Package: lcra (via r-universe)

October 21, 2026

Version 1.1.5

Title Bayesian Joint Latent Class and Regression Models

Type Package

Description For fitting Bayesian joint latent class and regression models using Gibbs sampling. See the documentation for the model. The technical details of the model implemented here are described in Elliott, Michael R., Zhao, Zhangchen, Mukherjee, Bhramar, Kanaya, Alka, Needham, Belinda L., ``Methods to account for uncertainty in latent class assignments when using latent classes as predictors in regression models, with application to acculturation strategy measures" (2020) In press at Epidemiology <doi:10.1097/EDE.0000000000001139>.

License GPL-2

Encoding UTF-8

LazyData true

Biarch true

Depends R (>= 3.4.0)

Imports rlang, coda, rjags

Suggests R2WinBUGS, gtools

SystemRequirements JAGS 4.x.y or WinBUGS 1.4

URL https://github.com/umich-biostatistics/lcra

BugReports https://github.com/umich-biostatistics/lcra/issues

RoxygenNote 7.2.3

NeedsCompilation no

Author Michael Elliot [aut], Zhangchen Zhao [aut], Michael Kleinsasser [aut, cre]

Maintainer Michael Kleinsasser <biostat-cran-manager@umich.edu>

Config/pak/sysreqs jags

Repository https://cran.r-universe.dev

Date/Publication 2024-03-09 02:34:28 UTC

RemoteUrl https://github.com/cran/lcra

RemoteRef HEAD

RemoteSha 2ba5afa51763c15df8f6219f8ebd9f8b916fe29f

Contents

express 2
latent3 3
latent3_binary 4
lcra 5
paper_sim 10
paper_sim_binary 11

Index **13**

`express` *Small simulated data set*

Description

Simulated data set with continuous regression outcome. The data set contains 150 observations of 8 variables, which include 5 manifest variables, and two regressors.

Usage

```
express
```

Format

An object of class `data.frame` with 150 rows and 8 columns.

Details

y Discrete regression outcome of interest

Z1 Categorical manifest variable 1

Z2 Categorical manifest variable 2

Z3 Categorical manifest variable 3

Z4 Categorical manifest variable 4

Z5 Categorical manifest variable 5

x1 Continuous predictor variable

x2 Continuous predictor variable

`latent3` *Simulated data set number 2 (continuous regression outcome)*

Description

Simulated data set with continuous regression outcome. The data set contains 350 observations of 16 variables, which include 12 manifest variables, and four regressors.

Usage

```
latent3
```

Format

An object of class `data.frame` with 350 rows and 17 columns.

Details

y Discrete regression outcome of interest

Z1 Categorical manifest variable 1

Z2 Categorical manifest variable 2

Z3 Categorical manifest variable 3

Z4 Categorical manifest variable 4

Z5 Categorical manifest variable 5

Z6 Categorical manifest variable 6

Z7 Categorical manifest variable 7

Z8 Categorical manifest variable 8

Z9 Categorical manifest variable 9

Z10 Categorical manifest variable 10

Z11 Categorical manifest variable 11

Z12 Categorical manifest variable 12

x1 Continuous predictor variable

x2 Continuous predictor variable

x3 Continuous predictor variable

x4 Continuous predictor variable

`latent3_binary` *Simulated data set number 2 (discrete regression outcome)*

Description

Simulated data set with discrete regression outcome. The data set contains 350 observations of 16 variables, which include 12 manifest variables, and four regressors.

Usage

```
latent3_binary
```

Format

An object of class `data.frame` with 350 rows and 17 columns.

Details

y Discrete regression outcome of interest

Z1 Categorical manifest variable 1

Z2 Categorical manifest variable 2

Z3 Categorical manifest variable 3

Z4 Categorical manifest variable 4

Z5 Categorical manifest variable 5

Z6 Categorical manifest variable 6

Z7 Categorical manifest variable 7

Z8 Categorical manifest variable 8

Z9 Categorical manifest variable 9

Z10 Categorical manifest variable 10

Z11 Categorical manifest variable 11

Z12 Categorical manifest variable 12

x1 Continuous predictor variable

x2 Continuous predictor variable

x3 Continuous predictor variable

x4 Continuous predictor variable

`lcra` *Joint Bayesian Latent Class and Regression Analysis*

Description

Given a set of categorical manifest outcomes, identify unmeasured class membership among subjects, and use latent class membership to predict regression outcome jointly with a set of regressors.

