Package: SpatialRDD (via r-universe)

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Type Package

Title Conduct Multiple Types of Geographic Regression Discontinuity Designs

Version 0.1.0.9000

Description Spatial versions of Regression Discontinuity Designs (RDDs) are becoming increasingly popular as tools for causal inference. However, conducting state-of-the-art analyses often involves tedious and time-consuming steps. This package offers comprehensive functionalities for executing all required spatial and econometric tasks in a streamlined manner. Moreover, it equips researchers with tools for performing essential placebo and balancing checks comprehensively. The fact that researchers do not have to rely on 'APIs' of external 'GIS' software ensures replicability and raises the standard for spatial RDDs.

Depends R (>= 2.10)

License GPL-3

Encoding UTF-8

LazyData true

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Suggests knitr, tmap, rmarkdown, markdown, testthat, utils, kableExtra, lfe, stargazer

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Description

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Creates a vector with 0's and 1's to determine on which side of the cut-off each observation is. For this it is useful to have a polygon that fully describes the "treated area". If you do not have such a polygon there is a (preliminary and patchy) way implemented in the package via points2line and cutoff2polygon that lets you go from points to line to "treated polygon" in a very crude way.

Usage

```
assign_treated(data, polygon, id = NA)
```

Arguments

data	sf data frame containing point data (if you have polygons, convert first with sf::st_centroid())
polygon	sf object with polygon geometry that fully describes the area(s) that contain the treated points
id	string that represents the name of the column in the data that represents the unique identifier for each observation

Value

A vector of type factor with 0's and 1's. Convert with as.numeric() if you want real numbers/integers.

Note

This is essentially a wrapper of sf::st_intersection.

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Examples

```
points_samp.sf <- sf::st_sample(polygon_full, 100) # create points
# make it an sf object bc st_sample only created the geometry list-column (sfc):
points_samp.sf <- sf::st_sf(points_samp.sf)
# add a unique ID to each observation:
points_samp.sf$id <- 1:nrow(points_samp.sf)
points_samp.sf$treated <- assign_treated(points_samp.sf, polygon_treated, id = "id")</pre>
```

border_segment

Border Segment Creation for FE-estimation

Description

Creates n segments of a line (the RD cut-off) and assigns the closest border segment for each observation in the sf data frame. Computationally these tasks are quite demanding when the sample size is big and thus might take a few seconds to complete.

Usage

```
border_segment(data, cutoff, n = 10)
```

Arguments

data sf data frame containing point data

cutoff the RDD border in the form of a line (preferred) or borderpoints

n the number of segments to be produced

Value

a vector with factors, each category representing one segment

```
points_samp.sf <- sf::st_sample(polygon_full, 100) # create points
# make it an sf object bc st_sample only created the geometry list-column (sfc):
points_samp.sf <- sf::st_sf(points_samp.sf)
points_samp.sf$segment10 <- border_segment(points_samp.sf, cut_off, 3)</pre>
```

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create_placebos

Multiple placebocheks unified in just one list or coefplot

Description

Unifies shift_border, cutoff2polygon, assign_treated in one function to carry out a myriad of placebo checks at once. The output is either a data.frame (with or without geometry of the respective placeboline) or a coefplot. Requires operations data.frame that contains all desired operations (columns shift.x, shift.y, scale, angle, orientation.1, orientation.2, endpoint.1, endpoint.2), if you don't need a certain operation just use default values (e.g. 0 for angle and 1 for scale), but the column has to be there.

Usage

```
create_placebos(
  data,
  cutoff,
  formula,
  operations,
  bw_dist,
  coefplot = FALSE,
  geometry = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

data	st data.frame that contains all units of observation
	initial DD autoff as an ai abiant

cutoff initial RD cutoff as an sj object

formula provide the formula you want to use for OLS, omit the treatetment dummy (if

you want a univariate regression just on "treated", then provide y ~ 1 as formula)

operations container that has all the information in it on how to change the border for each

placeboregression

bw_dist what is the distance for the bandwith (in CRS units, thus ideally metres)

coefplot provide coefplot instead of a data.frame

geometry set to TRUE if you want to plot all the lines of the used placebo borders

Value

either a coefplot or data.frame containing results of placebo regressions

