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Contents

1	Intro	duction	1
2	ccrepe		1
	2.1	General functionality	1
	2.2	Arguments	2
	2.3	Output	3
	2.4	Usage	2
	2.5	Example 1	2
	2.6	Example 2	6
	2.7	Example 3	8
	2.8	Example 4	10
	2.9	Example 5	11
3	nc.score		12
	3.1	General Functionality	12
	3.2	Arguments	13
	3.3	Output	13
	3.4	Usage	13
	3.5	Example 1	13
	3.6	Example 2	15
	3.7	Example 3	16
4	Refe	rences	17

1 Introduction

ccrepe is a package for analysis of sparse compositional data. Specifically, it determines the significance of association between features in a composition, using any similarity measure (e.g. Pearson correlation, Spearman correlation, etc.) The CCREPE methodology stands for Compositionality Corrected by Renormalization and Permutation, as detailed below. The package also provides a novel similarity measure, the N-dimensional checkerboard score (NC-score), particularly appropriate to compositions derived from microbial community sequencing data. This results in p-values and false discovery rate q-values corrected for the effects of compositionality. The package contains two functions ccrepe and nc.score and is maintained

using the Benjamin-Hochberg-Yekutieli procedure. For greater detail, see Faust et al. [2012] and Schwager and Colleagues.

CCREPE employs several filtering steps before the data are processed. It removes any missing subjects using na.omit: in the two dataset case, any subjects missing in *either* dataset will be removed. Any subjects or features which are all zero are removed as well: an all-zero subject cannot be normalized (its sum is 0) and an all-zero feature has standard deviation 0 (in addition to being uninteresting biologically).

2.2 Arguments

- x First dataframe or matrix containing relative abundances. Columns are features, rows are samples. Rows should therefore sum to a constant. Row names are used for identification if present.
- y Second dataframe or matrix (optional) containing relative abundances. Columns are features, rows are samples. Rows should therefore sum to a constant. If both x and y are specified, they will be merged by row names. If no row names are specified for either or both datasets, the default is to merge by row number.
- sim.score Similarity measure, such as cor or nc.score. This can be either an existing R function or user-defined. If the latter, certain properties should be satisfied as detailed below (also see examples). The default similarity measure is the Pearson correlation.

A user-defined similarity measure should mimic the interface of cor:

- 1. Take either two *vector* inputs one *matrix* or *dataframe* input.
- 2. In the case of two inputs, return a single number.
- 3. In the case of one input, return a matrix in which the (i,j)th entry is the similarity score for column i and column j in the original matrix.
- 4. The resulting matrix (in the case of one input) must be symmetric.
- 5. The inputs must be named x and y.
- sim.score.args An optional list of arguments for the measurement function. When given, they are passed to the sim.score function directly. For example, in the case of cor, the following would be acceptable:

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min.subj Minimum number (count) of samples that must be non-missing in order to apply the similarity measure. This is to ensure that there are sufficient samples to perform a bootstrap (default: 20).

iterations The number of iterations for both bootstrap and permutation calculations (default: 1000).

- subset.cols.x A vector of column indices from x to indicate which features to compare
- subset.cols.y A vector of column indices from y to indicate which features to compare
- ${f errthresh}$ If feature has number of zeros greater than $errthresh^{1/n}$, that feature is excluded
- **verbose** If TRUE, print periodic progress of the algorithm through the dataset(s), as well as including more detailed debugging output. (default: FALSE).
- iterations.gap If verbose=TRUE, the number of iterations between issuing status messages (default: 100).
- **distributions** Optional output file for detailed log (if given) of all intermediate permutation and renormalization distributions.
- compare.within.x A boolean value indicating whether to do comparisons given by taking all subsets of size 2 from subset.cols.x or to do comparisons given by taking all possible combinations of subset.cols.x and subset.cols.y. If TRUE but subset.cols.y=NA, returns all comparisons involving any features in subset.cols.x. This argument is only used when y=NA.
- **concurrent.output** Optional output file to which each comparison will be written as it is calculated.
- make.output.table A boolean value indicating whether to include table-formatted output.

