

Package ‘LCPA’

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Type Package

Title A General Framework for Latent Classify and Profile Analysis

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Author Haijiang Qin [aut, cre, cph] (ORCID:
<<https://orcid.org/0009-0000-6721-5653>>),
Lei Guo [aut, cph] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8273-3587>>)

Maintainer Haijiang Qin <haijiang133@outlook.com>

Description A unified latent class modeling framework that encompasses both latent class analysis (LCA) and latent profile analysis (LPA), offering a one-stop solution for latent class modeling. It implements state-of-the-art parameter estimation methods, including the expectation–maximization (EM) algorithm, neural network estimation (NNE; requires users to have 'Python' and its dependent libraries installed on their computer), and integration with 'Mplus' (requires users to have 'Mplus' installed on their computer). In addition, it provides commonly used model fit indices such as the Akaike information criterion (AIC) and Bayesian information criterion (BIC), as well as classification accuracy measures such as entropy. The package also includes fully functional likelihood ratio tests (LRT) and bootstrap likelihood ratio tests (BLRT) to facilitate model comparison, along with bootstrap-based and observed information matrix-based standard error estimation. Furthermore, it supports the standard three-step approach for LCA, LPA, and latent transition analysis (LTA) with covariates, enabling detailed covariate analysis. Finally, it includes several user-friendly auxiliary functions to enhance interactive usability.

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 'get.Log.Lik.LTA.R' 'get.npar.LCA.R' 'get.npar.LPA.R'
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 'get.SE.R' 'install_python_dependencies.R' 'Kmeans.LCA.R'
 'LCA.R' 'LCPA.R' 'logit.R' 'LPA.R' 'LTA.R' 'LRT.test.R'
 'LRT.test.Bootstrap.R' 'LRT.test.VLMR.R' 'Mplus.LCA.R'
 'Mplus.LPA.R' 'normalize.R' 'plotResponse.R' 'RcppExports.R'
 'rdirichlet.R' 'S3extract.R' 'S3print.R' 'S3summary.R'
 'S3update.R' 'sim.correlation.R' 'sim.LCA.R' 'sim.LPA.R'
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<code>adjust.response</code>	<i>Adjust Categorical Response Data for Polytomous Items</i>
------------------------------	--

Description

Standardizes polytomous response data by converting raw category values to consecutive integers starting from 0. Records original category values for potential reverse transformation. Handles varying numbers of response categories across items.

Usage

```
adjust.response(response)
```

Arguments

<code>response</code>	<p>A matrix or data frame containing response data where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rows represent respondents (N observations) • Columns represent items/questions (I items) • Cells contain raw response values (numeric) <p>Non-numeric columns will be coerced to numeric with warning.</p>
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Details

The function processes each item column independently:

1. Extracts unique response values and sorts them in ascending order
2. Maps smallest value to 0, second smallest to 1, etc.
3. Records original values in `poly.orig` for possible reverse transformation
4. Handles items with different numbers of categories through NA-padding

Missing values (NA) in input are preserved as NA in output.

Value

A named list containing:

`poly.orig` $I \times K_{max}$ matrix. Original sorted category values for each item. Rows correspond to items, columns to category positions. Empty cells filled with NA.

`poly.value` Integer vector of length I . Number of unique response categories per item.

`poly.max` Scalar integer. Maximum number of categories across all items, i.e., K_{max} .

`response` $N \times I$ matrix. Adjusted response data where original values are replaced by zero-based category indices (0 to $k - 1$ for k categories).

Examples

```
# Simulate response data with 3 items and varying categories
set.seed(123)
resp <- data.frame(
  item1 = sample(1:3, 10, replace = TRUE),
  item2 = sample(c(0, 5, 10), 10, replace = TRUE),
  item3 = sample(1:2, 10, replace = TRUE)
)

# Apply adjustment
adjusted <- adjust.response(resp)

# Inspect results
str(adjusted)
print(adjusted$poly.orig) # Original category values
print(adjusted$response) # Standardized responses
```

<code>check.response</code>	<i>Validate response matrix against expected polytomous category counts</i>
-----------------------------	---

Description

Checks whether each column in the response matrix contains exactly the number of unique response categories specified in `poly.value`. Handles edge cases where all items have identical category counts efficiently.

Usage

```
check.response(response, poly.value)
```

Arguments

`response` A numeric matrix of dimension $N \times I$, where:

- N : Number of subjects/observations (rows)
- I : Number of items/variables (columns)

Each cell contains the observed response value for a subject on an item.

`poly.value` An integer vector of length I specifying the expected number of unique response categories (levels) for each corresponding item in response. Values must be positive integers.

Value

Logical value indicating validation status:

- TRUE if either:
 - All columns have identical numbers of unique values (regardless of `poly.value` specification)
 - Each column's unique value count matches its corresponding `poly.value` entry
- FALSE if any column's unique value count mismatches its specified `poly.value` (when columns have varying category counts)

Note

This function contains a specific behavior: When all items have identical numbers of unique response categories, it returns TRUE immediately without validating against `poly.value`. This may lead to unexpected results if `poly.value` contains inconsistent expectations. Users should ensure `poly.value` accurately reflects their measurement model.

Examples

```
# Valid case: Matching category counts
resp_matrix <- matrix(c(1,1,2,2, 1,2,3,1), ncol = 2)
check.response(resp_matrix, poly.value = c(2, 3)) # Returns TRUE

# Invalid case: Mismatched category counts
check.response(resp_matrix, poly.value = c(2, 2)) # Returns FALSE

# Special case: Uniform category counts bypass poly.value check
uniform_resp <- matrix(rep(1:2, each = 4), ncol = 2)
check.response(uniform_resp, poly.value = c(2, 5)) # Returns TRUE (bypass behavior)
```

compare.model

Model Comparison Tool

Description

Compares two nested latent class/profile models using multiple fit indices, likelihood ratio tests, and classification metrics.

Usage

```
compare.model(object1, object2, n.Bootstrap = 0)
```

Arguments

object1	An object of class LCA or LPA , representing the first latent class/profile model.
object2	An object of class LCA or LPA , representing the second latent class/profile model. Must be of the same type as object1.
n.Bootstrap	Integer specifying the number of bootstrap replications for the parametric bootstrap likelihood ratio test (BLRT). Default is 0 (no bootstrap test performed).

Details

This function performs comprehensive model comparison between two nested LCA/LPA models. Key features include:

- Automatically orders models by parameter count (smaller model first)
- Computes multiple fit indices via [get.fit.index](#)
- Calculates classification quality metrics (entropy, average posterior probabilities)
- Performs three types of likelihood ratio tests:
 - Standard LRT, see [LRT.test](#)
 - VLMR adjusted LRT, see [LRT.test.VLMR](#)
 - Parametric bootstrap LRT (computationally intensive but robust), see [LRT.test.Bootstrap](#)
- Computes Bayes Factor using Sample-Size Adjusted BIC (SIC)

Important Requirements:

- Both models must be of the same type (LCA or LPA)
- Models must be nested (one model is a constrained version of the other)
- n.Bootstrap > 0 requires significant computational resources

Value

An object of class `compare.model` containing:

`npar` Named vector with number of free parameters for each model

`entropy` Named vector with entropy values (classification accuracy measure) for each model

`AvePP` List containing average posterior probabilities per latent class/profile

`fit.index` List of [get.fit.index](#) objects for both models

`BF` Bayes Factor for model comparison (based on SIC)

`LRT.obj` Likelihood ratio test (LRT) results

`LRT.VLMR.obj` Vuong-Lo-Mendell-Rubin (VLMR) adjusted LRT results

`LRT.Bootstrap.obj` Bootstrap LRT results (if n.Bootstrap > 0)

`call` The matched function call

`arguments` List containing the original arguments passed to the function

See Also

[LCA](#), [LPA](#), [get.fit.index](#), [extract](#), [LRT.test](#), [LRT.test.VLMR](#)

Examples

```
library(LCPA)
set.seed(123)

data.obj <- sim.LPA(N = 500, I = 5, L = 3, constraint = "V0")
response <- data.obj$response

# need Mplus
## Not run:
# Compare 3-class vs 4-class LPA models
object1 <- LPA(response, L = 3, method = "Mplus", constraint = "V0")
object2 <- LPA(response, L = 4, method = "Mplus", constraint = "V0")

compare.model.obj <- compare.model(object1, object2)

print(compare.model.obj)

## End(Not run)
```

extract

S3 Methods: extract

Description

A generic S3 extractor function designed to retrieve internal components from various model and simulation objects produced by the LCPA package. This function provides a consistent interface across different classes, allowing users to access estimated parameters, fit statistics, simulation truths, standard errors, and more.

Usage

```
extract(object, what, ...)

## S3 method for class 'LCA'
extract(object, what, ...)

## S3 method for class 'LPA'
extract(object, what, ...)

## S3 method for class 'LCPA'
extract(object, what, ...)

## S3 method for class 'LTA'
extract(object, what, ...)

## S3 method for class 'sim.LCA'
extract(object, what, ...)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'sim.LPA'
extract(object, what, ...)

## S3 method for class 'sim.LTA'
extract(object, what, ...)

## S3 method for class 'fit.index'
extract(object, what, ...)

## S3 method for class 'compare.model'
extract(object, what, ...)

## S3 method for class 'SE'
extract(object, what, ...)
```

Arguments

object	An object of one of the following classes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCA — Latent Class Analysis model results. • LPA — Latent Profile Analysis model results. • LCPA — Latent Class/Profile Analysis with covariates. • LTA — Latent Transition Analysis model results. • sim.LCA — Simulated LCA data with known truth. • sim.LPA — Simulated LPA data with known truth. • sim.LTA — Simulated LTA data with known truth. • get.fit.index — Model fit indices object. • compare.model — Model comparison results. • get.SE — Standard error estimation results.
what	A character string specifying the name of the component to extract. Valid choices depend on the class of object. See Details section for full listings.
...	Additional arguments passed to methods (currently ignored).

Details

This function supports extraction from ten primary object classes. Below are available components for each:

LCA Latent Class Analysis model results. Available components:

- params List containing all estimated model parameters.
- par 3D array ($L \times I \times K_{\max}$) of conditional response probabilities.
- P.Z Vector of length L with latent class prior probabilities.
- npar Number of free parameters in the model.
- Log.Lik Log-likelihood of the final model.
- AIC Akaike Information Criterion.
- BIC Bayesian Information Criterion.

best_BIC Best BIC value across replication runs (if nrep > 1).
 P.Z.Xn $N \times L$ matrix of posterior class probabilities.
 Z Vector of length N with MAP-classified latent class memberships.
 probability List of formatted conditional probability matrices per item.
 Log.Lik.history Vector tracking log-likelihood at each EM iteration.
 Log.Lik.nrep Vector of log-likelihoods from each replication run.
 model Trained neural network model object (only when method="NNE").
 call The original function call used for model estimation.
 arguments List containing all input arguments passed to the LCA function.

LPA Latent Profile Analysis model results. Available components:

params List containing all estimated model parameters.
 means $L \times I$ matrix of estimated mean vectors for each profile.
 covs $I \times I \times L$ array of estimated covariance matrices.
 P.Z Vector of length L with profile prior probabilities.
 npar Number of free parameters (depends on constraint).
 Log.Lik Log-likelihood of the final model.
 AIC Akaike Information Criterion.
 BIC Bayesian Information Criterion.
 best_BIC Best BIC value across replication runs (if nrep > 1).
 P.Z.Xn $N \times L$ matrix of posterior profile probabilities.
 Z Vector of length N with MAP-classified profile memberships.
 Log.Lik.history Vector tracking log-likelihood at each EM iteration.
 Log.Lik.nrep Vector of log-likelihoods from each replication run.
 model Trained model object (neural network or Mplus).
 call The original function call used for model estimation.
 arguments List containing all input arguments passed to the LPA function.
 constraint Covariance structure constraints applied during estimation (from original arguments).

LCPA Latent Class/Profile Analysis (with covariates). Available components:

beta Initial class coefficients ($p1 \times L$ matrix).
 beta.se Standard errors for beta.
 beta.Z.sta Z-statistics for beta.
 beta.p.value.tail1 One-tailed p-values for beta.
 beta.p.value.tail2 Two-tailed p-values for beta.
 P.Z.Xn Posterior probabilities ($N \times L$).
 P.Z Prior proportions (length L).
 Z Modal class assignments (length N).
 npar Number of free parameters.
 Log.Lik Log-likelihood.
 AIC AIC.
 BIC BIC.
 iterations Optimization iterations in Step 3.

covered Logical: did optimization converge early?
 params Step 1 model parameters (LCA/LPA output).
 call Function call.
 arguments Input arguments list.

LTA Latent Transition Analysis model results. Available components:

beta Initial class coefficients ($p1 \times L$ matrix).
 gamma Transition coefficients (nested list).
 beta.se Standard errors for beta.
 gamma.se Standard errors for gamma.
 beta.Z.sta Z-statistics for beta.
 gamma.Z.sta Z-statistics for gamma.
 beta.p.value.tail1 One-tailed p-values for beta.
 gamma.p.value.tail1 One-tailed p-values for gamma.
 beta.p.value.tail2 Two-tailed p-values for beta.
 gamma.p.value.tail2 Two-tailed p-values for gamma.
 P.Z.Xns List of posterior probabilities per time (each $N \times L$).
 P.Zs List of prior proportions per time (each length L).
 Zs List of modal class assignments per time (each length N).
 npar Number of free parameters.
 Log.Lik Log-likelihood.
 AIC AIC.
 BIC BIC.
 iterations Optimization iterations in Step 3.
 covered Logical: did optimization converge early?
 params Step 1 model parameters (LCA/LPA output).
 call Function call.
 arguments Input arguments list.

sim.LCA Simulated Latent Class Analysis data. Available components:

response Integer matrix ($N \times I$) of simulated categorical observations.
 par Array ($L \times I \times P_{\max}$) of true class-specific category probabilities.
 Z Integer vector (length N) of true latent class assignments.
 P.Z Numeric vector (length L) of true class proportions.
 poly.value Integer vector (length I) specifying categories per variable.
 P.Z.Xn Binary matrix ($N \times L$) of true class membership indicators.
 call The original function call used for simulation.
 arguments List containing all input arguments passed to [sim.LCA](#).

sim.LPA Simulated Latent Profile Analysis data. Available components:

response Numeric matrix ($N \times I$) of simulated continuous observations.
 means $L \times I$ matrix of true class-specific means.
 covs $I \times I \times L$ array of true class-specific covariance matrices.
 P.Z.Xn $N \times L$ matrix of true class membership indicators.

P.Z Numeric vector (length L) of true class proportions.
Z Integer vector (length N) of true profile assignments.
constraint Original constraint specification passed to `sim.LPA`.
call The original function call used for simulation.
arguments List containing all input arguments passed to `sim.LPA`.

`sim.LTA` Simulated Latent Transition Analysis data. Available components:

responses List of response matrices per time point.
Zs List of true latent class assignments per time.
P.Zs List of true class proportions per time.
par True conditional probabilities (for categorical items).
means True profile means (for continuous variables).
covs True covariance matrices per class and time.
poly.value Categories per variable (for categorical items).
rate Transition rate matrix or structure.
covariates Simulated covariate matrix.
beta True initial class coefficients.
gamma True transition coefficients.
call Original simulation function call.
arguments Input arguments used in simulation.

`fit.index` Model fit indices object. Available components:

npar Number of free parameters in the model.
Log.Lik Log-likelihood of the model.
-2LL Deviance statistic (-2 times log-likelihood).
AIC Akaike Information Criterion.
BIC Bayesian Information Criterion.
SIC Sample-Size Adjusted BIC (-0.5 * BIC).
CAIC Consistent AIC.
AWE Approximate Weight of Evidence.
SABIC Sample-Size Adjusted BIC (alternative formulation).
call Original function call that generated the fit indices.
arguments List containing input arguments (includes original model object).

`compare.model` Model comparison results. Available components:

npar Named numeric vector with free parameters for each model (`model1`, `model2`).
entropy Named numeric vector with entropy values for each model.
AvePP List of average posterior probabilities per class/profile for each model.
fit.index List of `get.fit.index` objects for both models.
BF Bayes Factor comparing models (based on SIC differences).
LRT.obj Standard likelihood ratio test results (requires nested models).
LRT.VLMR.obj Vuong-Lo-Mendell-Rubin adjusted likelihood ratio test results.
LRT.Bootstrap.obj Parametric bootstrap likelihood ratio test results (if `n.Bootstrap > 0`).
call The matched function call used for comparison.

- arguments List containing original input arguments (object1, object2, n.Bootstrap).
- SE Standard error estimation results. Available components:
 - se List containing standard errors for parameters (components depend on model type).
 - vcov Variance-covariance matrix (only for method="Obs").
 - hessian Observed information matrix (only for method="Obs").
 - diagnostics Method-specific diagnostic information (e.g., estimation method).
 - call Function call that generated the object.
 - arguments Input arguments used in estimation.
 - means Standard errors for profile means (LPA models only — accessed via se list).
 - covs Standard errors for covariance parameters (LPA models only — accessed via se list).
 - P.Z Standard errors for class proportions (both LCA/LPA — accessed via se list).
 - par Standard errors for conditional probabilities (LCA models only — accessed via se list).

Value

The requested component. Return type varies depending on what and the class of object. If an invalid what is provided, an informative error is thrown listing valid options.

Methods (by class)

- `extract(LCA)`: Extract fields from a LCA object
- `extract(LPA)`: Extract fields from a LPA object
- `extract(LCPA)`: Extract fields from a LCPA object
- `extract(LTA)`: Extract fields from a LTA object
- `extract(sim.LCA)`: Extract fields from a `sim.LCA` object
- `extract(sim.LPA)`: Extract fields from a `sim.LPA` object
- `extract(sim.LTA)`: Extract fields from a `sim.LTA` object
- `extract(fit.index)`: Extractor method for `fit.index` objects
- `extract(compare.model)`: Extract fields from a `compare.model` object
- `extract(SE)`: Extract fields from a SE object

Usage Notes

- For LCA, LPA, LCPA, and LTA objects, components reflect *estimated* parameters.
- For `sim.LCA`, `sim.LPA`, and `sim.LTA` objects, components reflect *true* data-generating parameters.
- In SE objects:
 - Top-level components like `vcov` and `hessian` are only available when `method = "Obs"`. Requesting them under `Bootstrap` triggers a warning and returns `NULL`.
 - Parameter-specific SEs (e.g., `means`, `par`) are stored within the `se` list. You can extract them directly by name (e.g., `extract(se_obj, "means")`).
 - Attempting to extract unavailable parameter SEs (e.g., `par` from an LPA model) triggers an error with available options.
- For `fit.index` and `compare.model` objects, valid components are dynamically determined from the object's names.
- All methods ignore additional arguments (...).

Examples

```

set.seed(123)

# Simulate LPA data: 500 observations, 3 continuous variables, 2 latent profiles
# Constraint "E0": Equal variances across classes, zero covariances
data.obj <- sim.LPA(N = 500, I = 3, L = 2, constraint = "E0")

# Extract the simulated response matrix (N x I) for model fitting
response <- extract(data.obj, "response")

# Extract the TRUE covariance matrices (I x I x L array)
extract(data.obj, "covs")

# Fit an LPA model to the simulated data using the SAME constraint ("E0")
fit_E0 <- LPA(response, L = 2, constraint = "E0")

# Extract the ESTIMATED covariance matrices from the fitted model
extract(fit_E0, "covs")

# Simulate LCA data: 30 observations, 5 categorical items, 3 latent classes
sim_data <- sim.LCA(N = 30, I = 5, L = 3)

# Extract the TRUE conditional probability array
extract(sim_data, "par")

```

get.AvePP

Calculate Average Posterior Probability (AvePP)

Description

Computes the average posterior probability for the most likely class assignment in latent class/profile analysis. This metric quantifies classification precision. The total average posterior probability ≥ 0.70 (Nylund-Gibson & Choi, 2018) indicate adequate classification quality.

Usage

```
get.AvePP(object)
```

Arguments

object An object of class "LCA" or "LPA" returned by [LCA](#) or [LPA](#), or any object containing:

- $\mathbf{P} \cdot \mathbf{Z} \cdot \mathbf{X}_n$: $N \times L$ matrix of posterior class probabilities, where:
 - N = Total number of observations ($n = 1, 2, \dots, N$)
 - L = Number of latent classes ($l = 1, 2, \dots, L$)
 - Element $p_{nl} = P(Z_n = l \mid \mathbf{X}_n)$ denotes the posterior probability that observation n belongs to class l given observed data \mathbf{X}_n

Value

A $(L + 1) \times (L + 1)$ matrix with the following structure:

- Rows: Represent each latent class (1 to L) and a final "Total" row.
- Columns: Represent each latent class (1 to L) and a final "Total" column.
- Diagonal elements $\text{ave}[l, l]$: Average posterior probability for observations assigned to class l . That is,

$$\bar{P}_{ll} = \frac{1}{N_l} \sum_{n:\hat{z}_n=l} p_{nl},$$

where N_l is the number of observations assigned to class l , and $\hat{z}_n = \arg \max_{l'} p_{nl'}$.

- Off-diagonal elements $\text{ave}[l, k]$ ($l \neq k$): Average posterior probability of class k among observations assigned to class l . Useful for assessing classification confusion.

$$\bar{P}_{lk} = \frac{1}{N_l} \sum_{n:\hat{z}_n=l} p_{nk}.$$

- Bottom-right corner $\text{ave}[L + 1, L + 1]$: Overall average posterior probability across all observations,

$$\bar{P}_{\text{total}} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \max_l p_{nl}.$$

Note

Classification quality is considered acceptable if $\bar{P}_{\text{total}} \geq 0.70$ (Nylund-Gibson & Choi, 2018).

References

Nylund-Gibson, K., & Choi, A. Y. (2018). Ten frequently asked questions about latent class analysis. *Translational Issues in Psychological Science*, 4(4), 440-461. <https://doi.org/10.1037/tps0000176>

Examples

```
# Example with simulated data
set.seed(123)
data.obj <- sim.LCA(N = 500, I = 4, L = 2, IQ=0.9)
response <- data.obj$response

# Fit 2-class model with EM algorithm

fit.em <- LCA(response, L = 2, method = "EM", nrep = 10)

AvePP_value <- get.AvePP(fit.em)
print(AvePP_value)
```

get.CEP

Compute Classification Error Probability (CEP) Matrices

Description

Computes the Classification Error Probability (CEP) matrices (Liang et al., 2023) used in the bias-corrected three-step estimation of Latent Class/Profile Analysis with Covariates.

Usage

```
get.CEP(P.Z.Xns, time.cross = TRUE)
```

Arguments

P.Z.Xns A list of length T (number of time points). Each element is an $N \times L$ matrix of posterior probabilities $P(Z_{it} = l | X_i)$ from the first-step model.

- Rows correspond to individuals ($i = 1, \dots, N$);
- Columns correspond to latent classes ($l = 1, \dots, L$);
- Each row must sum to 1.

The list must be ordered chronologically (e.g., time 1 to T).

time.cross Logical. If TRUE (default), returns a list where every element is the same pooled CEP matrix (averaged across all time points). If FALSE, returns time-specific CEP matrices.

Details

The CEP matrix at time t gives the probability that an individual truly belongs to latent class l' given that they were assigned (via modal assignment) to class l at time t .

Formally, for time point t :

$$\text{CEP}_t(l, l') = P(Z_t = l | \hat{Z}_t = l') = \frac{\sum_{i: \hat{z}_{it}=l'} P(Z_{it} = l | X_i)}{N \hat{\pi}_{tl}}$$

where:

- Z_{it} is the true latent class of individual i at time t ;
- $P(Z_{it} = l | X_i)$ is the posterior probability from the first-step model;
- $\hat{z}_{it} = \arg \max_l P(Z_{it} = l | X_i)$ is the modal (most likely) assigned class;
- $\hat{\pi}_{tl} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N I(\hat{z}_{it} = l)$ is the observed proportion assigned to class l at time t ;
- N is the total sample size.

If `time.cross = TRUE` (default), a single pooled CEP matrix is computed by aggregating counts across all time points. This assumes the classification error structure is invariant over time (i.e., measurement invariance), as in Liang et al. (2023). The same pooled matrix is then returned for every time point.

Value

A named list of length T . Each element is an $L \times L$ matrix:

- Row l : true latent class;
- Column l' : individuals assigned to class l' ;
- Entry (l, l') : estimated $P(\text{assigned class} = l' \mid \text{true class} = l)$.

When `time.cross = TRUE`, all matrices in the list are identical. Names are "t1", "t2", ..., "tT".

Note

- Assumes complete data (no missing values in posterior matrices).
- All matrices in `P.Z.Xns` must have identical dimensions (same N and L).
- Assignment is based on modal class (`which.max`).
- If no individual is assigned to a class at a time point, division by zero may occur.

