

Package ‘sesem’

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Description Structural equation modeling (SEM) is a powerful statistical approach for the testing of networks of direct and indirect theoretical causal relationships in complex datasets with intercorrelated dependent and independent variables. Here we implement a simple method for spatially explicit SEM (SE-SEM) based on the analysis of variance covariance matrices calculated across a range of lag distances. This method provides readily interpretable plots of the change in path coefficients across scale.

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Imports lavaan, mgcv, gplots

License GPL (>= 2)

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sesem-package	<i>Spatial structural equation modeling (SESEM)</i>
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Description

Structural equation modeling (SEM) is a powerful statistical approach for the testing of networks of direct and indirect theoretical causal relationships in complex datasets with intercorrelated dependent and independent variables. Here we implement a simple method for spatially explicit SEM (SE-SEM) based on the analysis of variance covariance matrices calculated across a range of lag distances. This method provides readily interpretable plots of the change in path coefficients across scale.

Details

Package: sesem
 Type: Package
 Version: 1.0
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Package sesem allows spatially explicit structural equation modeling. It allows a structural equation model to be fit to a number of spatially explicit covariance matrices to explore how the strength of structural path coefficients changes with scale. In brief an SESEM analysis involves: calculating

pairwise differences among samples selecting a series of lag distance bins generating spatially explicit variance - covariance matrices for each lag distance bin fitting a structural equation model to each of those bins comparing and examining how the strength of path coefficients change with scale

Author(s)

Eric G. Lamb, Kerrie Mengersen, Katherine J. Stewart, Udayanga Attanayake, and Steven D. Siciliano

Maintainer: Eric Lamb <eric.lamb@usask.ca>

References

Lamb, E. G., K. Mengersen, K. J. Stewart, U. Attanayake, and S. D. Siciliano. Submitted. Spatially explicit structural equation modeling. *Ecology*.

Rosseel, Y. 2012 lavaan: an R package for structural equation modeling. *Journal of Statistical Software* **48**:1-36.

See Also

[sem](#), [lavaan](#)

Examples

```
data=truelove
truelove_red<-truelove[c(1:60),c(1:7)]
distancematrix<-calc.dist(truelove_red)
Truelove_bins<-make.bin(distancematrix,type="ALL",p.dist=10)
binsize<-Truelove_bins[1][[1]] #truelove lowland bin sizes
binname<-Truelove_bins[2][[1]] #truelove lowland bin names

plotbin(distancematrix,binsize)

covariances<-make.covar(truelove_red,distancematrix,binsize,binname)
covariances

# reduced path model for the truelove dataset

spatial_model<-'
N_Fix ~ Bryoph + Lich + SoilCrust
SoilCrust ~ Bryoph + Lich
Lich ~ Bryoph + Moisture
Bryoph ~ Moisture
'

results<-runModels(spatial_model,covariances)
modelsummary(results)
plotmodelfit(results)
plotpath(results)
```

alexfiord

Alexandra Fiord transect dataset

Description

This dataset summarizes ground cover and nitrogen fixation activity along a 93 point variably spaced transect at Alexandra Fiord, Ellesmere Island, Nunavut, Canada.

Format

A data frame with 93 rows and 10 variables.

Details

Variables are: X, Y, Moisture, N_Fix, SoilCrust, Bryoph, Lich, Forbs, Gram, Shrubs

Source

Stewart, K. J., E. G. Lamb, D. S. Coxon, and S. D. Siciliano. 2011b. Bryophyte-cyanobacterial associations as a key factor in N₂-fixation across the Canadian Arctic. *Plant and Soil* **344**:335-346.

avg.modindices

Function to display averaged modification indices for a spatial SEM

Description

Modification indices averaged across all lag distance bins (the non-spatial bin is not included) are calculated for each potential path addition to the structural model. Option modcut suppresses the printing of modification indices of less than that value.

Usage

```
avg.modindices(spatial_model_results, modcut = 4)
```

Arguments

spatial_model_results

a list object produced by function runModels

modcut

The minimum averaged modification index to print. Default is 4.

Author(s)

Eric Lamb

References

- Lamb, E. G., K. Mengersen, K. J. Stewart, U. Attanayake, and S. D. Siciliano. Submitted. Spatially explicit structural equation modeling. *Ecology*.
- Rosseel, Y. 2012 lavaan: an R package for structural equation modeling. *Journal of Statistical Software* **48**:1-36.

