

Package ‘multiflexscan’

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Type Package

Title Information Criterion and Scan Statistic Approach for Detecting Multiple Disease Clusters

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Description Detecting multiple disease clusters using the information criterion and scan statistic approach developed by Takahashi and Shimadzu (2020) <[doi:10.1186/s12942-020-00228-y](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12942-020-00228-y)>.

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URL <https://github.com/tkhrotn/multiflexscan>

BugReports <https://github.com/tkhrotn/multiflexscan/issues>

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multiflexscan-package *Detecting multiple spatial disease clusters using the information criterion and scan statistic approach*

Description

This package provides functions for detecting multiple spatial disease clusters based on the information criterion and scan statistic approach by Takahashi and Shimadzu (2020), using the flexible spatial scan statistic (Tango and Takahashi, 2005) or Kulldorff's circular spatial scan statistic (1997) implemented in the rflexscan package (Otani and Takahashi, 2021).

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References

- Takahashi K. and Shimadzu H. (2020). Detecting multiple spatial disease clusters: information criterion and scan statistic approach. *International Journal of Health Geographics* 19:33. doi:10.1186/s1294202000228y
- Tango T. and Takahashi K. (2005). A flexibly shaped spatial scan statistic for detecting clusters, *International Journal of Health Geographics* 4:11.
- Otani T. and Takahashi K. (2021). Flexible scan statistics for detecting spatial disease clusters: The rflexscan R package. *Journal of Statistical Software* 99:13. doi:10.18637/jss.v099.i13
- Takahashi K, Yokoyama T and Tango T. (2010). FleXScan v3.1: Software for the Flexible Scan Statistic. National Institute of Public Health, Japan, <https://sites.google.com/site/flexscansoftware/home>.

See Also

Useful links:

- <https://github.com/tkhrotn/multiflexscan>
- Report bugs at <https://github.com/tkhrotn/multiflexscan/issues>

AIC.multiflexscan

AIC and BIC for the selected cluster model

Description

AIC and BIC for the selected cluster model

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'multiflexscan'
AIC(object, ..., k = 2)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'multiflexscan'
BIC(object, ...)
```

Arguments

object	A multiflexscan object.
...	Unused.
k	Penalty per parameter for AIC (ignored; the stored AIC for the selected model is returned).

Value

The AIC or BIC of the selected K -cluster model.

as.data.frame.multiflexscan

Coerce selected clusters to a data frame

Description

Coerce selected clusters to a data frame

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'multiflexscan'
as.data.frame(x, row.names = NULL, optional = FALSE, ...)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	A multiflexscan object.
<code>row.names</code>	Optional row names (ignored).
<code>optional</code>	Logical; ignored.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments (ignored).

Value

A data frame of selected clusters (see `clusters()`).

<code>choropleth</code>	<i>Draw a choropleth map of multiflexscan clusters</i>
-------------------------	--

Description

Draw a choropleth map that highlights clusters selected by the information criterion. The order of regions must match the input order used in `multiflexscan()`.

Usage

```
choropleth(
  x,
  regions,
  selected = seq_len(nclusters(x)),
  col = grDevices::palette(),
  background = "grey95",
  border = "grey80",
  border.lwd = 0.25,
  ...
)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	A multiflexscan object.
<code>regions</code>	An sf object containing the region geometries.
<code>selected</code>	Integer vector specifying the clusters to highlight. By default, the clusters selected by the information criterion are highlighted.
<code>col</code>	Colors used for highlighted clusters.
<code>background</code>	Fill color for regions not in selected clusters.
<code>border</code>	Border color passed to the geometry plot.
<code>border.lwd</code>	Line width for polygon borders. A value smaller than the graphics default is used by default to reduce overlap in dense maps.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments passed to the geometry plot.

Value

The regions object with an added cluster column (integer cluster membership, 0 for unclustered regions), invisibly.

Note

Requires the suggested **sf** package.

See Also

[multiflexscan](#), [plot.multiflexscan](#)

clusters	<i>Cluster summary table</i>
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Description

Return a data frame of candidate clusters. By default only the clusters selected by the information criterion are returned.

