

# Package ‘lime’

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**Type** Package

**Title** Local Interpretable Model-Agnostic Explanations

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**Maintainer** Thomas Lin Pedersen <thomasp85@gmail.com>

**Description** When building complex models, it is often difficult to explain why the model should be trusted. While global measures such as accuracy are useful, they cannot be used for explaining why a model made a specific prediction. 'lime' (a port of the 'lime' Python package) is a method for explaining the outcome of black box models by fitting a local model around the point in question an perturbations of this point. The approach is described in more detail in the article by Ribeiro et al. (2016) <arXiv:1602.04938>.

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**URL** <https://lime.data-imaginist.com>, <https://github.com/thomasp85/lime>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/thomasp85/lime/issues>

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**Author** Thomas Lin Pedersen [cre, aut]  
(<<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5147-4711>>),  
Michaël Benesty [aut]

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## R topics documented:

lime-package . . . . .	2
as_classifier . . . . .	3
default_tokenize . . . . .	4
explain . . . . .	4
interactive_text_explanations . . . . .	7
lime . . . . .	9
model_support . . . . .	12
plot_explanations . . . . .	13
plot_features . . . . .	14
plot_image_explanation . . . . .	15
plot_superpixels . . . . .	16
plot_text_explanations . . . . .	17
stop_words_sentences . . . . .	18
test_sentences . . . . .	19
train_sentences . . . . .	20
<b>Index</b>	<b>21</b>

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lime-package

*lime: Local Interpretable Model-Agnostic Explanations*

---

### Description

When building complex models, it is often difficult to explain why the model should be trusted. While global measures such as accuracy are useful, they cannot be used for explaining why a model made a specific prediction. 'lime' (a port of the 'lime' Python package) is a method for explaining the outcome of black box models by fitting a local model around the point in question and perturbations of this point. The approach is described in more detail in the article by Ribeiro et al. (2016) <arXiv:1602.04938>.

### Details

This package is a port of the original Python lime package implementing the prediction explanation framework laid out Ribeiro *et al.* (2016). The package supports models from caret and mlr natively, but see [the docs](#) for how to make it work for any model.

#### Main functions:

Use of lime is mainly through two functions. First you create an explainer object using the `lime()` function based on the training data and the model, and then you can use the `explain()` function along with new data and the explainer to create explanations for the model output.

Along with these two functions, lime also provides the `plot_features()` and `plot_text_explanations()` function to visualise the explanations directly.

**Author(s)**

**Maintainer:** Thomas Lin Pedersen <thomasp85@gmail.com> ([ORCID](#))

Authors:

- Michaël Benesty <michael@benesty.fr>

**References**

Ribeiro, M.T., Singh, S., Guestrin, C. "Why Should I Trust You?": Explaining the Predictions of Any Classifier. 2016, <https://arxiv.org/abs/1602.04938>

**See Also**

Useful links:

- <https://lime.data-imaginist.com>
- <https://github.com/thomasp85/lime>
- Report bugs at <https://github.com/thomasp85/lime/issues>

---

as\_classifier

*Indicate model type to lime*

---

**Description**

lime requires knowledge about the type of model it is dealing with, more specifically whether the model is a regressor or a classifier. If the model class has a `model_type()` method defined lime can figure it out on its own but if not, you can wrap your model in either of these functions to indicate what type of model lime is dealing with. This can also be used to overwrite the output from `model_type()` if the implementation uses some heuristic that doesn't work for your particular model (e.g. keras models types are found by checking if the activation in the last layer is linear or not - this is rather crude). In addition `as_classifier` can be used to overwrite the returned class labels - this is handy if the model does not store the labels (again, keras springs to mind).

**Usage**

```
as_classifier(x, labels = NULL)
```

```
as_regressor(x)
```

**Arguments**

x	The model object
labels	An optional character vector giving labels for each class

**Value**

A model augmented with information about the model type and (potentially) the class labels.

default\_tokenize      *Default function to tokenize*

---

### Description

This tokenizer uses `stringi::stri_split_boundaries()` to tokenize a character vector. To be used with `[explain.character()]`.

### Usage

```
default_tokenize(text)
```

### Arguments

text                  text to tokenize as a character vector

### Value

a character vector.

### Examples

```
data('train_sentences')
default_tokenize(train_sentences$text[1])
```

---

explain                  *Explain model predictions*

---

### Description

Once an explainer has been created using the `lime()` function it can be used to explain the result of the model on new observations. The `explain()` function takes new observation along with the explainer and returns a data.frame with prediction explanations, one observation per row. The returned explanations can then be visualised in a number of ways, e.g. with `plot_features()`.

### Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'data.frame'
explain(
  x,
  explainer,
  labels = NULL,
  n_labels = NULL,
  n_features,
  n_permutations = 5000,
```

```
    feature_select = "auto",
    dist_fun = "gower",
    kernel_width = NULL,
    gower_pow = 1,
    ...
)

## S3 method for class 'character'
explain(
  x,
  explainer,
  labels = NULL,
  n_labels = NULL,
  n_features,
  n_permutations = 5000,
  feature_select = "auto",
  single_explanation = FALSE,
  ...
)

explain(
  x,
  explainer,
  labels,
  n_labels = NULL,
  n_features,
  n_permutations = 5000,
  feature_select = "auto",
  ...
)

## S3 method for class 'imagefile'
explain(
  x,
  explainer,
  labels = NULL,
  n_labels = NULL,
  n_features,
  n_permutations = 1000,
  feature_select = "auto",
  n_superpixels = 50,
  weight = 20,
  n_iter = 10,
  p_remove = 0.5,
  batch_size = 10,
  background = "grey",
  ...
)
```

**Arguments**

x	New observations to explain, of the same format as used when creating the explainer
explainer	An explainer object to use for explaining the observations
labels	The specific labels (classes) to explain in case the model is a classifier. For classifiers either this or n_labels must be given.
n_labels	The number of labels to explain. If this is given for classifiers the top n_label classes will be explained.
n_features	The number of features to use for each explanation.
n_permutations	The number of permutations to use for each explanation.
feature_select	The algorithm to use for selecting features. One of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "auto": If n_features &lt;= 6 use "forward_selection" else use "highest_weights".</li> <li>• "none": Ignore n_features and use all features.</li> <li>• "forward_selection": Add one feature at a time until n_features is reached, based on quality of a ridge regression model.</li> <li>• "highest_weights": Fit a ridge regression and select the n_features with the highest absolute weight.</li> <li>• "lasso_path": Fit a lasso model and choose the n_features whose lars path converge to zero the latest.</li> <li>• "tree" : Fit a tree to select n_features (which needs to be a power of 2). It requires last version of XGBoost.</li> </ul>
dist_fun	The distance function to use for calculating the distance from the observation to the permutations. If dist_fun = 'gower' (default) it will use <code>gower::gower_dist()</code> . Otherwise it will be forwarded to <code>stats::dist()</code>
kernel_width	The width of the exponential kernel that will be used to convert the distance to a similarity in case dist_fun != 'gower'.
gower_pow	A modifier for gower distance. The calculated distance will be raised to the power of this value.
...	Parameters passed on to the <code>predict_model()</code> method
single_explanation	A boolean indicating whether to pool all text in x into a single explanation.
n_superpixels	The number of segments an image should be split into
weight	How high should locality be weighted compared to colour. High values leads to more compact superpixels, while low values follow the image structure more
n_iter	How many iterations should the segmentation run for
p_remove	The probability that a superpixel will be removed in each permutation
batch_size	The number of explanations to handle at a time
background	The colour to use for blocked out superpixels

**Value**

A data.frame encoding the explanations one row per explained observation. The columns are:

- `model_type`: The type of the model used for prediction.
- `case`: The case being explained (the rowname in cases).
- `model_r2`: The quality of the model used for the explanation
- `model_intercept`: The intercept of the model used for the explanation
- `model_prediction`: The prediction of the observation based on the model used for the explanation.
- `feature`: The feature used for the explanation
- `feature_value`: The value of the feature used
- `feature_weight`: The weight of the feature in the explanation
- `feature_desc`: A human readable description of the feature importance.
- `data`: Original data being explained
- `prediction`: The original prediction from the model

Furthermore classification explanations will also contain:

- `label`: The label being explained
- `label_prob`: The probability of label as predicted by model

**Examples**

```
# Explaining a model and an explainer for it
library(MASS)
iris_test <- iris[1, 1:4]
iris_train <- iris[-1, 1:4]
iris_lab <- iris[[5]][-1]
model <- lda(iris_train, iris_lab)
explanation <- lime(iris_train, model)

# This can now be used together with the explain method
explain(iris_test, explanation, n_labels = 1, n_features = 2)
```

---

interactive\_text\_explanations

*Interactive explanations*

---

**Description**

Display text explanation in an interactive way. You can :

Create an output to insert text explanation plot in Shiny application.

Render the text explanations in Shiny application.

**Usage**