See Also

[sem](#), [modelsummary](#), [runModels](#), [plotmodelfit](#)

Examples

```
#data=truelove
#distancematrix<-calc.dist(truelove)
#Truelove_bins<-make.bin(distancematrix,type="ALL",p.dist=20)
#binsize<-Truelove_bins[1][[1]] #truelove lowland bin sizes
#binname<-Truelove_bins[2][[1]] #truelove lowland bin names

#covariances<-make.covar(truelove,distancematrix,binsize,binname)
#covariances

# path model for the truelove dataset
#spatial_model<-'
# Gram ~ Moisture
# N_Fix ~ Bryoph + Lich + SoilCrust
# SoilCrust ~ Bryoph + Lich + Gram + Shrubs + Forbs
# Bryoph ~ Gram + Shrubs + Forbs + Moisture
# Lich ~ Moisture + Forbs + Gram + Shrubs + Bryoph
# Forbs ~ Moisture
# Gram ~~ Forbs
# Shrubs ~ Moisture
# Gram ~~ Shrubs
# Shrubs ~~ Forbs
# '
#
#results<-runModels(spatial_model,covariances)

#The above script produces the sesem object stored as truelove_results

data=truelove_results

modelsummary(truelove_results)
avg.modindices(truelove_results)
avg.modindices(truelove_results,modcut=10)
```

Description

Function to extract path coefficients, standard errors, and standardized coefficients for a particular bin in a readable format

Usage

```
bin.results(spatial_model_results, bin = "binflat")
```

Arguments

spatial_model_results	a list object produced by function run.Models
bin	Name of the bin that results are desired for. Defaults to flat model.

Details

Given a spatial SEM object produced by runModels, bin.results allows the results for a particular lag distance bin to be inspected in a readable format.

Author(s)

Eric Lamb

References

Lamb, E. G., K. Mengersen, K. J. Stewart, U. Attanayake, and S. D. Siciliano. Submitted. Spatially explicit structural equation modeling. Ecology.

See Also

[sem](#), [make.covar](#), [runModels](#), [modelssummary](#)

Examples

```
#data=truelove
#distancematrix<-calc.dist(truelove)
#Truelove_bins<-make.bin(distancematrix,type="ALL",p.dist=20)
#binsize<-Truelove_bins[1][[1]] #truelove lowland bin sizes
#binname<-Truelove_bins[2][[1]] #truelove lowland bin names

#covariances<-make.covar(truelove,distancematrix,binsize,binname)
#covariances

# path model for the truelove dataset
#spatial_model<-'
# Gram ~ Moisture
# N_Fix ~ Bryoph + Lich + SoilCrust
# SoilCrust ~ Bryoph + Lich + Gram + Shrubs + Forbs
# Bryoph ~ Gram + Shrubs + Forbs + Moisture
# Lich ~ Moisture + Forbs + Gram + Shrubs + Bryoph
```

```

# Forbs ~ Moisture
# Gram ~~ Forbs
# Shrubs ~ Moisture
# Gram ~~ Shrubs
# Shrubs ~~ Forbs
# '
#
#results<-runModels(spatial_model,covariances)

#The above script produces the sesem object stored as truelove_results

data=truelove_results

bin.results(truelove_results)
bin.results(truelove_results,bin="Bin2")

```

bin.rsquare	<i>Extract r-square values for dependant variables a spatial SEM for a particular lag distance bin</i>
-------------	--

Description

extracts rsquare values from for dependent variables in a spatial SEM object for a particular lag distance bin in a readable format

Usage

```
bin.rsquare(spatial_model_results, bin = "binflat")
```

Arguments

spatial_model_results	a list object produced by function run.Models
bin	Name of the bin that results are desired for. Defaults to flat (nonspatial) model

Author(s)

Eric Lamb

References

Lamb, E. G., K. Mengersen, K. J. Stewart, U. Attanayake, and S. D. Siciliano. Submitted. Spatially explicit structural equation modeling. Ecology.

See Also

[sem](#), [make.covar](#), [runModels](#), [modelsummary](#), [bin.results](#)

Examples

```

#data=truelove
#distancematrix<-calc.dist(truelove)
#Truelove_bins<-make.bin(distancematrix,type="ALL",p.dist=20)
#binsize<-Truelove_bins[1][[1]] #truelove lowland bin sizes
#binname<-Truelove_bins[2][[1]] #truelove lowland bin names

#covariances<-make.covar(truelove,distancematrix,binsize,binname)
#covariances

# path model for the truelove dataset
#spatial_model<-'
# Gram ~ Moisture
# N_Fix ~ Bryoph + Lich + SoilCrust
# SoilCrust ~ Bryoph + Lich + Gram + Shrubs + Forbs
# Bryoph ~ Gram + Shrubs + Forbs + Moisture
# Lich ~ Moisture + Forbs + Gram + Shrubs + Bryoph
# Forbs ~ Moisture
# Gram ~~ Forbs
# Shrubs ~ Moisture
# Gram ~~ Shrubs
# Shrubs ~~ Forbs
# '
#
#results<-runModels(spatial_model,covariances)

#The above script produces the sesem object stored as truelove_results

data=truelove_results

bin.rsquare(truelove_results)
bin.rsquare(truelove_results,bin="Bin2")

