

# Package ‘SPECIES’

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**Type** Package

**Title** Statistical package for species richness estimation

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**Description** SPECIES is an R package for estimation of species richness or diversity.

**License** GPL-2

**Archs** i386, ppc, x86\_64

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SPECIES-package      *An R package for species richness estimation*

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## Description

SPECIES provides multiple functions to compute popular estimators for species richness. These estimators include: (1) jackknife estimator by Burnham and Overton 1978, 1979; (2) lower-bound estimator by Chao 1984; (3) coverage-base estimators ACE, ACE-1 by Chao and Lee 1992; (4) coverage-duplication estimator from Poisson-Gamma model by Chao and Bunge 2002; (5) unconditional nonparametric maximum likelihood estimator by Norris and Pollock 1996, 1998; (6) penalized nonparametric maximum likelihood estimator by Wang and Lindsay 2005; and (7) Poisson-compound Gamma model with smooth nonparametric maximum likelihood estimation by Wang 2010.

## Details

Package: SPECIES  
 Type: Package  
 Version: 1.0  
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 License: GPL-2

functions: chao1984, ChaoBunge, ChaoLee1992, jackknife, pcg ,pnpmle, unpmle; data: butterfly, cottontail, EST, insect, microbial, traffic

## Author(s)

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## References

- Acinas, S., Klepac-Ceraj, V., Hunt, D., Pharino, C., Ceraj, I., Distel, D., and Polz, M. (2004), Fine-scale phylogenetic architecture of a complex bacterial community. *Nature*, 430, 551-554.
- Bohning, D. and Schon, D., Nonparametric maximum likelihood estimation of population size based on the counting distribution, *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series C: Applied Statistics*, 54, 721-737.
- Burnham, K. P., and Overton, W. S. (1978), Estimation of the Size of a Closed Population When Capture Probabilities Vary Among Animals, *Biometrika*, 65, 625-633.
- Burnham, K. P., and Overton, W. S. (1979), Robust Estimation of Population Size When Capture Probabilities Vary Among Animals, *Ecology*, 60, 927-936.
- Chao, A. (1984), Nonparametric Estimation of the Number of Classes in a Population, *Scandinavian Journal of Statistics*, 11, 265-270.
- Chao, A. (1987). Estimating the population size for capture-recapture data with unequal catchability. *Biometrics* 43, 783-791.
- Chao, A., and Lee, S.-M. (1992), Estimating the Number of Classes via Sample Coverage, *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 87, 210-217.

Chao, A., and Bunge, J. (2002), Estimating the Number of Species in a Stochastic Abundance Model, *Biometrics*, 58, 531-539.

Fisher, R. A., Corbet, A. S., and Williams, C. B. (1943), The Relation Between the Number of Species and the Number of Individuals in a Random Sample of an Animal Population, *Journal of Animal Ecology*, 12, 42-58.

Hong, S. H., and Bunge, J. and Jeon, S.O. and Epstein, S. (2006), Predicting microbial species richness, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci*, 103, 117-122.

Norris, J. L. I., and Pollock, K. H. (1996), Nonparametric MLE Under Two Closed Capture-Recapture Models With Heterogeneity, *Biometrics*, 52,639-649.

Norris, J. L. I., and Pollock, K. H.(1998), Non-Parametric MLE for Poisson Species Abundance Models Allowing for Heterogeneity Between Species, *Environmental and Ecological Statistics*, 5, 391-402.

Simar, L. (1976), Maximum likelihood estimation of a compound Poisson process, *Annals of Statistics*, 4, 1200-1209.

Wang, J.-P. Z. and Lindsay, B. G. (2005), A penalized nonparametric maximum likelihood approach to species richness estimation. *Journal of American Statistical Association*, 100(471):942-959.

Wang, J.-P., and Lindsay, B.G. (2008), An exponential partial prior for improving NPML estimation for mixtures, *Statistical Methodology*, 5:30-45.

Wang, J.-P. (2010), Estimating the species richness by a Poisson-Compound Gamma model, *Biometrika*, 97(3): 727-740.

Wang, J.-P. (2011), SPECIES: An R Package for Species Richness Estimation, *Journal of Statistical Software*, 40(9), 1-15, URL: <http://www.jstatsoft.org/v40/i09/>.

