## Dynamic structural equation model

## James T. Thorson

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

tinyVAST includes features to fit a dynamic structural equation model

```
data(isle_royale, package="dsem")
# Convert to long-form
data = expand.grid( "time"=isle_royale[,1], "var"=colnames(isle_royale[,2:3]) )
data$logn = unlist(log(isle_royale[2:3]))
# Define cross-lagged SEM
sem = "
  # Link, lag, param_name
 wolves -> wolves, 1, arW
 moose -> wolves, 1, MtoW
 wolves -> moose, 1, WtoM
 moose -> moose, 1, arM
  wolves -> moose, 0, corr
# fit model
mytiny = fit( sem = sem,
                data = data,
                times = isle_royale[,1],
                variables = colnames(isle_royale[,2:3]),
                estimate_delta0 = FALSE,
                formula = logn ~ 0 + var,
                 quiet = TRUE )
            391.97944: 0.00000 0.00000 0.0100000 0.0100000 0.0100000 0.0100000 0.0100000 1.00000 1.
#>
    0:
           293.47883: 0.0432878 0.108614 0.137076 0.295137 0.299864 0.700110 0.304606 0.920827 1.4844
#>
    1:
#> 2:
           272.35246: 0.0702137 0.104050 0.249882 0.504281 0.312730 0.752622 0.324146 0.124328 0.94800
#>
    3:
            267.11302: 0.0331173 0.130867 0.0531818 0.164741 0.302841 0.735444 0.313854 0.237609 0.9178
#>
    4:
           222.17865: 0.0589472 0.127187 0.106932 0.347293 0.304470 0.742269 0.315607 0.311164 0.89946
#>
   5:
           208.04762: 0.0717159 0.124302 0.148031 0.408069 0.302962 0.740648 0.315093 0.163017 0.78815
#>
           194.08329: 0.0769018 0.143464 0.104822 0.324971 0.309062 0.758708 0.321504 0.138585 0.61835
    6:
#>
    7:
           177.09291: 0.101268 0.155892 0.125659 0.368199 0.322378 0.788853 0.334868 0.128494 0.435963
           165.12572: 0.135840 0.177628 0.141177 0.338710 0.292867 0.713473 0.307171 0.112514 0.286754
#>
   8:
#> 9:
           161.67079: 0.138094 0.178119 0.152983 0.363757 0.301670 0.736209 0.316790 0.117254 0.281971
#> 10:
           160.40593: 0.137281 0.181960 0.147957 0.337955 0.302699 0.741241 0.320134 0.122707 0.258864
           158.99202: 0.142354 0.185057 0.163540 0.353935 0.304947 0.751270 0.326251 0.128201 0.239372
#> 11:
#> 12:
           157.39856: 0.146652 0.190642 0.170507 0.338697 0.297404 0.741771 0.325368 0.134777 0.229954
          148.34749: 0.218344 0.283264 0.404687 0.271365 0.202863 0.732150 0.395346 0.242010 0.192628
#> 13:
```

146.52996: 0.208329 0.292242 0.391447 0.224459 0.216367 0.799418 0.419694 0.190607 0.233675

*#> 14:* 

```
15:
                                   140.08045: 0.225738 0.313954 0.417170 0.247747 0.147623 0.764066 0.394473 0.180619 0.278054
          16:
                                   134.20758: 0.240366 0.343996 0.446285 0.214776 0.0948538 0.799166 0.395334 0.169305 0.22237
           17:
                                   131.16629: 0.250863 0.371955 0.498005 0.219067 0.0393347 0.828875 0.396977 0.175618 0.20655
#>
                                   127.66669: 0.263105 0.399929 0.533055 0.183490 -0.0190056 0.852045 0.399414 0.182196 0.2059
#>
           18:
                                   124.11699: 0.277800 0.446152 0.562137 0.190934 -0.0947508 0.873181 0.403304 0.155230 0.1954
#>
           19:
#>
           20:
                                   118.40042: 0.312852 0.530145 0.627937 0.152709 -0.219049 0.927603 0.439546 0.168529 0.19530
#>
           21:
                                   117.92783: 0.338796 0.654110 0.677227 0.123690 -0.344532 0.906275 0.510641 0.159569 0.14585
                                   110.15216: 0.356648 0.717696 0.700543 0.128534 -0.372120 0.930679 0.575301 0.146911 0.17024
#>
           22:
#>
           23:
                                   107.54614: 0.375368 0.787620 0.717874 0.118302 -0.419856 0.911938 0.623342 0.139189 0.17066
                                   103.19533: 0.424791 0.935402 0.780524 0.105800 -0.534974 0.922482 0.722012 0.158522 0.15011
#>
           24:
#>
           25:
                                   101.68558: 0.492288 1.12347 0.747017 0.0785286 -0.657683 0.959822 0.810607 0.132680 0.1421
#>
           26:
                                   94.244117: 0.517084 1.34150 0.752566 0.119320 -0.785405 0.985749 0.831330 0.129256 0.13787