Usage

```
lcra(
  formula,
  data,
  family,
  nclasses,
  manifest,
  sampler = "JAGS",
  inits = NULL,
  dir,
  n.chains = 3,
  n.iter = 2000,
  n.burnin = n.iter/2,
  n.thin = 1,
  n.adapt = 1000,
  useWINE = FALSE,
  WINE,
  debug = FALSE,
  ...
)
```

Arguments

`formula`	If formula = NULL, LCA without regression model is fitted. If a regression model is to be fitted, specify a formula using R standard syntax, e.g., Y ~ age + sex + trt. Do not include manifest variables in the regression model specification. These will be appended internally as latent classes.
`data`	data.frame with the column names specified in the regression formula and the manifest argument. The columns used in the regression formula can be of any type and will be dealt with using normal R behaviour. The manifest variable columns, however, must be coded as numeric using positive integers. For example, if one of the manifest outcomes takes on values 'Dislike', 'Neutral', and 'like', then code them as 1, 2, and 3.
`family`	a description of the error distribution to be used in the model. Currently the options are c("gaussian") with identity link and c("binomial") which uses a logit link.
`nclasses`	numeric, number of latent classes

manifest	character vector containing the names of each manifest variable, e.g., manifest = c("Z1", "med_3", "X5"). The values of the manifest columns must be numerically coded with levels 1 through n_levels, where n_levels is the number of levels for the ith manifest variable. The function will throw an error message if they are not coded properly.
sampler	which MCMC sampler to use? lcra relies on Gibbs sampling, where the options are "WinBUGS" or "JAGS". sampler = "JAGS" is the default, and is recommended
inits	list of initial values. Defaults will be set if nothing is specified. Inits must be a list with n.chains elements; each element of the list is itself a list of starting values for the model.
dir	Specify full path to the directory where you want to store the model file.
n.chains	number of Markov chains.
n.iter	number of total iterations per chain including burn-in.
n.burnin	length of burn-in, i.e., number of iterations to discard at the beginning. Default is n.iter/2.
n.thin	thinning rate. Must be a positive integer. Set n.thin > 1 to save memory and computing time if n.iter is large.
n.adapt	number of adaptive samples to take when using JAGS. See the JAGS documentation for more information.
useWINE	logical, attempt to use the Wine emulator to run WinBUGS, defaults to FALSE on Windows and TRUE otherwise.
WINE	character, path to WINE binary file. If not provided, the program will attempt to find the WINE installation on your machine.
debug	logical, keep WinBUGS open debug, inspect chains and summary.
...	other arguments to bugs(). Run ?bugs to see list of possible arguments to pass into bugs.

Details

lcra allows for two different Gibbs samplers to be used. The options are WinBUGS or JAGS. If you are not on a Windows system, WinBUGS can be very difficult to get working. For this reason, JAGS is the default.

For further instructions on using WinBUGS, read this:

- Microsoft Windows: no problems or additional set-up required
- Linux, Mac OS X, Unix: possible with the Wine emulator via useWine = TRUE. Wine is a standalone program needed to emulate a Windows system on non-Windows machines.

The manifest variable columns in **data** must be coded as numeric with positive numbers. For example, if one of the manifest outcomes takes on values 'Dislike', 'Neutral', and 'like', then code them as 1, 2, and 3.

