# Package 'semmcci'

December 13, 2023

```
Title Monte Carlo Confidence Intervals in Structural Equation Modeling
```

Version 1.1.3.9000

**Description** Monte Carlo confidence intervals for free and defined parameters

in models fitted in the structural equation modeling package 'lavaan' can be generated using the 'semmcci' package.

'semmcci' has three main functions, namely, MC(), MCMI(), and MCStd().

The output of 'lavaan' is passed as the first argument

to the MC() function or the MCMI() function to generate Monte Carlo confidence intervals.

Monte Carlo confidence intervals for the standardized estimates

can also be generated by passing the output of the MC() function or the MCMI() function to the MCStd() function.

A description of the package and code examples are presented in Pesigan and Cheung (2023) <doi:10.3758/s13428-023-02114-4>.

```
URL https://github.com/jeksterslab/semmcci,
    https://jeksterslab.github.io/semmcci/
```

 $\pmb{BugReports} \ \text{https://github.com/jeksterslab/semmcci/issues}$ 

License MIT + file LICENSE

**Encoding UTF-8** 

**Roxygen** list(markdown = TRUE)

**Depends** R (>= 3.0.0)

Imports stats, lavaan, mice

Suggests knitr, rmarkdown, testthat, MASS, psych, Amelia, bmemLavaan

RoxygenNote 7.2.3

NeedsCompilation no

**Author** Ivan Jacob Agaloos Pesigan [aut, cre, cph] (<a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4818-8420">https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4818-8420</a>),
Shu Fai Cheung [ctb] (<a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9871-9448">https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9871-9448</a>)

Maintainer Ivan Jacob Agaloos Pesigan < r. jeksterslab@gmail.com>

2 coef.semmcci

R	to	pics	documente	d:
---	----	------	-----------	----

coef.semmcci confint.semmcci																	
MC																	
MCGeneric																	
MCMI																	
MCStd																	
print.semmcci																	
summary.semmcci																	
vcov.semmcci							 										

**20** 

\_\_\_\_\_

coef.semmcci

Parameter Estimates

# Description

Parameter Estimates

# Usage

**Index** 

```
## S3 method for class 'semmcci'
coef(object, ...)
```

# Arguments

object Object of class semmcci.
... additional arguments.

# Value

Returns a vector of parameter estimates.

# Author(s)

Ivan Jacob Agaloos Pesigan

confint.semmcci 3

```
## Fit Model in lavaan --------
model <- "
 reaction ~ cp * cond + b * pmi
 pmi ~ a * cond
 cond ~~ cond
 indirect := a * b
 direct := cp
 total := cp + (a * b)
fit <- sem(data = df, model = model, missing = "fiml")</pre>
## MC() -----
unstd <- MC(
 fit,
 R = 20L # use a large value e.g., 20000L for actual research
## Standardized Monte Carlo ------
std <- MCStd(unstd)</pre>
coef(unstd)
coef(std)
# Monte Carlo (Multiple Imputation) ------
## Multiple Imputation ------
mi <- mice::mice(</pre>
 data = df,
 print = FALSE,
 m = 5L, # use a large value e.g., 100L for actual research,
 seed = 42
)
## Fit Model in lavaan ------
fit <- sem(data = df, model = model) # use default listwise deletion</pre>
## MCMI() -----
unstd <- MCMI(</pre>
 fit,
 mi = mi,
 R = 20L \# use a large value e.g., 20000L for actual research
## Standardized Monte Carlo -----
std <- MCStd(unstd)</pre>
coef(unstd)
coef(std)
```

4 confint.semmcci

### **Description**

Monte Carlo Confidence Intervals for the Parameter Estimates

### Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'semmcci'
confint(object, parm = NULL, level = 0.95, ...)
```

# **Arguments**

object Object of class semmcci.

parm a specification of which parameters are to be given confidence intervals, either

a vector of numbers or a vector of names. If missing, all parameters are consid-

ered.

level the confidence level required.

... additional arguments.

#### Value

Returns a matrix of confidence intervals.

#### Author(s)

Ivan Jacob Agaloos Pesigan

