

# Package ‘rkt’

July 23, 2025

**Type** Package  
**Title** Mann-Kendall Test, Seasonal and Regional Kendall Tests  
**Version** 1.7  
**Date** 2024-02-07  
**Author** Aldo Marchetto  
**Maintainer** Aldo Marchetto <aldo.marchetto@cnr.it>  
**Description** Contains function rkt which computes the Mann-Kendall test (MK) and the Seasonal and the Regional Kendall Tests for trend (SKT and RKT) and Theil-Sen's slope estimator.  
**License** GPL-2  
**NeedsCompilation** no  
**Repository** CRAN  
**Date/Publication** 2024-02-08 08:00:06 UTC

## Contents

rkt-package . . . . .	1
piel . . . . .	3
pielw . . . . .	4
print.rkt . . . . .	5
rkt . . . . .	6
signl . . . . .	8
<b>Index</b>	<b>10</b>

---

rkt-package	<i>Mann-Kendall Test, Seasonal and Regional Kendall Tests</i>
-------------	---------------------------------------------------------------

---

## Description

Contains function rkt which computes the Mann-Kendall test (MK) and the Seasonal and the Regional Kendall Tests for trend (SKT and RKT) and Theil-Sen’s slope estimator.

## Details

Package: rkt  
 Type: Package  
 Version: 1.7  
 Date: 2024-02-07  
 License: GPL-2

This function computes the Mann-Kendall test (MK) and the Seasonal and the Regional Kendall Tests for trend (SKT and RKT) and Sen's slope estimator.

MK, SKT and RKT are tests for monotonic trend in time series based on the Kendall rank correlation.

SKT and RKT are intrablock tests in which test statistics are computed for each season or month (SKT) or for each site (RKT) and combined in an overall test.

In RKT, seasonality can be accounted for by using a blocking variable combining both sites and seasons, such as (site \* 12 + month).

When a covariable is defined, this function also computes partial RKT and SKT.

To allow for non-regular sampling dates, input data should be vectors, not time series.

## Author(s)

Maintainer: Aldo Marchetto <aldo.marchetto@cnr.it>

## References

Marchetto A., Rogora M., Arisci S. 2013 Trend analysis of atmospheric deposition data: a comparison of statistical approaches. *Atmospheric Environment* **64**, 95–102

Helsel D.R., Frans L.M. 2006 The regional Kendall test for trend: *Environmental Science and Technology* **40**, 4066–4073

Helsel D.R., Mueller D.K., Slack J.R. 2006 *Computer program for the Kendall family of trend tests* U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2005-5275, 4 pp.

Hirsch R.M., Slack J.R., Smith R.A. Techniques of trend analysis for monthly water quality data. *Water Resources Research* **18**, 107-121

Hirsch R.M., Slack J.R. 1984 A nonparametric test for seasonal data with serial dependence. *Water Resources Research* **20**, 727-732

Libiseller C., Grimvall A. 2002 Performance of partial Mann-Kendall tests for trend detection in the presence of covariates. *Environmetrics* **13**, 71-84

Mann H.B. 1945. Nonparametric tests against trend. *Econometrica* **13**, 245-249

## Examples

```
#
```

```
# monthly data, using covariate and intra-block correction
#
data(pie1)
ex<-rkt(pie1$Year,pie1$S04,pie1$Month,pie1$mm,TRUE)
print(ex)
#
# weekly data, no intrablock correction
#
data(pie1w)
ex<-rkt(pie1w$Date,pie1w$S04)
print(ex)
#
# monthly data, hydrological years (oct-sep) as in USGS program
#
data(pie1)
ex<-rkt(pie1$Year+floor(pie1$Month/10),pie1$S04,pie1$Month,,TRUE)
print(ex)
#
```

---

pie1

*Example data for rkt function*

---

## Description

Bulk open field deposition collected in Val Sessera (Italy) in 1998-2010, volume weighted monthly averages.

## Usage

```
data(pie1)
```

## Format

A data frame with 156 observations on the following 5 variables.