```

calc.dist

Calculate intersample distances for a set of X-Y coordinates

Description

calc.dist calculates and stores the distance matrix for all X-Y pairs. It works on a dataset where the first two columns are x and y coordinates

Usage

```
calc.dist(datafile)
```

Arguments

datafile a dataset where the first two columns are x and y coordinates. Further columns can contain observed variables for subsequent modeling; these are ignored here.

Details

datafile is a dataset where the first two columns are x and y coordinates. If data are distributed on only one dimension (i.e. along a linear transect) one of the columns should contain zeroes.

Value

a vector containing distances between each pair of samples in the input data

Author(s)

Kerrie Mengersen, Eric Lamb

References

Lamb, E. G., K. Mengersen, K. J. Stewart, U. Attanayake, and S. D. Siciliano. Submitted. Spatially explicit structural equation modeling. Ecology.

See Also

[make.covar](#)

Examples

```
data=truelove
distdata<-truelove[c(1:60),]
distances<-calc.dist(distdata)
distances
```

gam.path

Prints and displays spatial sem results using gam models

Description

This function fits generalized additive models (gam) of the path coefficient vs. lag distance relationship for each path in the spatial SEM model. Gam functions and figures are produced. Requires function mgcv

Usage

```
gam.path(spatial_model_results, path.type = "directed", selectpath = "none selected",
plot.points = T, se.plot = T, lwd.pred = 2, lty.pred = 1, lwd.se = 2, lty.se = 3,
cex = 1, cex.axis = 1, cex.lab = 1, xlab = "Lag Distance",
ylab = "Unst. Path Coeff.", yaxt = "s", xaxt = "s")
```

Arguments

spatial_model_results	a list object produced by function runModels
path.type	An option to select the paths to be plotted. "directed" = only directed paths plotted; "undirected" = only undirected correlations plotted; "both" = all paths plotted; "user" = allows user to specify particular paths and a particular order for plotting. Argument selectpath must also be provided with path.type="user"
selectpath	An option to select specific paths for plotting. Usage is as follows: selectpath==c(5,18,16,23,29) where values refer to path numbers. Path numbers can be obtained using spatial_model_results[[2]]
plot.points	Should points for individual models be plotted?
se.plot	Should standard error lines for each gam model be plotted?
lwd.pred	width of the predicted line from the gam model
lty.pred	format of the predicted line from the gam model
lwd.se	width of the standard error line
lty.se	format of the standard error line
cex	point size
cex.axis	axis font size
cex.lab	label font size
xlab	x-axis label
ylab	y-axis label
yaxt	argument to suppress plotting of y-axis if set to "n"
xaxt	argument to suppress plotting of x-axis if set to "n"

Details

Generalized additive models (gam) allow flexible modeling of nonlinear relationships with minimal assumptions about the shape of those relationships. This function utilizes the gam fitting function in library mgcv to fit and display gam models of the relationships between lag distance and unstandardized path coefficients. This is an alternative to the lowess smoothed lines available in function plot.path. Potential advantages of the gam models include the ability to obtain predictions for lag distance values intermediate between modeled lag distances.

Author(s)

Eric Lamb

References

- Lamb, E. G., K. Mengersen, K. J. Stewart, U. Attanayake, and S. D. Siciliano. Submitted. Spatially explicit structural equation modeling. *Ecology*.
- Rosseel, Y. 2012 lavaan: an R package for structural equation modeling. *Journal of Statistical Software* **48**:1-36

Wood, S.N. 2011 Fast stable restricted maximum likelihood and marginal likelihood estimation of semiparametric generalized linear models. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society (B)* **73**(1):3-36

Wood, S.N. 2006 Generalized Additive Models: An Introduction with R. Chapman and Hall/CRC

See Also

[sem](#), [gam](#), [make.covar](#), [runModels](#), [modelsummary](#), [plotmodelfit](#), [plotpath](#)

