

Package ‘mma’

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Type Package

Title Multiple Mediation Analysis

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Imports foreach, doParallel, plotrix

Description Used for general multiple mediation analysis.

The analysis method is described in Yu et al. (2014) <doi:10.4172/2155-6180.1000189> “General Multiple Mediation Analysis With an Application to Explore Racial Disparity in Breast Cancer Survival”, published on Journal of Biometrics & Biostatistics, 5(2):189; and Yu et al.(2017) <DOI:10.1016/j.sste.2017.02.001> “Exploring racial disparity in obesity: a mediation analysis considering geo-coded environmental factors”, published on Spatial and Spatio-temporal Epidemiology, 21, 13-23.

License GPL (>= 2)

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| | |
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| mma-package | <i>Mediation Analysis Package</i> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|

Description

This package is used to identify mediators and for general mediation analysis. Mediation effect refers to the effect conveyed by intervening variables to an observed relationship between an exposure and a response variable (outcome). In this package, the exposure is called the predictor, the intervening variables are called mediators. The mediation effects include the total effect, direct effect, and indirect effect, which are defined and the statistical inferences described in Yu et al.(2014).

Details

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"data.org" is used to identify potential mediators. "[med](#)", and "[boot.med](#)" are used for statistical inferences on the mediation effects when the predictor is binary or continuous. "[mma](#)" is a combined function that automatically identify potential mediators, based on which to make statistical inference on the mediation effects.

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References

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- Yu, Q., Fan, Y., and Wu, X. (2014) <doi:10.4172/2155-6180.1000189>. "General Multiple Mediation Analysis With an Application to Explore Racial Disparity in Breast Cancer Survival," *Journal of Biometrics & Biostatistics*,5(2): 189.
- Yu, Q., Scribner, R.A., Leonardi, C., Zhang, L., Park, C., Chen, L., and Simonsen, N.R. (2017) <doi:10.1016/j.sste.2017.02.001>. "Exploring racial disparity in obesity: a mediation analysis considering geo-coded environmental factors," *Spatial and Spatio-temporal Epidemiology*, 21, 13-23.
- Yu, Q., and Li, B. (2017) <doi:10.5334/hors.160>. "mma: An r package for multiple mediation analysis," *Journal of Open Research Software*, 5(1), 11.

Examples

```
data("weight_behavior")
#binary predictor
#binary y
x=weight_behavior[,c(2,4:14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,3]
y=weight_behavior[,15]
temp.b.b.glm<-mma(x,y,pred=pred,contmed=c(7:9,11:12),binmed=c(6,10),binref=c(1,1),
                 catmed=5,catref=1,predref="M",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4,n=2,n2=2)

temp.b.b.mart<-mma(x,y,pred=pred,contmed=c(7:9,11:12),binmed=c(6,10),binref=c(1,1),
                 catmed=5,catref=1,predref="M",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4,nonlinear=TRUE,n=2,n2=5)

#continuous y
x=weight_behavior[,c(2,4:14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,3]
y=weight_behavior[,1]
temp.b.c.glm<-mma(x,y,pred=pred,mediator=5:12,jointm=list(n=1,j1=7:9),
                 predref="M",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4,n2=20)
temp.b.c.mart<-mma(x,y,pred=pred,mediator=5:12,jointm=list(n=1,j1=7:9),
                 predref="M",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4,
                 n=2,seed=1,nonlinear=TRUE,n2=20)
```

 boot.med

Statistical Inference on Mediation Analysis with Continuous or Binary Predictor

Description

To make inferences on the mediation effects when the predictor is continuous or binary.

Usage

```
boot.med(data,x=data$x, y=data$y,dirx=data$dirx,binm=data$binm,
         contm=data$contm,catm=data$catm,jointm=data$jointm, cova=data$cova,
         margin=1,n=20,seed=sample(1:1000,1),nonlinear=F,df=1,nu=0.001,D=3,
         distn=NULL,family1=data$family1,n2=50,w=rep(1,nrow(x)),
         refy=NULL,x.new=x,pred.new=dirx,binpred=data$binpred,type=NULL,w.new=NULL)
```

Arguments

| | |
|--------|--|
| data | the list of result from data.org that organize the covariates, mediators, predictor and outcome. If data is FALSE, then need to set x, y, dirx, contm, catm, and jointm. |
| x | a data frame contains all mediators and covariates. Need to set up only when data is FALSE. All variables in x that are not identified as potential mediators (by mediator, contmed, binmed, catmed, or jointm) are forced in mediation analysis as covariates. |
| y | the vector of outcome variable. Need to set up only when data is FALSE. |
| dirx | the vector/matrix of predictor(s). Need to set up only when data is FALSE. |
| binm | the variable names or the column number of x that locates the binary mediators. Need to set up only when data is FALSE. |
| contm | the variable names or the column numbers of x that locate the potential continuous mediators. Need to set up only when data is FALSE. |
| catm | categorical mediators should be binarized and be presented as a list, where the first item is the number of categorical variables and the following items are the names or the column numbers of each binarized categorical variable in x. data.org organizes the categorical mediators in this format after they pass the mediator tests. Need to set up only when data is FALSE. |
| jointm | a list where the first item is the number of groups of joint mediators to be considered, and each of the following items identifies the names or the column numbers of the mediators in x for each group of joint mediators. Need to set up only when data is FALSE. |
| cova | the covariate names in x for predicting the mediators. The cova cannot be potential mediators, so cova are the covariates for the response automatically. If the covariates are for all potential mediators, cova is a vector of covariate names. If the covariates are for some specific potential mediators, cova is a list with the first item be the names of potential mediators that use the covariates, and the second item be the names of covariates. Works mainly for continuous predictors (pred), also the specified covariates should have no missing if only some mediators uses the covariates. |
| margin | the change in predictor when calculating the mediation effects, see Yu et al. (2014). |
| n | the time of resampling in calculating the indirect effects, default is n=20, see Yu et al. (2014). |
| seed | set seed to make the calculation repeatable. The default value of seed is from sample(1:1000,1). |

| | |
|-----------|---|
| nonlinear | if TRUE, Multiple Additive Regression Trees (MART) will be used to fit the final full model in estimating the outcome. The default value of nonlinear is FALSE, in which case, a generalized linear model will be used to fit the final full model. |
| df | if nonlinear is TRUE, natural cubic spline will be used to fit the relationship between the predictor and each mediator. The df is the degree of freedom in the ns() function, the default is 1. |
| nu | set the parameter "interaction.depth" in gbm function if MART is to be used, by default, nu=0.001. See also help(gbm.fit). |
| D | set the parameter "shrinkage" in gbm function if MART is to be used, by default, D=3. See also help(gbm.fit). |
| distn | the assumed distribution of the outcome if MART is used for final full model. The default value of distn is "gaussian" for continuous y, and "bernoulli" for binary y. |
| family1 | define the conditional distribution of y given x, and the linkage function that links the mean of y with the system component if generalized linear model is used as the final full model. The default value of family1 is gaussian(link="identity") for continuous y, and binomial(link = "logit") for binary y. |
| n2 | the number of times of bootstrap resampling. The default value is n2=50. |
| w | the weight for observations. |
| refy | if y is binary, the reference group of y. |
| x.new | of the same format as x, with a new set of covariates and mediators on which to calculate the mediation effects. |
| pred.new | a new set of predictor(s). |
| binpred | if TRUE, the predictor is binary. |
| type | the type of prediction when y is class Surv. Is "risk" if not specified. |
| w.new | the weights for new.x. |

Details

The mediators are not tested in this function. data.org should be used for the tests and data organizing, and then the resulting list from data.org can be used directly to define the arguments in this function. boot.med considers all variables in x as mediators or covariates in the final model and all variables identified by contm, binm, catm, or jointm as mediators.

Value

Returns an mma object.

| | |
|--------------|--|
| estimation | list the estimation of ie (indirect effect), te (total effect), and de (direct effect from the predictor) separately. |
| bootsresults | a list where the first item, ie, is a matrix of n2 rows where each column gives the estimated indirect effect from the corresponding mediator (identified by the column name) from the n2 bootstrap samples; the second item, te, is a vector of estimated total effects from the bootstrap sample; and the 3rd item, de, is a vector of estimated direct effect of the predictor from the bootstrap sample. |

| | |
|-------------|--|
| model | a list where the first item, MART, is T if mart is fitted for the final model; the second item, Survival, is T if a survival model is fitted; the third item, type, is the type of prediction when a survival model is fitted; the fourth item, model, is the fitted final full model where y is the outcome and all predictor, covariates, and mediators are the explanatory variables; and the fourth item, best.iter is the number of best iterations if MART is used to fit the final model. |
| data | a list that contains all the used data: x=x, y=y, dirx=dirx, binm=binm, contm=contm, catm=catm, jointm=jointm, binpred=F. |
| boot.detail | a list that contains the mediation effects on each row of new.x: new.x=new.x, te1, de1, ie1. |

Author(s)

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References

Yu, Q., Fan, Y., and Wu, X. (2014) <doi:10.4172/2155-6180.1000189>. "General Multiple Mediation Analysis With an Application to Explore Racial Disparity in Breast Cancer Survival," *Journal of Biometrics & Biostatistics*,5(2): 189.

See Also

"med" just estimate the mediation effects.

