# A quick guide on how to use tapnet

#### Carsten F. Dormann

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#### Abstract

This document presents the case study of Benadi et al. (2021), using the data of Tinoco et al. (2017). It thereby also serves as tutorial for the use of the "tapnet" package.

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This supplement presents the workflow for the case study. It may also serve as tutorial for the use of tapnet functions.

### References

Benadi, G., Dormann, C.F., Fründ, J., Stephan, R.& Vázquez, D.P. (2021) Quantitative prediction of interactions in bipartite networks based on traits, abundances, and phylogeny. *The American Naturalist*, in press. Tinoco, B.A, Graham, C.H., Aguilar, J.M. & Schleuning, M. (2017) *Oikos* 126, 52–60. DOI: 10.1111/oik.02998

### Data preparation

```
library(tapnet)
data(Tinoco)
```

First, we have to put all information into a single 'tapnet' object, using make tapnet:

are required for prediction from web1 to web 2). Let's check:

#### Note:

(a) We use only 4 phylogenetic eigenvectors (PEMs, for "maps", and because PE is too short to be unambiguous) for the first network, but all for the other two for evaluation. The "value" NULL enforces the use of all PEMs. (b) Because each web has only some species present, some PEMs will automatically be dropped (those relevant only for the missing species). As a consequence, web2 may now **not** have the same PEMs used for web1 (which

```
colnames(tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$pems$low) # names of fitted PEMs

## [1] "V_1" "V_2" "V_3" "V_7"

colnames(tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$pems$high)

## [1] "V_1" "V_3" "V_6" "V_8"

colnames(tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$pems$low) # names of PEMs all present

## [1] "V_1" "V_2" "V_3" "V_5" "V_7" "V_8" "V_10" "V_11" "V_16" "V_19"

## [11] "V_20" "V_21" "V_22" "V_25" "V_27" "V_28"

colnames(tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$pems$high) # V_8 (high) is missing!

## [1] "V_1" "V_3" "V_4" "V_6" "V_7" "V_9" "V_11" "V_12" "V_13"
```

We can see that for the lower level, all PEMs were computed for web2, but not for the higher level, where V\_8 is missing. We compute that, using the helper function pems\_from\_tree, and add it to the tapnet-object. (Because this function is not exported, we need to use the triple-colon when calling it explicitly from the package.) Then we do the same with web3.

```
tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$pems$high$V_8 <- tapnet:::pems_from_tree(humm_tree)[colnames(
    tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$web), "V_8"]
colnames(tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$pems$high) # check: complete!

## [1] "V_1" "V_3" "V_4" "V_6" "V_7" "V_9" "V_11" "V_12" "V_13" "V_8"</pre>
```

Using the colnames ( . )-line we can check that they are now complete (not shown). As an additional preliminary step, we may want to check for correlation between the phylogenetic eigenvectors and the observed traits:

```
cor(cbind(tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$pems$low, tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$traits$low))
```

```
##
                                        V_2
                                                    V_3
## V_1
                      1.00000000 -0.03323508
                                              0.19929407
                                                           0.01950265
## V_2
                     -0.03323508 1.00000000 -0.02390179
                                                           0.02484880
## V_3
                      0.19929407 - 0.02390179 1.00000000 0.02538867
## V_7
                      0.01950265 \quad 0.02484880 \quad 0.02538867
                                                           1.00000000
## Corolla_length_mm 0.30147805 -0.14321786 0.23301956 -0.40838875
##
                     Corolla_length_mm
## V 1
                             0.3014780
## V_2
                             -0.1432179
## V_3
                             0.2330196
## V_7
                             -0.4083887
## Corolla_length_mm
                             1.0000000
cor(cbind(tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$pems$high, tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$traits$high))
                              V_1
                                           V_3
                                                       V_6
                                                                    V_8
## V 1
                        1.00000000 - 0.21978007 - 0.11948531 - 0.14519738
## V_3
                       -0.2197801 1.00000000 0.07786362 0.01687728
## V 6
                       -0.1194853 0.07786362 1.00000000
                                                            0.28972218
## V 8
                       -0.1451974 0.01687728 0.28972218 1.00000000
## Bill_length_mean_mm 0.5839393 0.23682088 0.10121502 -0.28068808
##
                       Bill_length_mean_mm
## V_1
                                  0.5839393
## V_3
                                  0.2368209
## V_6
                                  0.1012150
## V_8
                                 -0.2806881
## Bill_length_mean_mm
                                  1.0000000
```

In this case, correlations are moderate (-0.4 for the strongest lower-level and 0.58 for the higher-level traits) and indicate some phylogenetic signal in the observed trait. Note, however, that latent traits are linear combinations of phylogenetic traits and this correlation does not check for collinearity with such a construct. We shall do that after fitting.

# 2 Fit web1 using the tapnet approach

We here assume that all trait matches are best described using a normal distribution. Alternatively, we could use the shifted log-normal. Next, we evaluate the goodness-of-fit of this fit:

```
fit_web1 <- fit_tapnet(tapnet = tapnet_web1, method="SANN") # very slow, but reliable
#fit web1 <- fit tapnet(tapnet = tapnet web1) # the default way
#fit_web1ln <- fit_tapnet(tapnet = tapnet_web1, tmatch_type_obs = "shiftlnorm",
                          ini=fit_web1$opt$par*2) # requires some tempering with ini
gof_web1_norm <- gof_tapnet(fit_web1)</pre>
gof_web1_norm
## $bc_sim_web
## [1] 0.4700434
##
## $cor_web
## [1] 0.506687
## $net_indices
## $net_indices[[1]]
                                                          q2.5
##
            Index
                    Observed
                                             Median
                                    Mean
       connectance 0.3250000 0.6944528 0.6917293 0.6041667
             NODF 62.5076453 75.9450699 76.1949456 68.5033638 81.9754513
## 2
## 3 weighted NODF 39.1972477 54.5116352 54.7724833 45.5104924 61.8013420
             H2 0.4496136 0.1386368 0.1381887 0.1166049 0.1601014
```

The goodness-of-fit function returns the similarity between fitted and observed network expressed as Bray-Curtis similarity (bc\_sim\_web), where 0.50 is not a bad value; as the correlation between fitted and observed number of interactions, expressed as Spearman correlation (cor\_web), which is our key comparison criterion at 0.52; and, finally, some selected network indices were computed for the observed and repeated draws from the fitted multinomial distribution. In this case, none of the four indices includes the observed even in the 95% confidence interval (i.e. not good).

