

# Package ‘SEMdeep’

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**Title** Structural Equation Modeling with Deep Neural Network and Machine Learning

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**Description** Training and validation of a custom (or data-driven) Structural Equation Models using layer-wise Deep Neural Networks or node-wise Machine Learning algorithms, which extend the fitting procedures of the 'SEMgraph' R package <[doi:10.32614/CRAN.package.SEMgraph](https://doi.org/10.32614/CRAN.package.SEMgraph)>.

**Depends** SEMgraph (>= 1.2.2), igraph (>= 2.0.0), R (>= 4.0)

**Imports** cito, corpcor, doSNOW, foreach, kernelshap, lavaan, glmnet, NeuralNetTools, nnet, progress, ranger, rpart, torch, xgboost

**URL** <https://github.com/BarbaraTarantino/SEMdeep>

**License** GPL (>= 3)

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**RoxygenNote** 7.3.2

**NeedsCompilation** no

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**Repository** CRAN

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classificationReport	<i>Prediction evaluation report of a classification model</i>
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## Description

This function builds a report showing the main classification metrics. It provides an overview of key evaluation metrics like precision, recall, F1-score, accuracy, Matthew's correlation coefficient (mcc) and support (testing size) for each class in the dataset and averages (macro or weighted) for all classes.

## Usage

```
classificationReport(yobs, yhat, CM = NULL, verbose = FALSE, ...)
```

## Arguments

yobs	A vector with the true target variable values.
yhat	A matrix with the predicted target variables values.
CM	An optional (external) confusion matrix CxC.
verbose	A logical value (default = FALSE). If TRUE, the confusion matrix is printed on the screen, and if C=2, the density plots of the predicted probability for each group are also printed.
...	Currently ignored.

## Details

Given one vector with the true target variable labels, and the a matrix with the predicted target variable values for each class, a series of classification metrics is computed. For example, suppose a 2x2 table with notation

	Predicted	
Observed	Yes Event	No Event
Yes Event	A	C
No Event	B	D

The formulas used here for the label = "Yes Event" are:

$$pre = A/(A + B)$$

$$rec = A/(A + C)$$

$$F1 = (2 * pre * rec)/(pre + rec)$$

$$acc = (A + D)/(A + B + C + D)$$

$$mcc = (A * D - B * C)/sqrt((A + B) * (C + D) * (A + C) * (B + D))$$

Metrics analogous to those described above are calculated for the label "No Event", and the weighted average (averaging the support-weighted mean per label) and macro average (averaging the un-weighted mean per label) are also provided.

### Value

A list of 3 objects:

1. "CM", the confusion matrix between observed and predicted counts.
2. "stats", a data.frame with the classification evaluation statistics.
3. "cls", a data.frame with the predicted probabilities, predicted labels and true labels of the categorical target variable.

### Author(s)

Barbara Tarantino <barbara.tarantino@unipv.it>

### References

Sammut, C. & Webb, G. I. (eds.) (2017). Encyclopedia of Machine Learning and Data Mining. New York: Springer. ISBN: 978-1-4899-7685-7

### Examples

```
# Load Sachs data (pkc)
ig<- sachs$graph
data<- sachs$pkc
data<- transformData(data)$data
group<- sachs$group

#...with train-test (0.5-0.5) samples
set.seed(123)
train<- sample(1:nrow(data), 0.5*nrow(data))

#...with a categorical (as.factor) variable (C=2)
outcome<- factor(ifelse(group == 0, "control", "case"))
res<- SEMml(ig, data[train, ], outcome[train], algo="rf")
pred<- predict(res, data[-train, ], outcome[-train], verbose=TRUE)

yobs<- outcome[-train]
yhat<- pred$Yhat[ ,levels(outcome)]
```

```

cls<- classificationReport(yobs, yhat)
cls$CM
cls$stats
head(cls$cls)

#...with predicted probability density plots, if C=2
cls<- classificationReport(yobs, yhat, verbose=TRUE)

#...with a categorical (as.factor) variable (C=3)
group[1:400]<- 2; table(group)
outcome<- factor(ifelse(group == 0, "control",
ifelse(group == 1, "case1", "case2")))
res<- SEMml(ig, data[train, ], outcome[train], algo="rf")
pred<- predict(res, data[-train, ], outcome[-train], verbose=TRUE)

yobs<- outcome[-train]
yhat<- pred$yhat[ ,levels(outcome)]
cls<- classificationReport(yobs, yhat)
cls$CM
cls$stats
head(cls$cls)

```

---

crossValidation

*Cross-validation of linear SEM, ML or DNN training models*


---

## Description

The function does a R-repeated K-fold cross-validation of SEMrun(), SEMml() or SEMdnn() models.