Examples

```
data("weight_behavior")
##binary x
#binary y
x=weight_behavior[,c(2,4:14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,3]
y=weight_behavior[,15]
data.bin<-data.org(x,y,pred=pred,contmed=c(7:9,11:12),binmed=c(6,10),binref=c(1,1),
                 catmed=5,catref=1,predref="M",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
temp1<-boot.med(data=data.bin,n=2,n2=4,seed=1)
temp2<-boot.med(data=data.bin,n=2,n2=4,nu=0.05,seed=1,nonlinear=TRUE)

#multivariate predictor
x=weight_behavior[,c(2:3,5:14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,4]
y=weight_behavior[,15]
data.b.b.2.3<-data.org(x,y,mediator=5:12,jointm=list(n=1,j1=c(5,7,9)),
                    pred=pred,predref="OTHER",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
temp1.2<-boot.med(data=data.b.b.2.3,n=2,n2=4,seed=1)
temp2.2<-boot.med(data=data.b.b.2.3,n=2,n2=4,nu=0.05,seed=1,nonlinear=TRUE)

#multivariate responses
x=weight_behavior[,c(2:3,5:14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,4]
```

```

y=weight_behavior[,c(1,15)]
data.b.b.2.4<-data.org(x,y,mediator=5:12,jointm=list(n=1,j1=c(5,7,9)),
  pred=pred,predref="OTHER", alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
temp1.3<-boot.med(data.b.b.2.4,n=2,n2=4,seed=1)
temp2.3<-boot.med(data.b.b.2.4,n=2,n2=4,seed=1,nonlinear=TRUE)

#continuous y
x=weight_behavior[,c(2,4:14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,3]
y=weight_behavior[,1]
data.cont<-data.org(x,y,pred=pred,mediator=5:12,jointm=list(n=1,j1=7:9),
  predref="M",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
temp3<-boot.med(data=data.cont,n=2,n2=4,seed=1)
temp4<-boot.med(data=data.cont,n=2,n2=4,nu=0.05,seed=1, nonlinear=TRUE)

##continuous x
#binary y
x=weight_behavior[,3:14]
pred=weight_behavior[,2]
y=weight_behavior[,15]
data.contx<-data.org(x,y,pred=pred,mediator=4:10,alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
temp5<-boot.med(data=data.contx,seed=1,n=1,n2=2)
#plot(temp5,vari="exercises",xlim=c(0,30))
temp6<-boot.med(data=data.contx,seed=1,n=1,refy=0,nonlinear=T,n2=2)

#continuous y
x=weight_behavior[,3:14]
y=weight_behavior[,1]
pred=weight_behavior[,2]
data.contx<-data.org(x,y,pred=pred,contmed=c(11:12),binmed=c(6,10),
  binref=c(1,1),catmed=5,catref=1,
  alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
temp7<-boot.med(data=data.contx,seed=1,n=1,n2=2)
temp8<-boot.med(data=data.contx,nonlinear=T,seed=1,n=1,n2=2)

##Surv class outcome (survival analysis)

data(cgd0)      #a dataset in the survival package
x=cgd1[,c(4:5,7:12)]
pred=cgd1[,6]
status<-ifelse(is.na(cgd1$time1),0,1)
y=Surv(cgd1$time1,status)
#for continuous predictor
data.surv.contx<-data.org(x,y,pred=pred,mediator=1:ncol(x),
  alpha=0.5,alpha2=0.5)
temp9.contx<-boot.med(data=data.surv.contx,seed=1,n=1,n2=2, type="lp")
#summary(temp9.contx)
temp10.contx<-boot.med(data=data.surv.contx,nonlinear=TRUE,seed=1,n=1,n2=2)
#summary(temp10.contx)

#for binary predictor

x=cgd1[,c(5:12)]

```

```

pred=cgd1[,4]
data.surv.binx<-data.org(x,y,pred=pred,mediator=1:ncol(x),
                        alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
temp9.binx<-boot.med(data=data.surv.binx,seed=1,n=1,n2=2, type="lp")
summary(temp9.binx)
temp10.binx<-boot.med(data=data.surv.binx,nonlinear=TRUE,seed=1,n=1,n2=2)
#summary(temp10.binx)

```

boot.med.par

Statistical Inference on Mediation Analysis Using Parallel Computing

Description

To make inferences on the mediation effects when the predictor is continuous or binary using parallel computing.

Usage

```

boot.med.par(data,x=data$x, y=data$y,dirx=data$dirx,binm=data$binm,
             contm=data$contm,catm=data$catm,jointm=data$jointm,cova=data$cova,margin=1,
             n=20,seed=sample(1:1000,1),nonlinear=F,df=1,nu=0.001,
             D=3,distn=NULL,family1=data$family1,n2=50,w=rep(1,nrow(x)),
             refy=NULL,x.new=x,pred.new=dirx,binpred=data$binpred,
             type=NULL,w.new=NULL,ncore=NULL)

```

Arguments

| | |
|-------|--|
| data | the list of result from data.org that organize the covariates, mediators, predictor and outcome. If data is FALSE, then need to set x, y, dirx, contm, catm, and jointm. |
| x | a data frame contains all mediators and covariates. Need to set up only when data is FALSE. All variables in x that are not identified as potential mediators (by mediator, contmed, binmed, catmed, or jointm) are forced in mediation analysis as covariates. |
| y | the vector of outcome variable. Need to set up only when data is FALSE. |
| dirx | the vector/matrix of predictor(s). Need to set up only when data is FALSE. |
| binm | the variable names or the column number of x that locates the binary mediators. Need to set up only when data is FALSE. |
| contm | the variable names or the column numbers of x that locate the potential continuous mediators. Need to set up only when data is FALSE. |
| catm | categorical mediators should be binarized and be presented as a list, where the first item is the number of categorical variables and the following items are the names or the column numbers of each binarized categorical variable in x. data.org organizes the categorical mediators in this format after they pass the mediator tests. Need to set up only when data is FALSE. |

| | |
|-----------|--|
| jointm | a list where the first item is the number of groups of joint mediators to be considered, and each of the following items identifies the names or the column numbers of the mediators in x for each group of joint mediators. Need to set up only when data is FALSE. |
| cova | the covariate names in x for predicting the mediators. The cova cannot be potential mediators, so cova are the covariates for the response automatically. If the covariates are for all potential mediators, cova is a vector of covariate names. If the covariates are for some specific potential mediators, cova is a list with the first item be the names of potential mediators that use the covariates, and the second item be the names of covariates. Works mainly for continuous predictors (pred), also the specified covariates should have no missing if only some mediators uses the covariates. |
| margin | the change in predictor when calculating the mediation effects, see Yu et al. (2014). |
| n | the time of resampling in calculating the indirect effects, default is n=20, see Yu et al. (2014). |
| seed | set seed to make the calculation repeatable. The default value of seed is from sample(1:1000,1). |
| nonlinear | if TRUE, Multiple Additive Regression Trees (MART) will be used to fit the final full model in estimating the outcome. The default value of nonlinear is FALSE, in which case, a generalized linear model will be used to fit the final full model. |
| df | if nonlinear is TRUE, natural cubic spline will be used to fit the relationship between the predictor and each mediator. The df is the degree of freedom in the ns() function, the default is 1. |
| nu | set the parameter "interaction.depth" in gbm function if MART is to be used, by default, nu=0.001. See also help(gbm.fit). |
| D | set the parameter "shrinkage" in gbm function if MART is to be used, by default, D=3. See also help(gbm.fit). |
| distn | the assumed distribution of the outcome if MART is used for final full model. The default value of distn is "gaussian" for continuous y, and "bernoulli" for binary y. |
| family1 | define the conditional distribution of y given x, and the linkage function that links the mean of y with the system component if generalized linear model is used as the final full model. The default value of family1 is gaussian(link="identity") for continuous y, and binomial(link = "logit") for binary y. |
| n2 | the number of times of bootstrap resampling. The default value is n2=50. |
| w | the weight for observations. |
| refy | if y is binary, the reference group of y. |
| binpred | if TRUE, the predictor is binary. |
| type | the type of prediction when y is class Surv. Is "risk" if not specified. |
| x.new | of the same format as x, with a new set of covariates and mediators on which to calculate the mediation effects. |

| | |
|----------|--|
| pred.new | a new set of predictor(s). |
| w.new | the weights for new.x. |
| ncore | the number of threads to be used for parallel computing. |

Details

Same as boot.med, except that this function uses parallel computing. Need to call the package "doParallel" for this function.

Value

Returns an mma object.

| | |
|--------------|--|
| estimation | list the estimation of ie (indirect effect), te (total effect), and de (direct effect from the predictor) separately. |
| bootsresults | a list where the first item, ie, is a matrix of n2 rows where each column gives the estimated indirect effect from the corresponding mediator (identified by the column name) from the n2 bootstrap samples; the second item, te, is a vector of estimated total effects from the bootstrap sample; and the 3rd item, de, is a vector of estimated direct effect of the predictor from the bootstrap sample. |
| model | a list where the first item, MART, is T if mart is fitted for the final model; the second item, Survival, is T if a survival model is fitted; the third item, type, is the type of prediction when a survival model is fitted; the fourth item, model, is the fitted final full model where y is the outcome and all predictor, covariates, and mediators are the explanatory variables; and the fourth item, best.iter is the number of best iterations if MART is used to fit the final model. |
| data | a list that contains all the used data: x=x, y=y, dirx=dirx, binm=binm, contm=contm, catm=catm, jointm=jointm, binpred=F. |
| boot.detail | a list that contains the mediation effects on each row of new.x: new.x=new.x, te1, de1, ie1. |

Author(s)

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References

Yu, Q., Fan, Y., and Wu, X. (2014) <doi:10.4172/2155-6180.1000189>. "General Multiple Mediation Analysis With an Application to Explore Racial Disparity in Breast Cancer Survival," Journal of Biometrics & Biostatistics,5(2): 189.

