

Package ‘EcoNetGen’

May 7, 2026

Version 0.2.4

Title Simulate and Sample from Ecological Interaction Networks

Description Randomly generate a wide range of interaction networks with specified size, average degree, modularity, and topological structure. Sample nodes and links from within simulated networks randomly, by degree, by module, or by abundance. Simulations and sampling routines are implemented in 'FORTRAN', providing efficient generation times even for large networks. Basic visualization methods also included. Algorithms implemented here are described in de Aguiar et al. (2017) <[doi:10.48550/arXiv.1708.01242](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.1708.01242)>.

License GPL-3

URL <https://github.com/cboettig/EcoNetGen>

BugReports <https://github.com/cboettig/EcoNetGen/issues>

Encoding UTF-8

ByteCompile true

RoxygenNote 6.1.1

Suggests spelling, testthat, covr, ggraph

Imports igraph, ggplot2

Language en-US

NeedsCompilation yes

Author Marcus de Aguiar [aut, cph] (ORCID:
<<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1379-7568>>),
Erica Newman [aut] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6433-8594>>),
Mathias Pires [aut] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2500-4748>>),
NIMBioS [fnd],
Carl Boettiger [aut, cre] (ORCID:
<<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4580-091X>>)

Maintainer Carl Boettiger <cboettig@gmail.com>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2023-08-27 05:10:02 UTC

Contents

adj_plot	2
netgen	2
netgen_v1	4
netsampler	5

Index	7
--------------	----------

adj_plot	<i>Plot network adjacency matrix</i>
----------	--------------------------------------

Description

Plot network adjacency matrix

Usage

```
adj_plot(graph)
```

Arguments

graph an igraph object

Examples

```
set.seed(12345)
graph <- netgen()
adj_plot(graph)
```

netgen	<i>netgen</i>
--------	---------------

Description

Randomly generate a wide range of interaction networks

Usage

```
netgen(net_size = 50, ave_module_size = 10, min_module_size = 6,
       min_submod_size = 1, net_type = c("mixed", "random", "scalefree",
       "nested", "bi-partite nested", "bi-partite random",
       "tri-trophic bipartite nested-random",
       "tri-trophic bipartite nested-bipartite nested", "bn", "br", "tt-bn-r",
       "tt-bn-bn"), ave_degree = 5, rewiring_prob_global = 0.2,
       rewiring_prob_local = 0, mixing_probs = c(0.2, 0.2, 0.2, 0.2, 0.2, 0,
       0), verbose = FALSE)
```

Arguments

net_size	network size (number of nodes)
ave_module_size	average module size
min_module_size	cutoff for the minimum modules size
min_submod_size	cutoff for submodules, used only for bipartite and tripartite networks
net_type	network type, see details
ave_degree	average degree of connection
rewire_prob_global	probability any given edge should be rewired
rewire_prob_local	probability that edges within a module should be rewired locally (within the module)
mixing_probs	module probabilities for first 7 types, used for constructing mixed networks
verbose	logical, default TRUE. Should a message report summary statistics?

Details

network type is one of

- mixed
- random
- scalefree
- nested
- bi-partite nested (or short-hand "bn")
- bi-partite random (or short-hand "br")
- tri-trophic bipartite nested-random. (Can use short-hand "ttbnr")
- tri-trophic bipartite nested-bipartite nested (Can use short-hand "ttbnbn")

Valid Parameter Ranges

Please note that not all combinations of parameters will create valid networks. If an invalid combination is requested, netgen() will error with an informative message. A list of these constraints is provided below for reference.

1. net_size >= ave_module_size. If 'net_size = ave_module_size' the program generates a network with a single module.
2. ave_module_size > min_module_size
3. ave_degree >= 1. Preferably larger than 4, to ensure single component modules.
4. rewire_prob_global = 0 produces completely uncoupled modules. To ensure a single component network use rewire_prob_global > 0 and sufficiently large.
5. rewire_prob_local = 0 produces idealized modules. Use rewire_prob_local > 0 to add stochasticity to the modules.

