

Package ‘LocalControlStrategy’

August 30, 2019

Title Local Control Strategy for Robust Analysis of Cross-Sectional Data

Version 1.3.3

Date 2019-09-01

Author Bob Obenchain

Maintainer Bob Obenchain <wizbob@att.net>

Depends cluster, lattice

Description Especially when cross-sectional data are observational, effects of treatment selection bias and confounding are revealed by using the Nonparametric and Unsupervised “preprocessing” methods central to Local Control (LC) Strategy. The LC objective is to estimate the “effect-size distribution” that best quantifies a potentially causal relationship between a numeric y-Outcome variable and a t-Treatment variable. This t-variable may be either binary {1 = “new” vs 0 = “control”} or a numeric measure of Exposure level. LC Strategy starts by CLUSTERING experimental units (patients) on their pre-exposure X-Covariates, forming mutually exclusive and exhaustive BLOCKS of relatively well-matched units. The implicit statistical model for LC is thus simple one-way ANOVA. The Within-Block measures of effect-size are Local Rank Correlations (LRCs) when Exposure is numeric with more than two levels. Otherwise, Treatment choice is Nested within BLOCKS, and effect-sizes are LOCAL Treatment Differences (LTDs) between within-cluster y-Outcome Means [“new” minus “control”]. An Instrumental Variable (IV) method is also provided so that Local Average y-Outcomes (LAOs) within BLOCKS may also contribute information for effect-size inferences ...assuming that X-Covariates influence only Treatment choice or Exposure level and otherwise have no direct effects on y-Outcome. Finally, a “Most-Like-Me” function provides histograms of effect-size distributions to aid Doctor-Patient communications about Personalized Medicine.

License GPL-2

URL <https://www.R-project.org>, <http://localcontrolstatistics.org>

NeedsCompilation no

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2019-08-29 23:10:09 UTC

R topics documented:

LocalControlStrategy-package	2
confirm	4
ivadj	6
KSperm	7
LCcluster	9
LCcompare	10
LCsetup	12
lrcagg	13
ltdagg	15
mlme	17
mlme.stats	19
pci15k	19
plot.ivadj	20
plot.lrcagg	21
plot.ltdagg	22
plot.mlme	23
print.mlme	24
radon	24
reveal.data	25

Index	27
--------------	-----------

LocalControlStrategy-package

LocalControlStrategy: Unsupervised, Nonparametric Adjustment for Bias and Confounding

Description

LC Strategy defines Local Treatment Differences (LTDs) or Local Rank Correlations (LRCs) within Clusters of experimental units (patients) who have been relatively well-matched on their baseline x-Covariates. The resulting distribution of LTD/LRC effect-size estimates can be interpreted much like a Bayesian posterior. Yet these distributions have been formed, via Nonparametric Preprocessing, in purely Objective Ways.

Details

Package: LocalControlStrategy
 Type: Package
 Version: 1.3.3
 Date: 2019-09-01
 License: GPL-2

UNSUPERVISED LOCAL TREATMENT DIFFERENCES or LOCAL RANK CORRELATIONS:

Multiple calls to `ltdagg(K)` or `lrcagg(K)` for varying numbers of clusters, K , are typically made after first invoking `LCcluster()` to hierarchically cluster patients in X -space and invoking `LCsetup()` to specify a numeric y -Outcome variable and a numeric treatment choice or exposure level measure, `trex`.

UNSUPERVISED INSTRUMENTAL VARIABLES = LOCAL AVERAGE y -OUTCOME EFFECTS:

An observed Propensity Score (PS) is defined here to be either (i) the local (within-cluster) fraction of experimental units (patients) receiving `trex==1` (new) rather than `trex==0` (control) or else (ii) a measure of "relative exposure" when the numeric `trex` measure has (many) more than 2 observed levels. Multiple calls to `ivadj(K)` for varying numbers of clusters, K , then yield alternative scatters of Local Average Outcomes (LAOs) for Clusters when plotted against their PS estimates and, thus, different possible linear fits or `smooth.splines()` yielding potentially different inferences about across-cluster Treatment or Exposure Effects.

CONFIRMATION and SENSITIVITY ANALYSES of LOCAL EFFECT-SIZE DISTRIBUTIONS:

For a given value of K = Number of Clusters requested, the output object from `ltdagg(K)` or `lrcagg(K)` can be input to `confirm()` to use (nonparametric) permutation theory to display visual evidence (empirical CDF comparisons) concerning the Question: Does x -matching Truly Matter? The NULL hypothesis here is that the x -Covariates used in Clustering / Matching of Experimental Units are actually IGNORABLE. Evidence against this hypothesis is provided when the observed LOCAL Effect-Size Distribution clearly deviates from the purely RANDOM, NULL distribution computed (to any desired precision) by randomly PERMUTING cluster ID labels across experimental units. Furthermore, the statistical significance of differences between the observed and random NULL distributions can be estimated using `KSperm()`, which simulates the random permutation distribution of the Kolmogorov-Smirnov D -statistic when many tied values occur in both distributions being compared. Finally, the `LCcompare()` function helps users of LC Strategy decide which Number of Clusters, K , optimizes Variance-Bias trade-offs. Larger values of K tend to yield smaller clusters with better matches and, thus, potentially reduced BIAS. On the other hand, smaller values of K usually yield local effect-size estimates with much lower Variability (higher Precision).

"Most-Like-Me" HISTOGRAMS for DOCTOR-PATIENT discussions of PERSONALIZED MEDICINE:

For a specified vector, `xvec`, of numerical values of the X -confounder variables used in the current CLUSTERING of `eUnits`, display histograms of observed LTD or LRC effect-sizes for (i) all available patients and (ii) for the specified number, `NN`, of "Nearest-Neighbors" in X -confounder space of the TARGET `eUnit` ...i.e. `xvec` defines "Me".