We can also have a look at the fitted model parameters:

```
fit_web1
## $par_opt
## $par_opt$lat_low
                    V 2
                               V 3
   V 1
  2.64756311 4.43496460 -0.08270909 -1.13704950
##
##
## $par_opt$lat_high
##
   V 1
              V 3
                              V 6
## 5.2243635 2.9772795 -0.4693686 1.1060889
##
## $par_opt$pem_shift
##
   pem_shift
## -0.04238474
##
## $par_opt$tmatch_width_pem
## tmatch_width_pem
        0.4641643
##
##
## $par_opt$tmatch_width_obs
## tmatch_width_obs1
##
           6.093618
##
## $par_opt$delta
##
     delta
## 0.0156301
##
##
## $tmatch_type_pem
## [1] "normal"
##
## $tmatch_type_obs
## [1] "normal"
##
## $lambda
## [1] 0
##
## $method
## [1] "SANN"
##
## $maxit
## [1] 50000
##
## $opt
## $opt$par
##
               V 1
                                 V 2
                                                  V 3
                                                                    V 7
         0.97363964
                          4.43496460
                                           -0.08270909
                                                            -1.13704950
##
##
              V 1
                            V 3
                                                 V 6
                                                                   V 8
        5.22436353
                          2.97727948
                                           -0.46936861
##
                                                            1.10608885
##
         pem_shift tmatch_width_pem tmatch_width_obs1
                                                                 delta
        -0.04238474 -0.76751674
##
                                         1.80724201
                                                            -4.14280305
##
```

```
## $opt$value
## [1] 1368.485
## $opt$counts
## function gradient
   50000
##
            NA
## $opt$convergence
## [1] 0
##
## $opt$message
## NULL
##
##
## attr(,"class")
## [1] "fitted.tapnet"
## attr(,"tapnet_name")
## [1] "tapnet_web1"
```

The output is a bit confusing, as it contains the fitted parameters twice: first, under par\_opt in the interpretable form, i.e. back-transformed for those parameters that were constraint (PEM 1, the standard deviations of the trait-matching function and  $\delta$ ); then again, under opt, in their untransformed form, as spit out by optim.

At least two things are interesting here:

- 1. The standard deviation of the trait-matching function (the normal, in this case) for the observed traits is rather wide (at 7.6, see par\_opt\$tmatch\_width\_obs). Typically, this indicates that the traits were not fitting very well to each other and the model did not find the observed traits useful. (We have seen much worse, with values > 1000, though.)
- 2. The value of  $\delta$  is (practically) 1. A value of 1 indicates that traits (observed and latent) are as important as the abundance.
- 3. Putting the two previous points together: this model hinges on the matching of the phylogenetic-informed latent traits. One reason may be that the phylogenies code up the effect of the traits, so that the trait has no remaining additional effect. Parameter lambda imposes a shrinkage to prioritise the observed trait effect over the latent traits. (Imposing some shrinkge, e.g. setting lambda=0.1, in this case reduced predictive fit to below the abundance-only model.)
- 4. The absolute values of the PEM-parameters matters little.

With the fitted object, we can correlate the latent and the observed traits. The code is rather ugly, since we need to access data in the belly of the object:

In neither case was there any correlation between latent and observed traits.

Finally, we can also check for correlation between the latent trait and the (independent) abundance of the species:

```
cor(fitted_lat_low, tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$abuns$low)

## [1] 0.2421337

cor(fitted_lat_high, tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$abuns$high)

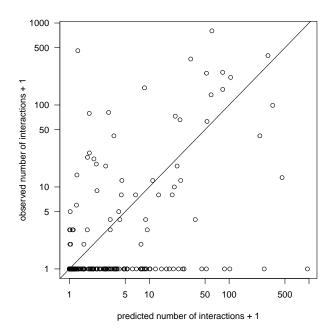
## [1] -0.4024925
```

### 3 Predict from fitted tapnet to new network

Fitting characteristics are all nice and fine, but how good does tapnet predict to a new network? To predict to a new network, we have to provide the tapnet fit-object and the abundances for that network. This allows for changing abundances, or indeed including or excluding species, independent from network observations. The tapnet-object itself is referenced by name in the fit, and is used to compute the phylogenetic information for the species in the new network. In this case, we provide the abundances based on the tapnet\_web2-object we created earlier. We could however also simply make a list with the abundances of each level for the second network (see code in next section, or help page of tapnet\_predict).

```
preds2.tapnet <- predict_tapnet(fit=fit_web1, abuns=tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$abuns)
cor(as.vector(preds2.tapnet), as.vector(tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$web))
## [1] 0.175038</pre>
```

So the correlation is actually not very high! Let's visualise that. To do so, we need to multiply the predictions by the number of observed interactions, as the predictions are probabilities that sum to one. Also, since interactions are approximately log-normally distributed, we depict the fit as log-log-plot.



