

Package ‘DIFlasso’

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Type Package

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Author Gunther Schauburger

Maintainer Gunther Schauburger <gunther.schauburger@stat.uni-muenchen.de>

Description Performs DIFlasso, a method to detect DIF (Differential Item Functioning) in Rasch Models. It can handle settings with many variables and also metric variables.

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| DIFlasso-package | <i>DIFlasso</i> |
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Description

A package to perform DIFlasso, a method to detect DIF (Differential Item Functioning) in Rasch Models. It can handle settings with many covariates and also metric covariates. The method is described in Tutz and Schauburger (2015). Also a refit function is provided.

Details

The main function is `DIFlasso`. The method assumes the DIFmodel from Tutz and Schauburger (2015) where a Group Lasso penalty is used for DIF detection. Computation is based on the function `grplasso`. `refitDIFlasso` provides a refit function for `DIFlasso`. Additionally, plot and print functions are provided.

Author(s)

Gunther Schauburger
<gunther.schauburger@stat.uni-muenchen.de>
<http://www.statistik.lmu.de/~schauburger/>

References

Tutz, Gerhard and Schauburger, Gunther (2015): *A Penalty Approach to Differential Item Functioning in Rasch Models*, Psychometrika, 80(1), 21 - 43

See Also

`DIFlasso`, `refitDIFlasso`, `grplasso`

| | |
|----------|--|
| DIFlasso | <i>A Penalty Approach to Differential Item Functioning in Rasch Models</i> |
|----------|--|

Description

A function to perform DIFlasso, a method to detect DIF (Differential Item Functioning) in Rasch Models. It can handle settings with many covariates and also metric covariates. The method is described in Tutz and Schauburger (2015).

Usage

```
DIFlasso(Y, X, l.lambda = 20, grouped = TRUE, trace = FALSE,  
         df.type = c("YuanLin", "L2norm"))
```

Arguments

| | |
|----------|--|
| Y | Data frame (one row per person, one column per item) containing response. May only contain 0 or 1. |
| X | Data frame (one row per person, one column per covariate) containing covariates. Has to be standardized. |
| l.lambda | Length of the grid of tuning parameters for DIFlasso. Default is 20 different tuning parameters. |
| grouped | Should all parameters corresponding to one item be grouped? If grouped = FALSE, ordinary Lasso instead of GroupLasso is performed. |
| trace | Should the trace of the <code>grplasso</code> function be printed? |
| df.type | Specifies the type of degrees of freedom. Default is to the definition of degrees of freedom by Yuan and Lin (2006). If <code>df.type = "L2norm"</code> , for every group (or parameter if grouped = FALSE), the ratio between the L2-norm of the penalized parameters and the parameters from the lowest tuning parameter is taken as degrees of freedom. |

Details

The method assumes the DIFmodel from Tutz and Schauberger (2015) where a Group Lasso penalty is used for DIF detection. Computation is based on the function `grplasso`.

Value

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| theta | Estimated person abilities; one row per person, one column per tuning parameter |
| beta | Estimated item difficulties; one row per item, one column per tuning parameter |
| gamma | Estimated item-specific parameters; one row per item and covariate, one column per tuning parameter (first line: first item, first covariate; second line: first item, second covariate and so on) |
| P | Number of (valid) persons; removed persons are found in <code>removed.persons</code> |
| I | Number of items |
| m | Number of covariates |
| logLik | Log-likelihood |
| BIC | BIC |
| AIC | AIC |
| df | Degrees of freedom |
| refit.matrix | Design matrix for function <code>refitDIFlasso</code> |
| lambda | Sequence of tuning parameters used by <code>grplasso</code> |
| ref.item | Reference item |
| dif.mat | Estimates of the item-specific parameter estimates (at BIC-optimal lambda) |
| dif.items | Which items have been detected to be DIF items (at BIC-optimal lambda)? |
| names.y | Names of the items |
| names.x | Names of the covariates |
| removed.persons | Which persons have been removed because they either solved no item or all items? |

Author(s)

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<gunther.schaubberger@stat.uni-muenchen.de>
<http://www.statistik.lmu.de/~schaubberger/>

