Package ‘InvariantCausalPrediction’

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Type Package

Title Invariant Causal Prediction

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Description Confidence intervals for causal effects, using data collected in different experimental or environmental conditions. Hidden variables can be included in the model with a more experimental version.

License GPL

NeedsCompilation no

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InvariantCausalPrediction-package

Invariant causal prediction

Description

Confidence intervals for causal prediction in a regression setting. An experimental version is also available for classification.

Details

Package: InvariantCausalPrediction
Type: Package
Version: 0.6-1
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License: GPL

Confidence intervals can be computed with function icp, both for regression and binary classification. print, plot and summary methods are available.

Author(s)

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hiddenICP

Invariant Causal Prediction with hidden variables

Description

Confidence intervals for causal effects in a regression setting with possible confounders.

Usage

hiddenICP(X, Y, ExpInd, alpha = 0.1, mode = "asymptotic", intercept=FALSE)

Arguments

X A matrix (or data frame) with the predictor variables for all experimental settings
Y The response or target variable of interest. Can be numeric for regression or a factor with two levels for binary classification.
ExpInd

Indicator of the experiment or the intervention type an observation belongs to. Can be a numeric vector of the same length as Y with K unique entries if there are K different experiments (for example entry 1 for all observational data and entry 2 for intervention data). Can also be a list, where each element of the list contains the indices of all observations that belong to the corresponding grouping in the data (for example two elements: first element is a vector that contains indices of observations that are observational data and second element is a vector that contains indices of all observations that are of interventional type).

alpha

The level of the test procedure. Use the default alpha=0.1 to obtain 90% confidence intervals.

mode

Currently only mode "asymptotic" is implemented; the argument is thus in the current version without effect.

intercept

Boolean variable; if TRUE, an intercept is added to the design matrix (but coefficients are returned without intercept term).

Value

A list with elements

betahat

The point estimator for the causal effects

minCoefficients

The value in the confidence interval for each variable effects that is closest to 0. Is hence non-zero for variables with significant effects.

ConfInt

The matrix with confidence intervals for the causal coefficient of all variables. First row is the upper bound and second row the lower bound.

pvalues

The p-values of all variables.

colnames

The column-names of the predictor variables.

alpha

The chosen level.

Author(s)

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References

none yet.

See Also

ICP for reconstructing the parents of a variable under arbitrary interventions on all other variables (but no hidden variables). See package "backShift" for constructing point estimates of causal cyclic models in the presence of hidden variables (again under shift interventions).
Examples

### 1st example:
#### Simulate data with interventions
```r
set.seed(1)
## sample size n
n <- 2000
## 4 predictor variables
p <- 4
## simulate as independent Gaussian variables
X <- matrix(rnorm(n*p), nrow=n)
## divide data into observational (ExpInd=1) and interventional (ExpInd=2)
ExpInd <- c(rep(1,n/2), rep(2, n/2))
## for interventional data (ExpInd==2): change distribution
n1 <- sum(ExpInd == 2)
X[ExpInd==2,] <- X[ExpInd==2,] + matrix(5*rt(n1*p, df=3), ncol=p)
## add hidden variables
W <- rnorm(n) * 5
X <- X + outer(W, rep(1,4))
## first two variables are the causal predictors of y
beta <- c(1, 1, 0, 0)
## response variable Y
Y <- as.numeric(X%*%beta + 2*W + rnorm(n))
```

#### Compute "hidden Invariant Causal Prediction" Confidence Intervals
```
icp <- hiddenICP(X, Y, ExpInd, alpha=0.01)
print(icp)
```

#### Print point estimates and points in the confidence interval closest to 0
```
print(icp$betahat)
print(icp$maximinCoefficients)
cat("true coefficients are: ", beta)
```

#### compare with coefficients from a linear model
```
cat("coefficients from linear model: ")
print(summary(lm(Y ~ X))
```

### 2nd example:
#### Simulate model X -> Y -> Z with hidden variables, trying to
#### estimate causal effects from (X, Z) on Y
```r
set.seed(1)
## sample size n
n <- 10000
## simulate as independent Gaussian variables
W <- rnorm(n)
noiseX <- rnorm(n)
Y <- as.numeric(W + rnorm(n))
X <- as.numeric(X + noiseX)
Z <- as.numeric(X + W)
```

