# Package: arf (via r-universe)

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Title Adversarial Random Forests

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Description Adversarial random forests (ARFs) recursively partition data into fully factorized leaves, where features are jointly independent. The procedure is iterative, with alternating rounds of generation and discrimination. Data becomes increasingly realistic at each round, until original and synthetic samples can no longer be reliably distinguished. This is useful for several unsupervised learning tasks, such as density estimation and data synthesis. Methods for both are implemented in this package. ARFs naturally handle unstructured data with mixed continuous and categorical covariates. They inherit many of the benefits of random forests, including speed, flexibility, and solid performance with default parameters. For details, see Watson et al. (2022) <arXiv:2205.09435>.

License GPL (>= 3)

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BugReports https://github.com/bips-hb/arf/issues

Imports data.table, ranger, foreach, stringr, truncnorm

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2 arf-package

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# **Description**

Adversarial random forests (ARFs) recursively partition data into fully factorized leaves, where features are jointly independent. The procedure is iterative, with alternating rounds of generation and discrimination. Data becomes increasingly realistic at each round, until original and synthetic samples can no longer be reliably distinguished. This is useful for several unsupervised learning tasks, such as density estimation and data synthesis. Methods for both are implemented in this package. ARFs naturally handle unstructured data with mixed continuous and categorical covariates. They inherit many of the benefits of random forests, including speed, flexibility, and solid performance with default parameters. For details, see Watson et al. (2022) arXiv:2205.09435.

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### See Also

### **Examples**

```
# Train ARF and estimate leaf parameters
arf <- adversarial_rf(iris)</pre>
psi <- forde(arf, iris)</pre>
# Generate 100 synthetic samples from the iris dataset
x_{synth} \leftarrow forge(psi, n_{synth} = 100)
# Condition on Species = "setosa" and Sepal.Length > 6
evi <- data.frame(Species = "setosa",</pre>
                   Sepal.Length = "(6, Inf)")
x_synth <- forge(psi, n_synth = 100, evidence = evi)</pre>
# Estimate average log-likelihood
11 <- lik(psi, iris, arf = arf, log = TRUE)</pre>
mean(11)
# Expectation of Sepal.Length for class setosa
evi <- data.frame(Species = "setosa")</pre>
expct(psi, query = "Sepal.Length", evidence = evi)
## Not run:
# Parallelization with doParallel
doParallel::registerDoParallel(cores = 4)
# ... or with doFuture
doFuture::registerDoFuture()
future::plan("multisession", workers = 4)
## End(Not run)
```

adversarial\_rf

Adversarial Random Forests

### Description

Implements an adversarial random forest to learn independence-inducing splits.

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### Usage

```
adversarial_rf(
    x,
    num_trees = 10L,
    min_node_size = 2L,
    delta = 0,
    max_iters = 10L,
    early_stop = TRUE,
    prune = TRUE,
    verbose = TRUE,
    parallel = TRUE,
    ...
)
```

### **Arguments**

Χ	Input data.	Integer vari	ables are rec	oded as ord	ered factors	with a warnin	g. See

Details.

num\_trees Number of trees to grow in each forest. The default works well for most gen-

erative modeling tasks, but should be increased for likelihood estimation. See

Details.

min\_node\_size Minimal number of real data samples in leaf nodes.

delta Tolerance parameter. Algorithm converges when OOB accuracy is < 0.5 +

delta.

early\_stop Terminate loop if performance fails to improve from one round to the next?

prune Impose min\_node\_size by pruning?

verbose Print discriminator accuracy after each round?

parallel Compute in parallel? Must register backend beforehand, e.g. via doParallel

or doFuture; see examples.

... Extra parameters to be passed to ranger.

# **Details**

The adversarial random forest (ARF) algorithm partitions data into fully factorized leaves where features are jointly independent. ARFs are trained iteratively, with alternating rounds of generation and discrimination. In the first instance, synthetic data is generated via independent bootstraps of each feature, and a RF classifier is trained to distinguish between real and fake samples. In subsequent rounds, synthetic data is generated separately in each leaf, using splits from the previous forest. This creates increasingly realistic data that satisfies local independence by construction. The algorithm converges when a RF cannot reliably distinguish between the two classes, i.e. when OOB accuracy falls below 0.5 + delta.