```

interactive_text_explanations(
  explainer,
  window_title = "Text model explainer",
  title = "Local Interpretable Model-agnostic Explanations",
  place_holder = "Put here the text to explain",
  minimum_lentgh = 3,
  minimum_lentgh_error = "Text provided is too short to be explained (>= 3).",
  max_feature_to_select = 20
)

text_explanations_output(outputId, width = "100%", height = "400px")

render_text_explanations(expr, env = parent.frame(), quoted = FALSE)

```

**Arguments**

explainer	parameters
window_title, title, place_holder, minimum_lentgh_error	text to be displayed on the page
minimum_lentgh	don't update display if text is shorter than this parameter
max_feature_to_select	up limit to the number of words that can be selected
outputId	output variable to read from
width, height	Must be a valid CSS unit or a number, which will be coerced to a string and have "px" appended.
expr	An expression that generates an HTML widget
env	The environment in which to evaluate expr.
quoted	Is expr a quoted expression (with <code>quote()</code> )? This is useful if you want to save an expression in a variable.

**Details**

- send a new sentence
- update the parameters of the explainer

**Value**

An output function that enables the use of the widget within Shiny applications.

A render function that enables the use of the widget within Shiny applications.

**Examples**

```

## Not run:
library(text2vec)

```



```

library(xgboost)

data(train_sentences)
data(test_sentences)

get_matrix <- function(text) {
  it <- itoken(text, progressbar = FALSE)
  create_dtm(it, vectorizer = hash_vectorizer())
}

dtm_train = get_matrix(train_sentences$text)

xgb_model <- xgb.train(list(max_depth = 7, eta = 0.1, objective = "binary:logistic",
  eval_metric = "error", nthread = 1),
  xgb.DMatrix(dtm_train, label = train_sentences$class.text == "OWNX"),
  nrounds = 50)

sentences <- head(test_sentences[test_sentences$class.text == "OWNX", "text"], 1)
explainer <- lime(train_sentences$text, xgb_model, get_matrix)

# The explainer can now be queried interactively:
interactive_text_explanations(explainer)

## End(Not run)

```

---

lime

---

*Create a model explanation function based on training data*


---

## Description

This is the main function of the lime package. It is a factory function that returns a new function that can be used to explain the predictions made by black box models. This is a generic with methods for the different data types supported by lime.

## Usage

```

## S3 method for class 'data.frame'
lime(
  x,
  model,
  preprocess = NULL,
  bin_continuous = TRUE,
  n_bins = 4,
  quantile_bins = TRUE,
  use_density = TRUE,
  ...
)

## S3 method for class 'character'

```

```

lime(
  x,
  model,
  preprocess = NULL,
  tokenization = default_tokenize,
  keep_word_position = FALSE,
  ...
)

## S3 method for class 'imagefile'
lime(x, model, preprocess = NULL, ...)

lime(x, model, ...)

```

### Arguments

<code>x</code>	The training data used for training the model that should be explained.
<code>model</code>	The model whose output should be explained
<code>preprocess</code>	Function to transform a character vector to the format expected from the model.
<code>bin_continuous</code>	Should continuous variables be binned when making the explanation
<code>n_bins</code>	The number of bins for continuous variables if <code>bin_continuous = TRUE</code>
<code>quantile_bins</code>	Should the bins be based on <code>n_bins</code> quantiles or spread evenly over the range of the training data
<code>use_density</code>	If <code>bin_continuous = FALSE</code> should continuous data be sampled using a kernel density estimation. If not, continuous features are expected to follow a normal distribution.
<code>...</code>	Arguments passed on to methods
<code>tokenization</code>	function used to tokenize text for the permutations.
<code>keep_word_position</code>	set to <code>TRUE</code> if to keep order of words. Warning: each word will be replaced by <code>word_position</code> .

### Value

Return an explainer which can be used together with `explain()` to explain model predictions.

### Examples

```

# Explaining a model based on tabular data
library(MASS)
iris_test <- iris[1, 1:4]
iris_train <- iris[-1, 1:4]
iris_lab <- iris[[5]][-1]
# Create linear discriminant model on iris data
model <- lda(iris_train, iris_lab)
# Create explanation object

```

```

explanation <- lime(iris_train, model)