```
library(semmcci)
library(lavaan)
# Data ------
data("Tal.Or", package = "psych")
df <- mice::ampute(Tal.Or)$amp</pre>
# Monte Carlo -------
## Fit Model in lavaan ------
model <- "
 reaction ~ cp * cond + b * pmi
 pmi ~ a * cond
 cond ~~ cond
 indirect := a * b
 direct := cp
 total := cp + (a * b)
fit <- sem(data = df, model = model, missing = "fiml")</pre>
## MC() -----
unstd <- MC(
 fit,
 R = 20L # use a large value e.g., 20000L for actual research
```

MC 5

```
)
## Standardized Monte Carlo -----
std <- MCStd(unstd)</pre>
confint(unstd)
confint(std)
# Monte Carlo (Multiple Imputation) ------
## Multiple Imputation ------
mi <- mice::mice(</pre>
 data = df,
 print = FALSE,
 m = 5L, # use a large value e.g., 100L for actual research,
)
## Fit Model in lavaan ------
fit <- sem(data = df, model = model) # use default listwise deletion</pre>
## MCMI() -----
unstd <- MCMI(</pre>
 fit,
 mi = mi,
 R = 20L \# use a large value e.g., 20000L for actual research
## Standardized Monte Carlo -----
std <- MCStd(unstd)</pre>
confint(unstd)
confint(std)
```

MC

Monte Carlo Confidence Intervals

### **Description**

Calculates Monte Carlo confidence intervals for free and defined parameters.

# Usage

```
MC(
    lav,
    R = 20000L,
    alpha = c(0.001, 0.01, 0.05),
    decomposition = "eigen",
    pd = TRUE,
    tol = 1e-06,
    seed = NULL
)
```

6 *MC* 

### **Arguments**

lav Object of class lavaan.

R Positive integer. Number of Monte Carlo replications.

alpha Numeric vector. Significance level  $\alpha$ .

decomposition Character string. Matrix decomposition of the sampling variance-covariance

matrix for the data generation. If decomposition = "chol", use Cholesky decomposition. If decomposition = "eigen", use eigenvalue decomposition. If

decomposition = "svd", use singular value decomposition.

pd Logical. If pd = TRUE, check if the sampling variance-covariance matrix is posi-

tive definite using tol.

tol Numeric. Tolerance used for pd.

seed Integer. Random seed for reproducibility.

#### **Details**

A sampling distribution of parameter estimates is generated from the multivariate normal distribution using the parameter estimates and the sampling variance-covariance matrix. Confidence intervals for free and defined parameters are generated using the simulated sampling distribution. Parameters can be defined using the := operator in the lavaan model syntax.

#### Value

Returns an object of class semmcci which is a list with the following elements:

call Function call.

args List of function arguments.

**thetahat** Parameter estimates  $\hat{\theta}$ .

**thetahatstar** Sampling distribution of parameter estimates  $\hat{\theta}^*$ .

fun Function used ("MC").

### Author(s)

Ivan Jacob Agaloos Pesigan

#### References

MacKinnon, D. P., Lockwood, C. M., & Williams, J. (2004). Confidence limits for the indirect effect: Distribution of the product and resampling methods. *Multivariate Behavioral Research*, 39(1), 99-128. doi:10.1207/s15327906mbr3901\_4

Pesigan, I. J. A., & Cheung, S. F. (2023). Monte Carlo confidence intervals for the indirect effect with missing data. *Behavior Research Methods*. doi:10.3758/s13428023021144

Preacher, K. J., & Selig, J. P. (2012). Advantages of Monte Carlo confidence intervals for indirect effects. *Communication Methods and Measures*, 6(2), 77–98. doi:10.1080/19312458.2012.679848

MCGeneric 7

### See Also

Other Monte Carlo in Structural Equation Modeling Functions: MCGeneric(), MCMI(), MCStd()

### **Examples**