See Also

"med" just estimate the mediation effects.

Examples

```
library(doParallel)
data("weight_behavior")
##binary x
#binary y
x=weight_behavior[,c(2,4:14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,3]
y=weight_behavior[,15]
data.bin<-data.org(x,y,pred=pred,contmed=c(7:9,11:12),binmed=c(6,10),binref=c(1,1),
                  catmed=5,catref=1,predref="M",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
temp1<-boot.med.par(data=data.bin,n=2,n2=4,seed=1)
temp2<-boot.med.par(data=data.bin,n=2,n2=4,nu=0.05,seed=1,nonlinear=TRUE)
```

data.org

Data Organization and Identify Potential Mediators

Description

Do a preliminary data analysis to identify potential mediators and covariates. Each variable listed in jointm is forced in the final estimation model as a mediator. Also organize the data into a format that can be directly used for the mediation analysis functions.

Usage

```
data.org(x,y,pred,mediator=NULL,contmed=NULL,binmed=NULL,binref=NULL,catmed=NULL,
        catref=NULL,jointm=NULL,refy=rep(NA,ncol(data.frame(y))),
        family1=as.list(rep(NA,ncol(data.frame(y)))),
        predref=NULL,alpha=0.1,alpha2=0.1,testtype=1,w=NULL,cova=NULL)
```

Arguments

| | |
|----------|--|
| x | a data frame contains the predictor, all potential mediators and covariates. Note that x has to be a data frame. All variables in x that are not identified as potential mediators (by mediator, contmed, binmed, catmed, or jointm) are forced in mediation analysis as covariates. |
| y | the vector of outcome variable. The outcome can be binary, continuous, or of "Surv" class (see survival package for help). |
| pred | the column or matrix of predictor(s): the predictor is the exposure variable, it can be a binary or multi-categorical factor or one/a few continuous variable(s). |
| mediator | the list of mediators (column numbers in x or by variable names). The mediators to be checked can be identified by "contmed", "binmed" and "catmed", or by this argument, "mediator", where binary and categorical mediators in x are identified as factors or characters, the reference group is the first level of the factor or factorized character. If a mediator has only two unique values, the mediator is identified as binary. If the reference groups need to be changed, the binary or categorical mediators can be listed in binmed or catmed, and the corresponding reference group in binref or catref. |

| | |
|----------|--|
| contmed | a vector of variable names or column numbers that locate the potential continuous mediators in x. |
| binmed | a vector of column numbers that locate the potential binary mediators in x. |
| binref | the defined reference groups of the binary potential mediators in binmed. The first levels of the mediators if is null. |
| catmed | a vector of variable names or column numbers that locate the potential categorical mediators in x. The first levels of the mediators if is null. |
| catref | the defined reference groups of the categorical potential mediators in catmed. |
| jointm | a list that identifies the mediators that need to be considered jointly, where the first item indicates the number of groups of mediators to be considered jointly, and each of the following items identifies the variable names or column numbers of the mediators in x for each group of joint mediators. |
| refy | if y is binary, the reference group of y. The default is the first level of <code>as.factor(y)</code> . y for the reference group is assigned as 0. |
| family1 | define the conditional distribution of y given x, and the linkage function that links the mean of y with the system component in generalized linear model. The default value of family1 is <code>binomial(link = "logit")</code> for binary y, and <code>gaussian(link="identity")</code> for continuous y. |
| predref | if the predictor is categorical, identify the reference group of the predictor. The default is the first level of the predictor. The value of the predictor is 0 for the reference group. |
| alpha | the significance level at which to test if the potential mediators (identified by contmed, binmed, and catmed) can be used as a covariate or mediator in estimating y when all variables in x are included in the model. The default value is <code>alpha=0.1</code> |
| alpha2 | the significant level at which to test if a potential mediator is related with the predictor. The default value is <code>alpha2=0.1</code> . |
| testtype | if the testtype is 1 (by default), covariates/mediators are identified using full model; if the testtype is 2, covariates/mediators are tested one by one in models with the predictor only. |
| w | the weight for data analysis, by default is <code>rep(1,length(y))</code> . |
| cova | the covariate names in x for predicting the mediators. The cova cannot be potential mediators, so cova are the covariates for the response automatically. If the covariates are for all potential mediators, cova is a vector of covariate names. If the covariates are for some specific potential mediators, cova is a list with the first item be the names of potential mediators that use the covariates, and the second item be the names of covariates. Works mainly for continuous predictors (pred), also the specified covariates should have no missing if only some mediators uses the covariates. |

Value

data.org returns a list with the organized data and identifiers of the potential mediators in the organized data set.

| | |
|-----------|---|
| x | the organized data frame that include all potential mediators and covariates that should be used to estimate the outcome. |
| dirx | the vector/matrix of predictor(s)/exposure variable(s). |
| contm | the column numbers of x that locate the potential continuous mediators. |
| binm | when the predictor is continuous, binm gives the column numbers of x that locate the potential binary mediators. |
| catm | when the predictor is binary, catm gives the column numbers of x that locate the potential binary or categorical mediators; when the predictor is continuous, catm gives a list where the first item is the number of potential categorical mediators, and the following items give the column numbers of each binarized categorical mediator in x. |
| jointm | a list where the first item is the number of groups of joint mediators, and each of the following items identifies the column numbers of the mediators in the newly organized x for each group of joint mediators. |
| y | the vector/matrix of outcome(s). |
| y_type | the variable type of outcome(s): 1 is continuous, 2 is binary, 3 is reserved for multi-categorical (no 3 would show in y_type, since all categorical responses are binarized), and 4 is survival. |
| fullmodel | a list with each item the full linear model fitted with all potential mediators and covariates for each response. |
| rela | p-values of tests on the relationship between the predictor(s) and each potential mediator. |
| P1 | If testtype=2, P1 gives the p-value of the corresponding variables in predicting the outcome(s) when only the variable and predictor are covariates in the model. |
| cova | the covariate names in x for predicting the mediators. The cova cannot be potential mediators, so cova are the covariates for the response automatically. If the covariates are for all potential mediators, cova is a vector of covariate names. If the covariates are for some specific potential mediators, cova is a list with the first item be the names of potential mediators that use the covariates, and the second item be the names of covariates. If all the specific potential mediators are not chosen as mediators, cova will be set as NULL. |

Note

All other variables in x but not identified by mediator, contmed, binmed, or catmed are forced in the final model as covariates. Compared with data.org, joint mediators are considered in this function. Every variable in the jointm should be listed in contmed, binmed, or catmed, and these variables are forced to be included as mediators for further mediation analysis. A variables can be included in more than one groups of joint mediators in jointm.

Author(s)

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References

Baron, R.M., and Kenny, D.A. (1986) <doi:10.1037/0022-3514.51.6.1173>. The moderator-mediator variable distinction in social psychological research: conceptual, strategic, and statistical considerations. *J. Pers Soc Psychol*, 51(6), 1173-1182.

See Also

"[data.org](#)" that does not consider joint mediators, which can be added freely in the mediation analysis functions later.

Examples

```
data("weight_behavior")
#binary predictor
#binary y
x=weight_behavior[,c(2,4:14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,3]
y=weight_behavior[,15]
data.b.b.2.1<-data.org(x,y,mediator=5:12,jointm=list(n=1,j1=c(5,7,9)),
                    pred=pred,predref="M", alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
summary(data.b.b.2.1)
#Or you can specify the potential mediators and change the reference
#group for binary or categorical mediators. In the following code,
#potential continuous mediators are columns 8,9,10,12, and 13 of x,
#binary mediators are columns 7 and 11, and categorical mediator is
#column 6 of x with 1 to be the reference group for all categorical
#and binary mediators.
data.b.b.2.2<-data.org(x,y,pred=pred,contmed=c(7:9,11:12),binmed=c(6,10),
                    binref=c(1,1),catmed=5,catref=1,jointm=list(n=1,j1=c(5,7,9)),
                    predref="M",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
summary(data.b.b.2)
#use the mediator argument instead of contmet, binmed and catmed

#multivariate predictor

x=weight_behavior[,c(2:3,5:14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,4]
y=weight_behavior[,15]
data.b.b.2.3<-data.org(x,y,mediator=5:12,jointm=list(n=1,j1=c(5,7,9)),
                    pred=pred,predref="OTHER", alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
summary(data.b.b.2.3)

#multivariate responses
x=weight_behavior[,c(2:3,5:14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,4]
y=weight_behavior[,c(1,15)]
data.b.b.2.4<-data.org(x,y,mediator=5:12,jointm=list(n=1,j1=c(5,7,9)),
                    pred=pred,predref="OTHER", alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
summary(data.b.b.2.4)

#continuous y
x=weight_behavior[,c(2,4:14)]
```

```

pred=weight_behavior[,3]
y=weight_behavior[,1]
data.b.c.2<-data.org(x,y,pred=pred,mediator=5:12,jointm=list(n=1,j1=7:9),
  predref="M",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
summary(data.b.c.2)

#continuous predictor
#binary y
x=weight_behavior[,3:14]
pred=weight_behavior[,2]
y=weight_behavior[,15]
data.c.b.2<-data.org(x,y,pred=pred,mediator=5:12,catref=1,
  jointm=list(n=2,j1=7:9,j2=c(5,7)),alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
summary(data.c.b.2)

#multivariate predictors
x=weight_behavior[,c(3:12,14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,c(2,13)]
y=weight_behavior[,15]
data.c.b.2.2<-data.org(x,y,pred=pred,mediator=5:11,catref=1,
  jointm=list(n=2,j1=7:9,j2=c(5,7)),alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
summary(data.c.b.2.2)

#continuous y
x=weight_behavior[,3:14]
pred=weight_behavior[,2]
y=weight_behavior[,1]
data.c.c.2<-data.org(x,y,pred=pred,contmed=c(7:9,11:12),binmed=c(6,10),
  binref=c(1,1),catmed=5,catref=1,jointm=list(n=2,j1=7:9,j2=c(5,7)),
  alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
summary(data.c.c.2)

#multivariate responses
x=weight_behavior[,c(2:3,5:14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,4]
y=weight_behavior[,c(1,15)]
data.b.c.2.4<-data.org(x,y,mediator=5:12,jointm=list(n=1,j1=c(5,7,9)),
  pred=pred,predref="OTHER", alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
summary(data.b.c.2.4)

#
x=weight_behavior[,c(3:12,14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,c(2,13)]
y=weight_behavior[,c(1,15)]
data.c.c.2.2<-data.org(x,y,pred=pred,mediator=5:11,catref=1,
  jointm=list(n=2,j1=7:9,j2=c(5,7)),alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
summary(data.c.c.2.2)

#Surv class outcome (survival analysis)
#data(cgd0)      #a dataset in the survival package
cgd1<-cgd0
x=cgd1[,c(4:5,7:12)]
pred=cgd1[,6]