ARFs are useful for several unsupervised learning tasks, such as density estimation (see forde) and data synthesis (see forge). For the former, we recommend increasing the number of trees for improved performance (typically on the order of 100-1000 depending on sample size).

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Integer variables are recoded with a warning. Default behavior is to convert those with six or more unique values to numeric, while those with up to five unique values are treated as ordered factors. To override this behavior, explicitly recode integer variables to the target type prior to training.

Note: convergence is not guaranteed in finite samples. The max\_iters argument sets an upper bound on the number of training rounds. Similar results may be attained by increasing delta. Even a single round can often give good performance, but data with strong or complex dependencies may require more iterations. With the default early\_stop = TRUE, the adversarial loop terminates if performance does not improve from one round to the next, in which case further training may be pointless.

### Value

A random forest object of class ranger.

### References

Watson, D., Blesch, K., Kapar, J., & Wright, M. (2023). Adversarial random forests for density estimation and generative modeling. In *Proceedings of the 26th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics*, pp. 5357-5375.

### See Also

```
arf, forde, forge, expct, lik
```

```
# Train ARF and estimate leaf parameters
arf <- adversarial_rf(iris)</pre>
psi <- forde(arf, iris)</pre>
# Generate 100 synthetic samples from the iris dataset
x_{synth} \leftarrow forge(psi, n_{synth} = 100)
# Condition on Species = "setosa" and Sepal.Length > 6
evi <- data.frame(Species = "setosa",</pre>
                   Sepal.Length = "(6, Inf)")
x_synth <- forge(psi, n_synth = 100, evidence = evi)</pre>
# Estimate average log-likelihood
11 <- lik(psi, iris, arf = arf, log = TRUE)</pre>
mean(11)
# Expectation of Sepal.Length for class setosa
evi <- data.frame(Species = "setosa")</pre>
expct(psi, query = "Sepal.Length", evidence = evi)
## Not run:
# Parallelization with doParallel
doParallel::registerDoParallel(cores = 4)
# ... or with doFuture
```

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```
doFuture::registerDoFuture()
future::plan("multisession", workers = 4)
## End(Not run)
```

darf

Shortcut likelihood function

# **Description**

Calls adversarial\_rf, forde and lik. For repeated application, it is faster to save outputs of adversarial\_rf and forde and pass them via . . . or directly use lik.

### Usage

```
darf(x, query = NULL, ...)
```

# **Arguments**

X	Input data. Integer variables are recoded as ordered factors with a warning. See Details.
query	Data frame of samples, optionally comprising just a subset of training features. See Details of lik. Is set to x if zero.
	Extra parameters to be passed to adversarial_rf, forde and lik.

### Value

A vector of likelihoods, optionally on the log scale. A dataset of n\_synth synthetic samples or of nrow(x) synthetic samples if n\_synth is undefined.

# References

Watson, D., Blesch, K., Kapar, J., & Wright, M. (2023). Adversarial random forests for density estimation and generative modeling. In *Proceedings of the 26th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics*, pp. 5357-5375.

### See Also

```
arf, adversarial_rf, forde, forge
```

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### **Examples**

```
# Estimate log-likelihoods
ll <- darf(iris)

# Partial evidence query
ll <- darf(iris, query = iris[1, 1:3])

# Condition on Species = "setosa"
ll <- darf(iris, query = iris[1, 1:3], evidence = data.frame(Species = "setosa"))</pre>
```

earf

Shortcut expectation function

# **Description**

Calls adversarial\_rf, forde and expct. For repeated application, it is faster to save outputs of adversarial\_rf and forde and pass them via . . . or directly use expct.

# Usage

```
earf(x, ...)
```

### **Arguments**

x Input data. Integer variables are recoded as ordered factors with a warning. See Details.

... Extra parameters to be passed to adversarial\_rf, forde and expct.

### Value

A one row data frame with values for all query variables.

### References

Watson, D., Blesch, K., Kapar, J., & Wright, M. (2023). Adversarial random forests for density estimation and generative modeling. In *Proceedings of the 26th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics*, pp. 5357-5375.

### See Also

