

Package ‘GPArotateDF’

July 27, 2025

Version 2025.7-1

Title Derivative Free Gradient Projection Factor Rotation

Depends R (>= 3.5.0)

Description Derivative Free Gradient Projection Algorithms for Factor Rotation.
For more details see ?GPArotateDF. Theory for these functions can be found in
the following publications:
Jennrich (2004) <[doi:10.1007/BF02295647](https://doi.org/10.1007/BF02295647)>.
Bernaards and Jennrich (2005) <[doi:10.1177/0013164404272507](https://doi.org/10.1177/0013164404272507)>.

Imports GPArotation

License GPL (>= 2)

NeedsCompilation no

Author Coen Bernaards [aut, cre],
Robert Jennrich [aut]

Maintainer Coen Bernaards <cab.gparotation@gmail.com>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2025-07-27 16:00:02 UTC

Contents

00.GPArotateDF	2
ff.rotationsDF	3
GPADF	6
Griffith	9
rotationsDF	9

Index	12
--------------	-----------

Description

Derivative-Free GPA Rotation for Factor Analysis

The GPArotateDF package contains functions for the rotation of factor loadings matrices without the need for deriving gradients. Both orthogonal and oblique rotation algorithms are available. Additionally, a number of rotation criteria are provided. The GP algorithms minimize the rotation criterion function, and provide the corresponding rotation matrix. For oblique rotation, the covariance / correlation matrix of the factors is also provided. The derivative-free rotation method implemented in this package is described in Jennrich (2004). The GPArotation package is based on Bernaards and Jennrich (2005).

Package: GPArotateDF
 Depends: R (>= 2.0.0)
 License: GPL Version 2.
 Imports: GPArotation

Index of functions:

Derivative-Free Gradient Projection Rotation Algorithms

[GPForth.df](#) Orthogonal rotation function
[GPFoblq.df](#) Oblique rotation function

Rotations

[cubimax.df](#) Cubimax rotation
[fssQ.df](#) Oblique Forced Simple Structure rotation
[fssT.df](#) Orthogonal Forced Simple Structure rotation

ff routines to compute value of the criterion

[ff.bentler](#) Bentler's Invariant Pattern Simplicity ff
[ff.cf](#) Crawford-Ferguson Family ff
[ff.cubimax](#) Cubimax ff
[ff.entropy](#) Minimum Entropy ff
[ff.geomin](#) Geomin ff
[ff.infomax](#) Infomax ff

ff.oblimax	Oblimax ff
ff.pst	Partially Specified Target ff
ff.quartimax	Quartimax ff
ff.quartimin	Quartimin ff
ff.simplimax	Simplimax ff
ff.fss	Forced Simple Structure ff
ff.target	Target ff
ff.varimax	Varimax ff

Utility functions

[NormalizingWeight](#) Kaiser normalization (not exported from NAMESPACE)

Author(s)

Coen A. Bernaards and Robert I. Jennrich

References

Bernaards, C.A. and Jennrich, R.I. (2005) Gradient Projection Algorithms and Software for Arbitrary Rotation Criteria in Factor Analysis. *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, **65**, 676–696.

Jennrich, R.I. (2004). Derivative free gradient projection algorithms for rotation. *Psychometrika*, **69**, 475–480.

See Also

[GPForth.df](#), [GPFoblq.df](#)

ff.rotationsDF	<i>Rotations</i>
----------------	------------------

Description

Optimize factor loading rotation objective.

Usage

```
ff.bentler(L)
ff.cf(L, kappa=0)
ff.cubimax(L)
ff.entropy(L)
ff.geomin(L, delta=0.01)
ff.infomax(L)
```

```

ff.oblimax(L)
ff.pst(L, W=NULL, Target=NULL)
ff.quartimax(L)
ff.quartimin(L)
ff.simplimax(L, k=nrow(L))
ff.fss(L, kij=2)
ff.target(L, Target=NULL)
ff.varimax(L)

```

Arguments

L	a factor loading matrix
kappa	see details.
delta	constant added to Λ^2 in objective calculation.
Target	rotation target for objective calculation.
W	weighting of each element in target.
k	number of close to zero loadings.
kij	minimum additional number of forced simple structure loadings in a pair of factors.

Details

These functions are used to optimize a rotation objective. The name need to be included in a call to GPForth.df or GPFoblq. Calling the functions itself computes the values but no rotation is performed.

