

Package ‘semEffect’

July 23, 2025

Title Structural Equation Model Effect Analysis and Visualization

Version 1.2.3

Description Provides standardized effect decomposition (direct, indirect, and total effects) for three major structural equation modeling frameworks: 'lavaan', 'piecewiseSEM', and 'plspm'. Automatically handles zero-effect variables, generates publication-ready 'ggplot2' visualizations, and returns both wide-format and long-format effect tables. Supports effect filtering, multi-model object inputs, and customizable visualization parameters. For a general overview of the methods used in this package, see Rosseel (2012) <[doi:10.18637/jss.v048.i02](https://doi.org/10.18637/jss.v048.i02)> and Lefcheck (2016) <[doi:10.1111/2041-210X.12512](https://doi.org/10.1111/2041-210X.12512)>.

URL <https://github.com/PhDMeiwp/semEffect/>

BugReports <https://github.com/PhDMeiwp/semEffect/issues>

Depends R (>= 4.4.0)

License GPL-3

Encoding UTF-8

Imports lavaan, piecewiseSEM, plspm, ggplot2, tidyr, dplyr, utils, checkmate, RColorBrewer

Suggests testthat

RoxygenNote 7.3.2

NeedsCompilation no

Author Weiping Mei [aut, cre] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6400-9862>>)

Maintainer Weiping Mei <meiweiping@163.com>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2025-07-04 19:30:01 UTC

Contents

sem_effects	2
Index	5

Description

Provides standardized effect decomposition (direct, indirect, and total effects) for three major structural equation modeling frameworks: 'lavaan', 'piecewiseSEM', and 'plspm'. Automatically handles zero-effect variables, generates publication-ready 'ggplot2' visualizations, and returns both wide-format and long-format effect tables. Supports effect filtering, multi-model object inputs, and customizable visualization parameters.

Usage

```
sem_effects(
  object,
  target,
  plot = TRUE,
  delete_zero_effect = TRUE,
  total_only = FALSE,
  total_color = "skyblue",
  color_palette = c("darkgreen", "skyblue", "orange")
)
```

Arguments

object	SEM object (lavaan/psem/plspm).
target	Character string specifying the target variable name for effect analysis.
plot	Logical indicating whether to generate effect visualization plots (default: TRUE).
delete_zero_effect	Logical indicating whether to removes rows where all specified effect columns contain only zeros (default: TRUE).
total_only	Logical controlling plot mode. If TRUE, shows only total effects with customizable colors; if FALSE, displays all effect types with palette coloring (default: FALSE).
total_color	Single color or vector of colors for total effect bars when total_only=TRUE (default: "skyblue").
color_palette	Character vector of 3 colors for direct/indirect/total effects when total_only=FALSE (default: c("darkgreen", "skyblue", "orange")).

Value

A list containing three components:

- effect_table: A data frame with variables and their standardized effect values (direct, indirect, total)
- effect_long: A long-format version of effect_table
- plot_object: A ggplot2 object (if plot=TRUE), NULL otherwise

Author(s)

Weiping Mei

See Also[sem](#), [psem](#), [plspm](#)**Examples**

```
# Example 01: lavaan -----
library(lavaan)

model <- '
  # Measurement model
  ind60 =~ x1 + x2 + x3
  dem60 =~ y1 + y2 + y3 + y4
  dem65 =~ y5 + y6 + y7 + y8

  # Structural model
  dem60 ~ ind60
  dem65 ~ ind60 + dem60
'

fit <- sem(model, data = PoliticalDemocracy)

# Analyze effects for target variable "dem65"
results <- sem_effects(fit, target = "dem65")

print(results$effect_table)
print(results$effect_long)
print(results$plot_object)

# Customize plot appearance
results$plot_object +
  ggplot2::coord_flip()+
  ggplot2::theme_minimal() +
  ggplot2::ggtitle("Standardized effects for dem65")

# Example 02: piecewiseSEM -----
library(piecewiseSEM)
pmod <- psem(
  lm(rich ~ cover, data = keeley),
  lm(cover ~ firesev, data = keeley),
  lm(firesev ~ age, data = keeley),
  data = keeley
)

sem_effects(pmod, target = "rich",
            color_palette = c("darkgreen", "grey80", "purple"))
```

```
# Example 03: plspm -----  
  
library(plspm)  
data(satisfaction)  
  
# path matrix  
IMAG = c(0,0,0,0,0,0)  
EXPE = c(1,0,0,0,0,0)  
QUAL = c(0,1,0,0,0,0)  
VAL = c(0,1,1,0,0,0)  
SAT = c(1,1,1,1,0,0)  
LOY = c(1,0,0,0,1,0)  
sat_path = rbind(IMAG, EXPE, QUAL, VAL, SAT, LOY)  
  
# blocks of outer model  
sat_blocks = list(1:5, 6:10, 11:15, 16:19, 20:23, 24:27)  
  
# vector of modes (reflective indicators)  
sat_mod = rep("A", 6)  
  
# apply plspm  
plsmmodel = plspm(satisfaction, sat_path, sat_blocks, modes = sat_mod)  
  
sem_effects(plsmmodel, target = "LOY", plot = TRUE, delete_zero_effect = TRUE,  
            total_only = TRUE,  
            total_color = RColorBrewer::brewer.pal(5,"Set3"))
```

Index

plspm, [3](#)

psem, [3](#)

sem, [3](#)

sem_effects, [2](#)