Finally, we can compute the multinomial log-likelihood of the data, given the prediction:

### 4 Using multiple networks

In the tapnet approach, we can also fit several networks simultaneously, and use the resulting fit for prediction. For example, we can fit tapnet to the networks from shrub and cattle, and predict to (1 =) forest:

```
data(Tinoco)
tap <- make_tapnet(tree_low = plant_tree, tree_high = humm_tree, networks = networks[2:3],
                   traits_low = plant_traits, traits_high = humm_traits,
                   abun_low = plant_abun[2:3], abun_high=humm_abun[2:3], npems_lat = 4)
fit <- fit_tapnet(tap) # uses two networks for fitting!</pre>
gof_tapnet(fit)
## $bc_sim_web
## [1] 0.3788003 0.4667962
##
## $cor_web
##
  [1] 0.3992802 0.5672018
##
## $net_indices
## $net_indices[[1]]
##
                                             Median
             Index
                     Observed
                                    Mean
                                                           q2.5
##
       connectance 0.2324561
                               0.7164868
                                          0.7107843
                                                     0.6578947
                                                                 0.7914439
              NODF 43.5864979 81.1276132 81.5320299 73.2460589 86.9142656
##
  3 weighted NODF 30.7805907 64.0236824 64.3139011 56.9753183 69.5455754
##
                    0.5022179
                               0.1207073
                                          0.1206267
                                                      0.1110184
##
## $net_indices[[2]]
##
                     Observed
                                    Mean
                                             Median
                                                           q2.5
       connectance 0.3040936 0.6559816
                                          0.6491228 0.6081871
              NODF 56.5180793 81.0418944 81.3004335 73.9846550 87.0980051
##
## 3 weighted NODF 38.3391890 63.4218334 63.5538500 56.7025985 69.5373901
             H2 0.3713669 0.1161382 0.1163632 0.1020925 0.1303586
```

```
# predict to omitted forest network:
pred1 <- predict_tapnet(fit, abuns=list("low"=plant_abun[[1]], "high"=humm_abun[[1]] ))
cor(as.vector(pred1*sum(networks[[1]])), as.vector(networks[[1]]))
## [1] 0.1188132</pre>
```

And we can do the same for the other two networks (first to 2 = shrubs, then to 3 = cattle):

```
## [1] 0.1732161
## [1] 0.4418444
```

If we compare this single-network predictions (see towards the end of this document), we notice a variable effect on performance: more is not necessarily better. This will probably depend on the similarity of the habitats and hence interacting species.

### 5 Prediction baseline: use only abundances in the new web

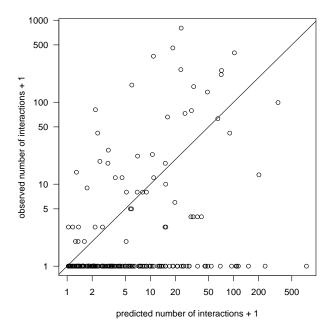
As a baseline, we compute the information contained in the abundances. If the hummingbirds had no preferences, but only interacted strictly with probability proportional to abundance, then abundant hummingbird species would interact with high probability with abundant plant species, but with low probability with rare plant species.

```
preds2.abunonly <- (tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$abuns$low /
    sum(tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$abuns$low)) %*% t(tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$abuns$high /
    sum(tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$abuns$high)) * sum(tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$web)

cor(as.vector(preds2.abunonly), as.vector(tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$web))

## [1] 0.09473036</pre>
```

```
par(mar=c(5,5,1,1))
plot(preds2.abunonly + 1, tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$web + 1, log="xy", las=1,
    xlab="predicted number of interactions + 1", ylab="observed number of interactions + 1"]
abline(0,1)
```



And the log-likelihood:

This means, our tapnet model is superior in prediction to the abundance-only model, indicating that the (latent and observed) traits do carry some information on the interactions. Note, however, that the prediction quality of the abundance-only is very low.

### 6 Preparing tapnet data as data.frame for statistical models

To prepare the data for a statistical model, we provide the function tapnet2df:

```
web1.df <- tapnet2df(tapnet_web1)</pre>
web2.df <- tapnet2df(tapnet_web2)</pre>
head(web1.df)
##
           IDhigher
                                  IDlower interactions
                                                           pemLV_1
                                                                       pemLV_2
## 1 Coeligena iris Alloplectus peruvianum 13 0.19958316 -0.01721758
## 2 Coeligena iris Macleania rupestris
                                                   22 0.06143519 0.01314354
## 3 Coeligena iris Myrcianthes fragrans
                                                    0 -0.17608854 0.22809965
                                                     4 0.21167754 -0.01945177
## 4 Coeligena iris
                             Salvia hirta
## 5 Coeligena iris Cavendishia bracteata
                                                     0 0.06143519 0.01314354
## 6 Coeligena iris Mutisia lehmannii
                                                    6 0.20823846 -0.02230535
        pemLV_3
##
                     pemLV_7 pemHV_1 pemHV_3 pemHV_6 pemHV_8
## 1 0.298458999 0.110246748 0.3026318 0.09104722 -0.2849888 0.5647174 3.428571
## 2 0.014975823 0.006401991 0.3026318 0.09104722 -0.2849888 0.5647174 38.529412
## 3 -0.006808424 -0.005932541 0.3026318 0.09104722 -0.2849888 0.5647174 69.500000
\#\#\ 4\quad 0.346816571\quad 0.323487833\ 0.3026318\ 0.09104722\ -0.2849888\ 0.5647174\ 10.783505
## 5 0.014975823 0.006401991 0.3026318 0.09104722 -0.2849888 0.5647174 26.111111
## 6 -0.310376666 0.013295514 0.3026318 0.09104722 -0.2849888 0.5647174 2.740741
##
       abunH traitLCorolla length mm traitHBill length mean mm
## 1 3.950695
                                48.1
                                                          28.1
## 2 3.950695
                                16.5
                                                          28.1
## 3 3.950695
                                 1.3
                                                          28.1
## 4 3.950695
                                22.9
                                                          28.1
## 5 3.950695
                                24.5
                                                          28.1
## 6 3.950695
                                29.3
                                                          28.1
```

These data.frames contain all the information coded in the tapnet object, but no matches of traits.

