Package ‘MED’
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Type Package
Title Mediation by Tilted Balancing
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Author Gary Chan <kcgchan@u.washington.edu>
Maintainer Gary Chan <kcgchan@u.washington.edu>
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MED-package
Nonparametric estimation of natural mediation effects by tilted balancing.

Description

This package provides a user-friendly interface for nonparametric efficient inference of natural mediation effects effects for observational data. The package provides point estimates for average treatment effects, natural direct effects and natural indirect effects. The package also allows inference by consistent variance estimators.

Details
Package: MED
Type: Package
Version: 0.1.0
Date: 2015-02-09
License: GPL (>= 2)

The package includes the following functions:

- **med**: Estimate the Natural Indirect and Direct Effects
- **summary.MED**: summary method for class "MED"

**Author(s)**

Gary Chan, based on the ATE package developed together with Asad Haris.

Maintainer: Gary Chan <kgchan@uw.edu>

**References**


**See Also**

med

**Description**

The main function for estimating the natural direct and indirect effects. This function creates an MED object which can be used as inputs for generic S3 summary function. This function uses a covariate balancing method which creates weights for each subject, without a need to specify a propensity score, mediator regression or outcome regression models. The main function depends on a Newton-Raphson algorithm with backtracking.

**Usage**

```R
MED (Y, Ti, M, X, theta = 0, verbose = FALSE, PIE = FALSE, max.iter = 100, tol = 1e-10, backtrack = TRUE, backtrack.alpha = 0.3, backtrack.beta = 0.5, ...)
```
### Arguments

- **Y**: The response vector of length $n$. This has to be a numeric vector.
- **Ti**: The vector of treatment assignments of length $n$. Must be coded as \{0, 1\}.
- **M**: A $n \times q$-matrix of mediators $M$. It can be a vector (a single mediator).
- **X**: A $n \times p$-matrix of covariates $X$ to be matched. This matrix does not need to include an intercept.
- **theta**: A real scalar parameter for the Cressie-Read family of objective functions. The default is $\theta = 0$ (exponential tilting). Other popular examples are $\theta = -1$ (empirical likelihood) and $\theta = 1$ (quadratic loss).
- **verbose**: A logical value indicating whether to print the progress of the function. FALSE by default.
- **PIE**: A logical value indicating whether to estimate the pure indirect effect.
- **max.iter**: The maximum number of iterations for the Newton-Raphson methods. For most problems (e.g. with well-behaved functions $\rho$ and $u$) convergence of Newton-Raphson should be fairly quick.
- **tol**: The absolute tolerance used to determine a stopping criteria for the Newton-Raphson algorithm.
- **backtrack**: A logical value indicating whether to use backtracking in the Newton-Raphson algorithm.
- **backtrack.alpha**: A scalar parameter for backtracking with $\alpha \in (0, 0.5)$.
- **backtrack.beta**: A scalar parameter for backtracking with $\beta \in (0, 1)$.
- **...**: Additional arguments.

### Value

The function reruns an object of type "MED", a list with the following elements

- **est**: The vector of point estimates for the average treatment effect. For a binary treatment it also contains the average difference of treatment effects.
- **vcov**: The estimated variance covariance matrix for the estimates of the treatment effects for each treatment group.
- **lam**: The resulting solution of the main optimization problems, $\hat{\lambda}$, as described in Chan et al.(2015). In the case of a simple, binary treatment study, the object has 1am.p and 1am.q and when $ATT = TRUE$, we only have 1am.q. For a multiple treatment study design we have 1am.mat, a matrix with each $\hat{\lambda}$ corresponding to each treatment arm.
- **weights**: The weights obtained by the balancing covariate method for each treatment group. In the case of $ATT = TRUE$, we only have weights for the untreated. For binary treatment the list would contain either weights.q or weights.p or both. For multiple treatment effect the list contains a $J \times n$ matrix weights.mat.
- **gp**: A string specifying the type of study design. For binary treatment effect with $ATT = FALSE$ is denoted by group "simple". With $ATT = TRUE$ we have "ATT" and finally "MT" is for multiple treatment arms.
conv
A logical value indicating convergence of Newton-Raphson algorithm.