Examples

```
#data=truelove
#distancematrix<-calc.dist(truelove)
#Truelove_bins<-make.bin(distancematrix,type="ALL",p.dist=20)
#binsize<-Truelove_bins[1][[1]] #truelove lowland bin sizes
#binname<-Truelove_bins[2][[1]] #truelove lowland bin names

#covariances<-make.covar(truelove,distancematrix,binsize,binname)
#covariances

# path model for the truelove dataset
#spatial_model<-'
# Gram ~ Moisture
# N_Fix ~ Bryoph + Lich + SoilCrust
# SoilCrust ~ Bryoph + Lich + Gram + Shrubs + Forbs
# Bryoph ~ Gram + Shrubs + Forbs + Moisture
# Lich ~ Moisture + Forbs + Gram + Shrubs + Bryoph
# Forbs ~ Moisture
# Gram ~~ Forbs
# Shrubs ~ Moisture
# Gram ~~ Shrubs
# Shrubs ~~ Forbs
# '
#
#results<-runModels(spatial_model,covariances)

#The above script produces the sesem object stored as truelove_results

data=truelove_results

gam.path(truelove_results)
truelove_results[[2]]# list of path names
gam.path(truelove_results,path.type="user",selectpath=c(5,7,8))
```

make.bin

Function to make lag distance bins

Description

For spatial SEM, lag distance bins need to be described by 2 vectors: binsize and binname. make.bin is a function to automatically generate lag distance bins for a given dataset. Options to automatically specify bins based on desired within bin sample size, or desired number of bins are available.

Usage

```
make.bin(dist.mat, type = "n.bins", p.dist = 50, n.bins = 10, s.size = 100)
```

Arguments

dist.mat	a vector containing distances between all X-Y sample pairs in a dataset. Produced by function calc.dist
type	should a particular number of bins be created ("n.bins"), or should bins each contain a particular number of sample pairs ("s.size"), or should all possible bins be created ("ALL"). Note that "ALL" will only yield sensible results for regular sampling designs.
p.dist	Inference distance (i.e. upper limit of largest lag distance bin) as a percentage of the maximum distance sampled
n.bins	number of bins to be generated if type="n.bins"
s.size	sample size within each bin to be used if type="s.size"

Details

make.bin generates cut off values for lag distance bins and corresponding bin names The function has three default parameter values available, if user does not want to specify:

(1) Inference distance as a percentage(p.dist) = 50. This sets the upper limit of the largest bin. Normally lag distances greater than 50

You can use type="ALL", "n.bins" OR "s.size" to control parameter values. ALL will only produce sensible results for regular sampling designs. The function produces a list object containing (1.)binsize and (2.)binname. These two vectors (binsize and binname) will be used by make.covar to calculate variance covariance matrices for each lag distance bin

Special note: User specified number of lag distance bins OR sample size will be used to calculate initial cutoff value of each lag distance bin. However, if the cutoff point is in between a lag distance bin, real cutoff will apply at the upper margin of the particular bin. Therefore, resulting number of bins are less than or equal AND resulting sample sizes are greater than or equal to the value specified by the user.

Value

a List with two components:

comp1	a vector of bin size cutoff distances starting with zero
comp2	a character vector of bin names. This vector has one element less than component 1

Author(s)

Udayanga Attanayake, Eric Lamb

References

Lamb, E. G., K. Mengersen, K. J. Stewart, U. Attanayake, and S. D. Siciliano. Submitted. Spatially explicit structural equation modeling. Ecology.

See Also

[calc.dist](#), [make.covar](#), [plotbin](#)

Examples

```

data=truelove
distdata<-truelove[c(1:60),]
distances<-calc.dist(distdata)
Truelove_bins<-make.bin(distances,type="ALL")
# inference distance=50% AND number of bins=ALL
# note the need to extract sizes and names from the bin size object
# as shown below for use in function make.covar
binsize<-Truelove_bins[1][[1]] #truelove lowland bin sizes
binsize
binname<-Truelove_bins[2][[1]] #truelove lowland bin names
binname

# function make.bin to generate bins with 120 samples each to a maximum inference
# distance of 20% note the need to extract sizes and names from the bin size object
# as shown below for use in make.covar

data=plantcomp
distdata<-plantcomp[c(1:60),]
distances<-calc.dist(distdata)
#using subset of plantcomp dataset to cut computation time
Plant_bins<-make.bin(distances,type="s.size",s.size=60,p.dist=20)
#inference distance=20% AND sample size=120
# note the need to extract sizes and names from the bin size object
# as shown below for use in function make.covar
binsize<-Plant_bins[1][[1]] #plant competition bin sizes
binsize
binname<-Plant_bins[2][[1]] #plant competition bin names
binname

# if manual bin sizes are needed use the following approach.
# Note that the bin name vector must have one fewer elements than bin size

binsize = c(0,1,2,2.2,4,5,8,16,32,64,96,128,160)
binsize
binname=c("Bin1","Bin2","Bin3","Bin4","Bin5","Bin6","Bin7","Bin8",
"Bin9","Bin10","Bin11","Bin12")
binname

```

make.covar

Function to calculate covariance matrices for a set of lag distance bins

Description

calculates variance covariance matrices for each lag distance bin and for a flat (non-spatial) bin

Usage

```
make.covar(datafile,dist.mat,binsize,binname)
```

Arguments

datafile	a dataset where the first two columns are x and y coordinates. Further columns contain observed variables for subsequent sesem modeling.
dist.mat	a vector containing distances between all X-Y sample pairs in a dataset. Produced by function calc.dist.
binsize	A vector of bin size cutoff distances starting with zero. Produced using make.bin
binname	A character vector of bin names. This vector has one element less than binsize.