References

Liang, Q., la Torre, J. d., & Law, N. (2023). Latent Transition Cognitive Diagnosis Model With Covariates: A Three-Step Approach. *Journal of Educational and Behavioral Statistics*, 48(6), 690-718. <https://doi.org/10.3102/10769986231163320>

Examples

```
# Simulate posterior probabilities for 2 time points, 3 classes, 100 individuals
set.seed(123)
N <- 100; L <- 3; times <- 2
P.Z.Xns <- replicate(times,
  t(apply(matrix(runif(N * L), N, L), 1, function(x) x / sum(x))),
  simplify = FALSE)

# Compute time-specific CEP matrices
cep_time_specific <- get.CEP(P.Z.Xns, time.cross = FALSE)

# Compute time-invariant (pooled) CEP matrix
cep_pooled <- get.CEP(P.Z.Xns, time.cross = TRUE)
```

get.entropy

Calculate Classification Entropy

Description

Computes the relative entropy statistic to evaluate classification quality in Latent Class Analysis (LCA) or Latent Profile Analysis (LPA) models. Entropy measures how accurately cases are assigned to latent classes based on posterior probabilities, with values closer to 1 indicating better separation between classes.

Usage

```
get.entropy(object)
```

Arguments

- object An object of class "LCA" or "LPA" returned by [LCA](#) or [LPA](#) functions, or any other object containing:
- P.Z.Xn: $N \times L$ matrix of posterior class probabilities for each observation.
 - params\$P.Z: Vector of length L with latent class prior probabilities.

Value

A numeric value between 0 and 1 representing the relative entropy (Nylund-Gibson et al., 2018; Clark et al., 2013):

- 1.0: Perfect classification (each case belongs exclusively to one class)
- 0.8-1.0: Good classification quality
- 0.6-0.8: Moderate classification quality
- < 0.6: Poor classification quality (consider model simplification)

Calculated using the formula:

$$1 - \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{l=1}^L -p_{nl} \ln(p_{nl})}{N \ln(L)}$$

where:

- N = Sample size
- L = Number of latent classes
- p_{nl} = Posterior probability of observation n belonging to class l

Note

The calculation includes a small constant ($1e-10$) to avoid $\log(0)$ instability when posterior probabilities are exactly zero.

Values should be interpreted alongside other diagnostics (BIC, bootstrapped LRT) as high entropy alone doesn't guarantee model validity. Low entropy may indicate:

- Overly complex model (too many classes)
- Poorly measured latent constructs
- Violation of local independence assumption

References

- Nylund-Gibson, K., & Choi, A. Y. (2018). Ten frequently asked questions about latent class analysis. *Translational Issues in Psychological Science*, 4(4), 440-461. <https://doi.org/10.1037/tps0000176>
- Clark, S. L., Muthén, B., Kaprio, J., D'Onofrio, B. M., Viken, R., & Rose, R. J. (2013). Models and Strategies for Factor Mixture Analysis: An Example Concerning the Structure Underlying Psychological Disorders. *Structural Equation Modeling: A Multidisciplinary Journal*, 20(4), 681-703. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10705511.2013.824786>

Examples

```
# Example with simulated data
set.seed(123)
data.obj <- sim.LCA(N = 500, I = 4, L = 2, IQ=0.9)
response <- data.obj$response

# Fit 2-class model with EM algorithm

fit.em <- LCA(response, L = 2, method = "EM", nrep = 10)

entropy_value <- get.entropy(fit.em)
cat("Classification entropy:", round(entropy_value, 3), "\n")
```

get.fit.index

Calculate Fit Indices

Description

Computes a comprehensive set of model fit indices for objects returned by [LCA](#) or [LPA](#). These indices balance model fit (log-likelihood) with model complexity (number of parameters) to facilitate model selection. All indices are derived from the observed-data log-likelihood and parameter count.

Usage

```
get.fit.index(object)
```

Arguments

object An object of class "LCA" or "LPA" returned by [LCA](#), [LPA](#) or any object containing:

- **Log.Lik**: Log-likelihood value
- **npar**: Number of free parameters
- **N** = Total number of observations ($n = 1, 2, \dots, N$)

Value

An object of class "fit.index" containing:

npar Number of free parameters in the model

Log.Lik Log-likelihood of the model: $\log \mathcal{L}$

-2LL Deviance statistic: $-2 \log \mathcal{L}$

$$-2 \sum_{n=1}^N \log \left[\sum_{l=1}^L \pi_l \cdot f(\mathbf{x}_n | \boldsymbol{\theta}_l) \right]$$

, where π_l is the prior probability of class l , $f(\cdot)$ is the probability density/mass function (multivariate normal for LPA, multinomial for LCA), and $\boldsymbol{\theta}_l$ are class-specific parameters.

AIC Akaike Information Criterion: $AIC = -2 \log \mathcal{L} + 2k$, where $npar$ = number of free parameters. Lower values indicate better fit.

BIC Bayesian Information Criterion: $BIC = -2 \log \mathcal{L} + npar \log(N)$, where N = sample size. Incorporates stronger penalty for complexity than AIC.

SIC Sample-Size Adjusted BIC: $SIC = -\frac{1}{2}BIC$. Equivalent to $\log \mathcal{L} - \frac{npar}{2} \log(N)$. Often used in latent class modeling.

CAIC Consistent AIC: $CAIC = -2 \log \mathcal{L} + npar [\log(N) + 1]$. Consistent version of AIC that converges to true model as $N \rightarrow \infty$.

AWE Approximate Weight of Evidence: $AWE = -2 \log \mathcal{L} + 1.5k [\log(N) + 1]$. Penalizes complexity more heavily than CAIC.

SABIC Sample-Size Adjusted BIC: $SABIC = -2 \log \mathcal{L} + npar \log\left(\frac{N+2}{24}\right)$. Recommended for latent class/profile analysis with moderate sample sizes.

Examples

```
# Fit LPA model
set.seed(123)
data.obj <- sim.LPA(N = 100, I = 3, L = 2, constraint = "E0")
fit <- LPA(data.obj$response, L = 2, constraint = "VV", method = "EM")

# Compute fit indices
fit_indices <- get.fit.index(fit)

fit_indices

extract(fit_indices, "SABIC")
```

get.Log.Lik.LCA

Calculate Log-Likelihood for Latent Class Analysis

Description

Computes the log-likelihood of observed categorical data under a Latent Class Analysis (LCA) model given class probabilities and conditional response probabilities. The calculation assumes local independence of responses conditional on latent class membership.

Usage

```
get.Log.Lik.LCA(response, P.Z, par)
```

Arguments

response A numeric matrix of dimension $N \times I$ containing discrete responses. Values can be any categorical encoding (e.g., 1/2/3, A/B/C, or 0/1). The function automatically:

- Converts all responses to 0-based integer encoding internally
 - Determines the maximum number of categories (K_{\max}) across items
- P.Z A numeric vector of length L containing prior probabilities for latent classes. Must satisfy:
- $\sum_{l=1}^L \pi_l = 1$
 - $\pi_l > 0$ for all $l = 1, \dots, L$
- par A 3-dimensional array of dimension $L \times I \times K_{\max}$ containing conditional probabilities, where $par[l, i, k]$ represents $P(X_i = k - 1 \mid Z = l)$ (after internal 0-based re-encoding). Must satisfy:
- For each class l and item i : $\sum_{k=1}^{K_i} par[l, i, k] = 1$
 - Probabilities for non-existent categories (where $k > K_i$) are ignored but must be present in the array

Details

The log-likelihood calculation follows these steps:

- Response Standardization: Original responses are converted to 0-based integers using [adjust.response](#). For example, original values {1,2,5} become {0,1,2} (ordered and relabeled sequentially).
- Class-Specific Likelihood: For each observation n and class l , compute:

$$P(\mathbf{X}_n \mid Z_n = l) = \prod_{i=1}^I P(X_{ni} = x_{ni} \mid Z_n = l)$$

where x_{ni} is the standardized response value, and probabilities are taken from `par[l, i, x_{ni}+1]`.

- Marginal Likelihood: For each observation n , combine class-specific likelihoods weighted by class probabilities:

$$P(\mathbf{X}_n) = \sum_{l=1}^L \pi_l \cdot P(\mathbf{X}_n \mid Z_n = l)$$

- Log Transformation: Sum log-transformed marginal likelihoods across all observations:

$$\log \mathcal{L} = \sum_{n=1}^N \log P(\mathbf{X}_n)$$

Value

A single numeric value representing the total log-likelihood:

$$\log \mathcal{L} = \sum_{n=1}^N \log \left[\sum_{l=1}^L \pi_l \prod_{i=1}^I P(X_{ni} = x_{ni} \mid Z = l) \right]$$

where x_{ni} is the standardized (0-based) response for person n on item i .

get.Log.Lik.LPA

Calculate Log-Likelihood for Latent Profile Analysis

Description

Computes the log-likelihood of observed continuous data under a Latent Profile Analysis (LPA) model with multivariate normal distributions within each latent profile. Implements robust numerical techniques to handle near-singular covariance matrices.

Usage

```
get.Log.Lik.LPA(response, P.Z, means, covs, jitter = 1e-10)
```

Arguments

response	A numeric matrix of dimension $N \times I$ containing continuous observations. Rows represent observations, columns represent variables. Missing values are not permitted.
P.Z	A numeric vector of length L containing prior probabilities for latent profiles. Must satisfy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> $\sum_{l=1}^L \pi_l = 1$ $\pi_l > 0$ for all $l = 1, \dots, L$
means	A matrix of dimension $L \times I$ where row l contains the mean vector μ_l for profile l .
covs	An array of dimension $I \times I \times L$ where slice l contains the covariance matrix Σ_l for profile l . Must be symmetric positive semi-definite.
jitter	A small positive constant (default: 1e-10) added to diagonal elements of covariance matrices to ensure numerical stability during Cholesky decomposition.

Details

The log-likelihood calculation follows these steps:

- Covariance Stabilization: Each covariance matrix Σ_l is symmetrized as $(\Sigma_l + \Sigma_l^\top)/2$. If Cholesky decomposition fails:
 - Add `jitter` to diagonal elements iteratively (up to 10 attempts, scaling jitter by 10x each attempt)
 - Fall back to diagonal covariance matrix if decomposition still fails
- Profile-Specific Density for observation n in profile l :

$$\log f(\mathbf{x}_n | Z_n = l) = -\frac{I}{2} \log(2\pi) - \frac{1}{2} \log |\Sigma_l| - \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{x}_n - \mu_l)^\top \Sigma_l^{-1} (\mathbf{x}_n - \mu_l)$$

Computed efficiently using Cholesky decomposition $\Sigma_l = \mathbf{R}^\top \mathbf{R}$ where applicable.

- Joint Probability for observation n and profile l :

$$\log[\pi_l \cdot f(\mathbf{x}_n | Z_n = l)] = \log(\pi_l) + \log f(\mathbf{x}_n | Z_n = l)$$

$\log(\pi_l)$ uses $\log(\pi_l + 10^{-12})$ to avoid undefined values.

- Marginal Likelihood per observation using log-sum-exp trick for numerical stability:

$$\log f(\mathbf{x}_n) = a_{\max} + \log \left(\sum_{l=1}^L \exp \{ \log[\pi_l \cdot f(\mathbf{x}_n | Z_n = l)] - a_{\max} \} \right)$$

where $a_{\max} = \max_l \log[\pi_l \cdot f(\mathbf{x}_n | Z_n = l)]$.

- Total Log-Likelihood: Sum of $\log f(\mathbf{x}_n)$ across all observations $n = 1, \dots, N$.

Value

A single numeric value representing the total log-likelihood:

$$\log \mathcal{L} = \sum_{n=1}^N \log \left[\sum_{l=1}^L \pi_l \cdot \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_n | \boldsymbol{\mu}_l, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_l) \right]$$

where $\mathcal{N}(\cdot)$ denotes the multivariate normal density function.

Note

Critical implementation details:

- Cholesky Decomposition: For non-degenerate cases ($I > 1$), used to compute: $\log |\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_l| = 2 \sum_{i=1}^I \log(r_{ii})$ and quadratic form $\|\mathbf{R}^{-\top}(\mathbf{x}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu}_l)\|^2$
- Univariate Handling: When $I = 1$, computes density directly without decomposition
- Numerical Safeguards:
 - Densities clamped to -10^{10} when non-finite
 - Marginal likelihoods clamped to -10^{10} when non-finite
 - Explicit dimension checks for means and covs
- Assumptions:
 - Multivariate normality within profiles
 - No missing data in response
 - Positive-definite covariance matrices (after stabilization)

Description

Computes the observed-data log-likelihood for a Latent Transition Analysis (LTA) model using the three-step approach with measurement error correction. The likelihood integrates over all possible latent class paths while incorporating classification uncertainty via Classification Error Probability (CEP) matrices. This function is designed to work with parameters estimated from the [LTA](#) function.

Usage

```
get.Log.Lik.LTA(
  params,
  CEP,
  P.Z.Xns,
  Zs,
  covariates,
  covariates.timeCross = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

- | | |
|---------|---|
| params | <p>A named list containing model parameters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • beta: Matrix of size $p_1 \times L$ with coefficients for the initial class membership multinomial logit model (time 1). The coefficient vector for reference class L is constrained to $\beta_L = \mathbf{0}$. • gama: Nested list of transition coefficients. For transition to time t (from time $t - 1$ to t, where $t = 2, \dots, T$):
 $\text{gama}[[t-1]][[from_class]][[to_class]]$ Coefficient vector of length p_t for transition from class <code>from_class</code> at time $t - 1$ to class <code>to_class</code> at time t.
 Coefficients for transitions to reference class L are constrained to zero vectors ($\gamma_{klt} = \mathbf{0}$ when $k = L$). |
| CEP | <p>A list of $L \times L$ matrices (length = number of time points T). Element (k, l) in $\text{CEP}[[t]]$ estimates:</p> $P(\hat{Z}_{nt} = l \mid Z_{nt} = k)$ <p>where \hat{Z}_{nt} is the modal class assignment and Z_{nt} is the true latent class. Computed via non-parametric approximation in Step 2 of three-step LTA.</p> |
| P.Z.Xns | <p>A list of matrices (length = T). Each matrix has dimensions $N \times L$, where element (n, l) is:</p> $P(Z_{nt} = l \mid \mathbf{X}_{nt})$ <p>the posterior probability of individual n belonging to class l at time t from Step 1 latent class/profile analysis.</p> |

Zs	A list of integer vectors (length = T). Each vector has length N , where $Zs[[t]][n]$ is the modal (most likely) class assignment \hat{Z}_{nt} for individual n at time t .
covariates	A list of design matrices (length = T). For time t , matrix dimension is $N \times p_t$. Must include an intercept column (all 1s) as the first column, i.e., $\mathbf{X}_{nt} = (X_{nt0}, X_{nt1}, \dots, X_{ntM})^\top$ with $X_{nt0} = 1$. Covariates may differ across time points and between initial status ($t = 1$) and transitions ($t \geq 2$).
covariates.timeCross	Logical. If TRUE, forces identical transition coefficients across all time points ($\text{gama}[[t]]$ is copied from $\text{gama}[[1]]$ for $t > 1$). Default is FALSE.

Details

The log-likelihood calculation follows these steps:

1. Latent Path Enumeration: All L^T possible latent class trajectories \mathbf{z}_n are generated and cached.
2. **Initial Class Probabilities (time 1):** For individual n , compute using multinomial logit with covariates \mathbf{X}_{n1} :

$$P(Z_{n1} = l \mid \mathbf{X}_{n1}) = \frac{\exp(\beta_l^\top \mathbf{X}_{n1})}{\sum_{k=1}^L \exp(\beta_k^\top \mathbf{X}_{n1})}$$

where $\beta_L = \mathbf{0}$ (reference class constraint). Numerical stabilization is applied via subtraction of the maximum linear predictor.

3. Transition Probabilities (times $t \geq 2$): For transition from class k at time $t - 1$ to class l at time t :

$$P(Z_{nt} = l \mid Z_{n,t-1} = k, \mathbf{X}_{nt}) = \frac{\exp(\gamma_{klt}^\top \mathbf{X}_{nt})}{\sum_{j=1}^L \exp(\gamma_{kjt}^\top \mathbf{X}_{nt})}$$

where $\gamma_{kLt} = \mathbf{0}$ for all k (reference class constraint).

4. Path-Specific Likelihood: For each path \mathbf{z}_n and individual n :
 - (a) Compute path probability: $P(Z_{n1} = z_{n1} \mid \mathbf{X}_{n1}) \times \prod_{t=2}^T P(Z_{nt} = z_{nt} \mid Z_{n,t-1} = z_{n,t-1}, \mathbf{X}_{nt})$
 - (b) Apply CEP weights: $\prod_{t=1}^T P(\hat{Z}_{nt} = \hat{z}_{nt} \mid Z_{nt} = z_{nt}) = \prod_{t=1}^T \text{CEP}_t(z_{nt}, \hat{z}_{nt})$
 - (c) Multiply path probability by CEP weights
5. **Marginalization:** Sum path-specific likelihoods over all L^T paths for each individual n , then sum log-transformed marginal likelihoods across all individuals.

Value

A single numeric value representing the total observed-data log-likelihood:

$$\log \mathcal{L}(\theta) = \sum_{n=1}^N \log \left[\sum_{\mathbf{z}_n \in \{1, \dots, L\}^T} \left(\prod_{t=1}^T \text{CEP}_t(z_{nt}, \hat{z}_{nt}) \right) \cdot \left[P(Z_{n1} = z_{n1} \mid \mathbf{X}_{n1}) \cdot \prod_{t=2}^T P(Z_{nt} = z_{nt} \mid Z_{n,t-1} = z_{n,t-1}, \mathbf{X}_{nt}) \right] \right]$$

where $\mathbf{z}_n = (z_{n1}, \dots, z_{nT})$ is a latent class path, $\hat{z}_{nt} = Zs[[t]][n]$ is the modal assignment, and θ denotes all model parameters (beta, gama).

Note

When no covariates are included:

- Initial probabilities reduce to $P(Z_{n1} = l) = \pi_l$ (multinomial probabilities)
- Transition probabilities reduce to $P(Z_{nt} = l \mid Z_{n,t-1} = k) = \tau_{kl}^{(t)}$ (time-specific Markov transition probabilities)

See Also

[LTA](#) for three-step LTA estimation, [get.CEP](#) for CEP matrix computation

get.npar.LCA

Calculate Number of Free Parameters in Latent Class Analysis

Description

Computes the total number of free parameters in an LCA model based on the number of categories per observed variable and the number of latent classes. This follows standard LCA parameterization with local independence assumption.

Usage

```
get.npar.LCA(poly.value, L)
```

Arguments

poly.value	A numeric vector of length I where each element K_i represents the number of response categories for observed variable i .
L	Integer specifying the number of latent classes.

Details

Parameter count derivation:

Fixed components (always present):

- Conditional response probabilities: $\sum_{i=1}^I (L \times K_i - 1)$ parameters

- Independent class proportions: $L - 1$ parameters (since $\sum_{l=1}^L \pi_l = 1$)

Per-variable parameterization: For each observed variable i with K_i categories:

- Each latent class requires K_i conditional probabilities $P(X_i = k \mid Z = l)$
- With constraints $\sum_{k=1}^{K_i} P(X_i = k \mid Z = l) = 1$ for each class l
- Global constraints reduce total parameters to $L \times K_i - 1$ per variable

Value

Integer representing the total number of free parameters in the model:

$$\text{npar} = \sum_{i=1}^I \underbrace{(L \times K_i - 1)}_{\text{free parameters}} + \underbrace{(L - 1)}_{\text{class proportions}}$$

Examples

```
# Example 1: 3 binary variables (K_i=2), 2 latent classes
poly.value <- c(2, 2, 2) # Three binary variables
L <- 2
npar <- sum(poly.value * L - 1) + (L - 1) # = (4-1)+(4-1)+(4-1) + 1 = 3+3+3+1 = 10
get.npar.LCA(poly.value, L) # Returns 10

# Example 2: Mixed variable types (binary, ternary, quaternary)
poly.value <- c(2, 3, 4) # Variables with 2, 3, and 4 categories
L <- 3
npar <- sum(poly.value * L - 1) + (L - 1) # = (6-1)+(9-1)+(12-1) + 2 = 5+8+11+2 = 26
get.npar.LCA(poly.value, L) # Returns 26

# Example 3: Single polytomous variable with 5 categories, 4 latent classes
poly.value <- 5
L <- 4
npar <- sum(poly.value * L - 1) + (L - 1) # = (20-1) + 3 = 19+3 = 22
get.npar.LCA(poly.value, L) # Returns 22
```

get.npar.LPA

Calculate Number of Free Parameters in Latent Profile Analysis

Description

Computes the total number of free parameters in an LPA model based on the number of observed variables (I), number of latent profiles (L), and covariance structure constraints.

Usage

```
get.npar.LPA(I, L, constraint = "VV")
```

Arguments

I	Integer specifying the number of continuous observed variables.
L	Integer specifying the number of latent profiles.
constraint	Character string specifying covariance structure constraints. Supported options: Univariate case ($I = 1$): "UE" Equal variance across all profiles (1 shared variance parameter).

"UV" Varying variances across profiles (L profile-specific variance parameters).

Multivariate case ($I > 1$): "E0" Equal variances across profiles, zero covariances. Requires I variance parameters.

"V0" Varying variances across profiles, zero covariances. Requires $L \times I$ variance parameters.

"EE" Equal variances and equal covariances across profiles (homogeneous covariance matrix). Requires $\frac{I(I+1)}{2}$ parameters.

"VE" Varying variances per profile, but *equal covariances* across profiles. Requires $L \times I + \frac{I(I-1)}{2}$ parameters.

"EV" Equal variances across profiles, but *varying covariances* per profile. Requires $I + L \times \frac{I(I-1)}{2}$ parameters.

"VV" Varying variances and varying covariances across profiles (heterogeneous covariance matrices). Requires $L \times \frac{I(I+1)}{2}$ parameters.

list Custom constraints. Each element is a 2-element integer vector specifying variables whose covariance parameters are constrained equal across all classes. The constraint applies to:

- Variances: When both indices are identical (e.g., $c(3, 3)$ forces variance of variable 3 to be equal across classes)
- Covariances: When indices differ (e.g., $c(1, 2)$ forces covariance between variables 1 and 2 to be equal across classes)

Constraints are symmetric (e.g., $c(1, 2)$ automatically constrains $c(2, 1)$). All unconstrained parameters vary freely across classes while maintaining positive definiteness.

Default: "VV".

Details

Parameter count breakdown:

1. Fixed components (always present):

- Profile-specific means: $L \times I$ parameters
- Independent class proportions: $L - 1$ parameters (since $\sum_{l=1}^L \pi_l = 1$)

2. Covariance parameters (varies by constraint):

$I = 1$: • "UE": 1 shared variance parameter

- "UV": L profile-specific variance parameters

$I > 1$: • "E0": I shared variance parameters (no covariances)

- "V0": $L \times I$ profile-specific variance parameters (no covariances)

- "EE": $\frac{I(I+1)}{2}$ parameters for one shared full covariance matrix

- "VE": $L \times I$ diagonal variances (free per profile) + $\frac{I(I-1)}{2}$ off-diagonal covariances (shared across profiles)

- "EV": I diagonal variances (shared across profiles) + $L \times \frac{I(I-1)}{2}$ off-diagonal covariances (free per profile)

- "VV": $L \times \frac{I(I+1)}{2}$ parameters for L distinct full covariance matrices

Value

Integer representing the total number of free parameters in the model:

$$\text{npar} = \underbrace{L \times I}_{\text{means}} + \underbrace{(L - 1)}_{\text{class proportions}} + \underbrace{\text{covariance parameters}}_{\text{depends on constraint}}$$

Note

Important considerations:

- For $I = 1$, only "UE" and "UV" are meaningful; "EE", "E0", "VV", "V0", etc., are treated as "UE" or "UV" respectively.
- Covariance parameters count only free elements in symmetric matrices (diagonal + upper triangle).
- If an user-defined constraint is provided, the function defaults to "VV" behavior but subtracts $(L - 1) \times \text{length}(\text{constraint})$.
- "VE" and "EV" constraints require $I > 1$ to be meaningful (otherwise no covariances exist).

Examples

```
# Univariate examples (I=1)
get.npar.LPA(I = 1, L = 2, constraint = "UE")
get.npar.LPA(I = 1, L = 3, constraint = "UV")

# Multivariate examples (I=3)
get.npar.LPA(I = 3, L = 2, constraint = "E0")
get.npar.LPA(I = 3, L = 2, constraint = "V0")
get.npar.LPA(I = 3, L = 2, constraint = "EE")
get.npar.LPA(I = 3, L = 2, constraint = "VV")
get.npar.LPA(I = 3, L = 2, constraint = "VE")
get.npar.LPA(I = 3, L = 2, constraint = "EV")