2.3 Output

- ccrepe returns a list containing both the calculation results and the parameters used:
- sim.score matrix of similarity scores for all requested comparisons. The (i,j)th element
 corresponds to the similarity score of column i (or the ith column of subset.cols.1)
 and column j (or the jth column of subset.cols.1) in one dataset, or to the similarity
 score of column i (or the ith column of subset.cols.1) in dataset x and column j (or
 the jth column of subset.cols.2) in dataset y in the case of two datasets.
- **p.values** matrix of the corrected p-values for all requested comparisons. The (i,j)th element corresponds to the p-value of the (i,j)th element of sim.score.
- **q.values** matrix of the Benjamini-Hochberg-Yekutieli corrected p-values. The (i,j)th element corresponds to the p-value of the (i,j)th element of sim.score.
- **z.stat** matrix of the z-statistics used in generating the p-values for all requested comparisons. The (i,j)th element corresponds to the z-statistic generating the (i,j)th element of p.values.

2.4 Usage

```
ototalleftmargin@ osetminipage
ccrepe(
x = NA,
y = NA,
sim.score = cor,
sim.score.args = list(),
min.subj = 20,
iterations = 1000,
subset.cols.x = NULL,
subset.cols.y = NULL,
errthresh = 1e-04,
verbose = FALSE,
iterations.gap = 100,
distributions = NA,
compare.within.x = TRUE,
concurrent.output = NA,
make.output.table = FALSE)
ominipagefalse
```

2.5 Example 1

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An example of how to use ccrepe with one dataset.

```
ototalleftmargin@ osetminipage
                              data <- matrix(rlnorm(40, meanlog=0, sdlog=1), nrow=10, ncol=4)</pre>
                              data[,1] = 2*data[,2] + rnorm(10,0,0.01)
                              data.rowsum <- apply(data,1,sum)</pre>
                              data.norm <- data/data.rowsum
                              apply(data.norm,1,sum) # The rows sum to 1, so the data are normalized
                              ## [1] 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
                              test.input <- data.norm
                              dimnames(test.input) <- list(c(</pre>
                               "Sample 1", "Sample 2", "Sample 3", "Sample 4", "Sample 5",
                               "Sample 6", "Sample 7", "Sample 8", "Sample 9", "Sample 10"),
                               c("Feature 1", "Feature 2", "Feature 3", "Feature 4"))
                              test.output <- ccrepe(x=test.input, iterations=20, min.subj=10)</pre>
                              ominipagefalse
ototalleftotalleftmargin
                              ototalleftmargin@ osetminipage
                              par(mfrow=c(1,2))
                              plot(data[,1],data[,2],xlab="Feature 1",ylab="Feature 2",main="Non-normalized")
                              plot(data.norm[,1],data.norm[,2],xlab="Feature 1",ylab="Feature 2",
                                    main="Normalized")
ototallettotalleftmargin
```

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ominipagefalse

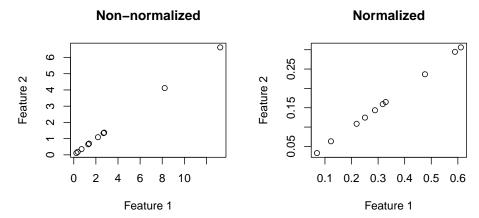


Figure 1: Non-normalized and normalized associations between feature 1 and feature 2 In this case we would expect feature 1 and feature 2 to be associated. In the output we see this by the positive sim.score value in the [1,2] element of test.output\$sim.score and the small q-value in the [1,2] element of test.output\$q.values.

```
ototalleftmargin@ osetminipage
                             test.output
                             ## $p.values
                                             Feature 1
                                                          Feature 2 Feature 3 Feature 4
                             ## Feature 1
                                                    NA 1.756616e-05 0.5654526 0.16533044
                             ## Feature 2 1.756616e-05
                                                                 NA 0.2299822 0.04276288
                             ## Feature 3 5.654526e-01 2.299822e-01
                                                                            NA 0.32957253
                               Feature 4 1.653304e-01 4.276288e-02 0.3295725
                                                                                       NA
                             ##
                             ## $z.stat
                                           Feature 1 Feature 2 Feature 3 Feature 4
                             ## Feature 1
                                                  NA 4.293774 -0.5747614 -1.3873652
                             ## Feature 2 4.2937736
                                                            NA -1.2004047 -2.0260186
                               Feature 3 -0.5747614 -1.200405
                                                                        NA
                                                                           0.9749753
                               Feature 4 -1.3873652 -2.026019
                                                                                   NA
                             ##
                                $sim.score
                             ##
                                           Feature 1 Feature 2 Feature 3 Feature 4
                                                      0.9999119 -0.3876728 -0.7912952
                             ## Feature 1
                                                  NA
                                                             NA -0.3859728 -0.7923909
                             ## Feature 2 0.9999119
                                Feature 3 -0.3876728 -0.3859728
                                                                         NA -0.2568388
                                Feature 4 -0.7912952 -0.7923909 -0.2568388
                                                                                    NA
                             ##
                             ##
                                $q.values
                             ##
                                             Feature 1
                                                          Feature 2 Feature 3 Feature 4
                                                    NA 0.0002496828 1.3395433 0.7833274
                             ## Feature 1
                             ## Feature 2 0.0002496828
                                                                 NA 0.8172331 0.3039126
                             ## Feature 3 1.3395432651 0.8172331240
                                                                            NA 0.9368990
ototallettotalleftmargin
                             ## Feature 4 0.7833273932 0.3039125974 0.9368990
                                                                                      NA
```