```

```

status<-ifelse(is.na(cgd1$etime1),0,1)
y=Surv(cgd1$futime,status)
#for continuous predictor
#all other variables are considered as potential mediator
data.surv.contx<-data.org(x,y,pred=pred,mediator=(1:ncol(x)),
                        alpha=0.5,alpha2=0.5)
summary(data.surv.contx)

#for binary predictor
x=cgd1[,c(5:12)]
pred=cgd1[,4]
data.surv.binx<-data.org(x,y,pred=pred,mediator=(1:ncol(x)),
                        alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
summary(data.surv.binx)

```

form.interaction *Create interaction terms of predictor(s) and potential moderator(s).*

Description

Create interaction terms of predictor(S) and potential moderator(s). Mainly for linear models.

Usage

```
form.interaction(x,pred,inter.cov,predref=NULL)
```

Arguments

| | |
|-----------|---|
| x | As the x in data.org. |
| pred | The predictor(s) that might have interaction effect with the potential moderators. |
| inter.cov | The vector of names of potential moderators, which are included in x as covariates. |
| predref | The reference group of the predictor if the predictor is categorical. |

Details

form.interaction is used to create interaction terms between predictor(s) and potential moderator(s). The created interaction terms should be used as covariates in linear mediation analysis. The function is not needed for nonlinear mediation method.

Author(s)

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See Also

["test.moderation"](#)

Examples

```
data("weight_behavior")
pred=weight_behavior[,3]
x=weight_behavior[,c(2,4:14)]
x=form.interaction(x,pred,inter.cov=c("sports","sweat"),predref=NULL)
head(x)
```

 med

Mediation Analysis with Binary or Continuous Predictor

Description

To estimate the mediation effects when the predictor is binary or continuous.

Usage

```
med(data, x=data$x, y=data$y, dirx=data$dirx, binm=data$binm,
     contm = data$contm, catm = data$catm, jointm = data$jointm, cova=data$cova,
     allm = c(contm, catm), margin=1, n=20, seed=sample(1:1000,1),
     nonlinear=F, df=1, nu=0.001, D=3, distn=NULL, family1=data$family1,
     refy=rep(0, ncol(y)), binpred=data$binpred, x.new=x, pred.new=dirx,
     type=NULL, w=NULL, w.new=NULL)
```

Arguments

| | |
|-------|--|
| data | the list of result from data.org that organize the covariates, mediators, predictor and outcome. If data is FALSE, then need to set x1, y1, dirx, contm, catm, and jointm. |
| x | a data frame contains all mediators and covariates. Need to set up only when data is FALSE. All variables in x that are not identified as potential mediators (by mediator, contmed, binmed, catmed, or jointm) are forced in mediation analysis as covariates. |
| y | the vector of outcome variable. Need to set up only when data is FALSE. |
| dirx | the vector or matrix of predictor(s). The reference group is set to be 0. Need to set up only when data is FALSE. |
| binm | the variable names or the column number of x that locates the binary mediators. Need to set up only when data is FALSE. |
| contm | the variable names or the column numbers of x that locate the potential continuous mediators. Need to set up only when data is FALSE. |
| catm | categorical mediators should be binarized and be presented as a list, where the first item is the number of categorical variables and the following items are the names or the column numbers of each binarized categorical variable in x. data.org organizes the categorical mediators in this format after they pass the mediator tests. Need to set up only when data is FALSE. |

| | |
|-----------|--|
| jointm | a list where the first item is the number of groups of joint mediators to be considered, and each of the following items identifies the names or the column numbers of the mediators in x for each group of joint mediators. Need to set up only when data is FALSE. |
| cova | the covariate names in x for predicting the mediators. The cova cannot be potential mediators, so cova are the covariates for the response automatically. If the covariates are for all potential mediators, cova is a vector of covariate names. If the covariates are for some specific potential mediators, cova is a list with the first item be the names of potential mediators that use the covariates, and the second item be the names of covariates. Need to set up only when data is FALSE. |
| allm | the column numbers of all mediators. Need to set up only when data is FALSE. The default value of allm is c(contm,catm). |
| margin | the change in predictor when calculating the mediation effects, see Yu et al. (2014). |
| n | the time of resampling in calculating the indirect effects, default is n=20, see Yu et al. (2014). |
| seed | set seed to make the calculation repeatable. The default value of seed is from sample(1:1000,1). |
| nonlinear | if TRUE, Multiple Additive Regression Trees (MART) will be used to fit the final full model in estimating the outcome. The default value of nonlinear is FALSE, in which case, a generalized linear model will be used to fit the final full model. |
| df | if nonlinear is TRUE, natural cubic spline will be used to fit the relationship between the predictor and each mediator. The df is the degree of freedom in the ns() function, the default is 1. |
| nu | set the parameter "interaction.depth" in gbm function if MART is to be used, by default, nu=0.001. See also help(gbm.fit). |
| D | set the parameter "shrinkage" in gbm function if MART is to be used, by default, D=3. See also help(gbm.fit). |
| distn | the assumed distribution(s) of the outcome(s) if MART is used for final full model. The default value of distn is "gaussian" for continuous y, "bernoulli" for binary y and coxph for "Surv" class outcome. |
| family1 | a list with the ith item define the conditional distribution of y[,i] given x, and the linkage function that links the mean of y with the system component if generalized linear model is used as the final full model. The default value of family1 is gaussian(link="identity") for continuous y[,i], and binomial(link = "logit") for binary y[,i]. |
| refy | if y is binary, the reference group of y. |
| binpred | if TRUE, the predict variable is binary. |
| x.new | A new set of predictor and corresponding covariates, of the same format as x (after data.org), on which to calculate the mediation effects. For continuous predictor only. If is NULL, the mediation effects will be calculated based on the original data set. |

| | |
|----------|--|
| pred.new | A new set of predictor(s), of the same format as x (after data.org), on which to calculate the mediation effects. For continuous predictor only. |
| type | the type of prediction when y is class Surv. By default, type is "risk". |
| w | the weight for each case in x. |
| w.new | the weight for each case in x.new. |

Details

The mediators are not tested in this function. data.org should be used first for the tests and data organizing, and then the resulting list from data.org can be used directly to define the arguments in this function. med considers all variables in x as mediators or covariates in the final model and all variables identified by contm, binm, catm, or jointm as mediators.

Value

The result is an med object with:

| | |
|-------|--|
| denm | a matrix where each column gives the estimated direct effect not from the corresponding mediator (identified by the column name), see Yu et al. (2014) for the definition, and each row corresponding to the results from one resampling for binary predictor or the results on a row of x.new for continuous predictor. |
| ie | a matrix where each column gives the estimated indirect effect from the corresponding mediator (identified by the column name) and each row corresponding to the results from one resampling for binary predictor or the results on a row of x.new for continuous predictor. |
| te | a vector of the estimated total effect on x.new. |
| model | a list, where the first item, MART, is TRUE if a mart is fitted as the final model; the second item, Survival is T if a survival model is fit; the third item, type, is the type of prediction when a survival model is fitted; the fourth item, full.model, is the fitted final full model where y is the outcome and all predictor, covariates, and mediators are the explanatory variables; and the fifth item, best.iter, is the number of best iterations if MART is used to fit the final model, is NULL if the final model is a generalized linear model. |

Author(s)

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References

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- J.H. Friedman (2001) <doi:10.1214/aos/1013203451>. "Greedy Function Approximation: A Gradient Boosting Machine," *Annals of Statistics* 29(5):1189-1232.
- Yu, Q., Fan, Y., and Wu, X. (2014) <doi:10.4172/2155-6180.1000189>. "General Multiple Mediation Analysis With an Application to Explore Racial Disparity in Breast Cancer Survival," *Journal of Biometrics & Biostatistics*,5(2): 189.