# User defined example
get.npar.LPA(I = 3, L = 2, constraint = list(c(1, 2), c(3, 3)))
```

get.npar.LTA

Calculate Number of Free Parameters in Latent Transition Analysis

Description

Computes the total number of free parameters in a Latent Transition Analysis (LTA) model estimated via the three-step approach. The count depends on the number of latent classes, the number of time points, the number of covariates at each time point, and whether transition coefficients are constrained to be equal across time.

Usage

```
get.npar.LTA(covariates.ncol, L, covariates.timeCross = FALSE)
```

Arguments

covariates.ncol

An integer vector of length T (number of time points). Each element M_t represents the number of covariates (columns) for time point t . Must include an intercept column (all 1s) as the first covariate.

L

Integer scalar. Number of latent classes ($L \geq 2$).

covariates.timeCross

Logical. If TRUE, transition coefficients are constrained to be identical across all transitions (time-invariant effects). This requires that the number of covariates is the same for all time points after the first (i.e., $M_2 = M_3 = \dots = M_T$). If FALSE (default), each transition has its own set of coefficients.

Details

Parameterization:

Initial status model (time 1): Multinomial logit model with L classes (last class is reference).

Number of free parameters: $M_1 \times (L - 1)$.

Transition models (time $t \rightarrow t + 1$): For each transition, a multinomial logit model conditioned on previous class. For each origin class k and destination class l ($l \neq L$), there is a coefficient vector of length M_{t+1} . Total per transition: $L \times (L - 1) \times M_{t+1}$ parameters. The constraint `covariates.timeCross` determines whether these parameters are shared across transitions.

Value

Integer representing the total number of free parameters:

$$npar = M_1 \times (L - 1) + \begin{cases} L \times (L - 1) \times M_2 & \text{if } T > 1 \text{ and time-invariant effects} \\ \sum_{t=2}^T L \times (L - 1) \times M_t & \text{if } T > 1 \text{ and time-varying effects} \\ 0 & \text{if } T = 1 \end{cases}$$

where:

- *time-invariant effects* corresponds to `covariates.timeCross = TRUE`
- *time-varying effects* corresponds to `covariates.timeCross = FALSE`

Note

Critical assumptions:

- The last latent class (L) is always the reference category for all logits.
- When `covariates.timeCross = TRUE`, it is assumed that all time points after the first have identical covariate structures ($M_2 = M_3 = \dots = M_T$). If violated, the function uses M_1 for all transitions to match LTA's internal behavior.
- For $T = 1$, no transition parameters are estimated (pure latent class/profile analysis).

Examples

```

# Example 1: 2 time points, 2 classes, time-invariant transition coefficients
# Time1: 2 covariates (intercept + 1 predictor)
# Time2: 3 covariates (but constrained to match Time1 due to timeCross=TRUE)
covariates.ncol <- c(2, 3)
L <- 2
get.npar.LTA(covariates.ncol, L, covariates.timeCross = TRUE)

# Example 2: Same as above but time-varying coefficients
get.npar.LTA(covariates.ncol, L, covariates.timeCross = FALSE)

# Example 3: 3 time points, 3 classes, time-invariant coefficients
covariates.ncol <- c(2, 2, 2) # All time points have identical covariates
L <- 3
get.npar.LTA(covariates.ncol, L, covariates.timeCross = TRUE)

# Example 4: 3 time points, 3 classes, time-varying coefficients
covariates.ncol <- c(2, 3, 4)
L <- 3
get.npar.LTA(covariates.ncol, L, covariates.timeCross = FALSE)

# Example 5: Single time point (equivalent to LCA)
covariates.ncol <- c(3)
L <- 4
get.npar.LTA(covariates.ncol, L)

```

get.P.Z.Xn.LCA *Compute Posterior Latent Class Probabilities Based on Fixed Parameters*

Description

Computes posterior probabilities of latent class membership while simultaneously re-estimating class prevalences via an EM algorithm. Unlike standard posterior computation, this function iteratively updates class prevalences (π_l) using fixed conditional response probabilities (par).

Usage

```
get.P.Z.Xn.LCA(response, par, tol = 1e-10, maxiter = 2000, vis = TRUE)
```

Arguments

response	Numeric matrix ($N \times I$) of categorical responses. Categories are automatically remapped to 0-based integers via <code>adjust.response</code> .
par	3D array ($L \times I \times K_{\max}$) of fixed conditional response probabilities where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L = number of latent classes • I = number of items

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K_{\max} = maximum categories across items
	$\text{par}[1, i, k] = P(X_i = k - 1 \mid Z = l)$ (0-based indexing).
tol	Convergence tolerance for absolute change in log-likelihood. Default: 1e-10.
maxiter	Maximum EM iterations. Default: 2000.
vis	Logical: show iteration progress? Default: TRUE.

Details

1. Response categories are standardized to 0-based integers using `adjust.response`.
2. Class prevalences are initialized uniformly ($\pi_l^{(0)} = 1/L$).
3. Numerical stability: Small constants (1e-50) prevent division by zero.
4. Termination occurs when:
 - $|\log L^{(t)} - \log L^{(t-1)}| < \text{tol}$ (log-likelihood change)
 - Maximum iterations reached

Value

Numeric matrix ($N \times L$) of posterior probabilities. Rows sum to 1. Columns named "Class.1", "Class.2", etc.

Algorithm

The function implements an EM algorithm with:

E-step Compute posterior probabilities for observation n and class l :

$$P(Z_n = l \mid \mathbf{X}_n) = \frac{\pi_l^{(t)} \prod_{i=1}^I P(X_{ni} = x_{ni} \mid Z_n = l)}{\sum_{k=1}^L \pi_k^{(t)} \prod_{i=1}^I P(X_{ni} = x_{ni} \mid Z_n = k)}$$

M-step Update class prevalences:

$$\pi_l^{(t+1)} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N P(Z_n = l \mid \mathbf{X}_n)$$

Convergence is determined by the absolute change in log-likelihood between iterations.

Examples

```
library(LCPA)
set.seed(123)
data.obj <- sim.LCA(N = 200, I = 3, L = 2, IQ = 0.85) # From LCPA
fit <- LCA(data.obj$response, L = 2, method = "EM", nrep = 5) # From LCPA

P.Z.Xn <- get.P.Z.Xn.LCA(
  response = data.obj$response,
  par = fit$params$par # Fixed conditional probabilities
)
head(P.Z.Xn)
```

get.P.Z.Xn.LPA	<i>Compute Posterior Latent Profile Probabilities Based on Fixed Parameters</i>
----------------	---

Description

Computes posterior probabilities of latent profile membership while simultaneously re-estimating profile prevalences via an EM algorithm. Unlike standard posterior computation, this function iteratively updates profile prevalences (π_l) using fixed profile characteristics (means and covariances).

Usage

```
get.P.Z.Xn.LPA(response, means, covs, tol = 1e-10, maxiter = 2000, vis = TRUE)
```

Arguments

response	Numeric matrix ($N \times I$) of continuous responses. Missing values are not allowed. Data should typically be standardized prior to analysis.
means	Numeric matrix ($L \times I$) of fixed profile means where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L = number of latent profiles • I = number of observed variables Row l contains profile-specific means μ_l .
covs	3D array ($I \times I \times L$) of fixed profile covariance matrices where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • $\text{covs}[, , l]$ = profile-specific covariance matrix Σ_l Each slice must be symmetric and positive definite (after jittering).
tol	Convergence tolerance for absolute change in log-likelihood. Default: 1e-10.
maxiter	Maximum EM iterations. Default: 2000.
vis	Logical: show iteration progress? Default: TRUE.

Details

1. Numerical stability:
 - Covariance matrices are jittered with `tol` for positive definiteness
 - Log-space computation with log-sum-exp trick
 - Uniform probabilities used as fallback for non-finite densities
2. Profile prevalences are initialized uniformly ($\pi_l^{(0)} = 1/L$).
3. Termination occurs when:
 - $|\log L^{(t)} - \log L^{(t-1)}| < \text{tol}$ (log-likelihood change)
 - Maximum iterations reached

Value

Numeric matrix ($N \times L$) of posterior probabilities. Rows sum to 1. Columns named "Class.1", "Class.2", etc.

Algorithm

The function implements an EM algorithm with:

E-step Compute posterior probabilities for observation n and profile l :

$$P(Z_n = l \mid \mathbf{x}_n) = \frac{\pi_l^{(t)} \cdot \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_n \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}_l, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_l)}{\sum_{k=1}^L \pi_k^{(t)} \cdot \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_n \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k)}$$

M-step Update profile prevalences:

$$\pi_l^{(t+1)} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N P(Z_n = l \mid \mathbf{x}_n)$$

Convergence is determined by the absolute change in log-likelihood between iterations.

Examples

```
library(LCPA)
set.seed(123)
data.obj <- sim.LPA(N = 300, I = 2, L = 2, constraint = "VV") # From LCPA
fit <- LPA(data.obj$response, L = 2, method = "EM", nrep = 5) # From LCPA

P.Z.Xn <- get.P.Z.Xn.LPA(
  response = data.obj$response,
  means = fit$params$means, # Fixed profile means
  covs = fit$params$covs # Fixed profile covariances
)
head(P.Z.Xn)
```

get.SE

Compute Standard Errors

Description

Computes approximate standard errors (SEs) for estimated parameters in Latent Class Analysis (LCA) or Latent Profile Analysis (LPA) models using two methods:

- "Bootstrap": Non-parametric bootstrap with label-switching correction. McLachlan & Peel (2004) suggest that 50–100 replicates often provide adequate accuracy for practical purposes, though more (e.g., 500–1000) may be preferred for publication-quality inference.
- "Obs": Numerical evaluation of the observed information matrix (Hessian of negative log-likelihood)

Users should note that [get.SE](#) computes standard errors based on the observed information matrix via numerical differentiation, which may lack precision and often yields ill-conditioned matrices. Therefore, we recommend using `method = "Bootstrap"`.

Usage

```
get.SE(object, method = "Bootstrap", n.Bootstrap = 100, vis = TRUE)
```

Arguments

object An object of class "LCA" or "LPA" returned by [LCA](#) or [LPA](#).

method Character specifying SE calculation method: "Obs" or "Bootstrap" (default).

n.Bootstrap Integer. Number of bootstrap replicates when method="Bootstrap" (default=100).

vis Logical. If TRUE, displays progress information during estimation (default: TRUE).

Value

A list of class "SE" containing:

se Named list of SEs matching parameter structure of input model:

- **LPA:** means (matrix: classes x variables), covs (array: vars x vars x classes), P.Z (vector: class prob SEs)
- **LCA:** par (array: classes x items x categories), P.Z (vector: class prob SEs)
- **Critical Note for "Obs" method:** Only *free parameters* have non-zero SEs. Non-free parameters (e.g., last class probability in P.Z due to sum-to-1 constraint; last category probability in LCA items) have SE=0. Bootstrap provides SEs for all parameters.

vcov NULL for bootstrap. For "Obs": variance-covariance matrix (may be regularized). Diagonal contains squared SEs of free parameters.

hessian NULL for bootstrap. For "Obs": observed information matrix (pre-regularization). Dimension = number of free parameters.

diagnostics Method-specific diagnostics:

- **Bootstrap:** n.Bootstrap.requested, n.Bootstrap.completed
- **Obs:** Hessian computation details, condition number, regularization status, step sizes

call Function call that generated the object

arguments List of input arguments

References

McLachlan, G. J., & Peel, D. (2004). Finite Mixture Models. Wiley. https://books.google.com.sg/books?id=c2_fAox0DQoC

Examples

```
library(LCPA)
set.seed(123)

# LPA with Bootstrap (minimal replicates for example)
lpa_data <- sim.LPA(N = 500, I = 4, L = 3)
lpa_fit <- LPA(lpa_data$response, L = 3)
se_boot <- get.SE(lpa_fit, method = "Bootstrap", n.Bootstrap = 10)

print(se_boot)
```

```
extract(se_boot, "covs")

# LCA with Observed Information (note zeros for constrained parameters)
lca_data <- sim.LCA(N = 500, I = 4, L = 3, poly.value = 5)
lca_fit <- LCA(lca_data$response, L = 3)
se_obs <- get.SE(lca_fit, method = "Obs")

print(se_obs)
extract(se_obs, "par")
```

install_python_dependencies

Install Required Python Dependencies for Neural Latent Variable Models

Description

Checks whether five essential Python packages required to run neural latent variable models (e.g., LCAnet, LPAnet) are installed in the current Python environment. If any are missing, the user is interactively prompted to install them via `reticulate::py_install()`. The targeted packages are:

- `numpy` — Fundamental package for numerical computing in Python.
- `torch` — PyTorch deep learning framework (supports CPU/GPU computation).
- `matplotlib` — 2D plotting and visualization library.
- `scikit-learn` — Machine learning utilities (used here primarily for KMeans initialization).
- `scipy` — Scientific computing and advanced linear algebra routines.

For `torch`, users can choose between CPU-only or GPU-enabled versions (with CUDA support). Available CUDA versions are filtered by OS compatibility.

This function is especially useful when deploying models that bridge R and Python via **reticulate**, ensuring all backend dependencies are met before model execution.

Usage

```
install_python_dependencies()
```

Details

The function performs the following steps for each dependency:

1. Uses `reticulate::py_module_available()` to test if the module is importable.
2. If not available, prints a message describing the package's purpose.
3. Prompts the user interactively (via `readline`) whether to proceed with installation.

4. For torch, offers CPU/GPU choice and CUDA version selection if GPU is chosen.
5. Installs the package using `reticulate::py_install()` with appropriate index URL if needed.
6. Returns a logical list indicating initial installation status of each package.

Note: This function requires **reticulate** to be loaded and a valid Python environment configured. It does NOT automatically install **reticulate** or configure Python — that must be done separately.

Value

A named list of logical values indicating whether each package was already installed before running this function:

```
numpy_installed
      Logical. Was numpy already available?
torch_installed
      Logical. Was torch already available?
matplotlib_installed
      Logical. Was matplotlib already available?
sklearn_installed
      Logical. Was scikit-learn already available?
scipy_installed
      Logical. Was scipy already available?
```

Examples

```
library(reticulate)

# Ensure reticulate is loaded and Python is configured
# need python
## Not run:
# Run dependency installer
deps <- install_python_dependencies()

# Check which were missing
print(deps)

## End(Not run)
```

Description

Performs hard clustering of observations using K-means algorithm to generate initial parameter estimates for Latent Class Analysis (LCA) models. This provides a data-driven initialization strategy that often outperforms random starts when the number of observed categorical variables I is large (i.e., $I > 50$).

Usage

```
Kmeans.LCA(response, L, nrep = 10)
```

Arguments

response	A numeric matrix of dimension $N \times I$, where N is the number of observations and I is the number of observed categorical variables. Each column must contain nominal-scale discrete responses (e.g., integers representing categories). Non-sequential category values are automatically re-encoded to sequential integers starting from 1.
L	Integer specifying the number of latent classes. Must be $2 \leq L < N$.
nrep	Integer specifying the number of random starts for K-means algorithm (default: 10). The solution with the lowest within-cluster sum of squares is retained.

Details

The function executes the following steps:

- Data preprocessing: Automatically adjusts non-sequential category values to sequential integers (e.g., categories {1,3,5} become {1,2,3}) using internal adjustment routines.
- K-means clustering: Scales variables to mean=0 and SD=1 before clustering. Uses Lloyd's algorithm with Euclidean distance.
- Parameter estimation:
 - For each cluster l , computes empirical response probabilities $P(X_i = k|Z = l)$ for all items i and categories k .
 - Handles singleton clusters by assigning near-deterministic probabilities (e.g., $1 - 10^{-10}$ for observed category, 10^{-10} for others).
- Posterior probabilities: Constructs hard-classification matrix where $P(Z = l|\mathbf{X}_n) = 1$ for the assigned cluster and 0 otherwise.

Value

A list containing:

params List of initialized parameters:

par An $L \times I \times K_{\max}$ array of initial conditional probabilities, where K_{\max} is the maximum number of categories across items. Dimension order: latent classes (1:L), items (1:I), response categories (1:K_max).

P.Z Numeric vector of length L containing initial class prior probabilities derived from cluster proportions.

P.Z.Xn An $N \times L$ matrix of posterior class probabilities. Contains hard assignments (0/1 values) based on K-means cluster memberships.

Note

- Requires at least one observation per cluster. If a cluster has only one observation, probabilities are set to avoid zero values (using 10^{-10}) for numerical stability.
- Data scaling is applied internally. Variables with zero variance are automatically excluded from clustering.
- This function is primarily designed as an initialization method for [LCA](#) and not intended for final model estimation.

Examples

```
# Simulate response data
set.seed(123)
response <- matrix(sample(1:4, 200, replace = TRUE), ncol = 5)

# Generate K-means initialization for 3-class LCA
init_params <- Kmeans.LCA(response, L = 3, nrep = 5)

# Inspect initial class probabilities
print(init_params$params$P.Z)
```

LCA

Fit Latent Class Analysis Models

Description

This function estimates parameters of a Latent Class Analysis (LCA; Hagenaars & McCutcheon, 2002) model using either the Expectation-Maximization (EM) algorithm or Neural Network Estimation (NNE). It supports flexible initialization strategies and provides comprehensive model diagnostics.

Usage

```
LCA(
  response,
  L = 2,
  par.ini = "random",
  method = "EM",
  is.sort = TRUE,
  nrep = 20,
  starts = 100,
  maxiter.wa = 20,
  vis = TRUE,
  control.EM = NULL,
  control.Mplus = NULL,
  control.NNE = NULL
)
```

Arguments

response	A numeric matrix of dimension $N \times I$, where N is the number of individuals/participants/observations and I is the number of observed categorical items/variables. Each column must contain nominal-scale discrete responses (e.g., integers representing categories).
L	Integer specifying the number of latent classes (default: 2).
par.ini	Specification for parameter initialization. Options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "random": Completely random initialization (default). • "kmeans": Initializes parameters via K-means clustering on observed data (McLachlan & Peel, 2004). • A list containing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> par An $L \times I \times K_{\max}$ array of initial conditional probabilities for each latent class, item, and response category (where K_{\max} is the maximum number of categories across items). P.Z A numeric vector of length L specifying initial prior probabilities for latent classes.
method	Character string specifying estimation algorithm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "EM": Expectation-Maximization algorithm (default). • "NNE": Neural Network Estimation with transformer architecture (experimental; uses transformer + simulated annealing, more reliable than both "EM" and "Mplus"). See install_python_dependencies. • "Mplus": Calls external Mplus software for estimation. Uses Mplus defaults for optimization unless overridden by <code>control.Mplus</code>.
is.sort	A logical value. If TRUE (Default), the latent classes will be ordered in descending order according to P.Z. All other parameters will be adjusted accordingly based on the reordered latent classes.
nrep	Integer controlling replication behavior: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If <code>par.ini = "random"</code>, number of random initializations. • If <code>par.ini = "kmeans"</code>, number of K-means runs for initialization. • For <code>method="Mplus"</code>, controls number of random starts in Mplus via <code>STARTS</code> option. • Best solution is selected by log-likelihood/BIC across replications. • Ignored for user-provided initial parameters.
starts	Number of random initializations to explore during warm-up phase (default: 100).
maxiter.wa	Maximum number of training iterations allowed per warm-up run. After completion, the top <code>nrep</code> solutions (by log-likelihood) are promoted to final training phase (default: 20).
vis	Logical. If TRUE, displays progress information during estimation (default: TRUE).
control.EM	List of control parameters for EM algorithm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> maxiter Maximum iterations (default: 2000). tol Convergence tolerance for log-likelihood difference (default: 1e-4).

- `control.Mplus` List of control parameters for Mplus estimation:
- `maxiter` Maximum iterations for Mplus optimization (default: 2000).
 - `tol` Convergence tolerance for log-likelihood difference (default: 1e-4).
 - `files.path` A character string specifying the directory path where Mplus will write its intermediate files (e.g., `.inp` model input, `.dat` data file, `.out` output, and saved posterior probabilities). This argument is **required** — if NULL (the default), the function throws an error. The specified directory must exist and be writable; if it does not exist, the function attempts to create it recursively. A unique timestamped subdirectory (e.g., `"Mplus_LCA_YYYY-MM-DD_HH-MM-SS"`) will be created within this path to store all run-specific files and avoid naming conflicts. If it is an empty string (`""`), the timestamped subdirectory `"Mplus_LCA_YYYY-MM-DD_HH-MM-SS"` will be created directly under R's current working directory (`getwd()`).
 - `files.clean` Logical. If TRUE (default), all intermediate files and the temporary working directory created for this run are deleted upon successful completion or error exit (via `on.exit()`). If FALSE, all generated files are retained in `files.path` (or the auto-generated temp dir) for inspection or debugging. Note: when `files.path = NULL`, even if `files.clean = FALSE`, the temporary directory may still be cleaned up by the system later — for guaranteed persistence, specify a custom `files.path`.
- `control.NNE` List of control parameters for NNE algorithm:
- `hidden.layers` Integer vector specifying layer sizes in fully-connected network (default: `c(16, 16)`).
 - `activation.function` Activation function (e.g., `"tanh"`, default: `"tanh"`).
 - `use.attention` Whether to enable the self-attention mechanism (i.e., transformer encoder) (default: TRUE).
 - `d.model` Dimensionality of transformer encoder embeddings (default: 8).
 - `nhead` Number of attention heads in transformer (default: 2).
 - `dim.feedforward` Dimensionality of transformer feedforward network (default: 16).
 - `eps` Small constant for numerical stability (default: 1e-8).
 - `lambda` A factor for slight regularization of all parameters (default: 1e-5).
 - `initial.temperature` Initial temperature for simulated annealing (default: 1000).
 - `cooling.rate` Cooling rate per iteration in simulated annealing (default: 0.5).
 - `maxiter.sa` Maximum iterations for simulated annealing (default: 1000).
 - `threshold.sa` Minimum temperature threshold for annealing (default: 1e-10).
 - `maxiter` Maximum training epochs (default: 1000).
 - `maxiter.early` Patience parameter for early stopping (default: 50).
 - `maxcycle` Maximum cycles for optimization (default: 10).
 - `lr` Learning rate, controlling the step size of neural network parameter updates (default: 0.025).
 - `scheduler.patience` Patience for learning rate decay (if the loss function does not improve for more than `patience` consecutive epochs, the learning rate will be reduced) (default: 10).

`scheduler.factor` Learning rate decay factor; the new learning rate equals the original learning rate multiplied by `scheduler.factor` (default: 0.70).
`plot.interval` Interval (in epochs) for plotting training diagnostics (default: 100).
`device` Specifies the hardware device; can be "CPU" (default) or "GPU". If the GPU is not available, it automatically falls back to CPU.

Value

An object of class "LCA" containing:

`params` List with estimated parameters:

`par` $L \times I \times K_{\max}$ array of conditional response probabilities per latent class.
`P.Z` Vector of length L with latent class prior probabilities.

`npar` Number of free parameters in the model. see [get.npar.LCA](#)

`Log.Lik` Log-likelihood of the final model. see [get.Log.Lik.LCA](#)

`AIC` Akaike Information Criterion value.

`BIC` Bayesian Information Criterion value.

`best_BIC` Best BIC value across `nrep` runs (if applicable).

`P.Z.Xn` $N \times L$ matrix of posterior class probabilities for each observation.

`P.Z` Vector of length L containing the prior probabilities/structural parameters/proportions for each latent class.

`Z` Vector of length N with MAP-classified latent class memberships.

`probability` Same as `params$par` (redundant storage for convenience).

`Log.Lik.history` Vector tracking log-likelihood at each EM iteration.

`Log.Lik.nrep` Vector of log-likelihoods from each replication run.

`model` The optimal neural network model object (only for `method="NNE"`). Contains the trained transformer architecture corresponding to `best_loss`. This object can be used for further predictions or model inspection.

`arguments` A list containing all input arguments

EM Algorithm

When `method = "EM"`, parameters are estimated via the Expectation-Maximization algorithm, which iterates between:

- **E-step:** Compute posterior class probabilities given current parameters:

$$P(Z_n = l \mid \mathbf{X}_n) = \frac{\pi_l \prod_{i=1}^I P(X_{ni} = x_{ni} \mid Z_n = l)}{\sum_{k=1}^L \pi_k \prod_{i=1}^I P(X_{ni} = x_{ni} \mid Z_n = k)}$$

where x_{ni} is the standardized (0-based) response for person n on item i (see [adjust.response](#)).

- **M-step:** Update parameters by maximizing expected complete-data log-likelihood:

- Class probabilities: $\pi_l^{\text{new}} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N P(Z_n = l \mid \mathbf{X}_n)$
- Conditional probabilities: $P(X_i = k \mid Z = l)^{\text{new}} = \frac{\sum_{n: x_{ni}=k} P(Z_n=l \mid \mathbf{X}_n)}{\sum_{n=1}^N P(Z_n=l \mid \mathbf{X}_n)}$

- **Convergence:** Stops when $|\log \mathcal{L}^{(t)} - \log \mathcal{L}^{(t-1)}| < \text{tol}$ or maximum iterations reached.

Neural Network Estimation (NNE)

When method = "NNE", parameters are estimated using a hybrid neural network architecture that combines feedforward layers with transformer-based attention mechanisms. This approach jointly optimizes profile parameters and posterior probabilities through stochastic optimization enhanced with simulated annealing. See [install_python_dependencies](#). Key components include:

Architecture:

Input Representation Observed categorical responses are converted to 0-based integer indices per item (not one-hot encoded). For example, original responses [1, 2, 4] become [0, 1, 2].

Feature Estimator (Feedforward Network) A fully-connected neural network with layer sizes specified by `hidden.layers` and activation function `activation.function` processes the integer-indexed responses. This network outputs unnormalized logits for posterior class membership ($N \times L$ matrix).

Attention Refiner (Transformer Encoder) A transformer encoder with `nhead` attention heads that learns latent class prior probabilities $\boldsymbol{\pi} = (\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_L)$ directly from observed responses.

- Input: response matrix ($N \times I$), where N = observations, I = continuous variables.
- Mechanism: Self-attention dynamically weighs variable importance during profile assignment, capturing complex multivariate interactions.
- Output: Class prior vector $\boldsymbol{\pi}$ computed as the mean of posteriors:

$$\pi_l = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \text{attention}(\mathbf{X}_n)$$

This ensures probabilistic consistency with the mixture model framework.

Profile Parameter Estimation Global conditional probability parameters ($P(X_i = k \mid Z = l)$) are stored as learnable parameters `par` (an $L \times I \times K_{\max}$ tensor). A *masked softmax* is applied along categories to enforce:

- Probabilities sum to 1 within each item-class pair
- Non-existent categories (beyond item's actual max response) are masked to zero probability

Optimization Strategy:

- **Hybrid Training Protocol:** Alternates between:
 - *Gradient-based phase:* AdamW optimizer minimizes negative log-likelihood with weight decay regularization:

$$-\log \mathcal{L} + \lambda \|\boldsymbol{\theta}\|_2^2$$

where λ is controlled by `lambda` (default: 1e-5). Learning rate decays adaptively when loss plateaus (controlled by `scheduler.patience` and `scheduler.factor`).

- *Simulated annealing phase:* After gradient-based early stopping (`maxiter.early`), parameters are perturbed with noise scaled by temperature:

$$\theta_{\text{new}} = \theta_{\text{current}} + \mathcal{N}\left(0, \theta_{\text{current}} \times \frac{T}{T_0}\right)$$

Temperature T decays geometrically ($T \leftarrow T \times \text{cooling.rate}$) from `initial.temperature` until `threshold.sa` is reached. This escapes poor local minima.

Each full cycle (gradient descent + annealing) repeats up to `maxcycle` times.

- **Model Selection:** Across `nrep` random restarts (using Dirichlet-distributed initializations or K-means), the solution with lowest BIC is retained.
- **Diagnostics:** Training loss, annealing points, and global best solution are plotted when `vis=TRUE`.

Mplus

When `method = "Mplus"`, estimation is delegated to external Mplus software. The function automates the entire workflow:

Workflow:

Temporary Directory Setup Creates `inst/Mplus` to store:

- Mplus input syntax (`.inp`)
- Data file in Mplus format (`.dat`)
- Posterior probabilities output (`.dat`)

Files are automatically deleted after estimation unless `control.Mplus$clean.files = FALSE`.

Syntax Generation Constructs Mplus syntax with:

- `CLASSES = c1(L)` specification for L latent classes
- `CATEGORICAL` declaration for all indicator variables
- `ANALYSIS` block with optimization controls:
 - `TYPE = mixture` Standard mixture modeling setup
 - `STARTS = starts nrep` Random starts and final stage optimizations
 - `STITERATIONS = maxiter.wa` max iterations during starts.
 - `MITERATIONS = maxiter` Maximum EM iterations
 - `CONVERGENCE = tol` Log-likelihood convergence tolerance
- `MODEL` block with `%OVERALL%`

Execution Calls Mplus via `MplusAutomation::mplusModeler()`, which:

- Converts R data to Mplus-compatible format with automatic recoding
- Invokes Mplus executable (requires valid license and system `PATH` configuration)

References

Hagenaars, J. A. , & McCutcheon, A. L. (2002). Applied Latent Class Analysis. United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press.

McLachlan, G. J., & Peel, D. (2004). Finite Mixture Models. Wiley. https://books.google.com.sg/books?id=c2_fAox0DQoC

Examples