ototalleftotalleftmargin

ominipagefalse

2.6 Example 2

An example of how to use ccrepe with two datasets.

```
ototalleftmargin@ osetminipage
data <- matrix(rlnorm(40, meanlog=0, sdlog=1), nrow=10, ncol=4)</pre>
data[,1] = 2*data[,2] + rnorm(10,0,0.01)
data.rowsum <- apply(data,1,sum)</pre>
data.norm <- data/data.rowsum
apply(data.norm,1,sum) # The rows sum to 1, so the data are normalized
## [1] 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
test.input <- data.norm
data2 <- matrix(rlnorm(105, meanlog=0, sdlog=1), nrow=15, ncol=7)</pre>
aligned.rows \leftarrow c(seq(1,4),seq(6,9),11,12) # The datasets dont need
                                              # to have subjects line up exactly
data2[aligned.rows,1] <- 2*data[,3] + rnorm(10,0,0.01)
data2.rowsum <- apply(data2,1,sum)</pre>
data2.norm <- data2/data2.rowsum
apply(data2.norm,1,sum) # The rows sum to 1, so the data are normalized
## [1] 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
test.input.2 <- data2.norm
dimnames(test.input) <- list(paste("Sample",seq(1,10)),paste("Feature",seq(1,4)))</pre>
dimnames(test.input.2) <- list(paste("Sample",c(seq(1,4),11,seq(5,8),12,9,10,13,14,15)),paste("</pre>
test.output.two.datasets <- ccrepe(x=test.input, y=test.input.2, iterations=20, min.subj=10)
## Warning in preprocess_data(CA): Removing subjects
Sample 11, Sample 12, Sample 13, Sample 14, Sample 15
from dataset y because they are not in dataset x.
ominipagefalse
```

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Please note that we receive a warning because the subjects don't match - only paired observations.

```
ototalleftmargin@ osetminipage

par(mfrow=c(1,2))

plot(data2[aligned.rows,1],data[,3],xlab="dataset 2: Feature 1",ylab="dataset 1: Feature 3",ma:

plot(data2.norm[aligned.rows,1],data.norm[,3],xlab="dataset 2: Feature 1",ylab="dataset 1: Feature 1",ylab
```

Normalized Non-normalized dataset 1: Feature 3 dataset 1: Feature 3 4 0 0.35 00 0 0 က 0.25 ص[©]° 2 0 0.1 2 6 8 0.1 0.3 0.5 4 dataset 2: Feature 1 dataset 2: Feature 1

Figure 2: Non-normalized and normalized associations between feature 1 and feature 2 In this case we would expect feature 1 and feature 2 to be associated. In the output we see this by the positive sim.score value in the [1,2] element of test.output\$sim.score and the small q-value in the [1,2] element of test.output\$q.values.

```
ototalleftmargin@ osetminipage
test.output.two.datasets
## $p.values
##
               Feature 1
                           Feature 2 Feature 3 Feature 4 Feature 5 Feature 6
## Feature 1 0.345872402 0.419383416 0.9432693 0.5006452 0.35064584 0.2216574
## Feature 2 0.265286949 0.371659168 0.8074678 0.4084374 0.37293944 0.1756130
  Feature 3 0.002050669 0.005449224 0.3733573 0.7184186 0.22331262 0.6460115
## Feature 4 0.740295138 0.511050407 0.7169565 0.3534291 0.07328915 0.3795741
##
              Feature 7
## Feature 1 0.96084739
## Feature 2 0.89331951
## Feature 3 0.07237619
## Feature 4 0.53927351
##
##
  $z.stat
              Feature 1
                        Feature 2
                                     Feature 3 Feature 4
                                                           Feature 5 Feature 6
## Feature 1 -0.9426257
                        0.8074914
                                   0.07116139
                                               0.6734749
                                                           0.9333373 -1.2221327
  Feature 2 -1.1139819 0.8933698 -0.24369396
                                               0.8266465
                                                           0.8909809 -1.3543869
  Feature 3 3.0827942 -2.7792043 -0.89020227 0.3605731
                                                           1.2177667
  Feature 4 -0.3314625 0.6572030 0.36252939 -0.9279585 -1.7910259
##
               Feature 7
## Feature 1 0.04909023
  Feature 2 0.13410505
## Feature 3 -1.79674451
##
  Feature 4 0.61391195
##
## $sim.score
##
              Feature 1
                           Feature 2
                                       Feature 3
                                                    Feature 4
                                                               Feature 5
## Feature 1 -0.39577927
                          0.26949793 -0.07841653 0.196328360
                        0.26984242 -0.07808791 0.198252113
  Feature 2 -0.39946820
                                                               0.3426280
  Feature 3 0.91139207 -0.63408844 -0.25676915 -0.006946768 0.2964227
  Feature 4 -0.06748179 0.05391557 0.21966731 -0.204136706 -0.5205751
```

