Package ‘metagam’

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Type Package

Title Meta-Analysis of Generalized Additive Models

Version 0.4.0

Description Meta-analysis of generalized additive models and generalized additive mixed models. A typical use case is when data cannot be shared across locations, and an overall meta-analytic fit is sought. ’metagam’ provides functionality for removing individual participant data from models computed using the ‘mgcv’ and ‘gamm4’ packages such that the model objects can be shared without exposing individual data. Furthermore, methods for meta-analysing these fits are provided. The implemented methods are described in Sorensen et al. (2020), <doi:10.1016/j.neuroimage.2020.117416>, extending previous works by Schwartz and Zanobetti (2000) and Crippa et al. (2018) <doi:10.6000/1929-6029.2018.07.02.1>.

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Imports mgcv, ggplot2, metafor, rlang

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Suggests roxygen2, knitr, rmarkdown, devtools, covr, testthat (>= 2.1.0)


BugReports https://github.com/Lifebrain/metagam/issues

VignetteBuilder knitr

NeedsCompilation no

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**Description**

The main functions in the metagam package are described below.

**Stripping rawdata**

The function `strip_rawdata` takes a fit produced by functions in packages `mgcv` or `gamm4` and removes all individual participants data.

**Meta-analysis**

The function `metagam` takes a list of fits produced by `strip_rawdata` and computes meta-analytic fits.

**Plotting**

The functions `plot_dominance` and `plot_heterogeneity` can be used to study the meta-analytic fit computed by `strip_rawdata`. 

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**metagam-package**

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**metagam:** Meta-analysis of generalized additive models.
Meta-analysis of generalized additive models

Description

Meta-analysis of generalized additive models

Usage

metagam(
  models,
  grid = NULL,
  grid_size = 100,
  type = "iterms",
  terms = NULL,
  method = "FE",
  nsim = NULL,
  ci_alpha = 0.05,
  restrict_range = NULL
)

Arguments

- **models**: List of generalized additive models, each of which has been returned by `strip_rawdata`. If the list is named, the names will be used in the output.
- **grid**: Grid of values of the explanatory variables over which to compute the estimated smooth terms. Defaults to `NULL`, which means that a grid is set up for the smooth terms defined by the terms argument, with length given by `grid_size` for numeric variables and a single value of each factor variable.
- **grid_size**: Numeric value giving the number of elements to use in the grid of explanatory variables when `grid=NULL`. When multiple terms are supplied, each combination of values of explanatory variables are generated, and the number of grid points becomes `grid_size` to the power of the number of terms.
- **type**: Type of prediction to use. Defaults to "iterms". Available options are "iterms", "link", and "response". See the documentation of `mgcv::predict.gam` for details. Note that type="terms" is not supported, since it may result in estimated zero standard deviation for smooth terms.
- **terms**: Character vector of terms, smooth or parametric, to be included in function estimate. Only used if type="iterms". Defaults to `NULL`, which means that the first smooth term when listed in alphabetic order is taken.
- **method**: Method of meta analysis, passed on to `metafor::rma.uni`. Defaults to "FE". See the documentation to `metafor::rma` for all available options.
- **nsim**: Number of simulations to conduct in order to compute p-values and simultaneous confidence bands for the meta-analytic fit. Defaults to `NULL`, which means that no simulations are performed. Only used if type="iterms".
ci_alpha  Significance level for simultaneous confidence bands. Ignored if nsim is NULL, and defaults to 0.05.

restrict_range  Character vector of explanatory variables to restrict such that only values within the range for each cohort contribute to the meta-analysis. Default to NULL, which means that each model contributes across the whole range specified by grid. Currently not implemented.

Details

It is currently assumed that all models have been fit with the same smooth terms, although they do not need to have the same basis functions or knot placement. Future versions will also include meta-analysis of parametric terms in the models.

p-values are truncated below at 1e-16 before computing meta-analytic p-values to ensure that no values are identically zero, which would imply that the alternative hypothesis be true with no uncertainty.

Value

An object of type metagam.