6. For tripartite networks $\text{min_module_size} > \text{min_submod_size}$. This also implies $\text{min_module_size} \geq 2$.
7. For scalefree networks (or mixed networks involving scalefree modules) $\text{ave_degree} < \text{min_module_size}$
8. For mixed networks mixing_probs need to sum to 1. If the sum is larger than one, only the first types, corresponding to $\text{sum} \leq 1$, will be sampled.

Value

an igraph object

Examples

```
library(EcoNetGen)

set.seed(12345)
net <- netgen()
adj_plot(net)
```

netgen_v1

netgen_v1

Description

netgen function

Usage

```
netgen_v1(n_modav = c(50, 10), cutoffs = c(3, 0), net_type = 1,
  net_degree = 10, net_rewire = c(0.3, 0), mod_probs = c(0.2, 0.2,
  0.2, 0.2, 0.2, 0, 0), verbose = FALSE)
```

Arguments

n_modav	network size and average module size (integer vector, length 2)
cutoffs	module and submodule minimum sizes (integer vector, length 2). (submodules are used only for bipartite and tripartite networks)
net_type	integer indicating type, see details
net_degree	average degree of connection
net_rewire	global and local network rewiring probabilities
mod_probs	module probabilities for types 1 to 51, used for constructing mixed networks, net_type = 0
verbose	logical, default TRUE. Should a message report summary statistics?

Details

network type

- 0 = mixed
- 1 = random
- 2 = scalefree
- 3 = nested
- 41 = bi-partite nested
- 42 = bi-partite random
- 51 = tri-trophic bipartite nested-random "ttbnr"
- 52 = tri-trophic bipartite nested-bipartite nested "ttbnbn"

Value

an igraph object

netsampler

Network Sampling Routine

Description

Network Sampling Routine

Usage

```
netsampler(network_in, key_nodes_sampler = c("random", "lognormal",
      "Fisher log series", "exponential", "degree", "module"),
  neighbors_sampler = c("random", "exponential"), n_key_nodes = 10,
  n_neighbors = 0.5, hidden_modules = NULL, module_sizes = NULL,
  cluster_fn = igraph::cluster_edge_betweenness)
```

Arguments

`network_in` input network (as igraph object)

`key_nodes_sampler` sampling criteria for key nodes. See details.

`neighbors_sampler` sampling criteria for neighbors. see details.

`n_key_nodes` number of key nodes to sample.

`n_neighbors` number of first neighbors or fraction of first neighbors. See details.

`hidden_modules` list of the modules to exclude (max 10 modules; only the first `numb_hidden` are used)

`module_sizes` integer vector giving the size of each module. see details.

`cluster_fn` a clustering function, from `igraph::cluster_*`. Default is `igraph::cluster_edge_betweenness`. Only used to compute module sizes if not provided.

Details

Algorithm first samples `n_key_nodes` according to the requested `key_nodes_sampler` criterion. For each key node, the requested number or fraction of neighbors is then sampled according to the `neighbors_sampler` criterion. Optionally, a list of modules can be designated as "hidden" and will be excluded from sampling.

if `n_neighbors` is greater than 1, assumes this is the number to sample. If `n_neighbors` is between 0 and 1, assumes this is the fraction of neighbors to sample. (To sample 1 neighbor, use an explicit integer, 1L (or `as.integer(1)`) to sample 100

Provide `module_sizes` list to improve performance. If not provided, this will be calculated based on `igraph::cluster_edge_betweenness`. Be sure to provide a `module_sizes` vector whenever calling `netsampler` repeatedly on the same network to avoid unnecessary performance hit from recalculating modules every time. See examples.

Value

the original input network (as an `igraph` network object), with the attribute `label` added to the edges and vertices indicating if that edge or vertex was sampled or unsampled.

Examples

```
set.seed(12345)
net <- netgen()
sample <- netsampler(net)

## Precompute `module_sizes` for replicate sampling of the same network:
library(igraph)
modules <- cluster_edge_betweenness(as.undirected(net))
module_sizes <- vapply(igraph::groups(modules), length, integer(1))
sample <- netsampler(net, module_sizes = module_sizes)
```

Index

`adj_plot`, 2

`netgen`, 2

`netgen_v1`, 4

`netsampler`, 5