```
# Example with simulated data
set.seed(123)
data.obj <- sim.LCA(N = 500, I = 4, L = 2, IQ=0.9)
response <- data.obj$response

# Fit 2-class model with EM algorithm
```

```

fit.em <- LCA(response, L = 2, method = "EM", nrep = 10)

# Fit 2-profile model using Mplus
# need Mplus
# NOTE: 'files.path' in control.Mplus is REQUIRED – function will error if not provided.
# Example creates a timestamped subfolder (e.g., "Mplus_LCA_YYYY-MM-DD_HH-MM-SS") under './'
# to store all temporary Mplus files (.inp, .dat, .out, etc.).
## Not run:
fit.mplus <- LCA(response, L = 2, method = "Mplus", nrep = 3,
                 control.Mplus = list(files.path = ""))

## End(Not run)

# Fit 2-class model with neural network estimation
# need Python
## Not run:
fit.nne <- LCA(response, L = 2, method = "NNE", nrep = 3)

## End(Not run)

```

Description

Implements the three-step estimation method (Vermunt, 2010; Liang et al., 2023) for latent class/profile analysis with covariates, treating latent class membership as an observed variable with measurement error. This is mathematically equivalent to a latent transition analysis (LTA) with `times=1`.

Usage

```

LCPA(
  response,
  L = 2,
  ref.class = L,
  type = "LCA",
  covariate = NULL,
  CEP.error = TRUE,
  par.ini = "random",
  params = NULL,
  is.sort = TRUE,
  constraint = "VV",
  method = "EM",
  tol = 1e-04,
  method.SE = "Bootstrap",
  n.Bootstrap = 100,
  maxiter = 5000,

```

```

nrep = 20,
starts = 100,
maxiter.wa = 20,
vis = TRUE,
control.EM = NULL,
control.Mplus = NULL,
control.NNE = NULL
)

```

Arguments

response	A matrix or data frame of observed responses. Rows of the matrix represent individuals/participants/observations (N), columns of the matrix represent observed items/variables (I). For type = "LCA": items must be binary or categorical (coded as integers starting from 0). For type = "LPA": items must be continuous (numeric), and the response matrix must be standardized using scale or normalize prior to input.
L	Integer scalar. Number of latent classes/profiles. Must satisfy $L \geq 2$.
ref.class	Integer $L \geq \text{ref.class} \geq 1$. Specifies which latent class to use as the reference category. Default is L (last class). Coefficients for the reference class are fixed to zero. When <code>is.sort=TRUE</code> , classes are first ordered by decreasing P.Z (class 1 has highest probability), then <code>ref.class</code> refers to the position in this sorted order.
type	Character string. Specifies the type of latent variable model for Step 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "LCA" — Latent Class Analysis for categorical items. • "LPA" — Latent Profile Analysis for continuous items. See LCA and LPA for details.
covariate	Optional. A matrix or data frame of covariates for modeling latent class membership. Must include an intercept column (all 1s) as the first column. If NULL (default), only intercept terms are used (i.e., no covariates). Dimension is $N \times p$ where p is the number of covariates including intercept.
CEP.error	Logical. If TRUE (recommended), incorporates classification uncertainty via estimated Classification Error Probability (get.CEP) matrices from Step 1. If FALSE, uses identity CEP matrices (equivalent to naive modal assignment; introduces bias).
par.ini	Specification for parameter initialization. Options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "random": Completely random initialization (default). • "kmeans": Initializes parameters via K-means clustering on observed data (McLachlan & Peel, 2004). • A list for LCA containing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> par An $L \times I \times K_{\max}$ array of initial conditional probabilities for each latent class, item, and response category (where K_{\max} is the maximum number of categories across items). P.Z A numeric vector of length L specifying initial prior probabilities for latent classes.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list for LPA containing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> means An $L \times I$ matrix of initial mean vectors for each profile. covs An $I \times I \times L$ array of initial covariance matrices for each profile. P.Z A numeric vector of length L specifying initial prior probabilities for profiles.
params	<p>Optional list of pre-estimated Step 1 parameters. If NULL (default), Step 1 models are estimated internally. If provided, no LCA or LPA parameter estimation will be performed; instead, the parameters provided in <code>params</code> will be used as fixed values. Additionally, <code>params</code> must contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list for LCA containing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> par An $L \times I \times K_{\max}$ array of initial conditional probabilities for each latent class, item, and response category (where K_{\max} is the maximum number of categories across items). P.Z A numeric vector of length L specifying initial prior probabilities for latent classes. • A list for LPA containing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> means An $L \times I$ matrix of initial mean vectors for each profile. covs An $I \times I \times L$ array of initial covariance matrices for each profile. P.Z A numeric vector of length L specifying initial prior probabilities for profiles.
is.sort	A logical value. If TRUE (Default), the latent classes will be ordered in descending order according to P.Z. All other parameters will be adjusted accordingly based on the reordered latent classes.
constraint	<p>Character (LPA only). Specifies structure of within-class covariance matrices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "VV" — Class-varying variances and covariances (unconstrained; default). • "EE" — Equal variances and covariances across all classes (homoscedastic).
method	<p>Character. Estimation algorithm for Step 1 models:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "EM" — Expectation-Maximization (default; robust and widely used). • "Mplus" — Interfaces with Mplus software (requires external installation). • "NNE" — Neural Network Estimator (experimental; uses transformer + simulated annealing, more reliable than both "EM" and "Mplus").
tol	Convergence tolerance for log-likelihood difference (default: 1e-4).
method.SE	<p>Character. Method for estimating standard errors of parameter estimates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Obs" — Approximates the observed information matrix via numerical differentiation (Richardson's method). Standard errors are obtained from the inverse Hessian. May fail or be unreliable in small samples or with complex likelihood surfaces. • "Bootstrap" — Uses nonparametric bootstrap resampling to estimate empirical sampling variability. More robust to model misspecification and small-sample bias. Computationally intensive but recommended when asymptotic assumptions are questionable. <p>Default is "Bootstrap".</p>

n.Bootstrap	Integer. Number of bootstrap replicates used when method.SE = "Bootstrap". Default is 100. McLachlan & Peel (2004) suggest that 50–100 replicates often provide adequate accuracy for practical purposes, though more (e.g., 500–1000) may be preferred for publication-quality inference. Each replicate involves re-estimating the full three-step LTA model on a resampled dataset.
maxiter	Maximum number of iterations for optimizing the regression coefficients. Default: 5000.
nrep	Integer controlling replication behavior: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If par.ini = "random", number of random initializations. • If par.ini = "kmeans", number of K-means runs for initialization. • For method="Mplus", controls number of random starts in Mplus via STARTS option. • Best solution is selected by log-likelihood/BIC across replications. • Ignored for user-provided initial parameters.
starts	Number of random initializations to explore during warm-up phase (default: 100).
maxiter.wa	Maximum number of training iterations allowed per warm-up run. After completion, the top nrep solutions (by log-likelihood) are promoted to final training phase (default: 20).
vis	Logical. If TRUE, displays progress information during estimation (default: TRUE).
control.EM	List of control parameters for EM algorithm: <p>maxiter Maximum iterations (default: 2000).</p> <p>tol Convergence tolerance for log-likelihood difference (default: 1e-4).</p>
control.Mplus	List of control parameters for Mplus estimation: <p>maxiter Maximum iterations for Mplus optimization (default: 2000).</p> <p>tol Convergence tolerance for log-likelihood difference (default: 1e-4).</p> <p>files.path Character string specifying the directory path where Mplus will write its intermediate files (e.g., .inp model input, .dat data file, .out output, and saved posterior probabilities). This argument is required — if NULL (default), the function throws an error. The specified directory must exist and be writable; if it does not exist, the function attempts to create it recursively. A unique timestamped subdirectory (e.g., "Mplus_LPA_YYYY-MM-DD_HH-MM-SS" or "Mplus_LCA_YYYY-MM-DD_HH-MM-SS") will be created within this path to store all run-specific files and avoid naming conflicts. See in LCA and LPA.</p> <p>files.clean Logical. If TRUE (default), all intermediate files and the temporary working directory created for this run are deleted upon successful completion or error exit (via on.exit()). If FALSE, all generated files are retained in files.path (or the auto-generated temp dir) for inspection or debugging. Note: when files.path = NULL, even if files.clean = FALSE, the temporary directory may still be cleaned up by the system later — for guaranteed persistence, specify a custom files.path.</p>
control.NNE	List of control parameters for NNE algorithm:

`hidden.layers` Integer vector specifying layer sizes in fully-connected network (default: `c(16,16)`).
`activation.function` Activation function (e.g., "tanh", default: "tanh").
`use.attention` Whether to enable the self-attention mechanism (i.e., transformer encoder) (default: TRUE).
`d.model` Dimensionality of transformer encoder embeddings (default: 8).
`nhead` Number of attention heads in transformer (default: 2).
`dim.feedforward` Dimensionality of transformer feedforward network (default: 16).
`eps` Small constant for numerical stability (default: 1e-8).
`lambda` A factor for slight regularization of all parameters (default: 1e-5).
`initial.temperature` Initial temperature for simulated annealing (default: 1000).
`cooling.rate` Cooling rate per iteration in simulated annealing (default: 0.5).
`maxiter.sa` Maximum iterations for simulated annealing (default: 1000).
`threshold.sa` Minimum temperature threshold for annealing (default: 1e-10).
`maxiter` Maximum training epochs (default: 1000).
`maxiter.early` Patience parameter for early stopping (default: 50).
`maxcycle` Maximum cycles for optimization (default: 10).
`lr` Learning rate, controlling the step size of neural network parameter updates (default: 0.025).
`scheduler.patience` Patience for learning rate decay (if the loss function does not improve for more than `patience` consecutive epochs, the learning rate will be reduced) (default: 10).
`scheduler.factor` Learning rate decay factor; the new learning rate equals the original learning rate multiplied by `scheduler.factor` (default: 0.70).
`plot.interval` Interval (in epochs) for plotting training diagnostics (default: 100).
`device` Specifies the hardware device; can be "CPU" (default) or "GPU". If the GPU is not available, it automatically falls back to CPU.

Value

An object of class LCPA, a named list containing:

`beta` Matrix of size $p \times L$. Coefficients for class membership multinomial logit model. Columns 1 to $L - 1$ are free parameters; column L (reference class) is constrained to $\beta_L = \mathbf{0}$.
`beta.se` Standard errors for `beta` (if Hessian is invertible). Same dimensions as `beta`. May contain NA if variance-covariance matrix is not positive definite.
`beta.Z.sta` Z-statistics for testing null hypothesis that each `beta` coefficient equals zero. Computed as `beta / beta.se`. Same structure as `beta`.
`beta.p.value.tail1` One-tailed p-values based on standard normal distribution: $P(Z < -|z|)$. Useful for directional hypotheses. Same structure as `beta`.
`beta.p.value.tail2` Two-tailed p-values: $2 \times P(Z < -|z|)$. Standard test for non-zero effect. Same structure as `beta`.

- P.Z.Xn Matrix of size $N \times L$ of posterior class probabilities $P(Z_n = l | \mathbf{X}_n)$ for each individual n and class l .
- P.Z Vector of length L containing prior class proportions $P(Z = l)$ estimated at Step 1.
- Z Vector of length N containing modal class assignments (MAP classifications) \hat{z}_n for each individual.
- npar Number of free parameters in the model (depends on covariates).
- Log.Lik Observed-data log-likelihood value at convergence.
- Log.Lik.history Vector tracking log-likelihood at each iteration.
- AIC Akaike Information Criterion value.
- BIC Bayesian Information Criterion value.
- iterations Integer. Number of optimization iterations in Step 3.
- covered Logical. TRUE if optimization terminated before reaching maxiter (suggesting convergence). Note: This is a heuristic indicator; formal convergence diagnostics should check Hessian properties.
- params List. Step 1 model parameters (output from LCA() or LPA()).
- call The matched function call.
- arguments List of all input arguments passed to the function (useful for reproducibility).

Methodology Overview

The three-step procedure follows the same principles as LTA but for a single time point:

Step 1 — Unconditional Latent Class/Profile Model: Fit an unconditional LCA or LPA model (ignoring covariates). Obtain posterior class membership probabilities $P(Z_n = l | \mathbf{X}_n)$ for each individual n and class l using Bayes' theorem.

Step 2 — Classification Error Probabilities (equal to `get.CEP`): Compute the $L \times L$ CEP matrix where element (k, l) estimates:

$$\text{CEP}(k, l) = P(\hat{Z}_n = l | Z_n = k)$$

using a non-parametric approximation:

$$\widehat{\text{CEP}}(k, l) = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N \mathbb{I}(\hat{z}_n = l) \cdot P(Z_n = k | \mathbf{X}_n)}{\sum_{n=1}^N P(Z_n = k | \mathbf{X}_n)}$$

where \hat{z}_n is the modal class assignment.

Step 3 — Class Membership Model with Measurement Error Correction: Estimate the multinomial logit model for class membership:

$$P(Z_n = l | \mathbf{X}_n) = \frac{\exp(\beta_l^\top \mathbf{X}_n)}{\sum_{k=1}^L \exp(\beta_k^\top \mathbf{X}_n)}$$

where $\mathbf{X}_n = (1, W_{n1}, \dots, W_{nM})^\top$ is the covariate vector for individual n (with intercept as first column), and $\beta_l = (\beta_{l0}, \beta_{l1}, \dots, \beta_{lM})^\top$ contains intercept and regression coefficients. Class L is the reference category ($\beta_L = \mathbf{0}$).

The observed-data likelihood integrates over latent classes:

$$\log \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = \sum_{n=1}^N \log \left[\sum_{l=1}^L \text{CEP}(l, \hat{z}_n) \cdot P(Z_n = l \mid \mathbf{X}_n) \right]$$

Parameters $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ are estimated via maximum likelihood using the BOBYQA algorithm.

Important Implementation Details

- **Reference Class:** Coefficients for the reference class (`ref.class`) are ALWAYS fixed to zero ($\beta_{ref.class} = 0$) in the multinomial logit model.
- **CEP Matrices:** When `CEP.error = TRUE`, misclassification probabilities are estimated non-parametrically using Step 1 posterior probabilities. This corrects for classification uncertainty. See in `get.CEP`.
- **Covariate Requirements:** Covariate matrix MUST include an intercept column (all 1s) as the first column. Dimensions must be $N \times (M + 1)$, where M represents the number of covariate and 1 is the Intercept.
- **Optimization & Standard Errors:**
 - Step 3 uses BOBYQA algorithm (`nloptr::nloptr`) for stable optimization with box constraints.
 - For `method.SE = "Obs"`: Standard errors derived from inverse Hessian (`hessian`). If Hessian is singular:
 - * Uses Moore-Penrose pseudoinverse (`ginv`)
 - * Sets negative variances to NA
 - For `method.SE = "Bootstrap"`: Each replicate independently re-estimates Steps 1-3. Failed bootstrap runs yield NA in SEs and derived statistics. Progress messages include replicate index and optimization diagnostics.
- **Computational Notes:**
 - Step 1 complexity increases with L and I .
 - Bootstrap is computationally intensive: 100 replicates = 100 full re-estimations of Steps 1-3.
- **Bootstrap Reproducibility:** Always set a seed (e.g., `set.seed(123)`) before calling `LCPA()` when using `method.SE = "Bootstrap"`. Monitor convergence in bootstrap runs via progress messages.

References

- Vermunt, J. K. (2010). Latent class modeling with covariates: Two improved three-step approaches. *Political Analysis*, 18(4), 450–469. <https://doi.org/10.1093/pan/mpq025>
- Liang, Q., la Torre, J. d., & Law, N. (2023). Latent Transition Cognitive Diagnosis Model With Covariates: A Three-Step Approach. *Journal of Educational and Behavioral Statistics*, 48(6), 690–718. <https://doi.org/10.3102/10769986231163320>

Examples

```

library(LCPA)

set.seed(123)
N <- 2000 # Sample size
L <- 3    # Number of latent classes
I <- 6    # Number of items

# Create covariates (intercept + 2 covariates + 1 interaction)
Intercept = rep(1, N)
X1 <- rnorm(N)
X2 <- rbinom(N, 1, 0.5)
X1.X2 <- X1 * X2
covariate <- cbind(Intercept, X1, X2, X1.X2)

# Simulate data for LPA
sim_data <- sim.LTA(
  N = N, I = I, L = L, times = 1, type = "LPA",
  covariates = list(covariate), is.sort=TRUE,
  beta = matrix(c(
    -0.2, 0.0, -0.1, ## fix reference class to class 2
    0.2, 0.0, -0.3,
    0.8, 0.0, -0.6,
    -0.1, 0.0, 0.3
  ), ncol = L, byrow = TRUE)
)
response <- sim_data$responses[[1]]

## It is strongly recommended to perform the following
## standardization to obtain more stable results when LPA.
## Standardization is not performed here in order to
## compare estimated values with true values.
# response <- normalize(response)

# Fit cross-sectional LPA with covariates
## fix reference class to class 2
# need Mplus
## Not run:
fit <- LCPA(
  response = response,
  L = L, ref.class = 2,
  type = "LPA", is.sort=TRUE,
  covariate = covariate,
  method.SE = "Obs",
  CEP.error = TRUE,
  method = "Mplus",
  control.Mplus = list(files.path = ""),
  vis = TRUE
)
print(fit)

## End(Not run)

```

 logit

 Compute the Logistic (Sigmoid) Function

Description

This function computes the logistic (also known as sigmoid) transformation of the input. The logistic function maps real-valued numbers to the open interval (0, 1), and is widely used in machine learning, statistical modeling (e.g., logistic regression), and neural networks as an activation function or link function.

Usage

```
logit(x)
```

Arguments

x A numeric vector, matrix, or array. Accepts any real number, including Inf and -Inf. Missing values (NA) are preserved.

Details

The logistic function is defined as:

$$\text{logit}^{-1}(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}}$$

Note: Despite the name "logit", this function actually computes the *inverse logit* (i.e., the logistic function). The true logit function is the inverse: $\log(p/(1 - p))$. However, in many applied contexts—especially in software—the term "logit" is sometimes informally used to refer to the sigmoid. For clarity, this implementation follows the conventional definition of the logistic/sigmoid function.

Value

A numeric object of the same dimension as **x**, where each element is the logistic transformation of the corresponding input:

- If $x = 0$, returns 0.5
- As $x \rightarrow \text{Inf}$, output approaches 1
- As $x \rightarrow -\text{Inf}$, output approaches 0
- NA values remain NA

Examples

```
logit(0)           # 0.5
logit(c(-Inf, 0, Inf)) # c(0, 0.5, 1)
logit(c(-2, -1, 0, 1, 2))
```

Description

This function estimates parameters of a Latent Profile Analysis (LPA) model for continuous observed variables using one of three methods: Expectation-Maximization (EM) algorithm, Neural Network Estimation (NNE), or external Mplus software. It supports flexible covariance structures and initialization strategies.

Usage