Author(s)

Bob Obenchain <wizbob@att.net>

References

- McClellan M, McNeil BJ, Newhouse JP. (1994) Does More Intensive Treatment of Myocardial Infarction in the Elderly Reduce Mortality?: Analysis Using Instrumental Variables. *JAMA* **272**: 859-866.
- Obenchain RL. (2010) The Local Control Approach using JMP. Chapter 7 of **Analysis of Observational Health Care Data using SAS**, Cary, NC:SAS Press, pages 151-192.
- Obenchain RL, Young SS. (2013) Advancing Statistical Thinking in Observational Health Care Research. *J. Stat. Theory and Practice*, **7**: 456-469, doi: [10.1080/15598608.2013.772821](https://doi.org/10.1080/15598608.2013.772821).

- Lopiano KK, Obenchain RL, Young SS. (2014) Fair treatment comparisons in observational research. *Statistical Analysis and Data Mining*, **7**: 376-384, doi: [10.1002/sam.11235](https://doi.org/10.1002/sam.11235).
- Obenchain RL. LocalControlStrategy-vignette. (2019) **LCstrategy_in_R.pdf** <http://localcontrolstatistics.org>
- Rosenbaum PR, Rubin RB. (1983) The Central Role of the Propensity Score in Observational Studies for Causal Effects. *Biometrika* **70**: 41-55.
- Rosenbaum PR, Rubin RB. (1984) Reducing Bias in Observational Studies Using Subclassification on a Propensity Score. *JASA* **79**: 516-524.
- Rubin DB. (1980) Bias reduction using Mahalanobis metric matching. *Biometrics* **36**: 293-298.
- Stuart EA. (2010) Matching Methods for Causal Inference: A Review and a Look Forward. *Statistical Science* **25**: 1-21.

confirm	<i>Confirm that Clustering in Covariate X-space yields an "adjusted" LTD/LRC effect-size Distribution</i>
---------	---

Description

For a given Number of Clusters, K, confirm() compares the observed distribution of LTDs or LRCs from relatively well-matched experimental units with the corresponding distribution from Purely Random Clusterings of experimental units. The larger are differences between the (blue) observed empirical CDF of effect-sizes and the (red) Purely Random CDF, the more potentially IMPORTANT are the "adjustments" resulting from focussing upon clustering (matching) of experimental units in X-space.

Usage

```
confirm(x, reps=100, seed=12345)
```

Arguments

x	An output object from ltdagg() or lrcagg() for a specified number of clusters, K.
reps	Number of simulation Replications, each with the same number, K, and sizes, N1, N2, ..., NK of Purely Random clusters.
seed	This (arbitrary) integer argument will be passed to the R set.seed() function. Knowing the value of this seed makes the output from confirm() reproducible.

Details

Making calls to confirm() for ltdagg() or lrcagg() objects resulting from different choices of K = Numbers of Clusters help the analyst decide which observed LTD or LRC effect-size distributions are (or are not) meaningfully different from Purely Random. When the X-covariates used in LC-cluster() are truly "ignorable," then [i] all X-based clusters will be Purely Random, and [ii] both the number (K) and the sizes (N1, N2, ...,NK) of clusters formed will be meaningless and arbitrary. Thus the LC Strategy confirm() function simulates the empirical CDF for LTDs or LRCs resulting from purely random permutations of the Cluster ID numbers (1, 2, ...,K) assigned by ltdagg()

or `lrcagg()`. Each permutation yields K artificial "clusters" of sizes N_1, N_2, \dots, N_K . Simulation results are accumulated for the total number of random permutations specified in the "reps=" argument of `confirm()`. Calls to `print.confirm()` and `plot.confirm()` provide information on comparisons of empirical CDFs for the Observed and Purely Random LTD/LRC distributions, including calculation of an observed two-sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov D-statistic using `stats::ks.test`. This is a non-standard use of `ks.test()` because the distributions being compared are DISCRETE; both contain many within-cluster TIED effect-size estimates. The p-value computed by `ks.test()` is not reported or saved because it is badly biased downwards due to TIED estimates. Researchers wishing to simulate a p-value for the observed KS D-statistic that is adjusted for TIES can invoke `KSperm(confirm())`.

Value

An output list object of class `confirm`:

<code>hiclus</code>	Hierarchical clustering object created by the designated method.
<code>dframe</code>	Name of data.frame containing X, trex & Y variables.
<code>trtm</code>	Name of numerical trex variable.
<code>yvar</code>	Name of numerical Y-outcome variable.
<code>reps</code>	Number of overall Replications, each with the same numbers of requested clusters.
<code>seed</code>	Integer argument passed to <code>set.seed()</code> . Knowing which seed value was used in the call to <code>confirm()</code> makes not only the NULL distribution of observed LTDs or LRCs reproducible but also makes the NULL distribution of D-statistics (adjusted for ties) from a subsequent call to <code>KSperm()</code> reproducible.
<code>nclus</code>	Number of clusters requested.
<code>units</code>	Number of experimental units or patients.
<code>Type</code>	1 ==> LTDs, otherwise LRCs.
<code>LCmean</code>	Weighted Local Mean across Clusters.
<code>LCstde</code>	Weighted Std. Error across Clusters.
<code>RPmean</code>	Weighted Random Permutation Mean across Clusters.
<code>RPstde</code>	Weighted Random Permutation Std. Error across Clusters.
<code>KSobsD</code>	Output from <code>print(ks.test())</code> .
<code>LCdist</code>	data.frame of 5 key variables for all experimental units.
<code>dfconf</code>	data.frame of <code>lstat = LTD or LRC values of max(length) = reps*units</code> .

Author(s)

Bob Obenchain <wizbob@att.net>

References

- Obenchain RL. (2010) The Local Control Approach using JMP. Chapter 7 of **Analysis of Observational Health Care Data using SAS**, Cary, NC:SAS Press, pages 151-192.
- Obenchain RL. (2019) **LCstrategy_in_R.pdf** <http://localcontrolstatistics.org>

See Also

[ltdagg](#) and [lrcagg](#).

 ivadj

Instrumental Variable LAO Fitting and Smoothing

Description

For a given number of patient clusters in baseline X-covariate space and a specified Y-outcome variable, smooth the distribution of Local Average Outcomes (LAOs) plotted versus Within-Cluster Propensity-like Scores: the Treatment Selection Fraction or the Relative Exposure Level.