See Also

"[boot.med](#)" to make inferences on the estimated mediation effects using bootstrap method.

Examples

```

data("weight_behavior")
##binary x
#binary y
x=weight_behavior[,c(2,4:14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,3]
y=weight_behavior[,15]
data.bin<-data.org(x,y,pred=pred,contmed=c(7:9,11:12),binmed=c(6,10),
  binref=c(1,1),catmed=5,catref=1,predref="M",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
temp1<-med(data=data.bin,n=2,seed=1)
temp2<-med(data=data.bin,n=2,seed=1,nonlinear=TRUE)

#multivariate predictor
x=weight_behavior[,c(2:3,5:14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,4]
y=weight_behavior[,15]
data.b.b.2.3<-data.org(x,y,mediator=5:12,jointm=list(n=1,j1=c(5,7,9)),
  pred=pred,predref="OTHER",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
temp1.2<-med(data.b.b.2.3,n=2,seed=1)
temp2.2<-med(data.b.b.2.3,n=2,seed=1,nonlinear=TRUE)

#multivariate responses
x=weight_behavior[,c(2:3,5:14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,4]
y=weight_behavior[,c(1,15)]
data.b.b.2.4<-data.org(x,y,mediator=5:12,jointm=list(n=1,j1=c(5,7,9)),
  pred=pred,predref="OTHER",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
temp1.3<-med(data.b.b.2.4,n=2,seed=1)
temp2.3<-med(data.b.b.2.4,n=2,seed=1,nonlinear=TRUE)

#continuous y
x=weight_behavior[,c(2,4:14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,3]
y=weight_behavior[,1]
data.cont<-data.org(x,y,pred=pred,mediator=5:12,jointm=list(n=1,j1=7:9),
  predref="M",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
temp3<-med(data=data.cont,n=2,seed=1)
temp4<-med(data=data.cont,n=2,seed=1,nonlinear=TRUE)

##continuous x
#binary y
x=weight_behavior[,3:14]
pred=weight_behavior[,2]
y=weight_behavior[,15]
data.contx<-data.org(x,y,pred=pred,mediator=4:10,alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
temp5<-med(data=data.contx,seed=1,n=2)

```

```

temp6<-med(data=data.contx,seed=1,n=2,nonlinear=TRUE,nu=0.05)

#continuous y
x=weight_behavior[,3:14]
y=weight_behavior[,1]
pred=weight_behavior[,2]
data.contx<-data.org(x,y,pred=pred,contmed=c(11:12),binmed=c(6,10),
                    binref=c(1,1),catmed=5,catref=1,
                    alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)

temp7<-med(data=data.contx,seed=1,n=2)
temp8<-med(data=data.contx,seed=1,n=2,nonlinear=TRUE,nu=0.05)

##Surv class outcome (survival analysis)
#data(cgd0)      #a dataset in the survival package
cgd1<-cgd0
x=cgd1[,c(4:5,7:12)]
pred=cgd1[,6]
status<-ifelse(is.na(cgd1$etime1),0,1)
y=Surv(cgd1$futime,status)
#for continuous predictor
data.surv.contx<-data.org(x,y,pred=pred,mediator=1:ncol(x),
                        alpha=0.5,alpha2=0.5)
temp9.contx<-med(data=data.surv.contx,seed=1,n=2,type="lp")

#close to mart results when use type="lp"
temp9.contx
temp10.contx<-med(data=data.surv.contx,n=2,seed=1,nonlinear=TRUE)
#results in the linear part unit
temp10.contx

#for binary predictor

x=cgd1[,c(5:12)]
pred=cgd1[,4]
data.surv.binx<-data.org(x,y,pred=pred,mediator=1:ncol(x),
                        alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
temp9.binx<-med(data=data.surv.binx,seed=1,n=2,type="lp")
temp9.binx
temp10.binx<-med(data=data.surv.binx,n=2,seed=1,nonlinear=TRUE)
temp10.binx

```

Description

Test for mediators and do statistical inferences on the identified mediation effects.

Usage

```
mma(x,y,pred,mediator=NULL, contmed=NULL,binmed=NULL,binref=NULL,
    catmed=NULL,catref=NULL, jointm=NULL,cova=NULL, refy=rep(NA,ncol(data.frame(y))),
    predref=NULL,alpha=0.1,alpha2=0.1, margin=1, n=20,seed=sample(1:1000,1),
    nonlinear=F,df=1,nu=0.001,D=3,distn=NULL,family1=as.list(rep(NA,ncol(data.frame(y))))),
    n2=50,w=rep(1,nrow(x)), testtype=1, x.new=NULL, pred.new=NULL, type=NULL,w.new=NULL)
```

Arguments

| | |
|----------|--|
| x | a data frame contains the predictor, all potential mediators and covariates. All variables in x that are not identified as potential mediators (by mediator, contmed, binmed, catmed, or jointm) are forced in mediation analysis as covariates. |
| y | the vector of outcome variable. |
| pred | the vector/matrix of the predictor(s). |
| mediator | the list of mediators (column numbers in x or by variable names). The mediators to be checked can be identified by "contmed", "binmed" and "catmed", or by this argument, "mediator", where binary and categorical mediators in x are identified by factors, the reference group is the first level of the factor. |
| contmed | a vector of column numbers that locate the potential continuous mediators in x. |
| binmed | a vector of column numbers that locate the potential binary mediators in x. |
| binref | the defined reference groups of the binary potential mediators in binmed. |
| catmed | a vector of column numbers that locate the potential categorical mediators in x. |
| catref | the defined reference groups of the categorical potential mediators in catmed. |
| jointm | a list that identifies the mediators that need to be considered jointly, where the first item indicates the number of groups of mediators to be considered jointly, and each of the following items identifies the column numbers of the mediators in x for each group of joint mediators. |
| cova | the covariate names in x for predicting the mediators. The cova cannot be potential mediators, so cova are the covariates for the response automatically. If the covariates are for all potential mediators, cova is a vector of covariate names. If the covariates are for some specific potential mediators, cova is a list with the first item be the names of potential mediators that use the covariates, and the second item be the names of covariates. Works mainly for continuous predictors (pred), also the specified covariates should have no missing if only some mediators uses the covariates. |
| refy | if y is binary, the reference group of y. By default, the reference group will be the first level of as.factor(y). |
| predref | if predictor is binary, identify the reference group of the binary predictor. By default, the reference group will be the first level of the predictor. |
| alpha | the significance level at which to test if the potential mediators (identified by contmed, binmed, and catmed) can be used as a covariate or mediator in estimating y when all variables in x are included in the model. The default value is alpha=0.1 |

| | |
|-----------|---|
| alpha2 | the significant level at which to test if a potential mediator is related with the predictor. The default value is alpha2=0.1. |
| margin | if binpred is FALSE, define the change in predictor when calculating the mediation effects, see Yu et al. (2014). |
| n | the time of resampling in calculating the indirect effects, default is n=20, see Yu et al. (2014). |
| seed | set seed to make the calculation repeatable. The default value of seed is from sample(1:1000,1). |
| nonlinear | if TRUE, Multiple Additive Regression Trees (MART) will be used to fit the final full model in estimating the outcome. The default value of nonlinear is FALSE, in which case, a generalized linear model will be used to fit the final full model. |
| df | if nonlinear is TRUE, natural cubic spline will be used to fit the relationship between the continuous predictor and each mediator. The df is the degree of freedom in the ns() function, the default is 1. |
| nu | set the parameter "interaction.depth" in gbm function if MART is to be used, by default, nu=0.001. See also help(gbm.fit). |
| D | set the parameter "shrinkage" in gbm function if MART is to be used, by default, D=3. See also help(gbm.fit). |
| distn | the assumed distribution of the outcome if MART is used for final full model. The default value of distn is "bernoulli" for binary y, and "gaussian" for continuous y. |
| family1 | define the conditional distribution of y given x, and the linkage function that links the mean of y with the system component if generalized linear model is used as the final full model. The default value of family1 is binomial(link = "logit") for binary y, gaussian(link="identity") for continuous y. |
| n2 | the number of times of bootstrap resampling. The default value is n2=50. |
| w | the weight for each observation. |
| testtype | if the testtype is 1 (by default), covariates/mediators are identified using full model; if the testtype is 2, covariates/mediators are tested one by one in models with the predictor only. |
| x.new | A new set of predictor and corresponding covariates, of the same format as x (after data.org), on which to calculate the mediation effects. For continuous predictor only. If is NULL, the mediation effects will be calculated based on the original data set. |
| pred.new | A new set of predictor(s), of the same format as x (after data.org), on which to calculate the mediation effects. For continuous predictor only. |
| type | the type of prediction when y is class Surv. Is "risk" if not specified. |
| w.new | the weights for new.x. |

Details

mma first tests if the potential mediators defined by binm, contm, and catm should be treated as mediators or covariates (if none, the variable will be deleted from further analysis). All variables identified by jointm are treated as mediators. All other variables in x that are not tested are treated as covariates. Then mma does the mediation effects estimation and inference on the selected variables.