Year sampling year

Month sampling month

mm amount of precipitation (mm)

S04 sulphate concentration (mg/L)

NO3 nitrate concentration (mg N/L)

## Details

SO4 shows a highly significant decreasing trend, NO3 shows a moderately significant decreasing trend and mm no significant trend

## Source

Marchetto A., Rogora M. & Arisci S. 2013 Trend analysis of atmospheric deposition data: a comparison of statistical approaches. *Atmospheric Environment* **64**, 95-102

Rogora M., Mosello R., Arisci S., Brizzio M., Barbieri A., Balestrini R., Waldner P., Schmitt M., Stahli M., Thimonier A., Kalina M., Puxbaum H., Nickus U., Ulrich E., Probst A. 2006 An overview of atmospheric deposition chemistry over the Alps: Present status and long-term trends. *Hydrobiologia* **562**, 17–40

## Examples

```
data(pie1)
rkt(pie1$Year, pie1$SO4, pie1$Month, pie1$mm, TRUE)
```

---

pie1w	<i>Example data for rkt function</i>
-------	--------------------------------------

---

## Description

Bulk open field deposition collected in Val Sessera (Italy) in 1998-2007. Raw weekly data.

## Usage

```
data(pie1)
```

## Format

A data frame with 718 observations on the following 4 variables.

Date sampling date (year+decimals)

mm amount of precipitation (mm)

SO4 sulphate concentration (mg/L)

NO3 nitrate concentration (mg N/L)

## Details

SO4 shows a decreasing trend NO3 and mm show no significant trend

## Source

Marchetto A., Rogora M. & Arisci S. 2013 Trend analysis of atmospheric deposition data: a comparison of statistical approaches. *Atmospheric Environment* **64**, 95-102

Rogora M., Mosello R., Arisci S., Brizzio M., Barbieri A., Balestrini R., Waldner P., Schmitt M., Stahli M., Thimonier A., Kalina M., Puxbaum H., Nickus U., Ulrich E., Probst A. 2006 An overview of atmospheric deposition chemistry over the Alps: Present status and long-term trends. *Hydrobiologia* **562**, 17–40

**Examples**

```
data(pie1w)
rkt(pie1w$Date,pie1w$S04)
```

---

print.rkt	<i>print Method for class rkt</i>
-----------	-----------------------------------

---

**Description**

The results of the test(s) and the slope are printed

**Usage**

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

**Arguments**

x	an object of class rkt, i.e. the output of the rkt function
...	any additional argument

**Value**

NULL

**Author(s)**

Aldo Marchetto <aldo.marchetto@cnr.it>

**Examples**

```
data(pie1)

ex<-rkt(pie1$Year,pie1$S04,pie1$Month,pie1$mm,TRUE)
print(ex)
```

---

rkt	<i>Mann Kendall test and Seasonal and Regional Kendall tests (SKT/RKT)</i>
-----	----------------------------------------------------------------------------

---

### Description

Computes the Mann-Kendall test (MK) and the Seasonal and the Regional Kendall Tests for trend (SKT and RKT) and Theil-Sen's slope estimator.

When a covariable is defined, this function also computes partial RKT and SKT.

To allow for non-regular sampling dates, input data should be vectors, not time series.

### Usage

```
rkt(date, y, block, cv, correct = F, rep = "e")
```

### Arguments

date	a mandatory vector of numerical data representing dates, as years or years+decimal. If correction for intra-block correlation is required, dates will be truncated to the year, and no more than one value per block per year will be considered. If two equal dates (or truncated dates) are found, the behaviour of the program is determined by rep
y	a mandatory vector of measured data. In this vector, missing data are allowed.
block	an optional vector of positive integer numbers representing blocks, i.e. sites, seasons or months, or a code combining both sites and seasons/months. If no blocks are defined, the result will be the Mann-Kendall test.
cv	an optional vector containing a covariable, such as river flow or deposition amount. In this vector, missing data are allowed
correct	a boolean value. If correct is FALSE, no correction for correlation between blocks is performed. If correct is TRUE, dates are truncated and the correction for correlation between blocks is performed. Note that the truncation is performed in any case, while the correction is performed only if there are more than one block, and more than nine years of data. Default value is FALSE.
rep	a character value. If rep is set to "a", data sharing the same date (or truncated date if correct is TRUE) are averaged. If rep is set to "m", their median is used. For any other value of rep, an error is produced if two or more data share the same date (or truncated date if correct is TRUE). The latter is the default behaviour of the program.

### Details

The MK test for trend analysis was first proposed by Mann (1945).

Hirsch et al. (1982) derived SKT for trend analysis of monthly data in a single site using seasons as the blocking variable, and Helsel and Franse (2006) extended it to a regional test using sites as the blocking variable (RKT).