Usage

```
ivadj(x)
```

Arguments

x An output object from `ltdagg()` or `lrcagg()` using K Clusters in X-covariate space.

Details

Multiple invocations of `ivadj(ltdagg())` or `ivadj(lrcagg())` using varying numbers of clusters, K, can be made. Each invocation of `ivadj()` displays a linear `lm()` fit and a `smooth.spline()` fit to the scatter of LAO estimates plotted versus their within-cluster propensity-like score estimates.

Value

An output list object of class `ivadj`:

<code>hclobj</code>	Name of clustering object output by <code>LCcluster()</code> .
<code>dframe</code>	Name of data.frame containing X, <code>trtm</code> & Y variables.
<code>trtm</code>	Name of the numeric treatment variable.
<code>yvar</code>	Name of the numeric outcome Y variable.
<code>K</code>	Number of Clusters Requested.
<code>actclust</code>	Number of Clusters actually produced.

Author(s)

Bob Obenchain <wizbob@att.net>

References

McClellan M, McNeil BJ, Newhouse JP. (1994) Does More Intensive Treatment of Myocardial Infarction in the Elderly Reduce Mortality?: Analysis Using Instrumental Variables. *JAMA* **272**: 859-866.

Obenchain RL. (2010) Local Control Approach using JMP. Chapter 7 of **Analysis of Observational Health Care Data using SAS**, Cary, NC:SAS Press, pages 151-192.

Obenchain RL. (2018) **LCstrategy_in_R.pdf** <http://localcontrolstatistics.org>

Rosenbaum PR, Rubin RB. (1983) The Central Role of the Propensity Score in Observational Studies for Causal Effects. *Biometrika* **70**: 41-55.

See Also

[ltdagg](#), [lrcagg](#) and [LCcompare](#).

Examples

```
## Not run:
# Long running example...
data(pci15k)
xvars <- c("stent", "height", "female", "diabetic", "acutemi", "ejfract", "ves1proc")
hclobj <- LCcluster(pci15k, xvars)
LC.env <- LCsetup(hclobj, pci15k, thin, surv6mo)
surv050 <- ltdagg(50, LC.env)
iv050 <- ivadj(surv050)
iv050
plot(iv050)

## End(Not run)
```

KSperm

Simulate a p-value for the significance of the Kolmogorov-Smirnov D-statistic from confirm().

Description

For a given `confirm()` output object, `KSperm()` simulates the NULL distribution of LTDs or LRCs resulting from Purely Random Clusterings of experimental units within the parent `data.frame`. This NULL distribution is discrete because Local Effect-Size estimates are TIED within-clusters. The observed D-Statistic from `confirm()` is compared with new NULL order statistics computed by `KSperm()`, again using `stats::ks.test`. When `KSperm()` is called immediately after `confirm()` and the seed value used in `confirm()` is known, then both the simulated p-value and the additional NULL KS-D order statistics generated by `KSperm()` will all be reproducible.

Usage

```
KSperm(x, reps=100)
```

Arguments

x	An output object from confirm().
reps	This is the number of new NULL KS-D statistics to generated. Each experimental unit is used at most once within each full replication. No clusters will be empty, but some may be "uninformative".

Details

The observed value of the Kolmogorov-Smirnov D-statistic from confirm() is used here, but its "p.value" from ks.test() is not because it is badly biased downwards. This bias results because the distribution of LTDs or LRCs across clusters is always discrete, due to TIED values within clusters that typically also vary in size. Thus, KSperm() generates "reps" additional, independent, NULL values of KS-D and saves their order statistics. Finally, KSperm() compares the Observed KS-D from confirm() with its simulated NULL order statistics to estimate an appropriately "adjusted" p-value, pv.adj. Note that the simulated pv.adj value estimate cannot be less than 1/(reps).

Value

An output list object of class KSperm:

hiclus	Hierarchical clustering object created by the designated method.
dframe	Name of data.frame containing X, t & Y variables.
trtm	Name of numerical treatment/exposure variable.
yvar	Name of numerical y-Outcome variable.
Type	1 ==> LTDs, otherwise LRCs.
reps	Number of overall Replications, each with the same number, K, of requested clusters.
nclus	Number of clusters requested.
units	Number of experimental units or patients.
obsD	Observed numerical value of KS D-statistic from confirm()
Dvec	Vector of order statistics for simulated NULL KS D-statistics.
pv.adj	Simulated p-value adjusted for TIES within discrete LTD/LRC distributions.

Author(s)

Bob Obenchain <wizbob@att.net>

References

- Obenchain RL. (2010) Local Control Approach using JMP. Chapter 7 of **Analysis of Observational Health Care Data using SAS**, Cary, NC:SAS Press, pages 151-192.
- Obenchain RL. (2019) **LCstrategy_in_R.pdf** <http://localcontrolstatistics.org>

See Also

[confirm](#), [ltdagg](#) and [lrcagg](#).

LCcluster	<i>Hierarchical Clustering of experimental units (such as patients) in X-covariate Space</i>
-----------	--

Description

Form the full, hierarchical clustering tree (dendrogram) for all units (regardless of Treatment/Exposure status) using Mahalanobis distances computed from specified baseline X-covariate characteristics.

Usage

```
LCcluster(dframe, xvars, method="ward.D")
```

Arguments

dframe	Name of data.frame containing baseline X covariates.
xvars	List of names of X variable(s).
method	Hierarchical Clustering Method of "diana", "ward.D", "ward.D2", "complete", "average", "mcquitty", "median" or "centroid".

Details

The first step in applying Local Control Strategy to data is to hierarchically cluster experimental units in baseline X-covariate space ...thereby creating "Blocks" of relatively well-matched units. LCcluster first calls stats::prcomp() to calculate Mahalanobis distances using standardized and orthogonal Principal Coordinates. LCcluster then uses either the divisive cluster::diana() method or one of seven agglomerative methods from stats::hclust() to compute a dendrogram tree. The hclust function is based on Fortran code contributed to STATLIB by F. Murtagh.