Model Definition

The LCRA model is as follows:

$$Y_i \mid X_i, C_i \sim \begin{cases} N(\eta_i, \tau^{-1}) & \text{for Gaussian outcome} \\ BIN\left(1, \frac{e^{\eta_i}}{1+e^{\eta_i}}\right) & \text{for binomial outcome} \end{cases} \quad \text{for } \eta_i = \beta_0 + \sum_{m=1}^{P} X_{mi}\beta_m + \sum_{j=1}^{J-1} \alpha_j I(C_i = j)$$

$P(Z_{il} \mid C_i = j) \sim MULTI(1, \pi_{1lj}, ..., \pi_{K_l lj})$ for the $l = 1, ..., L$ manifest mu
categories,

$C_i \sim MULTI(1, \theta_1, ..., \theta_J)$ for the latent class variable.

The following priors are the default and cannot be altered by the user:

$$P(\theta_1, ..., \theta_J) \sim DIRICHLET(1/J, ..., 1/J)$$

$$P(\pi_{1lj}, ..., \pi_{K_l lj}) \sim DIRICHLET(1/K_l, ..., 1/K_l) \text{ for all } l = 1, ..., L, k = 1, ..., K$$

$$P(\alpha_j) \overset{ind}{\sim} N(0, 10) \text{ for all } j = 1, ..., J$$

$$P(\beta_m) \overset{ind}{\sim} N(0, 10) \text{ for all } m = 1, ..., P$$

Note that this model assumes $Y \perp Z \mid C$, and does not allow for de
covariates.

Please note also that the reference category for latent classes in the outcome model output is always the Jth latent class in the output, and the bugs output is defined by the Latin equivalent of the model parameters (beta, alpha, tau, pi, theta). Also, the bugs output includes the variable true, which corresponds to the MCMC draws of C_i, i = 1,...,n, as well as the MCMC draws of the deviance (DIC) statistic. Finally the bugs output for pi is stored in a three dimensional array corresponding to (class, variable, category), where category is indexed by 1 through maximum K_l; for variables where the number of categories is less than maximum K_l, these cells will be set to NA. The parameters outputted by the lcra function currently are not user definable.

Value

Return type depends on the sampler chosen.

If sampler = "WinBUGS", then the return object is: WinBUGS object and lists of draws and summaries. Use fit$ to browse options.

If sampler = "JAGS", then the return object is: An MCMC list of class **mcmc.list**, which can be analyzed with the coda package. Each column is a parameter and each row is a draw. You can extract a parameter by name, e.g., fit[,"beta[1]"]. For a list of all parameter names from the fit, call colnames(as.matrix(fit)), which returns a character vector with the names.

References

"Methods to account for uncertainty in latent class assignments when using latent classes as predictors in regression models, with application to acculturation strategy measures" (2020) In press at Epidemiology. doi:10.1097/EDE.0000000000001139

