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


smmR: A Semi-Markov R package

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Summary

This package performs parametric and non-parametric estimation and simulation for multi-state discrete-time semi-Markov processes ([Barbu et al., submitted](#)). For the parametric estimation, several discrete distributions are considered for the sojourn times: Uniform, Geometric, Poisson, Discrete Weibull of type 1 and Negative Binomial. The non-parametric estimation concerns the sojourn time distributions, where no assumptions are done on the shape of distributions. Moreover, the estimation can be done on the basis of one or several sample paths, with or without censoring at the beginning or/and at the end of the sample paths. Estimation and simulation of discrete-time k-th order Markov chains are also considered.

Semi-Markov models are specified by using the functions `smmparametric()` and `smmnonparametric()` for parametric and non-parametric specifications respectively. These functions return objects of S3 class (`smm`, `smmparametric`) and (`smm`, `smmnonparametric`) respectively (`smm` class inherits from S3 classes `smmparametric` or `smmnonparametric`). Thus, `smm` is like a wrapper class for semi-Markov model specifications.

Based on a model specification (an object of class `smm`), it is possible to:

- simulate one or several sequences with the method `simulate.smm()`;
- plot conditional sojourn time distributions (method `plot.smm()`);
- compute log-likelihood, AIC and BIC criteria (methods `logLik()`, `AIC()`, `BIC()`);
- compute reliability, maintainability, availability, failure rates (methods `reliability()`, `maintainability()`, `availability()`, `failureRate()`).

Estimations of parametric and non-parametric semi-Markov models can be done by using the function `fitsmm()`. This function returns an object of S3 class `smmfit`. The class `smmfit` inherits from classes (`smm`, `smmparametric`) or (`smm`, `smmnonparametric`).

Based on a fitted/estimated semi-Markov model (an object of class `smmfit`), it is possible to:

- simulate one or several sequences with the method `simulate.smmfit()`;
- plot estimated conditional sojourn time distributions (method `plot.smmfit()`);
- compute log-likelihood, AIC and BIC criteria (methods `logLik()`, `AIC()`, `BIC()`);
- compute estimated reliability, maintainability, availability, failure rates and their confidence intervals (methods `reliability()`, `maintainability()`, `availability()`, `failureRate()`).

The implemented methods are described in:

- Barbu & Limnios (2008)
- Barbu & Limnios (2006)
- Trevezas & Limnios (2011)

Statement of need

The semi-Markov processes represent a versatile tool that is applied in many fields of science like reliability, survival analysis, bioinformatics, engineering, finance, etc. The community of sequence modeling and analysis could be interested by this package, in addition to all the applied community already listed.

In order to complete the work of the packages listed in the following section, the package `smmR` is the first one to perform parametric (with different sojourn time distributions : Uniform, Geometric, Poisson, Discrete Weibull of type 1 and Negative Binomial) and non-parametric estimation and simulation for multi-state discrete-time semi-Markov processes, with the computation of reliability, maintainability, availability and failure rates. The estimation can be done on the basis of one or several sample paths, with or without censoring at the beginning or/and at the end of the sample paths.

State of the field

Few R packages have been developed to handle semi-Markov models or hidden semi-Markov models. For semi-Markov models we have the recent `semiMarkov` R package (Listwon & Saint-Pierre, 2015) that performs maximum likelihood estimation for parametric continuous-time semi-Markov processes, where the distribution can be chosen between Exponential, Weibull or exponentiated Weibull. That package computes associated hazard rates; covariates can also be taken into account through the Cox proportional hazard model.

Few R packages are also dedicated to hidden semi-Markov models, implementing estimation and prediction methods. Among them, we can cite the `hsmm` R package (Bulla et al., 2010) and the `mhsmm` R package (O'Connell et al., 2011). The package `SMM` (Barbu et al., 2018) deals with discrete-time multi-state semi-Markov models but does not compute reliability, maintainability, availability and failure rates and was not object oriented.

Quickstart

It can be easily installed by launching a R prompt and running the following command:

```
install.packages('smmR')
```

or directly from the repository in order to get the git version:

```
if (!require("devtools")) {
  install.packages("devtools")
}
devtools::install_git(
  url = "https://plmlab.math.cnrs.fr/lmrs/statistique/smmR",
  dependencies = TRUE,
  build_vignettes = FALSE)
```

Load the library:

```
library(smmR)
library(DiscreteWeibull)
```

Then, let us create a `smmparametric` object to represent the semi-Markov chain associated to the system:

```
states <- c("1", "2", "3") # State space
alpha <- c(1, 0, 0) # Initial distribution
p <- matrix(data = c(0, 1, 0,
                    0.95, 0, 0.05,
```

```
      1, 0, 0), nrow = 3, byrow = TRUE) # Transition matrix
distr <- matrix(c(NA, "geom", NA,
                "dweibull", NA, "dweibull",
                "dweibull", NA, NA),
              nrow = 3, ncol = 3, byrow = TRUE) # Distribution matrix
param1 <- matrix(c(NA, 0.8, NA,
                  0.3, NA, 0.5,
                  0.6, NA, NA),
                nrow = 3, ncol = 3, byrow = TRUE)
param2 <- matrix(c(NA, NA, NA,
                  0.5, NA, 0.7,
                  0.9, NA, NA),
                nrow = 3, ncol = 3, byrow = TRUE)
parameters <- array(c(param1, param2), c(3, 3, 2))
factory <- smmparametric(states = states, init = alpha, ptrans = p,
                        type.sojourn = "fij", distr = distr, param = parameters)
```

After that, we are able to simulate a sequence of sample sizes $M = 10,000$:

```
M <- 10000
seq <- simulate(object = factory, nsim = M)
```

Thanks to the `smmR` package, we can estimate any semi-Markov model with one or several discrete sequences. In our case, we are going to introduce a **non-parametric estimation**:

```
estimate <- fitsmm(sequences = seq, states = states, type.sojourn = "fij")
```

The estimate \hat{p} of the transition matrix p is:

```
print(x = estimate$ptrans, digits = 2)
```

```
      1 2  3
1 0.00 1 0.00
2 0.95 0 0.05
3 1.00 0 0.00
```

Contributing

Contributions to this package are warmly welcome. Do not hesitate to open an issue to discuss new features.

If you want to contribute to the code, you can fork the repository, make some changes and create a pull request to have them integrated into the package. You can use the `devtools::check()` function in order to verify that tests are still passing. See also the contributing guidelines.

If you encounter a problem, open a new issue. Try to be concise and explain what the problem is. If you have an example code that shows the error, it can be helpful.

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