Package 'dissimilarities'

June 28, 2025

Type Package

Title Creating, Manipulating, and Subsetting ``dist" Objects

Version 0.3.0

Maintainer Minh Long Nguyen <edelweiss611428@gmail.com>

Description Efficiently creates, manipulates, and subsets ``dist" objects, commonly used in cluster analysis. Designed to minimise unnecessary conversions and computational overhead while enabling seamless interaction with distance matrices.

License CC BY 4.0

Encoding UTF-8

URL https://github.com/edelweiss611428/dissimilarities

BugReports https://github.com/edelweiss611428/dissimilarities/issues

Imports Rcpp, microbenchmark, proxy, stats LinkingTo Rcpp RoxygenNote 7.3.2 Suggests testthat (>= 3.0.0) Config/testthat/edition 3 NeedsCompilation yes Author Minh Long Nguyen [aut, cre] Repository CRAN Date/Publication 2025-06-28 15:40:01 UTC

Contents

Dist2Mat	2
expandDist	3
fastDist	4
fastDistAB	5
get1dFrom2d	6
get2dFrom1d	7

Dist2Mat

	subCols	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	• •	•	•	•	•	•	•	8
	subDist2Mat .	•	• •	· ·	•	•			•	•	•				•	•		•	•	•	•				•	•			•	•	•	•••	•••		•	•			9 10
I																																							12

Index

Dist2Mat

Dist2Mat conversion

Description

Efficiently converts a "dist" object into a symmetric distance "matrix".

Usage

Dist2Mat(dist)

Arguments

dist

A "dist" object, which can be computed via the stats::dist function, representing pairwise distances between observations.

Details

Converts a "dist" object, typically created using the stats::dist function, into a symmetric matrix form. This implementation is optimised for speed and performs significantly faster than base::as.matrix or proxy::as.matrix when applied to "dist" objects.

Row names are retained. If it is null, as.character(1:nObs) will be used as the row and column names of the resulting matrix instead.

Value

A distance "matrix".

Author(s)

Minh Long Nguyen <edelweiss611428@gmail.com>

all.equal(v1, v2)

expandDist

Expanding a distance matrix given new data

Description

Efficiently appends new "rows" to an existing "dist" object without explicitly recomputing a full pairwise distance matrix.

Usage

```
expandDist(distA, A, B, method = "euclidean", diag = FALSE, upper = FALSE, p = 2)
```

Arguments

distA	A "dist" object, representing the pairwise distance matrix between observations in matrix A, ideally computed via the distance metric specified in this function. This requires manual check.
A	A numeric matrix.
В	A numeric matrix.
method	A character string specifying the distance metric to use. Supported methods include "euclidean", "manhattan", "maximum", "minkowski", "cosine", and "canberra".
diag	A boolean value, indicating whether to display the diagonal entries.
upper	A boolean value, indicating whether to display the upper triangular entries.
р	A positive integer, required for computing Minkowski distance; by default $p = 2$ (i.e., Euclidean).

Details

Expands an existing distance matrix of class "dist" for matrix A, given new data B, without explicitly computing the distance matrix of rbind(A,B). This supports multiple commonly used distance measures and is optimised for speed.

Row names are retained. If either rownames(A) or rownames(B) is null, as.character(1:(nrow(A)+nrow(B))) will be used as row names instead.

Value

A distance matrix of class "dist" for rbind(A,B).

Author(s)

Minh Long Nguyen <edelweiss611428@gmail.com>

Examples

```
A = matrix(rnorm(100), nrow = 20)
B = matrix(rnorm(250), nrow = 50)
AB = rbind(A,B)
distA = fastDist(A)
v1 = as.vector(expandDist(distA, A, B))
v2 = as.vector(fastDist(AB))
all.equal(v1, v2)
```

fastDist

"dist" object computation

Description

Efficiently computes a "dist" object from a numeric matrix using various distance metrics.

Usage

```
fastDist(X, method = "euclidean", diag = FALSE, upper = FALSE, p = 2L)
```

Arguments

Х	A numeric matrix.
method	A character string specifying the distance metric to use. Supported methods include "euclidean", "manhattan", "maximum", "minkowski", "cosine", and "canberra".
diag	A boolean value, indicating whether to display the diagonal entries.
upper	A boolean value, indicating whether to display the upper triangular entries.
р	A positive integer, required for computing Minkowski distance; by default $p = 2$ (i.e., Euclidean).

Details

Calculates pairwise distances between rows of a numeric matrix and returns the result as a compact "dist" object, which stores the lower-triangular entries of a complete distance matrix. Supports multiple distance measures, including "euclidean", "manhattan", "maximum", "minkowski", "cosine", and "canberra". This implementation is optimised for speed, especially on large matrices.

Row names are retained. If it is null, as.character(1:nrow(X)) will be used as row names instead.

Value

A distance matrix of class "dist".

Author(s)

Minh Long Nguyen <edelweiss611428@gmail.com>

4

fastDistAB

Examples

fastDistAB

```
Computing pairwise distances between rows of two matrices
```

Description

Efficiently computes pairwise distances between the rows of two numeric matrices using various distance metrics.

Usage

fastDistAB(A, B, method = "euclidean", p = 2L)

Arguments

Α	A numeric matrix.
В	A numeric matrix.
method	A character string specifying the distance metric to use. Supported methods include "euclidean", "manhattan", "maximum", "minkowski", "cosine", and "canberra".
р	A positive integer, required for computing Minkowski distance; by default p = 2 (i.e., Euclidean).