```
library(semmcci)
library(lavaan)
data("Tal.Or", package = "psych")
df <- mice::ampute(Tal.Or)$amp</pre>
# Monte Carlo ------
## Fit Model in lavaan ------
 reaction ~ cp * cond + b * pmi
 pmi ~ a * cond
 cond ~~ cond
 indirect := a * b
 direct := cp
 total := cp + (a * b)
fit <- sem(data = df, model = model, missing = "fiml")</pre>
## MC() -----
MC(
 R = 20L, # use a large value e.g., 20000L for actual research
 alpha = 0.05
```

MCGeneric

Monte Carlo Confidence Intervals (Generic)

# Description

Calculates Monte Carlo confidence intervals for defined parameters for any fitted model object with coef and vcov methods.

# Usage

```
MCGeneric(
   object,
   def,
   R = 20000L,
   alpha = c(0.001, 0.01, 0.05),
   decomposition = "eigen",
   pd = TRUE,
```

8 MCGeneric

```
tol = 1e-06,
seed = NULL
)
```

# **Arguments**

object R object. Fitted model object with coef and vcov methods that return a named

vector of estimated parameters and sampling variance-covariance matrix, re-

spectively.

def List of character strings. A list of defined functions of parameters. The string

should be a valid R expression when parsed and should result a single value

when evaluated.

R Positive integer. Number of Monte Carlo replications.

alpha Numeric vector. Significance level  $\alpha$ .

decomposition Character string. Matrix decomposition of the sampling variance-covariance

matrix for the data generation. If decomposition = "chol", use Cholesky decomposition. If decomposition = "eigen", use eigenvalue decomposition. If

decomposition = "svd", use singular value decomposition.

pd Logical. If pd = TRUE, check if the sampling variance-covariance matrix is posi-

tive definite using tol.

tol Numeric. Tolerance used for pd.

seed Integer. Random seed for reproducibility.

#### **Details**

A sampling distribution of parameter estimates is generated from the multivariate normal distribution using the parameter estimates and the sampling variance-covariance matrix. Confidence intervals for defined parameters are generated using the simulated sampling distribution. Parameters are defined using the def argument.

### Value

Returns an object of class semmcci which is a list with the following elements:

call Function call.

args List of function arguments.

**thetahat** Parameter estimates  $\hat{\theta}$ .

**thetahatstar** Sampling distribution of parameter estimates  $\hat{\theta}^*$ .

fun Function used ("MCGeneric").

#### Author(s)

Ivan Jacob Agaloos Pesigan

MCMI 9

### References

MacKinnon, D. P., Lockwood, C. M., & Williams, J. (2004). Confidence limits for the indirect effect: Distribution of the product and resampling methods. *Multivariate Behavioral Research*, 39(1), 99-128. doi:10.1207/s15327906mbr3901\_4

Pesigan, I. J. A., & Cheung, S. F. (2023). Monte Carlo confidence intervals for the indirect effect with missing data. *Behavior Research Methods*. doi:10.3758/s13428023021144

Preacher, K. J., & Selig, J. P. (2012). Advantages of Monte Carlo confidence intervals for indirect effects. *Communication Methods and Measures*, 6(2), 77–98. doi:10.1080/19312458.2012.679848

#### See Also

Other Monte Carlo in Structural Equation Modeling Functions: MCMI(), MCStd(), MC()

```
library(semmcci)
library(lavaan)
# Data ------
data("Tal.Or", package = "psych")
df <- mice::ampute(Tal.Or)$amp</pre>
# Monte Carlo ------
## Fit Model in lavaan ------
model <- "
 reaction ~ cp * cond + b * pmi
 pmi ~ a * cond
 cond ~~ cond
fit <- sem(data = df, model = model, missing = "fiml")</pre>
## MC() -----
MCGeneric(
 fit,
 R = 20L, # use a large value e.g., 20000L for actual research
 alpha = 0.05,
 def = list(
  "a * b",
  "cp + (a * b)"
)
```

10 MCMI

### **Description**

Calculates Monte Carlo confidence intervals for free and defined parameters. Missing values are handled using multilple imputation.

# Usage

