

Package ‘nos’

July 22, 2025

Type Package

Title Compute Node Overlap and Segregation in Ecological Networks

Version 2.0.0

Description Calculate NOS (node overlap and segregation) and the associated metrics described in Strona and Veech (2015) <[doi:10.1111/2041-210X.12395](https://doi.org/10.1111/2041-210X.12395)> and Strona et al. (2018) <[doi:10.1111/ecog.03447](https://doi.org/10.1111/ecog.03447)>. The functions provided in the package enable assessment of structural patterns ranging from complete node segregation to perfect nestedness in a variety of network types. In addition, they provide a measure of network modularity.

License GPL (>= 3)

URL <https://github.com/txm676/nos>

BugReports <https://github.com/txm676/nos/issues>

Imports dplyr, gmp, stats, bipartite

Depends R(>= 4.1.0)

Encoding UTF-8

LazyData true

RoxygenNote 7.2.3

Suggests testthat

NeedsCompilation no

Author Thomas Matthews [aut, cre] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7624-244X>>),
Giovanni Strona [aut] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2294-4013>>)

Maintainer Thomas Matthews <txm676@gmail.com>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2024-03-22 19:40:02 UTC

Contents

nos-package	2
boreal	3
freqMat_2_edge	4
NOSM_bip	5
NOSM_dir	6
NOSM_POT_dir	7
NOSM_POT_undir	8
NOSM_undir	9
summary.NOSM	10
testList	11
Index	12

nos-package	<i>nos: A package for calculating node overlap and segregation in ecological networks</i>
-------------	---

Description

A package to calculate NOS (node overlap and segregation) and the associated metrics described in Strona and Veech (2015) and Strona et al. (2017). The functions provided in the package enable assessment of structural patterns ranging from complete node segregation to perfect nestedness in a variety of network types. In addition, they provide a measure of network modularity.

Does not currently work on Macs (OS X El Capitan) as the dependent gmp package is not yet available in binary form for OS X El Capitan.

Details

There are five main S3 generics that the user can choose depending on whether a directed, bipartite or undirected network is provided as input, and whether a network of potential interactions (pot_net) is available from the user. These five functions are: 1) NOSM_dir - for directed unimode networks (e.g. food webs) when pot_net is not provided, 2) NOSM_undir - for undirected networks (e.g. co-occurrence networks) when pot_net is not provided, 3) NOSM_bip - for bipartite networks (e.g. plant-pollinator networks), 4) NOSM_pot_dir - for directed unimode (e.g. food webs) and bipartite networks when pot_net is provided, and 5) NOSM_pot_undir - for undirected networks (e.g. co-occurrence networks) when pot_net is provided.

Each of these five main functions produces an output with class 'NOSM'. An S3 method (summary.NOSM) provides the summary statistics of interest (e.g.. NOS, Mod/network modularity, effect size Z, and p-value).

If a network of potential interactions is not provided, the computation will be made according to the following criteria: in an undirected network, all nodes will be considered as potential interacting partners; in a directed, unimode network, all nodes having at least an in-coming link will be considered as potential partners for nodes having at least an out-going link and vice-versa; in a

bipartite network, where nodes can be formally categorized into two distinct categories (e.g. plant-pollinators) all nodes in one category will be considered as potential partners for the nodes in the other category (and vice-versa).

Input data should be in the form of an edge list or frequency interaction matrix (this can be either a bipartite graph type or a squared adjacency matrix type). If the input data are in the format of a frequency interaction matrix, as used in the [bipartite](#) R package, then [freqMat_2_edge](#) should be used first, to convert the interaction matrix to an edge list prior to running any 'nos' functions.

The internal function `comb` calculates factorials. If the user provided `n` or `k` are too large (> roughly 170) `factorial(n || k)` produces `Inf`. In these cases `gmp::factorialZ` is used instead. See the help documentation for the 'gmp' package for further information.

