

The Classical Measurement Error (MEC) model

Parametrization

This is an implementation of the classical ME model for a fixed effect. It is best described by an example, let the model be

$$y = \beta x + \epsilon$$

where y is the response, β the effect of the true covariate x with zero mean Gaussian noise ϵ . The issue is that x is not observed directly, but only through w , where

$$w = x + u$$

where u is zero mean Gaussian noise. Even though this setup is possible to implement using basic features ("copy" and multiple likelihoods), we provide the following model which replaces the above,

$$y = \nu + \epsilon$$

where $\nu = \beta x$ has the correct distribution depending on various parameters: β has prior $\pi(\beta)$, x is apriori $\mathcal{N}(\mu_x I, \tau_x I)$, and $s \times \tau_u$ is the observation precision for x (i.e., $\text{Prec}(u|x)$).¹ Here, s is a vector of fixed scalings.

Hyperparameters

This model has 4 hyperparameters, $\theta = (\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3, \theta_4)$ where θ_2 , θ_3 and θ_4 are default set to be fixed (ie defined to be known). The values of θ_2 , θ_3 and θ_4 are set to mimic a classical fixed effect, so they will always make sense. To achieve the ME model, please use the appropriate choices for (some of) these parameters!

The hyperparameter specification is as follows:

$$\theta_1 = \beta$$

and the prior is defined on θ_1 ,

$$\theta_2 = \log(\tau_u)$$

and the prior is defined on θ_2 ,

$$\theta_3 = \mu_x$$

and the prior is defined on θ_3 ,

$$\theta_4 = \log(\tau_x)$$

and the prior is defined on θ_4 .

Specification

The MEC is specified inside the `f()` function as

```
f(w, [<weights>], model="mec", hyper = <hyper>, scale = <s>)
```

The `w` are the observed values of the true but unknown covariates x , with the *assumption*, that if two or more elements of `w` are *identical*, then they refer to the *same* element in the true covariate x . The fixed scaling of the observational precision is given in argument `scale`. If the argument `scale` is not given, then s is set to 1.

¹Note: The second argument in $\mathcal{N}(,)$ is the precision not the variance.

Hyperparameter specification and default values

hyper

theta1

name beta
short.name b
prior gaussian
param 1 0.001
initial 1
fixed FALSE
to.theta function(x) x
from.theta function(x) x

theta2

name prec.u
short.name prec
prior loggamma
param 1 1e-04
initial 9.21034037197618
fixed TRUE
to.theta function(x) log(x)
from.theta function(x) exp(x)

theta3

name mean.x
short.name mu.x
prior gaussian
param 0 1e-04
initial 0
fixed TRUE
to.theta function(x) x
from.theta function(x) x

theta4

name prec.x
short.name prec.x
prior loggamma
param 1 10000
initial -9.21034037197618
fixed TRUE
to.theta function(x) log(x)
from.theta function(x) exp(x)

constr FALSE

nrow.ncol FALSE

augmented FALSE

aug.factor 1

aug.constr
n.div.by
n.required FALSE
set.default.values FALSE
status experimental
pdf mec

Example

```
n = 100
beta = 4
prec.y = 1
prec.u = 1
prec.x = 1
## true unobserved covariate
x = rnorm(n, sd = 1/sqrt(prec.x))
## the observed covariate
s = runif(n,min=0.5,max=2)
w = x + rnorm(n, sd = 1/sqrt(prec.u*s))
## regression model using the unobserved 'x'
y = 1 + beta*x + rnorm(n, sd = 1/sqrt(prec.y))

## prior parameters
prior.beta = c(0, 0.0001)
prior.prec.u = c(10, 9)
prior.prec.x = c(10, 9)
prior.prec.y = c(10, 9)

formula = y ~ 1 +
  f(w, model="mec", scale=s,
    hyper = list(
      beta = list(
        param = prior.beta,
        fixed = FALSE
      ),
      prec.u = list(
        param = prior.prec.u,
        initial = log(prec.u),
        fixed = FALSE
      ),
      prec.x = list(
        param = prior.prec.x,
        initial = log(prec.x),
        fixed = FALSE
      ),
      mean.x = list(
        initial = 0,
```

```

                                fixed=TRUE
                                )
                            )
                    )

r = inla(formula,
        data = data.frame(y, w, s),
        family = "gaussian",
        control.family = list(
            hyper = list(
                prec = list(param = prior.prec.y,
                           initial = log(prec.y),
                           fixed=FALSE
                          )
            )
        )
    )

summary(r)

```

Notes

- INLA provide the posterior of ν and NOT x .
- The posterior of ν comes (default) in the order given by the sorted (from low to high) values of w . The entry `$ID` gives the mapping.
- The option `scale` defines the scaling in the same order as argument `values`. It is therefore adviced to also give argument `values` when `scale` is used to be sure that they are consistent.