References

Tutz, Gerhard and Schaubberger, Gunther (2015): *A Penalty Approach to Differential Item Functioning in Rasch Models*, Psychometrika, 80(1), 21 - 43

Yuan, Ming and Lin, Yi (2006): *Model selection and estimation in regression with grouped variables*, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society B, 68(1), 49 - 67

See Also

[refitDIFlasso](#), [plot.DIFlasso](#), [print.DIFlasso](#), [grplasso](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:
data(simul.data)

Y <- simul.data[,1:10]
X <- simul.data[,11:13]

m1 <- DIFlasso(Y = Y, X = X, trace = TRUE)
print(m1)
plot(m1)

m2 <- refitDIFlasso(m1)
print(m2)
plot(m2)

## End(Not run)
```

plot.DIFlasso

Plot Function for DIFlasso

Description

Plots the estimates of the item-specific parameters of a DIFlasso object.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'DIFlasso'
plot(x, decreasing = TRUE, ...)
```

Arguments

| | |
|------------|--|
| x | DIFlasso object, created by DIFlasso |
| decreasing | Should the covariates be arranged by decreasing euclidian norm of their parameter estimates. |
| ... | Further arguments to be passed to the plot function. |

Author(s)

Gunther Schauburger
<gunther.schauburger@stat.uni-muenchen.de>
<http://www.statistik.lmu.de/~schauburger/>

References

Tutz, Gerhard and Schauburger, Gunther (2015): *A Penalty Approach to Differential Item Functioning in Rasch Models*, Psychometrika, 80(1), 21 - 43

See Also

[DIFlasso](#), [print.DIFlasso](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:  
data(simul.data)  
  
Y <- simul.data[,1:10]  
X <- simul.data[,11:13]  
  
m1 <- DIFlasso(Y = Y, X = X, trace = TRUE)  
print(m1)  
plot(m1)  
  
m2 <- refitDIFlasso(m1)  
print(m2)  
plot(m2)  
  
## End(Not run)
```

plot.DIFlasso.refit *Plot Function for refitDIFlasso*

Description

Plots the estimates of the item-specific parameters of a DIFlasso.refit object.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'DIFlasso.refit'  
plot(x, decreasing = TRUE, ...)
```

Arguments

| | |
|------------|--|
| x | DIFlasso.refit object, created by refitDIFlasso |
| decreasing | Should the covariates be arranged by decreasing euclidian norm of their parameter estimates. |
| ... | Further arguments to be passed to the plot function. |

Author(s)

Gunther Schaubberger
<gunther.schaubberger@stat.uni-muenchen.de>
<http://www.statistik.lmu.de/~schaubberger/>

References

Tutz, Gerhard and Schaubberger, Gunther (2015): *A Penalty Approach to Differential Item Functioning in Rasch Models*, Psychometrika, 80(1), 21 - 43

See Also

[refitDIFlasso](#), [print.DIFlasso.refit](#), [DIFlasso](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:  
data(simul.data)  
  
Y <- simul.data[,1:10]  
X <- simul.data[,11:13]  
  
m1 <- DIFlasso(Y = Y, X = X, trace = TRUE)  
print(m1)  
plot(m1)  
  
m2 <- refitDIFlasso(m1)  
print(m2)  
plot(m2)  
  
## End(Not run)
```

print.DIFlasso *Print Function for DIFlasso*

Description

Prints the most important output of a DIFlasso object.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'DIFlasso'  
print(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x DIFlasso object, created by [DIFlasso](#)
... Further arguments to be passed to the [print](#) function.

Author(s)

Gunther Schaubberger
<gunther.schaubberger@stat.uni-muenchen.de>
<http://www.statistik.lmu.de/~schaubberger/>

References

Tutz, Gerhard and Schaubberger, Gunther (2015): *A Penalty Approach to Differential Item Functioning in Rasch Models*, *Psychometrika*, 80(1), 21 - 43

See Also

[DIFlasso](#), [plot.DIFlasso](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:  
data(simul.data)  
  
Y <- simul.data[,1:10]  
X <- simul.data[,11:13]  
  
m1 <- DIFlasso(Y = Y, X = X, trace = TRUE)  
print(m1)  
plot(m1)  
  
m2 <- refitDIFlasso(m1)  
print(m2)  
plot(m2)  
  
## End(Not run)
```

print.DIFlasso.refit *Print Function for refitDIFlasso*

Description

Prints the most important output of a DIFlasso.refit object.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'DIFlasso.refit'  
print(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x DIFlasso.refit object, created by [refitDIFlasso](#)
... Further arguments to be passed to the [print](#) function.