It should be noted that due to differences in the way R and Python calculate the standard deviation, the modularity values and `z` values calculated using this R package differ very slightly (less than 0.2) from the values calculated using the Python scrip from Strona et al. (2017).

Author(s)

Thomas J. Matthews and Giovanni Strona

References

Strona, G., Matthews, T.J., Kortsch, S. and Veech, J.A. (2017) NOS: A software suite to compute node overlap and segregation in ecological networks. *Ecography*. In review.

boreal

A sample food-web network from the boreal region of the Barents Sea

Description

The sample network is a marine food web from the boreal region of the Barents Sea. The Barents Sea is a large, open sub-arctic shelf sea bordering the Arctic Ocean. The sample food web contains 180 trophospecies, consisting of detritus, 8 basal taxa, 32 zooplankton, 66 benthic, 56 fish, 8 sea birds and 9 marine mammal, and 1546 feeding interactions.

Usage

```
data(boreal)
```

Format

A data frame with 2 columns and 1546 rows. Each row is a node pair where the first element of each node pair is 'consumed' (or pollinated etc) by the second element.

Source

Kortsch, S. et al. 2015. Climate change alters the structure of arctic marine food webs due to poleward shifts of boreal generalists. *Proc. R. Soc. B* 282: 20151546.

Examples

```
data(boreal)
```

freqMat_2_edge

Convert a frequency interaction matrix to an edge list

Description

Converts frequency interaction matrices, as used with the [bipartite](#) R package, into edge lists. The input matrix can be either a matrix representing a bipartite graph or a squared adjacency matrix. As the functions in the 'nos' R package are based on presence-absence data, all interactions greater than or equal to 1 are set to 1.

Usage

```
freqMat_2_edge(x, bip = FALSE, sp_nam = FALSE)
```

Arguments

- | | |
|--------|---|
| x | A frequency interaction matrix, in which rows and columns represent species and each value should be numeric, indicating the number of interactions between two species. The input frequency interaction matrix can be in the form of a squared adjacency matrix (e.g. a food web, where the rows and columns represent the same set of species) or representing a bipartite graph where rows and columns correspond to different entities. In regards to the latter, the rows must correspond to species that are consumed (or pollinated etc) and columns are those species that are the consumers (or pollinators etc). For example, for a plant-pollinator interaction matrix, the rows would be the plant species, and the columns the pollinator species. The input interaction matrix can be a dataframe or a matrix. The names of the species can be set as the rownames and column names of the interaction matrix prior to running the function; if names are not provided, the function automatically names the species (see below). As the functions in the 'nos' R package are based on presence-absence data, all interactions greater than or equal to 1 are set to 1. Cannibalistic interactions are allowed, i.e. the same species can be in a row and column. |
| bip | A logical value describing whether the input matrix represents a bipartite graph (bip = TRUE), or a squared adjacency matrix (bip = FALSE: the default). |
| sp_nam | A logical value describing whether the user has provided species names i.e. row and column names (sp_nam = TRUE) or not (sp_nam = FALSE: the default). If species names are not provided and the input matrix is a squared adjacency matrix, the rows and columns are given the same identity values (i.e. numbers). If the input matrix represent a bipartite graph, rows and columns are assumed to correspond to different entities and are given different unique values. |

Value

An edge list in the form of a dataframe. Each value in a column is a node (e.g. a food item in a trophic-web). Nodes are set as numeric values. For each row (i.e. node pair), the value in the first column is 'consumed' (or pollinated, parasitized etc) by the value in the second column.

Examples

```
sim_dat <- matrix(c(0, 2, 1, 0, 1, 2, 0, 1), ncol = 4) #simulate bipartite matrix
rownames(sim_dat) <- c("A", "B") #name the consumed species
colnames(sim_dat) <- c("C", "D", "A", "E") #name the consumer species
freqMat_2_edge(sim_dat, bip = TRUE, sp_nam = TRUE)
```

NOSM_bip

*Compute NOS using a bipartite network***Description**

Computation of NOS using a bipartite network (e.g. plant-pollinator network), where nodes can be formally categorized into two distinct categories (e.g. plant-pollinators). All nodes in one category will be considered as potential partners for the nodes in the other category (and vice-versa).

