Package 'pdc'

July 23, 2025

Type Package

Title Permutation Distribution Clustering

Version 1.0.3

Date 2015-09-28

Author Andreas M. Brandmaier

Maintainer Andreas M. Brandmaier <brandmaier@mpib-berlin.mpg.de>

Description Permutation Distribution Clustering is a clustering method for time series. Dissimilarity of time series is formalized as the divergence between their permutation distributions. The permutation distribution was proposed as measure of the complexity of a time series.

License GPL (>= 3)

Imports stats, utils, grDevices, graphics

Suggests plotrix, lattice

NeedsCompilation yes

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2015-09-28 17:02:34

Contents

pdc-package	2
codebook	3
complex.shapes	4
distance	5
entropyHeuristic	6
loo1nn	8
mdsPlot	9
pdcDist	10
pdclust	11
rasterPlot	
star.shapes	
traceImage	15
	17

Index

pdc-package

Description

Permutation Distribution Clustering (pdc) represents a complexity-based approach to clustering time series. Clustering comprises methods that recover similarities in a dataset and represent the findings in group structures. Important applications of clustering include the creation of taxonomies, the discovery of anomalies, or the the discovery of reliably different subgroups for differential analysis or treatment. A crucial parameter in clustering is the choice of the similarity measure between objects. Permutation Distribution Clustering finds similarity in time series based on differences in their permutation distribution as a proxy for differences in their complexity. The permutation distribution is obtained by counting the frequency of distinct order patterns in an m-embedding of the original time series. An embedding of dimension m allows for m! different order patterns. The choice of the embedding dimension crucially influences the clustering result. A small embedding dimension might lead to a permutation distribution with a low representational power, while a large embedding dimension quickly leads to a large permutation distribution that cannot reliably be estimated. With the Minimum Entropy Heuristic (MinE), the embedding dimension can automatically be chosen, thus making the algorithm a parameter-free clustering approach. For clustering timeseries, the similarity between two time-series is defined as the divergence between two permutation distributions. PDC is particularly apt for the analysis of psychophysiological time-series because it is efficient (the time complexity is linear in the time-series length), it is robust to drift, time-series of differing length can be compared, and it is invariant to differences in mean and variance of the time-series (choosing a normalization is not essential).

Details

The main function of the package is pdclust, which performs a hierarchical clustering of a set of time series based on differences in their permutation distributions. Other clustering or dimensionality-reduction methods can easily be employed by directly accessing the distance matrix based on the permutation distribution via pdcDist. A heuristic for choosing the embedding dimension is provided via entropyHeuristic. For clustering shapes, shape signatures can be traced from images with traceImage. Example data sets for shape clustering are star.shapes and complex.shapes.

Author(s)

Andreas Brandmaier <brandmaier@mpib-berlin.mpg.de>

References

Brandmaier, A. M. (2015). pdc: An R Package for Complexity-Based Clustering of Time Series. *Journal of Statistical Software*, 67(5), 1–23.

See Also

pdc pdcDist codebook

codebook

Examples

codebook

Codebook

Description

A codebook contains the permutation distribution of a time series.

Usage

codebook(x, m = 3, t = 1, use.fast=T, normalized = T)

Arguments

х	a vector ot a time series
m	The embedding dimension.
t	Time-delay of the embedding.
use.fast	Use a fast C-implementation if possible.
normalized	Normalize codebook such that it is a probability distribution.

Details

The length of a codebook is the factorial of the embedding dimension. The elements of the codebook represent relative frequencies of codewords of size m.

Value

Returns a vector of relative frequencies.

Author(s)

Andreas Brandmaier <brandmaier@mpib-berlin.mpg.de>

References

Brandmaier, A. M. (2015). pdc: An R Package for Complexity-Based Clustering of Time Series. *Journal of Statistical Software*, 67(5), 1–23.

