

Package ‘backbone’

February 16, 2021

Type Package

Title Extracts the Backbone from Weighted Graphs

Version 1.3.1

Description Provides methods for extracting from a weighted graph a binary or signed backbone that retains only the significant edges. The user may input a weighted graph, or a bipartite graph from which a weighted graph is first constructed via projection. Backbone extraction methods include the stochastic degree sequence model (Neal, Z. P. (2014). <doi:10.1016/j.socnet.2014.06.001>), hypergeometric model (Neal, Z. (2013). <doi:10.1007/s13278-013-0107-y>), the fixed degree sequence model (Zweig, K. A., and Kaufmann, M. (2011). <doi:10.1007/s13278-011-0021-0>), as well as a universal threshold method.

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Encoding UTF-8

LazyData true

RoxygenNote 7.1.1

Depends R (>= 2.10)

Imports Matrix, methods, stats, utils, igraph, network

Suggests knitr, rmarkdown, testthat

VignetteBuilder knitr

URL <https://github.com/domagal9/backbone>,
<https://www.zacharyneal.com/backbone>

BugReports <https://github.com/domagal9/backbone/issues>

NeedsCompilation no

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Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2021-02-16 17:30:10 UTC

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backbone	<i>backbone: Extracts the Backbone from Weighted Graphs</i>
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Description

Provides methods for extracting from a weighted graph a binary or signed backbone that retains only the significant edges. The user may input a weighted graph, or a bipartite graph from which a weighted graph is first constructed via projection. Backbone extraction methods include:

- the stochastic degree sequence model (Neal, Z. P. (2014). The backbone of bipartite projections: Inferring relationships from co-authorship, co-sponsorship, co-attendance, and other co-behaviors. *Social Networks*, 39, Elsevier: 84-97.doi: [10.1016/j.socnet.2014.06.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socnet.2014.06.001)),
- hypergeometric model (Neal, Zachary. 2013. “Identifying Statistically Significant Edges in One-Mode Projections.” *Social Network Analysis and Mining* 3 (4). Springer: 915–24.doi: [10.1007/s132780130107y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s132780130107y)),
- the fixed degree sequence model (Zweig, Katharina Anna, and Michael Kaufmann. 2011. “A Systematic Approach to the One-Mode Projection of Bipartite Graphs.” *Social Network Analysis and Mining* 1 (3): 187–218.doi: [10.1007/s1327801100210](https://doi.org/10.1007/s1327801100210)),
- as well as a universal threshold method.

Details

Some features of the package are:

- `'universal'`: returns a backbone graph in which edge weights are set to 1 if above the given upper parameter threshold, and set to -1 if below the given lower parameter threshold, and are 0 otherwise.
- `'sdsm'`: computes the probability of edge weights being above or below the observed edge weights in a bipartite projection using the stochastic degree sequence model. Once computed, use `backbone.extract` to return the backbone matrix for a given alpha value.
- `'hyperg'`: computes the probability of edge weights being above or below the observed edge weights in a bipartite projection using the hypergeometric model. Once computed, use `backbone.extract` to return the backbone matrix for a given alpha value.

- `'fdsm'`: computes the proportion of edge weights above or below the observed edge weights in a bipartite projection using the fixed degree sequence model. Once computed, use `backbone.extract` to return the backbone matrix for a given alpha value.
- `'backbone.extract'`: returns a backbone graph object that retains only the significant edges.

Additional functions that aid in the use of the above models are exported:

- `'bicm'`: finds a matrix that maximizes the entropy function, used in `sds`.
- `'curveball'`: generates a random 0/1 matrix with the same row and column sums as the input, used in `fdsm`.

For additional documentation and background on the package functions, see `vignette("backbone", package = "backbone")`.

References

Domagalski, R., Neal, Z. P., and Sagan, B. (2021). backbone: An R Package for Backbone Extraction of Weighted Graphs. PLoS ONE. doi: [10.1371/journal.pone.0244363](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0244363)

backbone.extract	<i>Extracts the backbone of a weighted network using results from a null model</i>
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Description

'backbone.extract' returns a binary or signed adjacency matrix containing the backbone that retains only the significant edges.

