

Package ‘rSFA’

May 9, 2026

Maintainer Martin Zaefferer <martin.zaefferer@gmx.de>

License GPL (>= 2)

Title Slow Feature Analysis

Type Package

Author Wolfgang Konen <wolfgang.konen@fh-koeln.de>, Martin Zaefferer,
Patrick Koch; Bug hunting and testing by Ayodele Fasika, Ashwin
Kumar, Prawyn Jebakumar

Description Slow Feature Analysis (SFA), ported to R based on
'matlab' implementations of SFA: 'SFA toolkit' 1.0 by Pietro Berkes and 'SFA toolkit'
2.8 by Wolfgang Konen.

Version 1.5

Date 2022-03-29

Depends R (>= 2.0.0)

Imports stats, MASS, graphics, grDevices

NeedsCompilation no

Repository CRAN

RoxygenNote 7.1.2

Date/Publication 2022-03-29 10:00:07 UTC

Contents

rSFA-package	2
addNoisyCopies	3
etaval	4
gaussClassifier	4
gaussCreate	5
sfa1	6
sfa1Create	6
sfa2	7
sfa2Create	8
sfaClassify	9

sfaClassPredict	10
sfaExecute	11
sfaExpand	12
sfaNIRegress	12
sfaPBootstrap	13
sfaStep	14
sfaTimediff	15
xpDim	15

Index	17
--------------	-----------

rSFA-package	<i>Slow Feature Analysis</i>
--------------	------------------------------

Description

Slow Feature Analysis

Details

Package:	rSFA
Type:	Package
Version:	1.5
Date:	29.03.2022
Maintainer:	Martin Zaefferer <martin.zaefferer@gmx.de>
License:	GPL (>= 2)
LazyLoad:	yes

Slow Feature Analysis (SFA), ported to R based on the matlab implementations SFA toolkit 1.0 by Pietro Berkes and SFA toolkit 2.8 by Wolfgang Konen.

Author(s)

Wolfgang Konen <wolfgang.konen@fh-koeln.de>, Martin Zaefferer, Patrick Koch; Bug hunting and testing by Ayodele Fasika, Ashwin Kumar, Prawyn Jebakumar

addNoisyCopies	<i>Add noisy copies for parametric bootstrap</i>
----------------	--

Description

Given training data X with true labels REALCLASS, add new records to X and REALCLASS, which are noisy copies of the training data.

Usage

```
addNoisyCopies(realclass, x, pars)
```

Arguments

realclass	true class of training data (can be vector, numerics, integers, factors)
x	a matrix containing the training data
pars	list of parameters: pars\$ncopies: Number of new records to add pars\$ncsort: Defines if training data should be sorted by class. Default is FALSE pars\$ncsigma: The noise in each column of x has the std.dev. pars\$ncsigma*(standard deviation of column). Default Value: 0.8 pars\$ncmethod: =1: each 'old' record from X in turn is the centroid for a new pattern; =2: the centroid is the average of all records from the same class, the std.dev. is the same for all classes; =3: centroid as in '2', the std.dev. is the std.dev. of all records from the same class (*recommended*)

Value

list res
- res contains two list entries: realclass and x (including added copies)

References

[sfaBootstrap](#)

etaval *Computes the eta value of a signal (slowness)*

Description

Computes the eta value of a signal (slowness)

Usage

```
etaval(x, T = length(x))
```

Arguments

x	The columns of signal correspond to different input components. Must be normalized (zero mean, unit variance)
T	Time interval

Value

returns the eta value of the signal in a time interval T time units long.

gaussClassifier *Classifier for SFA demos*

Description

Train or apply a Gaussian classifier..

Usage

```
gaussClassifier(gauss, y, realC, method = "train")
```

Arguments

gauss	List created by gaussCreate. Contains also the elements: aligned =0: do not align the Gaussian classifiers with axes, use full covariance matrix =1 (default): set the off-diagonals in covariance matrix to 0, i.e. the Gaussian classifier is forced to be aligned with the axes. This is more robust in the case where the data deviate largely from a multivariate normal distribution. epsD [defaults to 0.04] replace diagonal elements of COV smaller than epsD with epsD to avoid too small Gaussians
-------	--

y	K x M matrix where K is the total number of patterns and M is the number of variables used for classification. I.e. each row of y contains the data for one pattern.
realC	1 x K matrix with NCLASS distinct real class labels needed only for method='train'. In case of method="apply" realC is not used and can have any value
method	either "train" (default) or "apply"

Value

list gauss containing

gauss\$predC	1 x K matrix: the predicted class
gauss\$prob	K x NCLASS matrix: prob(k,n) is the estimated probability that pattern k belongs to class m