```
arf, adversarial_rf, forde, expct
```

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### **Examples**

```
# What is the expected values of each feature?
earf(iris)
#' # What is the expected values of Sepal.Length?
earf(iris, query = "Sepal.Length")
# What if we condition on Species = "setosa"?
earf(iris, query = "Sepal.Length", evidence = data.frame(Species = "setosa"))
```

expct

Expected Value

# **Description**

Compute the expectation of some query variable(s), optionally conditioned on some event(s).

# Usage

```
expct(
  params,
  query = NULL,
  evidence = NULL,
  evidence_row_mode = c("separate", "or"),
  round = FALSE,
  nomatch = c("force_warning", "force", "na_warning", "na"),
  stepsize = 0,
  parallel = TRUE
)
```

# **Arguments**

params

Circuit parameters learned via forde.

query

Optional character vector of variable names. Estimates will be computed for each. If NULL, all variables other than those in evidence will be estimated. If evidence contains NAs, those variables will be estimated and a full dataset is

returned.

evidence

Optional set of conditioning events. This can take one of three forms: (1) a partial sample, i.e. a single row of data with some but not all columns; (2) a data frame of conditioning events, which allows for inequalities and intervals; or (3) a posterior distribution over leaves; see Details and Examples.

evidence\_row\_mode

Interpretation of rows in multi-row evidence. If 'separate', each row in evidence is a separate conditioning event for which n\_synth synthetic samples are generated. If 'or', the rows are combined with a logical or; see Examples.

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round	Round continuous variables to their respective maximum precision in the real data set?
nomatch	What to do if no leaf matches a condition in evidence? Options are to force sampling from a random leaf, either with a warning ("force_warning") or without a warning ("force"), or to return NA, also with a warning ("na_warning") or without a warning ("na"). The default is "force_warning".
stepsize	Stepsize defining number of evidence rows handled in one for each step. Defaults to nrow(evidence)/num_registered_workers for parallel == TRUE.
parallel	Compute in parallel? Must register backend beforehand, e.g. via doParallel or doFuture; see examples.

#### **Details**

This function computes expected values for any subset of features, optionally conditioned on some event(s).

There are three methods for (optionally) encoding conditioning events via the evidence argument. The first is to provide a partial sample, where some columns from the training data are missing or set to NA. The second is to provide a data frame with condition events. This supports inequalities and intervals. Alternatively, users may directly input a pre-calculated posterior distribution over leaves, with columns f\_idx and wt. This may be preferable for complex constraints. See Examples.

Please note that results for continuous features which are both included in query and in evidence with an interval condition are currently inconsistent.

### Value

A one row data frame with values for all query variables.

### References

Watson, D., Blesch, K., Kapar, J., & Wright, M. (2023). Adversarial random forests for density estimation and generative modeling. In *Proceedings of the 26th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics*, pp. 5357-5375.

### See Also

```
arf, adversarial_rf, forde, forge, lik
```

```
# Train ARF and estimate leaf parameters
arf <- adversarial_rf(iris)
psi <- forde(arf, iris)

# What is the expected value of Sepal.Length?
expct(psi, query = "Sepal.Length")

# What if we condition on Species = "setosa"?
evi <- data.frame(Species = "setosa")
expct(psi, query = "Sepal.Length", evidence = evi)</pre>
```

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```
# Compute expectations for all features other than Species
expct(psi, evidence = evi)

# Condition on first two data rows with some missing values
evi <- iris[1:2,]
evi[1, 1] <- NA_real_
evi[1, 5] <- NA_character_
evi[2, 2] <- NA_real_
x_synth <- expct(psi, evidence = evi)

## Not run:
# Parallelization with doParallel
doParallel::registerDoParallel(cores = 4)

# ... or with doFuture
doFuture::registerDoFuture()
future::plan("multisession", workers = 4)

## End(Not run)</pre>
```

forde

Forests for Density Estimation

### **Description**

Uses a pre-trained ARF model to estimate leaf and distribution parameters.

# Usage

```
forde(
    arf,
    x,
    oob = FALSE,
    family = "truncnorm",
    finite_bounds = c("no", "local", "global"),
    alpha = 0,
    epsilon = 0,
    parallel = TRUE
)
```

# **Arguments**

arf Pre-trained adversarial\_rf. Alternatively, any object of class ranger.

x Training data for estimating parameters.