Author(s)

Gunther Schaubberger
<gunther.schaubberger@stat.uni-muenchen.de>
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References

Tutz, Gerhard and Schaubberger, Gunther (2015): *A Penalty Approach to Differential Item Functioning in Rasch Models*, *Psychometrika*, 80(1), 21 - 43

See Also

[refitDIFlasso](#), [plot.DIFlasso.refit](#), [DIFlasso](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:  
data(simul.data)  
  
Y <- simul.data[,1:10]  
X <- simul.data[,11:13]  
  
m1 <- DIFlasso(Y = Y, X = X, trace = TRUE)  
print(m1)  
plot(m1)  
  
m2 <- refitDIFlasso(m1)  
print(m2)  
plot(m2)  
  
## End(Not run)
```

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| refitDIFlasso | <i>Refit Function for DIFlasso</i> |
|---------------|------------------------------------|

Description

Performs the refit of a DIFlasso object. Only the items diagnosed as DIF items will be used to perform a new fit of the final model.

Usage

```
refitDIFlasso(dif.obj)
```

Arguments

| | |
|---------|--|
| dif.obj | DIFlasso object, created by DIFlasso |
|---------|--|

Value

| | |
|-----------|--|
| theta | Estimated person abilities after refit |
| beta | Estimated item difficulties after refit |
| gamma | Estimated item-specific parameters after refit; one row per covariate, one column per item |
| P | Number of persons |
| I | Number of items |
| m | Number of covariates |
| ref.item | Reference item |
| dif.items | Which items have been detected to be DIF items? |
| names.y | Names of the items |
| names.x | Names of the covariates |

Author(s)

Gunther Schauburger
<gunther.schauburger@stat.uni-muenchen.de>
<http://www.statistik.lmu.de/~schauburger/>

References

Tutz, Gerhard and Schauburger, Gunther (2015): *A Penalty Approach to Differential Item Functioning in Rasch Models*, *Psychometrika*, 80(1), 21 - 43

See Also

[print.DIFlasso.refit](#), [plot.DIFlasso.refit](#), [DIFlasso](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:
data(simul.data)

Y <- simul.data[,1:10]
X <- simul.data[,11:13]

m1 <- DIFlasso(Y = Y, X = X, trace = TRUE)
print(m1)
plot(m1)

m2 <- refitDIFlasso(m1)
print(m2)
plot(m2)

## End(Not run)
```

simul.data

Simulated Data Set

Description

Simulated data set with 100 persons, 10 items and 3 (standardized) covariates. Items 1, 2 and 3 are DIF items.

Usage

```
data(simul.data)
```

Format

Item1 Item 1, DIF item
Item2 Item 2, DIF item
Item3 Item 3, DIF item
Item4 Item 4, non-DIF item
Item5 Item 5, non-DIF item
Item6 Item 6, non-DIF item
Item7 Item 7, non-DIF item
Item8 Item 8, non-DIF item
Item9 Item 9, non-DIF item
Item10 Item 10, non-DIF item
CovBin1 Binary covariate (standardized)
CovBin2 Binary covariate (standardized)
CovMet Metric covariate (standardized)

References

Tutz, Gerhard and Schauberger, Gunther (2015): *A Penalty Approach to Differential Item Functioning in Rasch Models*, Psychometrika, 80(1), 21 - 43

Examples

```
## Not run:
data(simul.data)

Y <- simul.data[,1:10]
X <- simul.data[,11:13]

m1 <- DIFlasso(Y = Y, X = X, trace = TRUE)
print(m1)
plot(m1)

m2 <- refitDIFlasso(m1)
print(m2)
plot(m2)

## End(Not run)
```

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