# 7 Prediction using GAM of phylogeny, traits and trait matching

To apply the approach of Brousseau et al. (2018) to our quantitative network, we use a negative binomial GAM. It uses, as predictors, the first two PEMs of each group, plus the observed traits, plus the squared trait difference, plus the abundances.

We augment the data.frames from the previous section by the trait-matching variables (in this case only one pair: bill and corolla length):

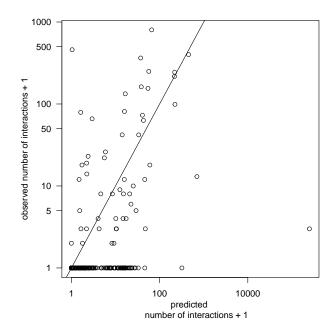
Now we can fit the model. Note that we believe this approach to be statistically incorrect, as it assumes that the observed interactions are independent, when (clearly?) they are not. Each bird selects a flower based on what is on offer; thus, a decision to visit one flower implies *not* visiting another, creating a negative dependence. Anyway.

```
library(mgcv)
gam2 <- gam(interactions ~ s(pemLV_1, pemHV_1, bs="ts", k=24) +s(pemLV_2, pemHV_3, bs="ts",
           k=24) + s(traitLCorolla_length_mm, k=3) + s(traitHBill_length_mean_mm, k=3) +
           s(match, k=3) + s(abunL, k=3) + s(abunH, k=3), data=web1.df.extended, family=nb,
           gamma=1.4)
summary(gam2)
## Family: Negative Binomial(0.171)
## Link function: log
##
## Formula:
\#\# interactions ~ s(pemLV_1, pemHV_1, bs = "ts", k = 24) + <math>s(pemLV_2, pemLV_1)
      pemHV_3, bs = "ts", k = 24) + s(traitLCorolla_length_mm,
##
##
      k = 3) + s(traitHBill_length_mean_mm, k = 3) + <math>s(match, k = 3) +
##
      s(abunL, k = 3) + s(abunH, k = 3)
##
## Parametric coefficients:
              Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
## (Intercept) -5.969
                           1.703 -3.505 0.000456 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Approximate significance of smooth terms:
##
                                      edf Ref.df Chi.sq p-value
                               1.480e+00 23.000 14.647 7.86e-05 ***
## s(pemLV_1,pemHV_1)
## s(pemLV 2,pemHV 3)
                               1.724e-05 23.000 0.000 0.291704
## s(traitLCorolla_length_mm) 1.772e+00 1.929 10.635 0.002754 **
## s(traitHBill_length_mean_mm) 1.000e+00 1.000 0.442 0.506187
                                          1.000 18.939 1.38e-05 ***
## s(match)
                                1.000e+00
                                           1.993 14.489 0.001103 **
## s(abunL)
                                1.917e+00
## s(abunH)
                                1.000e+00 1.000 12.618 0.000382 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## R-sq.(adj) = -5 Deviance explained = 49.3%
## -REML = 203 Scale est. = 1 n = 160
preds2.gam <- predict(gam2, newdata=web2.df.extended)</pre>
cor(exp(preds2.gam), web2.df$interactions)
## [1] -0.01210051
```

Here, the contributions of the different predictors can easily be discerned. Abundances and trait-matching are important, but phylogenetics are (apparently) not. Note that in this case corolla length and trait matching are high (r=0.84) correlated, representing the same information. That could be avoided by standardising the trait values before fitting the model. However, in that case we lose the direct interpretation of 0 indicating the same length of corolla and bill.

Again, we can plot the result:

```
par(mar=c(5,5,1,1))
plot(exp(preds2.gam) +1 , web2.df$interactions + 1, log="xy", las=1, xlab="predicted
    number of interactions + 1", ylab="observed number of interactions + 1")
abline(0,1)
```



This prediction contains no information on the observed interactions. And the log-likelihood:

So these values are abysmally poor.

## $oldsymbol{8}$ Prediction using randomForest with phylogeny, traits and trait matching

We can use the same data with a different algorithm, in this case randomForest (as implemented in ranger). It provides an assessment of which predictors are important to the fit:

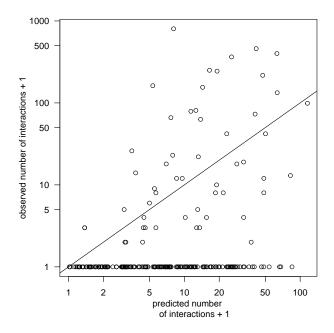
```
library(ranger)
rf2 <- ranger(interactions ~ ., data=web1.df.extended[, -c(1, 2)], importance="impurity")
## Ranger result
##
## Call:
   ranger(interactions \sim ., data = web1.df.extended[, -c(1, 2)],
                                                                          importance = "impurity")
##
## Type:
                                      Regression
## Number of trees:
                                      500
## Sample size:
                                      160
## Number of independent variables:
                                      13
## Mtry:
                                      3
## Target node size:
                                      5
## Variable importance mode:
                                      impurity
                                      variance
## Splitrule:
## OOB prediction error (MSE):
                                      599.1792
## R squared (OOB):
                                      0.0733405
sort(importance(rf2), decreasing=T)
##
                        abunL
                                                   match
                                                           traitLCorolla_length_mm
##
                    12558.832
                                               12170.222
                                                                           9190.177
```

```
abunH
##
                       pemLV 2
                                                   pemHV_3
##
                      7706.507
                                                                               6332.438
                                                  6818.601
##
   traitHBill_length_mean_mm
                                                                                pemLV_3
                                                   pemHV_1
                      5743.067
                                                  4890.467
                                                                               4836.141
                                                   pemLV_7
                                                                                pemHV_6
##
                      pemLV_1
##
                      4729.878
                                                  4617.740
                                                                               1195.166
##
                       pemHV_8
                      1085.502
```

```
preds2.ranger <- predict(rf2, data=web2.df.extended)$predictions
cor(preds2.ranger, web2.df$interactions)

## [1] 0.2219289

par(mar=c(5,5,1,1))
plot(preds2.ranger +1 , web2.df$interactions + 1, log="xy", las=1, xlab="predicted number of interactions + 1", ylab="observed number of interactions + 1")
abline(0,1)</pre>
```



And the log-likelihood:

This model is better than the abundance-only, GAM – and tapnet.