See Also

pdclust

Examples

```
# calculate codebook from sine-wave
cb <- codebook(c(sin(1:100)),m=3)</pre>
```

plot the permutation distribution barplot(cb,xlab="Permutation Distribution")

complex.shapes

```
Shape Signatures of Fish, Glasses, and Bottles
```

Description

This data set provides exemplary shape signatures of each five fish, bottles, and pairs of glasses. The planar shapes were derived from original artwork obtained from openclipart.org. Column names encode the type of image.

Usage

```
data(complex.shapes)
```

data(complex.shapes.raw)

Format

complex.shapes is a matrix containing 100 rows and 15 columns obtained from trace.image. complex.shapes.raw contains a list containing 15 three-dimensional matrices and an array of corresponding labels.

Author(s)

Andreas Brandmaier <brandmaier@mpib-berlin.mpg.de>

distance

References

Brandmaier, A. M. (2015). pdc: An R Package for Complexity-Based Clustering of Time Series. *Journal of Statistical Software*, 67(5), 1–23.

distance

Codebook Dissimliarities

Description

Functions to calculate distances/dissimilarities between codebooks.

Usage

```
hellingerDistance(x,y)
squaredHellingerDistance(x,y)
symmetricAlphaDivergence(x,y)
```

Arguments

х	a codebook
У	a codebook

Details

Note: The symmetric alpha-divergence is proportional to the Squared Hellinger distance, and is the default divergence between codebooks.

Value

Returns a numeric dissimilarity between two codebooks.

Author(s)

Andreas Brandmaier <brandmaier@mpib-berlin.mpg.de>

See Also

codebook

```
x <- codebook(c(sin(1:100)),m=3)
y <- codebook(c(sin(1:100*0.1)),m=3)
hellingerDistance(x,y)</pre>
```

entropyHeuristic

Description

The information content of a permutation distribution depends crucially on the choice of the embedding dimension. Too small embedding dimensions narrow the representational power of the distribution, too large embedding dimensions dilute the estimation of the distribution. The Minimum Entropy Heuristic (MinE) automatically chooses an embedding dimension with an optimal representational entropy as proxy for representational power.

Usage

Arguments

Х	A matrix representing a set of time series. Columns are time series and rows represent time points.
х	An entropy heuristic object of type mine.
object	An entropy heuristic object of type mine.
m.min	Minimum embedding dimension
m.max	Maximum embedding dimension
t.min	Minimum time-delay
t.max	Maximum time-delay
	Further arguments for the generic print, summary, and plot method.
normalize	Normalize values to range [0;1].
type	Either 'image' or 'contour'. Specifies the plot type.
mark.optimum	Mark the optimal embedding dimension and/or time-delay.
col	A color map to represent entropy values on.

entropyHeuristic

Details

For a range of embedding dimensions, the average entropy of the dataset is calculated. The embedding dimension with the lowest entropy is chosen. print and plot is available for result objects.

The plot of a heuristic object shows the entropy values depending on a range of embedding dimensions and time-delays. If only embedding dimension or only time-delay is varied, a line plot is show to indicate the parameter yielding minimum entropy. Otherwise, an image plot is shown that indicates minimum entropy depending on both parameters.

Value

A list is returned with the following elements:

m	The chosen embedding size.
entropy.values	A vector with average entropy values corresponding to each entry in $\verb"entropy.ms"$
entropy.ms	A vector of the embedding dimensions that were searched for the optimal em-
	bedding.

Author(s)

Andreas Brandmaier <brandmaier@mpib-berlin.mpg.de>

References

Brandmaier, A. M. (2015). pdc: An R Package for Complexity-Based Clustering of Time Series. *Journal of Statistical Software*, 67(5), 1–23.

Brandmaier, A. M. (2012). *Permutation Distribution Clustering and Structural Equation Model Trees*. Doctoral dissertation. Saarland University, Saarbruecken, Germany.