#### Export summary as text
```r
```
```
ICP

**Invariant Causal Prediction**

**Description**

Confidence intervals for causal effects in a regression setting.

**Usage**

ICP(X, Y, ExpInd, alpha=0.01, test = "normal", selection = c("lasso", "all", "stability", "boosting")
[if (ncol(X) <=8) 2 else 4],
maxNoVariables = 8, maxNoVariablesSimult = 8,
maxNoObs = 200,
showAcceptedSets = TRUE,
showCompletion = TRUE,
stopIfEmpty = FALSE,
gof = max(0.01, alpha))
Arguments

X  A matrix (or data frame) with the predictor variables for all experimental settings
Y  The response or target variable of interest. Can be numeric for regression or a factor with two levels for binary classification.
ExpInd  Indicator of the experiment or the intervention type an observation belongs to. Can be a numeric vector of the same length as Y with K unique entries if there are K different experiments (for example entry 1 for all observational data and entry 2 for intervention data). Can also be a list, where each element of the list contains the indices of all observations that belong to the corresponding grouping in the data (for example two elements: first element is a vector that contains indices of observations that are observational data and second element is a vector that contains indices of all observations that are of interventional type).
alpha  Determines coverage of the confidence regions. alpha is the probability of non-coverage, so the default of 0.01 produces 99% confidence intervals. If no model has a p-value of at least alpha, the model assumptions seem violated and modelReject will return TRUE.
test  Use "exact" for an exact test in a regression setting, especially if sample size is small. However, this test is computationally demanding if sample size is high. The default "normal" tests for a shift in mean and variance of the residuals between different populations/environments. Using "correlation" tests additionally for vanishing correlation between predictor variables and residuals in each environment. Other options are "ranks" that uses a rank-based alternative and "ks" for a Kolmogorov-Smirnov test to detect differences in the distributions of the residuals between different environments. It is also possible to supply a function of the form function(xLzI that takes samples x and z of two populations as arguments and whose return value is the p-value for the null hypothesis that the two underlying distribution are identical.
selection  The method for pre-selection of variables to save computational resources. Can use "all" for no pre-selection (which guarantees coverage but might take longer to compute), "boosting" for a boosting-type, "lasso" for Lasso cross-validated or "stability" for a stability-selection-type pre-selection. Default is "all" if p does not exceed 10 and "boosting" otherwise.
maxNoVariables  The maximal number of variables to pre-select (choosing smaller values saves computational resources but increases approximation error).
maxNoVariablesSimult  The maximal size of sets of variables considered in the procedure (same comment as for maxNoVariables).
maxNoObs  The maximal number of observations used for the "exact" test (same comment as for maxNoVariables).
showAcceptedSets  If TRUE, print out information about accepted sets of variables.
showCompletion  If TRUE, print out information about progress of computation.
stopIfEmpty  If TRUE, the procedure will stop computing confidence intervals if the empty set has been accepted (and hence no variable can have a significant causal effect).
Setting to TRUE will save computational time in these cases, but means that the confidence intervals lose their coverage properties for values different to 0.

gof
If no set of variables (including the empty set) leads to a p-value larger than the goodness-of-fit cutoff $gof$, the whole model will be rejected. If the model is correct, this will happen with a probability of $gof$ and this option protects against making statements when the model is obviously not suitable for the data.

Value
A list with elements

- **ConfInt**: The matrix with confidence intervals for the causal coefficient of all variables. First row is the upper bound and second row the lower bound.
- **maximinCoefficients**: The value in the confidence interval closest to 0. Is hence non-zero for variables with significant effects.
- **colnames**: The names of the variables (replaced with generic "Variable 1" etc. if not available).
- **factor**: Logical indicating whether the response is a factor or not.
- **dimX**: The dimensions of the matrix with predictor variables.
- **Coeff**: A list which contains for all variables the vector with point-estimates among all accepted sets where the variable was part of the set.
- **CoeffVar**: Same as **Coeff** but with the standard deviation of the point-estimate.
- **modelReject**: Logical indicating if the whole model was rejected (the p-value of the best fitting model is too low).
- **acceptedSets**: A list with one element per accepted set. For each accepted model the list entry is a vector that contains the indices of the variables in the accepted set.
- **usedvariables**: The pre-selected variables if not all variables are used for the analysis; otherwise all variables.
- **pvalues**: The p-values of all variables.
- **stopIfEmpty**: A boolean value indicating whether computations stop as soon as intersection of accepted sets is empty.
- **noEnv**: The number of distinct environments.
- **gof**: The goodness-of-fit cutoff $gof$ used.
- **bestModel**: The largest p-value across all tested sets of variables.

Author(s)
Nicolai Meinshausen <meinshausen@stat.math.ethz.ch>

References
Jonas Peters, Peter Buhlmann, Nicolai Meinshausen (2015):
Causal inference using invariant prediction: identification and confidence intervals
See Also

`hiddenICP` for reconstructing the parents of a variable in the presence of hidden variables (but assuming shift/additive interventions), which also allows construction of confidence intervals for the causal coefficients. See package "backShift" for constructing point estimates of causal cyclic models in the presence of hidden variables (again under shift interventions).

Examples

```r
# 1st example
set.seed(1)
## sample size n
n <- 4000
## 5 predictor variables
p <- 5
## simulate as independent Gaussian variables
X <- matrix(rnorm(n*p), nrow=n)
## divide data into observational (ExpInd=1) and interventional (ExpInd=2)
ExpInd <- c(rep(1, n/2), rep(2, n/2))
## for interventional data (ExpInd==2): change distribution
X[ExpInd==2,] <- sweep(X[ExpInd==2,], 2, 5*rnorm(p), FUN="*")
## first two variables are the causal predictors of y
beta <- c(1, 1, rep(0, p-2))
## response variable y
Y <- as.numeric(X[,1:2]*beta + rnorm(n))
## optional: make last variable a child of y (so last variable is non-causal for y)
X[,p] <- 0.3*Y + rnorm(n)