# 9 Cross-validation for all approaches

Here we only present the code and results for the cross-validation, where the model it fit to one web and predicts to the other two, for all three combinations. We use the same settings and data preparation as in the sections above.

### **9.1** Using tapnet

```
tapnet_web1 <- make_tapnet(tree_low=plant_tree, tree_high=humm_tree, networks=networks[1],
                            traits_low=plant_traits, traits_high=humm_traits,
                            abun_low=plant_abun[1], abun_high=humm_abun[1], npems_lat=4)
tapnet_web2 <- make_tapnet(tree_low=plant_tree, tree_high=humm_tree, networks=networks[2],
                            traits_low=plant_traits, traits_high=humm_traits,
                            abun_low=plant_abun[2], abun_high=humm_abun[2], npems_lat=4)
tapnet_web3 <- make_tapnet(tree_low=plant_tree, tree_high=humm_tree, networks=networks[3],
                            traits_low=plant_traits, traits_high=humm_traits,
                            abun_low=plant_abun[3], abun_high=humm_abun[3], npems_lat=4)
fit_web1 <- fit_tapnet(tapnet = tapnet_web1, method="SANN")</pre>
fit_web2 <- fit_tapnet(tapnet = tapnet_web2, method="SANN")</pre>
fit_web3 <- fit_tapnet(tapnet = tapnet_web3, method="SANN")</pre>
-c(fit_web1$opt$value, fit_web2$opt$value, fit_web3$opt$value)
## [1] -1726.225 -4331.951 -1901.977
preds2.tapnet1 <- predict_tapnet(fit=fit_web1, abuns=tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$abuns)</pre>
preds3.tapnet1 <- predict_tapnet(fit=fit_web1, abuns=tapnet_web3$networks[[1]]$abuns)</pre>
preds1.tapnet2 <- predict_tapnet(fit=fit_web2, abuns=tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$abuns)</pre>
preds3.tapnet2 <- predict_tapnet(fit=fit_web2, abuns=tapnet_web3$networks[[1]]$abuns)</pre>
preds1.tapnet3 <- predict_tapnet(fit=fit_web3, abuns=tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$abuns)</pre>
preds2.tapnet3 <- predict_tapnet(fit=fit_web3, abuns=tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$abuns)</pre>
cors.tapnet <- c(</pre>
  cor(as.vector(preds2.tapnet1), as.vector(tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$web)),
  cor(as.vector(preds3.tapnet1), as.vector(tapnet_web3$networks[[1]]$web)),
  cor(as.vector(preds1.tapnet2), as.vector(tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$web)),
  cor(as.vector(preds3.tapnet2), as.vector(tapnet_web3$networks[[1]]$web)),
  cor(as.vector(preds1.tapnet3), as.vector(tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$web)),
  cor(as.vector(preds2.tapnet3), as.vector(tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$web))
cors.tapnet
\#\# \ [1] \ 0.13508949 \ 0.52398437 \ 0.10842538 \ 0.47967584 \ 0.02909331 \ 0.11391497
ellCV.tapnet <- c(
  dmultinom(as.vector(tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$web), prob=as.vector(preds2.tapnet1),
            size=sum(tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$web), log=T),
  dmultinom(as.vector(tapnet_web3$networks[[1]]$web), prob=as.vector(preds3.tapnet1),
            size=sum(tapnet_web3$networks[[1]]$web), log=T),
  dmultinom(as.vector(tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$web), prob=as.vector(preds1.tapnet2),
            size=sum(tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$web), log=T),
  dmultinom(as.vector(tapnet_web3$networks[[1]]$web), prob=as.vector(preds3.tapnet2),
            size=sum(tapnet_web3$networks[[1]]$web), log=T),
  dmultinom(as.vector(tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$web), prob=as.vector(preds1.tapnet3),
            size=sum(tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$web), log=T),
  dmultinom(as.vector(tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$web), prob=as.vector(preds2.tapnet3),
            size=sum(tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$web), log=T)
ellCV.tapnet
## [1] -7992.325 -2838.724 -2893.864 -4553.146 -3175.828 -8479.723
```