## Usage

```

crossValidation(
  models,
  outcome = NULL,
  K = 5,
  R = 1,
  metric = NULL,
  ncores = 2,
  verbose = FALSE,
  ...
)

```

## Arguments

**models** A named list of model fitting objects from SEMrun(), SEMml() or SEMdnn() function, with default group=NULL (for SEMrun()) or outcome=NULL (for SEMml() or SEMdnn()).

outcome	A character vector (as.factor) of labels for a categorical output (target). If NULL (default), the categorical output (target) will not be considered.
K	A numerical value indicating the number of k-fold to create.
R	A numerical value indicating the number of repetitions for the k-fold cross-validation.
metric	A character value indicating the metric for boxplots display, i.e.: "amse", "r2", or "srmr", for continuous outcomes, and "f1", "accuracy" or "mcc", for a categorical outcome (default = NULL).
ncores	Number of cpu cores (default = 2).
verbose	Output to console boxplots and summarized results (default = FALSE).
...	Currently ignored.

### Details

Easy-to-use model comparison and selection of SEM, ML or DNN models, in which several models are defined and compared in a R-repeated K-fold cross-validation procedure. The winner model is selected by reporting the mean predicted performances across all runs, as outline in de Rooij & Weeda (2020).

### Value

A list of 2 objects: (1) "stats", a list with performance evaluation metrics. If outcome=FALSE, mean and (0.025;0.0975)-quantiles of amse, r2, and srmr across folds and repetitions are reported; if outcome=TRUE, mean and (0.025;0.0975)-quantiles of f1, accuracy and mcc from confusion matrix averaged across all repetitions are reported; and (2) "PE", a data.frame of repeated cross-validation results.

### Author(s)

Mario Grassi <mario.grassi@unipv.it>

### References

de Rooij M, Weeda W. Cross-Validation: A Method Every Psychologist Should Know. *Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science*. 2020;3(2):248-263. doi:10.1177/2515245919898466

### Examples

```
# Load Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)
ig<- alsData$graph
data<- alsData$exprs
data<- transformData(data)$data
group<- alsData$group

# ... with continuous outcomes

res1 <- SEMml(ig, data, algo="tree")
res2 <- SEMml(ig, data, algo="rf")
```

```

res3 <- SEMml(ig, data, algo="xgb")
res4 <- SEMml(ig, data, algo="nn")

models <- list(res1,res2,res3,res4)
names(models) <- c("tree","rf","xgb","nn")

res.cv1 <- crossValidation(models, outcome=NULL, K=5, R=10)
print(res.cv1$stats)

#... with a categorical (as.factor) outcome

outcome <- factor(ifelse(group == 0, "control", "case"))
res.cv2 <- crossValidation(models, outcome=outcome, K=5, R=10)
print(res.cv2$stats)

```

---

getConnectionWeight     *Connection Weight method for neural network variable importance*

---

### Description

The function computes the matrix multiplications of hidden weight matrices ( $W_x, \dots, W_y$ ), i.e., the product of the raw input-hidden and hidden-output connection weights between each input and output neuron and sums the products across all hidden neurons, as proposed by Olden (2004).

### Usage

```
getConnectionWeight(object, thr = NULL, verbose = FALSE, ...)
```

### Arguments

object	A neural network object from SEMdnn() function.
thr	A numeric value [0-1] indicating the threshold to apply to the Olden's connection weights to color the graph. If thr = NULL (default), the threshold is set to thr = 0.5*max(abs(connection weights)).
verbose	A logical value. If FALSE (default), the processed graph will not be plotted to screen.
...	Currently ignored.

