VAST

James T. Thorson

```
library(tinyVAST)
library(fmesher)
set.seed(101)
```

`tinyVAST` is an R package for fitting vector autoregressive spatio-temporal (VAST) models. We here explore the capacity to specify a spatial factor analysis, where the spatial pattern for multiple variables is described via their estimated association with a small number of spatial latent variables.

Spatial factor analysis

We first explore the ability to specify two latent variables for five manifest variables. To start we simulate two spatial latent variables, project via a simulated loadings matrix, and then simulate a Tweedie response for each manifest variable:

```
# Simulate settings
theta_xy = 0.4
n_x = n_y = 10
n_c = 5
rho = 0.8
resid_sd = 0.5

# Simulate GMRFs
R_s = exp(-theta_xy * abs(outer(1:n_x, 1:n_y, FUN="-")) )
R_ss = kronecker(X=R_s, Y=R_s)
delta_fs = mvtnorm::rmvnorm(n_c, sigma=R_ss )

#
L_cf = matrix( rnorm(n_c^2), nrow=n_c )
L_cf[,3:5] = 0
L_cf = L_cf + resid_sd * diag(n_c)

#
d_cs = L_cf %*% delta_fs
```

We then specify the model as expected by *tinyVAST*:

```
# Shape into longform data-frame and add error
Data = data.frame( expand.grid(species=1:n_c, x=1:n_x, y=1:n_y), "var"="logn", z=exp(as.vector(d_cs)) )
Data$n = tweedie::rtweedie( n=nrow(Data), mu=Data$z, phi=0.5, power=1.5 )
mean(Data$n==0)
#> [1] 0.03
```

```r
# make mesh
mesh = fm_mesh_2d( Data[,c('x','y')] )

#
sem = "
  f1 -> 1, l1
  f1 -> 2, l2
  f1 -> 3, l3
  f1 -> 4, l4
  f1 -> 5, l5
  f2 -> 2, l6
  f2 -> 3, l7
  f2 -> 4, l8
  f2 -> 5, l9
  f1 <-> f1, NA, 1
  f2 <-> f2, NA, 1
  1 <-> 1, NA, 0
  2 <-> 2, NA, 0
  3 <-> 3, NA, 0
  4 <-> 4, NA, 0
  5 <-> 5, NA, 0
"

# fit model
out = fit( sem = sem,
           data = Data,
           formula = n ~ 0 + factor(species),
           spatial_graph = mesh,
           family_link = rbind("obs"=c(1,1)),
           variables = c( "f1", "f2", 1:n_c ),
           data_colnames = list(spatial = c("x","y"), variable = "species", time = "time", distribution
           control = tinyVASTcontrol(quiet=TRUE, trace=0, gmrf="proj") )
out
#> $call
#> fit(data = Data, formula = n ~ 0 + factor(species), sem = sem,
#>     family_link = rbind(obs = c(1, 1)), data_colnames = list(spatial = c("x",
#>         "y"), variable = "species", time = "time", distribution = "dist"),
#>     variables = c("f1", "f2", 1:n_c), spatial_graph = mesh, control = tinyVASTcontrol(quiet = TRUE,
#>         trace = 0, gmrf = "proj"))
#>
#> $opt
#> $opt$par
#>   log_kappa     alpha_j     alpha_j     alpha_j     alpha_j     alpha_j     theta_z     theta_z
#> -0.26761196  0.07570783 -0.02014888  0.22318277  0.14728087 -0.26514652  0.68016356  0.68285927  0.3
#>     theta_z   log_sigma   log_sigma
#> -0.21613586 -0.52205331  0.21851154
#>
#> $opt$objective
#> [1] 631.3721
#>
#> $opt$convergence
#> [1] 0
#>
```

```
#> $opt$iterations
#> [1] 71
#>
#> $opt$evaluations
#> function gradient
#>       84       71
#>
#> $opt$message
#> [1] "relative convergence (4)"
#>
#>
#> $sdrep
#> sdreport(.) result
#>              Estimate Std. Error
#> log_kappa -0.26761196 0.21030826
#> alpha_j    0.07570783 0.31850774
#> alpha_j   -0.02014888 0.39763412
#> alpha_j    0.22318277 0.21847161
#> alpha_j    0.14728087 0.27057852
#> alpha_j   -0.26514652 0.14638317
#> theta_z    0.68016356 0.11510781
#> theta_z    0.68285927 0.15773444
#> theta_z    0.31701846 0.10358197
#> theta_z    0.52123769 0.10914344
#> theta_z    0.14819781 0.09200614
#> theta_z    0.51873790 0.13709521
#> theta_z   -0.31998633 0.10049164
#> theta_z    0.23601680 0.10640963
#> theta_z   -0.21613586 0.09652980
#> log_sigma -0.52205331 0.06761637
#> log_sigma  0.21851154 0.13313019
#> Maximum gradient component: 0.002233962
#>
#> $run_time
#> Time difference of 1.383013 secs
```