### 9.2 Fit of the baseline, abundance-only model

```
preds1.abunonly <- (tapnet web1$networks[[1]]$abuns$low /</pre>
        sum(tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$abuns$low)) %*% t(tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$abuns$high /
        sum(tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$abuns$high)) / sum(tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$web)
preds2.abunonly <- (tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$abuns$low /</pre>
      sum(tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$abuns$1ow)) %*% t(tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$abuns$high /
      sum(tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$abuns$high)) / sum(tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$web)
preds3.abunonly <- (tapnet_web3$networks[[1]]$abuns$low /</pre>
      sum(tapnet_web3$networks[[1]]$abuns$1ow)) %*% t(tapnet_web3$networks[[1]]$abuns$high /
      sum(tapnet_web3$networks[[1]]$abuns$high)) / sum(tapnet_web3$networks[[1]]$web)
cors.abun <- c(
  cor(as.vector(preds2.abunonly), as.vector(tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$web)),
  cor(as.vector(preds3.abunonly), as.vector(tapnet_web3$networks[[1]]$web)),
  cor(as.vector(preds1.abunonly), as.vector(tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$web)),
  cor(as.vector(preds3.abunonly), as.vector(tapnet_web3$networks[[1]]$web)),
  cor(as.vector(preds1.abunonly), as.vector(tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$web)),
  cor(as.vector(preds2.abunonly), as.vector(tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$web))
cors.abun
\#\# \ [1] \ 0.09473036 \ 0.48561887 \ 0.24775426 \ 0.48561887 \ 0.24775426 \ 0.09473036
ellCV.abuns <- c(
  dmultinom(as.vector(tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$web), prob=as.vector(preds2.abunonly),
            size=sum(tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$web), log=T),
  dmultinom(as.vector(tapnet_web3$networks[[1]]$web), prob=as.vector(preds3.abunonly),
            size=sum(tapnet_web3$networks[[1]]$web), log=T),
  dmultinom(as.vector(tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$web), prob=as.vector(preds1.abunonly),
            \label{eq:size} \\ \text{size=} \\ \text{sum} \\ \text{(tapnet\_web1\$networks[[1]]\$web), log=T),} \\
  dmultinom(as.vector(tapnet_web3$networks[[1]]$web), prob=as.vector(preds3.abunonly),
            size=sum(tapnet_web3$networks[[1]]$web), log=T),
  dmultinom(as.vector(tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$web), prob=as.vector(preds1.abunonly),
            size=sum(tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$web), log=T),
  dmultinom(as.vector(tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$web), prob=as.vector(preds2.abunonly),
            size=sum(tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$web), log=T)
ellCV.abuns
```

Comparing these values to the fits of the tapnet we see that they are similar, sometimes tapnet is better, sometimes abundance-only.

## [1] -9202.007 -2706.214 -2149.702 -2706.214 -2149.702 -9202.007

gam1 <- gam(interactions ~ s(pemLV\_1, pemHV\_1, bs="ts", k=24) +

#### 9.3 The GAM-approach

```
s(pemLV_2, pemHV_3, bs="ts", k=24) + s(traitLCorolla_length_mm, k=3) +
s(traitHBill_length_mean_mm, k=3) + s(match, k=3) + s(abunL, k=3) +
s(abunH, k=3), data=web1.df.extended, family=nb, gamma=1.4)
```

```
gam2 <- gam(interactions ~ s(pemLV_1, pemHV_1, bs="ts", k=24) +
  s(\text{pemLV}_2, \text{pemHV}_3, \text{bs}="ts", k=24) + s(\text{traitLCorolla}_length_mm, k=3) +
  s(traitHBill\_length\_mean\_mm, k=3) + s(match, k=3) + s(abunL, k=3) +
  s(abunH, k=3), data=web2.df.extended, family=nb, gamma=1.4)
gam3 <- gam(interactions ~ s(pemLV_1, pemHV_1, bs="ts", k=24) +
  s(pemLV_2, pemHV_3, bs="ts", k=24) + s(traitLCorolla_length_mm, k=3) +
  s(traitHBill\_length\_mean\_mm, k=3) + s(match, k=3) + s(abunL, k=3) +
 s(abunH, k=3), data=web3.df.extended, family=nb, gamma=1.4)
preds2.gam1 <- predict(gam1, newdata=web2.df.extended, type="response")</pre>
preds3.gam1 <- predict(gam1, newdata=web3.df.extended, type="response")</pre>
preds1.gam2 <- predict(gam2, newdata=web1.df.extended, type="response")</pre>
preds3.gam2 <- predict(gam2, newdata=web3.df.extended, type="response")</pre>
preds1.gam3 <- predict(gam3, newdata=web1.df.extended, type="response")</pre>
preds2.gam3 <- predict(gam3, newdata=web2.df.extended, type="response")</pre>
cors.gam <- c(
  cor(preds2.gam1, web2.df$interactions),
  cor(preds3.gam1, web3.df$interactions),
  cor(preds1.gam2, web1.df$interactions),
  cor(preds3.gam2, web3.df$interactions),
  cor(preds1.gam3, web1.df$interactions),
  cor(preds2.gam3, web2.df$interactions)
```

```
cors.gam

## [1] -0.01210051  0.33249537  0.25840986  0.13461081 -0.01344406 -0.01974305

ellCV.gam

## [1] -77771.757  -6943.118  -2750.557  -6029.040  -26537.792 -162237.116
```

Compared to the tapnet, this GAM-approach is inferior in all instances.