           27:
                                   90.226592: 0.543544 1.60413 0.761883 0.101762 -0.802545 0.967723 0.891040 0.141854 0.12508
#>
#>
           28:
                                   86.796561: 0.545694 1.87058 0.834900 0.0765051 -0.795957 0.969397 0.872722 0.120890 0.1364
                                   83.245193: 0.598193 2.12200 0.841094 0.0773191 -0.830677 1.00824 0.820285 0.130225 0.1171
#>
           29:
#>
           30:
                                   80.566600: 0.669509 2.36722 0.825623 0.0860949 -0.788875 1.00097 0.830899 0.131947 0.1184
#>
           31:
                                   76.468880: 0.717368 2.59846 0.800943 0.0967272 -0.722303 0.993675 0.741238 0.129476 0.1206
#>
           32:
                                   31.240247: 1.63782 5.40279 0.996746 0.0483751 -0.0279226 0.969621 0.0417952 0.116574 0.05
                                   25.233334: 1.82195 5.96514 1.00764 0.0439629 0.0980274 0.984701 -0.0864806 0.113885 0.06
#>
           33:
                                   22.925167: 1.87341 6.12170 1.00913 0.0437779 0.128359 0.985682 -0.122445 0.113411 0.0458
#>
           34:
                                   21.536129: 1.92728 6.28088 1.01207 0.0444219 0.150916 0.987403 -0.151129 0.111700 0.0589
#>
           35:
#>
           36:
                                   18.135929: 1.90721 6.18436 0.993389 0.0516422 0.0477958 0.990004 -0.0487405 0.109509 0.05
#>
           37:
                                  17.964229: 1.90764 6.18469 0.991105 0.0517743 0.0465551 0.990836 -0.0489934 0.111559 0.04
#>
           38:
                                  17.863862\colon\ 1.90810\quad 6.18506\ 0.988817\ 0.0519411\ 0.0453083\ 0.991889\ -0.0491075\ 0.112349\ 0.0519411\ 0.0453083\ 0.991889\ -0.0491075\ 0.112349\ 0.0519411\ 0.0453083\ 0.991889\ -0.0491075\ 0.112349\ 0.0519411\ 0.0453083\ 0.991889\ -0.0491075\ 0.112349\ 0.0519411\ 0.0453083\ 0.991889\ -0.0491075\ 0.112349\ 0.0519411\ 0.0453083\ 0.991889\ -0.0491075\ 0.112349\ 0.0519411\ 0.0453083\ 0.991889\ -0.0491075\ 0.112349\ 0.0519411\ 0.0453083\ 0.991889\ -0.0491075\ 0.112349\ 0.0519411\ 0.0453083\ 0.991889\ -0.0491075\ 0.112349\ 0.0519411\ 0.0453083\ 0.991889\ -0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 0.0491075\ 
                                   17.704282: 1.91086 6.19205 0.987425 0.0521669 0.0453186 0.992522 -0.0498777 0.112357 0.05
#>
           39:
           40:
                                   17.531216: 1.91661 6.20682 0.985240 0.0526118 0.0456338 0.993693 -0.0514659 0.112206 0.05
#>
#>
           41:
                                  17.292437: 1.92793 6.23688 0.984374 0.0532120 0.0481720 0.994205 -0.0548553 0.111616 0.04
#>
           42:
                                  17.023169: 1.95153 6.29653 0.983620 0.0545119 0.0540374 0.994422 -0.0615470 0.110578 0.05
#>
           43:
                                   16.531412: 2.02526 6.39041 0.969634 0.0632541 0.0707889 0.988609 -0.0686675 0.109142 0.04
#>
                                  15.579043: 2.05907 6.26549 0.941085 0.0706256 0.0586444 0.989815 -0.0554867 0.112170 0.05
           44:
#>
                                  14.244263: 2.18659 6.26209 0.941913 0.0652182 0.0425338 1.00828 -0.0776924 0.104598 0.04
           45:
                                   12.385983: 2.42401 6.09663 0.915919 0.0631891 0.0187644 1.01631 -0.0555111 0.104999 0.04
#>
           46:
#>
                                  12.303612; \quad 2.42423 \quad 6.09687 \quad 0.915370 \quad 0.0633148 \quad 0.0180129 \quad 1.01644 \quad -0.0557553 \quad 0.105042 \quad 0.0586129 \quad 0.0633148 \quad 0.0180129 \quad 0.0633148 \quad 0.0080129 \quad 0.0633148 \quad 0.0080129 \quad 0.0633148 \quad 0.0080129 
           47:
                                  12.244870: 2.42688 6.09735 0.914883 0.0633582 0.0173413 1.01661 -0.0559350 0.105023 0.05
#>
           48:
#>
           49:
                                   12.166225: 2.43217 6.09860 0.913193 0.0636209 0.0151434 1.01714 -0.0564913 0.105004 0.05
                                   10.601993\colon \ \ 2.77919 \quad 6.13694 \ \ 0.917821 \ \ 0.0525167 \ \ 0.00617886 \quad 1.02615 \ \ -0.0588749 \ \ 0.0991225 \ \ 0.