Value

An output list object of class LCcluster, derived from cluster::diana or stats::hclust.

dframe	Name of data.frame containing all baseline X-covariates.
xvars	List of 1 or more X-variable names.
method	Hierarchical Clustering Method: "diana", "ward.D", "ward.D2", "complete", "average", "mcquitty", "median" or "centroid".
hclobj	Hierarchical clustering object created by the designated method.

Author(s)

Bob Obenchain <wizbob@att.net>

References

- Kaufman L, Rousseeuw PJ. (1990) **Finding Groups in Data. An Introduction to Cluster Analysis**. New York: John Wiley and Sons.
- Kereiakes DJ, Obenchain RL, Barber BL, et al. (2000) Abciximab provides cost effective survival advantage in high volume interventional practice. *Am Heart J* **140**: 603-610.
- Murtagh F. (1985) Multidimensional Clustering Algorithms. **COMPSTAT Lectures** 4.
- Obenchain RL. (2010) Local Control Approach using JMP. Chapter 7 of **Analysis of Observational Health Care Data using SAS**, Cary, NC:SAS Press, pages 151-192.
- Rubin DB. (1980) Bias reduction using Mahalanobis metric matching. *Biometrics* **36**: 293-298.

See Also

[LCsetup](#), [ltdagg](#) and [lrcagg](#).

Examples

```
data(radon)
xvars <- c("obesity", "over65", "cursmoke")
hclobj <- LCcluster(radon, xvars) # ...using default method = "ward.D"
plot(hclobj)
```

LCcompare

Display LC Sensitivity Graphic for help in choice of K = Number of Clusters

Description

This function displays Box-Whisker diagrams that compare Treatment Effect-Size distributions for different values of K = Number of Clusters requested in X-covariate space. After an initial call to `LCsetup()`, the analyst typically makes multiple calls to either `ltdagg()` or `lrcagg()` for different values of K . The analyst then invokes `LCcompare()` to see how choice of K changes the location, spread and/or skewness of the distribution of Treatment Effect-Size estimates across Clusters. Variance-Bias trade-offs occur as K increases; large values of K may reduce Bias, but they definitely inflate the Variance of LTD and LRC distributions.

Usage

```
LCcompare(envir)
```

Arguments

`envir` R environment output by an earlier call to `LCsetup()`.

Details

The third phase of Local Control Strategy is called EXPLORE and uses graphical Sensitivity Analyses to show how Treatment Effect-Size distributions change with choice of LC parameter settings. Choice of K = Number of Clusters requested is guided, primarily, by LCcompare() graphics. Equally important are the analyst's choices of (i) which [and how many] of the available baseline X-covariates to "adjust for" and (ii) which clustering algorithm and dissimilarity metric to use. Unfortunately, changing these latter choices requires the analyst to essentially "start over" ...i.e. invoking LCcluster() with changed arguments, followed by an invocation of LCsetup() with a different 1st argument. To change only one's choice of y-Outcome variable and/or the Treatment/Exposure variable, a new LCsetup() invocation is all that is needed.

Value

NULL

Author(s)

Bob Obenchain <wizbob@att.net>

References

Obenchain RL. (2010) Local Control Approach using JMP. Chapter 7 of **Analysis of Observational Health Care Data using SAS**, Cary, NC: SAS Press, pages 151-192.

Obenchain RL. (2015) **LC_Confirm_Guidelines.pdf** <http://localcontrolstatistics.org>

Obenchain RL. (2019) **LCstrategy_in_R.pdf** <http://localcontrolstatistics.org>

Rubin DB. (1980) Bias reduction using Mahalanobis metric matching. *Biometrics* **36**: 293-298.

Tukey JW. (1977) **Exploratory Data Analysis**, New York: Addison-Wesley, Section 2C.

See Also

[ltdagg](#), [ivadj](#) and [lrcagg](#).

Examples

```
## Not run:
# Long running example...
data(pci15k)
xvars <- c("stent", "height", "female", "diabetic", "acutemi", "ejfract", "ves1proc")
hclobj <- LCcluster(pci15k, xvars)
LC.env <- LCsetup(hclobj, pci15k, thin, surv6mo)
surv050 <- ltdagg( 50, LC.env)
surv100 <- ltdagg(100, LC.env)
surv200 <- ltdagg(200, LC.env)
LCcompare(LC.env)

## End(Not run)
```

LCsetup	<i>Specify KEY parameters used in Local Control (LC) Strategy to "design" analyses of Observational Data.</i>
---------	---

Description

Invoke LCsetup() to specify the name of the Hierarchical Clustering object output by LCcluster() and the name of the data.frame containing all desired X-covariates, the Treatment/Exposure variable and the Y-Outcome variable. It is ESSENTIAL to save the Environment output by LCsetup() as a named object within the user's .GlobalEnv space.

Usage

```
LCsetup(hclobj, dframe, trex, yvar)
```

Arguments

hclobj	Name of a LCcluster() output object created using a cluster::diana or stats::hclust method.
dframe	Name of the data.frame containing all X-covariates, the Treatment/Exposure variable and the Y-Outcome variable.
trex	Name of the numerical Treatment/Exposure variable.
yvar	Name of the numerical Y-Outcome variable.

Value

The environment output by LCsetup() must be saved to the user's .GlobalEnv space. It's contents will be automatically updated by calls to other LocalControlStrategy functions:

aggdf	data.frame with 4 columns and 1 row for each call to ltdagg() or lrcagg().
aggdf\$Label	Factor value of "LTD" or "LRC".
aggdf\$Blocks	K = integer Number of Clusters requested.
aggdf\$LTDmean or aggdf\$LRCmean	numerical value of cluster mean of LTD or LRC estimates.
aggdf\$LTDstde or aggdf\$LRCstde	numerical value of the within-cluster standard deviation.
boxdf	data.frame of 2 variables ...for input to boxplot() by LCcompare().
boxdf\$LCstat	LTD or LRC estimate for a single experimental unit from ltdagg() or lrcagg().
boxdf\$K	Number of Cluters used in forming the LTD or LRC estimate for each Experimental Unit.
Kmax	Maximum Number of Clusters so that Average Size will be ≥ 12 experimental units.
LTDmax or LRCmax	Maximum Treatment Effect-Size estimate across Clusters.