```
MCMI(
    lav,
    mi,
    R = 20000L,
    alpha = c(0.001, 0.01, 0.05),
    decomposition = "eigen",
    pd = TRUE,
    tol = 1e-06,
    seed = NULL
)
```

# Arguments

lav	Object of class lavaan.
mi	Object of class mids (output of mice::mice()), object of class amelia (output of Amelia::amelia()), or a list of multiply imputed data sets.
R	Positive integer. Number of Monte Carlo replications.
alpha	Numeric vector. Significance level $\alpha$ .
decomposition	Character string. Matrix decomposition of the sampling variance-covariance matrix for the data generation. If decomposition = "chol", use Cholesky decomposition. If decomposition = "eigen", use eigenvalue decomposition. If decomposition = "svd", use singular value decomposition.
pd	Logical. If pd = TRUE, check if the sampling variance-covariance matrix is positive definite using tol.
tol	Numeric. Tolerance used for pd.
seed	Integer. Random seed for reproducibility.

### **Details**

A sampling distribution of parameter estimates is generated from the multivariate normal distribution using the parameter estimates and the sampling variance-covariance matrix obtained using multiple imputation. Confidence intervals for free and defined parameters are generated using the simulated sampling distribution. Parameters can be defined using the := operator in the lavaan model syntax.

### Value

Returns an object of class semmcci which is a list with the following elements:

```
call Function call.args List of function arguments.
```

MCMI 11

**thetahat** Parameter estimates  $\hat{\theta}$ . **thetahatstar** Sampling distribution of parameter estimates  $\hat{\theta}^*$ .

fun Function used ("MCMI").

#### References

Pesigan, I. J. A., & Cheung, S. F. (2023). Monte Carlo confidence intervals for the indirect effect with missing data. *Behavior Research Methods*. doi:10.3758/s13428023021144

Rubin, D. B. (1987). Multiple imputation for nonresponse in surveys. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

#### See Also

Other Monte Carlo in Structural Equation Modeling Functions: MCGeneric(), MCStd(), MC()

```
library(semmcci)
library(lavaan)
# Data -----
data("Tal.Or", package = "psych")
df <- mice::ampute(Tal.Or)$amp</pre>
# Monte Carlo (Multiple Imputation) ------
## Multiple Imputation ------
mi <- mice::mice(</pre>
 data = df,
 print = FALSE,
 m = 5L, # use a large value e.g., 100L for actual research,
 seed = 42
)
## Fit Model in lavaan --------
 reaction ~ cp * cond + b * pmi
 pmi ~ a * cond
 cond ~~ cond
 indirect := a * b
 direct := cp
 total := cp + (a * b)
fit <- sem(data = df, model = model) # use default listwise deletion</pre>
## MCMI() -----
MCMI(
 fit,
 mi = mi,
 R = 20L, # use a large value e.g., 20000L for actual research
 alpha = 0.05
)
```

12 MCStd

MCStd

Standardized Monte Carlo Confidence Intervals

# **Description**

Calculates standardized Monte Carlo confidence intervals for free and defined parameters.

### Usage

```
MCStd(mc, alpha = c(0.001, 0.01, 0.05))
```

# **Arguments**

mc Output of the MC() or MCMI() function. alpha Numeric vector. Significance level  $\alpha$ .

#### **Details**

The empirical sampling distribution of parameter estimates from the argument mc is standardized, that is, each randomly generated vector of parameters is standardized. Defined parameters are computed from the standardized component parameters. Confidence intervals are generated using the standardized empirical sampling distribution.

# Value

Returns an object of class semmcci which is a list with the following elements:

```
call Function call. 
args List of function arguments. 
thetahat Parameter estimates \hat{\theta}. 
thetahatstar Sampling distribution of parameter estimates \hat{\theta}^*. 
fun Function used ("MCStd").
```

#### Author(s)

Ivan Jacob Agaloos Pesigan

### References

Pesigan, I. J. A., & Cheung, S. F. (2023). Monte Carlo confidence intervals for the indirect effect with missing data. *Behavior Research Methods*. doi:10.3758/s13428023021144

### See Also

Other Monte Carlo in Structural Equation Modeling Functions: MCGeneric(), MCMI(), MC()

MCStd 13