Usage

```
clusters(object, selected = TRUE)
```

Arguments

- | | |
|----------|---|
| object | A multiflexscan object. |
| selected | Logical; if TRUE (default), return only the selected clusters. If FALSE, return all candidate clusters. |

Value

A data frame with columns NumArea, MaxDist, Case, Expected, RR, Stats, and P.

See Also

[nclusters\(\)](#), [as.data.frame.multiflexscan](#), [coef.multiflexscan](#)

coef.multiflexscan	<i>Extract selected cluster summaries</i>
--------------------	---

Description

Extract selected cluster summaries

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'multiflexscan'  
coef(object, ...)
```

Arguments

object	A multiflexscan object.
...	Additional arguments (ignored).

Value

A data frame of selected clusters (see [clusters\(\)](#)).

get_setting	<i>Analysis settings</i>
-------------	--------------------------

Description

Analysis settings

Usage

```
get_setting(object)
```

Arguments

object	A multiflexscan object.
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Value

A list of analysis settings stored in the object.

See Also

[nclusters\(\)](#), [pvalue\(\)](#)

multiflexscan	<i>Detect multiple spatial clusters using the flexible/circular scan statistic</i>
---------------	--

Description

This function analyzes spatial count data using the flexible spatial scan statistic developed by Tango and Takahashi (2005) or Kulldorff's circular spatial scan statistic (1997), and detects multiple disease clusters by selecting the number of clusters with an information criterion.

Usage

```
multiflexscan(
  x,
  y,
  name,
  observed,
  expected,
  nb,
  clustertype = "HOT",
  clustersize = 15,
  clusterradius = .Machine$double.xmax,
  maxclusters = 10,
  stattype = "ORIGINAL",
  scanmethod = "FLEXIBLE",
  ralpha = 0.2,
  simcount = 999,
  verbose = FALSE,
  cores = max(1, parallel::detectCores() - 1),
  parallel_type = "PSOCK",
  seed = NULL
)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	A vector of X-coordinates.
<code>y</code>	A vector of Y-coordinates.
<code>name</code>	A vector of names of each area.
<code>observed</code>	A vector with the observed number of disease cases.
<code>expected</code>	A vector with the expected number of disease cases under the null hypothesis. This is used with the Poisson model.
<code>nb</code>	A neighbours list or an adjacency matrix. When a list is supplied, element <code>nb[[i]]</code> gives the indices of regions adjacent to region <code>i</code> . When a matrix is supplied, non-zero entries indicate adjacency (the diagonal is ignored in the stored result).
<code>clustertype</code>	Type of cluster to be scanned.

	"HOT" Hot-spot clusters with elevated risk.
	"COLD" Cold-spot clusters with reduced risk.
	"BOTH" Hot- and cold-spot clusters simultaneously.
clustersize	Maximum spatial cluster size S , i.e., the maximum number of regions included in a detected cluster.
clusterradius	Upper bound on the spatial radius of candidate scanning windows, in the same units as x and y . The default <code>.Machine\$double.xmax</code> imposes no radius limit. Choose a value consistent with the projected coordinate system used for x and y .
maxclusters	The maximum number of clusters to be detected.
stattype	Statistic type to be used (case-insensitive). "ORIGINAL" the likelihood ratio statistic by Kulldorff and Nagarwalla (1995) "RESTRICTED" the restricted likelihood ratio statistic by Tango (2008), with a preset parameter <code>ralpha</code> for restriction
scanmethod	Scanning method to be used (case-insensitive). "FLEXIBLE" flexible scan statistic by Tango and Takahashi (2005) "CIRCULAR" circular scan statistic by Kulldorff (1997)
ralpha	Threshold parameter of the mid-p-value for the restricted likelihood ratio statistic.
simcount	The number of Monte Carlo replications to calculate a p-value for statistical test.
verbose	Print progress messages.
cores	The number of CPU cores used for Monte Carlo replications.
parallel_type	Type of parallel backend passed to <code>parallel::makeCluster()</code> when distributing Monte Carlo replications across worker processes (default "PSOCK").
seed	Optional integer seed for reproducible Monte Carlo replications. When <code>cores > 1</code> , independent random streams are managed with doRNG ; calling <code>set.seed()</code> alone is not sufficient for parallel reproducibility. The default NULL leaves the RNG unseeded.

