

Package ‘sparseinv’

July 21, 2026

Type Package

Title Computation of the Sparse Inverse Subset

Version 0.1.4

Date 2026-07-21

Maintainer Andrew Zammit-Mangion <andrewzm@gmail.com>

Suggests covr, testthat

Imports Matrix, methods, Rcpp, spam

Description Creates a wrapper for the 'SuiteSparse' routines that execute the Takahashi equations. These equations compute the elements of the inverse of a sparse matrix at locations where the its Cholesky factor is structurally non-zero. The resulting matrix is known as a sparse inverse subset. Some helper functions are also implemented. Support for spam matrices is currently limited and will be implemented in the future. See Rue and Martino (2007) <[doi:10.1016/j.jspi.2006.07.016](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jspi.2006.07.016)> and Zammit-Mangion and Rougier (2018) <[doi:10.1016/j.csda.2018.02.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.csda.2018.02.001)> for the application of these equations to statistics.

Depends R (>= 3.1)

License GPL (>= 2.1)

NeedsCompilation yes

RoxygenNote 7.3.2

LinkingTo Rcpp

Author Andrew Zammit-Mangion [aut, cre],
Timothy Davis [ctb],
Patrick Amestoy [ctb],
Iain Duff [ctb],
John K. Reid [ctb]

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2026-07-20 22:50:02 UTC

Contents

sparseinv-package	2
cholPermute	2
cholsolve	3
cholsolveAQinvAT	4
densify	5
symb	6
Takahashi_Davis	6
Index	9

sparseinv-package	<i>sparseinv</i>
-------------------	------------------

Description

This package creates a wrapper for the SuiteSparse routines in C that use the Takahashi equations to compute the elements of the inverse of a sparse matrix at locations where the (permuted) Cholesky factor is structurally non-zero. The resulting matrix is known as a sparse inverse subset. Some helper functions (like the permuted Cholesky factorisation) are also implemented. Support for spam matrices is currently limited and will be implemented in the future.

Author(s)

Maintainer: Andrew Zammit-Mangion <andrewzm@gmail.com>

Other contributors:

- Timothy Davis <davis@tamu.edu> [contributor]
- Patrick Amestoy <Patrick.Amestoy@enseeiht.fr> [contributor]
- Iain Duff <iain.duff@stfc.ac.uk> [contributor]
- John K. Reid <John.Reid@stfc.ac.uk> [contributor]

cholPermute	<i>Sparse Cholesky factorisation with fill-in reducing permutations</i>
-------------	---

Description

This function is similar to chol(A, pivot=T) when A is a sparse matrix. The fill-in reduction permutation is the approximate minimum degree permutation of Davis' SuiteSparse package configured to be slightly more aggressive than that in the Matrix package.

Usage

```
cholPermute(Q)
```

Arguments

`Q` precision matrix of class `matrix`, `Matrix` (column-compressed, i.e., `dgCMatrix` or `dscMatrix`), or `spam`

Value

A list with two elements, `Qpermchol` (the permuted Cholesky factor) and `P` (the permutation matrix) of class `Matrix`. Note that `spam` matrices are not returned to comply with the `Takahashi_Davis` function which requires objects of class `Matrix`.

References

Havard Rue and Leonhard Held (2005). Gaussian Markov Random Fields: Theory and Applications. Chapman & Hall/CRC Press

Examples

```
require(Matrix)
cholPermute(sparseMatrix(i = c(1,1,2,2),
                           j = c(1, 2, 1, 2),
                           x = c(0.1, 0.2, 0.2, 1)))
```

`cholsolve`

Solve the equation $Qx = y$

Description

This function is similar to `solve(Q,y)` but with the added benefit that it allows for permuted matrices. This function does the job in order to minimise user error when attempting to re-permute the matrices prior or after solving. The user also has an option for the permuted Cholesky factorisation of `Q` to be carried out internally.

Usage

```
cholsolve(
  Q = NULL,
  y = NULL,
  perm = FALSE,
  cholQ = NULL,
  cholQp = NULL,
  P = NULL
)
```

Arguments

Q	matrix (if of class <code>Matrix</code> needs to be column-compressed, i.e., <code>dgCMatrix</code> or <code>dsCMatrix</code>), the Cholesky factor of which needs to be found
y	matrix with the same number of rows as Q
perm	if FALSE no permutation is carried out, if TRUE permuted Cholesky factors are used
cholQ	the lower Cholesky factor of Q (if known already)
cholQp	the lower Cholesky factor of a permuted Q (if known already)
P	the permutation matrix (if known already)

Value

x solution to $Qx = y$

References

Havard Rue and Leonhard Held (2005). Gaussian Markov Random Fields: Theory and Applications. Chapman & Hall/CRC Press

Examples

```
require(Matrix)
Q = sparseMatrix(i = c(1, 1, 2, 2),
                 j = c(1, 2, 1, 2),
                 x = c(0.1, 0.2, 0.2, 1))
y = matrix(c(1, 2), 2, 1)
cholsolve(Q, y)
```

cholsolveAQinvAT	<i>Solve the equation $X = AQ^{-1}t(A)$ under permutations</i>
------------------	---

Description

This function is a wrapper of `solve()` for finding $X = AQ^{-1}t(A)$ when the permuted Cholesky factor of Q is known. #'

