

# Package ‘nnls’

October 13, 2022

**Type** Package

**Title** The Lawson-Hanson algorithm for non-negative least squares (NNLS)

**Version** 1.4

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**Description** An R interface to the Lawson-Hanson implementation of an algorithm for non-negative least squares (NNLS). Also allows the combination of non-negative and non-positive constraints.

**License** GPL (>= 2)

**Repository** CRAN

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**NeedsCompilation** yes

## R topics documented:

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nnls-package	<i>The Lawson-Hanson NNLS implementation of non-negative least squares</i>
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## Description

An R interface to the Lawson-Hanson NNLS implementation of an algorithm for non-negative linear least squares that solves the least squares problem  $\min \|Ax = b\|_2$  with the constraint  $x \geq 0$  where  $x \in R^n$ ,  $b \in R^m$  and  $A$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix. Also allows the combination of non-negative and non-positive constraints on  $x$ .

## References

- Lawson CL, Hanson RJ (1974). Solving Least Squares Problems. Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ.
- Lawson CL, Hanson RJ (1995). Solving Least Squares Problems. Classics in Applied Mathematics. SIAM, Philadelphia.

## See Also

[nnls](#), [nnnpls](#), the method "L-BFGS-B" for [optim](#), [solve.QP](#), [bvls](#)

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nnls	<i>The Lawson-Hanson NNLS implementation of non-negative least squares</i>
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## Description

An R interface to the Lawson-Hanson NNLS implementation of an algorithm for non-negative linear least squares that solves  $\min \|Ax - b\|_2$  with the constraint  $x \geq 0$ , where  $x \in R^n$ ,  $b \in R^m$  and  $A$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix.

## Usage

```
nnls(A, b)
```

## Arguments

A	numeric matrix with m rows and n columns
b	numeric vector of length m

## Value

nnls returns an object of class "nnls".

The generic accessor functions `coefficients`, `fitted.values`, `deviance` and `residuals` extract various useful features of the value returned by `nnls`.

An object of class "nnls" is a list containing the following components:

x	the parameter estimates.
deviance	the residual sum-of-squares.
residuals	the residuals, that is response minus fitted values.
fitted	the fitted values.
mode	a character vector containing a message regarding why termination occurred.
passive	vector of the indices of x that are not bound at zero.
bound	vector of the indices of x that are bound at zero.
nsetp	the number of elements of x that are not bound at zero.

## Source

This is an R interface to the Fortran77 code distributed with the book referenced below by Lawson CL, Hanson RJ (1995), obtained from Netlib (file 'lawson-hanson/all'), with a trivial modification to return the variable NSETP.

## References

Lawson CL, Hanson RJ (1974). Solving Least Squares Problems. Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ.

Lawson CL, Hanson RJ (1995). Solving Least Squares Problems. Classics in Applied Mathematics. SIAM, Philadelphia.

## See Also

[nnppls](#), the method "L-BFGS-B" for [optim](#), [solve.QP](#), [bvls](#)