LTDmin or LRCmin	Minimum Treatment Effect-Size estimate across Clusters.
NumLevels	Integer number of distinct Levels of the Treatment/Exposure variable: trex.
pars	Character data.frame with 4 columns and 1 row.
pars[1,1]	Name of the diana or hclust object created by LCcluster().
pars[1,2]	Name of data.frame containing the X, Treatment/Exposure and Y variables.
pars[1,3]	Name of Treatment/Exposure variable within data.frame pars[1,2].
pars[1,4]	Name of Y-outcome variable within data.frame pars[1,2].

Author(s)

Bob Obenchain <wizbob@att.net>

References

Obenchain RL. (2010) Local Control Approach using JMP. Chapter 7 of **Analysis of Observational Health Care Data using SAS**, Cary, NC:SAS Press, pages 151-192.

Obenchain RL. (2019) **LCstrategy_in_R.pdf** <http://localcontrolstatistics.org>

See Also

[ltdagg](#), [ivadj](#) and [lrcagg](#).

Examples

```
## Not run:
# Long running example...
data(pci15k)
xvars <- c("stent", "height", "female", "diabetic", "acutemi", "ejfract", "ves1proc")
hclobj <- LCcluster(pci15k, xvars)
LCe <- LCsetup(hclobj, pci15k, thin, surv6mo)
ls.str(LCe)

## End(Not run)
```

Ircagg

Calculate the observed Distribution of LRCs in Local Control Strategy

Description

For a given number, K, of Clusters of Experimental Units in baseline X-covariate space, `lrcagg()` calculates the observed distribution of "Local Rank Correlations" (LRCs) across Clusters ...where each LRC = `cor(trex, Y, method = "spearman")` within a Cluster, `trex` is a numeric measure of Exposure, and `Y` is a numeric measure of Outcome.

Usage

```
Ircagg(K, envir)
```

Arguments

K	Number of Clusters in baseline X-covariate space.
envir	R environment output by a previous call to LCsetup().

Details

Multiple calls to Ircagg(K) for varying numbers of clusters, K, are typically made after first invoking LCcluster() to hierarchically cluster patients in X-space and then invoking LCsetup() to specify a Y Outcome variable and a continuous, numerical treatment Exposure: trex. Ircagg() computes an observed LRC Distribution, updates information stored in its envir object, and outputs an object that is typically saved in the user's .GlobalEnv to allow subsequent use by print.Ircagg(), plot.Ircagg(), confirm() or KSpem(). Uninformative Clusters (those containing only 1 or 2 experimental units) contribute NA values to the LRctabl\$LRC and LRCdist\$LRC objects within the Ircagg() output list.

Value

An output list of 12 objects, of class Ircagg:

hclobj	Name of clustering dendrogram object created by LCcluster().
dframe	Name of data.frame containing X, trex & Y variables.
trex	Name of numerical treatment/exposure level variable.
yvar	Name of outcome Y variable.
K	Number of Clusters Requested.
actclust	Number of Clusters delivered.
LRctabl	data.frame with 5 columns and K rows for Clusters.
LRctabl\$c	Cluster ID Factor, "1", "2", ..., "K".
LRctabl\$LRC	Numerical value of Local Treatment Difference for a Cluster.
LRctabl\$w	Integer value of "weight" = Cluster Size.
LRctabl\$LA0	Numerical value of within-cluster Local Average Outcome (Y-value).
LRctabl\$PS	Numerical value of Local Relative Propensity for Exposure, 0.0 to 1.0.
LRCdist	data.frame with 4 columns and same number of rows as the data: dframe.
LRCdist\$c.K	Name for the Cluster ID Variable of the form: "c.K"
LRCdist\$y	Numerical value of the Y-Outcome for an Experimental Unit.
LRCdist\$t	Numerical value of trex Exposure Level for an Experimental Unit.
LRCdist\$LRC	Numerical value of the LRC for the Cluster containing each Experimental Unit.
infoclus	Integer value of Number of Informative Clusters.
infounits	Integer value of Number of Units within Informative Clusters.
LRCmean	Numerical value of mean(LRCdist\$LRC) = Weighted Average of LRctabl\$LRC values.
LRCstde	Numerical value of sqrt(var(LRCdist\$LRC)) = Weighted Standard Deviation of LRctabl\$LRC values.

Author(s)

Bob Obenchain <wizbob@att.net>

References

Obenchain RL. (2010) The Local Control Approach using JMP. Chapter 7 of **Analysis of Observational Health Care Data using SAS**, Cary, NC:SAS Press, pages 151-192.

Obenchain RL. (2019) **LCstrategy_in_R.pdf** <http://localcontrolstatistics.org>

See Also

[ivadj](#), [ltdagg](#) and [LCcompare](#).

Examples

```
data(radon)
xvars <- c("obesity", "over65", "cursmoke")
hclobj <- LCcluster(radon, xvars)
e <- LCsetup(hclobj, radon, lnradon, lcanmort)
lrc050 <- lrcagg(50, e)
lrc050
plot(lrc050, e)
```

ltdagg

Calculate the Observed Distribution of LTDs in Local Control Strategy

Description

For a given number, **K**, of Clusters of Experimental Units in baseline X-covariate space, `ltdagg()` calculates the observed distribution of "Local Treatment Differences" (LTDs) of the form $LTD = ((\text{mean}(Y) \text{ for units receiving } \text{trtm}==1) - (\text{mean}(Y) \text{ for units receiving } \text{trtm}==0))$.

Usage

```
ltdagg(K, envir)
```

Arguments

K	Number of Clusters in baseline X-covariate space.
envir	R environment output by a previous call to <code>LCsetup()</code> .