Examples

```r
library(metagam)
library(mgcv)

## Create 5 datasets
set.seed(1234)
datasets <- lapply(1:5, function(x) gamSim(scale = 5, verbose = FALSE))

## Fit a GAM in each dataset, then use strip_rawdata() to remove individual participant data
models <- lapply(datasets, function(dat){
    ## This uses the gam() function from mgcv
    model <- gam(y ~ s(x0, bs = "cr") + s(x1, bs = "cr") + s(x2, bs = "cr"), data = dat)
    ## This uses strip_rawdata() from metagam
    strip_rawdata(model)
})

## Next, we meta-analyze the models.
## It is often most convenient to analyze a single term at a time. We focus on s(x1).
meta_analysis <- metagam(models, terms = "s(x1)", grid_size = 30)

## We can print some information
summary(meta_analysis)

## We can plot the meta-analytic fit together with the individual fits
plot(meta_analysis)
plot(meta_analysis, ci = "pointwise")

## We can also compute p-values and simultaneous confidence intervals, by setting the nsim argument.
## For details, see the separate vignette.
```
## Not run:

```r
meta_analysis <- metagam(models, terms = "s(x0)", grid_size = 30, nsim = 1000)
summary(meta_analysis)
plot(meta_analysis, ci = "both")
plot(meta_analysis, ci = "simultaneous")
```

## End(Not run)

### Description

Plot the meta-analytic estimate of a smooth term along with the separate fits in each cohort.

### Usage

```r
## S3 method for class 'metagam'
plot(x, term = NULL, ci = "none", legend = FALSE, only_meta = FALSE, ...)
```

### Arguments

- `x`: Object returned by `metagam`.
- `term`: The smooth term to plot. Defaults to NULL, which means that the first term is plotted.
- `ci`: Type of confidence bands to plot around the meta-analytic fit. Defaults to "none", which means the no bands are plotted. Other options are "simultaneous", "point-wise", and "both". Simultaneous confidence bands require that `metagam` was run with `nsim` not equal to NULL.
- `legend`: Logical specifying whether or not to plot a legend. Defaults to FALSE.
- `only_meta`: Logical specifying whether to include the fits for each study, or to only plot the meta-analytic fit. Defaults to FALSE.
- `...`: Other arguments to plot.

### Value

The function is called for its side effect of producing a plot.

### Examples

```r
library(metagam)
library(mgcv)

## Create 5 datasets
set.seed(1234)
datasets <- lapply(1:5, function(x) gamSim(scale = 5, verbose = FALSE))
```
## Plot between-study standard deviation

### Description

When a random effects meta analysis has been used, this function visualizes how the between-study standard deviation depends on the explanatory variable.

### Usage

```r
plot_between_study_sd(x)
```

### Arguments

- `x`: Object returned from `metagam`.

### Value

A `ggplot` object.
Examples

```r
library("mgcv")
set.seed(1233)
shifts <- c(0, .5, 1, 0, -1)
datasets <- lapply(shifts, function(x) {
    ## Simulate data
    dat <- gamSim(scale = .1, verbose = FALSE)
    ## Add a shift
    dat$y <- dat$y + x * dat$x2^2
    ## Return data
    dat
})
models <- lapply(datasets, function(dat){
    b <- gam(y ~ s(x2, bs = "cr"), data = dat)
    strip_rawdata(b)
})
meta_analysis <- metagam(models, method = "REML")
plot_between_study_sd(meta_analysis)
```

---

**plot_dominance**

**Dominance plot**

**Description**

Plots the (relative) contribution of the individual GAMs to each data point on a given axis. It shows whether and how parts of the axis are dominated by certain individual GAMs.