```
points_samp.sf <- sf::st_sample(polygon_full, 100) # create points
# make it an sf object bc st_sample only created the geometry list-column (sfc):
points_samp.sf <- sf::st_sf(points_samp.sf)
# add a unique ID to each observation:</pre>
```

cutoff2polygon 5

cutoff2polygon

Create (treated) polygon from line

Description

Creates an approximation of a "treated/untreated polygon" to assign the status again to each observation after the border has been shifted. The function extends both ends of the provided cutoff to the edge of the (imaginary) bounding box of the provided data (this ensures all observations will be included). Key is that you provide a 2-tuple that indicates in which side of the bounding box each end should go (1st element is the one with lower x-coordinate, i.e. leftern most). Always check the output manually by plotting the polygon (e.g. with tm_shape(your.polygon) + tm_polygons()). If the output polygon looks odd, a first check should be to just switch the elements from the orientation vector around! See vignette(shifting_borders) for details and illustrative examples.

Usage

```
cutoff2polygon(data, cutoff, orientation = NA, endpoints = c(0, 0))
```

Arguments

data study dataset to determine the bounding box (so that all observations are covered

by the new polygons) in sf format

cutoff sf object of the (placebo) cut-off

orientation in which side of the bounding box does each of the extensions of the cutoff

go into? First element refers to endpoint of border with smaller x-coordinate ("westernmost") (takes two of "north", "east", "south", "west" in a vector, e.g.

c("west", "north"))

endpoints at what position on the edge should each polygon end? (vector with two numbers

between 0 and 1, where 0.5 e.g. means right in the middle of the respective edge)

Value

```
a polygon as an sf object
```

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Examples

```
points_samp.sf <- sf::st_sample(polygon_full, 100) # create points
# make it an sf object bc st_sample only created the geometry list-column (sfc):
points_samp.sf <- sf::st_sf(points_samp.sf)
# add a unique ID to each observation:
points_samp.sf$id <- 1:nrow(points_samp.sf)
cutoff2polygon(data = points_samp.sf, cutoff = cut_off,
orientation = c("west", "west"), endpoints = c(.8, .2))</pre>
```

cut_off

Dataset with boundaries and polygons for the SpatialRDD vignette.

Description

sf multilinestring representing a spatial RD cut-off

Usage

```
data(cut_off)
```

Format

A spatial data.frame of class sf

Source

Lehner, Alexander (2023) Culture, Institutions, and the Roots of Gender Inequality: 450 Years of Portuguese Colonialism in India

discretise_border

Split the RD cut-off into borderpoints

Description

Takes in a border in the form of a polyline (or borderpoints) and converts it into point data. These points are later used to run separate non-parametric RD estimations which eventually allows to visualise potential heterogeneous treatment effects alongside the cut-off.

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Usage

```
discretise_border(
  cutoff,
  n = 10,
  random = FALSE,
  range = FALSE,
  ymax = NA,
  ymin = NA,
  xmax = NA,
  xmin = NA
```

Arguments

cutoff	sf object of the RD cut-off in the form of a line (not preferred, but also boundarypoints are possible)
n	the number of borderpoints to be created
random	whether they are randomly chosen (not desireable in most cases)
range	default = FALSE, if there is a specific range (N-S or E-W) for which the points are to be drawn (useful in order to exclude sparse borderpoints with little/no oberservations around because the non-parametric RD estimation will fail)
ymax	if range = TRUE: y coordinates
ymin	if range = TRUE: y coordinates
xmax	if range = TRUE: x coordinates
xmin	if range = TRUE: x coordinates

Value

an sf object with selected (and evenly spaced) borderpoints

Examples

```
borderpoints <- discretise_border(cutoff = cut_off, n = 10)</pre>
```

plotspatialrd Plot SpatialRD output

Description

Produces plot of GRDDseries and optionally of a map that visualises every point estimate in space.

Usage

```
plotspatialrd(SpatialRDoutput, map = FALSE)
```

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Arguments

```
SpatialRDoutput
spatial object that is produced by an estimation with spatialrd

map
TRUE/FALSE depending on whether mapplot is desired (make sure to set spatial.object
= TRUE in the spatialrd function)
```

Value

plots produced with ggplot2