### **9.4** The randomForest approach

Note that we now have to append the correct PEMs to the data. For the GAM, we only used the first PEM, but here the first 4 (or all)!

```
tapnet_web1 <- make_tapnet(tree_low=plant_tree, tree_high=humm_tree, networks=networks[1],
              traits_low=plant_traits, traits_high=humm_traits, abun_low=plant_abun[1],
              abun_high=humm_abun[1], npems_lat=NULL, use.all.pems=T)
tapnet_web2 <- make_tapnet(tree_low=plant_tree, tree_high=humm_tree, networks=networks[2],
               traits_low=plant_traits, traits_high=humm_traits, abun_low=plant_abun[2],
              abun_high=humm_abun[2], npems_lat=NULL, use.all.pems=T)
tapnet web3 <- make tapnet(tree low=plant tree, tree high=humm tree, networks=networks[3],
               traits low=plant traits, traits high=humm traits, abun low=plant abun[3],
              abun_high=humm_abun[3], npems_lat=NULL, use.all.pems=T)
web1.df <- tapnet2df(tapnet_web1)</pre>
web1.df.extended <- cbind.data.frame(web1.df, "match"=(web1.df$traitHBill_length_mean_mm -
                                                    web1.df$traitLCorolla_length_mm)^2 )
web2.df <- tapnet2df(tapnet_web2)</pre>
web2.df.extended <- cbind.data.frame(web2.df, "match"=(web2.df$traitHBill_length_mean_mm -
                                                    web2.df$traitLCorolla_length_mm)^2 )
web3.df <- tapnet2df(tapnet_web3)</pre>
web3.df.extended <- cbind.data.frame(web3.df, "match"=(web3.df$traitHBill_length_mean_mm -
                                                    web3.df$traitLCorolla_length_mm)^2 )
rf1 <- ranger(interactions ~ ., data=web1.df.extended[, -c(1, 2)], importance="impurity")
 rf2 <- \  \, \textbf{ranger} ( \texttt{interactions} \  \, \textbf{``} \  \, \textbf{``} \  \, \textbf{(ata=web2.df.extended[', -c(1, 2)']', importance="impurity")''} \\ 
rf3 <- ranger(interactions ~ ., data=web3.df.extended[, -c(1, 2)], importance="impurity")
head(sort(round(importance(rf1)), decreasing=T))
##
      match pemLV 26 pemHV 13 pemLV 5 pemHV 1 pemHV 11
       4938
                4374
                         4229
                                   3763
                                            3685
                                                      3422
##
head(sort(round(importance(rf2)), decreasing=T))
##
      abunH
               match pemHV_6 pemHV_8 pemLV_19 pemLV_1
##
     101714
               67596
                         61361
                                  54057
                                           49847
                                                     48585
head(sort(round(importance(rf3)), decreasing=T))
                         abunH pemHV_11 pemHV_12 pemHV_3
## pemHV_13 pemHV_10
## 29495 22599 19986 18073 16328 16191
preds2.ranger1 <- predict(rf1, data=web2.df.extended)$predictions</pre>
preds3.ranger1 <- predict(rf1, data=web3.df.extended)$predictions</pre>
preds1.ranger2 <- predict(rf2, data=web1.df.extended)$predictions</pre>
preds3.ranger2 <- predict(rf2, data=web3.df.extended)$predictions</pre>
preds1.ranger3 <- predict(rf3, data=web1.df.extended)$predictions</pre>
preds2.ranger3 <- predict(rf3, data=web2.df.extended)$predictions</pre>
cors.rf <- c(
  cor(preds2.ranger1, web2.df$interactions),
  cor(preds3.ranger1, web3.df$interactions),
  cor(preds1.ranger2, web1.df$interactions),
  cor(preds3.ranger2, web3.df$interactions),
  cor(preds1.ranger3, web1.df$interactions),
  cor(preds2.ranger3, web2.df$interactions)
)
```

```
cors.rf
## [1] 0.2387133 0.3691158 0.3436329 0.1385993 0.3938876 0.1709911
ellcv.rf
## [1] -13323.572 -4668.409 -3038.646 -5661.888 -2049.030 -10548.967
```

Compared to tapnet, the randomForest approach is consistently better in validation (correlations), but yields very poor fits in terms of log-likelihood.

### **9.5** Summary of cross-validation results

To summarise all of this, here are the **correlations**, sorted by overall prediction quality:

```
all.cors.res <- rbind(cors.tapnet, cors.abun, cors.rf, cors.gam)
all.cors.res <- cbind(all.cors.res, rowMeans(all.cors.res))</pre>
colnames(all.cors.res) <- c("1 to 2", "1 to 3", "2 to 1", "2 to 3", "3 to 1", "3 to 2",
                         "average")
round(all.cors.res, 2)
             1 to 2 1 to 3 2 to 1 2 to 3 3 to 1 3 to 2 average
##
## cors.tapnet 0.14 0.52 0.11 0.48 0.03 0.11 0.23
## cors.abun
              0.09 0.49 0.25 0.49 0.25 0.09
                                                      0.28
              0.24 0.37 0.34 0.14 0.39 0.17
                                                       0.28
## cors.rf
           -0.01 0.33 0.26 0.13 -0.01 -0.02
                                                       0.11
## cors.gam
```

And here the **log-likelihoods** on the hold-out (larger, i.e. less negative, is better):

In summary, these results show that tapnet, abundance-only and randomForest yield very similar performance on prediction to a new network, based only on abundances. In absolute terms, these predictions are poor. Among the possible explanations for the poor prediction we think we can exclude the very skewed distribution

of interaction intensities, as the data can be fit satisfactorily (by tapnet and randomForest). A more likely explanation is that bipartite networks have no representation of interactions within a group, e.g. competitive interactions among hummingbirds. As they differ in size, a larger species not occurring in forest may "bully" smaller birds into deviating from their feeding preferences; or very similar species may display character displacement in the presence of the other.

#### **9.6** Fits

Just for completeness, here also the information on the goodness-of-fit for all approaches. This is an inferior measure of an approache's performance if the aim is prediction. As sometimes people want to only use an approach in an exploratory way, e.g. to identify which elements contribute to describing the data, we show the same measures as before for the fit (again sorted by quality of prediction, not by quality of fit).

```
fits.cors.res <- rbind(</pre>
  "tapnet"=cbind(
    cor(as.vector(tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$web), as.vector(predict_tapnet(fit_web1,
                                           abuns=tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$abuns))),
    cor(as.vector(tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$web), as.vector(predict_tapnet(fit_web2,
                                          abuns=tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$abuns))),
   cor(as.vector(tapnet_web3$networks[[1]]$web), as.vector(predict_tapnet(fit_web3,
                                          abuns=tapnet_web3$networks[[1]]$abuns)))
  ),
  "abuns"=cbind(
       cor(as.vector(tapnet_web1$networks[[1]]$web), as.vector(preds1.abunonly)),
       cor(as.vector(tapnet_web2$networks[[1]]$web), as.vector(preds2.abunonly)),
       cor(as.vector(tapnet_web3$networks[[1]]$web), as.vector(preds3.abunonly))
 ),
  "rf"=cbind(
   cor(predict(rf1, data=web1.df.extended)$predictions, web1.df$interactions),
   cor(predict(rf2, data=web2.df.extended)$predictions, web2.df$interactions),
   cor(predict(rf3, data=web3.df.extended)$predictions, web3.df$interactions)
 ),
  "gam"=cbind(
   cor(predict(gam1, data=web1.df.extended, type="response"), web1.df$interactions),
   cor(predict(gam2, data=web2.df.extended, type="response"), web2.df$interactions),
    cor(predict(gam3, data=web3.df.extended, type="response"), web3.df$interactions)
)
fits.cors.res <- cbind(fits.cors.res, rowMeans(fits.cors.res))</pre>
colnames(fits.cors.res) <- c("1 to 1", "2 to 2", "3 to 3", "average")</pre>
round(fits.cors.res, 2)
     1 to 1 2 to 2 3 to 3 average
## [1,] 0.45 0.70 0.69 0.62
## [2,] 0.25 0.09 0.49 0.28
## [3,] 0.94 0.92 0.91 0.92
## [4,] 0.56 0.29 0.40
                               0.42
```