Usage

```
NOSM_bip(net, perc = 1, sl = 1)
```

Arguments

net	A network, in the form of an edge list. This should be a matrix or dataframe with two columns. Each value in a column is a node (e.g. a food item in a trophic-web). Nodes can be identified using numbers or characters. For each row (i.e. node pair), the value in the first column is 'consumed' (or pollinated, parasitized etc) by the value in the second column. Data can also be in the format of a frequency interaction matrix, as used in the bipartite R package. In these cases freqMat_2_edge should be used first, to convert the interaction matrix to an edge list.
perc	(default to 1) - the fraction of node pair comparisons to be performed to compute NOS. We recommend performing all possible pair comparisons (perc = 1). However, for exploratory analyses on large sets of networks (or for very large networks), the possibility of using a lower fraction of pair comparisons is a useful option.
sl	(default is 1) Specifies whether cannibalistic interactions should be considered as possible and therefore taken into account and removed during computation ('1') or not ('0').

Value

A list (two elements) of class 'NOSM' with a 'Type' attribute 'bip'. The first element in the list is a vector of overlap values for the "in nodes" and the second element is a vector of overlap values for the "out nodes".

The `summary.NOSM` methods provides more useful summary statistics.

Examples

```
data(boreal)
y <- boreal[sample(rownames(boreal), 100, FALSE),] #subset 100 rows for speed
x <- NOSM_bip(y, perc = 1, sl = 1)
summary(x)
```

NOSM_dir	<i>Compute NOS using a directed network without a user provided network of potential interactions</i>
----------	---

Description

Computation of NOS using a directed network (e.g. food web) and without a user provided network of potential interactions. In a directed, unimode network, all nodes having at least an in-coming link will be considered as potential partners for nodes having at least an out-going link and vice-versa.

Usage

```
NOSM_dir(net, perc = 1, sl = 1)
```

Arguments

net	A network, in the form of an edge list. This should be a matrix or dataframe with two columns. Each value in a column is a node (e.g. a food item in a trophic-web). Nodes can be identified using numbers or characters. For each row (i.e. node pair), the value in the first column is 'consumed' (or pollinated, parasitized etc) by the value in the second column. Data can also be in the format of a frequency interaction matrix, as used in the bipartite R package. In these cases freqMat_2_edge should be used first, to convert the interaction matrix to an edge list.
perc	(default to 1) - the fraction of node pair comparisons to be performed to compute NOS. We recommend performing all possible pair comparisons (perc = 1). However, for exploratory analyses on large sets of networks (or for very large networks), the possibility of using a lower fraction of pair comparisons is a useful option.
sl	(default is 1) Specifies whether cannibalistic interactions should be considered as possible and therefore taken into account and removed during computation ('1') or not ('0').

Value

A list (two elements) of class 'NOSM' with a 'Type' attribute 'Dir'. The first element in the list is a vector of overlap values for the "in nodes" and the second element is a vector of overlap values for the "out nodes".

The `summary.NOSM` methods provides more useful summary statistics.

Examples

```
data(boreal)
y <- boreal[sample(rownames(boreal), 100, FALSE),] #subset 100 rows for speed
x <- NOSM_dir(y, perc = 1, sl = 1)
summary(x)
```

NOSM_POT_dir	<i>Compute NOS using a directed network and with a user provided network of potential interactions</i>
--------------	--

Description

Computation of NOS using an directed network (e.g. a food web) and with a user provided network of potential interactions.