```
LPA(
  response,
  L = 2,
  par.ini = "random",
  constraint = "VV",
  method = "EM",
  is.sort = TRUE,
  nrep = 20,
  starts = 100,
  maxiter.wa = 20,
  vis = TRUE,
  control.EM = NULL,
  control.Mplus = NULL,
  control.NNE = NULL
)
```

Arguments

response	A numeric matrix of dimension $N \times I$, where N is the number of individuals/participants/observations and I is the number of continuous observed items/variables. Missing values are not allowed. Note that response must be standardized using scale or normalize before input.
L	Integer specifying the number of latent profiles (default: 2).
par.ini	Specification for parameter initialization. Options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "random": Random initialization of means and covariances (default). • "kmeans": Initializes parameters via K-means clustering on observed data (McLachlan & Peel, 2004). • A list containing exactly three elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> means An $L \times I$ matrix of initial mean vectors for each profile. covs An $I \times I \times L$ array of initial covariance matrices for each profile. P.Z A numeric vector of length L specifying initial prior probabilities for profiles.
constraint	Character string specifying covariance structure constraints:

	<p>"VV" Varying variances and varying covariances across profiles (heterogeneous full covariance; Default).</p> <p>"VE" Varying variances but equal correlations across profiles.</p> <p>"EV" Equal variances but varying covariances across profiles.</p> <p>"EE" Equal variances and equal covariances across profiles (homogeneous full covariance).</p> <p>"E0" Equal variances across profiles, zero covariances (diagonal with shared variances).</p> <p>"V0" Varying variances across profiles, zero covariances (diagonal with free variances).</p> <p>list Custom constraints. Each element is a 2-element integer vector specifying variables whose covariance parameters are constrained equal across all classes. The constraint applies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variances: When both indices are identical (e.g., $c(3, 3)$ forces variance of variable 3 to be equal across classes). • Covariances: When indices differ (e.g., $c(1, 2)$ forces covariance between variables 1 and 2 to be equal across classes). <p>Constraints are symmetric (e.g., $c(1, 2)$ automatically constrains $c(2, 1)$). All unconstrained parameters vary freely across classes while maintaining positive definiteness.</p>
method	<p>Character string specifying estimation algorithm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "EM": Expectation-Maximization algorithm (Default). • "NNE": Neural Network Estimation with transformer architecture (experimental; uses transformer + simulated annealing, more reliable than both "EM" and "Mplus"). See install_python_dependencies. • "Mplus": Calls external Mplus software for estimation. Uses Mplus defaults for optimization unless overridden by <code>control.Mplus</code>.
is.sort	<p>A logical value. If TRUE (Default), the latent classes will be ordered in descending order according to P. Z. All other parameters will be adjusted accordingly based on the reordered latent classes.</p>
nrep	<p>Integer controlling replication behavior:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If <code>par.ini = "random"</code>, number of random initializations. • If <code>par.ini = "kmeans"</code>, number of K-means runs for initialization. • For <code>method="Mplus"</code>, controls number of random starts in Mplus via STARTS option. • Best solution is selected by log-likelihood/BIC across replications. • Ignored for user-provided initial parameters.
starts	<p>Number of random initializations to explore during warm-up phase (default: 100).</p>
maxiter.wa	<p>Maximum number of training iterations allowed per warm-up run. After completion, the top nrep solutions (by log-likelihood) are promoted to final training phase (default: 20).</p>
vis	<p>Logical. If TRUE, displays progress information during estimation (default: TRUE).</p>
control.EM	<p>List of control parameters for EM algorithm:</p>

- `maxiter` Maximum iterations (default: 2000).
`tol` Convergence tolerance for log-likelihood difference (default: 1e-4).
- `control.Mplus` List of control parameters for Mplus estimation:
- `maxiter` Maximum iterations for Mplus optimization (default: 2000).
`tol` Convergence tolerance for log-likelihood difference (default: 1e-4).
`files.path` Character string specifying the directory path where Mplus will write its intermediate files (e.g., `.inp` model input, `.dat` data file, `.out` output, and saved posterior probabilities). This argument is **required** — if NULL (default), the function throws an error. The specified directory must exist and be writable; if it does not exist, the function attempts to create it recursively. A unique timestamped subdirectory (e.g., "Mplus_LPA_YYYY-MM-DD_HH-MM-SS") will be created within this path to store all run-specific files and avoid naming conflicts.
`files.clean` Logical. If TRUE (default), all intermediate files and the temporary working directory created for this run are deleted upon successful completion or error exit (via `on.exit()`). If FALSE, all generated files are retained in `files.path` (or the auto-generated temp dir) for inspection or debugging. Note: when `files.path` = NULL, even if `files.clean` = FALSE, the temporary directory may still be cleaned up by the system later — for guaranteed persistence, specify a custom `files.path`.
- `control.NNE` List of control parameters for NNE algorithm:
- `hidden.layers` Integer vector specifying layer sizes in fully-connected network (default: `c(16,16)`).
`activation.function` Activation function (e.g., "tanh", default: "tanh").
`use.attention` Whether to enable the self-attention mechanism (i.e., transformer encoder) (default: TRUE).
`d.model` Dimensionality of transformer encoder embeddings (default: 8).
`nhead` Number of attention heads in transformer (default: 2).
`dim.feedforward` Dimensionality of transformer feedforward network (default: 16).
`eps` Small constant for numerical stability (default: 1e-8).
`lambda` A factor for slight regularization of all parameters (default: 1e-5).
`initial.temperature` Initial temperature for simulated annealing (default: 1000).
`cooling.rate` Cooling rate per iteration in simulated annealing (default: 0.5).
`maxiter.sa` Maximum iterations for simulated annealing (default: 1000).
`threshold.sa` Minimum temperature threshold for annealing (default: 1e-10).
`maxiter` Maximum training epochs (default: 1000).
`maxiter.early` Patience parameter for early stopping (default: 50).
`maxcycle` Maximum cycles for optimization (default: 10).
`lr` Learning rate, controlling the step size of neural network parameter updates (default: 0.025).
`scheduler.patience` Patience for learning rate decay (if the loss function does not improve for more than `patience` consecutive epochs, the learning rate will be reduced) (default: 10).

`scheduler.factor` Learning rate decay factor; the new learning rate equals the original learning rate multiplied by `scheduler.factor` (default: 0.70).

`plot.interval` Interval (in epochs) for plotting training diagnostics (default: 100).

`device` Specifies the hardware device; can be "CPU" (default) or "GPU". If the GPU is not available, it automatically falls back to CPU.

Value

An object of class "LPA" containing:

`params` List with estimated profile parameters:

`means` $L \times I$ matrix of estimated mean vectors for each profile.

`covs` $I \times I \times L$ array of estimated covariance matrices for each profile.

`P.Z` Vector of length L with profile prior probabilities.

`npar` Number of free parameters in the model (depends on constraint).

`Log.Lik` Log-likelihood of the final model.

`AIC` Akaike Information Criterion value.

`BIC` Bayesian Information Criterion value.

`best_BIC` Best BIC value across `nrep` runs (if applicable).

`P.Z.Xn` $N \times L$ matrix of posterior profile probabilities for each observation.

`P.Z` Vector of length L containing the prior probabilities/structural parameters/proportions for each latent class.

`Z` Vector of length N with MAP-classified profile memberships.

`Log.Lik.history` Vector tracking log-likelihood at each EM iteration (only for `method="EM"`).

`Log.Lik.nrep` Vector of log-likelihoods from each replication run.

`model` The optimal model object:

- For `method="NNE"`: Trained neural network model.
- For `method="Mplus"`: Estimated Mplus model.

EM Algorithm

When `method = "EM"`, parameter estimation uses the Expectation-Maximization (EM) algorithm to maximize the observed-data log-likelihood:

$$\log \mathcal{L} = \sum_{n=1}^N \log \left[\sum_{l=1}^L \pi_l \cdot \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_n \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}_l, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_l) \right]$$

The algorithm iterates between two steps until convergence (change in log-likelihood < `tol` or max iterations reached):

E-step: Compute posterior class probabilities (responsibilities) for observation n and class l :

$$\tau_{nl} = \frac{\pi_l \cdot \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_n \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}_l, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_l)}{\sum_{k=1}^L \pi_k \cdot \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_n \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k)}$$

where $\mathcal{N}(\cdot)$ is the multivariate normal density, π_l is the prior class probability, and $\boldsymbol{\mu}_l, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_l$ are current parameters. Numerical stability is ensured via the log-sum-exp trick.

M-step: Update parameters using responsibilities τ_{nl} :

- Class probabilities: $\pi_l^{\text{new}} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \tau_{nl}$
- Class means: $\boldsymbol{\mu}_l^{\text{new}} = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N \tau_{nl} \mathbf{x}_n}{\sum_{n=1}^N \tau_{nl}}$
- Class covariances: Updated under constraints:

$$\text{"VV"} \quad \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_l^{\text{new}} = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N \tau_{nl} (\mathbf{x}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu}_l^{\text{new}})(\mathbf{x}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu}_l^{\text{new}})^\top}{\sum_{n=1}^N \tau_{nl}}$$

$$\text{"EE"} \quad \text{Shared covariance: } \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{\text{new}} = \frac{\sum_{l=1}^L \sum_{n=1}^N \tau_{nl} (\mathbf{x}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu}_l^{\text{new}})(\mathbf{x}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu}_l^{\text{new}})^\top}{\sum_{l=1}^L \sum_{n=1}^N \tau_{nl}}$$

"VE" (default) / "EV" Hybrid constraints (e.g., "VE": varying variances, equal correlations). Off-diagonal elements use weighted averages across classes; diagonals retain class-specific values.

Custom constraints User-specified variances/covariances (e.g., `list(c(1, 2), c(2, 2))`), meaning the covariates of observed variable 1 and observed variable 2 are equal across latent classes, and the variance of observed variable 2 is equal across classes) are forced equal across classes via weighted averaging.

Covariance matrices are regularized to ensure positive definiteness:

- Eigenvalues $< \text{jitter}$ ($1e-10$) are replaced with `jitter`
- Failed Cholesky decompositions trigger diagonal jittering or perturbation of non-constrained elements

Edge Handling:

- Empty classes ($\sum_n \tau_{nl} < 10^{-5}$) are reinitialized by redistributing responsibilities.
- Non-finite likelihoods trigger fallback to previous valid parameters or covariance perturbation.
- Univariate cases ($I = 1$) bypass Cholesky decomposition for direct variance updates.

Neural Network Estimation (NNE)

When `method = "NNE"`, parameters are estimated using a hybrid neural network architecture combining fully-connected layers with transformer-based attention mechanisms. This approach jointly optimizes profile parameters and posterior probabilities through stochastic optimization with simulated annealing. See [install_python_dependencies](#). Key components include:

Architecture:

Input Representation: Continuous observed variables $\mathbf{x}_n \in \mathbb{R}^I$ are standardized (mean-centered, unit-variance) internally during training to improve numerical stability. No encoding is needed — raw values are fed directly.

Feature Encoder (Feedforward Network): A multi-layer perceptron with architecture defined by `hidden.layers` and `activation.function` maps the continuous input vector into a latent space of dimension `d.model`. This layer learns non-linear feature combinations predictive of latent profile membership.

Attention Refiner (Transformer Encoder) A transformer encoder with n attention heads that learns latent class prior probabilities $\boldsymbol{\pi} = (\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_L)$ directly from observed responses.

- Input: response matrix ($N \times I$), where N = observations, I = continuous variables.
- Mechanism: Self-attention dynamically weighs variable importance during profile assignment, capturing complex multivariate interactions.
- Output: Class prior vector $\boldsymbol{\pi}$ computed as the mean of posteriors:

$$\pi_l = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \text{attention}(\mathbf{X}_n)$$

This ensures probabilistic consistency with the mixture model framework.

Parameter Head (Means & Covariances): Two separate projection heads branch from the transformer output:

- Means Head: Linear projection to $L \times I$ matrix $\boldsymbol{\mu}_l$.
- Covariance Head: Outputs lower-triangular elements of Cholesky factors \mathbf{L}_l for each profile. Diagonal elements are passed through `softplus` to ensure positivity; off-diagonals use `tanh` scaled by 1.2 to bound magnitude and promote stability. The full covariance is reconstructed via $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_l = \mathbf{L}_l \mathbf{L}_l^\top$.

After reconstruction, covariance constraints (e.g., "EE", "V0", or custom lists) are applied by averaging constrained elements across profiles and re-symmetrizing.

Optimization Strategy:

- **Hybrid Training Protocol:** Alternates between:
 - *Gradient-based phase:* AdamW optimizer minimizes negative log-likelihood with weight decay regularization:

$$-\log \mathcal{L} + \lambda \|\boldsymbol{\theta}\|_2^2$$

where λ is controlled by `lambda` (default: 1e-5). Learning rate decays adaptively when loss plateaus (controlled by `scheduler.patience` and `scheduler.factor`).

- *Simulated annealing phase:* After gradient-based early stopping (`maxiter.early`), parameters are perturbed with noise scaled by temperature:

$$\theta_{\text{new}} = \theta_{\text{current}} + \mathcal{N}(0, \theta_{\text{current}} \times \frac{T}{T_0})$$

Temperature T decays geometrically ($T \leftarrow T \times \text{cooling.rate}$) from `initial.temperature` until `threshold.sa` is reached. This escapes poor local minima.

Each full cycle (gradient descent + annealing) repeats up to `maxcycle` times.

- **Model Selection:** Across `nrep` random restarts (using Dirichlet-distributed initializations or K-means), the solution with lowest BIC is retained.
- **Diagnostics:** Training loss, annealing points, and global best solution are plotted when `vis=TRUE`.

Constraint Handling:

- Covariance constraints (`constraint`) are enforced *after* activation via:
 - Shared Parameters: Variances/covariances marked for equality are replaced by their average across profiles.

- Positive Definiteness: Non-positive definite matrices are corrected via eigenvalue clamping, diagonal jittering, or adaptive Cholesky decomposition.
- Custom constraints: e.g., `list(c(1,2), c(3,3))`, force equality of specific covariance elements across profiles, with symmetry ($\sigma_{12} = \sigma_{21}$) automatically enforced.

Mplus

When `method = "Mplus"`, estimation is delegated to external Mplus software. The function automates the entire workflow:

Workflow:

Temporary Directory Setup Creates `inst/Mplus` to store:

- Mplus input syntax (`.inp`)
- Data file in Mplus format (`.dat`)
- Posterior probabilities output (`.dat`)

Files are automatically deleted after estimation unless `control.Mplus$clean.files = FALSE`.

Syntax Generation Constructs Mplus syntax with:

- `CLASSES = c1(L)` specification for L latent classes
- `ANALYSIS` block with optimization controls:
 - `TYPE = mixture` Standard mixture modeling setup
 - `STARTS = starts nrep` Random starts and final stage optimizations
 - `STITERATIONS = maxiter.wa` max iterations during starts.
 - `MITERATIONS = maxiter` Maximum EM iterations
 - `CONVERGENCE = tol` Log-likelihood convergence tolerance
- `MODEL` block reflecting the specified constraint structure

Execution Calls Mplus via `MplusAutomation::mplusModeler()`, which:

- Writes data to disk in Mplus-compatible format
- Invokes the Mplus executable (requires valid license)
- Captures convergence status and output

Constraint Handling:

- Covariance constraints (`constraint`) are enforced *after* activation via:
 - Shared Parameters: Variances/covariances marked for equality are replaced by their average across profiles.
 - Positive Definiteness: Non-positive definite matrices are corrected via eigenvalue clamping, diagonal jittering, or adaptive Cholesky decomposition.
- Custom constraints: e.g., `list(c(1,2), c(3,3))`, force equality of specific covariance elements across profiles, with symmetry ($\sigma_{12} = \sigma_{21}$) automatically enforced.

References

McLachlan, G. J., & Peel, D. (2004). *Finite Mixture Models*. Wiley. https://books.google.com.sg/books?id=c2_fAox0DQoC

Examples

```

# Simulate bivariate continuous data for 2 profiles
set.seed(123)
data.obj <- sim.LPA(N = 500, I = 3, L = 2, constraint = "VV")
response <- data.obj$response

## It is strongly recommended to perform the following
## standardization to obtain more stable results.
## Standardization is not performed here in order to
## compare estimated values with true values.
# response <- normalize(response)

# Fit 2-profile model with VV constraint (default)
fit_vv <- LPA(response, L = 2, constraint = "VV")

# Fit 2-profile model with E0 constraint using neural network estimation
# need Python
## Not run:
fit_e0_nne <- LPA(response, L = 2, constraint = "E0", method = "NNE", nrep = 2)

## End(Not run)

# Fit 2-profile model using Mplus
# Requires Mplus to be installed and available in system PATH.
# NOTE: 'files.path' in control.Mplus is REQUIRED – the function will
# throw an error if not provided.
# This example creates a timestamped subdirectory
# (e.g., "Mplus_LPA_YYYY-MM-DD_HH-MM-SS") under './inst'
# to store all temporary Mplus files (.inp, .dat, .out, etc.).
# The 'inst' directory will be created if it does not exist.
# Setting files.clean=FALSE means temporary files will be preserved after execution.
## Not run:
fit_mplus <- LPA(response, L = 2, method = "Mplus", constraint = list(c(1, 2), c(3, 3)),
  control.Mplus = list(files.path = "inst", files.clean=FALSE))

## End(Not run)

```

LRT.test

Likelihood Ratio Test

Description

Conducts a likelihood ratio test to compare the fit of two models. The test evaluates whether a model with more parameters provides a significantly better fit than a model with fewer parameters.

Usage

```
LRT.test(object1, object2)
```

Arguments

object1	Fitted model object with fewer parameters (i.e., fewer npar, small model).
object2	Fitted model object with more parameters (i.e., more npar, large model).

Details

Note that since the small model may be nested within the large model, the result of `LRT.test` may not be accurate and is provided for reference only. More reliable conclusions should be based on a combination of fit indices (i.e., `get.fit.index`), classification accuracy measures (i.e., `get.entropy`, `get.AvePP`), and a bootstrapped likelihood-ratio test (i.e., BLRT, `LRT.test.Bootstrap`, which is very time-consuming). Above all and the most important criterion, is that the better model is the one that aligns with theoretical expectations and offers clear interpretability.

The `LRT.test` test statistic is defined as:

- The models must be *nested* (i.e., the model with fewer parameters is a constrained version of the more one).
- Both models must be fit on the identical dataset with the same response variables.
- The test statistic asymptotically follows a chi-square distribution.

$$LRT = -2 \times (\text{LogLik}_1 - \text{LogLik}_2)$$

where:

- LogLik_1 : Log-likelihood of the smaller model (fewer parameters).
- LogLik_2 : Log-likelihood of the larger model (more parameters).

Under the null hypothesis (H_0 : small model is true), LRT asymptotically follows a chi-square distribution with df degrees of freedom.

Value

An object of class "htest" containing:

- `statistic`: VLMR adjusted test statistic
- `parameter`: Degrees of freedom ($df = npar_2 - npar_1$)
- `p.value`: P-value from χ^2_{df} distribution
- `method`: Name of the test
- `data.name`: Model comparison description

LRT.test.Bootstrap *Bootstrap Likelihood Ratio Test*

Description

Conducts a bootstrap likelihood ratio test to compare the fit of two nested models. This test evaluates whether a model with more parameters provides a significantly better fit than a model with fewer parameters by approximating the null distribution through parametric bootstrapping.

Usage

```
LRT.test.Bootstrap(object1, object2, n.Bootstrap = 100, vis = TRUE)
```

Arguments

object1	Fitted model object with fewer parameters (i.e., fewer npar, small model).
object2	Fitted model object with more parameters (i.e., more npar, large model).
n.Bootstrap	Number of bootstrap replicates (default = 100). Higher values increase accuracy but computation time (we suggest that n.Bootstrap = 1000).
vis	Logical. If TRUE, displays progress information during bootstrap (default: TRUE).

Details

Note that even the result of `LRT.test.Bootstrap` should not be taken as the sole criterion; fit indices (e.g., `get.fit.index`) and classification accuracy measures (e.g., `get.entropy`, `get.AvePP`) must be considered together. Above all and the most important criterion, is that the better model is the one that aligns with theoretical expectations and offers clear interpretability.

The `LRT.test.Bootstrap` statistic is calculated as:

$$LRT = -2 \times (\text{LogLik}_1 - \text{LogLik}_2)$$

where:

- LogLik_1 : Log-likelihood of the smaller model (fewer parameters).
- LogLik_2 : Log-likelihood of the larger model (more parameters).

The `LRT.test.Bootstrap` function employs a parametric bootstrap procedure to empirically estimate the distribution of the LRT statistic under the null hypothesis (that the smaller model is sufficient). The specific steps are as follows:

1. Parameter Extraction: The estimated parameters (params) from the smaller model (object1) are treated as the true population values (ground truth).
2. Data Simulation: The function invokes `sim.LCA` or `sim.LPA` to generate n.Bootstrap independent datasets. Each dataset maintains the same sample size (N) and number of indicators (I) as the original empirical data.

3. Model Re-fitting: For each simulated dataset, both the small model and the large model are re-fitted. To ensure consistency, the estimation settings (e.g., convergence criteria, iterations) are identical to those used for the original models, with the exception that `LRT.test.Bootstrap` forces `par.ini = "random"` to avoid local maxima.
4. Distribution Generation: This process generates `n.Bootstrap` pairs of $\text{LogLik}_{1,boot}$ and $\text{LogLik}_{2,boot}$, which are used to compute a collection of bootstrap LRT statistics: $LRT_{boot} = -2 \times (\text{LogLik}_{1,boot} - \text{LogLik}_{2,boot})$.
5. P-value Calculation: The bootstrap p -value is calculated as the proportion of simulated LRT_{boot} values that are greater than or equal to the observed LRT statistic from the original data.

This method is particularly recommended for Latent Class and Latent Profile Analysis because the traditional Chi-square distribution for LRT often fails to hold due to parameters being on the boundary of the parameter space (e.g., probabilities near 0 or 1).

Value

An object of class "htest" containing:

- `statistic`: Observed likelihood ratio test statistic
- `parameter`: Degrees of freedom (reported as NA since p-value is bootstrap-derived)
- `p.value`: Bootstrap p-value
- `method`: Name of the test ("Bootstrap Likelihood Ratio Test")
- `data.name`: Model comparison description

LRT.test.VLMR

Lo-Mendell-Rubin likelihood ratio test

Description

Implements the ad-hoc adjusted likelihood ratio test (LRT) described in Formula 15 of Lo, Mendell, & Rubin (2001), also known as VLMR LRT (Vuong-Lo-Mendell-Rubin Adjusted LRT). This method is typically used to compare models with $L-1$ and L classes. If the difference in the number of classes exceeds 1, conclusions should be interpreted with extreme caution.

Usage

```
LRT.test.VLMR(object1, object2)
```

Arguments

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| <code>object1</code> | Fitted model object with fewer parameters (i.e., fewer <code>npar</code> , small model). |
| <code>object2</code> | Fitted model object with more parameters (i.e., more <code>npar</code> , large model). |

Details

Note that since the small model may be nested within the large model, the result of `LRT.test.VLMR` may not be accurate and is provided for reference only. More reliable conclusions should be based on a combination of fit indices (i.e., `get.fit.index`), classification accuracy measures (i.e., `get.entropy`, `get.AvePP`), and a bootstrapped likelihood-ratio test (i.e., BLRT, `LRT.test.Bootstrap`, which is very time-consuming). Above all and the most important criterion, is that the better model is the one that aligns with theoretical expectations and offers clear interpretability.

The `LRT.test.VLMR` statistic is defined as:

$$VLMR = \frac{LRT}{c} \quad \text{where} \quad c = 1 + \frac{1}{df \cdot \log(N)}$$

where:

- *LRT* is the standard likelihood ratio statistic. see `LRT.test`
- $df = npar_2 - npar_1$ is the difference in number of free parameters between models.
- *N* is the sample size.

Under the null hypothesis (H_0 : small model is true), VLMR asymptotically follows a chi-square distribution with *df* degrees of freedom.

Value

An object of class "htest" containing:

- `statistic`: VLMR adjusted test statistic
- `parameter`: Degrees of freedom ($df = npar_2 - npar_1$)
- `p.value`: P-value from χ^2_{df} distribution
- `method`: Name of the test
- `data.name`: Model comparison description

References

Lo, Y., Mendell, N. R., & Rubin, D. B. (2001). Testing the number of components in a normal mixture. *Biometrika*, 88(3), 767-778. <https://doi.org/10.1093/biomet/88.3.767>

Nylund-Gibson, K., & Choi, A. Y. (2018). Ten frequently asked questions about latent class analysis. *Translational Issues in Psychological Science*, 4(4), 440-461. <https://doi.org/10.1037/tps0000176>

Description

Implements the three-step estimation method (Vermunt, 2010; Liang et al., 2023) for Latent Transition Analysis (LTA), treating latent class memberships at each time point as observed variables with measurement error. Classification uncertainty from Step 1 (latent class/profile analysis) is explicitly incorporated into the transition model estimation in Step 3, ensuring asymptotically unbiased estimates of transition probabilities and covariate effects. This avoids the bias introduced by "hard" modal-class assignment.

Usage