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```
Feature 6
                                                   Feature 7
                           ## Feature 1 -0.4029356 0.17725578
                           ## Feature 2 -0.4043042 0.18336066
                           ## Feature 3 0.1025558 -0.46187735
                           ## Feature 4 0.3709278 0.05731246
                           ## $q.values
                                       Feature 1 Feature 2 Feature 3 Feature 4 Feature 5 Feature 6
                           ## Feature 1 4.206722 2.7004287 3.824215 3.044584 3.838301 4.043910
                           ## Feature 2 3.629914 3.3902677 3.535539 2.794319 3.140258 3.844652
                           ## Feature 3 0.224474 0.2982463 2.919221 3.419165 3.492092 3.367374
                           ## Feature 4 3.376479 2.9442896 3.567307 3.517062 2.005626 2.769974
                                       Feature 7
                           ## Feature 1 3.756356
                           ## Feature 2 3.761004
                           ## Feature 3 2.640857
                           ## Feature 4 2.951545
                           ominipagefalse
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```

2.7 Example 3

An example of how to use ccrepe with nc.score as the similarity score.

```
ototalleftmargin@ osetminipage
                              data <- matrix(rlnorm(40, meanlog=0, sdlog=1), nrow=10, ncol=4)</pre>
                              data[,1] = 2*data[,2] + rnorm(10,0,0.01)
                              data.rowsum <- apply(data,1,sum)</pre>
                              data.norm <- data/data.rowsum
                              apply(data.norm,1,sum) # The rows sum to 1, so the data are normalized
                              ## [1] 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
                              test.input <- data.norm
                              dimnames(test.input) <- list(paste("Sample",seq(1,10)),paste("Feature",seq(1,4)))</pre>
                              test.output.nc.score
                                                         <- ccrepe(x=test.input, sim.score=nc.score, iterations=20, min.subj=10)</pre>
ototalleftotalleftmargin
                              ominipagefalse
                              ototalleftmargin@ osetminipage
                              par(mfrow=c(1,2))
                              plot(data[,1],data[,2],xlab="Feature 1",ylab="Feature 2",main="Non-normalized")
                              plot(data.norm[,1],data.norm[,2],xlab="Feature 1",ylab="Feature 2",
                                   main="Normalized")
                              ominipagefalse
ototalleftotalleftmargin
```