Functions listed here are all exported through NAMESPACE, and primarily serve as examples for programming new rotation methods. New rotation methods can be programmed with a name ff.newmethod. The inputs are the matrix L, and optionally any additional arguments. The output should be a list with elements

f	the value of the criterion at L.
Method	a string indicating the criterion.

Please note that the function value f has to be minimized. If the rotation criterion is supposed to maximize, then use the negative of the criterion to miniize. Functions which are available are

ff.bentler	orthogonal or oblique	Bentler's invariant pattern simplicity criterion
ff.cf	orthogonal or oblique	Crawford-Ferguson family
ff.cubimax	orthogonal	
ff.entropy	orthogonal	minimum entropy
ff.fss	orthogonal or oblique	Forced Simple Structure (see Vignette)
ff.geomin	orthogonal or oblique	
ff.infomax	orthogonal or oblique	
ff.oblimax	oblique	
ff.pst	orthogonal or oblique	partially specified target rotation

ff.quartimax	orthogonal	
ff.quartimin	oblique	
ff.simplimax	oblique	
ff.target	orthogonal or oblique	target rotation
ff.varimax	orthogonal	

The argument kappa parameterizes the family for the Crawford-Ferguson method. If m is the number of factors and p is the number of items then kappa values having special names are 0 =Quartimax, $1/p$ =Varimax, $m/(2*p)$ =Equamax, $(m-1)/(p+m-2)$ =Parsimax, 1 =Factor parsimony.

For the argument `kij` for Forced Simple Structure see [rotationsDF](#).

Value

<code>f</code>	criterion function value.
<code>method</code>	A string indicating the rotation objective function.

Author(s)

Coen A. Bernaards and Robert I. Jennrich

References

Jennrich, R.I. (2004) Derivative free gradient projection algorithms for rotation, *Psychometrika*: **69**(3), 475–480.

See Also

[GPForth.df](#), [GPFoblq.df](#), [fssQ.df](#), [fssT.df](#), [cubimax.df](#), [rotationsDF](#), [factanal](#)

Examples

```
# Example from Mulaik, S.A. (2018) Fundamentals of Common Analysis in
# Irwing, P., Booth, T., Hughes, D. J. (20180314). The Wiley Handbook of
# Psychometric Testing, 2 Volume Set: A Multidisciplinary Reference on Survey,
# Scale and Test Development. [VitalSource Bookshelf 10.2.0].
# Retrieved from vbk://9781118489703
# See Part II, Table 8.5 (p.225) and Table 8.6 (p.235)

ff.absolmin <- function(L)
{
  f <- sum(abs(L))
  list(f = f, Method = "DF-Absolmin")
}
absolmin.df <- function(A, Tmat = diag(ncol(A)), normalize = FALSE, eps = 1e-5, maxit = 1000){
  GPFoblq.df(A, Tmat=Tmat, method = "absolmin", normalize = normalize, eps = eps, maxit = maxit)
}
# absolmin.df(fa.unrotated$loadings, normalize = TRUE)
```

```
# See GPArotation vignette for a bug in factanal with oblique rotation.

data("Griffith")
fa.unrotated <- factanal(covmat = Griffith, factors = 6, rotation = "none")
GPFoblq.df(fa.unrotated$loadings, method = "quartimin", normalize = TRUE)

absolmin.df(fa.unrotated$loadings, normalize = TRUE)

data("Harman", package="GPArotation")
qHarman <- GPForth.df(Harman8, Tmat=diag(2), method="quartimax")

# define a new function as ff.newname orthogonal rotation for use with factanal
ff.expomax <- function(L)
{
  f <- -sum(expm1(abs(L)))
  list(f = f, Method = "DF-Expomax")
}
GPForth.df(Harman8, method = "expomax")

expomax.df <- function(L, Tmat = diag(ncol(L)), normalize = FALSE, eps = 1e-5, maxit = 1000){
  GPForth.df(L, Tmat=Tmat, method = "expomax", normalize = normalize, eps=eps, maxit = maxit)
}
expomax.df(Harman8, normalize = TRUE)
factanal(factors = 2, covmat = ability.cov, rotation = "expomax.df",
  control = list(rotate = c(normalize = TRUE)))
```

Description

Derivative free gradient projection rotation optimization routine used by various rotation objective.