Details

Multiple calls to `ltdagg(K)` for varying numbers of clusters, `K`, are typically made after first invoking `LCcluster()` to hierarchically cluster patients in `X`-space and then invoking `LCsetup()` to specify a `Y` Outcome variable and a two-level, numerical treatment variable: `trtm`. `ltdagg()` computes an observed LTD Distribution, updates information stored in its `envir` object, and outputs an object that is typically saved in the user's `.GlobalEnv` to allow subsequent use by `print.ltdagg()`, `plot.ltdagg()`, `confirm()` or `KSperm()`. Uninformative Clusters (those containing either only `trtm==1` units or else only `trtm==0` units) contribute `NA` values to the `LTDtbl$LTD` and `LTDdist$LTD` objects within the `ltdagg()` output list object.

Value

An output list of 12 objects, of class `ltdagg`:

<code>hiclus</code>	Name of clustering object created by <code>LCcluster()</code> .
<code>dframe</code>	Name of <code>data.frame</code> containing <code>X</code> , <code>trtm</code> & <code>Y</code> variables.
<code>trtm</code>	Name of treatment factor variable.
<code>yvar</code>	Name of outcome <code>Y</code> variable.
<code>K</code>	Number of Clusters Requested.
<code>actclust</code>	Number of Clusters delivered.
<code>LTDtbl</code>	<code>data.frame</code> with 5 columns and <code>K</code> rows for Clusters.
<code>LTDtbl\$c</code>	Cluster ID Factor, "1", "2", ..., "K".
<code>LTDtbl\$LTD</code>	Numerical value of Local Treatment Difference for a Cluster.
<code>LTDtbl\$w</code>	Integer value of "weight" = Cluster Size.
<code>LTDtbl\$LAO</code>	Numerical value of within-cluster Local Average Outcome (<code>Y</code> -value).
<code>LTDtbl\$PS</code>	Numerical value of Propensity Score = Local Fraction of Experimental Units receiving <code>trtm==1</code> ; $0.0 \leq PS \leq 1.0$.
<code>LTDdist</code>	<code>data.frame</code> with 4 columns and same number of rows as the data: <code>dframe</code> .
<code>LTDdist\$c.K</code>	Factor values within <code>c("1", "2", ..., "K")</code> .
<code>LTDdist\$y</code>	Numerical value of the <code>Y</code> -Outcome for an Experimental Unit.
<code>LTDdist\$t</code>	Numerical value of <code>trtm</code> (0 or 1) for an Experimental Unit.
<code>LTDdist\$LTD</code>	Numerical value of the LTD for the Cluster containing an Experimental Unit.
<code>infoclus</code>	Integer value of Number of Informative Clusters.
<code>infounits</code>	Integer value of Number of Units within Informative Clusters.
<code>LTDmean</code>	Numerical value of <code>mean(LTDdist\$LTD)</code> = Weighted Average of <code>LTDtbl\$LTD</code> values.
<code>LTDstde</code>	Numerical value of <code>sqrt(var(LTDdist\$LTD))</code> = Weighted Standard Deviation of <code>LTDtbl\$LTD</code> values.

Author(s)

Bob Obenchain <wizbob@att.net>

References

- Obenchain RL. (2010) Local Control Approach using JMP. Chapter 7 of **Analysis of Observational Health Care Data using SAS**, Cary, NC:SAS Press, pages 151-192.
- Obenchain RL. (2019) **LCstrategy_in_R.pdf** <http://localcontrolstatistics.org>

See Also

[ivadj](#), [lrcagg](#) and [LCcompare](#).

Examples

```
## Not run:
# Long running example...
data(pci15k)
xvars <- c("stent", "height", "female", "diabetic", "acutemi", "ejfract", "ves1proc")
hclobj <- LCcluster(pci15k, xvars)
LCe <- LCsetup(hclobj, pci15k, thin, surv6mo)
surv050 <- ltdagg(50, LCe)
surv050
plot(surv050, LCe)

## End(Not run)
```

mlme	<i>Create a «Most-Like-Me» data.frame for a specified X-Confounder vector: xvec</i>
------	---

Description

For a Given X-confounder Vector (xvec), sort all experimental units (eUnits) in an ltdagg() or lrcagg() output object into the strictly non-decreasing order of their distances from this X-Vector, which defines the TARGET eUnit: "Me". Plots of mlme() objects and displays of mlme.stats() are then used to Visualize and Summarize "Mini-" « LOCAL effect-size Distributions » for different Numbers of "Nearest Neighbor" eUnits.

Usage

```
mlme(envir, hcl, LCagg, xvec )
```

Arguments

- | | |
|-------|--|
| envir | Environment output by a call to the LCsetup() function. |
| hcl | Name of a LCcluster() output object created using a cluster::diana or stats::hclust method. |
| LCagg | A data.frame object output by ltdagg() or lrcagg() containing LOCAL effect-size Estimates for eUnits within Clusters defined in X-covariate space. |
| xvec | A suitable vector of the Numerical values for the X-Confounder variables, used in the current CLUSTERING, that define the eUnit: "Me". |

Details

For example, in `demo(radon)`, the eUnits are 2881 US "Counties", and the LCagg object is of type `lrcagg()` because radon exposure is a continuous variable. But, in `demo(pci15k)`, the eUnits are 15487 "Patients," and the LCagg object is of type `ltdagg()` because treatment choice (`thin`) is Binary (0 = "No", 1 = "Yes").

Value

An output list object of class `mlme`:

<code>xvec</code>	The <code>xvec</code> vector input to <code>mlme()</code> .
<code>Type</code>	Either "LTD" or "LRC".
<code>xvars</code>	Names of the X-Confounder variables specified in <code>LCsetup()</code> .
<code>varx</code>	The vector of Variances of the <code>xvars</code> variabes, used in rescaling distances.
<code>outdf</code>	The output data.frame of sorted "Nearest Neighbor" candidate eUnits.

Author(s)

Bob Obenchain <wizbob@att.net>

References

Obenchain RL. LocalControlStrategy-vignette. (2019) **LCstrategy_in_R.pdf** <http://localcontrolstatistics.org>

See Also

[plot.mlme, print.mlme, mlme.stats](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:
# Long running example...
data(pci15k)
xvars <- c("stent", "height", "female", "diabetic", "acutemi", "ejfract", "ves1proc")
hclobj <- LCcluster(pci15k, xvars)
LC.env <- LCsetup(hclobj, pci15k, thin, surv6mo)
surv0500 <- ltdagg(500, LC.env)
xvec11870 <- c( 0, 162, 1, 1, 0, 57, 1)
mlmeC5H <- mlme(envir = LC.env, hcl = hclobj, LCagg = surv0500, xvec = xvec11870 )
plot(mlmeC5H) # using default "NN" and "breaks" settings...