#>
           50:
                                   9.7728403: 2.80149 6.25968 0.886403 0.0765018 -0.0324250 1.02386 -0.0241564 0.110541 0.0
#>
           51:
#>
           52:
                                   9.2175173: 2.82143 6.37041 0.857444 0.0986268 -0.00358367 1.01073 -0.0460460 0.105609 0.
                                   8.9799692: 2.91924 6.38492 0.891829 0.0758957 -0.0797135 1.00350 0.0117286 0.0998862 0.0
#>
           53:
                                   8.9112641: 3.05368 6.32412 0.872152 0.0763886 -0.0663287 1.01025 -0.0332002 0.100954 0.0
#>
           54:
                                   7.8821340: 3.04257 6.39419 0.882479 0.0726922 -0.0484307 0.990201 -0.0493890 0.101782 0.0
#>
           55:
                                   7.2091192: 3.02527 6.36993 0.889085 0.0689692 -0.0604854 0.956275 -0.0348962 0.106261 0.0
#>
           56:
                                   6.5690422; \quad 3.25930 \quad 6.46898 \quad 0.928772 \quad 0.0387637 \quad -0.0808484 \quad 0.912915 \quad -0.0258039 \quad 0.108128 \quad 0.088484 \quad 0.912915 \quad -0.0888039 \quad 0.108128 \quad 0.0888039 
#>
           57:
                                   6.4647388: 3.38431 6.49691 0.897694 0.0438401 -0.131542 0.859167 0.00174981 0.102787 0.04
#>
           58:
#>
           59:
                                   6.0094698: 3.28045 6.40528 0.891718 0.0393087 -0.115254 0.874962 -0.0140661 0.104397 0.04
#>
           60:
                                   5.9689302: 3.33960 6.44122 0.912456 0.0245201 -0.110066 0.868087 -0.0258628 0.107986 0.04
                                   5.8638005: 3.32802 6.43937 0.902297 0.0286517 -0.115498 0.866102 -0.0162072 0.106189 0.04
#>
           61:
           62:
                                   5.8533065: 3.32976 6.44092 0.899621 0.0265515 -0.117718 0.863354 -0.0154414 0.105994 0.04
#>
           63:
                                   5.8369695: 3.32784 6.44474 0.895017 0.0205965 -0.119828 0.860224 -0.0147989 0.105933 0.04
                                   5.8252522: 3.32267 6.44656 0.891234 0.0147373 -0.119907 0.859890 -0.0150121 0.106006 0.04
#>
           64:
                                   5.8150263: 3.31757 6.44519 0.887772 0.00734691 -0.118604 0.861668 -0.0157502 0.106180 0.0
#>
           65:
#>
           66:
                                   5.8100538: 3.31829 6.44074 0.886684 0.00383683 -0.117391 0.863803 -0.0162601 0.106307 0.0
                                   5.8057767: \quad 3.32268 \quad 6.43350 \quad 0.886859 \quad 0.00180287 \quad -0.116420 \quad 0.865870 \quad -0.0166919 \quad 0.106409 \quad 0.00180287 \quad -0.00180287 \quad -0.0018027 \quad -0.0018027 \quad -0.0018027 \quad -0.0018027 \quad
           67:
```

```
5.8024395: 3.32871 6.42729 0.887611 0.00182578 -0.116075 0.866969 -0.0167799 0.106468 0.0
#> 69:
           5.7993840: 3.33334 6.42372 0.889081 0.00317715 -0.116239 0.866903 -0.0167500 0.106488 0.0
           5.7943738: 3.33804 6.42370 0.891145 0.00720984 -0.117164 0.865577 -0.0161895 0.106502 0.0
   70:
#>
#> 71:
           5.7900674: 3.33765 6.42744 0.893475 0.0110153 -0.117909 0.863814 -0.0159467 0.106501 0.04
           5.7858147: 3.33180 6.43815 0.894587 0.0160705 -0.119029 0.861459 -0.0151682 0.106503 0.04
#>
   72:
   73:
#>