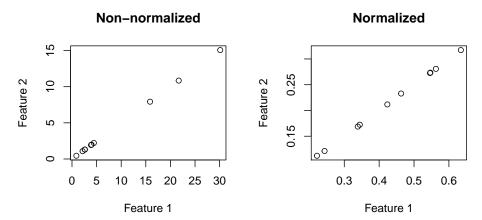


Figure 3: Non-normalized and normalized associations between feature 1 and feature 2 In this case we would expect feature 1 and feature 2 to be associated. In the output we see this by the positive sim.score value in the [1,2] element of test.output\$sim.score and the small q-value in the [1,2] element of test.output\$q.values. In this case, however, the sim.score represents the NC-Score between two features rather than the Spearman correlation.

```
ototalleftmargin@ osetminipage
                             test.output.nc.score
                             ## $p.values
                             ##
                                             Feature 1
                                                          Feature 2 Feature 3 Feature 4
                                                    NA 2.842233e-06 0.4112287 0.6724454
                                                                  NA 0.2225533 0.2176691
                             ## Feature 2 2.842233e-06
                             ## Feature 3 4.112287e-01 2.225533e-01
                                                                            NA 0.4681866
                                Feature 4 6.724454e-01 2.176691e-01 0.4681866
                             ##
                             ##
                                $z.stat
                                           Feature 1 Feature 2 Feature 3 Feature 4
                             ##
                             ## Feature 1
                                                  NA 4.681903 -0.8217333 -0.4227942
                             ## Feature 2 4.6819035
                                                             NA -1.2197667 -1.2327499
                                Feature 3 -0.8217333 -1.219767
                                                                        NA 0.7254327
                             ##
                                Feature 4 -0.4227942 -1.232750 0.7254327
                             ##
                             ##
                                $sim.score
                             ##
                                          Feature 1 Feature 2 Feature 3 Feature 4
                             ## Feature 1
                                                 NA
                                                      1.00000
                                                                 -0.4375
                                                                         -0.59375
                             ## Feature 2
                                            1.00000
                                                           NA
                                                                 -0.4375
                                                                          -0.59375
                             ## Feature 3
                                          -0.43750
                                                     -0.43750
                                                                           0.00000
                                                                      NA
                                                     -0.59375
                                Feature 4
                                           -0.59375
                                                                  0.0000
                                                                                NA
                             ##
                                $q.values
                             ##
                                             Feature 1
                                                          Feature 2 Feature 3 Feature 4
                             ## Feature 1
                                                    NA 4.039908e-05 1.461286 1.593006
                             ## Feature 2 4.039908e-05
                                                                  NA 1.054447 1.546958
                             ## Feature 3 1.461286e+00 1.054447e+00
                                                                            NA 1.330947
                             ## Feature 4 1.593006e+00 1.546958e+00 1.330947
                                                                                      NA
                             ominipagefalse
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```

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2.8 Example 4

An example of how to use ccrepe with a user-defined sim.score function.

```
ototalleftmargin@ osetminipage
                              data <- matrix(rlnorm(40, meanlog=0, sdlog=1), nrow=10, ncol=4)</pre>
                              data[,1] = 2*data[,2] + rnorm(10,0,0.01)
                              data.rowsum <- apply(data,1,sum)</pre>
                              data.norm <- data/data.rowsum
                              apply(data.norm,1,sum) # The rows sum to 1, so the data are normalized
                              ## [1] 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
                              test.input <- data.norm
                              dimnames(test.input) <- list(paste("Sample",seq(1,10)),paste("Feature",seq(1,4)))</pre>
                              my.test.sim.score <- function(x,y=NA,constant=0.5){
                                     if(is.vector(x) && is.vector(y)) return(constant)
                                        if(is.matrix(x) && is.na(y)) return(matrix(rep(constant,ncol(x)^2),ncol=ncol(x)))
                                        if(is.data.frame(x) && is.na(y)) return(matrix(rep(constant,ncol(x)^2),ncol=ncol(x)))
                                        else stop('ERROR')
                                 }
                              test.output.sim.score
                                                        <- ccrepe(x=test.input, sim.score=my.test.sim.score, iterations=20, m;</pre>
                              ominipagefalse
ototalleftotalleftmargin
                              ototalleftmargin@ osetminipage
                              par(mfrow=c(1,2))
                              plot(data[,1],data[,2],xlab="Feature 1",ylab="Feature 2",main="Non-normalized")
                              plot(data.norm[,1],data.norm[,2],xlab="Feature 1",ylab="Feature 2",
                                   main="Normalized")
                              ominipagefalse
ototalleftortalleftmargin
                                      Non-normalized
                                                                                Normalized
```

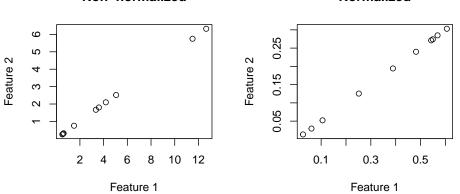


Figure 4: Non-normalized and normalized associations between feature 1 and feature 2In this case we would expect feature 1 and feature 2 to be associated. Note that the values of sim.score are all 0.6 and none of the p-values are very small because of the arbitrary definition of the similarity score.

