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Classification Trees for Poverty Mapping

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master in Applied Statistics at Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

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Abstract

Measuring differences in poverty levels within a country is important for aid allocation. Small area estimates of poverty incidence can be found by combining census and survey data. The usual method uses multiple regression, but an intuitive alternative is to build a classification tree for classifying households as poor or non-poor. This research presents some preliminary results using this method, and compares them to the traditional regression method.
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