Only use out-of-bag samples for parameter estimation? If TRUE, x must be the

same dataset used to train arf.

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family	Distribution to use for density estimation of continuous features. Current options include truncated normal (the default family = "truncnorm") and uniform (family = "unif"). See Details.
finite_bounds	Impose finite bounds on all continuous variables? If 'local', infinite bounds are shrinked to empirical extrema within leaves. If 'global', infinite bounds are shrinked to global empirical extrema. if 'no' (the default), do not impose finite bounds.
alpha	Optional pseudocount for Laplace smoothing of categorical features. This avoids zero-mass points when test data fall outside the support of training data. Effectively parametrizes a flat Dirichlet prior on multinomial likelihoods.
epsilon	Optional slack parameter on empirical bounds when finite_bounds != 'no'. This avoids zero-density points when test data fall outside the support of training data. The gap between lower and upper bounds is expanded by a factor of 1 + epsilon.
parallel	Compute in parallel? Must register backend beforehand, e.g. via doParallel or doFuture; see examples.

#### **Details**

forde extracts leaf parameters from a pretrained forest and learns distribution parameters for data within each leaf. The former includes coverage (proportion of data falling into the leaf) and split criteria. The latter includes proportions for categorical features and mean/variance for continuous features. The result is a probabilistic circuit, stored as a data.table, which can be used for various downstream inference tasks.

Currently, forde only provides support for a limited number of distributional families: truncated normal or uniform for continuous data, and multinomial for discrete data. Future releases will accommodate a larger set of options.

Though forde was designed to take an adversarial random forest as input, the function's first argument can in principle be any object of class ranger. This allows users to test performance with alternative pipelines (e.g., with supervised forest input). There is also no requirement that x be the data used to fit arf, unless oob = TRUE. In fact, using another dataset here may protect against overfitting. This connects with Wager & Athey's (2018) notion of "honest trees".

### Value

A list with 5 elements: (1) parameters for continuous data; (2) parameters for discrete data; (3) leaf indices and coverage; (4) metadata on variables; and (5) the data input class. This list is used for estimating likelihoods with lik and generating data with forge.

### References

Watson, D., Blesch, K., Kapar, J., & Wright, M. (2023). Adversarial random forests for density estimation and generative modeling. In *Proceedings of the 26th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics*, pp. 5357-5375.

Wager, S. & Athey, S. (2018). Estimation and inference of heterogeneous treatment effects using random forests. *J. Am. Stat. Assoc.*, 113(523): 1228-1242.

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### See Also

```
arf, adversarial_rf, forge, expct, lik
```

### **Examples**

```
# Train ARF and estimate leaf parameters
arf <- adversarial_rf(iris)</pre>
psi <- forde(arf, iris)</pre>
# Generate 100 synthetic samples from the iris dataset
x_{synth} \leftarrow forge(psi, n_{synth} = 100)
# Condition on Species = "setosa" and Sepal.Length > 6
evi <- data.frame(Species = "setosa",</pre>
                   Sepal.Length = "(6, Inf)")
x_synth \leftarrow forge(psi, n_synth = 100, evidence = evi)
# Estimate average log-likelihood
11 <- lik(psi, iris, arf = arf, log = TRUE)</pre>
mean(11)
# Expectation of Sepal.Length for class setosa
evi <- data.frame(Species = "setosa")</pre>
expct(psi, query = "Sepal.Length", evidence = evi)
## Not run:
# Parallelization with doParallel
doParallel::registerDoParallel(cores = 4)
# ... or with doFuture
doFuture::registerDoFuture()
future::plan("multisession", workers = 4)
## End(Not run)
```

forge

Forests for Generative Modeling

# Description

Uses pre-trained FORDE model to simulate synthetic data.