Details

Calculates variance-covariance matrices for a series of lag distance bins and for a flat (non-spatial) bin. This function produces a list object with four components: [[1]]bin.summary, [[2]] variable names [[3]] flat covariance matrix, [[4]][,i] covariance matrices for each bin i. A summary of the bins is printed.

Value

1	A bin summary with colums binname, lower cutoff distance, upper cutoff distance, and sample size
2	A list of observed variable names
3	the flat (non-spatial) variance-covariance matrix
4	contains elements [[4]][,i] where each i is the variance - covariance matrix for a particular lag distance bin

Author(s)

Kerrie Mengersen, Eric Lamb

References

Lamb, E. G., K. Mengersen, K. J. Stewart, U. Attanayake, and S. D. Siciliano. Submitted. Spatially explicit structural equation modeling. Ecology.

See Also

[make.bin](#), [make.covar](#), [runModels](#)

Examples

```
data=truelove
truelove_red<-truelove[c(1:60),c(1:5)]
distancematrix<-calc.dist(truelove_red)
```

#calc.dist and make.covar can be time consuming to run,

```
# therefore only a small dataset utilized here

Truelove_bins<-make.bin(distancematrix,type="ALL",p.dist=5)
binsize<-Truelove_bins[1][[1]] #truelove lowland bin sizes
binname<-Truelove_bins[2][[1]] #truelove lowland bin names

covariances<-make.covar(truelove_red,distancematrix,binsize,binname)
covariances
```

modelsummary	<i>Function to extract and display basic summary information for a spatial SEM analysis</i>
--------------	---

Description

extracts basic model summary information from the bin.summary file and the object created by run.Models in a readable format

Usage

```
modelsummary(spatial_model_results)
```

Arguments

spatial_model_results
a list object produced by runModels

Author(s)

Eric Lamb

References

Lamb, E. G., K. Mengersen, K. J. Stewart, U. Attanayake, and S. D. Siciliano. Submitted. Spatially explicit structural equation modeling. *Ecology*.

Rosseel, Y. 2012 lavaan: an R package for structural equation modeling. *Journal of Statistical Software* **48**:1-36.

See Also

[sem](#), [make.covar](#), [runModels](#), [plotmodelfit](#), [plotpath](#)

Examples

```

#data=truelove
#distancematrix<-calc.dist(truelove)
#Truelove_bins<-make.bin(distancematrix,type="ALL",p.dist=20)
#binsize<-Truelove_bins[1][[1]] #truelove lowland bin sizes
#binname<-Truelove_bins[2][[1]] #truelove lowland bin names

#covariances<-make.covar(truelove,distancematrix,binsize,binname)
#covariances

# path model for the truelove dataset
#spatial_model<-'
# Gram ~ Moisture
# N_Fix ~ Bryoph + Lich + SoilCrust
# SoilCrust ~ Bryoph + Lich + Gram + Shrubs + Forbs
# Bryoph ~ Gram + Shrubs + Forbs + Moisture
# Lich ~ Moisture + Forbs + Gram + Shrubs + Bryoph
# Forbs ~ Moisture
# Gram ~~ Forbs
# Shrubs ~ Moisture
# Gram ~~ Shrubs
# Shrubs ~~ Forbs
# '
#
#results<-runModels(spatial_model,covariances)

#The above script produces the sesem object stored as truelove_results

data=truelove_results

modelsummary(truelove_results)

```

plantcomp

Plant Competition dataset

Description

This dataset summarizes plant community characteristics, competition intensity, and topographic features in a mesic grassland in central Alberta, Canada.

Format

A data frame with 192 rows and 10 variables.

Details

Variables are: Easting ,Northing ,Comp.Intensity ,ShootBio ,RootBio ,SpRich , SoilMoist ,LightInt ,Topog.Pos ,TotalN

Source

Lamb, E. G. and J. F. Cahill. 2008. When competition does not matter: grassland diversity and community composition. *American Naturalist* **171**:777-787

plotbin

Function to plot the distribution of lag distance bin sizes

Description

A convenience function that provides a histogram of distances among of all sample pairs and a plot of sample sizes for each the selected bin size.

