Package ‘varTestnlme’

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Type Package
Title Variance Components Testing for Linear and Nonlinear Mixed Effects Models
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Description An implementation of the Likelihood ratio Test (LRT) for testing that, in a (non)linear mixed effects model, the variances of a subset of the random effects are equal to zero. There is no restriction on the subset of variances that can be tested: for example, it is possible to test that all the variances are equal to zero. Note that the implemented test is asymptotic.
This package should be used on model fits from packages ‘nlme’, ‘lmer’, and ‘saemix’.
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LazyData true
Imports mvtnorm, alabama, Matrix, merDeriv, matrixcalc, anocva, corpcor, quadprog, lme4, nlme, saemix, msm, foreach, methods, doParallel, parallel, lmeresampler
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approxWeights

Monte Carlo approximation of chi-bar-square weights

Description

The chi-bar-square distribution $\bar{\chi}^2(I, C)$ is a mixture of chi-square distributions. The function provides a method to approximate the weights of the mixture components, when the number of components is known as well as the degrees of freedom of each chi-square distribution in the mixture, and given a vector of simulated values from the target $\bar{\chi}^2(I, C)$ distribution. Let us assume that there are $p$ components in the mixture, with degrees of freedom between $n_1$ and $n_p$. By definition of a mixture distribution, we have:

$$P(\bar{\chi}^2(I, C) \leq c) = \sum_{i=n_1}^{n_p} w_i P(\chi^2_i \leq c)$$

Choosing $p-2$ values $c_1, \ldots, c_{p-2}$, the function will generate a system of $p-2$ equations according to the above relationship, and add two additional relationships stating that the sum of all the weights is equal to 1, and that the sum of odd weights and of even weights is equal to 1/2, so that we end up with a system a $p$ equations with $p$ variables.

Usage

approxWeights(x, df, q)
Arguments

x  a vector of i.i.d. random realizations of the target chi-bar-square distribution
df  a vector containing the degrees of freedom of the chi-squared components
q  the empirical quantile of x used to choose the \( p - 2 \) values \( c_1, \ldots, c_{p-2} \) (see Details)

Value

A vector containing the estimated weights, as well as their covariance matrix.

Author(s)

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### bootinvFIM

**Approximation of the inverse of the Fisher Information Matrix via parametric bootstrap**

**Description**

When the FIM is not available, this function provides an approximation of the FIM based on an estimate of the covariance matrix of the model’s parameters obtained via parametric bootstrap.

**Usage**

```r
bootinvFIM(m, B = 1000)
```

**Arguments**

- `m`: a fitted model that will be used as the basis of the parametric bootstrap (providing the initial maximum likelihood estimate of the parameters and the modelling framework)
- `B`: the size of the bootstrap sample

**Value**

the empirical covariance matrix of the parameter estimates obtained on the bootstrap sample

**Author(s)**

Charlotte Baey <<charlotte.baey@univ-lille.fr>>
bootinvFIM.lme  
*Compute the inverse of the Fisher Information Matrix using parametric bootstrap*

### Description

Compute the inverse of the Fisher Information Matrix using parametric bootstrap

### Usage

```r
## S3 method for class 'lme'
bootinvFIM(m, B = 1000)
```

### Arguments

- `m`: the model under H1
- `B`: the bootstrap sample size

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bootinvFIM.merMod  
*Compute the inverse of the Fisher Information Matrix using parametric bootstrap*

### Description

Compute the inverse of the Fisher Information Matrix using parametric bootstrap

### Usage

```r
## S3 method for class 'merMod'
bootinvFIM(m, B = 1000)
```

### Arguments

- `m`: the model under H1
- `B`: the bootstrap sample size
bootinvFIM.saemix

Compute the inverse of the Fisher Information Matrix using parametric bootstrap

Description

Compute the inverse of the Fisher Information Matrix using parametric bootstrap

Usage

```r
## S3 method for class 'saemix'
bootinvFIM(m, B = 1000)
```

Arguments

- `m`: the model under H1
- `B`: the bootstrap sample size

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dfChiBarSquare

Chi-bar-square degrees of freedom computation

Description

Computation of the degrees of freedom of the chi-bar-square

Usage

```r
dfChiBarSquare(msdata)
```

Arguments

- `msdata`: a list containing the structure of the model and data, as an output from `extractStruct.<package_name>` functions

Value

a list containing the vector of the degrees of freedom of the chi-bar-square and the dimensions of the cone of the chi-bar-square distribution
extractStruct

Extracting models’ structures

Description

Functions extracting the structure of the models under both hypothesis: the number of fixed and random effects, the number of tested fixed and random effects, and the residual dimension, as well as the random effects covariance structure