```
points_samp.sf <- sf::st_sample(polygon_full, 1000) # create points</pre>
# make it an sf object bc st_sample only created the geometry list-column (sfc):
points_samp.sf <- sf::st_sf(points_samp.sf)</pre>
# add a unique ID to each observation:
points_samp.sf$id <- 1:nrow(points_samp.sf)</pre>
# assign treatment:
points_samp.sf$treated <- assign_treated(points_samp.sf, polygon_treated, id = "id")</pre>
# first we define a variable for the number of "treated" and control
NTr <- length(points_samp.sf$id[points_samp.sf$treated == 1])
NCo <- length(points_samp.sf$id[points_samp.sf$treated == 0])
# the treated areas get a 10 percentage point higher literacy rate
points_samp.sf$education[points_samp.sf$treated == 1] <- 0.7</pre>
points_samp.sf$education[points_samp.sf$treated == 0] <- 0.6</pre>
# and we add some noise, otherwise we would obtain regression coeffictions with no standard errors
points_samp.sf$education[points_samp.sf$treated == 1] <- rnorm(NTr, mean = 0, sd = .1) +</pre>
 points_samp.sf$education[points_samp.sf$treated == 1]
points_samp.sf$education[points_samp.sf$treated == 0] <- rnorm(NCo, mean = 0, sd = .1) +</pre>
 points_samp.sf$education[points_samp.sf$treated == 0]
# create distance to cutoff
points_samp.sf$dist2cutoff <- as.numeric(sf::st_distance(points_samp.sf, cut_off))</pre>
points_samp.sf$distrunning <- points_samp.sf$dist2cutoff</pre>
# give the non-treated one's a negative score
points_samp.sf$distrunning[points_samp.sf$treated == 0] <- -1 *</pre>
points_samp.sf$distrunning[points_samp.sf$treated == 0]
# create borderpoints
borderpoints.sf <- discretise_border(cutoff = cut_off, n = 10)</pre>
borderpoints.sf$id <- 1:nrow(borderpoints.sf)</pre>
# finally, carry out estimation alongside the boundary:
results <- spatialrd(y = "education", data = points_samp.sf, cutoff.points = borderpoints.sf,
treated = "treated", minobs = 20, spatial.object = FALSE)
plotspatialrd(results)
```

points2line 9

points2line

Convert borderpoints to a line

Description

Small function that connects dots and makes them one line which can later be used as a cutoff for the RD.

Usage

```
points2line(borderpoints, crs)
```

Arguments

```
borderpoints a set of points on a boundary
crs set the coordinate reference system (CRS)
```

Value

a line as an sf object

Examples

```
points_samp.sf <- sf::st_sample(polygon_full, 2) # create points
# make it an sf object bc st_sample only created the geometry list-column (sfc):
points_samp.sf <- sf::st_sf(points_samp.sf)
points2line(points_samp.sf, crs = sf::st_crs(points_samp.sf))</pre>
```

polygon_full

Dataset with boundaries and polygons for the SpatialRDD vignette.

Description

```
sf multipolygon
```

Usage

```
data(polygon_full)
```

Format

A spatial data.frame of class sf

Source

Lehner, Alexander (2023) Culture, Institutions, and the Roots of Gender Inequality: 450 Years of Portuguese Colonialism in India

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polygon_treated

Dataset with boundaries and polygons for the SpatialRDD vignette.

Description

sf multipolygon

Usage

data(polygon_treated)

Format

A spatial data.frame of class sf

Source

Lehner, Alexander (2023) Culture, Institutions, and the Roots of Gender Inequality: 450 Years of Portuguese Colonialism in India

printspatialrd

Print spatialrd output

Description

Preliminary function, styling with e.g. kable and kableExtra has to be done by the user individually. You could also just use the package of your choice to print out columns of the output from spatialrd.

Usage

```
printspatialrd(SpatialRDoutput)
```

Arguments

SpatialRDoutput

output file from the spatialrd function

Value

A table with results from the spatialrd function

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Examples

```
points_samp.sf <- sf::st_sample(polygon_full, 1000) # create points</pre>
# make it an sf object bc st_sample only created the geometry list-column (sfc):
points_samp.sf <- sf::st_sf(points_samp.sf)</pre>
# add a unique ID to each observation:
points_samp.sf$id <- 1:nrow(points_samp.sf)</pre>
# assign treatment:
points_samp.sf$treated <- assign_treated(points_samp.sf, polygon_treated, id = "id")</pre>
# first we define a variable for the number of "treated" and control
NTr <- length(points_samp.sf$id[points_samp.sf$treated == 1])
NCo <- length(points_samp.sf$id[points_samp.sf$treated == 0])
# the treated areas get a 10 percentage point higher literacy rate
points_samp.sf$education[points_samp.sf$treated == 1] <- 0.7</pre>
points_samp.sf$education[points_samp.sf$treated == 0] <- 0.6</pre>
# and we add some noise, otherwise we would obtain regression coeffictions with no standard errors
points_samp.sf$education[points_samp.sf$treated == 1] <- rnorm(NTr, mean = 0, sd = .1) +</pre>
 points_samp.sf$education[points_samp.sf$treated == 1]
points_samp.sf$education[points_samp.sf$treated == 0] <- rnorm(NCo, mean = 0, sd = .1) +
 points_samp.sf$education[points_samp.sf$treated == 0]
# create distance to cutoff
points_samp.sf$dist2cutoff <- as.numeric(sf::st_distance(points_samp.sf, cut_off))</pre>
points_samp.sf$distrunning <- points_samp.sf$dist2cutoff</pre>
# give the non-treated one's a negative score
points_samp.sf$distrunning[points_samp.sf$treated == 0] <- -1 *</pre>
points_samp.sf$distrunning[points_samp.sf$treated == 0]
# create borderpoints
borderpoints.sf <- discretise_border(cutoff = cut_off, n = 10)</pre>
borderpoints.sf$id <- 1:nrow(borderpoints.sf)</pre>
# finally, carry out estimation alongside the boundary:
results <- spatialrd(y = "education", data = points_samp.sf, cutoff.points = borderpoints.sf,
treated = "treated", minobs = 20, spatial.object = FALSE)
printspatialrd(results)
```

randinf

Randomization Inference

Description

Text

Usage

