# Package 'clustra'

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Description Clusters longitudinal trajectories over time (can be unequally spaced, unequal length time series and/or partially overlapping series) on a common time axis. Performs k-means clustering on a single continuous variable measured over time, where each mean is defined by a thin plate spline fit to all points in a cluster. Distance is MSE across trajectory points to cluster spline. Provides graphs of derived cluster splines, silhouette plots, and Adjusted Rand Index evaluations of the number of clusters. Scales well to large data with multicore parallelism available to speed computation.

LazyLoad yes

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**Encoding** UTF-8

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U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs [fnd] (Project: Million Veteran Program Data Core)

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# Description

Clusters trajectories (unequally spaced and unequal length time series) on a common time axis. Clustering proceeds by an EM algorithm that iterates switching between fitting a thin plate spline (TPS) to combined responses within each cluster (M-step) and reassigning cluster membership based on the nearest fitted TPS (E-step). Initial cluster assignments are random or distant trajectories. The fitting is done with the *mgcv* package function *bam*, which scales well to very large data sets. Additional parallelism available via multicore on unix and mac platforms.

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#### **Details**

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#### Author(s)

George Ostrouchov, David Gagnon, Hanna Gerlovin

allpair\_RandIndex

allpair\_RandIndex: helper for replicated cluster comparison

#### **Description**

Runs RandIndex for all pairs of cluster results in its list input and produces a matrix for use by rand\_plot. Understands replicates within k values.

# Usage

allpair\_RandIndex(results)

## **Arguments**

results

A list with each element packed internally by the clustra\_rand function with elements:

- k number of clusters
- rep replicate number
- deviance final deviance
- group integer cluster assignments Note that item order is assumed to be the same across all rep and k but group numbering need not be same. The algorithm only examines if pairs of items are in same or different clusters within each results list element.

## Value

A data frame with RandIndex for all pairs from trajectories results. The data frame names and its format is intended to be the input for rand\_plot. Note that all pairs is the lower triangle plus diagonal of an all-pairs symmetric matrix.

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bp10k

Simulated blood pressure data

## **Description**

A sample of 10,000 individuals from the full 80,000 individuals in a dataset available on GitHub at https://github.com/MVP-CHAMPION/clustra-SAS/raw/main/bp\_data/simulated\_data\_27June2023.csv.gz

## Usage

bp10k

## **Format**

bp10k:

A "data.table" and "data.frame" with 167,277 rows and 4 columns:

id An integer in 1:80000.

**group** An integer in 1:5.

**time** An integer between -365 and 730, giving observation day with reference to an intervention at time 0.

**response** The systolic blood pressure on that day.

## **Details**

The full data set contains 80,000 individuals, each with an average of about 17 observations in 5 clusters with scatter. The individuals are generated from a 5-cluster thin spline model of actual blood pressures collected from roughly the same number of individuals at U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs facilities in connection with the MVP-CHAMPION project. Each cluster-mean generated individual has a random number of observations at random times with one observation at intervention time 0, and with added standard normal error. The resulting data has 1,353,910 rows and 4 columns.

check\_df

Checks if non-empty groups have enough data for spline fit degrees of freedom.

# Description

Checks if non-empty groups have enough data for spline fit degrees of freedom.

```
check_df(group, loss, data, maxdf)
```

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## **Arguments**

group	An integer vector of group membership for each id.
loss	A matrix with rows of computed loss values of each id across all models as columns.
data	A data.table with data. See trajectories.
maxdf	Fitting parameters. See trajectories.

## **Details**

When a group has insufficient data for maxdf, its nearest model loss values are set to Inf, and new nearest model is assigned. The check repeats until all groups have sufficient data.

#### Value

Returns the vector of group membership of id's either unchanged or changed to have sufficient data in non-zero groups.

clustra

Cluster longitudinal trajectories over time

## **Description**

The usual top level function for clustering longitudinal trajectories. After initial setup, it calls trajectories to perform k-means clustering on continuous response measured over time, where each mean is defined by a thin plate spline fit to all points in a cluster. See clustra\_vignette.Rmd for examples of use.