```
LTA(
  responses,
  L = 2,
  ref.class = L,
  type = "LCA",
  covariates = NULL,
  CEP.timeCross = FALSE,
  CEP.error = TRUE,
  covariates.timeCross = FALSE,
  par.ini = "random",
  params = NULL,
  is.sort = TRUE,
  constraint = "VV",
  method = "EM",
  tol = 1e-04,
  method.SE = "Bootstrap",
  n.Bootstrap = 100,
  maxiter = 5000,
  nrep = 20,
  starts = 100,
  maxiter.wa = 20,
  vis = TRUE,
  control.EM = NULL,
  control.Mplus = NULL,
  control.NNE = NULL
)
```

Arguments

responses A list of response matrices or data frames. Each matrix corresponds to one time point. Rows of each matrix represent individuals/participants/observations (N), columns of each matrix represent observed items/variables (I). For type = "LCA": items must be binary or categorical (coded as integers starting from

	0). For type = "LPA": items must be continuous (numeric), and each response matrix must be standardized using <code>scale</code> or <code>normalize</code> prior to input.
L	Integer scalar. Number of latent classes/profiles at each time point. Must satisfy $L \geq 2$.
ref.class	Integer $L \geq \text{ref.class} \geq 1$. Specifies which latent class to use as the reference category. Default is L (last class). Coefficients for the reference class are fixed to zero. When <code>is.sort=TRUE</code> , classes are first ordered by decreasing P.Z (class 1 has highest probability), then <code>ref.class</code> refers to the position in this sorted order.
type	Character string. Specifies the type of latent variable model for Step 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "LCA" — Latent Class Analysis for categorical items. • "LPA" — Latent Profile Analysis for continuous items. See LCA and LPA for details.
covariates	Optional. A list of matrices/data frames (length = number of time points). Each matrix contains covariates for modeling transitions or initial status. Must include an intercept column (all 1s) as the first column. If NULL (default), only intercept terms are used (i.e., no covariates). For time t , dimension is $N \times p_t$. Covariates can vary across time.
CEP.timeCross	Logical. If TRUE, assumes measurement invariance and uses the same Classification Error Probability (<code>get.CEP</code>) matrix across all time points. Requires that item parameters are invariant over time (not checked internally). Default is FALSE.
CEP.error	Logical. If TRUE (recommended), incorporates classification uncertainty via estimated CEP matrices from Step 1. If FALSE, uses identity CEP matrices (equivalent to naive modal assignment; introduces bias and not recommended).
covariates.timeCross	Logical. If TRUE, forces the use of identical γ parameters across all time points (i.e., a time-invariant probability transition matrix). In this case, users should ensure that the covariate matrices at different time points have the same dimensions (values may differ) to match the fixed form of the γ_{lkt} coefficients. Default is FALSE, allowing for potentially different probability transition matrices across time points.
par.ini	Specification for parameter initialization. Options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "random": Completely random initialization (default). • "kmeans": Initializes parameters via K-means clustering on observed data (McLachlan & Peel, 2004). • A list for LCA containing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> par An $L \times I \times K_{\max}$ array of initial conditional probabilities for each latent class, item, and response category (where K_{\max} is the maximum number of categories across items). P.Z A numeric vector of length L specifying initial prior probabilities for latent classes. • A list for LPA containing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> means An $L \times I$ matrix of initial mean vectors for each profile.

	<p>covs An $I \times I \times L$ array of initial covariance matrices for each profile.</p> <p>P.Z A numeric vector of length L specifying initial prior probabilities for profiles.</p>
params	<p>Optional list of pre-estimated Step 1 parameters. If NULL (default), Step 1 models are estimated internally. If provided, no LCA or LPA parameter estimation will be performed; instead, the parameters provided in params will be used as fixed values. Additionally, params must contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list for LCA containing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> par An $L \times I \times K_{\max}$ array of initial conditional probabilities for each latent class, item, and response category (where K_{\max} is the maximum number of categories across items). P.Z A numeric vector of length L specifying initial prior probabilities for latent classes. • A list for LPA containing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> means An $L \times I$ matrix of initial mean vectors for each profile. covs An $I \times I \times L$ array of initial covariance matrices for each profile. P.Z A numeric vector of length L specifying initial prior probabilities for profiles.
is.sort	<p>A logical value. If TRUE (Default), the latent classes will be ordered in descending order according to P.Z. All other parameters will be adjusted accordingly based on the reordered latent classes.</p>
constraint	<p>Character (LPA only). Specifies structure of within-class covariance matrices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "VV" — Class-varying variances and covariances (unconstrained; default). • "EE" — Equal variances and covariances across all classes (homoscedastic).
method	<p>Character. Estimation algorithm for Step 1 models:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "EM" — Expectation-Maximization (default; robust and widely used). • "Mplus" — Interfaces with Mplus software (requires external installation). • "NNE" — Neural Network Estimator (experimental; uses transformer + simulated annealing, more reliable than both "EM" and "Mplus").
tol	<p>Convergence tolerance for log-likelihood difference (default: 1e-4).</p>
method.SE	<p>Character. Method for estimating standard errors of parameter estimates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Obs" — Approximates the observed information matrix via numerical differentiation (Richardson's method). Standard errors are obtained from the inverse Hessian. May fail or be unreliable in small samples or with complex likelihood surfaces. • "Bootstrap" — Uses nonparametric bootstrap resampling to estimate empirical sampling variability. More robust to model misspecification and small-sample bias. Computationally intensive but recommended when asymptotic assumptions are questionable. <p>Default is "Bootstrap".</p>
n.Bootstrap	<p>Integer. Number of bootstrap replicates used when method.SE = "Bootstrap". Default is 100. McLachlan & Peel (2004) suggest that 50–100 replicates often</p>

provide adequate accuracy for practical purposes, though more (e.g., 500–1000) may be preferred for publication-quality inference. Each replicate involves re-estimating the full three-step LTA model on a resampled dataset.

maxiter	Maximum number of iterations for optimizing the regression coefficients. Default: 5000.
nrep	Integer controlling replication behavior: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If <code>par.ini = "random"</code>, number of random initializations. • If <code>par.ini = "kmeans"</code>, number of K-means runs for initialization. • For <code>method="Mplus"</code>, controls number of random starts in Mplus via STARTS option. • Best solution is selected by log-likelihood/BIC across replications. • Ignored for user-provided initial parameters.
starts	Number of random initializations to explore during warm-up phase (default: 100).
maxiter.wa	Maximum number of training iterations allowed per warm-up run. After completion, the top nrep solutions (by log-likelihood) are promoted to final training phase (default: 20).
vis	Logical. If TRUE, displays progress information during estimation (default: TRUE).
control.EM	List of control parameters for EM algorithm: <code>maxiter</code> Maximum iterations (default: 2000). <code>tol</code> Convergence tolerance for log-likelihood difference (default: 1e-4).
control.Mplus	List of control parameters for Mplus estimation: <code>maxiter</code> Maximum iterations for Mplus optimization (default: 2000). <code>tol</code> Convergence tolerance for log-likelihood difference (default: 1e-4). <code>files.path</code> Character string specifying the directory path where Mplus will write its intermediate files (e.g., <code>.inp</code> model input, <code>.dat</code> data file, <code>.out</code> output, and saved posterior probabilities). This argument is required — if NULL (default), the function throws an error. The specified directory must exist and be writable; if it does not exist, the function attempts to create it recursively. A unique timestamped subdirectory (e.g., <code>"Mplus_LPA_YYYY-MM-DD_HH-MM-SS"</code> or <code>"Mplus_LCA_YYYY-MM-DD_HH-MM-SS"</code>) will be created within this path to store all run-specific files and avoid naming conflicts. See in LCA and LPA . <code>files.clean</code> Logical. If TRUE (default), all intermediate files and the temporary working directory created for this run are deleted upon successful completion or error exit (via <code>on.exit()</code>). If FALSE, all generated files are retained in <code>files.path</code> (or the auto-generated temp dir) for inspection or debugging. Note: when <code>files.path = NULL</code> , even if <code>files.clean = FALSE</code> , the temporary directory may still be cleaned up by the system later — for guaranteed persistence, specify a custom <code>files.path</code> .
control.NNE	List of control parameters for NNE algorithm: <code>hidden.layers</code> Integer vector specifying layer sizes in fully-connected network (default: <code>c(16,16)</code>). <code>activation.function</code> Activation function (e.g., <code>"tanh"</code> , default: <code>"tanh"</code>).

`use.attention` Whether to enable the self-attention mechanism (i.e., transformer encoder) (default: TRUE).
`d.model` Dimensionality of transformer encoder embeddings (default: 8).
`nhead` Number of attention heads in transformer (default: 2).
`dim.feedforward` Dimensionality of transformer feedforward network (default: 16).
`eps` Small constant for numerical stability (default: 1e-8).
`lambda` A factor for slight regularization of all parameters (default: 1e-5).
`initial.temperature` Initial temperature for simulated annealing (default: 1000).
`cooling.rate` Cooling rate per iteration in simulated annealing (default: 0.5).
`maxiter.sa` Maximum iterations for simulated annealing (default: 1000).
`threshold.sa` Minimum temperature threshold for annealing (default: 1e-10).
`maxiter` Maximum training epochs (default: 1000).
`maxiter.early` Patience parameter for early stopping (default: 50).
`maxcycle` Maximum cycles for optimization (default: 10).
`lr` Learning rate, controlling the step size of neural network parameter updates (default: 0.025).
`scheduler.patience` Patience for learning rate decay (if the loss function does not improve for more than `patience` consecutive epochs, the learning rate will be reduced) (default: 10).
`scheduler.factor` Learning rate decay factor; the new learning rate equals the original learning rate multiplied by `scheduler.factor` (default: 0.70).
`plot.interval` Interval (in epochs) for plotting training diagnostics (default: 100).
`device` Specifies the hardware device; can be "CPU" (default) or "GPU". If the GPU is not available, it automatically falls back to CPU.

Value

An object of class LTA, a named list containing:

`beta` Matrix of size $p_1 \times L$. Coefficients for initial class membership multinomial logit model. Columns 1 to $L - 1$ are free parameters; column L (reference class) is constrained to $\beta_L = \mathbf{0}$.
`gamma` List of length $T - 1$. Each element `gamma[[t]]` (for transition from time t to $t + 1$) is a nested list: `gamma[[t]][[from_class]][[to_class]]` returns coefficient vector of length p_{t+1} . The last class (L) is reference \rightarrow coefficients fixed to $\gamma_{kl,t+1} = \mathbf{0}$ for all k .
`beta.se` Standard errors for beta (if Hessian is invertible). Same dimensions as beta. May contain NA if variance-covariance matrix is not positive definite.
`gamma.se` Standard errors for gamma, same nested structure. May contain NAs.
`beta.Z.sta` Z-statistics for testing null hypothesis that each beta coefficient equals zero. Computed as `beta / beta.se`. Same structure as beta.
`gamma.Z.sta` Z-statistics for gamma coefficients. Same nested structure as gamma. Used for testing significance of transition effects.
`beta.p.value.tail1` One-tailed p-values based on standard normal distribution: $P(Z < -|z|)$. Useful for directional hypotheses. Same structure as beta.

- `gamma.p.value.tail1` One-tailed p-values for gamma coefficients. Same nested structure as `gamma`.
- `beta.p.value.tail2` Two-tailed p-values: $2 \times P(Z < -|z|)$. Standard test for non-zero effect. Same structure as `beta`.
- `gamma.p.value.tail2` Two-tailed p-values for gamma coefficients. Same nested structure as `gamma`.
- `P.Z.Xns` List of length T . Each element is an $N \times L$ matrix of posterior class probabilities $P(Z_{nt} = l \mid \mathbf{X}_{nt})$ for each individual n at time t .
- `P.Zs` List of length T . Each element is a vector of length L containing prior class proportions $P(Z_t = l)$ estimated at Step 1 for time t .
- `Zs` List of length T . Each element is a vector of length N containing modal class assignments (MAP classifications) \hat{z}_{nt} for each individual at time t .
- `npar` Number of free parameters in the model (depends on covariates).
- `Log.Lik` Observed-data log-likelihood value at convergence.
- `Log.Lik.history` Vector tracking log-likelihood at each iteration.
- `AIC` Akaike Information Criterion value.
- `BIC` Bayesian Information Criterion value.
- `iterations` Integer. Number of optimization iterations in Step 3.
- `coveraged` Logical. TRUE if optimization terminated before reaching `maxiter` (suggesting convergence). Note: This is a heuristic indicator; formal convergence diagnostics should check Hessian properties.
- `params` List. Step 1 model parameters (output from `LCA()` or `LPA()`).
- `call` The matched function call.
- `arguments` List of all input arguments passed to the function (useful for reproducibility).

Methodology Overview

The three-step LTA proceeds as follows:

Step 1 — Unconditional Latent Class/Profile Model: At each time point t , fit an unconditional LCA or LPA model (ignoring transitions and covariates). Obtain posterior class membership probabilities $P(Z_{nt} = l \mid \mathbf{X}_{nt})$ for each individual n and class l using Bayes' theorem.

Step 2 — Classification Error Probabilities (equal to `get.CEP`): Compute the $L \times L$ CEP matrix for each time point t , where element (k, l) estimates:

$$\text{CEP}_t(k, l) = P(\hat{Z}_{nt} = l \mid Z_{nt} = k)$$

using a non-parametric approximation based on posterior weights:

$$\widehat{\text{CEP}}_t(k, l) = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N \mathbb{I}(\hat{z}_{nt} = l) \cdot P(Z_{nt} = k \mid \mathbf{X}_{nt})}{\sum_{n=1}^N P(Z_{nt} = k \mid \mathbf{X}_{nt})}$$

where \hat{z}_{nt} is the modal (most likely) class assignment for individual n at time t .

Step 3 — Transition Model with Measurement Error Correction: Estimate the multinomial logit models for:

- Initial class membership (time 1): $P(Z_{n1} = l \mid \mathbf{X}_{n1}) = \frac{\exp(\beta_l^\top \mathbf{X}_{n1})}{\sum_{k=1}^L \exp(\beta_k^\top \mathbf{X}_{n1})}$
- Transitions (time $t > 1$): $P(Z_{nt} = l \mid Z_{n,t-1} = k, \mathbf{X}_{nt}) = \frac{\exp(\gamma_{klt}^\top \mathbf{X}_{nt})}{\sum_{j=1}^L \exp(\gamma_{kjt}^\top \mathbf{X}_{nt})}$

where $\mathbf{X}_{n1} = (X_{n10}, X_{n11}, \dots, X_{n1M})^\top$ is the covariate vector for observation/participant n at time 1, with $X_{n10} = 1$ (intercept term) and X_{n1m} ($m = 1, \dots, M$) representing the value of the m -th covariate. The coefficient vector $\beta_l = (\beta_{l0}, \beta_{l1}, \dots, \beta_{lM})^\top$ corresponds element-wise to \mathbf{X}_{n1} , where β_{l0} is the intercept and β_{lm} ($m \geq 1$) are regression coefficients for covariates. Class L is the reference class ($\beta_L = \mathbf{0}$). $\mathbf{X}_{nt} = (X_{nt0}, X_{nt1}, \dots, X_{ntM})^\top$ is the covariate vector at time t , with $X_{nt0} = 1$ (intercept) and X_{ntm} ($m = 1, \dots, M$) as the m -th covariate value. The coefficient vector $\gamma_{lkt} = (\gamma_{lkt0}, \gamma_{lkt1}, \dots, \gamma_{lktM})^\top$ corresponds element-wise to \mathbf{X}_{nt} , where γ_{lkt0} is the intercept and γ_{lktm} ($m \geq 1$) are regression coefficients. Class L is the reference class ($\gamma_{lLt} = \mathbf{0}$ for all l).

The full observed-data likelihood integrates over all possible latent class paths $\mathbf{z}_n = (z_{n1}, \dots, z_{nT})$:

$$\log \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sum_{n=1}^N \log \left[\sum_{\mathbf{z}_n \in \{1, \dots, L\}^T} \left(\prod_{t=1}^T \text{CEP}_t(z_{nt}, \hat{z}_{nt}) \right) \cdot P(Z_{n1} = z_{n1} \mid \mathbf{X}_{n1}) \cdot \prod_{t=2}^T P(Z_{nt} = z_{nt} \mid Z_{n,t-1} = z_{n,t-1}, \mathbf{X}_{nt}) \right]$$

Parameters $\boldsymbol{\theta} = \{\beta, \gamma\}$ are estimated via maximum likelihood using the BOBYQA algorithm (box-constrained derivative-free optimization). Reference class L satisfies $\beta_L = \mathbf{0}$ and $\gamma_{klt} = \mathbf{0}$ for all k when $l = L$.

Bootstrap Standard Error Estimation

When `method.SE = "Bootstrap"`, standard errors are estimated using a nonparametric bootstrap procedure:

1. Draw B (`=n.Bootstrap`) independent samples of size N with replacement from the original data.
2. For each bootstrap sample $b = 1, \dots, B$, re-estimate the full three-step LTA model (Steps 1–3), yielding parameter vector $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^{(b)}$.
3. Compute the bootstrap standard error for each parameter as the sample standard deviation across replicates:

$$\widehat{\text{SE}}_{\text{boot}}(\hat{\theta}_j) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{B-1} \sum_{b=1}^B \left(\hat{\theta}_j^{(b)} - \bar{\theta}_j \right)^2},$$

$$\text{where } \bar{\theta}_j = \frac{1}{B} \sum_{b=1}^B \hat{\theta}_j^{(b)}.$$

This approach does not rely on large-sample normality or correct specification of the information matrix, making it particularly suitable for complex models like LTA where analytic derivatives are difficult or unstable. However, it increases computational cost linearly with B .

Important Implementation Details

- Reference Class: The last latent class (L) is always treated as the reference category. All corresponding coefficients in beta and gamma are fixed to zero ($\beta_L = \mathbf{0}$, $\gamma_{klt} = \mathbf{0}$ for $l = L$).
- CEP Matrices: When `CEP.error = TRUE`, misclassification probabilities are estimated non-parametrically using Step 1 posterior probabilities. This corrects for classification uncertainty. Setting `CEP.timeCross = TRUE` assumes these error structures are identical across time (measurement invariance). See in `get.CEP`.
- Covariate Handling: Covariates for initial status (time 1) and transitions (time $t \geq 2$) can differ. For transitions to time t , the covariate matrix must have dimensions $N \times (M_t + 1)$, i.e., an intercept column of all 1 plus M_t columns of covariates in time t .
- Optimization: Step 3 uses L-BFGS-B via `nloptr` to ensure numerical stability. Standard errors are derived from the inverse Hessian (via `hessian`). If singular, Moore-Penrose pseudoinverse (`ginv`) is used, and negative variances are set to NA.
- Computational Complexity: Likelihood evaluation requires enumerating L^T possible latent paths.
- Bootstrap Computation: Each bootstrap iteration re-fits Steps 1–3 independently, including re-estimation of P.Z.Xns, CEP matrices and transition parameters. To ensure reproducibility, set a seed before calling `LTA()` when using `method.SE = "Bootstrap"`. Progress messages during bootstrapping include current replicate index and optimization diagnostics. Users should monitor convergence in each bootstrap run; failed runs will result in NA entries in SEs and derived statistics.

References

Liang, Q., la Torre, J. d., & Law, N. (2023). Latent Transition Cognitive Diagnosis Model With Covariates: A Three-Step Approach. *Journal of Educational and Behavioral Statistics*, 48(6), 690–718. <https://doi.org/10.3102/10769986231163320>

McLachlan, G. J., & Peel, D. (2004). *Finite Mixture Models*. Wiley. https://books.google.com.sg/books?id=c2_fAox0DQoC

Vermunt, J. K. (2010). Latent class modeling with covariates: Two improved three-step approaches. *Political Analysis*, 18(4), 450–469. <https://doi.org/10.1093/pan/mpq025>

Examples

```
library(LCPA)

set.seed(123)
N <- 2000 ## sample size
L <- 3    ## number of latent class
I <- 6    ## number of variables/items

## Covariates at time point T1
covariates.inter <- rep(1, N)          # Intercept term is always 1 for each individual
covariates.X11 <- rnorm(N)             # Covariate X1 is a continuous variable
# Combine into covariates at T1
covariates.T1 <- cbind(Intercept=covariates.inter, X1=covariates.X11)
```

```

## Covariates at time point T2
covariates.inter <- rep(1, N)           # Intercept term is always 1 for each individual
covariates.X21 <- rnorm(N)             # Covariate X1 is a continuous variable
# Combine into covariates at T1
covariates.T2 <- cbind(Intercept=covariates.inter, X1=covariates.X21)

# Combine into final covariates list
covariates <- list(t1=covariates.T1, t2=covariates.T2)

## Simulate beta coefficients
# last column is zero because the last category is used as reference
## fix reference class to class 2
beta <- matrix(c( 0.8, 0.0,  0.1,
                 -0.3, 0.0, -0.5), ncol=L, byrow=TRUE)

## Simulate gamma coefficients
gamma <- list(
  lapply(1:L, function(l) {
    lapply(1:L, function(k) if(k < L)
      runif(2, -2.0, 2.0) else c(0, 0)) # Last class as reference
  })
)

## Simulate the data
sim_custom <- sim.LTA(
  N=N, I=I, L=L, times=2, type="LCA", IQ=0.9,
  covariates=covariates,
  beta=beta,
  gamma=gamma
)
summary(sim_custom)
responses <- sim_custom$responses
covariates <- sim_custom$covariates

## fix reference class to class 2
LTA.obj <- LTA(responses, L=L, ref.class=2, type="LCA",
  covariates=covariates,
  method.SE="Bootstrap", n.Bootstrap=10,
  CEP.timeCross=FALSE, CEP.error=TRUE, covariates.timeCross=FALSE,
  par.ini = "random", method="EM", vis = TRUE)

print(LTA.obj)

```

Description

Standardizes each column of a numeric matrix or data frame to have mean zero and standard deviation one. This transformation is essential for many multivariate techniques that assume standard-

ized inputs. The function preserves all dimension names and returns a pure numeric matrix with attributes storing original column means and standard deviations.

Usage

```
normalize(response)
```

Arguments

response A numeric matrix or data frame of dimension $N \times I$, where:

- N = number of observations (rows)
- I = number of variables (columns)

Non-numeric columns will be coerced to numeric with a warning. Missing values are not allowed and will cause the function to fail. Constant columns (zero variance) will produce NaN values.

Value

A standardized numeric matrix of dimension $N \times I$ with attributes:

- scaled:center: Vector of original column means (μ_i)
- scaled:scale: Vector of original column standard deviations (σ_i)
- Row names: Preserved from original input's row names or row indices
- Column names: Preserved from original input's column names
- Values: Z-scores calculated as $z_{ni} = \frac{x_{ni} - \mu_i}{\sigma_i}$

where:

- x_{ni} = original value for observation n and variable i
- μ_i = sample mean of variable i : $\mu_i = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N x_{ni}$
- σ_i = sample standard deviation of variable i : $\sigma_i = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{n=1}^N (x_{ni} - \mu_i)^2}$

The denominator $N - 1$ provides an unbiased estimator of population variance.

Mathematical Details

For each column i in the input matrix X , the standardization is performed as:

$$Z_{.i} = \frac{X_{.i} - \bar{X}_{.i}}{S_{X_{.i}}}$$

where:

- $X_{.i}$ is the i -th column vector of X
- $\bar{X}_{.i}$ is the sample mean of column i
- $S_{X_{.i}}$ is the sample standard deviation of column i

The resulting matrix Z has the properties:

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N z_{ni} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \sqrt{\frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{n=1}^N z_{ni}^2} = 1$$

for all $i = 1, \dots, I$.

Examples

```
# Basic usage with matrix
set.seed(123)
mat <- matrix(rnorm(30, mean = 5:7, sd = 1:3), ncol = 3,
              dimnames = list(paste0("Obs", 1:10), paste0("Var", 1:3)))
norm_mat <- normalize(mat)

# Verify attributes
attr(norm_mat, "scaled:center") # Original column means
attr(norm_mat, "scaled:scale") # Original column standard deviations

# Verify properties
apply(norm_mat, 2, mean) # Should be near zero
apply(norm_mat, 2, sd) # Should be exactly 1

# With data frame input
df <- as.data.frame(mat)
norm_df <- normalize(df)
all.equal(norm_mat, norm_df, check.attributes = FALSE) # Should be identical

# Handling constant columns (produces NaN)
const_mat <- cbind(mat, Constant = rep(4.2, 10))
normalize(const_mat)
```

plotResponse

Visualize Response Distributions with Density Plots

Description

Creates a publication-quality density plot showing the distribution of responses across multiple items/variables. Automatically handles variable ordering, color scaling, and legend layout based on the number of variables.

Usage

```
plotResponse(response)
```

Arguments

response A matrix or data frame containing response data where:

- Rows represent respondents, samples or observations
- Columns represent variables, items or questions (must have numeric suffixes, e.g., "item1", "Q2")
- Cell values contain numeric responses

Non-numeric columns (except row identifiers) will cause errors.

Value

A ggplot object containing:

- Density curves for each variable colored by item
- Adaptive color schemes based on number of variables
- Optimized legend layout for large numbers of items
- Publication-ready theme with grid lines and clean styling

The plot can be further customized using standard ggplot2 syntax.

Theming Details

The plot uses a minimal theme with:

- Light grey grid lines for readability
- Black axis lines and ticks (0.8pt thickness)
- White background with no panel border
- Optimized font sizes (13pt axis titles, 11pt tick labels)
- Legend positioned on right with adaptive sizing

Examples

```
# Simulate response data for 5 items
set.seed(42)
resp_data <- data.frame(
  item1 = rnorm(100, mean = 3, sd = 1),
  item2 = rnorm(100, mean = 2, sd = 0.8),
  item3 = rnorm(100, mean = 4, sd = 1.2),
  item4 = rnorm(100, mean = 3.5, sd = 0.9),
  item5 = rnorm(100, mean = 2.5, sd = 1.1)
)

library(LCPA)
# Generate and display plot
p <- plotResponse(resp_data)
print(p)

# For data with many items (18 items example)
many_items <- as.data.frame(replicate(18, rnorm(50, mean = runif(1, 1, 5), sd = 1)))
```

```
names(many_items) <- paste0("Q", 1:18)
p_large <- plotResponse(many_items)
print(p_large)
```

print

S3 Methods: print

Description

Provides user-friendly, formatted console output for objects generated by the LCPA package. This generic function dispatches to class-specific methods that display concise summaries of model results, simulated datasets, fit indices, model comparisons, and standard errors. Designed for interactive use and quick diagnostic inspection.

Usage

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

```

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

## S3 method for class 'summary.sim.LPA'
print(x, ...)

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

## S3 method for class 'summary.sim.LTA'
print(x, ...)

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

## S3 method for class 'summary.fit.index'
print(x, ...)

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

## S3 method for class 'summary.compare.model'
print(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'SE'
print(x, digits = 4, I.max = 5, L.max = 3, ...)