## End(Not run)
```

mlme.stats	<i>Print Summary Statistics for One or More "Most-Like-Me" Histogram Pairs.</i>
------------	---

Description

Print Summary Statistics for Local effect-size (LTD or LRC) Distributions associated with given Numbers of "Nearest-Neighbors" in X-confounder Space.

Usage

```
mlme.stats(x, NN = 50, ...)
```

Arguments

x	An object output by mlme.data().
NN	Number(s) of "Nearest Neighbors" displayed in Histogram(s). NN can be either a single integer like NN = 40 or a combination of integers like NN = c(50, 250, 2500).
...	Other arguments passed on to print().

Value

NULL

Author(s)

Bob Obenchain <wizbob@att.net>

See Also

[plot.mlme](#), [print.mlme](#), [mlme](#)

pci15k	<i>Six-month Survival, Cardiac cost and Baseline Covariate data for 15,487 PCI patients.</i>
--------	--

Description

Using observational data on 996 patients who received a Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI) at Ohio Heart Health, Lindner Center, Christ Hospital, Cincinnati (Kereiakes et al, 2000), we generated this much larger dataset via "plasmode simulation."

Usage

```
data(pci15k)
```

Format

A data frame of 11 variables on 15,487 patients; no NAs.

patid Patient ID number: 1 to 15487.

surv6mo Binary PCI Survival variable: 1 => Survival for at least 6 months following PCI, 0 => Survival for less than 6 months.

cardcost Cardiac related costs incurred within 6 months of patient's initial PCI; numeric value in 1998 dollars; costs were truncated by death for the 404 patients with surv6mo == 0.

thin Numeric treatment selection indicator: thin = 0 implies usual PCI care alone; thin = 1 implies usual PCI care augmented by either planned or rescue treatment with a new blood thinning agent.

stent Coronary stent deployment; numeric, with 1 meaning YES and 0 meaning NO.

height Height in centimeters; numeric integer from 133 to 198.

female Female gender; numeric, with 1 meaning YES and 0 meaning NO.

diabetic Diabetes mellitus diagnosis; numeric, with 1 meaning YES and 0 meaning NO.

acutemi Acute myocardial infarction within the previous 7 days; numeric, with 1 meaning YES and 0 meaning NO.

ejfrac Left ejection fraction; numeric value from 17 percent to 77 percent.

ves1proc Number of vessels involved in the patient's initial PCI procedure; numeric integer from 0 to 5.

References

Kereiakes DJ, Obenchain RL, Barber BL, et al. Abciximab provides cost effective survival advantage in high volume interventional practice. *Am Heart J* 2000; **140**: 603-610.

Gadbury GL, Xiang Q, Yang L, Barnes S, Page GP, Allison DB. Evaluating Statistical Methods Using Plasmode Data Sets in the Age of Massive Public Databases: An Illustration Using False Discovery Rates. *PLOS Genetics* 2008; **4**: 1-8, e1000098 (Open Access).

Obenchain RL. (2019) **LCstrategy_in_R.pdf** <http://localcontrolstatistics.org>

Examples

```
data(pci15k)
str(pci15k)
```

plot.ivadj

Display an Instrumental Variable (LAO) plot with Linear and smooth.spline Fits

Description

For a given number of patient clusters, K, in baseline X-covariate space and a specified Y-outcome variable, display the distribution of Local Average Outcomes (LAOs) plotted versus Within-Cluster Propensity-like Scores: Treatment Selection Fractions or Relative Exposure Levels.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'ivadj'
plot(x, maxsiz = 0.15, ...)
```

Arguments

x An object output by ivadj() for K given Clusters in baseline X-covariate space.

maxsiz Radius of the Circle plotting symbol for the largest Cluster. Usually < 0.6

... Other arguments passed on to plot().

Value

NULL

Author(s)

Bob Obenchain <wizbob@att.net>

See Also

[plot.ltdagg](#), [plot.lrcagg](#)

plot.lrcagg	<i>Display Visualizations of an Observed LRC Distribution in Local Control Strategy</i>
-------------	---

Description

Display a Histogram, Box-Whisker Diagram and/or empirical Cumulative Distribution Function depicting the Observed Local Rank Correlation (LRC) Distribution across K Clusters.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'lrcagg'
plot(x, envir, show="all", breaks="Sturges", ...)
```

Arguments

x An object output by lrcagg() for K = Number of Clusters in baseline X-covariate space.

envir R environment output by a previous call to LCsetup().

show Choice of "all", "seq", "hist", "boxp", or "ecdf".

breaks Parameter setting for hist(); May be an integer value ...like 25 or 50.

... Other arguments passed on to plot().

Value

NULL

Author(s)

Bob Obenchain <wizbob@att.net>

See Also[plot.ltdagg](#)

plot.ltdagg	<i>Display Visualizations of an Observed LTD Distribution in Local Control Strategy</i>
-------------	---

Description

Display a Histogram, Box-Whisker Diagram and/or empirical Cumulative Distribution Function depicting the Observed Local Treatment Difference (LTD) Distribution across K Clusters.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'ltdagg'
plot(x, envir, show="all", breaks="Sturges", ...)
```

Arguments

x	An object output by ltdagg() for K = Number of Clusters in baseline X-covariate space.
envir	R environment output by a previous call to LCsetup().
show	Choice of "all", "seq", "hist", "boxp", or "ecdf".
breaks	Parameter setting for hist(); May be an integer value ...like 25 or 50.
...	Other arguments passed on to plot().