Details

Centroid coordinates for each region should be specified by Cartesian coordinates using arguments x and y . We recommend transforming latitude and longitude onto an appropriate projected coordinate system before calling this function.

The function first obtains non-overlapping candidate clusters by calling `rflexscan::runFlexScan()`, then fits a sequence of Poisson generalized linear models with cluster indicators and the expected counts as offsets. The selected number of clusters is the value that maximizes the relative difference criterion (RDC). The global p-value is calculated by Monte Carlo simulation under the null hypothesis of no clustering.

The relative difference criterion for a model with K clusters is

$$\text{RDC}_K = \frac{C_0 - C_K}{C_0},$$

where C_K is the information criterion of Takahashi and Shimadzu (2020). The selected number of clusters `nclust` is the value of K that maximizes RDC. If several values of K attain the same maximum RDC, the smallest such K is selected.

Monte Carlo p-values follow the rank-based convention used in **rflexscan**:

$$p = \frac{\text{rank}}{M + 1},$$

where M is `simcount`. The overall p-value P compares the maximum RDC from the observed data with maxima from datasets simulated under the null Poisson model. Each null replication repeats the same candidate search and model-selection steps on a Poisson draw under the null expected counts. Cluster-level p-values `pval` compare each candidate cluster's scan statistic `stats` with statistics from the simulated datasets.

Value

A list of class "multiflexscan" with the following components:

call The matched call.

input A list with coordinates (centroid matrix), `case` (data frame of observed and expected counts), and `adj_mat` (binary adjacency matrix with zero diagonal).

cluster A list of candidate clusters returned by `rflexscan::runFlexScan()`, each extended with Monte Carlo rank and `pval`. Each element contains `area` (integer indices into the input regions), `name`, `max_dist`, `n_case`, `expected`, `RR`, `stats`, `pval`, and `rank`.

RDC Numeric vector of relative difference criterion values for $K = 0, 1, \dots$ clusters.

neg2logLik, **AIC**, **BIC**, **C** Numeric vectors of model-selection criteria for $K = 0, 1, \dots$ clusters.

nclust Selected number of clusters (index K with maximum RDC).

P Monte Carlo p-value for the overall clustering test.

rank Rank of the observed maximum RDC among simulated maxima.

null_dist Numeric vector of maximum RDC values from Monte Carlo replications.

setting A list recording analysis settings such as `simcount`, `maxclusters`, `clustersize`, `clusterradius`, `stattype`, `scanmethod`, and `clustertype`.

References

- Tango T. and Takahashi K. (2005). A flexibly shaped spatial scan statistic for detecting clusters, *International Journal of Health Geographics* 4:11.
- Kulldorff M. and Nagarwalla N. (1995). Spatial disease clusters: Detection and Inference. *Statistics in Medicine* 14:799-810.
- Kulldorff M. (1997). A spatial scan statistic. *Communications in Statistics: Theory and Methods*, 26:1481-1496.
- Tango T. (2008). A spatial scan statistic with a restricted likelihood ratio. *Japanese Journal of Biometrics* 29(2):75-95.
- Takahashi K. and Shimadzu H. (2020). Detecting multiple spatial disease clusters: information criterion and scan statistic approach. *International Journal of Health Geographics* 19:33. doi:10.1186/s1294202000228y
- Otani T. and Takahashi K. (2021). Flexible scan statistics for detecting spatial disease clusters: The `rflexscan` R package. *Journal of Statistical Software* 99:13. doi:10.18637/jss.v099.i13

See Also

[rflexscan::rflexscan](#), [summary.multiflexscan](#), [plot.multiflexscan](#), [choropleth](#)

Examples

```
if (requireNamespace("spdep", quietly = TRUE)) {
  # load sample data (North Carolina SIDS data)
  library(spdep)
  data("nc.sids")

  # calculate the expected numbers of cases
  expected <- nc.sids$BIR74 * sum(nc.sids$SID74) / sum(nc.sids$BIR74)

  # small settings are used here to keep the example fast; increase
  # 'simcount', 'clustersize', and 'maxclusters' for practical analyses
  fit <- multiflexscan(
    x = nc.sids$x, y = nc.sids$y,
    observed = nc.sids$SID74,
    expected = expected,
    name = rownames(nc.sids),
    nb = ncCR85.nb,
    clustersize = 5,
    maxclusters = 3,
    simcount = 99,
    cores = 1
  )
  print(fit)
  summary(fit)
  plot(fit)
}
```

nclusters

Number of clusters selected by the information criterion

Description

Number of clusters selected by the information criterion

Usage

```
nclusters(object)
```

Arguments

object A multiflexscan object.