## Examples

```
##load library
library(SPECIES)

## "butterfly" is the famous butterfly data by Fisher 1943.

data(butterfly)

##jackknife method
jackknife(butterfly, k=5)

##using only 'ACE' coverage method
ChaoLee1992(butterfly, t=10, method="all")

##using chao1984 lower bound estimator
chao1984(butterfly)

##using Chao and Bunge coverage-duplication method
ChaoBunge(butterfly, t=10)

##penalized NPMLE method
#pnpmle(butterfly, t=15, C=1, b=200)

##unconditional NPMLE method
#unpmle(butterfly, t=10, C=1, b=200)

##Poisson-compound Gamma method
#pcg(butterfly, t=20, C=1, b=200)
```

butterfly

*Fisher's butterfly data***Description**

The famous Fisher's butterfly data originally appeared in Fisher 1943. It has been re-analyzed in many publications in the literature.

**References**

Fisher, R. A., Corbet, A. S., and Williams, C. B., 1943, The Relation Between the Number of Species and the Number of Individuals in a Random Sample of an Animal Population, *Journal of Animal Ecology*, 12, 42-58.

**Examples**

```
##load library
library(SPECIES)

##load data that coming with the package.
data(butterfly)
```

chao1984

*Lower-bound estimator for species richness***Description**

This function calculates the lower-bound estimator by Chao 1984.

**Usage**

```
chao1984(n, conf=0.95)
```

**Arguments**

n	a matrix or a numerical data frame of two columns. It is also called the “frequency of frequencies” data in literature. The first column is the frequency $j = 1, 2 \dots$ ; and the second column is $n_j$ , the number of species observed with $j$ individuals in the sample.
conf	a positive number $\leq 1$ . conf specifies the confidence level for confidence interval. The default is 0.95.

**Value**

The function chao1984 returns a list of: Nhat, SE and CI.

Nhat	point estimate.
SE	standard error of the point estimate.
CI	confidence interval using a log transformation explained in Chao 1987.

**Author(s)**

Ji-Ping Wang, Department of Statistics, Northwestern University

**References**

Chao, A. (1984), Nonparametric Estimation of the Number of Classes in a Population, Scandinavian Journal of Statistics, 11, 265-270.

Chao, A. (1987). Estimating the population size for capture-recapture data with unequal catchability. Biometrics 43, 783-791.

**Examples**

```
library(SPECIES)

##load data from the package,
## \"butterfly\" is the famous butterfly data by Fisher 1943.

data(butterfly)
chao1984(butterfly)
```

---

ChaoBunge

*Coverage-duplication estimator for species richness*

---

**Description**

This function calculates coverage-duplication based estimator from a Poisson-Gamma model by Chao and Bunge 2002.

**Usage**

```
ChaoBunge(n, t = 10, conf = 0.95)
```

**Arguments**

n	a matrix or a numerical data frame of two columns. It is also called the “frequency of frequencies” data in literature. The first column is the frequency $j = 1, 2 \dots$ ; and the second column is $n_j$ , the number of species observed with $j$ individuals in the sample.
t	a positive integer. $t$ is the cutoff value to define the relatively less abundant species to be used in estimation. The frequencies $n_j$ of $j > t$ will not be used in estimating the sample coverage. The default value is $t=10$ .
conf	a positive number $\leq 1$ . <code>conf</code> specifies the confidence level for confidence interval. The default is 0.95.

**Value**

The function `ChaoBunge` returns a list of: `Nhat`, `SE` and `CI`.

<code>Nhat</code>	point estimate.
<code>SE</code>	standard error(s) of the point estimate.
<code>CI</code>	confidence interval using a log transformation explained in Chao 1987.

**Author(s)**

Ji-Ping Wang, Department of Statistics, Northwestern University

**References**

Chao, A. (1984), Nonparametric Estimation of the Number of Classes in a Population, *Scandinavian Journal of Statistics*, 11, 265-270.

Chao, A., and Bunge, J. (2002), Estimating the Number of Species in a Stochastic Abundance Model, *Biometrics*, 58, 531-539.