Usage

```
plotbin(dist.mat,binsize)
```

Arguments

dist.mat	a vector of x-y distances among all sample pairs as produced by calc.dist
binsize	A vector of bin sizes as produced by make.bin, or of the form c(0,2,3,4,...) where the values are the desired bin cutoffs beginning with zero.

Details

This function is to assist in visualization of both the distribution of x-y distances in the dataset and sample sizes resulting from the selected lag distance bins. See the help files for calc.dist and make.bin for the inputs to this function.

Author(s)

Eric Lamb

References

Lamb, E. G., K. Mengersen, K. J. Stewart, U. Attanayake, and S. D. Siciliano. Submitted. Spatially explicit structural equation modeling. *Ecology*.

See Also

[make.bin](#), [calc.dist](#), [make.covar](#)

Examples

```

data=plantcomp
distancematrix<-calc.dist(plantcomp[c(1:100),])
#using subset of plantcomp dataset to cut computation time
Plant_bins<-make.bin(distancematrix,type="s.size",s.size=200)
#inference distance=50% AND sample size=200
binsize<-Plant_bins[1][[1]] #plant competition bin sizes

plotbin(distancematrix,binsize)

```

plotmodelfit

Function to plot model fit indices for spatial SEM analyses

Description

A function to plot model fit indices across lag distances. The default is to plot all of the chi square, cfi, rmsea (including confidence intervals), and srmr indices. Horizontal lines indicating significant cutoffs for each index are plotted (chi square $p=0.05$, $cfi=0.9$, $rmsea=0.05$, and $srmr=0.08$). Options to add trend lines are available.

Usage

```

plotmodelfit(spatial_model_results, plots = "all", add.line = "none", rmsea_err = T,
             pch = 16, lwd = 2, lty = 1, cex = 1, cex.lab = 1, cex.axis = 1, cex.main = 1.5)

```

Arguments

spatial_model_results	a list object produced by function runModels
plots	Indicates which indices should be plotted. The default "all" produces plots of all of the chi square, cfi, rmsea (including confidence intervals), and srmr indices. plot="chi", "cfi", "rmsea", or "srmr" will produce only a single plot.
add.line	Indicates whether a trendline should be added connecting the points. The default "none" indicates no line, "step" plots straight line segments between points, and "smooth" plots a smoothed curve fit using function lowess. Smoothed lines do not include the flat model (lag distance zero).
rmsea_err	Should the rmsea index be plotted with confidence intervals? rmsea_err=T is the default, rmsea_err=F will suppress confidence intervals. Note that warnings will likely arise if rmsea_err=T is used and there are confidence intervals of zero. All these warnings indicate is that that particular confidence interval is equal to the estimated value and will not be plotted.
pch	plotting symbol
lwd	line width
lty	line format

cex	symbol size
cex.lab	label font size
cex.axis	axis label font size
cex.main	plot title font size

Note

Warnings may arise from the plotting of the rmsea error bars if `rmsea_err=T` is used and there are confidence intervals of zero. All these warnings indicate is that that particular confidence interval is equal to the estimated value and will not be plotted.

Author(s)

Eric Lamb

References

Lamb, E. G., K. Mengersen, K. J. Stewart, U. Attanayake, and S. D. Siciliano. Submitted. Spatially explicit structural equation modeling. *Ecology*.

See Also

[sem](#), [make.covar](#), [runModels](#), [modelsummary](#), [avg.modindices](#), [plotpath](#), [gam.path](#)

Examples

```
#data=truelove
#distancematrix<-calc.dist(truelove)
#Truelove_bins<-make.bin(distancematrix,type="ALL",p.dist=20)
#binsize<-Truelove_bins[1][[1]] #truelove lowland bin sizes
#binname<-Truelove_bins[2][[1]] #truelove lowland bin names

#covariances<-make.covar(truelove,distancematrix,binsize,binname)
#covariances

# path model for the truelove dataset
#spatial_model<-'
# Gram ~ Moisture
# N_Fix ~ Bryoph + Lich + SoilCrust
# SoilCrust ~ Bryoph + Lich + Gram + Shrubs + Forbs
# Bryoph ~ Gram + Shrubs + Forbs + Moisture
# Lich ~ Moisture + Forbs + Gram + Shrubs + Bryoph
# Forbs ~ Moisture
# Gram ~~ Forbs
# Shrubs ~ Moisture
# Gram ~~ Shrubs
# Shrubs ~~ Forbs
# '
#
#results<-runModels(spatial_model,covariances)
```

```
#The above script produces the sesem object stored as truelove_results

data=truelove_results

plotmodelfit(truelove_results) #note that the warnings that arise here can be ignored
plotmodelfit(truelove_results,rmsea_err=FALSE)
plotmodelfit(truelove_results,plots="chi")
```

plotpath

Function to plot spatial SEM results for individual paths

Description

A function to plot unstandardized path coefficients across lag distances. The default is to plot all directed paths with standard error bars, and greyed bars to indicate nonsignificant paths ($z > 0.05$). A range of options are available to change the paths plotted, to add trendlines, and to alter the look of the plots.

