

Package ‘varclust’

July 22, 2025

Type Package

Title Variables Clustering

Version 0.9.4

Date 2019-06-08

Author Piotr Sobczyk, Stanislaw Wilczynski, Julie Josse, Malgorzata Bogdan

Maintainer Piotr Sobczyk <pj.sobczyk@gmail.com>

Description Performs clustering of quantitative variables,
assuming that clusters lie in low-dimensional subspaces. Segmentation of
variables, number of clusters and their dimensions are selected based on
BIC. Candidate models are identified based on many runs of K-means
algorithm with different random initializations of cluster centers.

Encoding UTF-8

License GPL-3

Depends R (>= 3.2.1)

Imports RcppEigen, foreach, parallel, doParallel, doRNG, pesel

Suggests knitr, mclust, rmarkdown, testthat

NeedsCompilation no

VignetteBuilder knitr

RoxygenNote 6.1.1

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2019-06-26 10:10:37 UTC

Contents

data.simulation	2
data.simulation.factors	3
integration	4
misclassification	5
mlcc.bic	6
mlcc.kmeans	7

mlcc.reps	8
show.clusters	10
varclust	10

Index	12
--------------	-----------

data.simulation	<i>Simulates subspace clustering data</i>
-----------------	---

Description

Generates data for simulation with a low-rank subspace structure: variables are clustered and each cluster has a low-rank representation. Factors than span subspaces are not shared between clusters.

Usage

```
data.simulation(n = 100, SNR = 1, K = 10, numb.vars = 30,
  max.dim = 2, min.dim = 1, equal.dims = TRUE)
```

Arguments

n	An integer, number of individuals.
SNR	A numeric, signal to noise ratio measured as variance of the variable, element of a subspace, to the variance of noise.
K	An integer, number of subspaces.
numb.vars	An integer, number of variables in each subspace.
max.dim	An integer, if equal.dims is TRUE then max.dim is dimension of each subspace. If equal.dims is FALSE then subspaces dimensions are drawn from uniform distribution on [min.dim,max.dim].
min.dim	An integer, minimal dimension of subspace .
equal.dims	A boolean, if TRUE (value set by default) all clusters are of the same dimension.

Value

A list consisting of:

X	matrix, generated data
signals	matrix, data without noise
dims	vector, dimensions of subspaces
factors	matrix, columns of which span subspaces
s	vector, true partition of variables

Examples

```
sim.data <- data.simulation()
sim.data2 <- data.simulation(n = 30, SNR = 2, K = 5, numb.vars = 20,
  max.dim = 3, equal.dims = FALSE)
```

data.simulation.factors

Simulates subspace clustering data with shared factors

Description

Generating data for simulation with a low-rank subspace structure: variables are clustered and each cluster has a low-rank representation. Factors that span subspaces are shared between clusters.

Usage

```
data.simulation.factors(n = 100, SNR = 1, K = 10, numb.vars = 30,
  numb.factors = 10, min.dim = 1, max.dim = 2, equal.dims = TRUE,
  separation.parameter = 0.1)
```

Arguments

n	An integer, number of individuals.
SNR	A numeric, signal to noise ratio measured as variance of the variable, element of a subspace, to the variance of noise.
K	An integer, number of subspaces.
numb.vars	An integer, number of variables in each subspace.
numb.factors	An integer, number of factors from which subspaces basis will be drawn.
min.dim	An integer, minimal dimension of subspace .
max.dim	An integer, if equal.dims is TRUE then max.dim is dimension of each subspace. If equal.dims is FALSE then subspaces dimensions are drawn from uniform distribution on [min.dim,max.dim].
equal.dims	A boolean, if TRUE (value set by default) all clusters are of the same dimension.
separation.parameter	a numeric, coefficients of variables in each subspace basis are drawn from range [separation.parameter,1]

Value

A list consisting of:

X	matrix, generated data
signals	matrix, data without noise
factors	matrix, columns of which span subspaces
indices	list of vectors, indices of factors that span subspaces
dims	vector, dimensions of subspaces
s	vector, true partition of variables

Examples

```
sim.data <- data.simulation.factors()
sim.data2 <- data.simulation.factors(n = 30, SNR = 2, K = 5, numb.vars = 20,
  numb.factors = 10, max.dim = 3, equal.dims = FALSE, separation.parameter = 0.2)
```

integration

Computes integration and acontamination of the clustering

Description

Integration and acontamination are measures of the quality of a clustering with a reference to a true partition. Let $X = (x_1, \dots, x_p)$ be the data set, A be a partition into clusters A_1, \dots, A_n (true partition) and B be a partition into clusters B_1, \dots, B_m . Then for cluster A_j integration is equal to:

$$Int(A_j) = \frac{\max_{k=1, \dots, m} \#\{i \in \{1, \dots, p\} : x_i \in A_j \wedge x_i \in B_k\}}{\#A_j}$$

