

Package ‘ABRSQOL’

May 6, 2026

Type Package

Title Quality-of-Life Solver for “Measuring Quality of Life under Spatial Frictions”

Version 1.0.0

Description This toolkit implements a numerical solution algorithm to invert a quality of life measure from observed data. Unlike the traditional Rosen-Roback measure, this measure accounts for mobility frictions—generated by idiosyncratic tastes and local ties — and trade frictions — generated by trade costs and non-tradable services, thereby reducing non-classical measurement error. The QoL measure is based on Ahlfeldt, Bald, Roth, Seidel (2024) <https://econpapers.repec.org/RePEc:boc:bocode:s459382> “Measuring Quality of Life under Spatial Frictions”. When using this programme or the toolkit in your work, please cite the paper.

URL <https://github.com/Ahlfeldt/ABRSQOL-toolkit#readme>

BugReports <https://github.com/Ahlfeldt/ABRSQOL-toolkit/issues>

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Encoding UTF-8

LazyData true

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Suggests testthat (>= 3.0.0)

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ABRSQOL	<i>ABRSQOL numerical solution algorithm to invert a quality of life measure</i>
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Description

This toolkit implements a numerical solution algorithm to invert a quality of life (QoL) from observed data in various programming languages. The QoL measure is based on Ahlfeldt, Bald, Roth, Seidel (2024): Measuring quality of life under spatial frictions. Unlike the traditional Rosen-Roback measure, this measure accounts for mobility frictions—generated by idiosyncratic tastes and local ties—and trade frictions—generated by trade costs and non-tradable services, thereby reducing non-classical measurement error. When using this programme or the toolkit in your work, please cite the paper.

Usage

```
ABRSQOL(
  df,
  w = "w",
  p_H = "p_H",
  P_t = "P_t",
  p_n = "p_n",
  L = "L",
  L_b = "L_b",
  alpha = 0.7,
  beta = 0.5,
  gamma = 3,
  xi = 5.5,
  conv = 0.5,
  tolerance = 1e-10,
  maxiter = 10000
)
```

Arguments

df	input data containing variables referenced by following arguments: data.frame or matrix
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w	wage index variable name or column index: character or integer (or list), default='w'
p_H	floor_space_price variable name or column index: character or integer, default='p_H'
P_t	tradable_goods_price variable name or column index: character or integer, default='P_t'
p_n	local_services_price variable name or column index: character or integer, default='p_n'
L	residence_population variable name or column index: character or integer, default='L'
L_b	hometown_population variable name or column index: character or integer, default='L_b'
alpha	Income share on non-housing consumption: double, default=0.7
beta	Share of tradable goods in non-housing consumption: double, default=0.5
gamma	Idiosyncratic taste dispersion (inverse labour supply elasticity): double, default=3
xi	Valuation of local ties: double, default=5
conv	Convergence parameter (Higher value increases speed of, convergence and risk of bouncing): double, default=0.5
tolerance	Value used in stopping rule (The mean absolute error (MAE). Smaller values imply greater precision and longer convergence): double, default=1e-10
maxiter	Maximum number of iterations after which the algorithm is forced to stop: integer, default=1e4

Details

Notice that quality of life is identified up to a constant. Therefore, the inverted QoL measure has a relative interpretation only. We normalize the QoL relative to the first observation in the data set. It is straightforward to rescale the QoL measure to any other location or any other value (such as the mean or median in the distribution of QoL across locations).

Value

inverted quality of life measure as Numeric vector (identified up to a constant)

Examples

```
# Example 1:
# load testdata,
# run QoL inversion with default parameters and append result
data(ABRSQOL_testdata)
my_dataframe <- ABRQOL_testdata
my_dataframe$qo1 <- ABRQOL(df=ABRSQOL_testdata)
my_dataframe

# Example 2: load your data from csv, run inversion, save result as csv
# my_dataframe <- read.csv("path/to/your/csv_filename.csv")
```

```

# my_dataframe$qol2 <- ABRSQOL(
# # supply your dataset as a dataframe
# df=my_dataframe,
# # and specify the corresponding variable name for your dataset
# w = 'wage',
# p_H = 'floor_space_price',
# P_t = 'tradable_goods_price',
# p_n = 'local_services_price',
# L = 'residence_pop',
# L_b = 'L_b',
# # freely adjust remaining parameters
# alpha = 0.7,
# beta = 0.5,
# gamma = 3,
# xi = 5.5,
# conv = 0.3,
# tolerance = 1e-11,
# maxiter = 50000
#)
#write.csv(my_dataframe, 'qol_of_my_data.csv')

# Example 3: Reference variables in your dataset by using the column index
my_dataframe$qol3 <- ABRSQOL(
  df=my_dataframe,
  w = 1,
  p_H = 3,
  P_t = 4,
  p_n = 2,
  L = 6,
  L_b = 5
)

# Example 4: Having named the variables in your data according to the
# default parameters, you can omit specifying variable names
my_dataframe$qol4 <- ABRSQOL(
  df=my_dataframe,
  alpha = 0.7,
  beta = 0.5,
  gamma = 3,
  xi = 5.5,
  conv = 0.5
)

```

ABRSQOL_testdata

Test data for ABRSQOL quality of life inversion

Description

This is a test data set, and it is not identical to the data used in the paper. The data set includes average disposable household income as a measure of wage, the local labour market house price

index from Ahlfeldt, Heblich, Seidel (2023), the 2015 census population as a measure of residence population and the 1985 census population as measure of hometown population. Tradable goods price and local services price indices are uniformly set to one.

Usage

```
data(ABRSQOL_testdata)
```

Format

data.frame with colnames=c('llm_id', 'w', 'p_H', 'P_t', 'p_n', 'L', 'L_b', 'Name', 'coord_x', 'coord_y') and 141 observations

Source

[ABRSQOL-toolkit](#)

References

Gabriel M. Ahlfeldt, Fabian Bald, Duncan Roth, Tobias Seidel (forthcoming): Measuring quality of life under spatial frictions.

Examples

```
library('ABRSQOL')
data(ABRSQOL_testdata)
ABRSQOL_testdata$QoL = ABRSQOL(df=ABRSQOL_testdata)
ABRSQOL_testdata
```

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