# Usage

```
clustra(
  data,
  k,
  starts = "random",
  maxdf = 30,
  conv = c(10, 0),
  mccores = 1,
  verbose = FALSE,
  ...
)
```

## **Arguments**

data Data frame or, preferably, also a data.table with response measurements, one

response per observation. Required variables are (id, time, response). Other

variables are ignored.

k Number of clusters

6 clustra\_rand

starts

One of c("random", "distant") or an integer vector with values 1:k corresponding to unique ids of starting cluster assignments. For "random", starting clusters are assigned at random. For "distant", a FastMap-like algorithm selects k distant ids to which TPS models are fit and used as starting cluster centers to which ids are classified. Only id with more than median number of time points are used. Distance from an id to a TPS model is median absolute difference at id time points. Starting with a random id, distant ids are selected sequentially as the id with the largest minimum absolute distance to previous selections (a maximin concept). The first random selection is discarded and the next k selected ids are kept. Their TPS fits become the first cluster centers to which all ids are classified. See comments in code and DOI: 10.1109/TPAMI.2005.164 for the FastMap analogy.

maxdf Fitting parameters. See trajectories. conv Fitting parameters. See trajectories.

mccores See trajectories.

verbose Logical to turn on more output during fit iterations.

... Additional parameters of optional plotting under verbose = 2. At this time, only

xlim and ylim are allowed.

#### Value

A list returned by trajectories plus one more element ido, giving the original id numbers is invisibly returned. Invisible returns are useful for repeated runs that explore verbose clustra output.

## **Examples**

clustra\_rand

clustra rand: Rand Index cluster evaluation

## **Description**

Performs trajectories runs for several *k* and several random start replicates within *k*. Returns a data frame with a Rand Index comparison between all pairs of clusterings. This data frame is typically input to rand\_plot to produce a heat map with the Adjusted Rand Index results.

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## Usage

```
clustra_rand(
  data,
  k,
  starts = "random",
  mccores = 1,
  replicates = 10,
  maxdf = 30,
  conv = c(10, 0),
  save = FALSE,
  verbose = FALSE
)
```

## **Arguments**

data The data (see clustra description).

k Vector of k values to try.

starts See clustra.

mccores Number of cores for replicate parallelism via mclapply.

replicates Number of replicates for each k.

maxdf Fitting parameters. See link{trajectories}.
conv Fitting parameters. See link{trajectories}.

save Logical. When TRUE, save all results as file results. Rdata.

verbose Logical. When TRUE, information about each run of clustra (but not iterations

within) is printed.

#### Value

See allpair\_RandIndex.

clustra_sil	clustra_sil: Prepare silhouette plot data for several k or for a previous
	clustra run

# **Description**

Performs clustra runs for several k and prepares silhouette plot data. Computes a proxy silhouette index based on distances to cluster centers rather than trajectory pairs. The cost is essentially that of running clustra for several k as this information is available directly from clustra. Can also reuse a previous clustra run and produce data for a single silhouette plot.

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## Usage

```
clustra_sil(
  data,
  kv = NULL,
  starts = "random",
  mccores = 1,
  maxdf = 30,
  conv = c(10, 0),
  save = FALSE,
  verbose = FALSE
)
```

## Arguments

data	A data.frame (see the data parameter of trajectories). Alternatively, the output from a completed clustra run can be used, in which case kv is left as NULL. See Details.
kv	Vector of clustra ${\bf k}$ values to run. If data is the output from a completed clustra run, leave ${\bf k}{\bf v}$ as NULL.
starts	See clustra.
mccores	See trajectories.
maxdf	Fitting parameters. See trajectories.
conv	Fitting parameters. See trajectories.
save	Logical. When TRUE, save all results as file clustra_sil.Rdata.
verbose	Logical. When TRUE, information about each run of clustra is printed.

## **Details**

When given the raw data as the first parameter (input data parameter of trajectories), kv specifies a vector of k parameters for clustra and produces data for silhouette plots of each of them. Alternatively, the input can be the output from a single clustra run, in which case data for a single silhouette plot will be made without running clustra.

## Value

Invisibly returns a list of length length(kv), where each element is a matrix with nrow(data) rows and three columns cluster, neighbor, silhouette. The matrix in each element of this list can be used to draw a silhouette plot. When the input was a completed clustra run, the output is a list with a single element for a single silhouette plot.

deltime 9

deltime	Timing function
	I min o junemen

# Description

Timing function

## Usage

```
deltime(ltime = proc.time()["elapsed"], text = NULL, units = FALSE, nl = FALSE)
deltimeT(ltime, text)
```

# Arguments

ltime	Result of last call to deltime.
text	Text to display along with elapsed time since ltime.
units	Logical. If TRUE, print units
nl	Logical. If TRUE, a newline is added at the end.

## Value

"elapsed" component of current proc.time.

# **Functions**

• deltimeT(): A shortcut frequent use. Requires ltime and text parameters, includes units, and adds a newline after message.