Value

NULL

Author(s)

Bob Obenchain <wizbob@att.net>

See Also[plot.lrcagg](#)

plot.mlme	<i>Display a Pair (or Pairs) of Histograms showing LOCAL effect-sizes for Patients "Most-Like-Me".</i>
-----------	--

Description

Display Pair(s) of Histograms of Local effect-size (LTD or LRC) Distributions for a specified Number (or combinations of Numbers) of "Nearest-Neighbors in X-confounder Space.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'mlme'  
plot(x, NN=50, breaks=50, ...)
```

Arguments

x	An object output by mlme().
NN	Number(s) of Nearest Neighbors displayed in Bottom Histogram(s). NN can be a single integer like NN = 40 or a combination of integers like NN = c(50, 250, 2500).
breaks	Integer number of breaks in the Top Histogram for the full LTD or LRC distribution. Because the Bottom Histogram may include only a few Nearest Neighbors, it is always displayed using breaks = "Sturges".
...	Other arguments passed on to plot().

Value

NULL

Author(s)

Bob Obenchain <wizbob@att.net>

See Also

[mlme.stats](#), [print.mlme](#), [mlme](#)

print.mlme	<i>Print Summary Statistics on Local effect-size Estimates for Patients "Most-Like-Me".</i>
------------	---

Description

Display "Most-Like-Me" Summary Statistics for LOCAL effect-size (LTD or LRC) Distributions of "Nearest-Neighbors" in X-confounder Space.

Usage

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

Arguments

x	An object output by mlme().
...	Other arguments passed on to print().

Value

NULL

Author(s)

Bob Obenchain <wizbob@att.net>

See Also

[mlme.stats](#), [plot.mlme](#), [mlme](#)

radon	<i>Radon exposure and lung cancer mortality data for 2,881 US counties in 46 States.</i>
-------	--

Description

Federal EPA and state government agencies have been reporting observational data at the US County level since about 1980. The data given here include 5 potential X-confounder variables of the relationship between lung cancer mortality and radon exposure; they were amassed and checked by Goran Krstic, Fraser Health Authority, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Usage

```
data(radon)
```


Format

A data frame of 11 variables for 2881 US counties. One Missing Value; row 778 for Shannon County, SD, fips == 46113, has hhincome == NA.

fips County FIPS code. Codes are 4 or 5 digit integers; 2881 unique values.

state State Factor variable (2-character codes); 46 unique levels.

county County or Parish Factor variable (character codes); 1703 unique levels.

lcanmort Lung Cancer Mortality rate (deaths per 100,000 person-years), 1980-2004.

radon County Radon Exposure level in picocuries per liter (pCi/L) for some unspecified period within 1986-1992; rounded to nearest single decimal place.

lnradon Natural logarithm of County Radon Exposure level. Radon levels reported as 0.0 for 10 US counties are Winsorized here to $\ln(0.05)$, which is roughly -3.

obesity Percentage of County Residents considered Obese (age adjusted), 2008.

over65 Percentage of County Residents of Age 65 and over, 2000 Census.

cursmoke Percentage of County Residents who Currently Smoke, 1997-2003.

evrsmoke Percentage of County Residents who Ever Smoked, 1997-2003.

hhincome Average Median HouseHold Income in Thousands (\$1,000), 1989-2004.

References

Krstic G, Obenchain RL. (2016) Radon dataset documentation and downloads. <http://localcontrolstatistics.org>

Obenchain RL. (2018) **RADON_short.pdf** <http://localcontrolstatistics.org> 40 PPT Slides and Commentary in Notes Pages format.

Examples

```
data(radon)
str(radon)
```

```
reveal.data
```

Create a data.frame for use in Prediction of a LTD/LRC effect-size Distribution

Description

reveal.data() forms a data.frame by sorting and appending the LTD or LRC treatment effect-size measures from ltdagg() or lrcagg() – as well as a Cluster membership-number variable – to a copy of the data.frame specified in LCsetup(). In the fourth and final REVEAL Phase of Local Control Strategy, a stretch-goal is to predict variation in LTD/LRC effect-size distributions using the known (baseline) X-covariate characteristics of experimental units. For example, the data.frame output by reveal.data() is suitable for input to party::ctree() as well as to a number of other "less Visual" prediction methods available in **R**.

Usage

```
reveal.data(x, clus.var="Clus", effe.var="eSiz")
```

Arguments

x	An output object resulting from a call to <code>ltdagg()</code> or <code>lrcagg()</code> .
clus.var	Quoted NAME for the Cluster-Number variable.
effe.var	Quoted NAME for the LTD/LRC effect-size variable.

Value

The desired data.frame:

outdf	A data.frame containing clus.var, effe.var plus (X, trex & Y) variables.
-------	--

Author(s)

Bob Obenchain <wizbob@att.net>

References

Obenchain RL. (2019) **LCstrategy_in_R.pdf** <http://localcontrolstatistics.org>

See Also

[ltdagg](#), [lrcagg](#), and [LCsetup](#).

Index

- *Topic **cluster**
 - LCcluster, 9
 - *Topic **datasets**
 - pci15k, 19
 - radon, 24
 - *Topic **design**
 - LCcluster, 9
 - LCsetup, 12
 - *Topic **methods**
 - mlme.stats, 19
 - plot.ivadj, 20
 - plot.lrcagg, 21
 - plot.ltdagg, 22
 - plot.mlme, 23
 - print.mlme, 24
 - *Topic **nonparametric**
 - confirm, 4
 - ivadj, 6
 - KSperm, 7
 - lrcagg, 13
 - ltdagg, 15
 - mlme, 17
 - *Topic **package**
 - LocalControlStrategy-package, 2
- confirm, 4, 8
- ivadj, 6, 11, 13, 15, 17
- KSperm, 7
- LCcluster, 9
- LCcompare, 7, 10, 15, 17
- LCsetup, 10, 12, 26
- LocalControlStrategy-package, 2
- lrcagg, 6–8, 10, 11, 13, 13, 17, 26
- ltdagg, 6–8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 15, 26
- mlme, 17, 19, 23, 24
- mlme.stats, 18, 19, 23, 24
- pci15k, 19
- plot.ivadj, 20
- plot.lrcagg, 21, 21, 22
- plot.ltdagg, 21, 22, 22
- plot.mlme, 18, 19, 23, 24
- print.mlme, 18, 19, 23, 24
- radon, 24
- reveal.data, 25