**Examples**

```
library(SPECIES)

##load data from the package,
##"butterfly" is the famous butterfly data by Fisher 1943.

data(butterfly)

##output estimates from all 4 methods using cutoff t=10
ChaoBunge(butterfly,t=10)
```

---

ChaoLee1992

*Coverage-based estimators for species richness*

---

**Description**

This function calculates ACE and ACE-1 estimators by Chao and Lee 1992 (ACE-1 provides further bias correction based on ACE).

**Usage**

```
ChaoLee1992(n, t = 10, method = "all", conf = 0.95)
```

**Arguments**

n	a matrix or a numerical data frame of two columns. It is also called the “frequency of frequencies” data in literature. The first column is the frequency $j = 1, 2 \dots$ ; and the second column is $n_j$ , the number of species observed with $j$ individuals in the sample.
t	a positive integer. $t$ is the cutoff value to define the relatively less abundant species to be used in estimation. The frequencies $n_j$ of $j > t$ will not be used in estimating the sample coverage. The default value is $t=10$ .
method	a string. It can be any one of “ACE”, “ACE-1”, or “all”. The default is “all”.
conf	a positive number $\leq 1$ . $conf$ specifies the confidence level for confidence interval. The default is 0.95.

**Value**

The function `ChaoLee1992` returns a list of: `Nhat`, `SE` and `CI`.

<code>Nhat</code>	point estimate of the specified method. If the default <code>method="all"</code> is used, the function returns an estimate vector including <code>ACE</code> , <code>ACE-1</code> .
<code>SE</code>	standard error(s) of the point estimate(s).
<code>CI</code>	confidence interval using a log transformation explained in Chao 1987.

**Author(s)**

Ji-Ping Wang, Department of Statistics, Northwestern University

**References**

Chao, A. (1987). Estimating the population size for capture-recapture data with unequal catchability. *Biometrics* 43, 783-791.

Chao, A., and Lee, S.-M. (1992), Estimating the Number of Classes via Sample Coverage, *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 87, 210-217.

**Examples**

```
library(SPECIES)

##load data from the package,
## "butterfly" is the famous butterfly data by Fisher 1943.

data(butterfly)

##output estimates from all 4 methods using cutoff t=10
ChaoLee1992(butterfly,t=10,method="all")

##output estimates from ACE method using cutoff t=10
ChaoLee1992(butterfly,t=10,method="ACE")
```

---

cottontail

*Cottontail data*

---

**Description**

The cottontail data was analyzed in Chao 1987

**References**

Chao, A. (1987). Estimating the population size for capture-recapture data with unequal catchability. *Biometrics* 43, 783-791.

**Examples**

```
##load library
library(SPECIES)

##load data that coming with the package.
data(cottontail)
```

---

EST

*EST data*

---

### Description

The *Arabidopsis thaliana* expressed sequence tag (EST) data originally appeared in Wang and Lindsay 2005. It was recently reanalyzed in Wang 2010. For convenience, the frequency at  $j = 17$  is used to denote the total count of species with  $j \geq 17$ .

### References

Wang, J.-P. Z. and Lindsay, B. G. ,(2005), A penalized nonparametric maximum likelihood approach to species richness estimation. *Journal of American Statistical Association*, 2005,100(471):942-959

### Examples

```
##load library
library(SPECIES)

##load data that coming with the package.
data(EST)
```

---

insects

*Insects data*

---

### Description

The insects data was analyzed in Burnham and Overton 1979. The frequency at  $j = 6$  is used to denote the total count of species with  $j \geq 6$ .

### References

Burnham, K. P., and Overton, W. S. (1979), Robust Estimation of Population Size When Capture Probabilities Vary Among Animals, *Ecology*, 60, 927-936.

### Examples

```
##load library
library(SPECIES)

##load data that coming with the package.
data(insects)
```



jackknife

*Jackknife estimator for the species richness***Description**

A function implementing the jackknife estimator of the species number by Burnham and Overton 1978 and 1979.