# This can now be used together with the explain method
explain(iris_test, explanation, n_labels = 1, n_features = 2)

## Not run:
# Explaining a model based on text data

# Purpose is to classify sentences from scientific publications
# and find those where the team writes about their own work
# (category OWNX in the provided dataset).

library(text2vec)
library(xgboost)

data(train_sentences)
data(test_sentences)

get_matrix <- function(text) {
  it <- itoken(text, progressbar = FALSE)
  create_dtm(it, vectorizer = hash_vectorizer())
}

dtm_train = get_matrix(train_sentences$text)

xgb_model <- xgb.train(list(max_depth = 7, eta = 0.1, objective = "binary:logistic",
  eval_metric = "error", nthread = 1),
  xgb.DMatrix(dtm_train, label = train_sentences$class.text == "OWNX"),
  nrounds = 50)

sentences <- head(test_sentences[test_sentences$class.text == "OWNX", "text"], 1)
explainer <- lime(train_sentences$text, xgb_model, get_matrix)
explanations <- explain(sentences, explainer, n_labels = 1, n_features = 2)

# We can see that many explanations are based
# on the presence of the word `we` in the sentences
# which makes sense regarding the task.
print(explanations)

## End(Not run)
## Not run:
library(keras)
library(abind)
# get some image
img_path <- system.file('extdata', 'produce.png', package = 'lime')
# load a predefined image classifier
model <- application_vgg16(
  weights = "imagenet",
  include_top = TRUE
)

# create a function that prepare images for the model
img_preprocess <- function(x) {

```

```

arrays <- lapply(x, function(path) {
  img <- image_load(path, target_size = c(224,224))
  x <- image_to_array(img)
  x <- array_reshape(x, c(1, dim(x)))
  x <- imagenet_preprocess_input(x)
})
do.call(abind, c(arrays, list(along = 1)))
}

# Create an explainer (lime recognise the path as an image)
explainer <- lime(img_path, as_classifier(model, unlist(labels)), img_preprocess)

# Explain the model (can take a long time depending on your system)
explanation <- explain(img_path, explainer, n_labels = 2, n_features = 10, n_superpixels = 70)

## End(Not run)

```

---

model\_support

*Methods for extending limes model support*


---

## Description

In order to have lime support for your model of choice lime needs to be able to get predictions from the model in a standardised way, and it needs to be able to know whether it is a classification or regression model. For the former it calls the `predict_model()` generic which the user is free to supply methods for without overriding the standard `predict()` method. For the latter the model must respond to the `model_type()` generic.

## Usage

```
predict_model(x, newdata, type, ...)
```

```
model_type(x, ...)
```

## Arguments

x	A model object
newdata	The new observations to predict
type	Either 'raw' to indicate predicted values, or 'prob' to indicate class probabilities
...	passed on to predict method

## Value

A data.frame in the case of `predict_model()`. If `type = 'raw'` it will contain one column named 'Response' holding the predicted values. If `type = 'prob'` it will contain a column for each of the possible classes named after the class, each column holding the probability score for class membership. For `model_type()` a character string. Either 'regression' or 'classification' is currently supported.

## Supported Models

Out of the box, lime supports the following model objects:

- train from caret
- WrappedModel from mlr
- xgb.Booster from xgboost
- H2OModel from h2o
- keras.engine.training.Model from keras
- lda from MASS (used for low-dependency examples)

If your model is not one of the above you'll need to implement support yourself. If the model has a predict interface mimicking that of predict.train() from caret, it will be enough to wrap your model in `as_classifier()/as_regressor()` to gain support. Otherwise you'll need to implement a predict\_model() method and potentially a model\_type() method (if the latter is omitted the model should be wrapped in `as_classifier()/as_regressor()`, everytime it is used in `lime()`).

## Examples

```
# Example of adding support for lda models (already available in lime)
predict_model.lda <- function(x, newdata, type, ...) {
  res <- predict(x, newdata = newdata, ...)
  switch(
    type,
    raw = data.frame(Response = res$class, stringsAsFactors = FALSE),
    prob = as.data.frame(res$posterior, check.names = FALSE)
  )
}

model_type.lda <- function(x, ...) 'classification'
```

---

plot\_explanations      *Plot a condensed overview of all explanations*

---

## Description

This function produces a faceted heatmap visualisation of all case/label/feature combinations. Compared to `plot_features()` it is much more condensed, thus allowing for an overview of many explanations in one plot. On the other hand it is less useful for getting exact numerical statistics of the explanation.

## Usage