The B_k for which the value is maximized is called the integrating cluster of A_j . Then the integration for the whole clustering equals is $Int(A, B) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n Int(A_j)$. The acontamination is defined by:

$$Acont(A_j) = \frac{\#\{i \in \{1, \dots, p\} : x_i \in A_j \wedge x_i \in B_k\}}{\#B_k}$$

where B_k is the integrating cluster for A_j . Then the acontamination for the whole dataset is $Acont(A, B) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n Acont(A_j)$

Usage

```
integration(group, true_group)
```

Arguments

group A vector, first partition.
true_group A vector, second (reference) partition.

Value

An array containing values of integration and acontamination.

References

M. Soltys. Metody analizy skupień. Master's thesis, Wrocław University of Technology, 2010

Examples

```
sim.data <- data.simulation(n = 20, SNR = 1, K = 2, numb.vars = 50, max.dim = 2)
true_segmentation <- rep(1:2, each=50)
mlcc.fit <- mlcc.reps(sim.data$X, numb.clusters = 2, max.dim = 2, numb.cores=1)
integration(mlcc.fit$segmentation, true_segmentation)
```

misclassification	<i>Computes misclassification rate</i>
-------------------	--

Description

Misclassification is a commonly used performance measure in subspace clustering. It allows to compare two partitions with the same number of clusters.

Usage

```
misclassification(group, true_group, M, K)
```

Arguments

group	A vector, first partition.
true_group	A vector, second (reference) partition.
M	An integer, maximal number of elements in one class.
K	An integer, number of classes.

Details

As getting exact value of misclassification requires checking all permutations and is therefore in-trackable even for modest number of clusters, a heuristic approach is proposed. It is assumed that there are K classes of maximum M elements. Additional requirement is that classes labels are from range [1, K].

Value

Misclassification rate.

References

R. Vidal. Subspace clustering. Signal Processing Magazine, IEEE, 28(2):52-68,2011

Examples

```
sim.data <- data.simulation(n = 100, SNR = 1, K = 5, numb.vars = 30, max.dim = 2)
mlcc.fit <- mlcc.reps(sim.data$X, numb.clusters = 5, numb.runs = 20, max.dim = 2, numb.cores=1)
misclassification(mlcc.fit$segmentation,sim.data$s, 30, 5)
```

```
#one can use this function not only for clusters
partition1 <- sample(10, 300, replace = TRUE)
partition2 <- sample(10, 300, replace = TRUE)
misclassification(partition1, partition1, max(table(partition1)), 10)
misclassification(partition1, partition2, max(table(partition2)), 10)
```

mlcc.bic

Multiple Latent Components Clustering - Subspace clustering with automatic estimation of number of clusters and their dimension

Description

This function is an implementation of Multiple Latent Components Clustering (MLCC) algorithm which clusters quantitative variables into a number, chosen using mBIC, of groups. For each considered number of clusters in *numb.clusters* [mlcc.reps](#) function is called. It invokes K-means based algorithm ([mlcc.kmeans](#)) finding local minimum of mBIC, which is run a given number of times (*numb.runs*) with different initializations. The best partition is chosen with mBIC (see [mlcc.reps](#) function).

Usage

```
mlcc.bic(X, numb.clusters = 1:10, numb.runs = 30, stop.criterion = 1,
        max.iter = 30, max.dim = 4, scale = TRUE, numb.cores = NULL,
        greedy = TRUE, estimate.dimensions = TRUE, verbose = FALSE,
        flat.prior = FALSE, show.warnings = FALSE)
```

Arguments

<i>X</i>	A data frame or a matrix with only continuous variables.
<i>numb.clusters</i>	A vector, numbers of clusters to be checked.
<i>numb.runs</i>	An integer, number of runs (initializations) of mlcc.kmeans .
<i>stop.criterion</i>	An integer, if an iteration of mlcc.kmeans algorithm makes less changes in partitions than <i>stop.criterion</i> , mlcc.kmeans stops.
<i>max.iter</i>	An integer, maximum number of iterations of the loop in mlcc.kmeans algorithm.
<i>max.dim</i>	An integer, if <i>estimate.dimensions</i> is FALSE then <i>max.dim</i> is dimension of each subspace. If <i>estimate.dimensions</i> is TRUE then subspaces dimensions are estimated from the range [1, <i>max.dim</i>].
<i>scale</i>	A boolean, if TRUE (value set by default) then variables in dataset are scaled to zero mean and unit variance.
<i>numb.cores</i>	An integer, number of cores to be used, by default all cores are used.
<i>greedy</i>	A boolean, if TRUE (value set by default) the clusters are estimated in a greedy way - first local minimum of mBIC is chosen.
<i>estimate.dimensions</i>	A boolean, if TRUE (value set by default) subspaces dimensions are estimated.
<i>verbose</i>	A boolean, if TRUE plot with mBIC values for different numbers of clusters is produced and values of mBIC, computed for every number of clusters and subspaces dimensions, are printed (value set by default is FALSE).
<i>flat.prior</i>	A boolean, if TRUE then, instead of an informative prior that takes into account number of models for a given number of clusters, flat prior is used.
<i>show.warnings</i>	A boolean, if set to TRUE all warnings are displayed, default value is FALSE.