Usage

extractStruct(m1, m0, randm0)

Arguments

m1 the model under H1
m0 the model under H0
randm0 a boolean stating whether the model under H0 contains any random effect

Value

A list with the following components:

detailStruct a data frame containing the list of the parameters and whether they are tested or not
nameVarTested the name of the variance components being tested
nameFixedTested the name of the fixed effects being tested
dims a list with the dimensions of fixed and random effects, tested or not tested
structGamma the structure of the covariance matrix of the random effects diag, full or blockDiag

extractStruct.lme

Extract model structure

Description

Extract model structure

Usage

## S3 method for class 'lme'
extractStruct(m1, m0, randm0)
extractStruct.merMod

Arguments

m1 the fit under H1
m0 the fit under H0
randm0 a boolean indicating whether random effects are present in m0

Description

Extract model structure

Usage

## S3 method for class 'merMod'
extractStruct(m1, m0, randm0)

Arguments

m1 the fit under H1
m0 the fit under H0
randm0 a boolean indicating whether random effects are present in m0

extractStruct.saemix

Description

Extract model structure

Usage

## S3 method for class 'saemix'
extractStruct(m1, m0, randm0)

Arguments

m1 the fit under H1
m0 the fit under H0
randm0 a boolean indicating whether random effects are present in m0
**extractVarCov**  
**Extract covariance matrix**

**Description**  
Extract covariance matrix of the random effects for a model fitted with lme4.

**Usage**  
`extractVarCov(m)`

**Arguments**  
- `m` a fit from lme4 package (either linear or nonlinear)

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**extractVarCov.lme**  
**Extract covariance matrix**

**Description**  
Extract covariance matrix of the random effects for a model fitted with nlme.

**Usage**  
```r
## S3 method for class 'lme'
extractVarCov(m)
```

**Arguments**  
- `m` a fit from nlme package (either linear or nonlinear)

---

**extractVarCov.merMod**  
**Extract covariance matrix**

**Description**  
Extract covariance matrix of the random effects for a model fitted with lme4.

**Usage**  
```r
## S3 method for class 'merMod'
extractVarCov(m)
```

**Arguments**  
- `m` a fit from lme4 package (either linear or nonlinear)
**Description**

Groups of functions used for the constrained minimization problem arising in the computation of the likelihood ratio test statistics.

**Usage**

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{objFunction}(x, \text{cst}) \\
\text{gradObjFunction}(x, \text{cst}) \\
\text{symMatrixFromVect}(x) \\
\text{ineqCstr}(x, \text{cst}) \\
\text{jacobianIneqCstr}(x, \text{cst}) \\
\text{eqCstr}(x, \text{cst}) \\
\text{jacobianEqCstr}(x, \text{cst})
\end{align*}
\]

**Arguments**

- \( x \) A vector
- \( \text{cst} \) A list of constants to be passed to the optimisation function

**Value**

value of the objective function, its gradient, and the set of inequality and equality constraints

**Functions**

- **objFunction**: objective function to be optimized
- **gradObjFunction**: gradient of the objective function
- **symMatrixFromVect**: function creating a symmetric matrix from its unique elements stored in a vector
- **ineqCstr**: set of inequality constraints
- **jacobianIneqCstr**: jacobian of the inequality constraints
- **eqCstr**: set of equality constraints
- **jacobianEqCstr**: jacobian of the inequality constraints
pckName

Extract package name from a fitted mixed-effects model

Description

Extract package name from a fitted mixed-effects model

Usage

pckName(m)

Arguments

m  a model with random effects fitted with nlme, lme4 or saemix

Value

a string giving the name of the package

varCompTest

Variance component testing

Description

Perform a likelihood ratio test to test whether a subset of the variances of the random effects are equal to zero. The test is defined by two hypotheses, H0 and H1, and the model under H0 is assumed to be nested within the model under H1. These functions can be used on objects of class lme-, nlme-, mer-, lmerMod, glmerMod, nlmerMord or SaemixObject.

It is possible to tests if any subset of the variances are equal to zero. However, the function does not currently support nested random effects, and assumes that the random effects are Gaussian.

The asymptotic distribution of the likelihood ratio test is a chi-bar-square, with weights that need to be approximated by Monte Carlo methods, apart from some specific cases where they are available explicitly. Therefore, the p-value of the test is not exact but approximated. This computation can be time-consuming, so the default behaviour of the function is to provide bounds on the exact p-value, which can be enough in practice to decide whether to reject or not the null hypothesis. This is triggered by the option pval.comp="bounds". To compute an approximation of the exact p-value, one should use the option pval.comp="approx" or pval.comp="both".