# Usage

```
forge(
  params,
  n_synth,
  evidence = NULL,
```

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```
evidence_row_mode = c("separate", "or"),
round = TRUE,
sample_NAs = FALSE,
nomatch = c("force_warning", "force", "na_warning", "na"),
stepsize = 0,
parallel = TRUE
)
```

### **Arguments**

params Circuit parameters learned via forde.

n\_synth Number of synthetic samples to generate.

evidence Optional set of conditioning events. This can take one of three forms: (1) a

partial sample, i.e. a single row of data with some but not all columns; (2) a data frame of conditioning events, which allows for inequalities and intervals; or (3)

a posterior distribution over leaves; see Details and Examples.

evidence\_row\_mode

Interpretation of rows in multi-row evidence. If 'separate', each row in evidence is a separate conditioning event for which n\_synth synthetic samples are gen-

erated. If 'or', the rows are combined with a logical or; see Examples.

round Round continuous variables to their respective maximum precision in the real

data set?

sample\_NAs Sample NAs respecting the probability for missing values in the original data.

nomatch What to do if no leaf matches a condition in evidence? Options are to force

sampling from a random leaf, either with a warning ("force\_warning") or without a warning ("force"), or to return NA, also with a warning ("na\_warning")

or without a warning ("na"). The default is "force\_warning".

stepsize Stepsize defining number of evidence rows handled in one for each step. De-

faults to nrow(evidence)/num\_registered\_workers for parallel == TRUE.

parallel Compute in parallel? Must register backend beforehand, e.g. via doParallel

or doFuture; see examples.

### **Details**

forge simulates a synthetic dataset of n\_synth samples. First, leaves are sampled in proportion to either their coverage (if evidence = NULL) or their posterior probability. Then, each feature is sampled independently within each leaf according to the probability mass or density function learned by forde. This will create realistic data so long as the adversarial RF used in the previous step satisfies the local independence criterion. See Watson et al. (2023).

There are three methods for (optionally) encoding conditioning events via the evidence argument. The first is to provide a partial sample, where some columns from the training data are missing or set to NA. The second is to provide a data frame with condition events. This supports inequalities and intervals. Alternatively, users may directly input a pre-calculated posterior distribution over leaves, with columns f\_idx and wt. This may be preferable for complex constraints. See Examples.

### Value

A dataset of n\_synth synthetic samples.

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### References

Watson, D., Blesch, K., Kapar, J., & Wright, M. (2023). Adversarial random forests for density estimation and generative modeling. In *Proceedings of the 26th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics*, pp. 5357-5375.

#### See Also

```
arf, adversarial_rf, forde, expct, lik
```

```
# Train ARF and estimate leaf parameters
arf <- adversarial_rf(iris)</pre>
psi <- forde(arf, iris)</pre>
# Generate 100 synthetic samples from the iris dataset
x_{synth} \leftarrow forge(psi, n_{synth} = 100)
# Condition on Species = "setosa"
evi <- data.frame(Species = "setosa")</pre>
x_synth <- forge(psi, n_synth = 100, evidence = evi)</pre>
# Condition on Species = "setosa" and Sepal.Length > 6
evi <- data.frame(Species = "setosa",</pre>
                   Sepal.Length = "(6, Inf)")
x_synth <- forge(psi, n_synth = 100, evidence = evi)</pre>
# Alternative syntax for </> conditions
evi <- data.frame(Sepal.Length = ">6")
x_synth <- forge(psi, n_synth = 100, evidence = evi)</pre>
# Negation condition, i.e. all classes except "setosa"
evi <- data.frame(Species = "!setosa")</pre>
x_synth <- forge(psi, n_synth = 100, evidence = evi)
# Condition on first two data rows with some missing values
evi <- iris[1:2,]
evi[1, 1] <- NA_real_
evi[1, 5] <- NA_character_
evi[2, 2] <- NA_real_
x_synth <- forge(psi, n_synth = 1, evidence = evi)</pre>
# Or just input some distribution on leaves
# (Weights that do not sum to unity are automatically scaled)
n_leaves <- nrow(psi$forest)</pre>
evi <- data.frame(f_idx = psi$forest$f_idx, wt = rexp(n_leaves))</pre>
x_synth <- forge(psi, n_synth = 100, evidence = evi)</pre>
## Not run:
# Parallelization with doParallel
doParallel::registerDoParallel(cores = 4)
```

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```
# ... or with doFuture
doFuture::registerDoFuture()
future::plan("multisession", workers = 4)
## End(Not run)
```

lik

Likelihood Estimation

# Description

Compute the likelihood of input data, optionally conditioned on some event(s).