           5.7844406: 3.32563 6.44344 0.894833 0.0170892 -0.118885 0.860923 -0.0153313 0.106479 0.04
#>
   74:
           5.7838569: 3.32280 6.44525 0.893968 0.0164722 -0.118848 0.861030 -0.0152532 0.106474 0.04
           5.7833857: 3.32182 6.44511 0.893161 0.0152762 -0.118631 0.861396 -0.0153461 0.106475 0.04
#> 75:
#> 76:
           5.7828398: 3.32240 6.44346 0.892416 0.0136884 -0.118495 0.861852 -0.0154185 0.106481 0.04
           5.7824798: 3.32379 6.44209 0.892323 0.0132240 -0.118456 0.861984 -0.0154778 0.106487 0.04
#> 77:
#> 78:
           5.7821785: 3.32534 6.44112 0.892696 0.0135242 -0.118598 0.861872 -0.0154249 0.106489 0.04
#> 79:
           5.7820558: 3.32581 6.44117 0.893027 0.0140786 -0.118646 0.861714 -0.0154191 0.106489 0.04
#> 80:
           5.7819968: 3.32571 6.44145 0.893196 0.0143801 -0.118710 0.861632 -0.0153690 0.106488 0.04
           5.7819624: 3.32546 6.44167 0.893187 0.0144452 -0.118672 0.861630 -0.0153922 0.106488 0.04
#> 81:
           5.7819421: 3.32527 6.44173 0.893126 0.0143472 -0.118674 0.861662 -0.0153789 0.106488 0.04
#> 82:
#> 83:
           5.7819314: 3.32519 6.44172 0.893051 0.0142438 -0.118640 0.861694 -0.0154025 0.106488 0.04
#> 84:
           5.7819258: 3.32520 6.44168 0.893020 0.0141749 -0.118647 0.861708 -0.0153949 0.106488 0.04
#> 85:
           5.7819227: 3.32522 6.44165 0.893012 0.0141639 -0.118640 0.861708 -0.0154027 0.106488 0.04
           5.7819210: 3.32525 6.44164 0.893025 0.0141778 -0.118649 0.861702 -0.0153966 0.106488 0.04
#> 86:
#> 87:
           5.7819198: 3.32527 6.44165 0.893040 0.0142055 -0.118649 0.861695 -0.0153984 0.106488 0.04
           5.7819193: 3.32527 6.44165 0.893049 0.0142175 -0.118653 0.861692 -0.0153949 0.106488 0.04
#> 88:
#> 89:
           5.7819191: 3.32527 6.44166 0.893049 0.0142193 -0.118651 0.861692 -0.0153967 0.106488 0.04
#> 90:
           5.7819189: 3.32526 6.44166 0.893046 0.0142142 -0.118651 0.861694 -0.0153960 0.106488 0.04
           5.7819189: 3.32526 6.44165 0.893043 0.0142096 -0.118650 0.861695 -0.0153970 0.106488 0.04
#> 91:
           5.7819188: 3.32526 6.44165 0.893041 0.0142071 -0.118650 0.861696 -0.0153967 0.106488 0.04
#> 92:
#> 93:
           5.7819188: 3.32526 6.44165 0.893041 0.0142071 -0.118650 0.861695 -0.0153969 0.106488 0.04
#> 94:
           5.7819188: 3.32526 6.44165 0.893042 0.0142081 -0.118650 0.861695 -0.0153967 0.106488 0.04
#> 95:
           5.7819188: 3.32526 6.44165 0.893043 0.0142091 -0.118650 0.861695 -0.0153967 0.106488 0.04
#> 96:
           5.7819188: 3.32526 6.44165 0.893043 0.0142096 -0.118650 0.861695 -0.0153966 0.106488 0.04
#> 97:
           5.7819188: 3.32526 6.44165 0.893043 0.0142095 -0.118650 0.861695 -0.0153967 0.106488 0.04
#> 98:
           5.7819188: 3.32526 6.44165 0.893043 0.0142093 -0.118650 0.861695 -0.0153966 0.106488 0.04
mytiny
#> $call
#> fit(data = data, formula = logn ~ 0 + var, sem = sem, estimate_delta0 = FALSE,
       times = isle royale[, 1], variables = colnames(isle royale[,
#>
          2:3]), quiet = TRUE)
#>
#> $opt
#> $opt$par
#>
       alpha_j
                   alpha_j
                                  beta z
                                             beta\_z
                                                          beta z
                                                                      beta\_z