# 10 Comparison with tapnet using marginal totals as abundances

Often, no information on species abundances are available or reported (e.g. in the interaction web data base). For null models, we thus typically use marginal totals as substitute for external abundances, arguing that when species abundances are not strongly dependent on the network itself, these marginal totals should be highly correlated with a species' overall abundance in that habitat.

Here, we show how misleading this reasoning is for the situation of the Tinoco data. We follow the same approach as above, but now withhold the information of independent plant and pollinator abundance, and use marginal totals instead. For the test data, this leads to the weird situation that we know how often a

species has been observed in an interaction, but pretend not to know with whom. (The situation would be that of two ecologists collecting the data side-by-side, with one only noting own the plants visited, but not the birds visiting them, and the other the other way around. Concieveable, but unlikely.)

```
tapnet_web1.w <- make_tapnet(tree_low=plant_tree, tree_high=humm_tree, networks=</pre>
              networks[1], traits_low=plant_traits, traits_high=humm_traits, npems_lat=4)
## Warning in make_tapnet(tree_low = plant_tree, tree_high = humm_tree, networks = networks[1],
: No abundances for lower trophic level were provided. Using marginal totals instead.
## Warning in make_tapnet(tree_low = plant_tree, tree_high = humm_tree, networks = networks[1],
: No abundances for higher trophic level were provided. Using marginal totals instead.
tapnet_web2.w <- make_tapnet(tree_low=plant_tree, tree_high=humm_tree, networks=
              networks[2], traits_low=plant_traits, traits_high=humm_traits, npems_lat=4)
## Warning in make_tapnet(tree_low = plant_tree, tree_high = humm_tree, networks = networks[2],
: No abundances for lower trophic level were provided. Using marginal totals instead.
## Warning in make_tapnet(tree_low = plant_tree, tree_high = humm_tree, networks = networks[2],
: No abundances for higher trophic level were provided. Using marginal totals instead.
tapnet_web3.w <- make_tapnet(tree_low=plant_tree, tree_high=humm_tree, networks=
              networks[3], traits_low=plant_traits, traits_high=humm_traits, npems_lat=4)
## Warning in make_tapnet(tree_low = plant_tree, tree_high = humm_tree, networks = networks[3],
: No abundances for lower trophic level were provided. Using marginal totals instead.
## Warning in make_tapnet(tree_low = plant_tree, tree_high = humm_tree, networks = networks[3],
: No abundances for higher trophic level were provided. Using marginal totals instead.
fit_web1.w <- fit_tapnet(tapnet=tapnet_web1.w)</pre>
fit_web2.w <- fit_tapnet(tapnet=tapnet_web2.w)</pre>
fit_web3.w <- fit_tapnet(tapnet=tapnet_web3.w)</pre>
preds2.tapnet1.w <- predict_tapnet(fit=fit_web1.w, abuns=tapnet_web2.w$networks[[1]]$abuns)</pre>
preds3.tapnet1.w <- predict_tapnet(fit=fit_web1.w, abuns=tapnet_web3.w$networks[[1]]$abuns)</pre>
preds1.tapnet2.w <- predict_tapnet(fit=fit_web2.w, abuns=tapnet_web1.w$networks[[1]]$abuns)</pre>
preds3.tapnet2.w <- predict_tapnet(fit=fit_web2.w, abuns=tapnet_web3.w$networks[[1]]$abuns)</pre>
preds1.tapnet3.w <- predict_tapnet(fit=fit_web3.w, abuns=tapnet_web1.w$networks[[1]]$abuns)</pre>
preds2.tapnet3.w <- predict_tapnet(fit=fit_web3.w, abuns=tapnet_web2.w$networks[[1]]$abuns)</pre>
cors.tapnet.w <- c(</pre>
  cor(as.vector(preds2.tapnet1.w), as.vector(tapnet_web2.w$networks[[1]]$web)),
  cor(as.vector(preds3.tapnet1.w), as.vector(tapnet_web3.w$networks[[1]]$web)),
  cor(as.vector(preds1.tapnet2.w), as.vector(tapnet_web1.w$networks[[1]]$web)),
  cor(as.vector(preds3.tapnet2.w), as.vector(tapnet_web3.w$networks[[1]]$web)),
  cor(as.vector(preds1.tapnet3.w), as.vector(tapnet_web1.w$networks[[1]]$web)),
  cor(as.vector(preds2.tapnet3.w), as.vector(tapnet_web2.w$networks[[1]]$web))
)
cors.tapnet.w
## [1] 0.8044350 0.7580522 0.8108440 0.5426476 0.7749173 0.7946178
mean(cors.tapnet.w)
## [1] 0.7475857
```

Please post comments, corrections or additions through github.com/biometry/tapnet.