Usage

```
backbone.extract(
  backbone,
  signed = TRUE,
  alpha = 0.05,
  fwer = "none",
  class = "original",
  narrative = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

backbone	backbone: backbone S3 class object, as returned by <code>bipartite.null</code> .
signed	Boolean: TRUE if signed backbone is to be returned, FALSE if binary backbone is to be returned
alpha	Real: significance level of hypothesis test(s)

fwcr	string: type of familywise error rate correction to be applied; c("none", "bonferroni", "holm"). If "holm", Holm Bonferroni Family-wise Error Rate test is used, if "bonferroni", Bonferroni Family-wise Error Rate test should be used. By default, the given 'alpha' value is used for all tests with no correction for family-wise error rates.
class	string: the class of the returned backbone graph, one of c("original", "matrix", "sparseMatrix", "igraph", "network", "edgelist"), converted via <code>class.convert</code> . If "original", the backbone graph returned is of the same class as the data inputted in <code>bipartite.null</code> .
narrative	Boolean: TRUE if suggested text for a manuscript is to be returned

Details

The "backbone" S3 class object is composed of two matrices, a summary dataframe and (optionally, if generated by using `fdsm`) a 'dyad_values' vector. This object is returned by `bipartite.null`, or alternatively if a null model was called directly, `sdsm`, `fdsm`, or `hyperg`.

The Holm Bonferroni correction was originally a port from python code written by [Dr. Samin Aref](#). The authors thank Dr. Aref greatly for his contribution to this package!

Value

backbone graph: Binary or signed backbone graph of class given in parameter 'class'.

Examples

```
probs <- bipartite.null(davis, rows = TRUE, cols = TRUE)
bb <- backbone.extract(probs, alpha = .2, signed = TRUE, fwer = "none")
```

bicm

bicm: Bipartite Configuration Model.

Description

bicm: Bipartite Configuration Model.

Usage

```
bicm(graph, tol = 1e-08, max_steps = 200, progress = FALSE, ...)
```

Arguments

graph	matrix, a bipartite adjacency matrix of a graph
tol	numeric, tolerance of algorithm
max_steps	numeric, number of times to run <code>loglikelihood_prime_bicm</code> algorithm
progress	Boolean: If <code>txtProgressBar</code> should be used to measure progress
...	optional arguments

Details

The Bipartite Configuration Model (Saracco et. al. 2015, 2017) produces a matrix of edge specific probabilities which are used in `sdsm` to find the p-values of the edges in the bipartite projection. This R code is adapted from the python BiCM package by Matteo Bruno under the MIT license.

Value

matrix containing probabilities

References

python bicm: [Matteo Bruno](#), [matteo.bruno<at>imtlucca.it](mailto:matteo.bruno@imtlucca.it), <https://github.com/mat701/BiCM>

bicm: Saracco, F., Straka, M. J., Clemente, R. D., Gabrielli, A., Caldarelli, G., & Squartini, T. (2017). Inferring monopartite projections of bipartite networks: An entropy-based approach. *New Journal of Physics*, 19(5), 053022. doi: [10.1088/13672630/aa6b38](https://doi.org/10.1088/13672630/aa6b38)

bicm: Saracco, F., Di Clemente, R., Gabrielli, A., & Squartini, T. (2015). Randomizing bipartite networks: The case of the World Trade Web. *Scientific Reports*, 5(1), 10595. doi: [10.1038/srep10595](https://doi.org/10.1038/srep10595)

Examples

```
bicm(davis)
```

bipartite.null	<i>bipartite.null: generates a backbone object from a bipartite matrix using a null model defined by constraining row and/or column sums.</i>
----------------	---

Description

bipartite.null: generates a backbone object from a bipartite matrix using a null model defined by constraining row and/or column sums.

Usage

```
bipartite.null(  
  B,  
  rows = TRUE,  
  cols = TRUE,  
  trials = NULL,  
  progress = TRUE,  
  ...  
)
```

Arguments

B	graph: Bipartite graph object of class matrix, sparse matrix, igraph, edgelist, or network object.
rows	boolean: TRUE if the row sums should be constrained by the null model, FALSE if not.
cols	boolean: TRUE if the column sums should be constrained by the null model, FALSE if not.
trials	integer: number of monte carlo trials used to estimate the fdsm null model (rows = TRUE, cols = TRUE)
progress	Boolean: If txtProgressBar should be used to measure progress
...	optional arguments

Details

When only rows are constrained, the hypergeometric null model ([hyperg](#)) is used. When rows and columns are constrained, the stochastic degree sequence model ([sdsm](#)) is used. When rows and columns are constrained and trials are specified, the fixed degree sequence model ([fdsm](#)) is used.

Value

backbone, a list(positive, negative, summary). Here ‘positive’ is a matrix of probabilities of edge weights being equal to or above the observed value in the projection, ‘negative’ is a matrix of probabilities of edge weights being equal to or below the observed value in the projection, and ‘summary’ is a data frame summary of the inputted matrix and the model used including: model name, number of rows, skew of row sums, number of columns, skew of column sums, and running time.

Examples

```
bipartite.null(davis, rows = TRUE, cols = FALSE) #runs hyperg on davis data
```

curveball

curveball algorithm

Description

curveball algorithm

Usage