# Usage

```
lik(
  params,
  query,
  evidence = NULL,
  arf = NULL,
  oob = FALSE,
  log = TRUE,
  batch = NULL,
  parallel = TRUE
)
```

# Arguments

params	Circuit parameters learned via forde.
query	Data frame of samples, optionally comprising just a subset of training features. Likelihoods will be computed for each sample. Missing features will be marginalized out. See Details.
evidence	Optional set of conditioning events. This can take one of three forms: (1) a partial sample, i.e. a single row of data with some but not all columns; (2) a data frame of conditioning events, which allows for inequalities; or (3) a posterior distribution over leaves. See Details.
arf	Pre-trained adversarial_rf or other object of class ranger. This is not required but speeds up computation considerably for total evidence queries. (Ignored for partial evidence queries.)
oob	Only use out-of-bag leaves for likelihood estimation? If TRUE, $x$ must be the same dataset used to train $arf$ . Only applicable for total evidence queries.
log	Return likelihoods on log scale? Recommended to prevent underflow.
batch	Batch size. The default is to compute densities for all of queries in one round, which is always the fastest option if memory allows. However, with large samples or many trees, it can be more memory efficient to split the data into batches. This has no impact on results.

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parallel Compute in parallel? Must register backend beforehand, e.g. via doParallel or doFuture; see examples.

### **Details**

This function computes the likelihood of input data, optionally conditioned on some event(s). Queries may be partial, i.e. covering some but not all features, in which case excluded variables will be marginalized out.

There are three methods for (optionally) encoding conditioning events via the evidence argument. The first is to provide a partial sample, where some but not all columns from the training data are present. The second is to provide a data frame with three columns: variable, relation, and value. This supports inequalities via relation. Alternatively, users may directly input a precalculated posterior distribution over leaves, with columns f\_idx and wt. This may be preferable for complex constraints. See Examples.

#### Value

A vector of likelihoods, optionally on the log scale.

### References

Watson, D., Blesch, K., Kapar, J., & Wright, M. (2023). Adversarial random forests for density estimation and generative modeling. In *Proceedings of the 26th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics*, pp. 5357-5375.

### See Also

```
arf, adversarial_rf, forde, forge, expct
```

```
# Train ARF and estimate leaf parameters
arf <- adversarial_rf(iris)
psi <- forde(arf, iris)

# Estimate average log-likelihood
ll <- lik(psi, iris, arf = arf, log = TRUE)
mean(ll)

# Identical but slower
ll <- lik(psi, iris, log = TRUE)
mean(ll)

# Partial evidence query
lik(psi, query = iris[1, 1:3])

# Condition on Species = "setosa"
evi <- data.frame(Species = "setosa")
lik(psi, query = iris[1, 1:3], evidence = evi)

# Condition on Species = "setosa" and Petal.Width > 0.3
```

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rarf

Shortcut sampling function

# **Description**

Calls adversarial\_rf, forde and forge. For repeated application, it is faster to save outputs of adversarial\_rf and forde and pass them via . . . or directly use forge.

# Usage

```
rarf(x, n_synth = NULL, ...)
```

### **Arguments**

X	Input data. Integer variables are recoded as ordered factors with a warning. Se Details.
n_synth	Number of synthetic samples to generate. Is set to $nrow(x)$ if NULL.
	Extra parameters to be passed to adversarial_rf, forde and forge.

# Value

A dataset of n\_synth synthetic samples or of nrow(x) synthetic samples if n\_synth is undefined.

# References

Watson, D., Blesch, K., Kapar, J., & Wright, M. (2023). Adversarial random forests for density estimation and generative modeling. In *Proceedings of the 26th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics*, pp. 5357-5375.

### See Also

```
arf, adversarial_rf, forde, forge
```

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```
# Generate 150 (size of original iris dataset) synthetic samples from the iris dataset
x_synth <- rarf(iris)

# Generate 100 synthetic samples from the iris dataset
x_synth <- rarf(iris, n_synth = 100)

# Condition on Species = "setosa"
x_synth <- rarf(iris, evidence = data.frame(Species = "setosa"))</pre>
```

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