The correction for correlation among blocks was introduced by Hirsch & Slack (1984), and the

partial test was proposed by Libiseller & Grimvall (2002).

At least 4 data are required for each block.

Correction for correlation between blocks is not performed if less than 10 years of data are available.

If correct is FALSE, data are not required to be sampled monthly or yearly.

## Value

A list with class rkt is returned with the following components:

sl	two sided p-value
S	Kendall's score
B	Theil-Sen's slope for MK, Seasonal (or Regional) Kendall Slope estimator for SKT and RKT
varS	variance of S
sl.corrected	two sided p-value, after correction for intra-block correlation
varS.corrected	variance of S, after correction for intra-block correlation
partial.S	partial Kendall's score, if a covariable is present
partial.sl	two sided p-value of the partial test, if a covariable is present
partial.varS	partial variance of S, if a covariable is present
partial.sl.corrected	two sided p-value of the partial test, after correction for intra-block correlation, if a covariable is present
partial.varS.corrected	partial variance of S, after correction for intra-block correlation, if a covariable is present
tau	Kendall tau

## Note

All items are returned in any case. When a test is not performed, relative items are set to NA.

To consider data sharing the same dates as ties in the time domain, please use Kendall function in the Kendall package.

For time series with multiple detection limits, please refer to the NADA package.

## Author(s)

Aldo Marchetto <aldo.marchetto@cnr.it>

## References

Helsel D.R., Frans L.M. 2006 The regional Kendall test for trend: Environmental Science and Technology **40**, 4066–4073

Helsel D.R., Mueller D.K., Slack J.R. 2006 *Computer program for the Kendall family of trend*

tests U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2005-5275, 4 pp.

Hirsch R.M., Slack J.R., Smith R.A. Techniques of trend analysis for monthly water quality data. *Water Resources Research* **18**, 107-121

Hirsch R.M., Slack J.R. 1984 A nonparametric test for seasonal data with serial dependence. *Water Resources Research* **20**, 727-732

Libiseller C., Grimvall A. 2002 Performance of partial Mann-Kendall tests for trend detection in the presence of covariates. *Environmetrics* **13**, 71-84

Mann H.B. 1945. Nonparametric tests against trend. *Econometrica* **13**, 245-249 Marchetto A., Rogora M., Arisci S. 2013 Trend analysis of atmospheric deposition data: a comparison of statistical approaches. *Atmospheric Environment* **64**, 95-102

### See Also

print.rkt

### Examples

```
#
# monthly data
#
data(pie1)
ex<-rkt(pie1$Year,pie1$SO4,pie1$Month,pie1$mm,TRUE)
print(ex)
#
# weekly data, no intrablock correction
#

data(pie1w)
ex<-rkt(pie1w$Date,pie1w$SO4)
print(ex)
#
# monthly data, hydrological years (oct-sep) as in USGS program
#
data(pie1)
ex<-rkt(pie1$Year+floor(pie1$Month/10),pie1$SO4,pie1$Month,,TRUE)
print(ex)
```

---

sign1

*modified sign() function for SKT taking into account missing data*

---

### Description

differ from sign as it return 0 when x is NA



**Usage**`sign1(x)`**Arguments**

`x` any number

**Value**

1 if  $x > 0$  -1 if  $x < 0$  0 if  $x = 0$  or  $x = \text{NA}$

**Note**

used by `rkt`

**Author(s)**

Aldo Marchetto

**References**

Hirsch R.M. & Slack J.R. 1984. A nonparametric test for seasonal data with serial dependence. *Water Resources Research*, 20: 727-732

**See Also**

`rkt`

**Examples**

```
a<-1
sign1(a)
a<-NA
sign1(a)
```

# Index

- \* **datasets**
  - pie1, [3](#)
  - pie1w, [4](#)
- \* **math**
  - sign1, [8](#)
- \* **nonparametric**
  - rkt, [6](#)
- \* **package**
  - rkt-package, [1](#)
- \* **print**
  - print.rkt, [5](#)
- \* **ts**
  - rkt, [6](#)
  - rkt-package, [1](#)

pie1, [3](#)  
pie1w, [4](#)  
print.rkt, [5](#)

rkt, [6](#)  
rkt-package, [1](#)

sign1, [8](#)