# Description

Generates data for up to three trajectory clusters

```
gendata(n_id, types, intercepts, m_obs, s_range, e_range, min_obs, noise)
```

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# **Arguments**

n_id	See parameters of gen_traj_data.
types	See parameters of gen_traj_data.
intercepts	See parameters of gen_traj_data.
m_obs	See parameters of gen_traj_data.
s_range	See parameters of gen_traj_data.
e_range	See parameters of gen_traj_data.
min_obs	See parameters of gen_traj_data.
noise	See parameters of gen_traj_data.

## **Details**

Time support of each id is at least s . . . 0 . . . e, where s is in s\_range and e is in e\_range.

#### Value

A list of length sum(n\_id), where each element is a matrix output by oneid.

# Description

Generates a collection of longitudinal responses with possibly varying lengths and varying numbers of observations. Support is start . . .  $0 \cdot . \cdot .$  end, where start~uniform(s\_range) and end~uniform(e\_range), so that all trajectories are aligned at 0 but can start and end at different times. Zero is the intervention time.

```
gen_traj_data(
    n_id,
    types,
    intercepts,
    m_obs,
    s_range,
    e_range,
    noise = c(0, abs(mean(intercepts)/20)),
    min_obs = 3
)
```

ic\_fun 11

## **Arguments**

n_id	Vector whose length is the number of clusters, giving the number of id's to generate in each cluster.
types	A vector of integers from c(1, 2, 3) of same length as n_id, indicating curve type: constant, sine portion, sigmoid portion, respectively.
intercepts	A vector of first responses at minimum time for the curve base vectors of same length as n_id. Each type-intercept combination should be unique for unique clusters.
m_obs	Mean number of observation per id. Provides lambda parameter in rpois.
s_range	A vector of length 2, giving the min and max limits of uniformly generated start observation time.
e_range	A vector of length 2, giving the min and max limits of uniformly generated end observation time.
noise	Vector of length 2 giving the mean and sd of added N(mean, sd) noise.
min_obs	Minimum number of observations in addition to zero time observation.

## Value

A data table with one response per row and four columns: id, time, response, and true\_group.

## **Details**

Generate longitudinal data for a response variable. Trajectories start at time uniformly distributed in s\_range and end at time uniformly distributed in e\_range. Number of observations in a trajectory is Poisson(m\_obs). The result is a number of trajectories, all starting at time 0, with different time spans, and with independently different numbers of observations within the time spans. Each trajectory follows one of three possible response functions possibly with a different mean and with added N(mean, sd) error.

# **Examples**

```
data = gen_traj_data(n_id = c(50, 100), types = c(1, 2),
  intercepts = c(100, 80), m_obs = 20, s_range = c(-365, -14),
  e_range = c(0.5*365, 2*365))
head(data)
tail(data)
```

ic_fun	Function to test information criteria. Not exported and used by inter-
	nal function kchoose.

## **Description**

Function to test information criteria. Not exported and used by internal function kchoose.

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# Usage

```
ic_fun(cl, data, fn)
```

# Arguments

cl Output from clustra function.
data A valid data set for clustra.
fn Character file name for output.

#### Value

Numerical value of computed AIC. Also writes a line of computed information criteria to fn file for each k.

kchoose	A test function to evaluate information criteria for several k values.
	Not exported and only for debugging internal use.

# Description

A test function to evaluate information criteria for several k values. Not exported and only for debugging internal use.

## Usage

```
kchoose(K, var = 5, maxdf = 10, mc = 1, fn = "ic.txt")
```

# Arguments

K Integer vector of k values to	try.
---------------------------------	------

var A numerical value of noise variance in generated data.

maxdf Fitting parameters. See trajectories.

mc Number of cores to use. Increase up to largest k, or number of cores available,

whichever is less. (On hyperthreaded cores, up to 2x number of cores.)

fn Character file name for output.

mse\_*g* 

mse\_g

Various Loss functions used internally by clustra

## **Description**

Various Loss functions used internally by clustra

## Usage

```
mse_g(pred, id, response)
mae_g(pred, id, response)
mme_g(pred, id, response)
mxe_g(pred, id, response)
```

## **Arguments**

pred Vector of predicted values.

id Integer vector of group assignments.

response Vector of response values.