## Examples

```
## simulate a matrix A
## with 3 columns, each containing an exponential decay
t <- seq(0, 2, by = .04)
k <- c(.5, .6, 1)
A <- matrix(nrow = 51, ncol = 3)
Acolfunc <- function(k, t) exp(-k*t)
for(i in 1:3) A[,i] <- Acolfunc(k[i],t)

## simulate a matrix X
## with 3 columns, each containing a Gaussian shape
## the Gaussian shapes are non-negative
X <- matrix(nrow = 51, ncol = 3)
wavenum <- seq(18000,28000, by=200)
location <- c(25000, 22000, 20000)
delta <- c(3000,3000,3000)
Xcolfunc <- function(wavenum, location, delta)
  exp(- log(2) * (2 * (wavenum - location)/delta)^2)
for(i in 1:3) X[,i] <- Xcolfunc(wavenum, location[i], delta[i])

## set seed for reproducibility
set.seed(3300)

## simulated data is the product of A and X with some
## spherical Gaussian noise added
matdat <- A %*% t(X) + .005 * rnorm(nrow(A) * nrow(X))

## estimate the rows of X using NNLS criteria
npls_sol <- function(matdat, A) {
  X <- matrix(0, nrow = 51, ncol = 3)
  for(i in 1:ncol(matdat))
    X[,i] <- coef(npls(A,matdat[,i]))
  X
}
```

```

X_nnls <- nnls_sol(matdat,A)

matplot(X_nnls,type="b",pch=20)
abline(0,0, col=grey(.6))

## Not run:
## can solve the same problem with L-BFGS-B algorithm
## but need starting values for x
bfgs_sol <- function(matdat, A) {
  startval <- rep(0, ncol(A))
  fn1 <- function(par1, b, A) sum( ( b - A %*% par1)^2)
  X <- matrix(0, nrow = 51, ncol = 3)
  for(i in 1:ncol(matdat))
    X[i,] <- optim(startval, fn = fn1, b=matdat[,i], A=A,
                  lower = rep(0,3), method="L-BFGS-B")$par
  X
}
X_bfgs <- bfgs_sol(matdat,A)

## the RMS deviation under NNLS is less than under L-BFGS-B
sqrt(sum((X - X_nnls)^2)) < sqrt(sum((X - X_bfgs)^2))

## and L-BFGS-B is much slower
system.time(nnls_sol(matdat,A))
system.time(bfgs_sol(matdat,A))

## can also solve the same problem by reformulating it as a
## quadratic program (this requires the quadprog package; if you
## have quadprog installed, uncomment lines below starting with
## only 1 "#" )

# library(quadprog)

# quadprog_sol <- function(matdat, A) {
#   X <- matrix(0, nrow = 51, ncol = 3)
#   bvec <- rep(0, ncol(A))
#   Dmat <- crossprod(A,A)
#   Amat <- diag(ncol(A))
#   for(i in 1:ncol(matdat)) {
#     dvec <- crossprod(A,matdat[,i])
#     X[i,] <- solve.QP(dvec = dvec, bvec = bvec, Dmat=Dmat,
#                     Amat=Amat)$solution
#   }
#   X
# }
# X_quadprog <- quadprog_sol(matdat,A)

## the RMS deviation under NNLS is about the same as under quadprog
# sqrt(sum((X - X_nnls)^2))
# sqrt(sum((X - X_quadprog)^2))

## and quadprog requires about the same amount of time
# system.time(nnls_sol(matdat,A))

```

```
# system.time(quadprog_sol(matdat,A))

## End(Not run)
```

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nnnpls	<i>An implementation of least squares with non-negative and non-positive constraints</i>
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### Description

An implementation of an algorithm for linear least squares problems with non-negative and non-positive constraints based on the Lawson-Hanson NNLS algorithm. Solves  $\min \|Ax - b\|_2$  with the constraint  $x_i \geq 0$  if  $con_i \geq 0$  and  $x_i \leq 0$  otherwise, where  $x, con \in R^n$ ,  $b \in R^m$ , and  $A$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix.

### Usage

```
nnnpls(A, b, con)
```

### Arguments

A	numeric matrix with m rows and n columns
b	numeric vector of length m
con	numeric vector of length m where element i is negative if and only if element i of the solution vector x should be constrained to non-positive, as opposed to non-negative, values.

### Value

nnnpls returns an object of class "nnnpls".

The generic accessor functions `coefficients`, `fitted.values`, `deviance` and `residuals` extract various useful features of the value returned by nnnpls.

An object of class "nnnpls" is a list containing the following components:

x	the parameter estimates.
deviance	the residual sum-of-squares.
residuals	the residuals, that is response minus fitted values.
fitted	the fitted values.
mode	a character vector containing a message regarding why termination occurred.
passive	vector of the indices of x that are not bound at zero.
bound	vector of the indices of x that are bound at zero.
nsetp	the number of elements of x that are not bound at zero.

## Source

This is an R interface to Fortran77 code distributed with the book referenced below by Lawson CL, Hanson RJ (1995), obtained from Netlib (file 'lawson-hanson/all'), with some trivial modifications to allow for the combination of constraints to non-negative and non-positive values, and to return the variable NSETP.