## Compute "Invariant Causal Prediction" Confidence Intervals
icp <- ICP(X, Y, ExpInd)

## Print/show summary of output
print(icp)
plot(icp)

## compare with linear model
print(summary(lm(y~x)))
```

# 2nd example

```r
## Simulate a DAG where X1 -> Y, Y -> X2 and Y -> X3
## noise interventions on second half of data on X1
## structure of DAG (at Y -> X2) is changing under interventions
n1 <- 400
n2 <- 500
ExpInd <- c(rep(1, n1), rep(2, n2))
## index for observational (ExpInd=1) and intervention data (ExpInd=2)
X1 <- c(rnorm(n1), 2 * rnorm(n2) + 1)
Y <- 0.5 * X1 + 0.2 * rnorm(n1 + n2)
```
X2 <- c(1.5 * Y[1:n1] + 0.4 * rnorm(n1),
         -0.3 * Y[(n1+1):n2] + 0.4 * rnorm(n2))
X3 <- -0.4 * Y + 0.2 * rnorm(n1 + n2)
X <- cbind(X1, X2, X3)

### Compute "Invariant Causal Prediction" Confidence Intervals
# use a rank-based test to detect shift in distribution of residuals
icp <- ICP(X, Y, ExpInd, test="ranks")
# use a Kolmogorov-Smirnov test to detect shift in distribution of residuals
icp <- ICP(X, Y, ExpInd, test="ks")
# can also supply test as a function
# here chosen to be equivalent to option "ks" above
icp <- ICP(X, Y, ExpInd, test=function(x,z) ks.test(x,z)$p.val)
# use a test based on normal approximations
icp <- ICP(X, Y, ExpInd, test="normal")

### Print/plot/show summary of output
print(icp)
plot(icp)

### compare with linear model
print(summary(lm(Y~X)))

## Not run:
#==================================
# 3rd example:
## College Distance data
library(AER)
data("CollegeDistance")
CD <- CollegeDistance

# define two experimental settings by
# distance to closest 4-year college
ExpInd <- list()
ExpInd[[1]] <- which(CD$distance < quantile(CD$distance,0.5))
ExpInd[[2]] <- which(CD$distance >= quantile(CD$distance,0.5))

# target variable is binary (did education lead at least to BA degree?)
Y <- as.factor(CD$education>16)
# use these predictors
X <- CD[,c("gender","ethnicity","score","fcollege","mcollege","home",
           "urban","unemp","wage","tuition","income","region")]

# searching all subsets (use selection="lasso" or selection="stability"
# to select a subset of subsets to search)
# with selection="all" the function will take several minutes
icp <- ICP(X,Y,ExpInd,selection="all",alpha=0.1)
## Description

Plots confidence intervals for invariant causal prediction (output of `ICP` function)

## Usage

```r
## S3 method for class 'InvariantCausalPrediction'
plot(x,
     maxshow = 50, col1 = NULL, col2 = NULL, col3 = NULL,
     mar = c(10, 4, 3, 1), lwd = 1, ...)
```

## Arguments

- `x` Object of class "InvariantCausalPrediction", as generated by function `ICP`.
- `maxshow` Maximal number of variables to show confidence intervals for
- `col1` Colour of confidence intervals generated by accepted sets of variables (defaults to light red).
- `col2` Colour of point-estimates generated by accepted sets of variables (defaults to light red).
- `col3` Colour of confidence intervals generated by procedure (defaults to blue).
- `mar` Margins for the figure (might need to be adjusted to allow for long variable names.
- `lwd` Scaling of the width of the lines used for individual confidence intervals.
- `...` Additional inputs to generic `plot` function (not used).

## Value

Does not return an object.

## Author(s)

Nicolai Meinshausen <meinshausen@stat.math.ethz.ch>
summary.InvariantCausalPrediction

References
Jonas Peters, Peter Buhlmann, Nicolai Meinshausen (2015):
Causal inference using invariant prediction: identification and confidence intervals

See Also
ICP

summary.InvariantCausalPrediction

Summary of "InvariantCausalPrediction" objects

Description
Prints confidence intervals for invariant causal prediction (output of ICP function)

Usage

## S3 method for class 'InvariantCausalPrediction'
summary(object, maxshow = 50, ...)

Arguments

object Object of class "InvariantCausalPrediction", as generated by function ICP.
maxshow Maximal number of variables to show in the summary.
... Additional inputs to generic summary function (not used).

Value
Does not return an object.

Author(s)
Nicolai Meinshausen <meinshausen@stat.math.ethz.ch>

References
Jonas Peters, Peter Buhlmann, Nicolai Meinshausen (2015):
Causal inference using invariant prediction: identification and confidence intervals

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