```
randinf(
  depvar,
```

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```
points.sf,
lambdapoisl,
nruns,
id = "id",
geometry = TRUE,
sentinel_tries = 10,
...
)
```

Arguments

depvar the dependent variable as a string

points.sf sf data.frame containing all points and the relevant variables

lambdapoisl the parameter for the poisson line process (see rpoisline from spatstat for

details)

nruns number of randomization runs (ideally in the thousands, start by trying a few

dozen to check performance and speed)

id the unique id column in the points frame

geometry should the return results frame contain geometries so that all placebo/randomization

lines can be plotted on a map?

sentinel_tries sometimes the poisson process creates lines that do not cross any points, thus

leading to no control units (expected to happen by chance). This parameter determines how often the function should retry in case this happens (default is

10).

... pass arguments to rdrobust

Value

a randomization inference p-value or, alternatively, a data frame containing all simulated lines with the respective estimates

References

Baddeley A, Turner R (2005). "spatsat: An R Package for Analyzing Spatial Point Patterns." Journal of Statistical Software, 12(6), 1–42. doi:10.18637/jss.v012.i06. Baddeley A, Rubak E, Turner R (2015). Spatial Point Patterns: Methodology and Applications with R. Chapman and Hall/CRC Press, London. ISBN 9781482210200

```
points_samp.sf <- sf::st_sample(polygon_full, 1000) # create points
# make it an sf object bc st_sample only created the geometry list-column (sfc):
points_samp.sf <- sf::st_sf(points_samp.sf)
# add a unique ID to each observation:
points_samp.sf$id <- 1:nrow(points_samp.sf)
# assign treatment:
points_samp.sf$treated <- assign_treated(points_samp.sf, polygon_treated, id = "id")
# first we define a variable for the number of "treated" and control</pre>
```

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```
NTr <- length(points_samp.sf$id[points_samp.sf$treated == 1])
NCo <- length(points_samp.sf$id[points_samp.sf$treated == 0])
# the treated areas get a 10 percentage point higher literacy rate
points_samp.sf$education[points_samp.sf$treated == 1] <- 0.7
points_samp.sf$education[points_samp.sf$treated == 0] <- 0.6
# and we add some noise, otherwise we would obtain regression coeffictions with no standard errors
points_samp.sf$education[points_samp.sf$treated == 1] <- rnorm(NTr, mean = 0, sd = .1) +
    points_samp.sf$education[points_samp.sf$treated == 1]
points_samp.sf$education[points_samp.sf$treated == 0] <- rnorm(NCo, mean = 0, sd = .1) +
    points_samp.sf$education[points_samp.sf$treated == 0]
results.ri <- randinf("education", points_samp.sf, 0.0001, 100)
```

shift_border

Shift, shrink/grow, and rotate borders around

Description

This functions takes in a border and can either shift, shrink, or rotate it. All of them can be done together as well. This usually takes a bit of trial and error, so make sure to plot the result each time. For a detailed walk through check out the according vignette: vignette(shifting_borders).

Usage

```
shift_border(
  border,
  operation = c("shift", "scale", "rotate"),
  shift = c(0, 0),
  scale = 1,
  angle = 0
)
```

Arguments

border	sf object with line geometry
operation	"shift", "rotate", "scale" - or a combination of them
shift	if operation = "shift", shift distance in CRS units (if UTM it is metres) for x and y coordinates as c(dist_x, dist_y)
scale	if operation = "scale", provide shrinkage/growth factor: e.g9 to shrink by 10perc. and 1.1 to increase by 10perc.
angle	if operation = "rotate", provide angle in degrees

Value

a new border in the form of an sf object

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Examples

