# Package 'compositeReliabilityInNestedDesigns'

July 22, 2025

**Title** Optimizing the Composite Reliability in Multivariate Nested Designs

Version 1.0.4

Description The reliability of assessment tools is a crucial aspect of monitoring student performance in various educational settings. It ensures that the assessment outcomes accurately reflect a student's true level of performance. However, when assessments are combined, determining composite reliability can be challenging, especially for naturalistic and unbalanced datasets in nested design as is often the case for Workplace-Based Assessments. This package is designed to estimate composite reliability in nested designs using multivariate generalizability theory and enhance the analysis of assessment data. The package allows for the inclusion of weight per assessment type and produces extensive G- and D-study results with graphical interpretations, and options to find the set of weights that maximizes the composite reliability or minimizes the standard error of measurement (SEM).

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 $calculate \textit{Reliability} \quad \textit{calculate Reliability: determine the reliability and SEM per Type}$ 

# Description

calculateReliability: determine the reliability and SEM per Type

# Usage

```
calculateReliability(mydata, n)
```

# Arguments

mydata	A dataframe containing columns ID, Type, Score (numeric)
n	A vector containing for each Type the number of scores or assessments, e.g.
	averages, requirements.

# Value

A list containing 2 vectors; one vector with the reliability coefficient of each Type, the other vector with the SEM values for each Type

# **Examples**

```
rel <- calculateReliability(mydata, n=c("A"=3,"B"=3,C="2"))</pre>
```

calculate VarCov 3

calculateVarCov	calculateVarCov: Estimate variance and covariance components of
	assessee p S_p and mean assessment scores i nested in assessees S_iINp, and determine the error scores S_delta

# **Description**

calculateVarCov: Estimate variance and covariance components of assessee p S\_p and mean assessment scores i nested in assessees S\_iINp, and determine the error scores S\_delta

# Usage

```
calculateVarCov(mydata, n)
```

# Arguments

mydata A dataframe containing columns ID, Type, Score (numeric)

n A vector containing for each Type the number of scores or assessments, e.g.

averages, requirements.

#### Value

A list containing the observed variances, covariances and errors scores

#### **Examples**

```
varcov <- calculateVarCov(mydata, c("A"=3, "B"=3, "C"=2))
varcov$S_p
varcov$S_iINp
varcov$S_delta</pre>
```

#### checkDatasets

checkDatasets: assert that the given datasets adhere to the assumptions and requirements of this package i.e. the data set 'mydata' is a dataframe with 3 columns, named "ID", "Type" and "Score", column "Score" contains numeric data, and each combination of "ID" and "Type" exists at least once, data set n contains a numerical value for each "Type", and data set weights contains a numerical value for each "Type" and the sum of all values is equal to 1.

# **Description**

checkDatasets: assert that the given datasets adhere to the assumptions and requirements of this package i.e. the data set 'mydata' is a dataframe with 3 columns, named "ID", "Type" and "Score", column "Score" contains numeric data, and each combination of "ID" and "Type" exists at least once, data set n contains a numerical value for each "Type", and data set weights contains a numerical value for each "Type" and the sum of all values is equal to 1.

#### Usage

```
checkDatasets(mydata, n = NULL, weights = NULL)
```

# **Arguments**

mydata A dataframe containing columns ID, Type, Score (numeric)

n A vector containing for each Type the number of scores or assessments, e.g.

averages, requirements.

weights A vector containing for each Type the weight assigned to it. The sum of weights

should be equal to 1.

#### Value

A list with the number of Assessments per ID per Type

# Examples

```
checkDatasets(mydata, n=c("A"=10, "B"=5, "C"=2), weights=c("A"=1/3, "B"=1/3, "C"=1/3))
```

computeCompositeReliability

computeCompositeReliability: multivariate generalizability theory approach to estimate the composite reliability of student performance across different types of assessments.

# Description

computeCompositeReliability: multivariate generalizability theory approach to estimate the composite reliability of student performance across different types of assessments.