**Usage**

```r
plot_dominance(x, term = NULL, relative = TRUE, width = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

- **x**: Object returned by `metagam`.
- **term**: Character specifying which smooth term to plot. Default to NULL which means that the first term (in alphabetic order) is taken.
- **relative**: Logical specifying whether to have relative or absolute scales. Defaults to `TRUE`.
- **width**: Width of bars. Default to NULL, which means it is automatically determined based on the minimum grid spacing in `x`.

**Value**

A ggplot object.
plot_heterogeneity

Examples

# See the vignette, either at https://lifebrain.github.io/metagam/articles/articles/dominance.html
# or by typing the following in the console:
# vignette("Dominance")

plot_heterogeneity  Heterogeneity Plot

Description

Heterogeneity Plot

Usage

plot_heterogeneity(x, term = NULL, type = "Q", alpha_thresh = 0.05)

Arguments

x Object returned by metagam.
term Character specifying which smooth term to plot. Defaults to NULL; if x was fitted with a single term, this one is taken.
type Character specifying which type of plot. Either "Q" for the test statistic or "p" for the p-value. Defaults to "Q".
alpha_thresh Significance level. Defaults to .05.

Details

This plot visualizes the heterogeneity along the given axis, using Cochran’s Q test.

Value

A ggplot object.

Examples

# See the vignette, either at https://lifebrain.github.io/metagam/articles/heterogeneity.html
# or by typing the following in the console:
# vignette("heterogeneity")
**print.metagam**

Description

Print method for metagam objects.

Usage

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

Arguments

x Object of class metagam.

... Other arguments (not used).

Value

The function invisibly returns its input argument x.

**print.striprawdata**

Description

Print method for striprawdata

Usage

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

Arguments

x Object of class striprawdata.

... Other arguments.

Value

The function invisibly returns its argument.
print.summary.metagam  Print output from summary of metagam fit.

Description
Print output from summary of metagam fit.

Usage
## S3 method for class 'summary.metagam'
print(x, digits = 8, ...)

Arguments
x          A summary.metagam object
digits     Number of digits to print for meta-analytic p-values
...        Other arguments

Value
The function invisibly returns its input argument x.

strip_rawdata  Strip rawdata from a generalized additive model

Description
This function removes all individual participant data from a generalized additive model object, while keeping aggregated quantities. The resulting object can be shared without exposing individual participant data.

Usage
strip_rawdata(model, path = NULL, save_ranges = TRUE, ...)

## S3 method for class 'list'
strip_rawdata(model, path = NULL, save_ranges = TRUE, ...)

## S3 method for class 'gamm'
strip_rawdata(model, path = NULL, save_ranges = TRUE, ...)

## S3 method for class 'bam'
strip_rawdata(model, path = NULL, save_ranges = TRUE, ...)

## S3 method for class 'gam'
strip_rawdata(model, path = NULL, save_ranges = TRUE, ...)
Arguments

- **model**: A model fitted using mgcv::gam, mgcv::bam, mgcv::gamm, or gamm4::gamm4.
- **path**: Optional path in which to save the object as a .rds file.
- **save_ranges**: Logical specifying whether to save the ranges of each variable used by the model. For numeric variables this amounts to the minimum and maximum, and for factors all levels are saved. The values will be in the list element var.summary of the returned object.
- **...**: Other arguments (not used).

Details

Thin plate regression splines (bs='tp' and bs='ts') and Duchon splines bs='ds' are currently not supported, since for these splines mgcv requires the unique values of the explanatory variables for each smooth term for the predict method to work. Future updates to this package will fix this.

Value

Model object with individual participant data removed.

Methods (by class)

- `strip_rawdata(list)`: Strip rawdata from list object returned by gamm4
- `strip_rawdata(gamm)`: Strip rawdata from gamm object
- `strip_rawdata(bam)`: Strip rawdata from gam object
- `strip_rawdata(gam)`: Strip rawdata from gam object

Examples

```r
library(metagam)
library(mgcv)

## Create 5 datasets
set.seed(1234)
datasets <- lapply(1:5, function(x) gamSim(scale = 5, verbose = FALSE))

## Fit a GAM in each dataset, then use strip_rawdata() to remove
## individual participant data
models <- lapply(datasets, function(dat){
  ## This uses the gam() function from mgcv
  model <- gam(y ~ s(x0, bs = "cr") + s(x1, bs = "cr") + s(x2, bs = "cr"), data = dat)
  ## This uses strip_rawdata() from metagam
  strip_rawdata(model)
})

## Next, we meta-analyze the models.
## It is often most convenient to analyze a single term at a time. We focus on s(x1).
meta_analysis <- metagam(models, terms = "s(x1)", grid_size = 30)

## We can print some information
```
summary(meta_analysis)

## We can plot the meta-analytic fit together with the individual fits
plot(meta_analysis)
plot(meta_analysis, ci = "pointwise")

## We can also compute p-values and simultaneous confidence intervals, by setting the nsim argument.
## For details, see the separate vignette.
## Not run:
meta_analysis <- metagam(models, terms = "s(x0)", grid_size = 30, nsim = 1000)
summary(meta_analysis)
plot(meta_analysis, ci = "both")
plot(meta_analysis, ci = "simultaneous")
## End(Not run)

summary.metagam

Summary method for metagam objects

Description

Summary method for metagam objects

Usage

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

Arguments

object A metagam object as returned by metagam.
...
other arguments (not used).

Value

A list of class summary.metagam containing the following information:

- meta_pvals: dataframe with p-values from each individual fit. These can be meta-analytically combined using the metap package.
- terms: smooth terms that have been meta-analyzed.
- method: method used for meta-analysis. See the metafor package for detailed description.
- intercept: logical specifying whether or not the intercept has been included in the meta-analysis.
- cohorts: Number of datasets ("cohorts") used in the meta-analysis.
Summary method for GAMs stripped for rawdata

Description
Summary method for GAMs stripped for rawdata

Usage

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

Arguments

object Object returned by `strip_rawdata`.
...
Other arguments.

Value
The function returns its input argument, which is printed to the console.
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