Details

This function computes the full pairwise distance matrix between the rows of matrices A and B, without forming a concatenated matrix or performing unnecessary intermediate conversions. It supports multiple commonly used distance measures and is optimised for speed.

Row names in A and B are retained. If either rownames(A) or rownames(B) is null, as.character(1:nrow(A)) and as.character(1:nrow(B)) will be used as row and column names of the resulting matrix instead.

Value

A numeric matrix of dimensions nrow(A) by nrow(B), where each entry represents the distance between a row in A and a row in B.

Author(s)

Minh Long Nguyen <edelweiss611428@gmail.com>

Examples

get1dFrom2d

2D-indexing to 1D-indexing

Description

Efficiently computes 1D-indexing from 2D-indexing

Usage

get1dFrom2d(i,j, N)

Arguments

i	An integer specifying the row index
j	An integer specifying the column index - must be different from i as "dist" object does not store the diagonal entries.
Ν	The number of observations in the original data matrix

Details

Converts 2D indexing (a row-column pair) into 1D indexing (as used in R's "dist" objects), given the number of observations N.

Currently, name-based indexing is not supported."

Value

An integer specifying the 1d index

Author(s)

Minh Long Nguyen <edelweiss611428@gmail.com>

get2dFrom1d

Examples

```
N = 5
for(i in 1:4){
  for(j in (i+1):5){
    print(get1dFrom2d(i,j,N))
  }
}
```

get2dFrom1d

1D-indexing to 2D-indexing

Description

Efficiently computes 2D-indexing from 1D-indexing

Usage

get2dFrom1d(idx1d, N)

Arguments

idx1d	An integer vector of 1D indexes
Ν	The number of observations in the original data matrix

Details

Converts 1D indexing (as used in R's "dist" objects) into 2D indexing (row-column pairs) for a distance matrix of size $N \times N$.

Currently, name-based indexing is not supported."

Value

An integer matrix storing the corresponding 2D indexes.

Author(s)

Minh Long Nguyen <edelweiss611428@gmail.com>

Examples

get2dFrom1d(1:10, 5)

subCols

Description

Efficiently extracts a column-wise subset of a "dist" object, returning the corresponding submatrix of pairwise distances. # nolint

Usage

subCols(dist, idx)

Arguments

dist	A "dist" object, which can be computed via the stats::dist function, representing
	pairwise distances between observations.
idx	An integer vector, specifying the column indices of the subsetted matrix.

Details

This function extracts specified columns from a "dist" object without explicit conversion to a dense distance "matrix", resulting in better performance and reduced memory overhead. Particularly useful when only a subset of distances is needed for downstream tasks.

Row names are retained. If it is null, as.character(1:nObs) and as.character(idx) will be used as row and column names of the resulting matrix instead.

Value

A numeric "matrix" containing the pairwise distances between all rows and the specified columns.

Author(s)

Minh Long Nguyen <edelweiss611428@gmail.com>

subDist2Dist

Description

Efficiently extracts a subset of observations from a "dist" object and returns a new "dist" object representing only the selected distances.

Usage

subDist2Dist(dist, idx, diag = FALSE, upper = FALSE)

Arguments

dist	A "dist" object, which can be computed via the stats::dist function, representing the full pairwise distance matrix between observations.
idx	An integer vector, specifying the indices of the observations to retain.
diag	A boolean value, indicating whether to display the diagonal entries.
upper	A boolean value, indicating whether to display the upper triangular entries.

Details

This function subsets a "dist" object directly without explicit conversion to a dense distance "matrix". It extracts only the relevant distances corresponding to the selected indices, improving both performance and memory efficiency. The result is returned as a subsetted "dist" object, preserving compatibility with downstream functions that accept this class.

Row names are retained. If it is null, as.character(idx) will be used as row names instead.

Value

A numeric "matrix" storing pairwise distances between the selected observations.

Author(s)

Minh Long Nguyen <edelweiss611428@gmail.com>

```
v2 = as.vector(subDist2Dist(dx, 1:10))
all.equal(v1, v2)
```

subDist2Mat

Dist2Mat subsetting

Description

Efficiently extracts a 2d submatrix of pairwise distances from a "dist" object.

Usage

```
subDist2Mat(dist, idx1, idx2)
```

Arguments

dist	A "dist" object, which can be computed via the stats::dist function, representing the full pairwise distance matrix between observations.
idx1	An integer vector, specifying the row indices of the subsetted matrix.
idx2	An integer vector, specifying the column indices of the subsetted matrix.

Details

This function efficiently subsets a "dist" object by row and column indices, returning the corresponding rectangular section as a numeric matrix. It avoids explicit conversion from the "dist" object to a dense "matrix", improving memory efficiency and computational speed, especially with large datasets.

Row names are retained. If it is null, as.character(idx1) and as.character(idx2) will be used as row and column names of the resulting matrix instead.

Value

A numeric matrix storing pairwise distances between observations column-indexed by idx1 and row-indexed by idx2.

Author(s)

Minh Long Nguyen <edelweiss611428@gmail.com>

10

subDist2Mat

Index

Dist2Mat, 2 expandDist, 3 fastDist, 4 fastDistAB, 5 get1dFrom2d, 6 get2dFrom1d, 7 subCols, 8 subDist2Dist, 9 subDist2Mat, 10