Usage

```
NOSM_POT_dir(net, pot_net, perc = 1, sl = 1)
```

Arguments

net	A network, in the form of an edge list. This should be a matrix or dataframe with two columns. Each value in a column is a node. Nodes can be identified using numbers or characters. Data can also be in the format of a frequency interaction matrix, as used in the bipartite R package. In these cases freqMat_2_edge should be used first, to convert the interaction matrix to an edge list.
pot_net	A network of all potential interactions. These should include, as a minimum, all the observed interactions (i.e. all links in net), plus any other possible interaction (such as all those permitted by a certain trophic rule). <code>pot_net</code> should have the same structure as <code>net</code> (e.g. it should be a data frame or matrix).
perc	(default to 1) - the fraction of node pair comparisons to be performed to compute NOS. We recommend performing all possible pair comparisons (<code>perc = 1</code>). However, for exploratory analyses on large sets of networks (or for very large networks), the possibility of using a lower fraction of pair comparisons is a useful option.
sl	(default is 1) Specifies whether cannibalistic interactions should be considered as possible and therefore taken into account and removed during computation ('1') or not ('0').

Value

A list (two elements) of class 'NOSM' with a 'Type' attribute 'Pot_dir'. The first element in the list is a vector of overlap values for the "in nodes" and the second element is a vector of overlap values for the "out nodes".

The [summary.NOSM](#) methods provides more useful summary statistics.

Examples

```
data(boreal)
y <- boreal[1:300,] #subset 300 rows for speed
d <- sample(nrow(y), 200, replace = FALSE) #create a random pot_net
pot_net <- y[d,] #by randomly sampling 200 rows from boreal
x <- NOSM_POT_dir(y, pot_net, perc = 1, sl = 1)
summary(x)
```

NOSM_POT_undir	<i>Compute NOS using an undirected network and with a user provided network of potential interactions</i>
----------------	---

Description

Computation of NOS using an undirected network (e.g. a social co-occurrence network) and with a user provided network of potential interactions. In an undirected network, all nodes are considered as potential interacting partners.

Usage

```
NOSM_POT_undir(net, pot_net, perc = 1, sl = 1)
```

Arguments

net	A network, in the form of an edge list. This should be a matrix or dataframe with two columns. Each value in a column is a node. Nodes can be identified using numbers or characters. Data can also be in the format of a frequency interaction matrix, as used in the bipartite R package. In these cases freqMat_2_edge should be used first, to convert the interaction matrix to an edge list.
pot_net	A network of all potential interactions. These should include, as a minimum, all the observed interactions (i.e. all links in net), plus any other possible interaction (such as all those permitted by a certain trophic rule). pot_net should have the same structure as net (e.g. it should be a data frame or matrix).
perc	(default to 1) - the fraction of node pair comparisons to be performed to compute NOS. We recommend performing all possible pair comparisons (perc = 1). However, for exploratory analyses on large sets of networks (or for very large networks), the possibility of using a lower fraction of pair comparisons is a useful option.
sl	(default is 1) Specifies whether cannibalistic interactions should be considered as possible and therefore taken into account and removed during computation ('1') or not ('0').

Value

A list of class 'NOSM' with a 'Type' attribute 'Pot_undir', containing a vector of overlap values. The [summary.NOSM](#) methods provides more useful summary statistics.

Examples

```
data(boreal)
y <- boreal[1:300,] #subset 300 rows for speed
d <- sample(nrow(y), 200, replace = FALSE) #create a random pot_net
pot_net <- y[d,] #by randomly sampling 200 rows from boreal
x <- NOSM_POT_undir(y, pot_net, perc = 1, sl = 1)
summary(x)
```

NOSM_undir	<i>Compute NOS using an undirected network without a user provided network of potential interactions</i>
------------	--

Description

Computation of NOS using an undirected network (e.g. a social co-occurrence network) and without a user provided network of potential interactions. In an undirected network, all nodes are considered as potential interacting partners.