```
curveball(M)
```

Arguments

M matrix

Value

rm, a matrix with same row sums and column sums as M, but randomized 0/1 entries.

References

Algorithm and R implementation: [Strona, Giovanni, Domenico Nappo, Francesco Boccacci, Simone Fattorini, and Jesus San-Miguel-Ayanz. 2014. "A Fast and Unbiased Procedure to Randomize Ecological Binary Matrices with Fixed Row and Column Totals." Nature Communications 5 \(June\). Nature Publishing Group: 4114. DOI:10.1038/ncomms5114.](#)

Examples

```
curveball(davis)
```

davis

Davis Southern Women Data Set

Description

A two mode matrix of 18 women and attendance of 14 social events.

Usage

```
data(davis)
```

Format

An object of class `matrix` (inherits from `array`) with 18 rows and 14 columns.

Source

[UCI Network Data Repository](#)

References

Davis, A., Gardner, B. B. and M. R. Gardner (1941) Deep South, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Description

'fdsm' computes the proportion of generated edges above or below the observed value using the fixed degree sequence model. Once computed, use `backbone.extract` to return the backbone matrix for a given alpha value.

Usage

```
fdsm(B, trials = 1000, dyad = NULL, progress = FALSE, ...)
```

Arguments

B	graph: An unweighted bipartite graph object of class matrix, sparse matrix, igraph, edgelist, or network object. Any rows and columns of the associated bipartite matrix that contain only zeros are automatically removed before computations.
trials	Integer: Number of random bipartite graphs generated
dyad	vector length 2: two row entries i,j. Saves each value of the i-th row and j-th column in each projected B* matrix. This is useful for visualizing an example of the empirical null edge weight distribution generated by the model. These correspond to the row and column indices of a cell in the projected matrix, and can be written as their string row names or as numeric values.
progress	Boolean: If <code>txtProgressBar</code> should be used to measure progress
...	optional arguments

Details

During each iteration, fsm computes a new B* matrix using the `curveball` algorithm. This is a random bipartite matrix with the same row and column sums as the original matrix B. If a value is supplied for the dyad parameter, when the B* matrix is projected (multiplied by its transpose), the value in the corresponding row and column will be saved. This allows the user to see the distribution of the edge weights for desired row and column.

The "backbone" S3 class object returned is composed of two matrices, a summary dataframe and (if specified) a 'dyad_values' vector.

Value

backbone, a list(positive, negative, dyad_values, summary). Here 'positive' is a matrix of proportion of times each entry of the projected matrix B is above the corresponding entry in the generated projection, 'negative' is a matrix of proportion of times each entry of the projected matrix B is below the corresponding entry in the generated projection, 'dyad_values' is a list of edge weight for i,j in each generated projection, and 'summary' is a data frame summary of the inputted matrix and the model used including: model name, number of rows, skew of row sums, number of columns, skew of column sums, and running time.

References

fixed degree sequence model: Zweig, Katharina Anna, and Michael Kaufmann. 2011. “A Systematic Approach to the One-Mode Projection of Bipartite Graphs.” *Social Network Analysis and Mining* 1 (3): 187–218. doi: [10.1007/s1327801100210](https://doi.org/10.1007/s1327801100210)

curveball algorithm: Strona, Giovanni, Domenico Nappo, Francesco Boccacci, Simone Fattorini, and Jesus San-Miguel-Ayanz. 2014. “A Fast and Unbiased Procedure to Randomize Ecological Binary Matrices with Fixed Row and Column Totals.” *Nature Communications* 5 (June). Nature Publishing Group: 4114. doi: [10.1038/ncomms5114](https://doi.org/10.1038/ncomms5114)

Examples

```
fdsm_props <- fdsm(davis, trials = 100, dyad=c(3,6))
```

hyperg

Compute hypergeometric backbone probabilities

Description

‘hyperg’ computes the probability of observing a higher or lower edge weight using the hypergeometric distribution. Once computed, use `backbone.extract` to return the backbone matrix for a given alpha value.

Usage

```
hyperg(B)
```

Arguments

B graph: An unweighted bipartite graph object of class `matrix`, `sparse matrix`, `igraph`, `edgelist`, or `network` object. Any rows and columns of the associated bipartite matrix that contain only zeros are automatically removed before computations.

Details

Specifically, this function compares an edge’s observed weight in the projection $B * t(B)$ to the distribution of weights expected in a projection obtained from a random bipartite graph where the row vertex degrees are fixed but the column vertex degrees are allowed to vary.

Value

`backbone`, a list(positive, negative, summary). Here ‘positive’ is a matrix of probabilities of edge weights being equal to or above the observed value in the projection, ‘negative’ is a matrix of probabilities of edge weights being equal to or below the observed value in the projection, and ‘summary’ is a data frame summary of the inputted matrix and the model used including: model name, number of rows, skew of row sums, number of columns, skew of column sums, and running time.

References

Tumminello, Michele and Miccichè, Salvatore and Lillo, Fabrizio and Piilo, Jyrki and Mantegna, Rosario N. 2011. "Statistically Validated Networks in Bipartite Complex Systems." PLOS ONE, 6(3), doi: [10.1371/journal.pone.0017994](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0017994)

Neal, Zachary. 2013. "Identifying Statistically Significant Edges in One-Mode Projections." Social Network Analysis and Mining 3 (4). Springer: 915–24. doi: [10.1007/s132780130107y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s132780130107y)

Examples