```
ototalleftmargin@ osetminipage
test.output.sim.score
## $p.values
             Feature 1 Feature 2 Feature 3 Feature 4
## Feature 1
                    NA
                              NaN
                                        NaN
## Feature 2
                   NaN
                               NA
                                        NaN
                                                   NaN
## Feature 3
                   NaN
                              NaN
                                         NA
                                                   NaN
## Feature 4
                   NaN
                              NaN
                                        NaN
                                                    NA
##
## $z.stat
             Feature 1 Feature 2 Feature 3 Feature 4
## Feature 1
                    NA
                              NaN
                                        NaN
## Feature 2
                   NaN
                              NA
                                        NaN
                                                   NaN
## Feature 3
                   NaN
                              NaN
                                         NA
                                                   NaN
## Feature 4
                   NaN
                              NaN
                                        NaN
                                                    NA
## $sim.score
             Feature 1 Feature 2 Feature 3 Feature 4
                              0.6
                                        0.6
## Feature 1
                    NA
## Feature 2
                   0.6
                              NA
                                        0.6
                                                   0.6
## Feature 3
                   0.6
                                                   0.6
                              0.6
                                         NA
## Feature 4
                   0.6
                              0.6
                                        0.6
                                                    NA
##
## $q.values
             Feature 1 Feature 2 Feature 3 Feature 4
## Feature 1
                    NA
                              NaN
                                        NaN
                                                   NaN
## Feature 2
                   NaN
                              NA
                                        NaN
                                                   NaN
## Feature 3
                   NaN
                              NaN
                                         NA
                                                   NaN
## Feature 4
                   NaN
                              NaN
                                        NaN
                                                    NA
ominipagefalse
```

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2.9 Example 5

An example of how to use ccrepe when specifying column subsets.

```
ototalleftmargin@ osetminipage

data <- matrix(rlnorm(40,meanlog=0,sdlog=1),nrow=10,ncol=4)
data.rowsum <- apply(data,1,sum)
data.norm <- data/data.rowsum
apply(data.norm,1,sum) # The rows sum to 1, so the data are normalized

## [1] 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
test.input <- data.norm

dimnames(test.input) <- list(paste("Sample",seq(1,10)),paste("Feature",seq(1,4)))

test.output.1.3 <- ccrepe(x=test.input, iterations=20, min.subj=10, subset.cols.x=c(1,3))
test.output.1 <- ccrepe(x=test.input, iterations=20, min.subj=10, subset.cols.x=c(1), cor</pre>
```

```
test.output.12.3
                    <- ccrepe(x=test.input, iterations=20, min.subj=10, subset.cols.x=c(1,2),su</pre>
test.output.1.3$sim.score
              Feature 1 Feature 3
##
## Feature 1
                     NA -0.2057674
## Feature 3 -0.2057674
                                 NA
test.output.1$sim.score
              Feature 1 Feature 2 Feature 3 Feature 4
## Feature 1
                     NA -0.4314052 -0.2057674 -0.5379471
## Feature 2 -0.4314052
                                 NA
                                            NA
                                                        NA
## Feature 3 -0.2057674
                                 NA
                                            NA
                                                        NA
## Feature 4 -0.5379471
                                 NA
                                            NA
                                                        NA
test.output.12.3$sim.score
              Feature 1 Feature 2 Feature 3 Feature 4
## Feature 1
                                 NA -0.2057674
                     NA
## Feature 2
                     NA
                                 NA -0.1505928
                                                       NA
## Feature 3 -0.2057674 -0.1505928
                                                       NΑ
                                             NA
## Feature 4
                                                       NA
                     NA
                                 NA
                                             NA
ominipagefalse
```

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3 nc.score

The nc.score similarity measure is an N-dimensional extension of the checkerboard score particularly suited to similarity score calculations between compositions derived from ecological relative abundance measurements. In such cases, features typically represent species abundances, and the NC-score discretizes these continuous values into one of N bins before computing a normalized similarity of co-occurrence or co-exclusion. This can be used as a standalone function or with ccrepe as above to obtain compositionality-corrected p-values.

3.1 General Functionality

The NC-score is an extension to Diamond's checkerboard score (see Cody and Diamond [1975]) to ordinal data, and simplifies to a calculation of Kendall's τ on binned data instead of ranked data. Let two features in a dataset with n subjects be denoted by

$$\left[\begin{array}{cccc} x_1 & x_2 & \dots & x_n \\ y_1 & y_2 & \dots & y_n \end{array}\right].$$

The binning function maps from the original data to b numbered bins in $\{1,...,b\}$. Let the binning function be denoted by $B(\cdot)$. The co-variation and co-exclusion patterns are the same as concordant and discordant pairs in Kendall's τ . Considering a 2×2 submatrix of the form

$$\left[\begin{array}{cc} B(x_i) & B(x_j) \\ B(y_i) & B(y_j) \end{array}\right],\,$$

a co-variation pattern is counted when $(B(x_i)-B(x_j))(B(y_i)-B(y_j))>0$ and a co-exclusion pattern, conversely, when $(B(x_i)-B(x_j))(B(y_i)-B(y_j))<0$. The NC-score statistic for features x and y is then defined as

(number of co-variation patterns) - (number of co-exclusion patterns),

normalized by the Kendall's τ normalization factor accounting for ties described in Kendall [1970].

3.2 Arguments

- x First numerical *vector*, or single *dataframe* or *matrix*, containing relative abundances. If the latter, columns are features, rows are samples. Rows should therefore sum to a constant.
- y If provided, second numerical *vector* containing relative abundances. If given, x must be a *vector* as well.
- **nbins** A non-negative integer of the number of bins to generate (cutoffs will be generated by the discretize function from the infotheo package).
- **bin.cutoffs** A list of values demarcating the bin cutoffs. The binning is performed using the findInterval function.
- use An optional character string givinga method for computing covariances in the presence of missing values. This must be (an abbreviaion of) on of the strings "everything", "all.obs", "complete.obs", "na.or.complete", or "pairwise.complete.obs".

3.3 Output

nc.score returns either a single number (if called with two vectors) or a *matrix* of all pairwise scores (if called with a *matrix*) of normalized scores. This behaviour is precisely analogous to the cor function in R

3.4 Usage

3.5 Example 1

An example of using nc.score to get a single similarity score or a matrix.