```
plot_explanations(explanation, ...)
```

**Arguments**

explanation     A data.frame as returned by `explain()`.  
 ...            Parameters passed on to `ggplot2::facet_wrap()`

**Value**

A ggplot object

**See Also**

Other explanation plots: `plot_features()`, `plot_text_explanations()`

**Examples**

```
# Create some explanations
library(MASS)
iris_test <- iris[c(1, 51, 101), 1:4]
iris_train <- iris[-c(1, 51, 101), 1:4]
iris_lab <- iris[[5]][-c(1, 51, 101)]
model <- lda(iris_train, iris_lab)
explanation <- lime(iris_train, model)
explanations <- explain(iris_test, explanation, n_labels = 1, n_features = 2)

# Get an overview with the standard plot
plot_explanations(explanations)
```

---

plot\_features

*Plot the features in an explanation*

---

**Description**

This functions creates a compact visual representation of the explanations for each case and label combination in an explanation. Each extracted feature is shown with its weight, thus giving the importance of the feature in the label prediction.

**Usage**

```
plot_features(explanation, ncol = 2, cases = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

explanation     A data.frame as returned by `explain()`.  
 ncol           The number of columns in the faceted plot  
 cases          An optional vector with case names to plot. `explanation` will be filtered to only include these cases prior to plotting

**Value**

A ggplot object

**See Also**

Other explanation plots: [plot\\_explanations\(\)](#), [plot\\_text\\_explanations\(\)](#)

**Examples**

```
# Create some explanations
library(MASS)
iris_test <- iris[1, 1:4]
iris_train <- iris[-1, 1:4]
iris_lab <- iris[[5]][-1]
model <- lda(iris_train, iris_lab)
explanation <- lime(iris_train, model)
explanations <- explain(iris_test, explanation, n_labels = 1, n_features = 2)

# Get an overview with the standard plot
plot_features(explanations)
```

---

plot\_image\_explanation

*Display image explanations as superpixel areas*

---

**Description**

When classifying images one is often interested in seeing the areas that supports and/or contradicts a classification. `plot_image_explanation()` will take the result of an image explanation and highlight the areas found relevant to each label in the explanation. The highlighting can either be done by blocking the parts of the image not related to the classification, or by encircling and colouring the areas that influence the explanation.

**Usage**

```
plot_image_explanation(
  explanation,
  which = 1,
  threshold = 0.02,
  show_negative = FALSE,
  display = "outline",
  fill_alpha = 0.3,
  outline_col = c("blue", "red"),
  block_col = "grey"
)
```

**Arguments**

explanation	The explanation created with an image_explainer
which	The case in explanation to illustrate. plot_image_explanation only supports showing one case at a time.
threshold	The lowest absolute weighted superpixels to include
show_negative	Should areas that contradicts the prediction also be shown
display	How should the areas be shown? Either outline or block
fill_alpha	In case of display = 'outline' how opaque should the area colour be?
outline_col	A vector of length 2 giving the colour for supporting and contradicting areas respectively if display = 'outline'
block_col	The colour to use for the unimportant areas if display = 'block'

**Value**

A ggplot object

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
# load precalculated explanation as it takes a long time to create
explanation <- .load_image_example()

# Default
plot_image_explanation(explanation)

# Block out background instead
plot_image_explanation(explanation, display = 'block')

# Show negatively correlated areas as well
plot_image_explanation(explanation, show_negative = TRUE)

## End(Not run)
```

---

plot\_superpixels      *Test super pixel segmentation*

---

**Description**

The segmentation of an image into superpixels are an important step in generating explanations for image models. It is both important that the segmentation is correct and follows meaningful patterns in the picture, but also that the size/number of superpixels are appropriate. If the important features in the image are chopped into too many segments the permutations will probably damage the picture beyond recognition in almost all cases leading to a poor or failing explanation model. As the size of the object of interest is varying it is impossible to set up hard rules for the number of superpixels to



segment into - the larger the object is relative to the size of the image, the fewer superpixels should be generated. Using `plot_superpixels` it is possible to evaluate the superpixel parameters before starting the time consuming explanation function.

### Usage

```
plot_superpixels(  
  path,  
  n_superpixels = 50,  
  weight = 20,  
  n_iter = 10,  
  colour = "black"  
)
```

### Arguments

<code>path</code>	The path to the image. Must be readable by <code>magick::image_read()</code>
<code>n_superpixels</code>	The number of superpixels to segment into
<code>weight</code>	How high should locality be weighted compared to colour. High values leads to more compact superpixels, while low values follow the image structure more
<code>n_iter</code>	How many iterations should the segmentation run for
<code>colour</code>	What line colour should be used to show the segment boundaries

### Value

A ggplot object

### Examples