**Usage**

```
jackknife(n, k = 5, conf = 0.95)
```

**Arguments**

n	a matrix or a numerical data frame of two columns. It is also called the “frequency of frequencies” data in literature. The first column is the frequency $j = 1, 2, \dots$ ; and the second column is $n_j$ , the number of species observed with $j$ individuals in the sample.
k	a positive integer. $k$ is the specified Jackknife order. The default is $k=5$ . Burnham and Overton 1978 and 1979 provided a testing procedure for the maximum order to be used in this estimator. If the specified order $k$ or default is greater than the order obtained from the testing procedure, the function will automatically use the determined order rather than $k$ . Currently this function only provide jackknife estimate up to order 10.
conf	a positive number $\leq 1$ . <code>conf</code> specifies the confidence level for confidence interval. The default is 0.95. <code>conf</code> also specifies the critical value in the sequential test for jackknife order.

**Value**

The function `jackknife` returns a list of: `JackknifeOrder`, `Nhat`, `SE` and `CI`.

`JackknifeOrder`

the jackknife estimator order specified order by the user or determined by the testing procedure.

`Nhat` jackknife estimate.

`SE` standard error of the jackknife estimate.

`CI` confidence interval of the jackknife estimate.

**Author(s)**

Ji-Ping Wang, Department of Statistics, Northwestern University

**References**

Burnham, K. P., and Overton, W. S. (1978), Estimation of the Size of a Closed Population When Capture Probabilities Vary Among Animals, *Biometrika*, 65, 625-633.

Burnham, K. P., and Overton, W. S. (1979), Robust Estimation of Population Size When Capture Probabilities Vary Among Animals, *Ecology*, 60, 927-936.

**Examples**

```
library(SPECIES)

##load data from the package,
## "butterfly" is the famous tterfly data by Fisher 1943.

data(butterfly)
jackknife(butterfly,k=5)
```

---

```
microbial          Microbial species data
```

---

**Description**

The microbial species data originally appeared in Acinas et al 2004. Recently it was re-analyzed by Bohning and Schon 2005, and Wang 2009.

**References**

Acinas, S., Klepac-Ceraj, V., Hunt, D., Pharino, C., Ceraj, I., Distel, D., and Polz, M. (2004), Fine-scale phylogenetic architecture of a complex bacterial community. *Nature*, 430, 551-554.

Hong, S. H., and Bunge, J. and Jeon, S.O. and Epstein, S. (2006), Predicting microbial species richness, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci*, 103, 117-122.

**Examples**

```
##load library
library(SPECIES)

##load data that coming with the package.
data(microbial)
```

---

```
pcg          Poisson-compound Gamma estimator for the species richness
```

---

**Description**

Function to calculate the Poisson-compound Gamma estimators of the species number by Wang 2010. This method is essentially a conditional NPMLE method. The species abundance here is assumed to follow a compound Gamma model. The confidence interval is obtained based on a bootstrap procedure. A Fortran function is called to for the computing. This function requires Fortran compiler installed.

**Usage**

```
pcg(n, t=35, C=0, alpha=c(1:10), b=200, seed=NULL, conf=0.95, dis=1)
```

**Arguments**

n	a matrix or a numerical data frame of two columns. It is also called the “frequency of frequencies” data in literature. The first column is the frequency $j = 1, 2, \dots$ ; and the second column is $n_j$ , the number of species observed with $j$ individuals in the sample.
t	a positive integer. $t$ is the cutoff value defining the relatively less abundant species to be used in estimation. The default value for $t=35$ . The estimator is more sensitive to $t$ compared with <code>pnpml</code> or <code>unpml</code> estimators. We recommend to use $t \geq 20$ if the maximum frequency ( $j$ ) is greater than 20. Otherwise use the maximum frequency of $j$ for $t$ .
C	integer either 0 or 1. It specifies whether bootstrap confidence interval should be calculated. “C=1” for YES and “C=0” for NO. The default of C is set as 0.
b	integer. $b$ specifies the number of bootstrap samples to be generated for confidence interval. It is ignored if “C=0”.
alpha	a positive grid for Gamma shape parameter. <code>alpha</code> must be a numerical vector for positive numbers. A cross-validation will be used to select a unified shape parameter value for the compound Gamma from the specified “alpha” grid. The default “alpha” grid is $1, 2, \dots, 10$ .
conf	a positive number $\leq 1$ . <code>conf</code> specifies the confidence level for confidence interval. The default is 0.95.
seed	a single value, interpreted as an integer. Seed for random number generation
dis	0 or 1. 1 for on-screen display of the mixture output, and 0 for none.

