. The argument fun defines which metrics will be calculated. It has to be the name of a function that takes a vector as input and returns a named vector corresponding to the summary metrics. The function defaultTemporalSummary is used by default and returns the median, IQR and Theil-Sen slope of the time series.

If x is a list of Raster\* objects, the processing can be parallelized using cluster. In that case the user has to set par = TRUE and provide the number of parallel threads threads. You can control how many blocks will be processed by each thread by setting m (see cluster).

#### See Also

```
calc, cluster
```

```
# VI_ts is a list of Raster* calculated and saved from calcIndices
# Load it into memory
load(system.file("extdata/examples/VI_ts.RData",package="foster"))

temporalMetrics(VI_ts, metrics = "defaultTemporalSummary")

# User-defined temporal summary metrics can also be used
funSummary <- function(x) {
    c(
        mean = mean(x, na.rm = TRUE),
        median = median(x, na.rm = TRUE),
        std = sd(x, na.rm = TRUE)</pre>
```

20 tile

```
)
}
```

theilSen

Theil-Sen slope

## Description

Calculate the Theil-Sen slope from a time series. This is a wrapper around sens.slope

## Usage

```
theilSen(x)
```

## **Arguments**

Χ

A numeric vector

## Value

```
numeric; Theil-Sen slope
```

#### See Also

```
sens.slope
```

## **Examples**

```
x <- rnorm(100)
theilSen(x)</pre>
```

tile

Split a raster into tiles

## Description

This function is used to split a raster into smaller tiles. The raster is split in a grid pattern with nx columns and ny rows.

```
tile(x, nx, ny, filename = "", suffix = NULL, ...)
```

trainNN 21

## **Arguments**

X	Raster* object to split
nx	Number of horizontal cells in the splitting grid
ny	Number of vertical cells in the splitting grid
filename	Character. Output file name including path to directory and eventually extension. Default is "" (output not written to disk).
suffix	Character appended to filename to differentiate tiles (must have length $nx \ x \ ny$ ). If left NULL, tiles will be numbered by columns and rows
	Additional parameters passed to writeRaster

#### Value

A list of Raster\* objects

## See Also

crop

## **Examples**

```
# Load raster package
library(raster)
elev_p95 <- stack(system.file("extdata/examples/ALS_metrics_p95.tif",package="foster"))
# Split elev_p95 into a 1 x 2 grid
tile(elev_p95, nx = 1, ny = 2)</pre>
```

trainNN

Train and assess accuracy of a k-NN model

## **Description**

This function trains a k-NN model from response variables (Y) and predictors (X) at reference observations using the package yaImpute (see yai). By default, the distance between observations is obtained from the proximity matrix of random forest regression or classification trees. Optionally, training and testing sets can be provided to return the accuracy of the trained k-NN model.

```
trainNN(
    x,
    y,
    inTrain = NULL,
    inTest = NULL,
    k = 1,
```

22 trainNN

```
method = "randomForest",
impute.cont = NULL,
impute.fac = NULL,
ntree = 500,
mtry = NULL,
rfMode = "",
...
)
```

## **Arguments**

X	A dataframe or SpatialPointsDataFrame of predictors variables X for reference observations. Row names of X are used as identification of reference observations.
у	A dataframe or SpatialPointsDataFrame of response variables Y for the reference observations. Row names of Y are used as identification of reference observations.
inTrain	Optional. A list obtained from partitionindicating which rows of x and y go to training.
inTest	Optional list indicating which rows of x and y go to validation. If left NULL, all rows that are not in inTrain are used for validation.
k	Integer. Number of nearest neighbors
method	Character. Which nearness metrics is used to compute the nearest neighbors. Default is "randomForest". Other methods are listed in yai
impute.cont	Character. The method used to compute the imputed continuous variables. Can be "closest", "mean", "median" or "dstWeighted". Default is "closest" if $k = 1$ and "dstWeighted" if $k > 1$ . See impute.yai for more details.
impute.fac	Character. The method used to compute the imputed values for factors. Default value is the same as impute.cont. See impute.yai for more details.
ntree	Number of classification or regression trees drawn for each response variable. Default is 500
mtry	Number of X variables picked randomly to split each node. Default is $\operatorname{sqrt}(\operatorname{number}$ of X variables)
rfMode	By default, rfMode is set to "" which forces yai to create random forest regression trees instead of classification trees for continuous variables. Can be set to "buildClasses" if wanting continuous variables to be converted to classes and forcing random forest to build classification trees. (See yai)
	Other arguments passed to yai (e.g. "rfXsubsets")

## Details

If performing model validation, the function trains a kNN model from the training set, finds the k NN of the validation set and imputes the response variables from the k NN. If k = 1, only the closest NN value is imputed. If k > 1, the imputed value can be either the closest NN value, the mean, median or distance weighted mean of the k NN values. This is controlled by the arguments impute.cont or impute.fac.

varImp 23

If inTest = NULL, all rows that are not in inTrain will be used for model testing. If inTrain = NULL, all rows that are not in inTest will be used for model training. If both inTrain and inTest are NULL, all rows of x and y will be used for training and no testing is performed.

The final model returned by findNN is trained from all observations of x and y.

#### Value

A list containing the following objects:

```
model A yai object, the trained k-NN model
```

preds A data.frame with observed and predicted values of the testing set for each response variables

#### See Also

```
yai, newtargets, impute.yai, accuracy
```

#### **Examples**

varImp

Returns variable importance

## Description

When RF is used to find nearest neighbors, the importance of each variable in the RF trees is calculated. This function returns the importance of each variable and a ggplot2 object

```
varImp(model, scaled = TRUE, plot = TRUE, plotType = "boxplot")
```

24 varImp

## **Arguments**

model A yai object

scaled Logical. Should importance values be centered and scaled?

plot Logical. If TRUE, returns a ggplot2 object based on plotType value

plotType Either of "boxplot" or "grid"

#### **Details**

If scaled = TRUE, importance values are centered by subtracting their mean and scaled by dividing the centered importance by their standard deviation.

#### Value

A list containing the following objects:

importance A data.frame object containing the importance of each response variable and the mean importance of all variables combined

plot A ggplot object showing a plot of the importance values according to plotType

#### See Also

```
importance, yaiVarImp
```

```
# Load data
# kNN_model: trained kNN model (from trainNN)
load(system.file("extdata/examples/example_predictTrgs.RData", package = "foster"))
varImp(kNN_model,scaled=FALSE,plot=TRUE,plotType="boxplot")
```

# **Index**

accuracy, 2, 18, 23
calc, 19 calcIndices, 4, 19 cluster, 5, 19 createDataPartition, 15 crop, 13, 21
${\tt defaultTemporalSummary}, {\tt 6}$
edges, 7 extend, 13 extract, 12
focal, 7, 9 focalMultiBand, 8
getSample, 9, <i>12</i> getSampleValues, 11
importance, 24 impute.yai, 17, 22, 23
mask, <i>13</i> matchExtent, 12 matchResolution, <i>13</i> , 14
newtargets, <i>17</i> , <i>23</i>
partition, 15, 22 predictTrgs, 16 projection, 14 projectRaster, 14
resample, 14
scatter, 17 sens.slope, 6, 20 SpatialPoints, 10, 11 spectralIndices, 4, 5
tasseledCap, 4, 5

```
temporalMetrics, 6, 18
theilSen, 20
tile, 20
trainNN, 16, 17, 21
unsuperClass, 10, 11
varImp, 23
writeOGR, 5, 10, 12, 19
writeRaster, 5, 7, 8, 10, 14, 16, 19, 21
yai, 21-23
yaiVarImp, 24
```