Examples

```
if(requireNamespace("rjags")){

# quick example

inits = list(list(theta = c(0.33, 0.33, 0.34), beta = rep(0, length = 3),
             alpha = rep(0, length = 2), tau = 0.5, true = rep(1, length = nrow(express))))

fit = lcra(formula = y ~ x1 + x2, family = "gaussian", data = express,
           nclasses = 3, inits = inits, manifest = paste0("Z", 1:5),
           n.chains = 1, n.iter = 50)
```

```
data('paper_sim')

# Set initial values
inits =
  list(
    list(theta = c(0.33, 0.33, 0.34), beta = rep(0, length = 3),
         alpha = rep(0, length = 2), tau = 0.5, true = rep(1, length = 100)),
    list(theta = c(0.33, 0.33, 0.34), beta = rep(0, length = 3),
         alpha = rep(0, length = 2), tau = 0.5, true = rep(1, length = 100)),
    list(theta = c(0.33, 0.33, 0.34), beta = rep(0, length = 3),
         alpha = rep(0, length = 2), tau = 0.5, true = rep(1, length = 100))
  )

# Fit model 1
fit.gaus_paper = lcra(formula = Y ~ X1 + X2, family = "gaussian",
                      data = paper_sim, nclasses = 3, manifest = paste0("Z", 1:10),
                      inits = inits, n.chains = 3, n.iter = 5000)

# Model 1 results
library(coda)

summary(fit.gaus_paper)
plot(fit.gaus_paper)


# simulated examples

library(gtools) # for Dirichel distribution

# with binary response

n <- 500

X1 <- runif(n, 2, 8)
X2 <- rbinom(n, 1, .5)
Cstar <- rnorm(n, .25 * X1 - .75 * X2, 1)
C <- 1 * (Cstar <= .8) + 2 * ((Cstar > .8) & (Cstar <= 1.6)) + 3 * (Cstar > 1.6)

pi1 <- rdirichlet(10, c(5, 4, 3, 2, 1))
pi2 <- rdirichlet(10, c(1, 3, 5, 3, 1))
pi3 <- rdirichlet(10, c(1, 2, 3, 4, 5))

Z1<-(C==1)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi1[1,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==2)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi2[1,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==3)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi3[1,]))%*%c(1:5)
Z2<-(C==1)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi1[2,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==2)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi2[2,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==3)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi3[2,]))%*%c(1:5)
Z3<-(C==1)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi1[3,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==2)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi2[3,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==3)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi3[3,]))%*%c(1:5)
Z4<-(C==1)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi1[4,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==2)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi2[4,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==3)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi3[4,]))%*%c(1:5)
Z5<-(C==1)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi1[5,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==2)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi2[5,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==3)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi3[5,]))%*%c(1:5)
```

```
Z6<-(C==1)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi1[6,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==2)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi2[6,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==3)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi3[6,]))%*%c(1:5)
Z7<-(C==1)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi1[7,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==2)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi2[7,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==3)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi3[7,]))%*%c(1:5)
Z8<-(C==1)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi1[8,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==2)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi2[8,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==3)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi3[8,]))%*%c(1:5)
Z9<-(C==1)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi1[9,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==2)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi2[9,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==3)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi3[9,]))%*%c(1:5)
Z10<-(C==1)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi1[10,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==2)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi2[10,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==3)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi3[10,]))%*%c(1:5)

Z <- cbind(Z1, Z2, Z3, Z4, Z5, Z6, Z7, Z8, Z9, Z10)

Y <- rbinom(n, 1, exp(-1 - .1*X1 + X2 + 2*(C == 1) + 1*(C == 2)) /
              (1 + exp(1 - .1*X1 + X2 + 2*(C == 1) + 1*(C == 2))))

mydata = data.frame(Y, X1, X2, Z1, Z2, Z3, Z4, Z5, Z6, Z7, Z8, Z9, Z10)

inits = list(list(theta = c(0.33, 0.33, 0.34), beta = rep(0, length = 3),
                  alpha = rep(0, length = 2), true = rep(1, length = nrow(mydata))))

fit = lcra(formula = Y ~ X1 + X2, family = "binomial", data = mydata,
           nclasses = 3, inits = inits, manifest = paste0("Z", 1:10),
           n.chains = 1, n.iter = 1000)

summary(fit)
plot(fit)

# with continuous response

n <- 500

X1 <- runif(n, 2, 8)
X2 <- rbinom(n, 1, .5)
Cstar <- rnorm(n, .25*X1 - .75*X2, 1)
C <- 1 * (Cstar <= .8) + 2*((Cstar > .8) & (Cstar <= 1.6)) + 3*(Cstar > 1.6)

pi1 <- rdirichlet(10, c(5, 4, 3, 2, 1))
pi2 <- rdirichlet(10, c(1, 3, 5, 3, 1))
pi3 <- rdirichlet(10, c(1, 2, 3, 4, 5))
pi4 <- rdirichlet(10, c(1, 1, 1, 1, 1))

Z1<-(C==1)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi1[1,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==2)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi2[1,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==3)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi3[1,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==4)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi4[1,]))%*%c(1:5)
Z2<-(C==1)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi1[2,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==2)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi2[2,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==3)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi3[2,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==4)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi4[2,]))%*%c(1:5)
Z3<-(C==1)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi1[3,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==2)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi2[3,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==3)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi3[3,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==4)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi4[3,]))%*%c(1:5)
Z4<-(C==1)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi1[4,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==2)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi2[4,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==3)*
```

```
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi3[4,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==4)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi4[4,]))%*%c(1:5)
Z5<-(C==1)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi1[5,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==2)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi2[5,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==3)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi3[5,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==4)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi4[5,]))%*%c(1:5)
Z6<-(C==1)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi1[6,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==2)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi2[6,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==3)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi3[6,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==4)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi4[6,]))%*%c(1:5)
Z7<-(C==1)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi1[7,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==2)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi2[7,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==3)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi3[7,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==4)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi4[7,]))%*%c(1:5)
Z8<-(C==1)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi1[8,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==2)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi2[8,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==3)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi3[8,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==4)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi4[8,]))%*%c(1:5)
Z9<-(C==1)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi1[9,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==2)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi2[9,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==3)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi3[9,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==4)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi4[9,]))%*%c(1:5)
Z10<-(C==1)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi1[10,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==2)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi2[10,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==3)*
  t(rmultinom(n,1,pi3[10,]))%*%c(1:5)+(C==4)*t(rmultinom(n,1,pi4[10,]))%*%c(1:5)

Z <- cbind(Z1, Z2, Z3, Z4, Z5, Z6, Z7, Z8, Z9, Z10)

Y <- rnorm(n, 10 - .5*X1 + 2*X2 + 2*(C == 1) + 1*(C == 2), 1)

mydata = data.frame(Y, X1, X2, Z1, Z2, Z3, Z4, Z5, Z6, Z7, Z8, Z9, Z10)

inits = list(list(theta = c(0.33, 0.33, 0.34), beta = rep(0, length = 3),
                  alpha = rep(0, length = 2), true = rep(1, length = nrow(mydata)),
                  tau = 0.5))

fit = lcra(formula = Y ~ X1 + X2, family = "gaussian", data = mydata,
           nclasses = 3, inits = inits, manifest = paste0("Z", 1:10),
           n.chains = 1, n.iter = 1000)

summary(fit)
plot(fit)


}
```