```
shift_border(border = cut_off, operation = c("shift", "scale"),
shift = c(-5000, -3000), scale = .85)
shift_border(border = cut_off, operation = "rotate", angle = 10)
```

spatialrd

non-parametric Spatial RD / GRD

Description

This function loops over all boundary points and locally estimates a non-parametric RD (using local linear regression) using the rdrobust function from the rdrobust package from Calonico, Cattaneo, Titiunik (2014). It takes in the discretized cutoff point file (the RDcutoff, a linestring chopped into parts by the discretise_border function) and the sf object (which essentially is just a conventional data.frame with a geometry() column) containing all the observations (treated and untreated). The treated indicator variable has to be assigned before (potentially with assign_treated) and be part of the sf object as a column.

Usage

```
spatialrd(
   y,
   data,
   cutoff.points,
   treated,
   minobs = 50,
   bwfix_m = NA,
   sample = FALSE,
   samplesize = NA,
   sparse.exclusion = FALSE,
   store.CIs = FALSE,
   spatial.object = TRUE,
   ...
)
```

Arguments

У	The name of the dependent variable in the points frame in the form of a string
data	sf data.frame with points that describe the observations
cutoff.points	sf object of borderpoints (provided by user or obtained with discretise_border)
treated	column that contains the treated dummy (as string)
minobs	the minimum amount of observations in each estimation for the point estimate to be included (default is 50)

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bwfix_m fixed bandwidth in meters (in case you want to impose one yourself)

sample draw a random sample of points (default is FALSE)

samplesize if random, how many points

sparse.exclusion in case we want to try to exclude sparse border points before the estimation (should reduce warnings)

store.CIs set TRUE of confidence intervals should be stored

spatial.object return a spatial object (deafult is TRUE, needed if you want to plot the point estimates on a map)?

... in addition you can use all options in rdrobust

Details

This function nests rdrobust. All its options (aside from running variable x and cutoff c) are available here as well (e.g. bw selection, cluster level, kernel, weights). Check the documentation in the rdrobust package for details. (bandwidth selection default in rdrobust is bwselect = 'mserd')

To visualise the output, use plotspatialrd for a graphical representation. You can use printspatialrd (or an R package of your choice) for a table output.

Value

a data.frame or spatial data.frame (sf object) in case spatial.object = TRUE (default)

References

Calonico, Cattaneo and Titiunik (2014): Robust Nonparametric Confidence Intervals for Regression-Discontinuity Designs, Econometrica 82(6): 2295-2326.

```
points_samp.sf <- sf::st_sample(polygon_full, 1000) # create points</pre>
# make it an sf object bc st_sample only created the geometry list-column (sfc):
points_samp.sf <- sf::st_sf(points_samp.sf)</pre>
# add a unique ID to each observation:
points_samp.sf$id <- 1:nrow(points_samp.sf)</pre>
# assign treatment:
points_samp.sf$treated <- assign_treated(points_samp.sf, polygon_treated, id = "id")</pre>
# first we define a variable for the number of "treated" and control
NTr <- length(points_samp.sf$id[points_samp.sf$treated == 1])
NCo <- length(points_samp.sf$id[points_samp.sf$treated == 0])
# the treated areas get a 10 percentage point higher literacy rate
points_samp.sf$education[points_samp.sf$treated == 1] <- 0.7</pre>
points_samp.sf$education[points_samp.sf$treated == 0] <- 0.6</pre>
# and we add some noise, otherwise we would obtain regression coeffictions with no standard errors
points_samp.sf$education[points_samp.sf$treated == 1] <- rnorm(NTr, mean = 0, sd = .1) +</pre>
  points_samp.sf$education[points_samp.sf$treated == 1]
points_samp.sf$education[points_samp.sf$treated == 0] <- rnorm(NCo, mean = 0, sd = .1) +</pre>
  points_samp.sf$education[points_samp.sf$treated == 0]
```

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```
# create distance to cutoff
points_samp.sf$dist2cutoff <- as.numeric(sf::st_distance(points_samp.sf, cut_off))

points_samp.sf$distrunning <- points_samp.sf$dist2cutoff
# give the non-treated one's a negative score
points_samp.sf$distrunning[points_samp.sf$treated == 0] <- -1 *
    points_samp.sf$distrunning[points_samp.sf$treated == 0]

# create borderpoints
borderpoints.sf <- discretise_border(cutoff = cut_off, n = 10)
borderpoints.sf$id <- 1:nrow(borderpoints.sf)

# finally, carry out estimation alongside the boundary:
results <- spatialrd(y = "education", data = points_samp.sf, cutoff.points = borderpoints.sf, treated = "treated", minobs = 20, spatial.object = FALSE)</pre>
```

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