                                                                                    beta z
                                                                                                 bet
                6.44165380 0.89304284 0.01420930 -0.11865012 0.86169491 -0.01539665
#>
    3.32526215
                                                                                             0.10648
#>
#> $opt$objective
#> [1] 5.781919
#> $opt$convergence
#> [1] 0
#> $opt$iterations
#> [1] 98
#>
#> $opt$evaluations
#> function gradient
```

```
125
#>
#> $opt$message
#> [1] "relative convergence (4)"
#>
#>
#> $sdrep
#> sdreport(.) result
#>
                   Estimate Std. Error
              Estimate Std. Error
3.32526215 2.483419e-01
#> alpha_j
#> alpha_j 6.44165380 2.116017e-01

#> beta_z 0.89304284 8.420604e-02

#> beta_z 0.01420930 1.279148e-01

#> beta_z -0.11865012 6.477637e-02
#> beta_z
                0.86169491 7.080254e-02
#> beta_z
               -0.01539665 6.067738e-02
#> beta_z
                 0.10648808 9.881848e-03
#> beta_z
                 0.04810383 4.460377e-03
#> log_sigma -12.52451040 1.805702e+04
#> Maximum gradient component: 1.345814e-05
#>
#> $run_time
#> Time difference of 0.3097789 secs
```

We can then compare this with package dsem

*#>* 96 80

```
library(dsem)
# Keep in wide-form
dsem_data = ts( log(isle_royale[,2:3]), start=1959)
family = c("normal", "normal")
# initial first without delta0 (to improve starting values)
mydsem = dsem( sem = sem,
            tsdata = dsem_data,
            estimate_delta0 = FALSE,
            quiet = TRUE,
            getsd = FALSE,
            family = family )
mydsem
#> $par
#>
                                                                               beta\_z
         beta\_z
                       beta\_z
                                    beta\_z
                                                   beta\_z
                                                                beta\_z
                                                                                             beta\_z
   0.895834720 0.007358847 -0.109332511 0.875012562 -0.017355229 0.378795847 -0.172873038 -1
#>
#> $objective
#> [1] 7.739638
#>
#> $iterations
#> [1] 79
#>
#> $evaluations
#> function gradient
```

```
#> $time_for_MLE
#> Time difference of 0.07090306 secs
#> $max_gradient
#> [1] 7.714655e-07
#>
#> $Convergence_check
#> [1] "There is no evidence that the model is not converged"
#> $number_of_coefficients
#> Total Fixed Random
#> 133 9 124
#>
#> $AIC
#> [1] 33.47928
#>
#> $diagnostics
#> Param starting_value Lower
                                   MLE Upper final_gradient
\#>1 beta_z 0.01 -Inf 0.895834720 Inf 4.785205e-09
                     0.01 -Inf 0.007358847 Inf -5.078683e-09
#> 2 beta_z
                     0.01 -Inf -0.109332511 Inf -2.031211e-08
#> 3
     beta\_z
#> 4 beta_z
                     0.01 -Inf 0.875012562 Inf -5.821149e-08
                     0.01 -Inf -0.017355229 Inf -5.373382e-09
#> 5 beta_z
                   1.00 -Inf 0.378795847 Inf 2.119351e-09
1.00 -Inf -0.172873038 Inf -7.714655e-07
#> 6 beta_z
#> 7 beta_z
#> 8 lnsigma_j
                     0.00 -Inf -15.799262455 Inf 1.628788e-12
                0.00 -Inf -11.977331517 Inf 2.141499e-09
#> 9 lnsigma_j
#>
#> $time_for_run
#> Time difference of 0.07221317 secs
```