```
hyperg_probs <- hyperg(davis)
```

sdsdm	<i>The stochastic degree sequence model (sdsdm) for backbone probabilities</i>
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Description

‘sdsdm’ computes the probability of edge weights being above or below the observed edge weights in a bipartite projection using the stochastic degree sequence model. Once computed, use [backbone.extract](#) to return the backbone matrix for a given alpha value.

Usage

```
sdsdm(B, progress = FALSE, ...)
```

Arguments

B	graph: An unweighted bipartite graph object of class matrix, sparse matrix, igraph, edgelist, or network object. Any rows and columns of the associated bipartite matrix that contain only zeros are automatically removed before computations.
progress	Boolean: If txtProgressBar should be used to measure progress
...	optional arguments

Details

Specifically, the sdsdm function compares an edge’s observed weight in the projection $B \times t(B)$ to the distribution of weights expected in a projection obtained from a random bipartite network where both the row vertex degrees and column vertex degrees are approximately fixed.

sdsdm uses the Bipartite Configuration Model [bicm](#) (Saracco et. al (2015, 2017)) to compute probabilities for the Poisson binomial distribution.

The "backbone" S3 class object returned is composed of two matrices, and a summary dataframe.

Value

backbone, a list(positive, negative, summary). Here ‘positive’ is a matrix of probabilities of edge weights being equal to or above the observed value in the projection, ‘negative’ is a matrix of probabilities of edge weights being equal to or below the observed value in the projection, and ‘summary’ is a data frame summary of the inputted matrix and the model used including: model name, number of rows, skew of row sums, number of columns, skew of column sums, and running time.

References

sdsm: Neal, Z. P. (2014). The backbone of bipartite projections: Inferring relationships from co-authorship, co-sponsorship, co-attendance, and other co-behaviors. *Social Networks*, 39, Elsevier: 84-97. doi: [10.1016/j.socnet.2014.06.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socnet.2014.06.001)

bicm: Saracco, F., Straka, M. J., Clemente, R. D., Gabrielli, A., Caldarelli, G., & Squartini, T. (2017). Inferring monopartite projections of bipartite networks: An entropy-based approach. *New Journal of Physics*, 19(5), 053022. doi: [10.1088/13672630/aa6b38](https://doi.org/10.1088/13672630/aa6b38)

bicm: Saracco, F., Di Clemente, R., Gabrielli, A., & Squartini, T. (2015). Randomizing bipartite networks: The case of the World Trade Web. *Scientific Reports*, 5(1), 10595. doi: [10.1038/srep10595](https://doi.org/10.1038/srep10595)

Examples

```
sdsm_probs <- sdsm(davis)
```

 universal

Compute universal threshold backbone

Description

‘universal’ returns a backbone graph in which edge weights are set to 1 if above the given upper parameter threshold, set to -1 if below the given lower parameter threshold, and are 0 otherwise.

Usage

```
universal(M, upper = NULL, lower = NULL, bipartite = NULL, narrative = FALSE)
```

Arguments

M	graph: Graph object of class matrix, sparse matrix, igraph, edgelist, or network object. Any rows and columns of the associated bipartite matrix that contain only zeros are automatically removed before computations.
upper	Real, FUN, or NULL: upper threshold value or function to be applied to the edge weights. Default is NULL.
lower	Real, FUN, or NULL: lower threshold value or function to be applied to the edge weights. Default is NULL.

bipartite	Boolean: TRUE if bipartite graph, FALSE if weighted graph. Default is NULL. If TRUE, input graph should be unweighted.
narrative	Boolean: TRUE if suggested text for a manuscript is to be returned

Details

If both 'upper' and 'lower' are 'NULL', a weighted projection is returned.

If 'bipartite' is 'NULL', the function tries to guess at whether the data is bipartite or unipartite based on its shape.

Value

backbone, a list(backbone, summary). The 'backbone' object is a graph object of the same class as M. The 'summary' contains a data frame summary of the inputted matrix and the model used including: model name, number of rows, skew of row sums, number of columns, skew of column sums, and running time.

Examples

```
test <- universal(davis%*%t(davis), upper = function(x)mean(x)+sd(x), lower=function(x)mean(x))
test2 <- universal(davis, upper = function(x)mean(x)+2*sd(x), lower = 2, bipartite = TRUE)
test3 <- universal(davis, upper = 4, lower = 2, bipartite = TRUE)
```

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