```
image <- system.file('extdata', 'produce.png', package = 'lime')  
  
# plot with default settings  
plot_superpixels(image)  
  
# Test different settings  
plot_superpixels(image, n_superpixels = 100, colour = 'white')
```

---

plot\_text\_explanations

*Plot text explanations*

---

### Description

Highlight words which explains a prediction.

**Usage**

```
plot_text_explanations(explanations, ...)
```

**Arguments**

```
explanations  object returned by the lime.character function.  
...           parameters passed to htmlwidgets::sizingPolicy()
```

**See Also**

Other explanation plots: `plot_explanations()`, `plot_features()`

**Examples**

```
# We load a precalculated explanation set based on the procedure in the ?lime  
# examples  
explanations <- .load_text_example()  
  
# We see that the explanations are in the expected format  
print(explanations)  
  
# We can now get the explanations in the context of the input text  
plot_text_explanations(explanations)
```

---

stop\_words\_sentences *Stop words list*

---

**Description**

List of words that can be safely removed from sentences.

**Usage**

```
stop_words_sentences
```

**Format**

Character vector of stop words

**Source**

<https://archive.ics.uci.edu/ml/datasets/>

---

test_sentences	<i>Sentence corpus - test part</i>
----------------	------------------------------------

---

### Description

This corpus contains sentences from the abstract and introduction of 30 scientific articles that have been annotated (i.e. labeled or tagged) according to a modified version of the Argumentative Zones annotation scheme.

### Usage

test\_sentences

### Format

2 data frame with 3117 rows and 2 variables:

**text** the sentences as a character vector

**class.text** the category of the sentence

### Details

These 30 scientific articles come from three different domains:

1. PLoS Computational Biology (PLOS)
2. The machine learning repository on arXiv (ARXIV)
3. The psychology journal Judgment and Decision Making (JDM)

There are 10 articles from each domain. In addition to the labeled data, this corpus also contains a corresponding set of unlabeled articles. These unlabeled articles also come from PLOS, ARXIV, and JDM. There are 300 unlabeled articles from each domain (again, only the sentences from the abstract and introduction). These unlabeled articles can be used for unsupervised or semi-supervised approaches to sentence classification which rely on a small set of labeled data and a larger set of unlabeled data.

===== References =====

S. Teufel and M. Moens. Summarizing scientific articles: experiments with relevance and rhetorical status. *Computational Linguistics*, 28(4):409-445, 2002.

S. Teufel. Argumentative zoning: information extraction from scientific text. PhD thesis, School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh, 1999.

### Source

<https://archive.ics.uci.edu/ml/datasets/Sentence+Classification>

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train_sentences	<i>Sentence corpus - train part</i>
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# Index

- \* **datasets**
  - stop\_words\_sentences, 18
  - test\_sentences, 19
  - train\_sentences, 20
- \* **explanation plots**
  - plot\_explanations, 13
  - plot\_features, 14
  - plot\_text\_explanations, 17
- \_PACKAGE (lime-package), 2
- as\_classifier, 3
- as\_classifier(), 13
- as\_regressor (as\_classifier), 3
- as\_regressor(), 13
- default\_tokenize, 4
- explain, 4
- explain(), 2, 10, 14
- ggplot2::facet\_wrap(), 14
- gower::gower\_dist(), 6
- interactive\_text\_explanations, 7
- lime, 9
- lime(), 2, 4, 13
- lime-package, 2
- lime.character, 18
- magick::image\_read(), 17
- model\_support, 12
- model\_type (model\_support), 12
- model\_type(), 3
- plot\_explanations, 13, 15, 18
- plot\_features, 14, 14, 18
- plot\_features(), 2, 4, 13
- plot\_image\_explanation, 15
- plot\_superpixels, 16
- plot\_text\_explanations, 14, 15, 17
- plot\_text\_explanations(), 2
- predict\_model (model\_support), 12
- quote(), 8
- render\_text\_explanations
  - (interactive\_text\_explanations), 7
- stats::dist(), 6
- stop\_words\_sentences, 18
- stringi::stri\_split\_boundaries(), 4
- test\_sentences, 19
- text\_explanations\_output
  - (interactive\_text\_explanations), 7
- the docs, 2
- train\_sentences, 20