See Also

pdclust

```
# (1)
#
# create a sine-wave with added noise
# and display a plot showing the average permutation entropy
# depending on varying choices of the embedding size
# (by default time-delay is not searched over)
heuristic <- entropyHeuristic( sin(1:100)+rnorm(100,0,1) )
plot(heuristic)
# (2)
#
# calculate both optimal embedding dimension and time-delay
#</pre>
```

loo1nn

```
heuristic <- entropyHeuristic( sin(1:100)+rnorm(100,0,1), t.min=1, t.max=6 )
plot(heuristic)</pre>
```

loo1nn

Leave-one-out One-nearest-neighbor Evaluation

Description

Evaluates a clustering distance matrix within a supervised learning scheme: leave-one-out oneneares-neighbor cross-validation. This yields a rough estimate of the suitability of a distance function for discriminating between classes if ground-truth is known.

Usage

loo1nn(x, y)

Arguments

х	A pdclust object.
У	A vector of the true class labels.

Value

Returns a percentage-correct estimate.

Author(s)

Andreas Brandmaier <brandmaier@mpib-berlin.mpg.de>

References

Brandmaier, A. M. (2015). pdc: An R Package for Complexity-Based Clustering of Time Series. *Journal of Statistical Software*, 67(5), 1–23.

See Also

pdc.dist pdclust

8

mdsPlot

Description

Plots a two-dimensional projection to the principal coordinates of all observations. Clusters are shown as polygonal convex hulls of their members.

Usage

mdsPlot (X, labels = NULL, col = "gray")

Arguments

Х	A pdclust object.
labels	Optional. A vector of labels for the observations. If NULL, column names of the dataset are used.
col	A vector of colors for polygon shading.

Author(s)

Andreas Brandmaier <brandmaier@mpib-berlin.mpg.de>

References

Brandmaier, A. M. (2015). pdc: An R Package for Complexity-Based Clustering of Time Series. *Journal of Statistical Software*, 67(5), 1–23.

See Also

pdclust

```
data("complex.shapes")
truth <- c(rep("fish",5),rep("bottle",4),rep("glasses",5))
clust <- pdclust(complex.shapes, t=5)
mdsPlot(clust, truth, col=c("lightblue","lightgreen","lightgray"))</pre>
```

pdcDist

Description

This function computes and returns the distance matrix computed by the divergence between permutation distributions of time series.

Usage

pdcDist(X, m = NULL, t = NULL, divergence = symmetricAlphaDivergence)

Arguments

Х	A matrix representing a set of time series. Columns are time series and rows represent time points.
m	Embedding dimension for calculating the permutation distributions. Reasonable values range usually somewhere between 2 and 10. If no embedding dimension is chosen, the MinE heuristic is used to determine the embedding dimension automatically.
t	Time-delay of the embedding
divergence	Divergence measure between discrete distributions. Default is the symmetric alpha divergence.

Details

A valid divergence is always non-negative.

Value

Returns the dissimilarity between two codebooks as floating point number (larger or equal than zero).

Author(s)

Andreas Brandmaier <brandmaier@mpib-berlin.mpg.de>

References

Brandmaier, A. M. (2015). pdc: An R Package for Complexity-Based Clustering of Time Series. *Journal of Statistical Software*, 67(5), 1–23.

See Also

pdclust hclust kmeans

pdclust

Examples

```
# create a set of time series consisting
# of sine waves with different degrees of added noise
# and two white noise time series
X <- cbind(
sin(1:500)+rnorm(500,0,.1),
sin(1:500)+rnorm(500,0,.2),
sin(1:500)+rnorm(500,0,.3),
sin(1:500)+rnorm(500,0,.4),
rnorm(500, 0, 1),
rnorm(500,0,1)
)
# calculate the distance matrix
D <- pdcDist(X,3)</pre>
# and plot with lattice package, you will
# be able to spot two clusters: a noise cluster
# and a sine wave cluster
require("lattice")
levelplot(as.matrix(D), col.regions=grey.colors(100,start=0.9, end=0.3))
```