Usage

```
plotpath(spatial_model_results, path.type = "directed", selectpath = "none selected",
add.line = "none", add.error = T, pcut = 0.05, pch = 16,
lwd = 2, lty = 1,cex.main=1.2)
```

Arguments

spatial_model_results	a list object produced by function runModels
path.type	An option to select the paths to be plotted. "directed" = only directed paths plotted; "undirected" = only undirected correlations plotted; "both" = all paths plotted; "user" = allows user to specify particular paths and a particular order for plotting. Argument selectpath must also be provided with path.type="user"
selectpath	An option to select specific paths for plotting. Usage is as follows: selectpath==c(5,18,16,23,29) where values refer to path numbers. Path numbers can be obtained using spatial_model_results[[2]]
add.line	Options for plotting a fit line. "none" indicates no line; "step" plots straight line segments between points; "smooth" plots a smoothed curve fit using function lowess
add.error	Should standard error bars be added for each path coefficient
pcut	p-value cutoff above which points with non significant p-values are shaded grey. Set pcut=1 to have all points black.
pch	Selects plotting symbols
lwd	Sets trendline width
lty	Sets trendline format
cex.main	Sets plot title font

Author(s)

Eric Lamb

References

Lamb, E. G., K. Mengersen, K. J. Stewart, U. Attanayake, and S. D. Siciliano. Submitted. Spatially explicit structural equation modeling. *Ecology*.

Rossee, Y. 2012 lavaan: an R package for structural equation modeling. *Journal of Statistical Software* **48**:1-36.

See Also

[sem](#), [make.covar](#), [runModels](#), [modelsummary](#), [plotmodelfit](#), [gam.path](#)

Examples

```
#data=truelove
#distancematrix<-calc.dist(truelove)
#Truelove_bins<-make.bin(distancematrix,type="ALL",p.dist=20)
#binsize<-Truelove_bins[1][[1]] #truelove lowland bin sizes
#binname<-Truelove_bins[2][[1]] #truelove lowland bin names

#covariances<-make.covar(truelove,distancematrix,binsize,binname)
#covariances

# path model for the truelove dataset
#spatial_model<-'
# Gram ~ Moisture
# N_Fix ~ Bryoph + Lich + SoilCrust
# SoilCrust ~ Bryoph + Lich + Gram + Shrubs + Forbs
# Bryoph ~ Gram + Shrubs + Forbs + Moisture
# Lich ~ Moisture + Forbs + Gram + Shrubs + Bryoph
# Forbs ~ Moisture
# Gram ~~ Forbs
# Shrubs ~ Moisture
# Gram ~~ Shrubs
# Shrubs ~~ Forbs
# '
#
#results<-runModels(spatial_model,covariances)

#The above script produces the sesem object stored as truelove_results

data=truelove_results

plotpath(truelove_results)
truelove_results[[2]]# list of path names
plotpath(truelove_results,path.type="user",selectpath=c(5,7,8))
```

runModels

*Run a spatial SEM analysis***Description**

Given a path model (`spatial_model`) specified using lavaan syntax, and a list object containing covariance matrices generated by `make.covar`, runs an sem model using function `sem` from the lavaan package for each lag distance bin.

Usage

```
runModels(spatial_model, covdata)
```

Arguments

`spatial_model` a path model specified using lavaan syntax. See the [lavaan](#) help pages for details.

`covdata` a list object containing covariance matrices and other descriptors as produced by `make.covar`

Details

Given a path model (`spatial_model`) specified using lavaan syntax, and a list object containing covariance matrices generated by `make.covar`, runs an sem model using function `sem` from the lavaan package for each lag distance bin. Produces a list object containing the model results.

