# Package ‘metagam’

**Type** Package  
**Title** Meta-Analysis of Generalized Additive Models  
**Version** 0.1.0  
**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), [arXiv:2002.02627](https://arxiv.org/abs/2002.02627), extending previous works by Schwartz and Zanobetti (2000) [https://www.jstor.org/stable/3703820](https://www.jstor.org/stable/3703820) and Crippa et al. (2018) [doi:10.6000/1929-6029.2018.07.02.1](https://doi.org/10.6000/1929-6029.2018.07.02.1).

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metagam-package

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metagam-package

metagam-package

metagam: Meta-analysis of generalized additive models.

Description

The main functions in the metagam package are described below.

Stripping rawdata

The function strip_rawdata takes a fit produced by the mgcv package 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.
metagam

Meta-analysis of generalized additive models

Description
Meta-analysis of generalized additive models

Usage
metagam(
  models,
  grid = NULL,
  grid_size = 100,
  type = "iters",
  terms = NULL,
  method = "FE",
  intercept = FALSE,
  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 "iters". Available options are "iters", "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="iters". 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.
intercept logical defining whether or not to include the intercept in each smooth term. Only applies when type = "iters".

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 \texttt{NULL}, which
means that each model contributes across the whole range specified by \texttt{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 un-
certainty.

Value

An object of type metagam.

Examples

\begin{verbatim}
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 fit
plot(meta_analysis)
\end{verbatim}
plot.metagam

Description

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

Usage

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

Arguments

x Object returned by metagam.
... Other arguments to plot.

Details

This function currently works for meta-analytic estimates of a single smooth term, which can be either univariate or bivariate. It also works for alternatively meta-analysis of response or link functions.

Value

A ggplot object plotting a smooth term of interest along an axis. The meta-analytic fit is shown as a solid black line, and the cohort fits are shown as dashed lines, separated by color codes.

Examples

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 fit
plot(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, axis = NULL, term = NULL, relative = TRUE, width = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

- `x`: Object returned by `metagam`.
- `axis`: Character specifying which variable to plot. Defaults to `NULL`; if `x` was fitted with a single term, the explanatory variable corresponding to this term is selected.
- `term`: Character specifying which smooth term to plot. Default to `NULL`; if `x` was fitted with a single term, this one 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.

**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")
Description

Heterogeneity Plot

Usage

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

Arguments

x Object returned by metagam.

axis Character specifying which variable to plot. Defaults to NULL; if x was fitted with a single term, the explanatory variable corresponding to this term is selected.

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  

Print method for metagam objects.

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  

Print method for 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**
```r
## 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**
```r
strip_rawdata(model, path = NULL, save_ranges = TRUE, ...)
```

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

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

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

```r
## 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)

- list: Strip rawdata from list object returned by gamm4
- gamm: Strip rawdata from gamm object
- bam: Strip rawdata from gam object
- gam: Strip rawdata from gam object

Examples

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

summary(meta_analysis)

## We can plot the fit
plot(meta_analysis)

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 meta-analytic p-values computed 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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