## References

Lawson CL, Hanson RJ (1974). Solving Least Squares Problems. Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ.

Lawson CL, Hanson RJ (1995). Solving Least Squares Problems. Classics in Applied Mathematics. SIAM, Philadelphia.

## See Also

[nnls](#), the method "L-BFGS-B" for [optim](#), [solve.QP](#), [bvls](#)

## Examples

```
## simulate a matrix A
## with 3 columns, each containing an exponential decay
t <- seq(0, 2, by = .04)
k <- c(.5, .6, 1)
A <- matrix(nrow = 51, ncol = 3)
Acolfunc <- function(k, t) exp(-k*t)
for(i in 1:3) A[,i] <- Acolfunc(k[i],t)

## simulate a matrix X
## with 3 columns, each containing a Gaussian shape
## 2 of the Gaussian shapes are non-negative and 1 is non-positive
X <- matrix(nrow = 51, ncol = 3)
wavenum <- seq(18000,28000, by=200)
location <- c(25000, 22000, 20000)
delta <- c(3000,3000,3000)
Xcolfunc <- function(wavenum, location, delta)
  exp(- log(2) * (2 * (wavenum - location)/delta)^2)
for(i in 1:3) X[,i] <- Xcolfunc(wavenum, location[i], delta[i])
X[,2] <- -X[,2]

## set seed for reproducibility
set.seed(3300)

## simulated data is the product of A and X with some
## spherical Gaussian noise added
matdat <- A %*% t(X) + .005 * rnorm(nrow(A) * nrow(X))

## estimate the rows of X using NNNPLS criteria
nnnpls_sol <- function(matdat, A) {
  X <- matrix(0, nrow = 51, ncol = 3)
  for(i in 1:ncol(matdat))
    X[,i] <- coef(nnnpls(A,matdat[,i],con=c(1,-1,1)))
}
```

```

    X
  }
  X_nnnpls <- nnnpls_sol(matdat,A)

## Not run:
## can solve the same problem with L-BFGS-B algorithm
## but need starting values for x and
## impose a very low/high bound where none is desired
bfgs_sol <- function(matdat, A) {
  startval <- rep(0, ncol(A))
  fn1 <- function(par1, b, A) sum( ( b - A %*% par1)^2)
  X <- matrix(0, nrow = 51, ncol = 3)
  for(i in 1:ncol(matdat))
    X[i,] <- optim(startval, fn = fn1, b=matdat[,i], A=A,
                  lower=rep(0, -1000, 0), upper=c(1000,0,1000),
                  method="L-BFGS-B")$par
  X
}
X_bfgs <- bfgs_sol(matdat,A)

## the RMS deviation under NNNPLS is less than under L-BFGS-B
sqrt(sum((X - X_nnnpls)^2)) < sqrt(sum((X - X_bfgs)^2))

## and L-BFGS-B is much slower
system.time(nnnpls_sol(matdat,A))
system.time(bfgs_sol(matdat,A))

## can also solve the same problem by reformulating it as a
## quadratic program (this requires the quadprog package; if you
## have quadprog installed, uncomment lines below starting with
## only 1 "#" )

# library(quadprog)

# quadprog_sol <- function(matdat, A) {
#   X <- matrix(0, nrow = 51, ncol = 3)
#   bvec <- rep(0, ncol(A))
#   Dmat <- crossprod(A,A)
#   Amat <- diag(c(1,-1,1))
#   for(i in 1:ncol(matdat)) {
#     dvec <- crossprod(A,matdat[,i])
#     X[i,] <- solve.QP(dvec = dvec, bvec = bvec, Dmat=Dmat,
#                     Amat=Amat)$solution
#   }
#   X
# }
# X_quadprog <- quadprog_sol(matdat,A)

## the RMS deviation under NNNPLS is about the same as under quadprog
# sqrt(sum((X - X_nnnpls)^2))
# sqrt(sum((X - X_quadprog)^2))

## and quadprog requires about the same amount of time

```

```
# system.time(nnnpls_sol(matdat,A))  
# system.time(quadprog_sol(matdat,A))  
  
## End(Not run)
```



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