Value

Returns an mma object.

| | |
|--------------|--|
| estimation | list the estimation of ie (indirect effect), te (total effect), and de (direct effect from the predictor) separately. |
| bootsresults | a list where the first item, ie, is a matrix of n2 rows where each column gives the estimated indirect effect from the corresponding mediator (identified by the column name) from the n2 bootstrap samples; the second item, te, is a vector of estimated total effects from the bootstrap sample; and the 3rd item, de, is a vector of estimated direct effect of the predictor from the bootstrap sample. |
| model | a list where the first item, MART, is T if mart is fitted for the final model; the second item, Survival, is T if a survival model is fitted; the third item, type, is the type of prediction when a survival model is fitted; the fourth item, model, is the fitted final full model where y is the outcome and all predictor, covariates, and mediators are the explanatory variables; and the fourth item, best.iter is the number of best iterations if MART is used to fit the final model. |
| data | a list that contains all the used data: x=x, y=y, dirx=dirx, binm=binm, contm=contm, catm=catm, jointm=jointm, binpred=F. |
| boot.detail | for continuous predictor only: a list that contains the mediation effects on each row of new.pred: new.pred=new.pred, te1, de1, ie1. |

Author(s)

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References

- Baron, R.M., and Kenny, D.A. (1986) <doi:10.1037/0022-3514.51.6.1173>. "The moderator-mediator variable distinction in social psychological research: conceptual, strategic, and statistical considerations," *J. Pers Soc Psychol*, 51(6), 1173-1182.
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- J.H. Friedman (2001) <doi:10.1214/aos/1013203451>. "Greedy Function Approximation: A Gradient Boosting Machine," *Annals of Statistics* 29(5):1189-1232.
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- Yu, Q., Scribner, R.A., Leonardi, C., Zhang, L., Park, C., Chen, L., and Simonsen, N.R. (2017) <doi:10.1016/j.sste.2017.02.001>. "Exploring racial disparity in obesity: a mediation analysis considering geo-coded environmental factors," *Spatial and Spatio-temporal Epidemiology*, 21, 13-23.

See Also

"[data.org](#)" is for mediator tests, and "[med](#)", and "[boot.med](#)" for mediation analysis and inferences.

Examples

```

data("weight_behavior")
#binary predictor
#binary y
x=weight_behavior[,c(2,4:14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,3]
y=weight_behavior[,15]
temp.b.b.glm<-mma(x,y,pred=pred,contmed=c(7:9,11:12),binmed=c(6,10),binref=c(1,1),
                 catmed=5,catref=1,predref="M",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4,n=2,n2=2)

temp.b.b.mart<-mma(x,y,pred=pred,contmed=c(7:9,11:12),binmed=c(6,10),binref=c(1,1),
                  catmed=5,catref=1,predref="M",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4,nonlinear=TRUE,n=2,n2=5)
#continuous y
x=weight_behavior[,c(2,4:14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,3]
y=weight_behavior[,1]
temp.b.c.glm<-mma(x,y,pred=pred,mediator=5:12,jointm=list(n=1,j1=7:9),
                 predref="M",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4,n2=20)
temp.b.c.mart<-mma(x,y,pred=pred,mediator=5:12,jointm=list(n=1,j1=7:9),
                  predref="M",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4,
                  n=2,seed=1,nonlinear=TRUE,n2=20)

##Surv class outcome (survival analysis)
data(cgd0)      #a dataset in the survival package
x=cgd1[,c(4:5,7:12)]
pred=cgd1[,6]
status<-ifelse(is.na(cgd1$time1),0,1)
y=Surv(cgd1$time1,status)
#for continuous predictor
temp.cox.contx<-mma(x,y,pred=pred,mediator=1:ncol(x),
                   alpha=0.5,alpha2=0.5,seed=1,n=1,n2=2,type="lp")
summary(temp.cox.contx)
temp.surv.mart.contx<-mma(x,y,pred=pred,mediator=1:ncol(x),
                         alpha=0.5,alpha2=0.5,nonlinear=TRUE,seed=1,n2=2)
summary(temp.surv.mart.contx,ball.use=F)
plot(temp.surv.mart.contx,vari="steroids")
plot(temp.cox.contx,vari="steroids")

#for binary predictor
x=cgd1[,c(5:12)]
pred=cgd1[,4]
temp.cox.binx<-mma(x,y,pred=pred,mediator=1:ncol(x),
                  alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4,seed=1,n=1,n2=2,type="lp")
summary(temp.cox.binx)
temp.surv.mart.binx<-mma(x,y,pred=pred,mediator=1:ncol(x),
                       alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4,nonlinear=TRUE,n=1,n2=2)
summary(temp.surv.mart.binx, RE=T,ball.use=F)
plot(temp.surv.mart.binx,vari="hos.cat")
plot(temp.cox.binx,vari="hos.cat")

```

Description

Test for mediators and do statistical inferences on the identified mediation effects using parallel computing (multiple cores).

Usage

```
mma.par(x,y,pred,mediator=NULL, contmed=NULL,binmed=NULL,
        binref=NULL,catmed=NULL,catref=NULL, jointm=NULL, cova=NULL,
        refy=rep(NA,ncol(data.frame(y))), predref=NULL,alpha=0.1,
        alpha2=0.1, margin=1, n=20,seed=sample(1:1000,1),
        nonlinear=F,df=1,nu=0.001,D=3,distn=NULL,
        family1=as.list(rep(NA,ncol(data.frame(y))))),
        n2=50,w=rep(1,nrow(x)), testtype=1, x.new=NULL,
        pred.new=NULL, type=NULL,w.new=NULL, ncore=NULL)
```

Arguments

| | |
|----------|--|
| x | a data frame contains the predictor, all potential mediators and covariates. All variables in x that are not identified as potential mediators (by mediator, contmed, binmed, catmed, or jointm) are forced in mediation analysis as covariates. |
| y | the vector of outcome variable. |
| pred | the vector/matrix of the predictor(s). |
| mediator | the list of mediators (column numbers in x or by variable names). The mediators to be checked can be identified by "contmed", "binmed" and "catmed", or by this argument, "mediator", where binary and categorical mediators in x are identified by factors, the reference group is the first level of the factor. |
| contmed | a vector of column numbers that locate the potential continuous mediators in x. |
| binmed | a vector of column numbers that locate the potential binary mediators in x. |
| binref | the defined reference groups of the binary potential mediators in binmed. |
| catmed | a vector of column numbers that locate the potential categorical mediators in x. |
| catref | the defined reference groups of the categorical potential mediators in catmed. |
| jointm | a list that identifies the mediators that need to be considered jointly, where the first item indicates the number of groups of mediators to be considered jointly, and each of the following items identifies the column numbers of the mediators in x for each group of joint mediators. |
| cova | the covariate names in x for predicting the mediators. The cova cannot be potential mediators, so cova are the covariates for the response automatically. If the covariates are for all potential mediators, cova is a vector of covariate names. If the covariates are for some specific potential mediators, cova is a list with the first item be the names of potential mediators that use the covariates, and the |

| | |
|-----------|---|
| | second item be the names of covariates. Works mainly for continuous predictors (pred), also the specified covariates should have no missing if only some mediators uses the covariates. |
| refy | if y is binary, the reference group of y. By default, the reference group will be the first level of <code>as.factor(y)</code> . |
| predref | if predictor is binary, identify the reference group of the binary predictor. By default, the reference group will be the first level of the predictor. |
| alpha | the significance level at which to test if the potential mediators (identified by <code>contmed</code> , <code>binmed</code> , and <code>catmed</code>) can be used as a covariate or mediator in estimating y when all variables in x are included in the model. The default value is <code>alpha=0.1</code> |
| alpha2 | the significant level at which to test if a potential mediator is related with the predictor. The default value is <code>alpha2=0.1</code> . |
| margin | if <code>binpred</code> is FALSE, define the change in predictor when calculating the mediation effects, see Yu et al. (2014). |
| n | the time of resampling in calculating the indirect effects, default is <code>n=20</code> , see Yu et al. (2014). |
| seed | set seed to make the calculation repeatable. The default value of seed is from <code>sample(1:1000,1)</code> . |
| nonlinear | if TRUE, Multiple Additive Regression Trees (MART) will be used to fit the final full model in estimating the outcome. The default value of nonlinear is FALSE, in which case, a generalized linear model will be used to fit the final full model. |
| df | if nonlinear is TRUE, natural cubic spline will be used to fit the relationship between the continuous predictor and each mediator. The df is the degree of freedom in the <code>ns()</code> function, the default is 1. |
| nu | set the parameter "interaction.depth" in <code>gbm</code> function if MART is to be used, by default, <code>nu=0.001</code> . See also <code>help(gbm.fit)</code> . |
| D | set the parameter "shrinkage" in <code>gbm</code> function if MART is to be used, by default, <code>D=3</code> . See also <code>help(gbm.fit)</code> . |
| distn | the assumed distribution of the outcome if MART is used for final full model. The default value of distn is "bernoulli" for binary y, and "gaussian" for continuous y. |
| family1 | define the conditional distribution of y given x, and the linkage function that links the mean of y with the system component if generalized linear model is used as the final full model. The default value of family1 is <code>binomial(link = "logit")</code> for binary y, <code>gaussian(link="identity")</code> for continuous y. |
| n2 | the number of times of bootstrap resampling. The default value is <code>n2=50</code> . |
| w | the weight for each observation. |
| testtype | if the testtype is 1 (by default), covariates/mediators are identified using full model; if the testtype is 2, covariates/mediators are tested one by one in models with the predictor only. |

| | |
|----------|---|
| x.new | A new set of predictor and corresponding covariates, of the same format as x (after data.org), on which to calculate the mediation effects. For continuous predictor only. If is NULL, the mediation effects will be calculated based on the original data set. |
| pred.new | A new set of predictor(s), of the same format as x (after data.org), on which to calculate the mediation effects. For continuous predictor only. |
| type | the type of prediction when y is class Surv. Is "risk" if not specified. |
| w.new | the weights for new.x. |
| ncore | the number of threads to be used for parallel computing. |

Details

mma.par is the same as mma, but it uses multiple cores for parallel computing to save the computing time. Need to call the package "doParallel" for this function.