When pval.comp="approx" or pval.comp="both", the weights of the chi-bar-square distribution are computed and thus

The control argument controls the options for chi-bar-square weights computation. It is a list with the following elements: M the size of the Monte Carlo simulation, i.e. the number of samples generated, parallel a boolean which is equal to TRUE to compute the projection of the samples on the cone, and nbcores the number of cores to be used in case of parallel computing. Default is M=5000, parallel=FALSE and nb_cores=1. If parallel=TRUE but the value of nb_cores is not given, then it is set to the number of detected cores minus 1
Usage

varCompTest(
  m1,
  m0,
  control = list(M = 5000, parallel = T, nb_cores = 1, B = 1000),
  pval.comp = "bounds",
  fim = "extract"
)

## S3 method for class 'lme'
varCompTest(
  m1,
  m0,
  control = list(M = 5000, parallel = T, nb_cores = 1, B = 1000),
  pval.comp = "bounds",
  fim = "extract"
)

## S3 method for class 'merMod'
varCompTest(
  m1,
  m0,
  control = list(M = 5000, parallel = T, nb_cores = 1, B = 1000),
  pval.comp = "bounds",
  fim = "extract"
)

## S3 method for class 'saemix'
varCompTest(
  m1,
  m0,
  control = list(M = 5000, parallel = T, nb_cores = 1, B = 1000),
  pval.comp = "bounds",
  fim = "extract"
)

Arguments

m1  a fit of the model under H1, obtained from nlme, lme4 or saemix
m0  a fit of the model under H0, obtained from the same package as m0
control  (optional) a list of control options for the computation of the chi-bar-weights (see Details section)
pval.comp  (optional) the method to be used to compute the p-value, one of: "bounds" (the default), "approx" or "both" (see Details section)
fim  (optional) the method to compute the Fisher Information Matrix. Options are: fim="extract" to extract the FIM computed by the package which was used to
fit the models, fim="compute" to evaluate the FIM using parametric bootstrap, and fim=I with I a positive semidefinite matrix, for a FIM provided by the user.

Value

An object of class htest with the following components:

- statistic the likelihood ratio test statistics
- null.value
- alternative
- parameters the parameters of the limiting chi-bar-square distribution: the degrees of freedom and the weights of the chi-bar-square components and the Fisher Information Matrix
- method a character string indicating the name of the test
- pvalue a named vector containing the different p-values computed by the function: using the (estimated) weights, using the random sample from the chi-bar-square distribution, and the two bounds on the p-value.

Author(s)

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References


Examples

# load lme4 package and example dataset
library(lme4)
data(Orthodont, package = "nlme")

# fit the two models under H1 and H0
m1 <- lmer(distance ~ 1 + Sex + age + age*Sex +
(0 + age | Subject), data = Orthodont, REML = FALSE)
m0 <- lm(distance ~ 1 + Sex + age + age*Sex, data = Orthodont)

# compare them (order is important: m1 comes first)
varCompTest(m1,m0,pval.comp="bounds")

# using nlme
library(nlme)
m1 <- lme(distance ~ 1 + Sex + age + age*Sex,
random = pdSymm(Subject ~ 1 + age), data = Orthodont, method = "ML")
m0 <- lme(distance ~ 1 + Sex, random = ~ 1 | Subject, data = Orthodont, method = "ML"
weightsChiBarSquare

varCompTest(m1,m0)

weightsChiBarSquare  Chi-bar-square weights computation

**Description**

The function computes an approximation of the weights of the chi-bar-square distribution $\bar{\chi}^2(V,C)$, with $V$ a positive semi-definite matrix and $C$ a convex cone.

**Usage**

weightsChiBarSquare(df, V, dimsCone, orthan, control)

**Arguments**

- **df**    a vector with the degrees of freedom of the chi-square components of the chi-bar-square distribution
- **V**    a positive semi-definite matrix
- **dimsCone**    a list with the dimensions of the cone $C$, expressed on the parameter space scale
- **orthan**    a boolean specifying whether the cone is an orthan
- **control**    (optional) a list of control options for the computation of the chi-bar-weights, containing two elements: `parallel` a boolean indicating whether computation should be done in parallel (FALSE by default), `nb_cores` the number of cores for parallel computing (if `parallel`=TRUE but no value is given for `nb_cores`, it is set to number of detected cores minus 1), and $M$ the Monte Carlo sample size for the computation of the weights.

**Value**

A list containing the estimated weights, the standard deviations of the estimated weights and the random sample of $M$ realizations from the chi-bar-square distribution
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