```
library(semmcci)
library(lavaan)
# Data -----
data("Tal.Or", package = "psych")
df <- mice::ampute(Tal.Or)$amp</pre>
# Monte Carlo ------
## Fit Model in lavaan ------
model <- "
 reaction ~ cp * cond + b * pmi
 pmi ~ a * cond
 cond ~~ cond
 indirect := a * b
 direct := cp
 total := cp + (a * b)
fit <- sem(data = df, model = model, missing = "fiml")</pre>
## MC() -----
unstd <- MC(
 fit,
 R = 20L, # use a large value e.g., 20000L for actual research
 alpha = 0.05
## Standardized Monte Carlo ------
MCStd(unstd, alpha = 0.05)
# Monte Carlo (Multiple Imputation) ------
## Multiple Imputation ------
mi <- mice::mice(</pre>
 data = df,
 print = FALSE,
 m = 5L, # use a large value e.g., 100L for actual research,
 seed = 42
)
## Fit Model in lavaan --------
fit <- sem(data = df, model = model) # use default listwise deletion</pre>
## MCMI() -----
unstd <- MCMI(</pre>
 fit,
 R = 20L, # use a large value e.g., 20000L for actual research
 alpha = 0.05
## Standardized Monte Carlo ------
MCStd(unstd, alpha = 0.05)
```

14 print.semmcci

nrint	semmeci

Print Method for Object of Class semmcci

# **Description**

Print Method for Object of Class semmcci

# Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'semmcci'
print(x, alpha = NULL, digits = 4, ...)
```

# **Arguments**

Х	an object of class semmcci.
alpha	Numeric vector. Significance level $\alpha$ . If alpha = NULL, use the argument alpha used in x.
digits	Integer indicating the number of decimal places to display.
	further arguments.

### Value

Returns a matrix of estimates, standard errors, number of Monte Carlo replications, and confidence intervals.

# Author(s)

Ivan Jacob Agaloos Pesigan

summary.semmcci 15

```
total := cp + (a * b)
fit <- sem(data = df, model = model, missing = "fiml")</pre>
## MC() ------
unstd <- MC(
 fit,
 R = 20L \# use a large value e.g., 20000L for actual research
)
## Standardized Monte Carlo ------
std <- MCStd(unstd)</pre>
print(unstd)
print(std)
# Monte Carlo (Multiple Imputation) ------
## Multiple Imputation -------
mi <- mice::mice(</pre>
 data = df,
 print = FALSE,
 m = 5L, # use a large value e.g., 100L for actual research,
 seed = 42
)
## Fit Model in lavaan ------
fit <- sem(data = df, model = model) # use default listwise deletion</pre>
## MCMI() -----
unstd <- MCMI(</pre>
 fit,
 mi = mi,
 R = 20L \# use a large value e.g., 20000L for actual research
## Standardized Monte Carlo ------
std <- MCStd(unstd)</pre>
print(unstd)
print(std)
```

summary.semmcci

Summary Method for an Object of Class semmcci

### Description

Summary Method for an Object of Class semmcci

#### Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'semmcci'
summary(object, alpha = NULL, digits = 4, ...)
```

16 summary.semmcci

### **Arguments**

object	Object of class semmcci.
alpha	Numeric vector. Significance level $\alpha.$ If alpha = NULL, use the argument alpha used in object.
digits	Digits to print.
	additional arguments.

#### Value

Returns a matrix of estimates, standard errors, number of Monte Carlo replications, and confidence intervals.

# Author(s)

Ivan Jacob Agaloos Pesigan