Usage

```
GPForth.df(A, Tmat=diag(ncol(A)), normalize = FALSE, eps=1e-5,
  maxit=1000, method="varimax", methodArgs=NULL)
GPFoblq.df(A, Tmat=diag(ncol(A)), normalize = FALSE, eps=1e-5,
  maxit=1000, method="quartimin", methodArgs=NULL)
```

Arguments

A	initial factor loadings matrix for which the rotation criterion is to be optimized.
Tmat	initial rotation matrix.
normalize	see details.
eps	convergence is assumed when the norm of the gradient is smaller than eps.

<code>maxit</code>	maximum number of iterations allowed in the main loop.
<code>method</code>	rotation objective criterion.
<code>methodArgs</code>	a list of <code>methodArgs</code> arguments passed to the rotation objective

Details

Derivative free gradient projection rotation optimization routines can be used to rotate a loadings matrix. The rotation criteria in the `GPArotation` package require a derivative to operate. In certain cases, the derivative is complex or non-existent. The derivative free gradient projection method provides a numerical alternative to the `GPArotation` package. The functions in the package `GPArotatedF` follow most of the functionality and logic as in the `GPArotation` package. Please consult the documentation in `GPArotation` for further details.

The argument `method` can be used to specify a string indicating the rotation objective. `GPfoblr` defaults to `"quartimin"` and `GPforth` defaults to `"varimax"`. Available rotation objective functions include `"ff.bentler"`, `"ff.cf"`, `"ff.cubimax"`, `"ff.entropy"`, `"ff.fss"`, `"ff.geomin"`, `"ff.infomax"`, `"ff.oblimax"`, `"ff.pst"`, `"ff.quartimax"`, `"ff.quartimin"`, `"ff.simplimax"`, `"ff.target"`, and `"ff.varimax"`. Most of the rotation criteria are available in the `GPArotation` package except for `cubimax` and `Forced Simple Structure`.

The rotation criteria are in the functions prefixed by `"ff."` that are used in the actual function call. The `ff.*` function call would typically not be used directly, but are needed for rotation. Since these are illustrative of computation, these are all exported from the package namespace. New criteria for use with derivative free GP rotation do require a function of the type `ff.newCriterionName` that provides value for complexity `f`, and name of method.

Some rotation criteria (including `"simplimax"`, `"pst"`, `"target"`, `"cf"`, `"fss"`) require one or more additional arguments. Check `GPArotation` documentation for details or see [ff.fss](#).

The argument `normalize` gives an indication of if and how any normalization should be done before rotation, and then undone after rotation. If `normalize` is `FALSE` (the default) no normalization is done. If `normalize` is `TRUE` then Kaiser normalization is done. (So squared row entries of normalized `A` sum to 1.0. This is sometimes called Horst normalization.) If `normalize` is a vector of length equal to the number of indicators (= number of rows of `A`) then the columns are divided by `normalize` before rotation and multiplied by `normalize` after rotation. If `normalize` is a function then it should take `A` as an argument and return a vector which is used like the vector above.

Value

A `GPArotation` object which is a list with elements

<code>loadings</code>	The rotated loadings, one column for each factor. If <code>randomStarts</code> were requested then this is the rotated loadings matrix with the lowest criterion value.
<code>Th</code>	The rotation matrix, loadings $\%*\% t(Th) = A$.
<code>Table</code>	A matrix recording the iterations of the rotation optimization.
<code>method</code>	A string indicating the rotation objective function.
<code>orthogonal</code>	A logical indicating if the rotation is orthogonal.
<code>convergence</code>	A logical indicating if convergence was obtained.

Phi t(Th) %*% Th. The covariance matrix of the rotated factors. This will be the identity matrix for orthogonal rotations so is omitted (NULL) for the result from GPForth.df.

G The gradient of the objective function at the rotated loadings.

Author(s)

Coen A. Benaards and Robert I. Jennrich with some R modifications by Paul Gilbert.

References

Jennrich, R.I. (2004). Derivative free gradient projection algorithms for rotation. *Psychometrika*, **69**, 475–480.

Benaards, C.A. and Jennrich, R.I. (2005) Gradient Projection Algorithms and Software for Arbitrary Rotation Criteria in Factor Analysis. *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, **65**, 676–696.