Value

An object of class mlcc.fit consisting of

segmentation	a vector containing the partition of the variables
BIC	numeric, value of mBIC
subspacesDimensions	a list containing dimensions of the subspaces
nClusters	an integer, estimated number of clusters
factors	a list of matrices, basis for each subspace
all.fit	a list of segmentation, mBIC, subspaces dimension for all numbers of clusters considered for an estimated subspace dimensions
all.fit.dims	a list of lists of segmentation, mBIC, subspaces dimension for all numbers of clusters and subspaces dimensions considered

Examples

```
sim.data <- data.simulation(n = 50, SNR = 1, K = 3, numb.vars = 50, max.dim = 3)
mlcc.res <- mlcc.bic(sim.data$X, numb.clusters = 1:5, numb.runs = 20, numb.cores = 1, verbose=TRUE)
show.clusters(sim.data$X, mlcc.res$segmentation)
```

mlcc.kmeans

Multiple Latent Components Clustering - kmeans algorithm

Description

Performs k-means based subspace clustering. Center of each cluster is some number of principal components. This number can be fixed or estimated by PESEL. Similarity measure between variable and a cluster is calculated using BIC.

Usage

```
mlcc.kmeans(X, number.clusters = 2, stop.criterion = 1,
  max.iter = 30, max.subspace.dim = 4, initial.segmentation = NULL,
  estimate.dimensions = TRUE, show.warnings = FALSE)
```

Arguments

X	A matrix with only continuous variables.
number.clusters	An integer, number of clusters to be used.
stop.criterion	An integer indicating how many changes in partitions triggers stopping the algorithm.
max.iter	An integer, maximum number of iterations of k-means loop.

`max.subspace.dim` An integer, maximum dimension of subspaces.

`initial.segmentation` A vector, initial segmentation of variables to clusters.

`estimate.dimensions` A boolean, if TRUE (value set by default) subspaces dimensions are estimated.

`show.warnings` A boolean, if set to TRUE all warnings are displayed, default value is FALSE.

Value

A list consisting of:

`segmentation` a vector containing the partition of the variables

`pcas` a list of matrices, basis vectors for each cluster (subspace)

References

Bayesian dimensionality reduction with PCA using penalized semi-integrated likelihood, Piotr Sobczyk, Malgorzata Bogdan, Julie Josse

Examples

```
sim.data <- data.simulation(n = 50, SNR = 1, K = 5, numb.vars = 50, max.dim = 3)
mlcc.res <- mlcc.kmeans(sim.data$X, number.clusters = 5, max.iter = 20, max.subspace.dim = 3)
show.clusters(sim.data$X, mlcc.res$segmentation)
```

<code>mlcc.reps</code>	<i>Multiple Latent Components Clustering - Subspace clustering assuming that the number of clusters is known</i>
------------------------	--

Description

For a fixed number of cluster function returns the best partition and basis for each subspace.

Usage

```
mlcc.reps(X, numb.clusters = 2, numb.runs = 30, stop.criterion = 1,
  max.iter = 30, initial.segmentations = NULL, max.dim = 4,
  scale = TRUE, numb.cores = NULL, estimate.dimensions = TRUE,
  flat.prior = FALSE, show.warnings = FALSE)
```


