

# Package ‘FastStepGraph’

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**Type** Package  
**Title** A Fast Algorithm for Sparse Precision Matrix Estimation  
**Version** 0.1.1  
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**Description** It implements an improved and computationally faster version of the original Stepwise Gaussian Graphical Algorithm for estimating the Omega precision matrix from high-dimensional data.  
Zamar, R., Ruiz, M., Lafit, G. and Nogales, J. (2021)  
<[doi:10.52933/jdssv.v1i2.11](https://doi.org/10.52933/jdssv.v1i2.11)>.  
**License** MIT + file LICENSE  
**URL** <https://github.com/juancolonna/FastStepGraph>  
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**Imports** doParallel (>= 1.0), foreach (>= 1.5), MASS (>= 7.3)  
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**VignetteBuilder** knitr  
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## Contents

|                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| cv.FastStepGraph . . . . . | 2        |
| FastStepGraph . . . . .    | 3        |
| SigmaAR . . . . .          | 5        |
| <b>Index</b>               | <b>6</b> |

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|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| cv.FastStepGraph | <i>Searches for the optimal combination of alpha_f and alpha_b parameters using Cross-Validation</i> |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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## Description

cv.FastStepGraph implements the cross-validation for the Fast Step Graph algorithm.

## Usage

```
cv.FastStepGraph(
    x,
    n_folds = 5,
    alpha_f_min = 0.2,
    alpha_f_max = 0.8,
    b_coef = 0.5,
    n_alpha = 32,
    nei.max = 5,
    data_scale = FALSE,
    data_shuffle = TRUE,
    max.iterations = NULL,
    return_model = FALSE,
    parallel = FALSE,
    n_cores = NULL
)
```

## Arguments

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| x              | Data matrix (of size n x p).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| n_folds        | Number of folds for the cross-validation procedure (default value 5).                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| alpha_f_min    | Minimum threshold value for the cross-validation procedure (default value 0.2).                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| alpha_f_max    | Minimum threshold value for the cross-validation procedure (default value 0.8).                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| b_coef         | This parameter applies the empirical rule $\alpha_b = b\_coef * \alpha_f$ during the initial search for the optimal $\alpha_f$ parameter while $\alpha_b$ remains fixed, after finding optimal $\alpha_f$ , $\alpha_b$ is varied to find its optimal value. The default value of b_coef is 0.5. |
| n_alpha        | Number of elements in the grid for the cross-validation (default value 32).                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| nei.max        | Maximum number of variables in every neighborhood (default value 5).                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| data_scale     | Boolean parameter (TRUE or FALSE), when to scale data to zero mean and unit variance (default FALSE).                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| data_shuffle   | Boolean parameter (default TRUE), when samples (rows of X) must be randomly shuffled.                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| max.iterations | Maximum number of iterations (integer), the defaults values is set to $p*(p-1)$ .                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>return_model</code> | Default FALSE. If set to TRUE, at the end of cross-validation, FastStepGraph is called with the optimal parameters <code>alpha_f</code> and <code>alpha_b</code> , returning <code>vareps</code> , <code>beta</code> , <code>Edges</code> and <code>Omega</code> . |
| <code>parallel</code>     | Boolean parameter (TRUE or FALSE), when to run Cross-Validation in parallel using a multicore architecture (default FALSE).                                                                                                                                        |
| <code>n_cores</code>      | An 'int' value specifying the number of cores do you want to use if 'parallel=TRUE'. If <code>n_cores</code> is not specified, the maximum number of cores on your machine minus one will be set automatically.                                                    |

**Value**

A list with the values:

|                          |                                         |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <code>alpha_f_opt</code> | the optimal <code>alpha_f</code> value. |
| <code>alpha_b_opt</code> | the optimal <code>alpha_b</code> value. |
| <code>CV.loss</code>     | minimum loss.                           |

If `return_model=TRUE`, then also returns:

|                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| <code>vareps</code> | Response variables.         |
| <code>beta</code>   | Regression coefficients.    |
| <code>Edges</code>  | Estimated set of edges.     |
| <code>Omega</code>  | Estimated precision matrix. |

**Author(s)**

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**Examples**

```
data <- FastStepGraph::SigmaAR(30, 50, 0.4) # Simulate Gaussian Data
res <- FastStepGraph::cv.FastStepGraph(data$X, data_scale=TRUE)
```

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FastStepGraph

*Fast Stepwise Gaussian Graphical Model*


---

**Description**

Improved and faster implementation of the Stepwise Gaussian Graphical Algorithm.

**Usage**

```
FastStepGraph(
  x,
  alpha_f,
  alpha_b = NULL,
  nei.max = 5,
  data_scale = FALSE,
  max.iterations = NULL
)
```

**Arguments**

|                             |                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>x</code>              | Data matrix (of size <code>n_samples</code> x <code>p_variables</code> ).                                           |
| <code>alpha_f</code>        | Forward threshold (no default value).                                                                               |
| <code>alpha_b</code>        | Backward threshold. If <code>alpha_b=NULL</code> , then the rule <code>alpha_b &lt;- 0.5*alpha_f</code> is applied. |
| <code>nei.max</code>        | Maximum number of variables in every neighborhood (default value 5).                                                |
| <code>data_scale</code>     | Boolean parameter (TRUE or FALSE), when to scale data to zero mean and unit variance (default FALSE).               |
| <code>max.iterations</code> | Maximum number of iterations (integer), the defaults values is set to $p*(p-1)$ .                                   |

**Value**

A list with the values:

|                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| <code>vareps</code> | Response variables.         |
| <code>beta</code>   | Regression coefficients.    |
| <code>Edges</code>  | Estimated set of edges.     |
| <code>Omega</code>  | Estimated precision matrix. |

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**Examples**

```
data <- FastStepGraph::SigmaAR(30, 50, 0.4) # Simulate Gaussian Data
G <- FastStepGraph::FastStepGraph(data$X, alpha_f = 0.22, alpha_b = 0.14, data_scale=TRUE)
```

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SigmaAR*Simulate Covariance Matrix with an Auto-regressive (AR) Model*

---

**Description**

Helper function to simulate Simulate Gaussian Data with an Autoregressive (AR) Model

**Usage**

```
SigmaAR(n_rows, p_columns, phi)
```

**Arguments**

|           |                                     |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| n_rows    | Number of samples (rows of X).      |
| p_columns | Number of variables (columns of X). |
| phi       | Auto-regression coefficient.        |

**Value**

A list with the values:

|       |                                                      |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Sigma | A covariance matrix.                                 |
| Omega | A precision matrix.                                  |
| X     | A normalized data matrix with Gaussian distribution. |

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**Examples**

```
data <- FastStepGraph::SigmaAR(30, 50, 0.4) # Simulate Gaussian Data
```

# Index

`cv.FastStepGraph`, [2](#)

`FastStepGraph`, [3](#)

`SigmaAR`, [5](#)