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

```

Arguments

x	<p>An object of one of the following classes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model objects: LCA, LPA, LCPA, LTA • Simulation objects: sim.LCA, sim.LPA, sim.LTA • Fit/comparison objects: get.fit.index, compare.model • Standard error objects: get.SE • Summary objects: summary.LCA, summary.LPA, summary.LCPA, summary.LTA, summary.sim.LCA, summary.sim.LPA, summary.sim.LTA, summary.fit.index, summary.compare.model, summary.SE
...	Additional arguments passed to methods (currently ignored in most cases).
digits	Number of decimal places for numeric output (default: varies by method, often 4). Used by: print.SE , print.summary.fit.index , print.summary.sim.LCA/LPA/LTA , print.summary.SE .
I.max	Maximum number of variables/items to display before truncation (default: varies, e.g., 5). Used by: print.SE , print.summary.sim.LCA/LPA/LTA .

`L.max` Maximum number of latent classes/profiles to display before truncation (default: varies, e.g., 3). Used by: `print.SE`, `print.summary.sim.LTA`.

Details

Each method produces a structured, human-readable summary optimized for its object type:

Model Objects (`LCA/LPA/LCPA/LTA`) Invokes `summary()` internally and prints comprehensive output including:

- Model call and configuration (method, constraints, reference class)
- Data characteristics (N, I, time points, distribution)
- Fit statistics (LogLik, AIC, BIC, entropy, npar)
- Class/profile prior probabilities and frequencies
- Item-response probabilities (LCA) or profile means (LPA)
- For LCPA/LTA: regression coefficients with significance markers and 95% CIs
- Convergence diagnostics (iterations, tolerance, hardware)
- Replication details (if `nrep > 1`)

Simulation Objects (`sim.LCA/sim.LPA/sim.LTA`) Displays simulation design and true parameter structure:

- Configuration (N, I, L, times, constraint, distribution)
- True class/profile proportions and observed frequencies
- For `sim.LCA`: item category structure and conditional probabilities
- For `sim.LPA`: covariance constraint description and mean ranges
- For `sim.LTA`: transition mode (fixed/covariate), initial/transition coefficients

Output is truncated for high-dimensional structures using `I.max` and `L.max`.

Fit Index Objects (`fit.index`) Presents a clean table of model fit criteria:

- Header with dimensions (N, I, L, npar)
- Formatted table: AIC, BIC, SABIC, CAIC, AWE, -2LL, SIC
- Interpretation note: “Lower values preferred for ICs”
- Values rounded to `digits` decimal places

Model Comparison Objects (`compare.model`) Compares two nested models with statistical tests:

- Comparative fit table (npar, LogLik, AIC, BIC, entropy)
- Classification quality (AvePP per class, overall entropy)
- Bayes Factor with interpretive guidance
- Likelihood ratio tests (standard, VLMR, Bootstrap) with p-values and significance codes
- Clear section headers and visual separators

Standard Error Objects (`SE`) Displays uncertainty estimates for model parameters:

- Class probability SEs (always fully shown)
- Profile means SEs (LPA) or item-response SEs (LCA), truncated by `L.max/I.max`
- Covariance SE summary (non-zero count only; full access via `extract()`)
- Diagnostics: Bootstrap completion % or Hessian condition number with stability warnings

Summary Objects All `summary.*` methods are called internally by their corresponding `print.*` methods. They pre-compute and structure output for consistent formatting. Direct calls are also supported.

Value

Invisibly returns the input object `x`. No data is modified.

Methods (by class)

- `print(LCA)`: Print method for LCA objects
- `print(summary.LCA)`: Print method for `summary.LCA` objects
- `print(LPA)`: Print method for LPA objects
- `print(summary.LPA)`: Print method for `summary.LPA` objects
- `print(LTA)`: Print method for LTA objects
- `print(summary.LTA)`: Print method for `summary.LTA` objects
- `print(LCPA)`: Print method for LCPA objects
- `print(summary.LCPA)`: Print method for `summary.LCPA` objects
- `print(sim.LCA)`: Print method for `sim.LCA` objects
- `print(summary.sim.LCA)`: Print method for `summary.sim.LCA` objects
- `print(sim.LPA)`: Print method for `sim.LPA` objects
- `print(summary.sim.LPA)`: Print method for `summary.sim.LPA` objects
- `print(sim.LTA)`: Print method for `sim.LTA` objects
- `print(summary.sim.LTA)`: Print method for `summary.sim.LTA` objects
- `print(fit.index)`: Print method for `fit.index` objects
- `print(summary.fit.index)`: Print method for `summary.fit.index` objects
- `print(compare.model)`: Print method for `compare.model` objects
- `print(summary.compare.model)`: Print method for `summary.compare.model` objects
- `print(SE)`: Print method for SE objects
- `print(summary.SE)`: Print method for `summary.SE` objects

Output Conventions

- Numeric values are typically rounded to 4 decimal places unless overridden by `digits`.
- Large matrices (e.g., item parameters, transition coefficients) are truncated with clear messages.
- Significance markers: `***` (<0.001), `**` (<0.01), `*` (<0.05), `.` (<0.1).
- 95% confidence intervals computed as: Estimate $\pm 1.96 \times \text{Std_Error}$.
- Reference classes (for multinomial models) are explicitly stated.
- Warnings appear for unstable SEs (high condition number) or incomplete Bootstrap runs.

rdirichlet

Generate Random Samples from the Dirichlet Distribution

Description

rdirichlet generates n random observations from a Dirichlet distribution with a specified concentration parameter vector alpha.

Usage

```
rdirichlet(n, alpha)
```

Arguments

n	Integer. The number of random vectors to generate.
alpha	Numeric vector. The concentration parameters (must be positive). The length of this vector determines the number of dimensions K .

Details

The Dirichlet distribution is a family of continuous multivariate probability distributions parameterized by a vector α of positive reals. It is the multivariate generalization of the beta distribution and is commonly used as a conjugate prior to the multinomial distribution in Bayesian statistics.

Probability Density Function:

For a vector $x = (x_1, \dots, x_K)$ on the unit simplex (where $\sum x_i = 1$ and $x_i \geq 0$), the density is given by:

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_K; \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_K) = \frac{1}{B(\alpha)} \prod_{i=1}^K x_i^{\alpha_i - 1}$$

where the normalizing constant $B(\alpha)$ is the multivariate beta function:

$$B(\alpha) = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^K \Gamma(\alpha_i)}{\Gamma(\sum_{i=1}^K \alpha_i)}$$

Simulation Method:

The function utilizes the property that if Y_1, \dots, Y_K are independent Gamma random variables such that $Y_i \sim \text{Gamma}(\text{shape} = \alpha_i, \text{rate} = 1)$, then:

$$X_i = \frac{Y_i}{\sum_{j=1}^K Y_j}$$

The resulting vector (X_1, \dots, X_K) follows a Dirichlet distribution with parameters α .

Value

A matrix with n rows and $\text{length}(\text{alpha})$ columns. Each row sums to 1, representing a single sample from the Dirichlet distribution.

Examples

```
# Generate 5 samples from a 3-dimensional Dirichlet distribution
set.seed(123)
alpha_params <- c(1, 2, 5)
result <- rdirichlet(n = 5, alpha = alpha_params)
print(result)

# Check that rows sum to 1
rowSums(result)
```

sim.correlation	<i>Generate a Random Correlation Matrix via C-Vine Partial Correlations</i>
-----------------	---

Description

This function generates a random $I \times I$ correlation matrix using the C-vine partial correlation parameterization described in Joe & Kurowicka (2026). The method constructs the matrix recursively using partial correlations organized in a C-vine structure, with distributional properties controlled by LKJ concentration and skewness parameters.

Usage

```
sim.correlation(
  I,
  eta = 1,
  skew = 0,
  positive = FALSE,
  permute = TRUE,
  maxiter = 10
)
```

Arguments

I	Dimension of the correlation matrix (must be $I \geq 1$).
eta	LKJ concentration parameter ($\eta > 0$). When $\eta = 1$ and skew = 0, the distribution is uniform over correlation matrices. Larger η values concentrate mass near the identity matrix. Critical for positive definiteness: Requires $\eta > (I - 2)/2$ to theoretically guarantee positive definiteness (Theorem 1, Joe & Kurowicka 2026). Default is 1.

skew	Skewness parameter ($-1 < \text{skew} < 1$). Controls asymmetry in the partial correlation distribution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • skew > 0: Biased toward positive partial correlations • skew < 0: Biased toward negative partial correlations • skew = 0: Symmetric distribution (default)
positive	Logical. If TRUE, restricts partial correlations to $(0, 1)$ and enforces positive definiteness. Default is FALSE.
permute	Logical. If TRUE, applies a random permutation to rows/columns to ensure exchangeability (invariance to variable ordering). Default is TRUE.
maxiter	Integer. Maximum number of generation attempts before numerical adjustment when positive = TRUE. Default is 10.

Details

The algorithm follows four key steps:

1. Partial correlation sampling: For tree level $k = 1, \dots, I-1$ and node $j = k+1, \dots, I$, partial correlations $\rho_{k,j|1:(k-1)}$ are sampled as:

$$\alpha_k = \eta + \frac{I - k - 1}{2}, \quad a_k = \alpha_k(1 + \text{skew}), \quad b_k = \alpha_k(1 - \text{skew})$$

- If positive = FALSE:

$$\rho_{k,j} \sim 2 \cdot \text{Beta}(a_k, b_k) - 1$$

- If positive = TRUE:

$$\rho_{k,j} \sim \text{Beta}(a_k, b_k)$$

2. Recursive matrix construction (C-vine): The correlation matrix \mathbf{R} is built without matrix inversion using backward recursion:

- Tree 1 (raw correlations): $R_{1j} = \rho_{1,j}$ for $j = 2, \dots, I$
- Trees $l \geq 2$: For pairs (l, j) where $l = 2, \dots, I-1$ and $j = l+1, \dots, I$:

$$c \leftarrow \rho_{l,j|1:(l-1)} \text{ for } k = l-1 \text{ down to } 1: \quad c \leftarrow c \cdot \sqrt{(1 - \rho_{k,l}^2)(1 - \rho_{k,j}^2) + \rho_{k,l} \cdot \rho_{k,j}} \quad R_{lj} \leftarrow c$$

This implements the dynamic programming approach from Joe & Kurowicka (2026, Section 2.1).

3. Positive definiteness enforcement (when positive = TRUE):
 - Attempt up to maxiter generations
 - On failure, project to nearest positive definite correlation matrix using nearPD with corr = TRUE
 - Final matrix has minimum eigenvalue $> 1e-8$
4. Exchangeability (optional): If permute = TRUE, rows/columns are randomly permuted before returning the matrix.

Value

An $I \times I$ positive definite correlation matrix with unit diagonal.

Note

When `positive = TRUE`, the function guarantees positive definiteness either through direct generation (with retries) or numerical projection. The theoretical guarantee $\eta > (I-2)/2$ is recommended for high dimensions.

References

Joe, H., & Kurowicka, D. (2026). Random correlation matrices generated via partial correlation C-vines. *Journal of Multivariate Analysis*, 211, 105519. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmva.2025.105519>

Examples

```
# Default 3x3 correlation matrix
sim.correlation(3)

# 5x5 matrix concentrated near identity (eta=3)
sim.correlation(5, eta = 3)

# Skewed toward positive correlations (no permutation)
sim.correlation(4, skew = 0.7, permute = FALSE)

# Positive partial correlations (enforced positive definiteness)
R <- sim.correlation(6, positive = TRUE)
min(eigen(R, symmetric = TRUE, only.values = TRUE)$values) # > 1e-8

# High-dimensional case (I=20) with theoretical guarantee
R <- sim.correlation(20, eta = 10) # eta=10 > (20-2)/2=9
min(eigen(R, symmetric = TRUE, only.values = TRUE)$values)
```

 sim.LCA

Simulate Data for Latent Class Analysis

Description

Generates synthetic multivariate categorical data from a latent class model with L latent classes. Each observed variable follows a multinomial distribution within classes, with flexible control over class separation via the `IQ` parameter and class size distributions.

Usage

```
sim.LCA(
  N = 1000,
  I = 10,
  L = 3,
  poly.value = 5,
  IQ = "random",
  distribution = "random",
```

```

    params = NULL,
    is.sort = TRUE
)

```

Arguments

N	Integer; total number of observations to simulate. Must be $> L$. Default: 1000.
I	Integer; number of categorical observed variables. Must be ≥ 1 . Default: 10.
L	Integer; number of latent classes. Must be ≥ 2 when IQ is numeric. Default: 3.
poly.value	Integer or integer vector; number of categories (levels) for each observed variable. If scalar, all variables share the same number of categories. If vector, must have length I. Minimum valid value is 2 when IQ is numeric. Default: 5.
IQ	Character or numeric; controls category probability distributions: "random" (default) Dirichlet-distributed probabilities ($\alpha = 3$). Numeric in (0.5, 1). Forces high discriminative power (see details in section below).
distribution	Character; distribution of class sizes. Options: "random" (default) or "uniform".
params	List with fixed parameters for simulation: par $L \times I \times K_{\max}$ array of conditional response probabilities per latent class. P.Z Vector of length L with latent class prior probabilities. Z Vector of length N containing the latent classes of observations. A fixed observation classes Z is applied directly to simulate data only when P.Z is NULL and Z is a N length vector.
is.sort	A logical value. If TRUE (Default), the latent classes will be ordered in descending order according to P.Z. All other parameters will be adjusted accordingly based on the reordered latent classes.

Details

Probability Generation:

- Dirichlet Sampling (IQ="random"): For each variable-class combination, probabilities are drawn from $\text{Dirichlet}(\alpha_1 = 3, \dots, \alpha_k = 3)$ where $k = \text{poly.value}[i]$.
- High-Discrimination Mode (IQ=numeric): For each variable i:
 1. Generate special probabilities par.special of length L containing: IQ , $1 - IQ$, and $L - 2$ values uniformly sampled from $[1 - IQ, IQ]$.
 2. For each class l, assign par.special[l] to one category, distribute remaining probability $1 - \text{par.special}[l]$ uniformly (via Dirichlet) across other categories.
 3. Shuffle category assignments to avoid position bias.

Data Generation:

- Class assignments Z are generated first according to distribution.
- For each observation p and variable i:
 1. Retrieve cumulative probabilities for class Z[p]

2. Draw uniform random number $u \sim \text{Uniform}(0, 1)$
 3. Assign category k where $P(\text{category} \leq k - 1) < u \leq P(\text{category} \leq k)$
- Entire dataset is regenerated if any category of any variable has zero observations.

Critical Constraints:

- When IQ is numeric: $0.5 < IQ < 1$ and $\min(\text{poly.value}) \geq 2$
- N must be sufficiently large to observe all categories, especially when IQ is high or poly.value is large. Simulation may fail for small N .
- For $\text{distribution} = \text{"uniform"}$, empty classes possible when $N < L$.

Value

A list containing:

response Integer matrix ($N \times I$) of simulated observations. Rows are observations (named "01", "02", ...), columns are variables named "I1", "I2", ... Values range from 0 to $\text{poly.value}[i]-1$.

par Array ($L \times I \times K$) of true class-specific category probabilities, where $K = \max(\text{poly.value})$ (i.e., the maximum number of categories across variables). Dimensions: classes x variables x categories. Note: For variables with $\text{poly.value}[i] < K$, unused category dimensions contain NA. Dimension names: "L1", "L2", ... (classes); "I1", "I2", ... (variables); "poly0", "poly1", ... (categories).

Z Integer vector (length N) of true class assignments (1 to L). Named with observation IDs (e.g., "01").

P.Z Numeric vector (length L) of true class proportions. Named with class labels (e.g., "L1").

poly.value Integer vector (length I) specifying number of categories per variable.

P.Z.Xn Binary matrix ($N \times L$) of true class membership indicators (one-hot encoded). Row i , column $l = 1$ if observation i belongs to class l , else 0. Row/column names match Z and class labels.

arguments A list containing all input arguments.

Item Quality (IQ) Parameter

Controls the discriminative power of observed variables:

IQ = "random" (Default) Category probabilities for each variable-class combination are drawn from a symmetric Dirichlet distribution ($\alpha = 3$), resulting in moderate class separation.

IQ = numeric ($0.5 < IQ < 1$) Forces high discriminative power for each variable:

1. For each variable, two categories per class are assigned extreme probabilities: one category gets probability IQ , another gets $1 - IQ$.
2. Remaining categories share the residual probability $1 - IQ - (1 - IQ) = 0$. *Note: This requires $\text{poly.value} \geq 2$ for all variables.*
3. Category assignments are randomized within classes to avoid structural patterns.

Higher IQ values (closer to 1) yield stronger class separation but increase simulation failure risk.

Class Size Distribution

"random" (Default) Class proportions drawn from Dirichlet distribution ($\alpha = 3$ for all classes), ensuring no empty classes. Sizes are rounded to integers with adjustment for exact N.

"uniform" Equal probability of class membership ($1/L$ per class), sampled with replacement. May produce empty classes if N is small relative to L.

Response Validation

The simulation enforces a critical constraint: *every category of every observed variable must appear at least once in the dataset*. If initial generation violates this (e.g., a rare category is missing), parameters and responses are regenerated until satisfied. This ensures compatibility with standard LCA estimation.

Examples

```
# Example 1: Default settings (moderate separation, random class sizes)
sim_data <- sim.LCA(N = 30, I = 5, L = 3)
```

```
# Example 2: High-discrimination items (IQ=0.85), uniform class sizes
sim_high_disc <- sim.LCA(
  N = 30,
  I = 4,
  L = 2,
  poly.value = c(3,4,3,5), # Variable category counts
  IQ = 0.85,
  distribution = "uniform"
)
```

```
# Example 3: Binary items (poly.value=2) with high separation
sim_binary <- sim.LCA(N = 300, I = 10, L = 2, poly.value = 2, IQ = 0.9)
```

 sim.LPA

Simulate Data for Latent Profile Analysis

Description

Generates synthetic multivariate continuous data from a latent profile model with L latent classes. Supports flexible covariance structure constraints (including custom equality constraints) and class size distributions. All covariance matrices are ensured to be positive definite.

Usage

```
sim.LPA(
  N = 1000,
  I = 5,
  L = 2,
  constraint = "VV",
```

```

distribution = "random",
mean.range = c(-2, 2),
covs.range = c(0.01, 4),
params = NULL,
is.sort = TRUE
)

```

Arguments

N	Integer; total number of observations to simulate. Must be $\geq L$ (Default = 1000).
I	Integer; number of continuous observed variables. Must be ≥ 1 (Default = 5).
L	Integer; number of latent profiles (classes). Must be ≥ 1 (Default = 2).
constraint	Character string or list specifying covariance constraints. See detailed description below. Default is "VV" (fully heterogeneous covariances).
distribution	Character; distribution of class sizes. Options: "random" (default) or "uniform".
mean.range	Numeric vector of length 2; range for sampling class-specific means. Each variable's means are sampled uniformly from mean.range[1] to mean.range[2]. Default: c(-4, 4).
covs.range	Numeric vector of length 2; range for sampling variance parameters (diagonal elements). Must satisfy covs.range[1] > 0 and covs.range[2] > covs.range[1]. Off-diagonal covariances are derived from correlations scaled by these variances. Default: c(0.01, 4).
params	List with fixed parameters for simulation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> par $L \times I \times K_{\max}$ array of conditional response probabilities per latent class. P.Z Vector of length L with latent class prior probabilities. Z Vector of length N containing the latent classes of observations. A fixed observation classes Z is applied directly to simulate data only when P.Z is NULL and Z is a N length vector.
is.sort	A logical value. If TRUE (Default), the latent classes will be ordered in descending order according to P.Z. All other parameters will be adjusted accordingly based on the reordered latent classes.

Details

Mean Generation: For each variable, $3L$ candidate means are sampled uniformly from mean.range. L distinct means are selected without replacement to ensure separation between classes.

Covariance Generation:

- **Positive Definiteness:** All covariance matrices are adjusted using `Matrix::nearPD` and eigenvalue thresholds ($> 10^{-8}$) to guarantee validity. Failed attempts trigger explicit errors.
- **Univariate Case (I=1):** Constraints "UE" and "UV" are enforced automatically. Predefined constraints like "E0" map to "UE".
- **VE Constraint:** Requires special handling—base off-diagonal elements are fixed, and diagonals are sampled above a minimum threshold to maintain positive definiteness. May fail if covs.range is too narrow.

Class Assignment:

- "random": Uses Dirichlet distribution ($\alpha = 3$) to avoid extremely small classes. Sizes are rounded and adjusted to sum exactly to N .
- "uniform": Simple random sampling with equal probability. May produce empty classes if N is small.

Data Generation: Observations are simulated using `mvtnorm: :rmvnorm` per class. Final data and class labels are shuffled to remove ordering artifacts.

Value

A list containing:

response Numeric matrix ($N \times I$) of simulated observations. Rows are observations, columns are variables named "V1", "V2", ..., or "UV" for univariate data.

means Numeric matrix ($L \times I$) of true class-specific means. Row names: "Class1", "Class2", ...; column names match response.

covs Array ($I \times I \times L$) of true class-specific covariance matrices. Dimensions: variables x variables x classes. Constrained parameters have identical values across class slices. Dimension names match response and class labels.

P.Z.Xn Numeric matrix ($N \times L$) of true class membership probabilities (one-hot encoded). Row i , column $l = 1$ if observation i belongs to class l , else 0. Row names: "01", "02", ...; column names: "Class1", "Class2", ...

P.Z Numeric vector (length L) of true class proportions. Named with class labels (e.g., "Class1").

Z Integer vector (length N) of true class assignments (1 to L). Named with observation IDs (e.g., "01").

constraint Original constraint specification (character string or list) passed to the function.

Covariance Constraints

The constraint parameter controls equality constraints on covariance parameters across classes:

Predefined Constraints (Character Strings): "UE" (**Univariate only**) Equal variance across all classes.

"UV" (**Univariate only**) Varying variances across classes.

"E0" Equal variances across classes, zero covariances (diagonal matrix with shared variances).

"V0" Varying variances across classes, zero covariances (diagonal matrix with free variances).

"EE" Equal full covariance matrix across all classes (homogeneous).

"EV" Equal variances but varying covariances (equal diagonal, free off-diagonal).

"VE" Varying variances but equal correlations (free diagonal, equal correlation structure).

"VV" Varying full covariance matrices across classes (heterogeneous; default).

Custom Constraints (List of integer vectors): Each element specifies a pair of variables whose covariance parameters are constrained equal across classes:

`c(i, i)` Constrains variance of variable i to be equal across all classes.

`c(i, j)` Constrains covariance between variables `i` and `j` to be equal across all classes (symmetric: automatically includes `c(j, i)`).

Unconstrained parameters vary freely. The algorithm ensures positive definiteness by:

1. Generating a base positive definite matrix S_0 .
2. Applying constraints via a logical mask.
3. Adjusting unconstrained variances to maintain positive definiteness.

Critical requirements for custom constraints:

At least one variance must be unconstrained if any off-diagonal covariance is unconstrained.

All indices must be between 1 and I.

For univariate data (I=1), only `list(c(1, 1))` is valid.

Class Size Distribution

"random" (Default) Class proportions drawn from Dirichlet distribution ($\alpha = 3$ for all classes), ensuring no empty classes. Sizes are rounded to integers with adjustment for exact N.

"uniform" Equal probability of class membership ($1/L$ per class), sampled with replacement.

Examples

```
# Example 1: Bivariate data, 3 classes, heterogeneous covariances (default)
sim_data <- sim.LPA(N = 500, I = 2, L = 3, constraint = "VV")

# Example 2: Univariate data, equal variances
# 'E0' automatically maps to 'UE' for I=2
sim_uni <- sim.LPA(N = 200, I = 2, L = 2, constraint = "E0")