# Usage

```
computeCompositeReliability(mydata, n, weights, optimizeSEM)
```

# Arguments

mydata	A dataframe	containing	columns	ID.	Type.	Score	(numeric)

n A vector containing for each Type the number of scores or assessments, e.g.

averages, requirements.

weights A vector containing for each Type the weight assigned to it. The sum of weights

should be equal to 1.

optimizeSEM Boolean, if TRUE, the weights are adjusted in order to minimize the Standard

Error of Measurement (SEM)

# Value

A list containing the composite reliability coefficient, the SEM and the distribution of weights. If 'optimizeSEM' is set to TRUE, the vector of weights minimizes the SEM.

# Examples

computeMaxCompositeReliability

computeMaxCompositeReliability: multivariate generalizability theory approach to estimate the maximum composite reliability of student performance across different types of assessments.

# Description

computeMaxCompositeReliability: multivariate generalizability theory approach to estimate the maximum composite reliability of student performance across different types of assessments.

# Usage

```
computeMaxCompositeReliability(mydata, n)
```

#### **Arguments**

mydata A dataframe containing columns ID, Type, Score (numeric)

n A vector containing for each Type the number of scores or assessments, e.g.

averages, requirements.

#### Value

A list containing the composite reliability coefficient, the SEM and the distribution of weights.

#### **Examples**

```
compMaxRel <- computeMaxCompositeReliability(mydata, n=c("A"=3, "B"=2, "C"=1))
compMaxRel$reliability
compMaxRel$SEM
compMaxRel$weights</pre>
```

6 GStudy

DStudy	DStudy: the program presents the reliability coefficient and the SEM
	for different numbers of assessments per type. Both the reliability co-
	efficient and the SEM are presented in graphs for differing numbers of
	assessments, given insight in the impact on the reliability if more or
	less assessments per type were required or advised.

# **Description**

DStudy: the program presents the reliability coefficient and the SEM for different numbers of assessments per type. Both the reliability coefficient and the SEM are presented in graphs for differing numbers of assessments, given insight in the impact on the reliability if more or less assessments per type were required or advised.

#### Usage

```
DStudy(mydata, maxNrAssessments = 60)
```

# Arguments

mydata A dataframe containing columns ID, Type, Score (numeric) maxNrAssessments

The maximum (Int) number of assessments per type on with the D study is executed

#### Value

A list containing 2 plots: reliability (plotRel) and Standard Error of Measurement SEM (plotSEM)

#### **Examples**

```
plots <- DStudy(mydata, maxNrAssessments = 10)</pre>
```

#### GStudy

GStudy for a dataset in which every student p has a potentially differing number of scores i on each assessment type m. i.e. model i: (p x m). The output gives descriptive statistics, reliability coefficient and SEM for each assessment type.

#### **Description**

GStudy for a dataset in which every student p has a potentially differing number of scores i on each assessment type m. i.e. model i: ( $p \times m$ ). The output gives descriptive statistics, reliability coefficient and SEM for each assessment type.

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#### Usage

```
GStudy(mydata, nrDigitsOutput = 4)
```

# **Arguments**

```
mydata A dataframe containing columns ID, Type, Score (numeric) nrDigitsOutput Integer, number of digits in the output
```

#### Value

Matrix with descriptive statistics for each Type of assessment

# **Examples**

```
GStudy(mydata,nrDigitsOutput=4)
```

GStudyPerType	GStudyPerType: This function is mainly used within calculateVar- Cov.R, but can be executed on its own to determine the reliability co-
	efficient and SEM for a dataset with a single type of assessment.

# Description

GStudyPerType: This function is mainly used within calculateVarCov.R, but can be executed on its own to determine the reliability coefficient and SEM for a dataset with a single type of assessment.

# Usage

```
GStudyPerType(dataPerAssessmentType)
```

# **Arguments**

 ${\tt dataPerAssessmentType}$ 

A dataframe containing columns ID, Type, Score (numeric), with only one value in column Type

#### Value

A matrix presenting the observerd varianced and residual, number of ID's and the percentage of the total variance for each group

8 mydata

mydata mydata

# Description

A dataset that can be used as example in package compositeReliabilityInNestedDesigns.

# Usage

mydata

# **Format**

mydata:

A data frame with 7,240 rows and 60 columns:

**ID** ID of the student

Type The type of assessment

**Score** The obtained score by this student on this occasion, using the type of assessment ...

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