

Package ‘stabiliser’

May 9, 2026

Title Stabilising Variable Selection

Version 1.0.7

Description

A stable approach to variable selection through stability selection and the use of a permutation-based objective stability threshold. Lima et al (2021) <[doi:10.1038/s41598-020-79317-8](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-79317-8)>, Meinshausen and Buhlmann (2010) <[doi:10.1111/j.1467-9868.2010.00740.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9868.2010.00740.x)>.

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Encoding UTF-8

LazyData true

RoxygenNote 7.3.3

Config/testthat/edition 3

Depends R (>= 3.0.0)

Suggests rmarkdown, testthat (>= 3.0.0), markdown, knitr

Imports glmnet, dplyr, bigstep, rsample, tibble, purrr, tidyr, stringr, ggplot2, broom, caret, nevreg, Hmisc, expss, lme4, matrixStats, recipes, stats, lmerTest, furrr, future

VignetteBuilder knitr

NeedsCompilation no

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Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2026-03-09 10:40:02 UTC

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simulate_data	<i>simulate_data</i>
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Description

Simulate a dataset. This can optionally include variables with a given associated with the outcome.

Usage

```
simulate_data(nrows, ncols, n_true = 0, amplitude = 0)
```

Arguments

nrows	The number of rows to simulate.
ncols	The number of columns to simulate.
n_true	The number of variables truly associated with the outcome.
amplitude	The strength of association between true variables and the outcome.

Value

A simulated dataset

simulate_data_re	<i>simulate_data_re</i>
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Description

Simulate a 500x500 dataset with 8 true fixed effects, 492 junk variables and a clustered outcome suitable for a 2 level random effects analysis. The strength of association between true variables and the outcome is governed by the error added at level 1 (defined by parameter `sd_level_1`) and level 2 (`sd_level_2`).

Arguments

sd_level_1 Standard deviation of level 1 variables
 sd_level_2 Standard deviation of level 2 variables

Value

A simulated dataset with a clustered outcome suitable for random effects analysis

```
simulate_data_re_glm
      simulate_data_re_glm
```

Description

Simulate a dataset where some variables are associated with the outcome and some are un-

Usage

```
simulate_glm_re_data(
  n_subjects = 100,
  obs_per_subject = 10,
  n_signal = 2,
  n_noise = 3,
  beta0 = -1,
  beta_signal = NULL,
  sigma_u = 1
)
```

Arguments

n_subjects The number of individual subjects, e.g. participations
 obs_per_subject The number of observations per subject
 n_signal The number of causal predictors
 n_noise The number of junk predictors
 beta0 Intercept
 beta_signal signal size for causal parameters
 sigma_u standard deviation for random intercepts

Value

A simulated dataset with a clustered outcome suitable for random effects analysis with a binary outcome

simulate_selection_bias
simulate_selection_bias

Description

An function to illustrate the risk of selection bias in conventional modelling approaches by simulating a dataset with no information and conducting conventional modelling with prefiltration.

Arguments

nrows A vector of the number of rows to simulate (i.e., c(100, 200)).
 ncols A vector of the number of columns to simulate (i.e., c(100, 200)).
 p_thresh A vector of the p-value threshold to use in univariate pre-filtration (i.e., c(0.1, 0.2)).

Value

A list including a dataframe of results, a dataframe of the median number of variables selected and a plot illustrating false positive selection.

stabilise *stabilise*

Description

Function to calculate stability of variables' association with an outcome for a given model over a number of bootstrap repeats

Arguments

data A dataframe containing an outcome variable to be permuted.
 outcome The outcome as a string (i.e. "y").
 boot_reps The number of bootstrap samples. Default is "auto" which selects number based on dataframe size.
 permutations The number of times to be permuted per repeat. Default is "auto" which selects number based on dataframe size.
 perm_boot_reps The number of times to repeat each set of permutations. Default is 20.
 models The models to select for stabilising. Default is elastic net (models = c("enet")), other available models include "lasso", "mbic", "mcp".
 type The type of model, either "linear" or "logistic"
 quantile The quantile of null stabilities to use as a threshold.
 normalise Normalise numeric variables (TRUE/FALSE)
 dummy Create dummy variables for factors/characters (TRUE/FALSE)
 impute Impute missing data (TRUE/FALSE)

Value

A list for each model selected. Each list contains a dataframe of variable stabilities, a numeric permutation threshold, and a dataframe of coefficients for both bootstrap and permutation.

stabiliser_example	<i>stabiliser_example</i>
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Description

A simulated dataset

Usage

```
stabiliser_example
```

Format

A data frame with 50 rows and 100 variables.

The stabiliser_example dataset is a simulated example with the following properties: 1 simulated outcome variable: y 4 variables simulated to be associated with y: causal1, causal2... 95 variables simulated to have no association with y: junk1, junk2...

stabilise_re	<i>stabilise_re</i>
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Description

Function to calculate stability of variables' association with an outcome for a given model over a number of bootstrap repeats using clustered data.

Arguments

data	A dataframe containing an outcome variable to be permuted.
outcome	The outcome as a string (i.e. "y").
intercept_level_ids	A vector names defining which variables are random effect, i.e., c("level_2_column_name", "level_3_column_name").
n_top_filter	The number of variables to filter for final model (Default = 50).
boot_reps	The number of bootstrap samples. Default is "auto" which selects number based on dataframe size.
permutations	The number of times to be permuted per repeat. Default is "auto" which selects number based on dataframe size.
perm_boot_reps	The number of times to repeat each set of permutations. Default is 20.
normalise	Normalise numeric variables (TRUE/FALSE)
dummy	Create dummy variables for factors/characters (TRUE/FALSE)
impute	Impute missing data (TRUE/FALSE)

Value

A list containing a table of variable stabilities and a numeric permutation threshold.

stabilise_re_glmer	<i>stabilise_re_glmer</i>
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Description

Function to calculate stability of variables' association with an outcome for a given model over a number of bootstrap repeats using clustered data.

Arguments

data	A dataframe containing an outcome variable to be permuted.
outcome	The outcome as a string (i.e. "y").
intercept_level_ids	A vector names defining which variables are random effect, i.e., c("level_2_column_name", "level_3_column_name").
n_top_filter	The number of variables to filter for final model (Default = 50).
boot_reps	The number of bootstrap samples. Default is "auto" which selects number based on dataframe size. For glmer models, these are subsamples of the dataset, set to 80%.
permutations	The number of times to be permuted per repeat. Default is "auto" which selects number based on dataframe size.
perm_boot_reps	The number of times to repeat each set of permutations. Default is 20.
normalise	Normalise numeric variables (TRUE/FALSE)
dummy	Create dummy variables for factors/characters (TRUE/FALSE)
impute	Impute missing data (TRUE/FALSE)
base_id	level of the random effect to bootstrap by, e.g individual. This is likely the lower level of random effect specified
parallel	TRUE or FALSE, whether to set up parallel processing
num_cores	Number of cores to use if parallel processing required

Value

A list containing a table of variable stabilities and a numeric permutation threshold.

stab_plot	<i>stab_plot</i>
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Description

Plot from stability object

Arguments

stabiliser_outcome
Outcome from stabilise() or triangulate() function.

Value

A ggplot object.

triangulate	<i>triangulate</i>
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Description

Triangulate multiple models using a stability object

Arguments

object An object generated through the stabilise() function.
quantile The quantile of null stabilities to use as a threshold.

Value

A combined list of model results including a dataframe of stability results for variables and a numeric permutation threshold.

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