Value

- 1 a table of model fit estimates for each model. Values available in this table include the following: "fmin", "chisq", "df", "pvalue", "baseline.chisq", "baseline.df", "baseline.pvalue", "cfi", "rfi", "nfi", "pnfi", "ifi", "rni", "logl", "unrestricted.logl", "npar", "aic", "bic", "ntotal", "bic2", "rmsea", "rmsea.ci". See the lavaan documentation for an explanation of each value.
- 2 table containing a vector of parameter numbers and a character vector containing the names of the paths included in each model.
- 3 a table of unstandardized path coefficient estimates for each path in each model
- 4 standard error of unstandardized path coefficient estimates for each path in each model
- 5 p-values for each unstandardized path coefficient estimate for each path in each model
- 6 standardized parameter estimates for each path in each model
- 7 character vector containing list of names of dependent variables within the models
- 8 r-square values for each dependent variable in each model
- 9 names of each path for which there is a modification index value
- 10 modification index values for each potential path addition for each model
- 11 a copy of the bin.summary table in the input covdata object

Note

Should model convergence fail for certain lag bins, those bins will be skipped and no results written.

Author(s)

Eric Lamb

References

Lamb, E. G., K. Mengersen, K. J. Stewart, U. Attanayake, and S. D. Siciliano. Submitted. Spatially explicit structural equation modeling. *Ecology*.

Rosseel, Y. 2012 lavaan: an R package for structural equation modeling. *Journal of Statistical Software* **48**:1-36.

See Also

[sem](#), [make.covar](#), [modelsummary](#), [plotmodelfit](#), [plotpath](#)

Examples

```
data=truelove
truelove_red<-truelove[c(1:60),c(1:7)]
distancematrix<-calc.dist(truelove_red)
Truelove_bins<-make.bin(distancematrix,type="ALL",p.dist=10)
binsize<-Truelove_bins[1][[1]] #truelove lowland bin sizes
binname<-Truelove_bins[2][[1]] #truelove lowland bin names

plotbin(distancematrix,binsize)

covariances<-make.covar(truelove_red,distancematrix,binsize,binname)
covariances

# reduced path model for the truelove dataset

spatial_model<-'
N_Fix ~ Bryoph + Lich + SoilCrust
SoilCrust ~ Bryoph + Lich
Lich ~ Bryoph + Moisture
Bryoph ~ Moisture
'

results<-runModels(spatial_model,covariances)
plotmodelfit(results,rmsea_err=FALSE)
```

truelove	<i>Truelove lowland transect dataset</i>
----------	--

Description

This dataset summarizes ground cover and nitrogen fixation activity along a 129 point transect on Truelove Lowland, Devon Island, Nunavut, Canada.

Format

A data frame with 129 rows and 10 variables.

Details

Variables are: X, Y, Moisture, N_Fix, SoilCrust, Bryoph, Lich, Forbs, Gram, Shrubs

Source

Stewart, K. J., E. G. Lamb, D. S. Coxon, and S. D. Siciliano. 2011b. Bryophyte-cyanobacterial associations as a key factor in N₂-fixation across the Canadian Arctic. *Plant and Soil* **344**:335-346.

truelove_covar	<i>Truelove lowland example covariances</i>
----------------	---

Description

This list object is an example of the output produced by function `make.covar`. It was produced by the following script, and is provided to reduce the computation load of some of the examples in this library.

```
data=truelove
distancematrix<-calc.dist(truelove)
Truelove_bins<-make.bin(distancematrix,type="ALL",p.dist=20)
binsize<-Truelove_bins[1][[1]] #truelove lowland bin sizes
binname<-Truelove_bins[2][[1]] #truelove lowland bin names
covariances<-make.covar(truelove,distancematrix,binsize,binname)
```

Format

A list object with covariances for 11 lag distance bins.

See Also

[calc.dist](#), [make.bin](#), [make.covar](#)

truelove_results *Truelove lowland example sesem output*

Description

This list object is an example of the output produced by function `runModels`. It was produced by the following script, and is provided to reduce the computation load of some of the examples in this library.

```
data=truelove
distancematrix<-calc.dist(truelove)
Truelove_bins<-make.bin(distancematrix,type="ALL",p.dist=20)
binsize<-Truelove_bins[1][[1]] #truelove lowland bin sizes
binname<-Truelove_bins[2][[1]] #truelove lowland bin names
covariances<-make.covar(truelove,distancematrix,binsize,binname)
path model for the truelove dataset:
spatial_model<-'
Gram ~ Moisture
N_Fix ~ Bryoph + Lich + SoilCrust
SoilCrust ~ Bryoph + Lich + Gram + Shrubs + Forbs
Bryoph ~ Gram + Shrubs + Forbs + Moisture
Lich ~ Moisture + Forbs + Gram + Shrubs + Bryoph
Forbs ~ Moisture
Gram ~~ Forbs
Shrubs ~ Moisture
Gram ~~ Shrubs
Shrubs ~~ Forbs'
results<-runModels(spatial_model,covariances)
```

Format

A list object `sesem` results for the `truelove` path model and 11 lag distance bins.

See Also

[calc.dist](#), [make.bin](#), [make.covar](#), [runModels](#)

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