

Package ‘socialSim’

May 9, 2026

Type Package

Title Simulate and Analyse Social Interaction Data

Version 0.1.9

Description Provides tools to simulate and analyse datasets of social interactions between individuals using hierarchical Bayesian models implemented in Stan. Model fitting is performed via the 'rstan' package. Users can generate realistic interaction data where individual phenotypes influence and respond to those of their partners, with control over sampling design parameters such as the number of individuals, partners, and repeated dyads. The simulation framework allows flexible control over variation and correlation in mean trait values, social responsiveness, and social impact, making it suitable for research on interacting phenotypes and on direct and indirect genetic effects ('DGEs' and 'IGEs'). The package also includes functions to fit and compare alternative models of social effects, including impact–responsiveness, variance–partitioning, and trait-based models, and to summarise model performance in terms of bias and dispersion. For a more detailed description of the available models and impact–responsiveness, see the accompanying article Wijnhorst et al. (2026) <[doi:10.1093/jeb/voag013](https://doi.org/10.1093/jeb/voag013)>.

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Depends R (>= 4.2)

Imports MASS, stats, future, future.apply,

Suggests rstan, devtools, testthat, rmarkdown, knitr

VignetteBuilder knitr

Config/testthat/edition 3

URL <https://github.com/RoriWijnhorst/socialSim>

BugReports <https://github.com/RoriWijnhorst/socialSim/issues>

NeedsCompilation no

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run_model	<i>Fit one of the available Stan models to simulated datasets</i>
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Description

Fit one of the available Stan models to simulated datasets

Usage

```
run_model(sim, model = NULL, iter = 2000, seed = 1234, cores = 1)
```

Arguments

sim	Output from simulate_data().
model	Name of the Stan model to use (choose from available options).
iter	Number of iterations per chain (default = 1000).
seed	Random seed for reproducibility.
cores	Number of CPU cores used for parallel execution.

Value

A list of fitted model summaries, one per dataset.

Examples

```
if (requireNamespace("rstan", quietly = TRUE)) {
  sim <- simulate_data(ind = 50, Valpha = 0.2, Vepsilon = 0.1, iterations = 2)
  res <- run_model(sim, model = "Trait.stan", iter = 100, cores = 2)
  summarise_results(res)
} else {
  message("rstan not available; example skipped.")
}
```

 simulate_data

 Simulate social interaction datasets

Description

This function generates datasets where individual phenotypes are influenced by both direct and indirect (social) effects, under a specified sampling design.

Usage

```
simulate_data(
  ind = 200,
  partners = 4,
  repeats = 1,
  iterations = 100,
  B_0 = 0,
  psi = NULL,
  Valpha,
  Vepsilon = NULL,
  Vpsi = 0,
  Vx = 1,
  Ve = 0.6,
  Vxe = 0,
  r_alpha_epsilon = 0,
  r_alpha_psi = 0,
  r_epsilon_psi = 0,
  r_alpha_x = 0,
  r_psi_x = 0,
  r_epsilon_x = 0,
  fix_total_var = TRUE
)
```

Arguments

ind	Number of individuals.
partners	Partners per individual.
repeats	Repeats per unique dyad.
iterations	Number of datasets to simulate.
B_0	Population intercept.
psi	Population-level responsiveness (social slope).
Valpha	Direct effect (focal variance).
Vepsilon	Indirect effect (partner variance).
Vpsi	Social responsiveness (among individual variance in slopes).
Vx	Partner trait variance.

<code>Ve</code>	Residual variance.
<code>Vxe</code>	Measurement error/within-individual variation in partner trait.
<code>r_alpha_epsilon</code>	$\text{Corr}(\alpha, \epsilon)$.
<code>r_alpha_psi</code>	$\text{Corr}(\alpha, \psi)$.
<code>r_epsilon_psi</code>	$\text{Corr}(\epsilon, \psi)$.
<code>r_alpha_x</code>	$\text{Corr}(\alpha, x)$.
<code>r_psi_x</code>	$\text{Corr}(\psi, x)$.
<code>r_epsilon_x</code>	$\text{Corr}(\epsilon, x)$.
<code>fix_total_var</code>	Logical; if TRUE (default), residual variance is adjusted so total phenotypic variance is approx. 1.

Value

A list with:

- `data`: list of datasets
- `params`: named list of effect sizes
- `design`: sample design (`n_ind`, `partners`, `repeats`, `iterations`)

Examples

```
sim <- simulate_data(ind = 50, partners = 4, iterations = 5,
                    B_0 = 1, Valpha = 0.2, Vepsilon = 0.1)
```

<code>summarise_results</code>	<i>Summarise bias and dispersion (MADm) across simulated fits</i>
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Description

Summarise bias and dispersion (MADm) across simulated fits

Usage

```
summarise_results(results)
```

Arguments

`results` Output from `run_model()`.

Value

Data frame with only parameters that were estimated in the Stan model.

Examples

```
if (requireNamespace("rstan", quietly = TRUE)){  
  sim <- simulate_data(ind = 50, Valpha = 0.2, Vepsilon = 0.1, iterations = 2)  
  res <- run_model(sim, model = "Trait.stan", iter = 100, cores = 2)  
  summarise_results(res)  
} else {  
  message("rstan not available; example skipped.")  
}
```

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