## Value

A numeric value. For mse\_g(), returns the mean-squared error. For mae\_g(), returns mean absolute error. For mme\_g(), returns median absolute error. For mxe\_g(), returns the maximum absolute error.

oneid

Generates data for one id

## **Description**

Generates data for one id

```
oneid(id, n_obs, type, intercept, start, end, smin, emax, noise)
```

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# Arguments

id	A unique integer.
n_obs	An integer number of observations to produce.
type	Response type, 1 is constant, 2 is a sin curve portion, and 3 is a sigmoid portion.
intercept	Used to set response at smin time value (not 0) and shift all responses accordingly.
start	Negative integer giving time of first observation.
end	Positive integer giving time of last observation.
smin	The smallest possible start value among all ids. Used to align with intercept and then dropped.
emax	The largest possible end value among all ids. Used to scale sin and sigmoid support.
noise	Standard deviation of zero mean Gaussian noise added to response functions.

## Value

An n\_obs by 4 matrix with columns id, time, response, true\_group.

plot_sample Plots a sample of ids in a small mutiples layout
--

# Description

Plots a sample of ids in a small mutiples layout

# Usage

```
plot_sample(dat, layout = c(3, 3), sample = prod(layout), group = NULL)
```

# Arguments

dat	A data frame with a few id trajectories to plot.
layout	The small multiples layout as c(rows, columns).
sample	If zero, all data in dat are displayed. If >0 a sample of that many data points from dat are displayed.
group	If not NULL, a character string giving the variable name in data that should color the data points.

# Value

Invisibly returns the number of trajectories plotted.

plot\_silhouette 15

plot_silhouette	Plots a list item, a silhouette, from the result of clustra_sil along with the average silhouette value. Typically used via lapply(list, plot_silhouette)
	protestimodetes

# Description

Plots a list item, a silhouette, from the result of clustra\_sil along with the average silhouette value. Typically used via lapply(list, plot\_silhouette)

## Usage

```
plot_silhouette(sil)
```

# **Arguments**

sil

A data frame that is a list item returned by clustra\_sil.

## Value

Returns invisibly the average silhouette value.

```
plot_smooths plot_smooths
```

# Description

Plots data and smooths from clustra output or internally from within start\_groups()

```
plot_smooths(
  data,
  fits = NULL,
  max.data = 1e+05,
  select.data = NULL,
  group = "group",
  ...
)
```

pred\_g

## **Arguments**

data	The data. If after clustra run, it includes resulting clusters as group.
fits	The tps component of clustra output or internal start_groups fits. If fits are supplied and select.data is NULL, the data is colored by clusters. If NULL, or if select.data is not NULL, the data is black points.
max.data	The maximum number of data points to plot. If zero, no points are plotted (overrides select.data). Use Inf value to plot all points.
select.data	Either NULL or a list of length k, each element a data.frame (like data) with time and response components. The select.data points will be highlighted with cluster colors on the plot. This is used internally in the start_groups function to show the selected starting points. In this case, also the fits parameter can contain TPS fits to the starting points.
group	Character variable name in data to color the clusters. A NULL will produce a b&w point plot.
• • •	Other parameters to plot function, such as xlim or ylim axis limits.

pred_g	Function to predict for new data based on fitted gam object.

# Description

Function to predict for new data based on fitted gam object.

# Usage

```
pred_g(tps, newdata)
```

# Arguments

tps Output structure of bam.

newdata See clustra description of data parameter.

# Value

A numeric vector of predicted values corresponding to rows of newdata. If gam object is NULL, NULL is returned instead.

rand\_plot 17

	-	
rand	nΙα	٦t

Matrix plot of Rand Index comparison of replicated clusters

## **Description**

Matrix plot of Rand Index comparison of replicated clusters

## Usage

```
rand_plot(rand_pairs, name = NULL)
```

## **Arguments**

rand\_pairs A data frame result of allpair\_RandIndex

name Character string file name for pdf plot. If omitted or NULL, plot will render to

current graphics device.

#### Value

Invisible. Full path name of file with plot.

#### Author(s)

Wei-Chen Chen and George Ostrouchov

## References

Wei-chen Chen, George Ostrouchov, David Pugmire, Prabhat, and Michael Wehner. 2013. A Parallel EM Algorithm for Model-Based Clustering Applied to the Exploration of Large Spatio-Temporal Data. Technometrics, 55:4, 513-523.

Sorts replicates within cluster K Assumes K starts from 2

start\_groups

Function to assign starting groups.

# Description

Either a random assignment of k approximately equal size clusters or a FastMap-like algorithm that sequentially selects k distant ids from those that have more than the median number of observations. TPS fits to these ids are used as cluster centers for a starting group assignment. A user supplied starting assignment is also possible.

```
start_groups(k, data, starts, maxdf, conv, mccores = 1, verbose = FALSE)
```

#### **Arguments**

k Number of clusters (groups).

data Data.table with response measurements, one per observation. Column names

are id, time, response, group. Note that ids are assumed sequential starting

from 1. This affects expanding group numbers to ids.

starts Type of start groups generated. See clustra.

maxdf Fitting parameters. See trajectories. conv Fitting parameters. See trajectories.

mccores See trajectories.

verbose Turn on more output for debugging. Values 0, 1, 2, 3 add more output. 2 and 3

produce graphs during iterations - use carefully!