See Also

[gaussCreate](#)

gaussCreate	<i>Create an Gaussian classifier object</i>
-------------	---

Description

Create an Gaussian classifier object

Usage

```
gaussCreate(nclass, dimY)
```

Arguments

nclass	number of classes
dimY	dimension

Value

list of defaults for gauss classifier

See Also

[gaussClassifier](#)

sfa1	<i>The SFA1 algorithm, linear SFA.</i>
------	--

Description

$Y = \text{sfa1}(X)$ performs linear Slow Feature Analysis on the input data X and returns the output signals Y ordered by increasing temporal variation, i.e. the first signal $Y[,1]$ is the slowest varying one, $Y[,2]$ the next slowest and so on. The input data have to be organized with each variable in a column and each data (time) point in a row, i.e. $X(t,i)$ is the value of variable nr. i at time t .

Usage

```
sfa1(x)
```

Arguments

x Input data, each column a different variable

Value

list `sfaList` with all learned information, where `sfaList$y` contains the outputs

See Also

[sfaStep](#) [sfa1Create](#) [sfaExecute](#)

sfa1Create	<i>Create structured list for linear SFA</i>
------------	--

Description

Create structured list for linear SFA

Usage

```
sfa1Create(sfaRange, axType = "ORD1", regCt = 0)
```

Arguments

`sfaRange` number of slowly-varying functions to be kept
`axType` is the type of derivative approximation to be used, see [sfaTimediff](#)
`regCt` regularization constant, currently not used

Value

list `sfaList` contains all arguments passed into `sfa1create` plus

`deg` 2

This list will be expanded by other SFA functions with further SFA results

See Also

[sfa1](#) [sfaStep](#) [sfa2Create](#)

sfa2

The SFA2 algorithm, SFA with degree 2 expansion.

Description

`Y = sfa2(X)` performs expanded Slow Feature Analysis on the input data `X` and returns the output signals `Y` ordered by increasing temporal variation, i.e. the first signal `Y[,1]` is the slowest varying one, `Y[,2]` the next slowest varying one and so on. The input data have to be organized with each variable in a column and each data (time) point in a row, i.e. `X(t,i)` is the value of variable `i` at time `t`. By default an expansion to the space of 2nd degree polynomials is done, this can be changed by using different functions for `xpDimFun` and `sfaExpandFun`.

Usage

```
sfa2(
  x,
  method = "SVDSFA",
  ppType = "PCA",
  xpDimFun = xpDim,
  sfaExpandFun = sfaExpand
)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	input data
<code>method</code>	eigenvector calculation method: <code>"SVDSFA"</code> for singular value decomposition (recommended) or <code>"GENEIG"</code> for generalized eigenvalues (unstable!). <code>GENEIG</code> is not implemented in the current version, since R lacks an easy option to calculate generalized eigenvalues.
<code>ppType</code>	preprocessing type: <code>"PCA"</code> (principal component analysis) or <code>"SFA1"</code> (linear sfa)
<code>xpDimFun</code>	function to calculate dimension of expanded data
<code>sfaExpandFun</code>	function to expand data

Value

list `sfaList` with all SFA information, among them are

- `y` a matrix containing the output `Y` (as described above)
- all input parameters to `sfa2Create`
- all elements of `sfaList` as specified in `sfa2Step`

See Also

[sfa2Step](#) [sfa2Create](#) [sfaExecute](#) [sfa1](#)

Examples

```
## prepare input data for simple demo
t=seq.int(from=0,by=0.011,to=2*pi)
x1=sin(t)+cos(11*t)^2
x2=cos(11*t)
x=data.frame(x1,x2)
## perform sfa2 algorithm with data
res = sfa2(x)
## plot slowest varying function of result
plot(t, res$y[,1],type="l",main="output of the slowest varying function")
## see http://www.scholarpedia.org/article/Slow_feature_analysis#The_algorithm
## for detailed description of this example
```

sfa2Create

Create structured list for expanded SFA

Description

'Expanded' SFA means that the input data are expanded into a higher-dimensional space with the function `sfaExpandFun`. See [sfaExpand](#) for the default expansion function.

Usage