Usage

```
NOSM_undir(net, perc = 1, sl = 1)
```

Arguments

net	A network, in the form of an edge list. This should be a matrix or dataframe with two columns. Each value in a column is a node. Nodes can be identified using numbers or characters. Data can also be in the format of a frequency interaction matrix, as used in the bipartite R package. In these cases freqMat_2_edge should be used first, to convert the interaction matrix to an edge list.
perc	(default to 1) - the fraction of node pair comparisons to be performed to compute NOS. We recommend performing all possible pair comparisons (perc = 1). However, for exploratory analyses on large sets of networks (or for very large networks), the possibility of using a lower fraction of pair comparisons is a useful option.
sl	(default is 1) Specifies whether cannibalistic interactions should be considered as possible and therefore taken into account and removed during computation ('1') or not ('0').

Value

A list of class 'NOSM' with a 'Type' attribute 'Undir', containing a vector of overlap values. The [summary.NOSM](#) methods provides more useful summary statistics.

Examples

```
data(boreal)
y <- boreal[sample(rownames(boreal), 100, FALSE),] #subset 100 rows for speed
x <- NOSM_undir(y, perc = 1, sl = 1)
summary(x)
```

summary.NOSM

Summarising the results of the five main NOSM functions

Description

S3 method for class 'NOSM'. summary.NOSM creates summary statistics for objects of class NOSM. The exact summary statistics computed depends on the 'Type' attribute (e.g. 'bip') of the NOSM object (see below). The summary method generates more useful information for the user than the standard NOSM functions. Another S3 method (print.summary.NOSM; not documented) is used to print the output.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'NOSM'
summary(object, ..., y = 3)
```

Arguments

object	An object of class 'NOSM'.
...	further arguments passed to or from other methods.
y	(default of 3) The adjustment value for the computation of the z value (see Strona & Veech, 2015).

Value

Returns object of class 'summary.NOSM' with a Type attribute (e.g. 'bip') which is inherited. For NOSM objects of Type 'Pot_dir', 'bip' or 'Dir', the summary.NOSM method returns the mean of the overlap values for the "in nodes" (NOS_In), the mean of the overlap values for the "out nodes" (NOS_Out), the mean of Nos In and Nos Out (NOS), the standard deviation of the overlap values for the "in nodes" (MOD_In), the SD of the overlap values for the "out nodes" (MOD_Out), and the SD of the combined set of overlap values (MOD; network modularity).

For NOSM objects of Type 'Dir' and 'Undir', the summary.NOSM method returns just the NOS and MOD values (network modularity).

For all types of NOSM object, the z value and associated p value are also provided (see Strona & Veech, 2015).

References

Strona, G. & Veech, J. A. (2015). A new measure of ecological network structure based on node overlap and segregation. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*, 6(8), 907-915.

See Also

[NOSM_bip](#), [NOSM_POT_dir](#), [NOSM_POT_undir](#), [NOSM_dir](#), [NOSM_undir](#)

Examples

```
data(boreal)
z <- boreal[sample(rownames(boreal), 200, FALSE),] #subset for speed
x <- NOSM_bip(z, perc = 1, sl = 1)
summary(x, y = 3)
```

testList

Unit tests data

Description

Datasets used in the unit tests. Is a list with two elements, each representing a different dataset. Each dataset is a list with four elements, the first three being input data, and the fourth the output data. All generated using the python nos package to ensure the results match up.

Usage

```
testList
```

Format

An object of class list of length 2.

Examples

```
data(testList)
```

Index

* datasets

boreal, [3](#)

testList, [11](#)

bipartite, [3–9](#)

boreal, [3](#)

freqMat_2_edge, [3](#), [4](#), [5–9](#)

nos-package, [2](#)

NOSM_bip, [5](#), [11](#)

NOSM_dir, [6](#), [11](#)

NOSM_POT_dir, [7](#), [11](#)

NOSM_POT_undir, [8](#), [11](#)

NOSM_undir, [9](#), [11](#)

summary.NOSM, [6–9](#), [10](#)

testList, [11](#)