#### Value

An integer vector corresponding to unique ids, giving group number assignments.

For distant, each sequential selection takes an id that has the largest minimum distance from smooth TPS fits (<= 5 deg) of previous selections. The distance of an id to a single TPS is the median absolute error across the id time points. Distance of an id to a set of TPS is the minimum of the individual distances. We pick the id that has the maximum of such a minimum of medians.

tps\_g

Fits a thin plate spline to a single group with bam.

## **Description**

Fits a thin plate spline to a single group (one list element) in data with bam. Uses data from only one group rather than a zero weights approach. Zero weights would result in incorrect crossvalidation sampling.

#### Usage

```
tps_g(g, data, maxdf, nthreads)
```

## **Arguments**

g Integer group number.

data A list of group-separated data using lapply with data.table::copy(data[group

== g]) from original data in clustra description.

maxdf See trajectories description.

nthreads Controls bam threads.

## Value

Returns an object of class "gam". See bam value. If group data has zero rows, NULL is returned instead.

trajectories 19

trajectories	Cluster longitudinal trajectories over time.	
--------------	--	--

# Description

Performs k-means clustering on continuous response measured over time, where each mean is defined by a thin plate spline fit to all points in a cluster. Typically, this function is called by clustra.

# Usage

```
trajectories(
  data,
  k,
  group,
  maxdf,
  conv = c(10, 0),
  mccores = 1,
  verbose = FALSE,
  ...
)
```

# Arguments

data	Data table or data frame with response measurements, one per observation. Column names are id, time, response, group. Note that ids must be sequential starting from 1. This affects expanding group numbers to ids.
k	Number of clusters (groups)
group	Vector of initial group numbers corresponding to ids.
maxdf	Integer. Basis dimension of smooth term. See s function parameter $k$ , in package $mgcv$ .
conv	A vector of length two, c(iter, minchange), where iter is the maximum number of EM iterations and minchange is the minimum percentage of subjects changing group to continue iterations. Setting minchange to zero continues iterations until no more changes occur or maxiter is reached.
mccores	Integer number of cores to use by $mclapply$ sections. Parallelization is over $k$ , the number of clusters.
verbose	Logical, whether to produce debug output. A value $> 1$ will plot tps fit lines in each iteration.
	See clustra for allowed parameters.

## Value

A list with components

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- deviance The final deviance in each cluster added across clusters.
- group Integer vector of group assignments corresponding to unique ids.
- loss Numeric matrix with rows corresponding to unique ids and one column for each cluster. Each entry is the mean squared loss for the data in the id relative to the cluster model.
- k An integer giving the requested number of clusters.
- k\_cl An integer giving the converged number of clusters. Can be smaller than k when some clusters become too small for degrees of freedom during convergence.
- data\_group An integer vector, giving group assignment as expanded into all id time points.
- tps A list with k\_cl elements, each an object returned by the mgcv::bam fit of a cluster thin plate spline model.
- iterations An integer giving the number of iterations taken.
- counts An integer vector giving the number of ids in each cluster.
- counts\_df An integer vector giving the total number of observations in each cluster (sum of the number of observations for ids belonging to the cluster).
- changes An integer, giving the number of ids that changed clusters in the last iteration. This is zero if converged.

## Author(s)

George Ostrouchov and David Gagnon

traj_rep	Function to run trajectories inside mclapply with one core.	

# **Description**

Function to run trajectories inside mclapply with one core.

## Usage

```
traj_rep(group, data, k, maxdf, conv)
```

## Arguments

group	Vector of starting group values for unique id's.
data	The data (see clustra description).
k	Integer number of clusters.
maxdf	Fitting parameters. See trajectories.
conv	Fitting parameters. See trajectories.

#### Value

See return of trajectories.

xit\_report 21

# Description

Examines trajectories output to name what was concluded, such as convergence, maximum iterations reached, a zero cluster, etc. Multiple conclusions are possible as not all are mutually exclusive.

# Usage

```
xit_report(cl, maxdf, conv)
```

# Arguments

cl Output structure from trajectories function

maxdf Fitting parameters. See trajectories. conv Fitting parameters. See trajectories.

## Value

NULL or a character vector of exit criteria satisfied.

# **Index**

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