```
sfa2Create(
  ppRange,
  sfaRange,
  ppType = "SFA1",
  axType = "ORD1",
  regCt = 0,
  opts = NULL,
  xpDimFun = xpDim,
  sfaExpandFun = sfaExpand
)
```

Arguments

ppRange	umber of dimensions to be kept after preprocessing step - or - a two-number vector with lower and upper dimension number
sfaRange	umber of slowly-varying functions to be kept
ppType	preprocessing type: ="PCA", "PCA2" (principal component analysis) or ="SFA1" (linear sfa)
axType	is the type of derivative approximation to be used, see sfaTimediff
regCt	regularization constant, currently not used
opts	optional list of additional options
xpDimFun	Function to calculate dimension of expanded data
sfaExpandFun	Function to expand data

Value

list sfaList contains all arguments passed into sfa2create plus

xpRange	evaluates to xpDimFun(ppRange)
deg	2

This list will be expanded by other SFA functions with further SFa results

See Also

[sfa2](#) [sfaStep](#) [sfa1Create](#)

sfaClassify

Predict Class for SFA classification

Description

Create a SFA classification mode, predict & evaluate on new data (xtst,realc_tst).

Author of orig. matlab version: Wolfgang Konen, May 2009 - Jan 2010

See also [Berkes05] Pietro Berkes: Pattern recognition with Slow Feature Analysis. Cognitive Sciences EPrint Archive (CogPrint) 4104, <http://cogprints.org/4104/> (2005)

Usage

sfaClassify(x, realclass, xtst = 0, realcTst = 0, opts)

Arguments

x	NREC x IDIM, training input data
realclass	1 x NREC, training class labels
xtst	NTST x IDIM, test input data
realcTst	1 x NTST, test class labels
opts	list with several parameter settings: gaussdim ... *Filename [* = s,g,x] from where to load the models (see sfaClassify)

Value

list res containing	
res\$errtrn	1 x 2 matrix: error rate with / w/o SFA on training set
res\$errtst	1 x 2 matrix: error rate with / w/o SFA on test set
res\$y	output from SFA when applied to training data
res\$ytst	output from SFA when applied to test data
res\$predT	predictions with SFA + GaussClassifier on test set
res\$predX	predictions w/o SFA (only GaussClassifier) on test set (only if opts.xFilename exists)

See Also

[sfaClassPredict](#) [sfaExecute](#)

sfaClassPredict *Predict Class for SFA classification*

Description

Use a SFA classification model (stored in opts*\$Filename), predict & evaluate on new data (xtst,realc_tst).

Author of orig. matlab version: Wolfgang Konen, Jan 2011-Mar 2011.

See also [Berkes05] Pietro Berkes: Pattern recognition with Slow Feature Analysis. Cognitive Sciences EPrint Archive (CogPrint) 4104, <http://cogprints.org/4104/> (2005)

Usage

```
sfaClassPredict(xtst, realcTst, opts)
```

Arguments

xtst	NTST x IDIM, test input data
realcTst	1 x NTST, test class labels
opts	list with several parameter settings: gaussdim ... *Filename [* = s,g,x] from where to load the models (see sfaClassify)

Value

list res containing	
res\$errtst	1 x 2 matrix: error rate with / w/o SFA on test set
res\$ytst	output from SFA when applied to test data
res\$predT	predictions with SFA + GaussClassifier on test set
res\$predX	predictions w/o SFA (only GaussClassifier) on test set (only if opts.xFilename exists)

See Also

[sfaClassify](#) [sfaExecute](#)

sfaExecute	<i>Execute learned function for input data</i>
------------	--

Description

After completion of the learning phase (step="sfa") this function can be used to apply the learned function to the input data.

The execution is completed in 4 steps:

1. projection on the input principal components (dimensionality reduction)
2. expansion (if necessary)
3. projection on the whitened (expanded) space
4. projection on the slow functions

Usage

```
sfaExecute(sfaList, DATA, prj = NULL, ncomp = NULL)
```

Arguments

sfaList	A list that contains all information about the handled sfa-structure
DATA	Input data, each column a different variable
prj	If not NULL, the preprocessing step 1 is skipped for SFA2
ncomp	number of learned functions to be used

Value

matrix DATA containing the calculated output

See Also

[sfa2](#) [sfa1](#) [sfaStep](#)

sfaExpand

Degree 2 Expansion

Description

Expand a signal in the space of polynomials of degree 2. This is the default expansion function used by rSFA.

Usage

sfaExpand(sfaList, DATA)

Arguments

sfaList	A list that contains all information about the handled sfa-structure
DATA	Input data, each column a different variable

Value

expanded matrix DATA

See Also

[sfa2](#) [nlExpand](#) [xpDim](#)

sfaNlRegress

Perform non-linear regression

Description

Given the data in arg, expand them nonlinearly in the same way as it was done in the SFA-object sfaList (expanded dimension M) and search the vector RCOEF of M constant coefficients, such that the sum of squared residuals between a given function in time FUNC and the function $R(t) = (v(t) - v0)' * RCOEF$, $t=1, \dots, T$, is minimal

Usage

```
sfaNlRegress(sfaList, arg, func)
```

Arguments

sfaList	A list that contains all information about the handled sfa-structure
arg	Input data, each column a different variable
func	(T x 1) the function to be fitted nonlinearly

Value

returns a list res with elements

res\$R	(T x 1) the function fitted by NL-regression
res\$rhocoef	(M x 1) the coefficients for the NL-expanded dimensions

sfaPBootstrap	<i>Parametric Bootstrap</i>
---------------	-----------------------------

Description

If training set too small, augment it with parametric bootstrap

Usage