---

paper_sim *Simulated data set (continuous regression outcome)*

Description

Simulated data set with continuous regression outcome. The data set contains 100 observations of 13 variables, which include 10 manifest variables, and two regressors - one continuous and one dummy.

Usage

```
paper_sim
```

Format

An object of class `data.frame` with 100 rows and 13 columns.

Details

Y Continuous regression outcome of interest

Z1 Categorical manifest variable 1

Z2 Categorical manifest variable 2

Z3 Categorical manifest variable 3

Z4 Categorical manifest variable 4

Z5 Categorical manifest variable 5

Z6 Categorical manifest variable 6

Z7 Categorical manifest variable 7

Z8 Categorical manifest variable 8

Z9 Categorical manifest variable 9

Z10 Categorical manifest variable 10

X1 Continuous predictor variable

X2 Categorical variable with values 1, 0

`paper_sim_binary` *Simulated data set (discrete regression outcome)*

Description

Simulated data set with discrete regression outcome. The data set contains 100 observations of 13 variables, which include 10 manifest variables, and two regressors - one continuous and one dummy.

Usage

```
paper_sim_binary
```

Format

An object of class `data.frame` with 100 rows and 13 columns.

Details

Y Discrete regression outcome of interest

Z1 Categorical manifest variable 1

Z2 Categorical manifest variable 2

Z3 Categorical manifest variable 3

Z4 Categorical manifest variable 4

Z5 Categorical manifest variable 5

Z6 Categorical manifest variable 6

Z7 Categorical manifest variable 7

Z8 Categorical manifest variable 8

Z9 Categorical manifest variable 9

Z10 Categorical manifest variable 10

X1 Continuous predictor variable

X2 Categorical variable with values 1, 0

Index

∗ **datasets**
express, 2
latent3, 3
latent3_binary, 4
paper_sim, 10
paper_sim_binary, 11

express, 2

latent3, 3
latent3_binary, 4
lcra, 5

paper_sim, 10
paper_sim_binary, 11