Value

Integer number of selected clusters.

See Also

[pvalue\(\)](#), [clusters\(\)](#), [get_setting\(\)](#)

nobs.multiflexscan	<i>Number of regions in the analysis</i>
--------------------	--

Description

Number of regions in the analysis

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'multiflexscan'
nobs(object, ...)
```

Arguments

object	A multiflexscan object.
...	Additional arguments (ignored).

Value

Number of regions (rows) in the input data.

plot.multiflexscan	<i>Plot method for the multiflexscan object. The neighborhood graph is drawn with igraph, following plot.rflexscan().</i>
--------------------	--

Description

Plot method for the multiflexscan object. The neighborhood graph is drawn with **igraph**, following plot.rflexscan().

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'multiflexscan'
plot(
  x,
  rank = seq_len(nclusters(x)),
  pval = 1,
  vertexsize = max(x$input$coordinates[, 1]) - min(x$input$coordinates[, 1]),
  xlab = colnames(x$input$coordinates)[1],
  ylab = colnames(x$input$coordinates)[2],
  xlim = c(min(x$input$coordinates[, 1]), max(x$input$coordinates[, 1])),
  ylim = c(min(x$input$coordinates[, 2]), max(x$input$coordinates[, 2])),
```

```

    col = palette(),
    frame_color = "gray40",
    vertex_color = "white",
    ...
)

```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	A multiflexscan object.
<code>rank</code>	Integer vector specifying the clusters to highlight.
<code>pval</code>	Maximum cluster-level p-value for a candidate cluster to be highlighted.
<code>vertexsize</code>	Size of region centroids in the igraph plot.
<code>xlab</code>	Label of the x-axis.
<code>ylab</code>	Label of the y-axis.
<code>xlim</code>	Limits of the x-axis.
<code>ylim</code>	Limits of the y-axis.
<code>col</code>	Colors used for highlighted clusters.
<code>frame_color</code>	Color used for neighborhood edges and vertex frames not highlighted as clusters.
<code>vertex_color</code>	Color used for region centroids that are not highlighted as clusters.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments passed to <code>igraph::plot.igraph()</code> .

Value

The input object, invisibly.

See Also

[multiflexscan](#), [choropleth](#), [rflexscan::plot.rflexscan](#)

`print.multiflexscan` *Print multiflexscan object*

Description

Print method for multiflexscan objects.

Usage

```

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

```

Arguments

x	A multiflexscan object to be printed.
...	Ignored.

Value

The input object, invisibly.

See Also

[multiflexscan](#), [summary.multiflexscan](#)

`print.summary.multiflexscan`

Print summary of multiflexscan results

Description

Print summary of multiflexscan results to the terminal.

Usage

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

Arguments

x	A <code>summary.multiflexscan</code> object to be printed.
...	Ignored.

Value

The input object, invisibly.

See Also

[multiflexscan](#), [summary.multiflexscan](#)

pvalue	<i>Overall Monte Carlo p-value</i>
--------	------------------------------------

Description

Overall Monte Carlo p-value

Usage

```
pvalue(object)
```

Arguments

object A multiflexscan object.

Value

Numeric overall p-value for the multiple-cluster detection test.

See Also

[nclusters\(\)](#), [clusters\(\)](#)

summary.multiflexscan *Summarizing multiflexscan results*

Description

Summary method for multiflexscan objects.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'multiflexscan'
summary(object, ...)
```

Arguments

object A multiflexscan object to be summarized.
... Ignored.

Value

A list of class "summary.multiflexscan" with components call, total_areas, total_cases, cluster (data frame of per-cluster statistics), RDC, nclust, P, and setting.

See Also

[multiflexscan](#), [print.summary.multiflexscan](#)

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