```
sfaPBootstrap(realclass, x, sfaList)
```

Arguments

realclass	true class of training data (can be vector, numerics, integers, factors)
x	matrix containing the training data
sfaList	list with several parameter settings, e.g. as created by sfa2Create sfaList\$xpDimFun (=xpDim by default) calculated dimension of expanded SFA space sfaList\$deg degree of expansion (should not be 1, not implemented) sfaList\$ppRange ppRange for SFA algorithm sfaList\$nclass number of unique classes sfaList\$doPB do (1) or do no (0) param. bootstrap.

Value

a list list containing:

x	training set extended to minimum number of records $1.5 \cdot (xpdim + nclass)$, if necessary
realclass	training class labels, extended analogously

See Also

[addNoisyCopies](#)

sfaStep

Update a step of the SFA algorithm.

Description

sfaStep() updates the current step of the SFA algorithm. Depending on sfaList\$deg it calls either [sfa1Step](#) or [sfa2Step](#) to do the main work. See further documentation there

Usage

```
sfaStep(sfaList, arg, step = NULL, method = NULL)
```

Arguments

sfaList	A list that contains all information about the handled sfa-structure
arg	Input data, each column a different variable
step	Specifies the current SFA step. Must be given in the right sequence: for SFA1 objects: "preprocessing", "sfa" for SFA2 objects: "preprocessing", "expansion", "sfa" Each time a new step is invoked, the previous one is closed, which might take some time.
method	Method to be used: For sfaList\$step="expansion" the choices are "TIME-SERIES" or "CLASSIF". For sfaList\$step="sfa" (sfa2Step only) the choices are "SVDSFA" (recommended) or "GENEIG" (unstable).

Value

list sfaList taken from the input, with new information added to this list. See [sfa1Step](#) or [sfa2Step](#) for details.

See Also

[sfa1Step](#) [sfa2Step](#) [sfa1Create](#) [sfa2Create](#) [sfaExecute](#)

Examples

```
## Suppose you have divided your training data into two chunks,
## DATA1 and DATA2. Let the number of input dimensions be N. To apply
## SFA on them write:
## Not run:
sfaList = sfa2Create(N, xpDim(N))
sfaList = sfaStep(sfaList, DATA1, "preprocessing")
sfaList = sfaStep(sfaList, DATA2)
sfaList = sfaStep(sfaList, DATA1, "expansion")
```

```

sfaList = sfaStep(sfaList, DATA2)
sfaList = sfaStep(sfaList, NULL, "sfa")
output1 = sfaExecute(sfaList, DATA1)
output2 = sfaExecute(sfaList, DATA2)

## End(Not run)

```

sfaTimediff	<i>Calculates the first derivative of signal data</i>
-------------	---

Description

Calculates the first derivative of signal data

Usage

```
sfaTimediff(DATA, axType = "ORD1")
```

Arguments

DATA	The matrix of signals for which the derivative is calculated (one column per signal)
axType	Type of interpolation: "ORD1" (default) first order, "SCD" second, "TRD" third, "ORD3a" cubic polynomial

Value

matrix DATA
- DATA contains the derivative signals, with the same structure as the input data.

Note

setting axType to invalid values will lead to first order interpolation.

xpDim	<i>Degree 2 Dimension Calculation</i>
-------	---------------------------------------

Description

Compute the dimension of a vector expanded in the space of polynomials of 2nd degree.

Usage

```
xpDim(n)
```

Arguments

n Dimension of input vector

Value

Dimension of expanded vector

See Also

[sfa2](#) [sfaExpand](#)

Index

- * **analysis**
 - rSFA-package, 2
- * **classification**
 - rSFA-package, 2
- * **feature**
 - rSFA-package, 2
- * **slow**
 - rSFA-package, 2
- * **timeseries**
 - rSFA-package, 2

addNoisyCopies, 3, 14

etaval, 4

gaussClassifier, 4, 5

gaussCreate, 5, 5

n1Expand, 12

rSFA (rSFA-package), 2

rSFA-package, 2

sfa1, 6, 7, 8, 12

sfa1Create, 6, 6, 9, 14

sfa1Step, 14

sfa2, 7, 9, 12, 16

sfa2Create, 7, 8, 8, 13, 14

sfa2Step, 8, 14

sfaClassify, 9, 10, 11

sfaClassPredict, 10, 10

sfaExecute, 6, 8, 10, 11, 11, 14

sfaExpand, 8, 12, 16

sfaN1Regress, 12

sfaPBootstrap, 3, 13

sfaStep, 6, 7, 9, 12, 14

sfaTimediff, 6, 9, 15

xpDim, 12, 15