X, Y, Ti
The data which was used for estimation.

rho, rho1, rho2
The Cressie-Read functions $\rho$ used for estimation along with the first and second derivatives.

FUNu
A function that append a vector of constants to the covariates. Required to make sure that the weights sum to 1 in each group.

J
A scalar indicating the number of treatment arms.

K
A scalar indicating the one plus the dimension of the range space of X.

call
The matched call.

Author(s)
Gary Chan, based on package ATE developed with Asad Haris.

References

See Also

summary.MED

Examples

library(MED)
#binary treatment and binary mediator

set.seed(25)
n <- 200
Z <- matrix(rnorm(4*n),ncol=4,nrow=n)
prop.e <- 1 / (1 + exp(Z[,1] - 0.5 * Z[,2] + 0.25*Z[,3] + 0.1 * Z[,4]))
treat <- rbinom(n, 1, prop.e)
prop.m <- 1 / (1 + exp(-0.5 - Z[,1] + 0.5 * Z[,2] - 0.9 *Z [,3] + Z[,4] - 1.5 * treat))
M <- rbinom(n, 1, prop.m)
X <- cbind(exp(Z[,1])/2,Z[,2]/(1+exp(Z[,1]))),
(Z[,1]*Z[,3]/25+0.6)^3,(Z[,2]*Z[,4]+20)^2)

#estimation of natural mediation effects
fit1<-MED(Y,treat,M,X)
summary(fit1)
Description

   summary method for class "MED"

Usage

   ## S3 method for class 'MED'
   summary(object, ...)

   ## S3 method for class 'summary.MED'
   print(x, ...)

Arguments

   object  An object of class "MED", usually a result of a call to MED.
   x       An object of class "summary.MED", usually a result of a call to summary.MED.
   ...     Further arguments passed to or from methods.

Details

   print.summary.MED prints a simplified output similar to print.summary.lm. The resulting table provides the point estimates, estimated standard errors, 95% Wald confidence intervals, the Z-statistic and the P-values for a Z-test.

Value

   The function summary.MED returns a list with the following components

   Estimate  A matrix with point estimates along with standard errors, confidence intervals etc. This is the matrix users see with the print.summary.RIPW function.
   vcov      The variance-covariance matrix of the point estimates.
   Conv      The convergence result of the object.
   weights   The weights for each subject in each treatment arm. These are same as the weight component of the "RIPW" object.
   call      The call passed on as an argument of the function which is equivalent to object$call.

Author(s)

   Gary Chan

See Also

   MED
Examples

```r
library(MED)
#binary treatment and binary mediator

set.seed(25)
n <- 200
Z <- matrix(rnorm(4*n), ncol=4, nrow=n)
prop.e <- 1 / (1 + exp(Z[,1] - 0.5 * Z[,2] + 0.25*Z[,3] + 0.1 * Z[,4]))
treat <- rbinom(n, 1, prop.e)
prop.m <- 1 / (1 + exp(-(0.5 - Z[,1] + 0.5 * Z[,2] - 0.9 *Z [,3] + Z[,4] - 1.5 * treat)))
M <- rbinom(n, 1, prop.m)
Y <- 200 + treat + M + 27.4*Z[,1] + 13.7*Z[,2] +
     13.7*Z[,3] + 13.7*Z[,4] + rnorm(n)
X <- cbind(exp(Z[,1])/2, Z[,2]/(1+exp(Z[,1])),
           (Z[,1]*Z[,3]/25+0.6)^3, (Z[,2]+Z[,4]+20)^2)

#estimation of natural mediation efficac
fit1<-MED(Y,treat,M,X)
summary(fit1)
```
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