```
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data <- matrix(rlnorm(40, meanlog=0, sdlog=1), nrow=10, ncol=4)
data.rowsum <- apply(data,1,sum)
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data[,1] = 2*data[,2] + rnorm(10,0,0.01)
```

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```
data.norm <- data/data.rowsum
                             apply(data.norm,1,sum) # The rows sum to 1, so the data are normalized
                             ## [1] 0.3920407 0.9723630 1.3591161 0.6423790 0.8270197 1.0181079 0.6733859
                                [8] 1.3173995 0.9984763 0.5751192
                             test.input <- data.norm
                             dimnames(test.input) <- list(paste("Sample",seq(1,10)),paste("Feature",seq(1,4)))</pre>
                             test.output.matrix <- nc.score(x=test.input)
                                                 <- nc.score(x=test.input[,1],y=test.input[,2])
                             test.output.num
                             ominipagefalse
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                             ototalleftmargin@ osetminipage
                             par(mfrow=c(1, 2))
                             plot(data[,1],data[,2],xlab="Feature 1",ylab="Feature 2",main="Non-normalized")
                             plot(data.norm[,1],data.norm[,2],xlab="Feature 1",ylab="Feature 2",
                                   main="Normalized")
                             ominipagefalse
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```

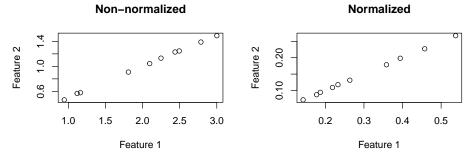


Figure 5: Non-normalized and normalized associations between feature 1 and feature 2 of the second example Again, we expect to observe a positive association between feature 1 and feature 2. In terms of generalized checker-board scores, we would expect to see more co-variation patterns than co-exclusion patterns. This is shown by the positive and relatively high value of the [1,2] element of test.output.matrix (which is identical to test.output.num)

```
ototalleftmargin@ osetminipage
                              test.output.matrix
                                            Feature 1 Feature 2 Feature 3 Feature 4
                              ## Feature 1
                                              1.00000
                                                         1.00000
                                                                   0.21875
                                                                              0.43750
                              ## Feature 2
                                              1.00000
                                                         1.00000
                                                                   0.21875
                                                                              0.43750
                              ## Feature 3
                                              0.21875
                                                         0.21875
                                                                   1.00000
                                                                              0.34375
                              ## Feature 4
                                              0.43750
                                                         0.43750
                                                                   0.34375
                                                                              1.00000
                              test.output.num
                              ## [1] 1
                              ominipagefalse
ototalleftotalleftmargin
```

3.6 Example 2

An example of using nc.score with an aribitrary bin number.