See Also

[cubimax.df](#) [fssQ.df](#) [fssT.df](#) [ff.bentler](#), [ff.cf](#), [ff.cubimax](#), [ff.entropy](#), [ff.fss](#), [ff.geomin](#), [ff.infomax](#), [ff.oblimax](#), [ff.pst](#), [ff.quartimax](#), [ff.quartimin](#), [ff.simplimax](#), [ff.target](#), [ff.varimax](#)

Examples

```
# GPRSort and rotation name
data("Harman", package = "GPArotation")
GPForth.df(Harman8, method = "quartimax")
GPForth.df(Harman8, method = "cubimax")
GPForth.df(Harman8, method = "varimax")
GPFoblq.df(Harman8, method = "quartimin")

# displaying results of factor analysis rotation output
origdigits <- options("digits")
Abor.unrotated <- factanal(factors = 2, covmat = ability.cov, rotation = "none")
Abor <- GPFoblq.df(loadings(Abor.unrotated), method = "quartimin")
Abor
print(Abor)
print(Abor, Table = TRUE)
print(Abor, digits = 2)
summary(Abor)
options(digits = origdigits$digits)
```

Griffith

Example Data from Mulaik (2018)

Description

Example from Mulaik, S.A. (2018) Fundamentals of Common Analysis in Irwing, P., Booth, T., Hughes, D. J. (2018). The Wiley Handbook of Psychometric Testing, 2 Volume Set: A Multi-disciplinary Reference on Survey, Scale and Test Development. [VitalSource Bookshelf 10.2.0]. Retrieved from vbk://9781118489703 See Part II, Table 8.5 (p.225) and Table 8.6 (p.235)

Usage

```
data(Griffith)
```

Format

The object Griffith is a matrix.

Details

The object Griffith is loaded from the data file Griffith.

Source

Mulaik, S.A. (2018) Fundamentals of Common Analysis in Irwing, P., Booth, T., Hughes, D. J. (2018). The Wiley Handbook of Psychometric Testing

See Also

[ff.varimax](#)

rotationsDF

Rotations

Description

Optimize factor loading rotation objective.

Usage

```
cubimax.df(A, Tmat=diag(ncol(A)), normalize=FALSE, eps=1e-5, maxit=1000)
fssQ.df(A, Tmat=diag(ncol(A)), kij=2, normalize=FALSE, eps=1e-5, maxit=1000)
fssT.df(A, Tmat=diag(ncol(A)), kij=2, normalize=FALSE, eps=1e-5, maxit=1000)
```

Arguments

<code>A</code>	an initial factor loadings matrix to be rotated.
<code>Tmat</code>	initial rotation matrix.
<code>kij</code>	minimum additional number of forced simple structure loadings in a pair of factors.
<code>normalize</code>	parameter passed to optimization routine (GPForth.df or GPFoblq.df).
<code>eps</code>	parameter passed to optimization routine (GPForth.df or GPFoblq.df).
<code>maxit</code>	parameter passed to optimization routine (GPForth.df or GPFoblq.df).

Details

The functions listed here optimize a rotation objective. They can be used directly or the function name can be passed to factor analysis functions like `factanal`.

Available rotations are

<code>cubimax.df</code>	orthogonal	Cubimax
<code>fssQ.df</code>	oblique	Forced Simple Structure (see Vignette)
<code>fssT.df</code>	orthogonal	Forced Simple Structure (see Vignette)

The argument `kij` for Forced Simple Structure is the minimum number of forced simple structure loadings in a pair of factors, in addition to the number of factors itself. Meaningful values are integers (1, ..., items - factors)

Value

A list (which includes elements used by `factanal`) with:

<code>loadings</code>	<code>Lh</code> from <code>GPForth.df</code> or <code>GPFoblq.df</code> .
<code>Th</code>	<code>Th</code> from <code>GPForth.df</code> or <code>GPFoblq.df</code> .
<code>Table</code>	Table from <code>GPForth.df</code> or <code>GPFoblq.df</code> .
<code>method</code>	A string indicating the rotation objective function.
<code>orthogonal</code>	A logical indicating if the rotation is orthogonal.
<code>convergence</code>	Convergence indicator from <code>GPForth.df</code> or <code>GPFoblq.df</code> .
<code>Phi</code>	<code>t(Th) %*% Th</code> . The covariance matrix of the rotated factors. This will be the identity matrix for orthogonal rotations so is omitted (NULL) for the result from <code>GPForth.df</code> .