pdclust

Permutation Distribution Clustering

Description

Hierarchical cluster analysis for time series. Similarity of time series is based on the similarity of their permutation distributions.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'pdclust'
plot(x, labels=NULL, type="rectangle", cols="black",
timeseries.as.labels = T, p.values=F, ...)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'pdclust'
str(object, ...)
```

S3 method for class 'pdclust'
print(x, ...)

Arguments

X	In the univariate case: A matrix representing a set of time series. Columns represent different time series and rows represent time. In the multivariate case: A three-dimensional matrix with the first dimension representing time, second dimension representing multivariate time series, and the third dimension representing variables.
m	Embedding dimension for calculating the permutation distributions. Reason- able values range somewhere between 2 and 10. If no embedding dimension is chosen, the MinE heuristic is used to determine the embedding dimension automatically.
t	Time-delay of the embedding.
divergence	Divergence measure between discrete distributions. Default is the symmetric alpha divergence.
clustering.me ⁻	
	Hierarchical clustering linkage method. One out of c("complete", "average", "single").
For plotting:	
x	A pdclust object
labels	Optionally provide a vector of labels for the time series here.
type	One of c("triangle", "rectangle") to choose the dendrogram style.
cols	Specify line color either as string or as vector of strings
timeseries.as.labels	
	If FALSE, a vertical dendrogram is plotted using hclust. If TRUE, a horizontal dendrogram is plotted with time series plots as labels.
p.values	Annotation of the cluster hierarchy with p values
	Further graphical arguments.
For string repres	entation:

object A pdclust object

Details

The function pdclust is the central function for clustering time-series in the package pdc. It allows clustering of univariate and multivariate time-series. If time-series have different length, the shorter time-series can be padded with NAs to bring them to columns of the same length in an array or a matrix. Multivariate time-series can also be handled by pdclust. Therefore, the data must be transformed into a three-dimensional matrix with the dimensions representing (1) time, (2) entities, and (3) variables/channels.

Value

Calls to pdclust return a pdclust object. There are print, str and plot methods for pdclust objects.

rasterPlot

Author(s)

Andreas Brandmaier <brandmaier@mpib-berlin.mpg.de>

References

Brandmaier, A. M. (2015). pdc: An R Package for Complexity-Based Clustering of Time Series. *Journal of Statistical Software*, 67(5), 1–23.
Brandmaier, A. M. (2012). *Permutation Distribution Clustering and Structural Equation Model Trees*. Doctoral dissertation. Saarland University, Saarbruecken, Germany.

See Also

pdcDist entropyHeuristic symmetricAlphaDivergence

Examples

rasterPlot Dendrogram Plot with Images

Description

Plots a horizontal dendrogram with images as leafs

Usage

```
rasterPlot(cl, raw, monochrome=FALSE, aspect, ...)
```

Arguments

cl	A pdclust object.
raw	List of RGB images in matrix format.
monochrome	Convert image to b/w representation.
aspect	Aspect ratio.
	Further graphical arguments.

Author(s)

Andreas Brandmaier <brandmaier@mpib-berlin.mpg.de>

References

Brandmaier, A. M. (2015). pdc: An R Package for Complexity-Based Clustering of Time Series. *Journal of Statistical Software*, 67(5), 1–23.

See Also

pdclust

Examples