**Details**

The `pcg` estimator is computing intensive. The computing of bootstrap confidence interval may take up to a few hours.

**Value**

The function `pcg` returns a list of: `Nhat`, `CI` (if “C=1”) and `AlphaModel`.

<code>Nhat</code>	point estimate of N.
<code>CI</code>	bootstrap confidence interval.
<code>AlphaModel</code>	unified shape parameter of compound Gamma selected from cross-validation.

**Author(s)**

Ji-Ping Wang, Department of Statistics, Northwestern University

**References**

Wang, J.-P. (2010), Estimating the species richness by a Poisson-Compound Gamma model, 97(3): 727-740

**Examples**

```
library(SPECIES)
##load data from the package,
## \dQuote{butterfly} is the famous butterfly data by Fisher 1943.
```

```

data(butterfly)

##output estimate without confidence interval using cutoff t=15
##pcg(butterfly,t=20,C=0,alpha=c(1:10))

##output estimate with confidence interval using cutoff t=15
#pcg(butterfly,t=20,C=1,alpha=c(1:10),b=200)

```

pnpml

*Penalized conditional NPML estimator for species richness***Description**

This function calculate the penalized conditional NPML estimator of the species number by Wang and Lindsay 2005. This estimator was based on the conditional likelihood of a Poisson mixture model. A penalty term was introduced into the model to prevent the boundary problem discussed in Wang and Lindsay 2008. The confidence interval is calculated based on a bootstrap procedure. A Fortran function is called to for the computing.

**Usage**

```
pnpml(n,t=15,C=0,b=200,seed=NULL,conf=0.95,dis=1)
```

**Arguments**

n	a matrix or a numerical data frame of two columns. It is also called the “frequency of frequencies” data in literature. The first column is the frequency $j = 1, 2 \dots$ ; and the second column is $n_j$ , the number of species observed with $j$ individuals in the sample.
t	a positive integer. $t$ is the cutoff value to define the relatively less abundant species to be used in estimation of the Poisson mixture. The default value is $t=15$ . The recommendation is to use $t \geq 10$ .
C	integer either 0 or 1. It specifies whether bootstrap confidence interval should be calculated. “C=1” for YES and “C=0” for NO. The default of C is set as 0.
b	integer. $b$ specifies the number of bootstrap samples to be generated for confidence interval. It is ignored if “C=0”.
conf	a positive number $\leq 1$ . $conf$ specifies the confidence level for confidence interval. The default is 0.95.
seed	a single value, interpreted as an integer. Seed for random number generation
dis	0 or 1. 1 for on-screen display of the mixture output, and 0 for none.

**Value**

The function pnpml returns a list of: Nhat, CI (if “C=1”).

Nhat	Point estimate of N
CI	bootstrap confidence interval

**Author(s)**

Ji-Ping Wang, Department of Statistics, Northwestern University

## References

Wang, J.-P. Z. and Lindsay, B. G. ,2005, A penalized nonparametric maximum likelihood approach to species richness estimation. *Journal of American Statistical Association*, 2005,100(471):942-959

Wang, J.-P., and Lindsay, B.G., 2008, An exponential partial prior for improving NPML estimation for mixtures, *Statistical Methodology*, 2008,5:30-45

## Examples

```
library(SPECIES)

##load data from the package,
## \"butterfly\" is the famous butterfly data by Fisher 1943.
#data(butterfly)

##output estimate without confidence interval using cutoff t=15
#pnpml(butterfly,t=15,C=0)

##output estimate with confidence interval using cutoff t=15
#pnpml(butterfly,t=15,C=1, b=200)
```

---

traffic

*Traffic data*

---

## Description

The traffic data originally appeared in Simar 1976 where the total number of N is known as 9461. Recently it was re-analyzed by Bohning and Schon 2005.

## References

Simar, L. (1976), Maximum likelihood estimation of a compound Poisson process, *Annals of Statistics*, 4, 1200-1209. Bohning, D., and Schon, D. (2005), Nonparametric maximum likelihood estimation of population size based on the counting distribution, *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series C: Applied Statistics*, 54, 721-737.