Value

Returns an mma object.

| | |
|--------------|--|
| estimation | list the estimation of ie (indirect effect), te (total effect), and de (direct effect from the predictor) separately. |
| bootsresults | a list where the first item, ie, is a matrix of n2 rows where each column gives the estimated indirect effect from the corresponding mediator (identified by the column name) from the n2 bootstrap samples; the second item, te, is a vector of estimated total effects from the bootstrap sample; and the 3rd item, de, is a vector of estimated direct effect of the predictor from the bootstrap sample. |
| model | a list where the first item, MART, is T if mart is fitted for the final model; the second item, Survival, is T if a survival model is fitted; the third item, type, is the type of prediction when a survival model is fitted; the fourth item, model, is the fitted final full model where y is the outcome and all predictor, covariates, and mediators are the explanatory variables; and the fourth item, best.iter is the number of best iterations if MART is used to fit the final model. |
| data | a list that contains all the used data: x=x, y=y, dirx=dirx, binm=binm, contm=contm, catm=catm, jointm=jointm, binpred=F. |
| boot.detail | for continuous predictor only: a list that contains the mediation effects on each row of new.x: new.x=new.x, te1, de1, ie1. |

Author(s)

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References

Baron, R.M., and Kenny, D.A. (1986) <doi:10.1037/0022-3514.51.6.1173>. "The moderator-mediator variable distinction in social psychological research: conceptual, strategic, and statistical considerations," J. Pers Soc Psychol, 51(6), 1173-1182.

J.H. Friedman, T. Hastie, R. Tibshirani (2000) <doi:10.1214/aos/1016120463>. "Additive Logistic Regression: a Statistical View of Boosting," Annals of Statistics 28(2):337-374.

J.H. Friedman (2001) <doi:10.1214/aos/1013203451>. "Greedy Function Approximation: A Gradient Boosting Machine," Annals of Statistics 29(5):1189-1232.

Yu, Q., Fan, Y., and Wu, X. (2014) <doi:10.4172/2155-6180.1000189>. "General Multiple Mediation Analysis With an Application to Explore Racial Disparity in Breast Cancer Survival," Journal of Biometrics & Biostatistics,5(2): 189.

See Also

"[data.org](#)" is for mediator tests, and "[med](#)", and "[boot.med](#)" for mediation analysis and inferences.

Examples

```
library(doParallel)
data("weight_behavior")
#binary predictor
#binary y
x=weight_behavior[,c(2,4:14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,3]
y=weight_behavior[,15]
temp.b.b.glm<-mma.par(x,y,pred=pred,contmed=c(7:9,11:12),binmed=c(6,10),binref=c(1,1),
                      catmed=5,catref=1,predref="M",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4,n=2,n2=2)

temp.b.b.mart<-mma.par(x,y,pred=pred,contmed=c(7:9,11:12),binmed=c(6,10),binref=c(1,1),
                      catmed=5,catref=1,predref="M",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4,nonlinear=TRUE,n=2,n2=5)
#continuous y
x=weight_behavior[,c(2,4:14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,3]
y=weight_behavior[,1]
temp.b.c.glm<-mma.par(x,y,pred=pred,mediator=5:12,jointm=list(n=1,j1=7:9),
                      predref="M",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4,n2=20)
temp.b.c.mart<-mma.par(x,y,pred=pred,mediator=5:12,jointm=list(n=1,j1=7:9),
                      predref="M",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4,
                      n=2,seed=1,nonlinear=TRUE,n2=20)
```

plot.med

Plot the mediation effect on the fitted med object

Description

Plot the marginal effect of the selected variable on the outcome, and the marginal effect of the predictor on the selected variable.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'med'
plot(x,data,...,vari,xlim=NULL)
```

Arguments

| | |
|------|---|
| data | a med object created initially call to med. |
| x | a med object created initially call to med, med.binx, or med.contx. |
| vari | an indices or the name of the variable to plot. |
| xlim | the range of the variable to be plotted. |
| ... | other arguments passed to the plot function. |

Details

plot.med plots the marginal effect of the selected variable on the outcome, and the marginal effect of the predictor on the selected variable. If the predictor is binary, draw a histogram or boxplot of the marginal density of the variable at each different value of the predictor.

Author(s)

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References

Yu, Q., Fan, Y., and Wu, X. (2014) <doi:10.4172/2155-6180.1000189>. "General Multiple Mediation Analysis With an Application to Explore Racial Disparity in Breast Cancer Survival," Journal of Biometrics & Biostatistics,5(2): 189.

See Also

["med"](#)

Examples

```
data("weight_behavior")
x=weight_behavior[,c(2,4:14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,3]
y=weight_behavior[,15]
data.bin<-data.org(x,y,pred=pred,contmed=c(7:9,11:12),binmed=c(6,10),
  binref=c(1,1),catmed=5,catref=1,predref="M",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
temp1<-med(data=data.bin,n=2,seed=1)
temp2<-med(data=data.bin,n=2,seed=1,nonlinear=TRUE)
plot(temp1,data.bin,vari="exercises",xlim=c(0,50))
plot(temp2,data.bin,vari="sports")
```

| | |
|----------|---|
| plot.mma | <i>Relative effects plot of the fitted mma object</i> |
|----------|---|

Description

Plot the marginal effect of the selected variable on the outcome, and the marginal effect of the predictor on the selected variable.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'mma'
plot(x, ..., vari, xlim=NULL, alpha=0.95,
      quantile=F)
```

Arguments

| | |
|----------|--|
| x | a mma object created initially call to mma, boot.met.binx, or boot.met.contx. |
| vari | an indices or the name of the variable to plot. |
| xlim | the range of the variable to be plotted. |
| alpha | for continuous predictor only, to draw the alpha confidence interval of the indirect effect. |
| quantile | for continuous predictor only, if true to draw the alpha confidence interval of the indirect effect based on quantile, otherwise, based on the normal approximation. |
| ... | other arguments passed to the plot function. |

Details

plot.mma plots the marginal effect of the selected variable on the outcome, and the marginal effect of the predictor on the selected variable. If the predictor is binary, draw a histogram or boxplot of the marginal density of the variable at each different value of the predictor.

Author(s)

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References

Yu, Q., Fan, Y., and Wu, X. (2014) <doi:10.4172/2155-6180.1000189>. "General Multiple Mediation Analysis With an Application to Explore Racial Disparity in Breast Cancer Survival," Journal of Biometrics & Biostatistics,5(2): 189.

See Also

"mma", "boot.med"

Examples

```

data("weight_behavior")
x=weight_behavior[,c(2,4:14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,3]
y=weight_behavior[,15]
temp.b.b.glm<-mma(x,y,pred=pred,contmed=c(7:9,11:12),binmed=c(6,10),binref=c(1,1),
                 catmed=5,catref=1,predref="M",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4,n=2,n2=2)
plot(temp.b.b.glm,vari="exercises",xlim=c(0,50))
plot(temp.b.b.glm,vari="sports")

```

print.med

Print an med object

Description

Print the estimation of mediation effects from an med object: from functions med.

Usage

```

## S3 method for class 'med'
print(x,...,digit=4)

```

Arguments

x a med object created initially call to med.
... other arguments passed to the print function.
digit the number of digits to keep at printing.

Author(s)

Qingzhao Yu <qyu@lsuhsc.edu>

References

Yu, Q., Fan, Y., and Wu, X. (2014) <doi:10.4172/2155-6180.1000189>. "General Multiple Mediation Analysis With an Application to Explore Racial Disparity in Breast Cancer Survival," *Journal of Biometrics & Biostatistics*,5(2): 189.

See Also

["med"](#)

Examples

```

data("weight_behavior")
##binary x
#binary y
x=weight_behavior[,c(2,4:14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,3]
y=weight_behavior[,15]
data.bin<-data.org(x,y,pred=pred,contmed=c(7:9,11:12),binmed=c(6,10),
                  binref=c(1,1),catmed=5,catref=1,predref="M",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
temp1<-med(data=data.bin,n=2,seed=1)
temp2<-med(data=data.bin,n=2,seed=1,nonlinear=TRUE)
temp1
print(temp2,digit=5)

```

```
print.mma          Print a mma object
```

Description

Print the estimation of mediation effects from an mma object.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'mma'
print(x,...,digit=3)
```

Arguments

| | |
|-------|---|
| x | a mma object created initially call to mma, boot.med.binx, or boot.med.contx. |
| ... | other arguments passed to the print function. |
| digit | the number of decimal digits to keep. |

Value

Return a LIST

| | |
|----|---|
| ie | estimation of the indirect effects from the mma object. |
| te | estimation of the total effect from the mma object. |
| de | estimation of the direct effect from the mma object. |

Author(s)

Qingzhao Yu <qyu@lsuhsc.edu>

References

Yu, Q., Fan, Y., and Wu, X. (2014) <doi:10.4172/2155-6180.1000189>. "General Multiple Mediation Analysis With an Application to Explore Racial Disparity in Breast Cancer Survival," *Journal of Biometrics & Biostatistics*,5(2): 189.

See Also

"mma", "boot.med"

Examples

```
data("weight_behavior")
x=weight_behavior[,c(2,4:14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,3]
y=weight_behavior[,15]
temp.b.b.glm<-mma(x,y,pred=pred,contmed=c(7:9,11:12),binmed=c(6,10),binref=c(1,1),
                 catmed=5,catref=1,predref="M",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4,n=2,n2=2)
print(temp.b.b.glm,digit=8)
```

| | |
|------------------|---|
| summary.med_iden | <i>Summary method for class "med_iden".</i> |
|------------------|---|

Description

Compute the estimations, standard deviations and confidence intervals of the mediation effects.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'med_iden'
summary(object,...,only=F)
## S3 method for class 'summary.med_iden'
print(x,...)
```

Arguments

| | |
|--------|--|
| object | a med_iden object created initially call to data.org. |
| x | a summary.med_iden object created initially call to summary.med_iden |
| ... | other arguments passed to the print function. |
| only | if only=T, show test results for selected covariates and mediators only. |

Details

summary.med_iden gives a list of identified mediators, covariates and the test results.