```
data("complex.shapes")
data("complex.shapes.raw")
clust <- pdclust(complex.shapes, t=5)
rasterPlot(clust, complex.shapes.raw$images)</pre>
```

star.shapes

Shape Signatures of Stars

Description

This data set provides exemplary shape signatures of Column names are coded 'X-Y-Z' with X indicating the number of points (4 = 4-point-star or 5 = 5-point-star), Y indicating the size (0=100%, 1=150%), Z indicating rotation (0=0 degree, 1=45 degree).

Usage

data(star.shapes)

data(star.shapes.raw)

Format

star.shapes is a matrix containing 100 rows and 8 columns obtained from traceImage.star.shapes.raw contains a list of three-dimensional matrices containing the raw images and an array of corresponding labels.

traceImage

Author(s)

Andreas Brandmaier <brandmaier@mpib-berlin.mpg.de>

References

Brandmaier, A. M. (2015). pdc: An R Package for Complexity-Based Clustering of Time Series. *Journal of Statistical Software*, 67(5), 1–23.

traceImage

Shape Tracing of an Image

Description

Trace the shape of an image to create a shape signature

Usage

```
traceImage(img, resolution)
```

convertImage(imgrgb, threshold = 0.5)

Arguments

img	a matrix of size width x height representing a black/white image with 0=white and 1=black.
resolution	The angular resolution of the trace, i.e., the length of the resulting shape signa- ture.
imgrgb	a matrix of size width x height x channels representing an RGB image.
threshold	The average intensity value that serves as boundary to separate black and white pixels.

Details

Shape signatures of objects can be created by unrolling their contour around its centroid across time. The resulting time series represents distance-to-center of points on the contour versus radial angle.

In order to create signatures for RGB images, convert the image with convert.image to a blackand-white image using a threshold between 0 and 1.

Exemplary datasets containing shape signatures for shape clustering are provided in this package as star.shapes and complex.shapes.

Value

Returns a list containing angles and corresponding distances from center.

Author(s)

Andreas Brandmaier <brandmaier@mpib-berlin.mpg.de>

References

Brandmaier, A. M. (2015). pdc: An R Package for Complexity-Based Clustering of Time Series. *Journal of Statistical Software*, 67(5), 1–23.

See Also

pdclust

```
# create a filled rectangle in a 20x20 image
img <- matrix(0, nrow=20,ncol=20)
img[5:15,5:15] <- 1
# create shape signature
signature <- traceImage(img)
# plot both original image and shape signature
```

```
par(mfrow=c(1,3))
#layout(matrix(c(1,2,2), 1, 3, byrow = TRUE))
image(img)
plot(signature$angle, signature$distance,type="1",xlab="angle",ylab="distance")
```

```
# reconstruct radial plot
```

```
require("plotrix")
radial.plot(traceImage(img,resolution=500)$distance,start=0,rp.type="r",radial.lim=c(0,10))
```

Index

* cluster pdc-package, 2 pdclust, 11 * datasets complex.shapes,4 star.shapes, 14 * ts pdc-package, 2 pdclust, 11 codebook, 2, 3, 5 complex.shapes, 2, 4, 15 convert.image(traceImage), 15 convertImage(traceImage), 15 distance. 5 entropy.heuristic (entropyHeuristic), 6 entropyHeuristic, 2, 6, 13 hclust, 10 hellinger.distance (distance), 5 hellingerDistance (distance), 5 kmeans, 10 loo1nn,8 mds.plot(mdsPlot), 9 mdsPlot, 9 pdc, 2pdc (pdc-package), 2 pdc-package, 2 pdc.dist,8 pdc.dist(pdcDist), 10 pdcDist, 2, 10, 13 pdclust, 2, 4, 7–10, 11, 14, 16 plot, 12 plot.mine (entropyHeuristic), 6 plot.pdclust (pdclust), 11

print, 12
print.mine (entropyHeuristic), 6
print.pdclust (pdclust), 11

rasterPlot, 13

squared.hellinger.distance(distance),5
squaredHellingerDistance(distance),5
star.shapes, 2, 14, 15
str, 12
str.pdclust(pdclust), 11
summary.mine(entropyHeuristic), 6
symmetric.alpha.divergence(distance), 5
symmetricAlphaDivergence, 13
symmetricAlphaDivergence(distance), 5

trace.image(traceImage), 15
traceImage, 2, 15