# Example 3: Custom constraints
# - Equal covariance between V1 and V2 across classes
# - Equal variance for V3 across classes
sim_custom <- sim.LPA(
  N = 300,
  I = 3,
  L = 4,
  constraint = list(c(1, 2), c(3, 3))
)

# Example 4: VE constraint (varying variances, equal correlations)
sim_ve <- sim.LPA(N = 400, I = 3, L = 3, constraint = "VE")

# Example 5: Uniform class sizes
sim_uniform <- sim.LPA(N = 300, I = 4, L = 5, distribution = "uniform")
```

 sim.LTA

Simulate Data for Latent Transition Analysis (LTA)

Description

Simulates longitudinal latent class/profile data where initial class membership and transition probabilities may be influenced by time-varying covariates. Supports both Latent Class Analysis (LCA) for categorical outcomes and Latent Profile Analysis (LPA) for continuous outcomes. Measurement invariance is assumed by default (identical item parameters across time).

Usage

```
sim.LTA(
  N = 500,
  I = 5,
  L = 3,
  distribution = "random",
  times = 2,
  type = "LCA",
  rate = NULL,
  constraint = "VV",
  mean.range = c(-2, 2),
  covs.range = c(0.01, 4),
  poly.value = 5,
  IQ = "random",
  params = NULL,
  is.sort = TRUE,
  covariates = NULL,
  beta = NULL,
  gamma = NULL
)
```

Arguments

N	Integer; sample size.
I	Integer; number of observed items/indicators per time point.
L	Integer; number of latent classes/profiles.
distribution	Character; distribution of initial class probabilities when not using covariates or params. Options: "uniform" (equal probabilities) or "random" (Dirichlet-distributed, default).
times	Integer; number of time points (must be ≥ 1).
type	Character; type of latent model. "LCA" for categorical indicators (default), "LPA" for continuous indicators.

rate	List of matrices or NULL; transition probability matrices for non-covariate mode. Each matrix is $L \times L$ with rows summing to 1. If NULL (default), matrices are generated with 0.7 diagonal probability and uniform off-diagonals. Ignored when times=1.
constraint	Character; covariance structure for LPA (type="LPA" only). Options: "VV" (unstructured, default), "VE" (diagonal variance), "EE" (equal variance).
mean.range	Numeric vector; range for randomly generated class means in LPA (default: c(-2, 2)).
covs.range	Numeric vector; range for covariance matrix diagonals in LPA (default: c(0.01, 4)).
poly.value	Integer; number of categories for polytomous LCA items (default: 5).
IQ	Character; method for generating item discrimination in LCA. "random" (default) or fixed values.
params	List or NULL; pre-specified parameters for reproducibility (see Details).
is.sort	A logical value. If TRUE (Default), the latent classes will be ordered in descending order according to P.Z. All other parameters will be adjusted accordingly based on the reordered latent classes.
covariates	List of matrices or NULL; covariate matrices for each time point. Each matrix must have dimensions $N \times p_t$ and include an intercept column (first column must be all 1s). If NULL, covariate mode is disabled. See Details for automatic coefficient generation.
beta	Matrix or NULL; initial state regression coefficients of dimension $p_1 \times L$. Columns correspond to classes 1 to L (last class L is reference and must be zero). If NULL and covariates are used, coefficients are randomly generated from Uniform(-1, 1).
gamma	List or NULL; transition regression coefficients. Must be a list of length <code>times-1</code> . Each element t is a list of length L (previous state). Each sub-list contains L vectors (next state), where the last vector (reference class) is always 0 . Ignored when times=1. If NULL and covariates are used with <code>times>=2</code> , coefficients are randomly generated from Uniform(-1, 1) for non-reference classes.

Details

Covariate Requirements:

- Covariate matrices must include an intercept (first column = 1). If omitted, the function adds an intercept and issues a warning.
- When `covariates` is provided but `beta` or `gamma` is NULL, coefficients are randomly generated from Uniform(-1, 1) (non-reference classes only).
- The reference class (L) always has zero coefficients ($\beta_L = \mathbf{0}$, $\gamma_{l,L} = \mathbf{0}$).

Parameter Compatibility:

- Use `params` to fix item parameters (LCA) or class means/covariances (LPA) across simulations.
- In non-covariate mode, `rate` must be a list of (`times - 1`) valid transition matrices (ignored when `times=1`).
- In covariate mode with `times>=2`, all three (`covariates`, `beta`, `gamma`) must be consistent in dimensions.

Value

A list of class "sim.LTA" containing:

responses List of length times; observed data matrices ($N \times I$).

Zs List of length times; true latent class memberships ($N \times 1$ vectors).

P.Zs List of length times; marginal class probabilities at each time.

par Item parameters for LCA (if type="LCA").

means Class means for LPA (if type="LPA").

covs Class covariance matrices for LPA (if type="LPA").

rate True transition matrices (non-covariate mode only; NULL when times=1).

covariates List of covariate matrices used (covariate mode only).

beta True initial state coefficients (covariate mode only).

gamma True transition coefficients (covariate mode only; NULL when times=1).

call Function call.

arguments Input arguments.

Model Specification

Initial Class Probabilities (with covariates): For observation/participant n at time 1, the probability of belonging to latent class l is:

$$P(Z_{n1} = l \mid \mathbf{X}_{n1}) = \frac{\exp(\beta_l^\top \mathbf{X}_{n1})}{\sum_{k=1}^L \exp(\beta_k^\top \mathbf{X}_{n1})}$$

where $\mathbf{X}_{n1} = (X_{n10}, X_{n11}, \dots, X_{n1M})^\top$ is the covariate vector for observation/participant n at time 1, with $X_{n10} = 1$ (intercept term) and X_{n1m} ($m = 1, \dots, M$) representing the value of the m -th covariate. The coefficient vector $\beta_l = (\beta_{l0}, \beta_{l1}, \dots, \beta_{lM})^\top$ corresponds element-wise to \mathbf{X}_{n1} , where β_{l0} is the intercept and β_{lm} ($m \geq 1$) are regression coefficients for covariates. Class L is the reference class ($\beta_L = \mathbf{0}$).

Transition Probabilities (with covariates and times ≥ 2): For observation/participant n transitioning from class l at time $t - 1$ to class k at time t ($t \geq 2$):

$$P(Z_{nt} = k \mid Z_{n,t-1} = l, \mathbf{X}_{nt}) = \frac{\exp(\gamma_{lkt}^\top \mathbf{X}_{nt})}{\sum_{j=1}^L \exp(\gamma_{ljt}^\top \mathbf{X}_{nt})}$$

where $\mathbf{X}_{nt} = (X_{nt0}, X_{nt1}, \dots, X_{ntM})^\top$ is the covariate vector at time t , with $X_{nt0} = 1$ (intercept) and X_{ntm} ($m = 1, \dots, M$) as the m -th covariate value. The coefficient vector $\gamma_{lkt} = (\gamma_{lkt0}, \gamma_{lkt1}, \dots, \gamma_{lktM})^\top$ corresponds element-wise to \mathbf{X}_{nt} , where γ_{lkt0} is the intercept and γ_{lktm} ($m \geq 1$) are regression coefficients. Class L is the reference class ($\gamma_{lLt} = \mathbf{0}$ for all l).

Without Covariates or When times=1: Initial probabilities follow a multinomial distribution with probabilities $\pi = (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_L)$. When $times \geq 2$, transitions follow a Markov process with fixed probabilities $\tau_{lk}^{(t)} = P(Z_t = k \mid Z_{t-1} = l)$, where $\sum_{k=1}^L \tau_{lk}^{(t)} = 1$ for each l and t .

Examples

```
##### Example 1: Single time point (times=1) #####
library(LCPA)
set.seed(123)
sim_single <- sim.LTA(N = 200, I = 4, L = 3, times = 1, type = "LCA")
print(sim_single)

##### Example 2: LPA without covariates #####
set.seed(123)
sim_lta <- sim.LTA(N = 200, I = 3, L = 3, times = 3, type = "LPA", constraint = "VE")
print(sim_lta)

##### Example 3: With custom covariates (times>=2) #####
set.seed(123)
N <- 200 ## sample size

## Covariates at time point T1
covariates.inter <- rep(1, N) # Intercept term is always 1 for each n
covariates.X1 <- rnorm(N) # Covariate X1 is a continuous variable
covariates.X2 <- rbinom(N, 1, 0.5) # Covariate X2 is a binary variable
covariates.X1.X2 <- covariates.X1 * covariates.X2 # Interaction between covariates X1 and X2
covariates.T1 <- cbind(inter=covariates.inter, X1=covariates.X1,
                      X2=covariates.X2, X1.X2=covariates.X1.X2) # Combine into covariates at T1

## Covariates at time point T2
covariates.inter <- rep(1, N) # Intercept term is always 1 for each n
covariates.X1 <- rnorm(N) # Covariate X1 is a continuous variable
covariates.X2 <- rbinom(N, 1, 0.5) # Covariate X2 is a binary variable
covariates.X1.X2 <- covariates.X1 * covariates.X2 # Interaction between covariates X1 and X2
covariates.T2 <- cbind(inter=covariates.inter, X1=covariates.X1,
                      X2=covariates.X2, X1.X2=covariates.X1.X2) # Combine into covariates at T2

covariates <- list(t1=covariates.T1, t2=covariates.T2) # Combine into final covariates list

## Simulate beta coefficients
# 3x3 matrix (last column is zero because the last category is used as reference)
beta <- matrix(c( 0.8, -0.5, 0.0,
                 -0.3, -0.4, 0.0,
                  0.2,  0.8, 0.0,
                 -0.1,  0.2, 0.0), ncol=3, byrow=TRUE)

## Simulate gamma coefficients (only needed when times>=2)
gamma <- list(
  lapply(1:3, function(l) {
    lapply(1:3, function(k) if(k < 3)
      runif(4, -1.0, 1.0) else c(0, 0, 0, 0)) # Last class as reference
  })
)

## Simulate the data
sim_custom <- sim.LTA(
  N=N, I=4, L=3, times=2, type="LPA",
```

```

    covariates=covariates,
    beta=beta,
    gamma=gamma
)

summary(sim_custom)

```

summary

S3 Methods: summary

Description

Generates structured, comprehensive summaries of objects produced by the LCPA package. This generic function dispatches to class-specific methods that extract and organize key information including model configurations, fit statistics, parameter estimates, simulation truths, and diagnostics. Designed for programmatic access and downstream reporting.

Usage

```

## S3 method for class 'LCA'
summary(object, digits = 4, I.max = 5, ...)

## S3 method for class 'LPA'
summary(object, digits = 4, I.max = 5, ...)

## S3 method for class 'LTA'
summary(object, digits = 4, I.max = 5, ...)

## S3 method for class 'LCPA'
summary(object, digits = 4, I.max = 5, ...)

## S3 method for class 'sim.LCA'
summary(object, digits = 4, I.max = 5, ...)

## S3 method for class 'sim.LPA'
summary(object, digits = 4, I.max = 5, ...)

## S3 method for class 'sim.LTA'
summary(object, digits = 4, I.max = 5, L.max = 5, ...)

## S3 method for class 'fit.index'
summary(object, digits = 4, ...)

## S3 method for class 'compare.model'
summary(object, digits = 4, ...)

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

```

Arguments

<code>object</code>	An object of one of the following classes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model objects: <code>LCA</code>, <code>LPA</code>, <code>LCPA</code>, <code>LTA</code> • Simulation objects: <code>sim.LCA</code>, <code>sim.LPA</code>, <code>sim.LTA</code> • Fit/comparison objects: <code>get.fit.index</code>, <code>compare.model</code> • Standard error objects: <code>get.SE</code>
<code>digits</code>	Number of decimal places for numeric output (default: 4). Applied universally across all methods.
<code>I.max</code>	Maximum number of variables/items to display (<code>LCA</code> , <code>LPA</code> , <code>sim.LCA</code> , <code>sim.LPA</code> , <code>sim.LTA</code> , <code>LCPA</code> , <code>LTA</code> , and <code>compare.model</code> only; default: 5). Controls verbosity for high-dimensional outputs.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments passed to or from other methods (currently ignored).
<code>L.max</code>	Maximum number of latent classes/profiles to display before truncation (<code>sim.LTA</code> only; default: 5). Useful when models have many latent groups. Ignored for other classes.

Details

Each method returns a named list with class-specific components optimized for structured access:

`LCA` Returns a `summary.LCA` object with components:

```
call Original function call.
model.config List: latent_classes, method.
data.info List: N, I, poly.value, uniform_categories.
fit.stats List: LogLik, AIC, BIC, entropy, npar.
class.probs Data frame: Class, Count, Proportion.
item.probs List of matrices (first I.max items) with conditional probabilities per class/category.
convergence List: algorithm, iterations, tolerance, loglik change, hardware (if applicable).
replication List: nrep, best_BIC (if multiple replications performed).
digits, I.max.shown, total.items Metadata for printing/formatting.
```

`LPA` Returns a `summary.LPA` object with components:

```
call Original function call.
model.config List: latent_profiles, constraint, cov_structure, method.
data.info List: N, I, distribution.
fit.stats List: LogLik, AIC, BIC, entropy, npar.
class.probs Data frame: Profile, Count, Proportion.
class.means Matrix (first I.max variables) of profile-specific means.
convergence List: algorithm, iterations, tolerance, loglik change, hardware (if applicable).
replication List: nrep, best_BIC (if multiple replications performed).
digits, I.max.shown, total.vars Metadata for printing/formatting.
```

`LCPA` Returns a `summary.LCPA` object with components:

```
call Original function call.
```

`model.config` List: `latent_classes`, `model_type`, `reference_class`, `covariates_mode`, `CEP_handling`.
`data.info` List: `sample_size`, `variables`.
`fit.stats` List: `LogLik`, `AIC`, `BIC`, `npar`.
`class.probs` Data frame: `Class`, `Probability`, `Proportion`, `Frequency`.
`coefficients` Data frame: regression coefficients for non-reference classes (`Estimate`, `Std_Error`, `z_value`, `p_value`, 95% CI).
`reference_class` Integer: reference class for multinomial logit.
`convergence` List: `iterations`, `coveraged`, `converg_note`.
`digits`, `I.max.shown`, `total.vars`, `has.covariates` Metadata for printing/formatting.

`LTA` Returns a summary.`LTA` object with components:

`call` Original function call.
`model.config` List: `time_points`, `latent_classes`, `model_type`, `reference_class`, `covariates_mode`, `CEP_handling`, `transition_mode`.
`data.info` List: `sample_size`, `variables`, `time_points`.
`fit.stats` List: `LogLik`, `AIC`, `BIC`, `npar`.
`class.probs` List of data frames (per time point): `Class`, `Probability`, `Proportion`, `Frequency`.
`initial_model` List: `coefficients` (data frame), `covariate_names`, `reference_class`.
`transition_models` Named list of data frames: transition coefficients per time interval (`From_Class`, `To_Class`, `Estimate`, `Std_Error`, etc.).
`reference_class` Integer: reference destination class for transitions.
`convergence` List: `iterations`, `coveraged`, `converg_note`.
`digits`, `I.max.shown`, `total.vars`, `covariates.timeCross` Metadata for printing/formatting.

`sim.LCA` Returns a summary.`sim.LCA` object with components:

`call` Original simulation call.
`config` List: `N`, `I`, `L`, `poly.value`, `uniform_categories`, `IQ`, `distribution`.
`class.probs` Data frame: `Class`, `Probability`, `Frequency`.
`item.probs` List of matrices (first `I.max` items) with true conditional probabilities per class/category.
`digits`, `I.max.shown`, `total.vars` Metadata for printing/formatting.

`sim.LPA` Returns a summary.`sim.LPA` object with components:

`call` Original simulation call.
`config` List: `N`, `I`, `L`, `constraint`, `constraint_desc`, `distribution`.
`class.probs` Data frame: `Profile`, `Probability`, `Frequency`.
`class.means` Matrix (first `I.max` variables) of true profile-specific means.
`cov_structure` Character: detailed description of covariance constraints.
`digits`, `I.max.shown`, `total.vars` Metadata for printing/formatting.

`sim.LTA` Returns a summary.`sim.LTA` object with components:

`call` Original simulation call.
`config` List: `N`, `I`, `L`, `times`, `type`, `distribution`, `constraint` (if LPA).
`class.probs` List of data frames (per time point): `Class`, `Probability`, `Frequency`.
`item.probs` Nested list (by time/item) of true conditional probabilities (if `type="LCA"`).

`class.means` List of matrices (by time) of true profile means (if `type="LPA"`).
`transition` List: mode ("fixed" or "covariate"), rate or beta/gamma coefficients, `time_points`.
`covariates` List of data frames (per time point) with covariate summaries (Min, Max, Mean), if present.
`digits, I.max.shown, L.max.shown, total.vars, total.classes` Metadata for printing/formatting.
`fit.index` Returns a `summary.fit.index` object with components:
`call` Function call that generated the fit indices.
`data.info` List: N.
`fit.table` Data frame: Statistic, Value, Description for -2LL, AIC, BIC, SIC, CAIC, AWE, SABIC.
`digits` Numeric: precision used for formatting.
`compare.model` Returns a `summary.compare.model` object with components:
`call` Function call that generated the comparison.
`data.info` List: N, I, L (named vector for two models).
`fit.table` Data frame comparing fit indices for both models.
`model_comparison` Data frame: Classes, `npar`, AvePP, Entropy.
`BF` Numeric: Bayes Factor value (if computed).
`BF_interpretation` Character: interpretive guidance for Bayes Factor.
`lrt_table` Data frame: Test, Statistic, DF, p-value, Sig (significance markers).
`lrt_objects` List: raw hypothesis test objects for further inspection.
`digits` Numeric: precision used for formatting.
`SE` Returns a `summary.SE` object with components:
`call` Original function call.
`method` Character: "Obs" or "Bootstrap".
`diagnostics` List: method-specific diagnostic info (e.g., `n.Bootstrap`, `hessian_cond_number`).
`model_type` Character: "LCA" or "LPA".
`L` Integer: number of latent classes/profiles.
`I` Integer: number of variables/items (NA if unknown).
`nonzero_counts` List: counts of non-zero SEs by parameter type (PZ, means/par, covs).
`total_PZ` Integer: total number of class probability parameters.

Value

Invisibly returns a structured list containing summary components. The exact structure depends on the class of object. All returned objects carry an appropriate S3 class (e.g., `summary.LCA`, `summary.LPA`) for use with corresponding print methods.

Methods (by class)

- `summary(LCA)`: Summary method for LCA objects
- `summary(LPA)`: Summary method for LPA objects
- `summary(LTA)`: Summary method for LTA objects
- `summary(LCPA)`: Summary method for LCPA objects

- `summary(sim.LCA)`: Summary method for `sim.LCA` objects
- `summary(sim.LPA)`: Summary method for `sim.LPA` objects
- `summary(sim.LTA)`: Summary method for `sim.LTA` objects
- `summary(fit.index)`: Summary method for `fit.index` objects
- `summary(compare.model)`: Summary method for `compare.model` objects
- `summary(SE)`: Summary method for `summary.SE` objects

update

S3 Methods: update

Description

The `update` function provides a unified and convenient interface to refresh or modify existing objects generated by the `LCPA` package. It allows users to re-run model fitting or data simulation with new parameter settings while preserving all other original configurations. Supported classes include: [LCA](#), [LPA](#), [LCPA](#), [LTA](#), [sim.LCA](#), [sim.LPA](#), and [sim.LTA](#).

Usage

```
update(x, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'LCA'  
update(x, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'LPA'  
update(x, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'LCPA'  
update(x, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'LTA'  
update(x, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'sim.LCA'  
update(x, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'sim.LPA'  
update(x, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'sim.LTA'  
update(x, ...)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of one of the following classes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCA — Latent Class Analysis model. • LPA — Latent Profile Analysis model. • LCPA — Latent Class Prediction Analysis (with covariates). • LTA — Latent Transition Analysis model. • sim.LCA — Simulated LCA dataset. • sim.LPA — Simulated LPA dataset. • sim.LTA — Simulated LTA dataset.
<code>...</code>	Additional named arguments passed to override or extend the original call. Valid arguments depend on the class of <code>x</code> : <p><code>LCA</code> <code>response</code>, <code>L</code>, <code>par.ini</code>, <code>method</code>, <code>is.sort</code>, <code>nrep</code>, <code>vis</code>, <code>control.EM</code>, <code>control.Mplus</code>, <code>control.NNE</code></p> <p><code>LPA</code> <code>response</code>, <code>L</code>, <code>par.ini</code>, <code>constraint</code>, <code>method</code>, <code>is.sort</code>, <code>nrep</code>, <code>vis</code>, <code>control.EM</code>, <code>control.Mplus</code>, <code>control.NNE</code></p> <p><code>LCPA</code> <code>response</code>, <code>L</code>, <code>ref.class</code>, <code>type</code>, <code>covariates</code>, <code>CEP.error</code>, <code>par.ini</code>, <code>params</code>, <code>is.sort</code>, <code>constraint</code>, <code>method</code>, <code>tol</code>, <code>maxiter</code>, <code>nrep</code>, <code>starts</code>, <code>maxiter.wa</code>, <code>vis</code>, <code>control.EM</code>, <code>control.Mplus</code>, <code>control.NNE</code></p> <p><code>LTA</code> <code>responses</code>, <code>L</code>, <code>ref.class</code>, <code>type</code>, <code>covariates</code>, <code>CEP.timeCross</code>, <code>CEP.error</code>, <code>covariates.timeCross</code>, <code>par.ini</code>, <code>params</code>, <code>is.sort</code>, <code>constraint</code>, <code>method</code>, <code>tol</code>, <code>maxiter</code>, <code>nrep</code>, <code>starts</code>, <code>maxiter.wa</code>, <code>vis</code>, <code>control.EM</code>, <code>control.Mplus</code>, <code>control.NNE</code></p> <p><code>sim.LCA</code> <code>N</code>, <code>I</code>, <code>L</code>, <code>poly.value</code>, <code>IQ</code>, <code>distribution</code>, <code>params</code>, <code>is.sort</code></p> <p><code>sim.LPA</code> <code>N</code>, <code>I</code>, <code>L</code>, <code>constraint</code>, <code>distribution</code>, <code>mean.range</code>, <code>covs.range</code>, <code>params</code>, <code>is.sort</code></p> <p><code>sim.LTA</code> <code>N</code>, <code>I</code>, <code>L</code>, <code>times</code>, <code>type</code>, <code>rate</code>, <code>constraint</code>, <code>distribution</code>, <code>mean.range</code>, <code>covs.range</code>, <code>poly.value</code>, <code>IQ</code>, <code>covariates</code>, <code>beta</code>, <code>gamma</code>, <code>params</code>, <code>is.sort</code></p>

Details

Internally, each method extracts the stored arguments list from the input object `x`, merges it with user-provided `...` using `modifyList`, then re-invokes the corresponding constructor function (`LCA()`, `LPA()`, `LCPA()`, `LTA()`, `sim.LCA()`, etc.) with the merged argument list.

This ensures that:

- Only explicitly overridden parameters are changed.
- Default values from the original call remain intact.
- Complex nested structures (e.g., control lists) can be partially updated.

Note: If an invalid argument is passed (e.g., `constraint` to `LCA`), it will be silently ignored unless the underlying constructor validates inputs.

Value

An object of the same class as `x`, reconstructed using the original arguments updated with any provided in `...`. All unchanged parameters are preserved from the original call.

Methods (by class)

- `update(LCA)`: Update method for LCA objects
- `update(LPA)`: Update method for LPA objects
- `update(LCPA)`: Update method for LCPA objects
- `update(LTA)`: Update method for LTA objects
- `update(sim.LCA)`: Update method for `sim.LCA` objects
- `update(sim.LPA)`: Update method for `sim.LPA` objects
- `update(sim.LTA)`: Update method for `sim.LTA` objects

Examples

```
library(LCPA)

# --- Update LCA ---
data <- sim.LCA(N=500, I=5, L=3)
lca.obj <- LCA(data$response, L=3)
lca.updated <- update(lca.obj, method="EM", nrep=5)

# --- Update LPA ---
data2 <- sim.LPA(N=300, I=4, L=2)
lpa.obj <- LPA(data2$response, L=2, constraint="VE")
lpa.updated <- update(lpa.obj, constraint="VV")

# --- Update Simulation Objects ---
sim.obj1 <- sim.LCA(N=1000)
sim.obj1_updated <- update(sim.obj1, N=2000, IQ=0.8)

sim.obj2 <- sim.LPA(I=6)
sim.obj2_updated <- update(sim.obj2, I=8, mean.range=c(-2,2))

sim.obj3 <- sim.LTA(N=200, I=5, L=2, times=3)
sim.obj3_updated <- update(sim.obj3, N=300, times=4, constraint="ER")
```

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