## Examples

```
##load library
library(SPECIES)

##load data that coming with the package.
data(traffic)
chao1984(traffic)
```

unpml

*Unconditional NPML estimator for the SPECIES number***Description**

This function calculate the unconditional NPML estimator of the species number by Norris and Pollock 1996, 1998. This estimator was obtained from the full likelihood based on a Poisson mixture model. The confidence interval is calculated based on a bootstrap procedure.

**Usage**

```
unpml(n, t=15, C=0, method="W-L", b=200, conf=.95, seed=NULL, dis=1)
```

**Arguments**

<code>n</code>	a matrix or a numerical data frame of two columns. It is also called the “frequency of frequencies” data in literature. The first column is the frequency $j = 1, 2 \dots$ ; and the second column is $n_j$ , the number of species observed with $j$ individuals in the sample.
<code>t</code>	a positive integer. <code>t</code> specifies the cutoff value to define the relatively less abundant species to be used in estimation. The default value for <code>t=15</code> . The estimator is fairly insensitive to the choice of <code>t</code> . The recommendation is to use $t \geq 10$ .
<code>C</code>	integer either 0 or 1. It specifies whether bootstrap confidence interval should be calculated. “ <code>C=1</code> ” for YES and “ <code>C=0</code> ” for NO. The default of <code>C</code> is set as 0.
<code>method</code>	string either “N-P” or “W-L”(default). If <code>method=“N-P”</code> , unconditional NPMLE will be used using an algorithm by Bonhing and Schon (2005). Sometimes this method can be extremely slow. Alternatively one can use method “W-L”, an approximate method (but with high precision and much faster) by Wang and Lindsay 2005.
<code>b</code>	integer. <code>b</code> specifies the number of bootstrap samples for confidence interval. It is ignored if “ <code>C=0</code> ”.
<code>conf</code>	a positive number $\leq 1$ . <code>conf</code> specifies the confidence level for confidence interval. The default is 0.95.
<code>seed</code>	a single value, interpreted as an integer. Seed for random number generation
<code>dis</code>	0 or 1. 1 for on-screen display of the mixture output, and 0 for none.

**Details**

The computing is intensive if `method=“N-P”` is used particularly when extrapolation is large. It may takes hours to compute the bootstrap confidence interval. If `method=“W-L”` is used, computing usually is much much faster. Estimates from both methods are often identical.

**Value**

The function unpml returns a list of: `Nhat`, `CI` (if “`C=1`”)

<code>Nhat</code>	point estimate of N
<code>CI</code>	bootstrap confidence interval.

**Note**

The unconditional NPML estimator is unstable from either `method='N-P'` or `method='W-L'`. Extremely large estimates may occur. This is also reflected in that the upper confidence bound often greatly vary from different runs of bootstrap procedure. In contrast the penalized NPMLE by `pnpmle` function is much more stable.

**Author(s)**

Ji-Ping Wang, Department of Statistics, Northwestern University

**References**

Norris, J. L. I., and Pollock, K. H. (1996), Nonparametric MLE Under Two Closed Capture-Recapture Models With Heterogeneity, *Biometrics*, 52,639-649.

Norris, J. L. I., and Pollock, K. H.(1998), Non-Parametric MLE for Poisson Species Abundance Models Allowing for Heterogeneity Between Species, *Environmental and Ecological Statistics*, 5, 391-402.

Bonhing, D. and Schon, D., (2005), Nonparametric maximum likelihood estimation of population size based on the counting distribution, *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series C: Applied Statistics*, 54, 721-737.

Wang, J.-P. Z. and Lindsay, B. G. ,(2005), A penalized nonparametric maximum likelihood approach to species richness estimation. *Journal of American Statistical Association*, 2005,100(471):942-959

**Examples**

```
library(SPECIES)

##load data from the package,
## "butterfly" is the famous butterfly data by Fisher 1943.

data(butterfly)

##output estimate without confidence interval using cutoff t=15
#unpml(butterfly,t=15,C=0)

##output estimate with confidence interval using cutoff t=15
#unpml(butterfly,t=15,C=1,b=200)
```

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