Value

The function summary.med_iden return a list of covariates and mediators as identified by a series tests.

| | |
|----------|--|
| mediator | variable names of the identified mediators, either significant in both full model and in relate to the predictor, or being a member of the pre-identified joint mediators. |
|----------|--|

| | |
|-----------|--|
| covariate | variable names of covariates: being significant in the full model but not significantly relate with the predictor. |
| tests | statistical test results. |
| results | the original object. |

Author(s)

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References

Yu, Q., Fan, Y., and Wu, X. (2014) <doi:10.4172/2155-6180.1000189>. "General Multiple Mediation Analysis With an Application to Explore Racial Disparity in Breast Cancer Survival," *Journal of Biometrics & Biostatistics*,5(2): 189.

See Also

"mma", "boot.med"

Examples

```
data("weight_behavior")
x=weight_behavior[,c(2,4:14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,3]
y=weight_behavior[,15]
data.b.b.2<-data.org(x,y,mediator=5:12,jointm=list(n=1,j1=c(5,7,9)),
  pred=pred,predref="M", alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
summary(data.b.b.2)
```

summary.mma

Summary of an mma project

Description

Compute the estimations, standard deviations and confidence intervals of the mediation effects.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'mma'
summary(object,..., alpha=0.05, plot=TRUE, RE=FALSE,quant=T,ball.use=T)
## S3 method for class 'summary.mma'
print(x,...,digit=3)
```

Arguments

| | |
|----------|---|
| object | a mma object created initially call to mma, boot.met.binx, or boot.met.contx. |
| x | a summary.mma object created initially call to summary.mma. |
| ... | other arguments passed to the print function. |
| alpha | the alpha level for confidence interval. |
| plot | default is TRUE, if ture, draw a barplot of the mediation effects with confidence intervals. |
| RE | default is FALSE, if ture, show the inferences on relative mediation effects. |
| quant | default is TRUE, if ture and ball.use is F, draw the confidence intervals of relative effects using quantile. |
| ball.use | default is TRUE, if ture, draw the confidence intervals of relative effects using the confidence ball. If both quant and ball.use are false, draw the confidence intervals based on the standard deviaitons from bootstrap estimates. |
| digit | the number of decimal digits to keep. |

Details

summary.mma gives a list of the estimations and summary statistics based on the bootstrap results. If plot=T, draw a barplot of the relative effects of the direct effect of the predictor and indirect effects of the mediators. Relative effects is defined as the (in)direct effect divided by the total effect. The plot is arranged in order from the largest to the smallest relative effect.

Value

The function summary.mma return a list. The first item, results, is the list for mediation effects, and the second item, re, is the list for relative effects. Under them, results have the items ie, te and de; re has the items ie and de. In each of the items, est is the estimation of the corresponding (relative) mediation effects based on the whole data, mean is the average estimated (relative) effects from the bootstrap samples, sd is the standard deviation of the estimates from the bootstrap sample. upbd and lwbd are the upper and lower bound of the confidence interval of the estimation using parametric method from the bootstrap sample, upbd_q and lwbd_q are the corresponding quantiles of the estimation from the bootstrap sample.

| | |
|----|---|
| ie | a matrix of statistics inference on the (relative) indirect effects from the mma object. est is the estimate using the full sample. mean is the estimate that average over the bootstrap estimates. sd is the standard deviation of the bootstrap estimates. upbd and lwbd are the confidence bounds based on sd. upbd_q and lwbd_q are the confidence bounds based on quantiles of the bootstrap estimates. upbd_b and lwbd_b are condidence ball bounds based on bootstrap estimates. |
| te | statistics inference on the total effects from the mma object. |
| de | statistics inference on the (relative) direct effects from the mma object. |

If plot=T, draw a barplot of the relative mediation effects.

Author(s)

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References

Yu, Q., Fan, Y., and Wu, X. (2014) <doi:10.4172/2155-6180.1000189>. "General Multiple Mediation Analysis With an Application to Explore Racial Disparity in Breast Cancer Survival," *Journal of Biometrics & Biostatistics*,5(2): 189.

See Also

"mma", "boot.med"

Examples

```
data("weight_behavior")
x=weight_behavior[,c(2,4:14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,3]
y=weight_behavior[,15]
temp.b.b.glm<-mma(x,y,pred=pred,contmed=c(7:9,11:12),binmed=c(6,10),binref=c(1,1),
                 catmed=5,catref=1,predref="M",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4,n=2,n2=2)
summary(temp.b.b.glm, RE=TRUE, ball.use=FALSE)
summary(temp.b.b.glm, ball.use=FALSE)
```

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| test.moderation | <i>Test for moderation effects.</i> |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|

Description

Used on a med object, test if there are moderation effects.

Usage

```
test.moderation(med1, vari, j=1, kx=NULL)
```

Arguments

| | |
|------|---|
| med1 | a med object created initially call to med. |
| vari | If med1 was from generalized linear method, vari is the vector of names of potential moderation effects – the interaction terms formed by the potential moderator(s) times the predictor(s). Those interaction terms have to be included in mediation analysis as covariates. If med1 was formed by nonlinear method, vari is the vector of names of potential moderators, which have been included in mediation analysis as covariates. |
| j | To check the moderation effect on the jth response. |
| kx | The moderation effect is with the kx-th predictor(s). kx can be a vector. If kx is null, the moderation effect is with each predictor. |

Details

test.moderation is used to test whether certain moderation effect is significant based on the med object from med function (mediation analysis). If generalized linear models were used for mediation analysis, the moderation effects (formed by the interactions of potential moderators and predictor) should be included in the mediation analysis as covariates. The function test.moderation will give the significance levels of these interaction terms. If nonlinear models were used for mediation analysis, the potential moderators (but not the interaction terms) should have been included in mediation analysis as covariates. The function test.moderation will give not only significance levels of their interaction with the predictor(s) in generalized linear model, but also the H-statistics by Friedman and Popescu (2008).

Author(s)

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References

Yu, Q., Fan, Y., and Wu, X. (2014) <doi:10.4172/2155-6180.1000189>. "General Multiple Mediation Analysis With an Application to Explore Racial Disparity in Breast Cancer Survival," Journal of Biometrics & Biostatistics,5(2): 189.

Friedman, J.H. and Popescu B.E. (2008) "PREDICTIVE LEARNING VIA RULE ENSEMBLES," Annals of Applied Statistics, 2(3): 916-954.

See Also

["med"](#)

Examples

```
data("weight_behavior")
x=weight_behavior[,c(2,4:14)]
pred=weight_behavior[,3]
y=weight_behavior[,15]
data.bin<-data.org(x,y,pred=pred,contmed=c(7:9,11:12),binmed=c(6,10),
                  binref=c(1,1),catmed=5,catref=1,predref="M",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
temp2<-med(data=data.bin,n=2,seed=1,nonlinear=TRUE)
test.moderation(temp2,c("sports","sweat"),j=1,kx=NULL)
```

```
x=form.interaction(x,pred,inter.cov=c("sports","sweat"),predref=NULL)
data.bin<-data.org(x,y,pred=pred,contmed=c(7:9,11:12),binmed=c(6,10),
                  binref=c(1,1),catmed=5,catref=1,predref="M",alpha=0.4,alpha2=0.4)
temp1<-med(data=data.bin,n=2,seed=1)
test.moderation(temp1,c("sports","sweat"),j=1,kx=NULL)
```

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| weight_behavior | <i>Weight_Behavior Data Set</i> |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|

Description

This database was obtained from the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, by Dr. Richard Scribner. He explored the relationship between BMI and kids behavior through a survey at children, teachers and parents in Grenada in 2014. This data set includes 691 observations and 15 variables.

Usage

```
data(weight_behavior)
```

Format

The data set contains the following variables:

bmi - body mass index, calculated by $\text{weight}(\text{kg})/\text{height}(\text{cm})^2$, numeric

age - children's age in years at the time of survey, numeric

sex - sex of the children, factor

race - race of the children, factor

numpeople - number of people in family, numeric

car - the number of cars in family, numeric

gotosch - the method used to go to school, factor

snack - eat snack or not in a day, binary

tvhours - number of hours watching TV per week, numeric

cmphours - number of hours using computer per week, numeric

cellhours - number of hours playing with cell phones per week, numeric

sports - join in a sport team or not, 1: yes; and 2: no

exercises - number of hours of exercises per week, numeric

sweat - number of hours of sweating activities per week, numeric

overweigh - the child is overweighed or not, binary

Examples

```
data(weight_behavior)
names(weight_behavior)
```

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