```
ototalleftmargin@ osetminipage
                              data <- matrix(rlnorm(40, meanlog=0, sdlog=1), nrow=10, ncol=4)</pre>
                              data.rowsum <- apply(data,1,sum)</pre>
                              data[,1] = 2*data[,2] + rnorm(10,0,0.01)
                              data.norm <- data/data.rowsum
                              apply(data.norm, 1, sum) # The rows sum to 1, so the data are normalized
                              ## [1] 1.7193961 0.4600418 2.2192763 1.3795590 1.9252256 0.5910881 0.4465658
                              ## [8] 0.7193439 1.2258060 1.1177629
                              test.input <- data.norm
                              dimnames(test.input) <- list(paste("Sample", seq(1,10)), paste("Feature", seq(1,4)))</pre>
                              test.output <- nc.score(x=test.input,nbins=4)</pre>
                              ominipagefalse
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                              ototalleftmargin@ osetminipage
                              par(mfrow=c(1, 2))
                              plot(data[,1],data[,2],xlab="Feature 1",ylab="Feature 2",main="Non-normalized")
                              plot(data.norm[,1],data.norm[,2],xlab="Feature 1",ylab="Feature 2",
                                    main="Normalized")
                              ominipagefalse
ototallettotalleftmargin
```

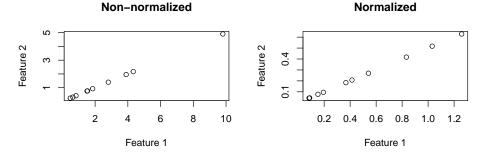


Figure 6: Non-normalized and normalized associations between feature 1 and feature 2 of the second example Again, we expect to observe a positive association between feature 1 and feature 2. In terms of generalized checkerboard scores, we would expect to see more co-variation patterns than co-exclusion patterns. This is shown by the positive and relatively high value in the [1,2] element of test.output. In this case, the smaller bin number yields a smaller NC-score because of the coarser partitioning of the data.

```
ototalleftmargin@ osetminipage

test.output

## Feature 1 Feature 2 Feature 3 Feature 4

## Feature 1 1.0000000 1.0000000 0.2000000 -0.3142857

ototalleftotalleftotalleftmargin ## Feature 2 1.0000000 1.0000000 0.2000000 -0.3142857
```

```
## Feature 3 0.2000000 0.2000000 1.0000000 -0.2285714
## Feature 4 -0.3142857 -0.3142857 -0.2285714 1.0000000
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```

3.7 Example 3

An example of using nc.score with user-defined bin edges.

```
ototalleftmargin@ osetminipage
                              data <- matrix(rlnorm(40, meanlog=0, sdlog=1), nrow=10, ncol=4)</pre>
                              data.rowsum <- apply(data,1,sum)</pre>
                              data[,1] = 2*data[,2] + rnorm(10,0,0.01)
                              data.norm <- data/data.rowsum
                              apply(data.norm,1,sum) # The rows sum to 1, so the data are normalized
                              ## [1] 1.1963684 1.1872435 0.5714268 1.2940662 0.2371974 0.7576704 1.0687281
                                 [8] 1.9319371 1.3125265 0.6846835
                              test.input <- data.norm
                              dimnames(test.input) <- list(paste("Sample",seq(1,10)),paste("Feature",seq(1,4)))</pre>
                              test.output <- nc.score(x=test.input,bin.cutoffs=c(0.1,0.2,0.3))
                              ominipagefalse
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                              ototalleftmargin@ osetminipage
                              par(mfrow=c(1, 2))
                              plot(data[,1],data[,2],xlab="Feature 1",ylab="Feature 2",main="Non-normalized")
                              plot(data.norm[,1],data.norm[,2],xlab="Feature 1",ylab="Feature 2",
                                   main="Normalized")
                              ominipagefalse
ototalleftortalleftmargin
```

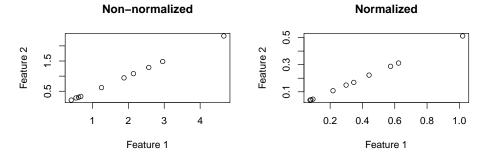


Figure 7: Non-normalized and normalized associations between feature 1 and feature 2 of the second example Again, we expect to observe a positive association between feature 1 and feature 2. In terms of generalized checkerboard scores, we would expect to see more co-variation patterns than co-exclusion patterns. This is shown by the positive and relatively high value in the [1,2] element of test.output. The bin edges specified here represent almost absent ([0,0.001)), low abundance ([0.001,0.1)), medium abundance ([0.1,0.25)), and high abundance ([0.6,1)).

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```
ototalleftmargin@ osetminipage

test.output

## Feature 1 Feature 2 Feature 3 Feature 4

## Feature 1 1.00000000 0.85628096 -0.08858079 0.4724309

## Feature 2 0.85628096 1.000000000 -0.02702703 0.2162162

## Feature 3 -0.08858079 -0.02702703 1.00000000 -0.4324324

## Feature 4 0.47243088 0.21621622 -0.43243243 1.00000000

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```

4 References

References

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