We can compare the true loadings (rotated to optimize comparison):

```
rotate_pca( L_cf )$L_tf
#>            [,1]       [,2]          [,3]        [,4]        [,5]
#> [1,] -0.7061124  0.3409242  0.000000e+00 -0.11147707 -0.19168759
#> [2,] -1.1954874 -0.1793162 -2.118142e-16 -0.18007599  0.11766117
#> [3,]  0.2173262  0.7343755 -1.652813e-01 -0.09104616  0.09813720
#> [4,] -0.7000673  0.2460729  6.407359e-02  0.37118835  0.03041479
#> [5,]  0.1727744  0.2258970  4.675218e-01 -0.08305837  0.03052577
```

with the estimated loadings

```
# Extract and rotate estimated loadings
Lhat_cf = matrix( 0, nrow=n_c, ncol=2 )
Lhat_cf[lower.tri(Lhat_cf,diag=TRUE)] = as.list(out$sdrep, what="Estimate")$theta_z
Lhat_cf = rotate_pca( L_tf=Lhat_cf, order="decreasing" )$L_tf
#> Warning in sqrt(Eigen$values): NaNs produced
```

```
# Print
Lhat_cf
#>             [,1]        [,2]
#> [1,] 0.64115842 -0.22702059
#> [2,] 0.81684052  0.26106964
#> [3,] 0.19203553 -0.40744854
#> [4,] 0.57012258  0.04850667
#> [5,] 0.06755873 -0.25320569
```

Or we can specify the model while ensuring that residual spatial variation is also captured:

```
#
sem = "
  f1 -> 1, l1
  f1 -> 2, l2
  f1 -> 3, l3
  f1 -> 4, l4
  f1 -> 5, l5
  f2 -> 2, l6
  f2 -> 3, l7
  f2 -> 4, l8
  f2 -> 5, l9
  f1 <-> f1, NA, 1
  f2 <-> f2, NA, 1
  1 <-> 1, sd_resid
  2 <-> 2, sd_resid
  3 <-> 3, sd_resid
  4 <-> 4, sd_resid
  5 <-> 5, sd_resid
"

# fit model
out = fit( sem = sem,
           data = Data,
           formula = n ~ 0 + factor(species),
           spatial_graph = mesh,
           family_link = rbind("obs"=c(1,1)),
           variables = c( "f1", "f2", 1:n_c ),
           data_colnames = list(spatial = c("x","y"), variable = "species", time = "time", distribution
           control = tinyVASTcontrol(quiet=TRUE, trace=0, gmrf="proj") )

# Extract and rotate estimated loadings
Lhat_cf = matrix( 0, nrow=n_c, ncol=2 )
Lhat_cf[lower.tri(Lhat_cf,diag=TRUE)] = as.list(out$sdrep, what="Estimate")$theta_z
#> Warning in Lhat_cf[lower.tri(Lhat_cf, diag = TRUE)] = as.list(out$sdrep, : number of items to replac
Lhat_cf = rotate_pca( L_tf=Lhat_cf, order="decreasing" )$L_tf

# Print
Lhat_cf
#>             [,1]        [,2]
#> [1,] 0.69107303 -0.17789472
#> [2,] 0.74310396  0.22625726
#> [3,] 0.07164183 -0.42390919
```

```
#> [4,] 0.47345070 -0.02104359
#> [5,] 0.06781277 -0.07169282
```