```
library(semmcci)
library(lavaan)
# Data -----
data("Tal.Or", package = "psych")
df <- mice::ampute(Tal.Or)$amp</pre>
# Monte Carlo ------
## Fit Model in lavaan ------
model <- "
 reaction ~ cp * cond + b * pmi
 pmi ~ a * cond
 cond ~~ cond
 indirect := a * b
 direct := cp
 total := cp + (a * b)
fit <- sem(data = df, model = model, missing = "fiml")</pre>
## MC() -----
unstd <- MC(
 fit,
 R = 20L \; \# \; use \; a \; large \; value \; e.g., \; 20000L \; for \; actual \; research
)
## Standardized Monte Carlo ------
std <- MCStd(unstd)</pre>
summary(unstd)
summary(std)
# Monte Carlo (Multiple Imputation) ------
## Multiple Imputation ------
```

vcov.semmcci 17

```
mi <- mice::mice(</pre>
 data = df,
 print = FALSE,
 m = 5L, # use a large value e.g., 100L for actual research,
 seed = 42
## Fit Model in lavaan ------
fit <- sem(data = df, model = model) # use default listwise deletion</pre>
## MCMI() -----
unstd <- MCMI(</pre>
 fit,
 mi = mi,
 R = 20L \; \# \; use \; a \; large \; value \; e.g., \; 20000L \; for \; actual \; research
## Standardized Monte Carlo ------
std <- MCStd(unstd)</pre>
summary(unstd)
summary(std)
```

vcov.semmcci

Sampling Covariance Matrix of the Parameter Estimates

# **Description**

Sampling Covariance Matrix of the Parameter Estimates

# Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'semmcci'
vcov(object, ...)
```

# Arguments

object Object of class semmcci.
... additional arguments.

### Value

Returns a matrix of the variance-covariance matrix of parameter estimates.

### Author(s)

Ivan Jacob Agaloos Pesigan

18 vcov.semmcci

```
library(semmcci)
library(lavaan)
# Data -----
data("Tal.Or", package = "psych")
df <- mice::ampute(Tal.Or)$amp</pre>
# Monte Carlo ------
## Fit Model in lavaan ------
model <- "
 reaction ~ cp * cond + b * pmi
 pmi ~ a * cond
 cond ~~ cond
 indirect := a * b
 direct := cp
 total := cp + (a * b)
fit <- sem(data = df, model = model, missing = "fiml")</pre>
## MC() -----
unstd <- MC(
 fit,
 R = 20L # use a large value e.g., 20000L for actual research
)
## Standardized Monte Carlo ------
std <- MCStd(unstd)</pre>
vcov(unstd)
vcov(std)
# Monte Carlo (Multiple Imputation) ------
## Multiple Imputation ------
mi <- mice::mice(</pre>
 data = df,
 print = FALSE,
 m = 5L, # use a large value e.g., 100L for actual research,
 seed = 42
)
## Fit Model in lavaan --------
fit <- sem(data = df, model = model) # use default listwise deletion</pre>
## MCMI() -----
unstd <- MCMI(</pre>
 fit,
 mi = mi,
 R = 20L # use a large value e.g., 20000L for actual research
## Standardized Monte Carlo ------
std <- MCStd(unstd)</pre>
```

vcov.semmcci 19

vcov(unstd)
vcov(std)

# **Index**

```
* Monte Carlo in Structural Equation
         Modeling Functions
    MC, 5
    MCGeneric, 7
    MCMI, 9
    MCStd, 12
* mc
    MC, 5
    MCGeneric, 7
    MCMI, 9
    MCStd, 12
* method
    coef.semmcci, 2
    confint.semmcci, 3
    print.semmcci, 14
    summary.semmcci, 15
    vcov.semmcci, 17
*\ \mathbf{semmcci}
    MC, 5
    MCGeneric, 7
    MCMI, 9
    MCStd, 12
Amelia::amelia(), 10
coef.semmcci, 2
confint.semmcci, 3
MC, 5, 9, 11, 12
MC(), 12
MCGeneric, 7, 7, 11, 12
MCMI, 7, 9, 9, 12
MCMI(), 12
MCStd, 7, 9, 11, 12
mice::mice(), 10
print.semmcci, 14
summary.semmcci, 15
vcov.semmcci, 17
```