Usage

```
cholsolveAQinvAT(Q = NULL, A = NULL, Lp = NULL, P = NULL)
```

Arguments

Q	matrix (if of class <code>Matrix</code> needs to be column-compressed, i.e., <code>dgCMatrix</code> or <code>dsCMatrix</code>), the Cholesky factor of which needs to be found
A	sparse or dense matrix
Lp	the lower Cholesky factor of a permuted Q
P	the permutation matrix

Value

x solution to $X = A Q^{-1} t(A)$

References

Havard Rue and Leonhard Held (2005). Gaussian Markov Random Fields: Theory and Applications. Chapman & Hall/CRC Press

Examples

```
require(Matrix)
Q = sparseMatrix(i = c(1, 1, 2, 2),
                 j = c(1, 2, 1, 2),
                 x = c(0.1, 0.2, 0.2, 1))
X <- cholPermute(Q)
y <- matrix(c(1,2), 2, 1)
A <- y %*% t(y)
cholsolveAQinvAT(Q,A,X$Qpermchol,X$P)
```

densify	<i>Densify with explicit zeroes</i>
---------	-------------------------------------

Description

This function takes two sparse matrices and returns the first matrix padded with explicit zeros so that it is at least dense (probably denser) than the second matrix. This function only works with matrices of class Matrix #'

Usage

```
densify(A, B)
```

Arguments

A	object of class Matrix
B	object of class Matrix

Value

object of class Matrix

Examples

```
require(Matrix)
Q1 <- sparseMatrix(i = c(1, 2, 2), j = c(1, 1, 2), x = c(0.1, 0.2, 1))
Q2 <- sparseMatrix(i = c(1, 1, 2, 2), j = c(1, 2, 1, 2), x = c(0.1, 0.3, 0.2, 1))
Q1dens <- densify(Q1, Q2)
Q1
Q1dens
```

symb	<i>Return the symbolic representation of a Matrix</i>
------	---

Description

This function takes an object of class Matrix and returns the same Matrix with all elements replaced with 1 #'

Usage

```
symb(A)
```

Arguments

A object of class Matrix

Value

object of class Matrix

Examples

```
require(Matrix)
Q = sparseMatrix(i = c(1, 1, 2, 2),
                 j = c(1, 2, 1, 2),
                 x = c(0.1, 0.2, 0.2, 1))
Qsymb <- symb(Q)
Qsymb
```

Takahashi_Davis	<i>Takahashi equations</i>
-----------------	----------------------------

Description

Computes the sparse inverse subset of a sparse matrix Q using the Takahashi equations.

Usage

```
Takahashi_Davis(Q = NULL, cholQp = NULL, return_perm_chol = 0, P = 0, gc = 0)
```

Arguments

<code>Q</code>	precision matrix of class <code>matrix</code> , <code>Matrix</code> (column-compressed, i.e., <code>dgCMatrix</code> or <code>dsCMatrix</code>), or <code>spam</code>
<code>cholQp</code>	the Cholesky factor of class <code>dtCMatrix</code> of the permuted <code>Q</code> (if known already). If both <code>Q</code> and <code>cholQp</code> are specified, <code>Q</code> is ignored
<code>return_perm_chol</code>	if 1, the Cholesky factor of the permuted <code>Q</code> is returned
<code>P</code>	the permutation matrix of class <code>dgCMatrix</code> (if known already)
<code>gc</code>	do garbage collection throughout (may increase computational time but useful for small memory machines)

Details

This function first computes the Cholesky factor of `Q`. The fill-in reduction permutation is the approximate minimum degree permutation (amd) of Timothy Davis' SuiteSparse package configured to be slightly more aggressive than that in the `Matrix` package. The function then uses the Takahashi equations to compute the variances at the non-zero locations in the Cholesky factor from the factor itself. The equations themselves are implemented in C using the SparseSuite package of Timothy Davis.

Value

if `return_perm_chol == 0`, the sparse inverse subset of `Q` is returned, where the non-zero elements correspond to those in the Cholesky factor of its permutation. If `!(return_perm_chol == 0)`, a list with three elements is returned: `S` (the sparse inverse subset), `Lp` (the Cholesky factor of the permuted matrix) and `P` (the permutation matrix)

Note

This package is a wrapper for C functions implemented by Timothy Davis in SuiteSparse. The author of this package has done no work on the sparse inverse routines themselves and any acknowledgment should include one to SuiteSparse (see below for reference). The author of this package was made aware of this methodology by Botond Cseke.

References

- Takahashi, K., Fagan, J., Chin, M.-S., 1973. Formation of a sparse bus impedance matrix and its application to short circuit study. 8th PICA Conf. Proc. June 4–6, Minneapolis, Minn.
- Davis, T. A., 2014. sparseinv: Sparse Inverse Subset. URL <https://au.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/fileexchange/33966-sparseinv-sparse-inverse-subset>
- Davis, T. A., 2006. Direct Methods for Sparse Linear Systems. SIAM, Philadelphia, PA.

Examples

```
require(Matrix)
Q = sparseMatrix(i = c(1, 1, 2, 2),
                 j = c(1, 2, 1, 2),
                 x = c(0.1, 0.2, 0.2, 1))
```

```
X <- cholPermute(Q)
S_partial = Takahashi_Davis(Q, cholQp = X$Qpermchol, P = X$P)
```

Index

`cholPermute`, [2](#)

`cholsolve`, [3](#)

`cholsolveAQinvAT`, [4](#)

`densify`, [5](#)

`sparseinv (sparseinv-package)`, [2](#)

`sparseinv-package`, [2](#)

`symb`, [6](#)

`Takahashi_Davis`, [6](#)