Author(s)

Coen A. Bernaards and Robert I. Jennrich

References

Bernaards, C.A. and Jennrich, R.I. (2005) Gradient Projection Algorithms and Software for Arbitrary Rotation Criteria in Factor Analysis. *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, **65**, 676–696.

Jennrich, R.I. (2004) Derivative free gradient projection algorithms for rotation, *Psychometrika*, **69**(3), 475–480.

See Also

[GPForth.df](#), [GPFoblq.df](#), [ff.cubimax](#), [ff.fss](#), [factanal](#)

Examples

```
data(ability.cov)
x <- factanal(factors = 3, covmat = ability.cov, rotation="none")
fssT.df(x$loadings, kij = 2)
fssQ.df(x$loadings, kij = 4)

# 3 different methods
data("WansbeekMeijer", package="GPARotation")
fa.unrotated <- factanal(factors = 3, covmat=NetherlandsTV, rotation="none")
#
fa.varimax <- GPForth.df(loadings(fa.unrotated), method = "varimax", normalize = TRUE)
fa.cubimax <- cubimax.df(loadings(fa.unrotated), normalize = TRUE)
fa.quartimax <- GPForth.df(loadings(fa.unrotated), method = "quartimax", normalize = TRUE)
print(cbind(loadings(fa.varimax), loadings(fa.cubimax), loadings(fa.quartimax)), digits = 2)
```

Index

- * **datasets**
 - Griffith, [9](#)
- * **multivariate**
 - ff.rotationsDF, [3](#)
 - GPADF, [6](#)
 - rotationsDF, [9](#)
- * **package**
 - 00.GPArotatedF, [2](#)
- * **rotation**
 - ff.rotationsDF, [3](#)
 - GPADF, [6](#)
 - rotationsDF, [9](#)
- 00.GPArotatedF, [2](#)
- cubimax.df, [2, 5, 8](#)
- cubimax.df (rotationsDF), [9](#)
- factanal, [5, 11](#)
- ff.bentler, [2, 8](#)
- ff.bentler (ff.rotationsDF), [3](#)
- ff.cf, [2, 8](#)
- ff.cf (ff.rotationsDF), [3](#)
- ff.cubimax, [2, 8, 11](#)
- ff.cubimax (ff.rotationsDF), [3](#)
- ff.entropy, [2, 8](#)
- ff.entropy (ff.rotationsDF), [3](#)
- ff.fss, [3, 7, 8, 11](#)
- ff.fss (ff.rotationsDF), [3](#)
- ff.geomin, [2, 8](#)
- ff.geomin (ff.rotationsDF), [3](#)
- ff.infomax, [2, 8](#)
- ff.infomax (ff.rotationsDF), [3](#)
- ff.oblimax, [3, 8](#)
- ff.oblimax (ff.rotationsDF), [3](#)
- ff.pst, [3, 8](#)
- ff.pst (ff.rotationsDF), [3](#)
- ff.quartimax, [3, 8](#)
- ff.quartimax (ff.rotationsDF), [3](#)
- ff.quartimin, [3, 8](#)
- ff.quartimin (ff.rotationsDF), [3](#)
- ff.rotationsDF, [3](#)
- ff.simplimax, [3, 8](#)
- ff.simplimax (ff.rotationsDF), [3](#)
- ff.target, [3, 8](#)
- ff.target (ff.rotationsDF), [3](#)
- ff.varimax, [3, 8, 9](#)
- ff.varimax (ff.rotationsDF), [3](#)
- fssQ.df, [2, 5, 8](#)
- fssQ.df (rotationsDF), [9](#)
- fssT.df, [2, 5, 8](#)
- fssT.df (rotationsDF), [9](#)
- GPADF, [6](#)
- GPArotatedF (00.GPArotatedF), [2](#)
- GPArotatedF-package (00.GPArotatedF), [2](#)
- GPArotatedF.Intro (00.GPArotatedF), [2](#)
- GPFoblq.df, [2, 3, 5, 11](#)
- GPFoblq.df (GPADF), [6](#)
- GPForth.df, [2, 3, 5, 11](#)
- GPForth.df (GPADF), [6](#)
- Griffith, [9](#)
- NormalizingWeight, [3](#)
- rotationsDF, [5, 9](#)