Arguments

<code>X</code>	A data frame or a matrix with only continuous variables.
<code>numb.clusters</code>	An integer, number of cluster.
<code>numb.runs</code>	An integer, number of runs of <code>mlcc.kmeans</code> algorithm with random initialization.
<code>stop.criterion</code>	An integer, if an iteration of <code>mlcc.kmeans</code> algorithm makes less changes in partitions than <code>stop.criterion</code> , <code>mlcc.kmeans</code> stops.
<code>max.iter</code>	<code>max.iter</code> An integer, maximum number of iterations of the loop in <code>mlcc.kmeans</code> algorithm.
<code>initial.segmentations</code>	A list of vectors, segmentations that user wants to be used as an initial segmentation in <code>mlcc.kmeans</code> algorithm.
<code>max.dim</code>	An integer, maximal dimension of subspaces.
<code>scale</code>	A boolean, if TRUE (value set by default) then variables in dataset are scaled to zero mean and unit variance.
<code>numb.cores</code>	An integer, number of cores to be used, by default all cores are used.
<code>estimate.dimensions</code>	A boolean, if TRUE (value set by default) subspaces dimensions are estimated.
<code>flat.prior</code>	A boolean, if TRUE then, instead of a prior that takes into account number of models for a given number of clusters, flat prior is used.
<code>show.warnings</code>	A boolean, if set to TRUE all warnings are displayed, default value is FALSE.

Details

In more detail, an algorithm `mlcc.kmeans` is run a `numb.runs` of times with random or custom initializations. The best partition is selected according to the BIC.

Value

A list consisting of

<code>segmentation</code>	a vector containing the partition of the variables
<code>BIC</code>	a numeric, value of the mBIC
<code>basis</code>	a list of matrices, the factors for each of the subspaces

Examples

```
sim.data <- data.simulation(n = 50, SNR = 1, K = 5, numb.vars = 50, max.dim = 3)
mlcc.res <- mlcc.reps(sim.data$X, numb.clusters = 5, numb.runs = 20, max.dim = 4, numb.cores = 1)
show.clusters(sim.data$X, mlcc.res$segmentation)
```

<code>show.clusters</code>	<i>Print clusters obtained from MLCC</i>
----------------------------	--

Description

Print clusters obtained from MLCC

Usage

```
show.clusters(data, segmentation)
```

Arguments

<code>data</code>	The original data set.
<code>segmentation</code>	A vector, segmentation of variables into clusters.

<code>varclust</code>	<i>Variable Clustering with Multiple Latent Components Clustering algorithm</i>
-----------------------	---

Description

Package `varclust` performs clustering of variables, according to a probabilistic model, which assumes that each cluster lies in a low dimensional subspace. Segmentation of variables, number of clusters and their dimensions are selected based on the appropriate implementation of the Bayesian Information Criterion.

Details

The best candidate models are identified by the specific implementation of K-means algorithm, in which cluster centers are represented by some number of orthogonal factors (principal components of the variables within a cluster) and similarity between a given variable and a cluster center depends on residuals from a linear model fit. Based on the Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC), sums of squares of residuals are appropriately scaled, which allows to avoid an over-excessive attraction by clusters with larger dimensions. To reduce the chance that the local minimum of modified BIC (mBIC) is obtained instead of the global one, for every fixed number of clusters in a given range K-means algorithm is run large number of times, with different random initializations of cluster centers.

The main function of package **varclust** is `mlcc.bic` which allows clustering variables in a data with unknown number of clusters. Variable partition is computed with k-means based algorithm. Number of clusters and their dimensions are estimated using mBIC and PESEL respectively. If the number of clusters is known one might use function `mlcc.reps`, which takes number of clusters as a parameter. For `mlcc.reps` one might specify as well some initial segmentation for k-means algorithm. This can be useful if user has some a priori knowledge about clustering.

We provide also two functions to simulate datasets with described structure. The function `data.simulation` generates the data so that the subspaces are independent and `data.simulation.factors` generates the data where some factors are shared between the subspaces.

We also provide function measures of quality of clustering. `misclassification` computes misclassification rate between two partitions. This performance measure is extensively used in image segmentation. The other measure is implemented as `integration` function.

Version: 0.9.4

Author(s)

Piotr Sobczyk, Stanislaw Wilczynski, Julie Josse, Malgorzata Bogdan

Maintainer: Piotr Sobczyk <pj.sobczyk@gmail.com>

Examples

```
sim.data <- data.simulation(n = 50, SNR = 1, K = 3, numb.vars = 50, max.dim = 3)
mlcc.bic(sim.data$X, numb.clusters = 1:5, numb.runs = 20, numb.cores = 1, verbose = TRUE)
mlcc.reps(sim.data$X, numb.clusters = 3, numb.runs = 20, numb.cores = 1)
```

Index

`data.simulation`, [2](#), [11](#)

`data.simulation.factors`, [3](#), [11](#)

`integration`, [4](#), [11](#)

`misclassification`, [5](#), [11](#)

`mlcc.bic`, [6](#), [10](#)

`mlcc.kmeans`, [6](#), [7](#), [9](#)

`mlcc.reps`, [6](#), [8](#), [10](#)

`show.clusters`, [10](#)

`varclust`, [10](#)

`varclust-package (varclust)`, [10](#)