### Details

In a neural network, the connections between inputs and outputs are represented by the connection weights between the neurons. The importance values assigned to each input variable using the Olden method are in units that are based directly on the summed product of the connection weights. The amount and direction of the link weights largely determine the proportional contributions of the input variables to the neural network's prediction output. Input variables with larger connection weights indicate higher intensities of signal transfer and are therefore more important in the

prediction process. Positive connection weights represent excitatory effects on neurons (raising the intensity of the incoming signal) and increase the value of the predicted response, while negative connection weights represent inhibitory effects on neurons (reducing the intensity of the incoming signal). The weights that change sign (e.g., positive to negative) between the input-hidden to hidden-output layers would have a cancelling effect, and vice versa weights with the same sign would have a synergistic effect. Note that in order to map the connection weights to the DAG edges, the element-wise product,  $W \cdot A$  is performed between the Olden's weights entered in a matrix,  $W(p \times p)$  and the binary (1,0) adjacency matrix,  $A(p \times p)$  of the input DAG.

### Value

A list of three object: (i) est: a data.frame including the connections together with their connection weights(W), (ii) gest: if the outcome vector is given, a data.frame of connection weights for outcome levels, and (iii) dag: DAG with colored edges/nodes. If  $\text{abs}(W) > \text{thr}$  and  $W < 0$ , the edge  $W > 0$ , the edge is activated and it is highlighted in red. If the outcome vector is given, nodes with absolute connection weights summed over the outcome levels, i.e.  $\text{sum}(\text{abs}(W[\text{outcome levels}])) > \text{thr}$ , will be highlighted in pink.

### Author(s)

Mario Grassi <mario.grassi@unipv.it>

### References

Olden, Julian & Jackson, Donald. (2002). Illuminating the "black box": A randomization approach for understanding variable contributions in artificial neural networks. *Ecological Modelling*. 154. 135-150. 10.1016/S0304-3800(02)00064-9.

Olden, Julian. (2004). An accurate comparison of methods for quantifying variable importance in artificial neural networks using simulated data. *Ecological Modelling*. 178. 10.1016/S0304-3800(04)00156-5.

### Examples

```
if (torch::torch_is_installed()){

# load ALS data
ig<- alsData$graph
data<- alsData$exprs
data<- transformData(data)$data

#ncores<- parallel::detectCores(logical = FALSE)
dnn0<- SEMdnn(ig, data, outcome = NULL, thr = NULL,
#hidden = 5*K, link = "selu", bias = TRUE,
hidden = c(10,10,10), link = "selu", bias = TRUE,
validation = 0, epochs = 32, ncores = 2)

cw05<- getConnectionWeight(dnn0, thr = 0.5, verbose = TRUE)
table(E(cw05$dag)$color)
}
```

---

getGradientWeight      *Gradient Weight method for neural network variable importance*

---

### Description

The function computes the gradient matrix, i.e., the average conditional effects of the input variables w.r.t the neural network model, as discussed by Amesöder et al (2024).

### Usage

```
getGradientWeight(object, thr = NULL, verbose = FALSE, ...)
```

### Arguments

object	A neural network object from SEMdnn() function.
thr	A numeric value [0-1] indicating the threshold to apply to the gradient weights to color the graph. If thr = NULL (default), the threshold is set to $thr = 0.5 * \max(\text{abs}(\text{gradient weights}))$ .
verbose	A logical value. If FALSE (default), the processed graph will not be plotted to screen.
...	Currently ignored.

### Details

The partial derivatives method calculates the derivative (the gradient) of each output variable (y) with respect to each input variable (x) evaluated at each observation ( $i=1, \dots, n$ ) of the training data. The contribution of each input is evaluated in terms of both magnitude taking into account not only the connection weights and activation functions, but also the values of each observation of the input variables. Once the gradients for each variable and observation, a summary gradient is calculated by averaging over the observation units. Finally, the average weights are entered into a matrix,  $W(p \times p)$  and the element-wise product with the binary (1,0) adjacency matrix,  $A(p \times p)$  of the input DAG,  $W * A$  maps the weights on the DAG edges. Note that the operations required to compute partial derivatives are time consuming compared to other methods such as Olden's (connection weight). The computational time increases with the size of the neural network or the size of the data. Therefore, the function uses a progress bar to check the progress of the gradient evaluation per observation.

### Value

A list of three object: (i) est: a data.frame including the connections together with their gradient weights, (ii) gest: if the outcome vector is given, a data.frame of gradient weights for outcome levels, and (iii) dag: DAG with colored edges/nodes. If  $\text{abs}(\text{grad}) > \text{thr}$  and  $\text{grad} < 0$ , the edge is inhibited and it is highlighted in blue; otherwise, if  $\text{abs}(\text{grad}) > \text{thr}$  and  $\text{grad} > 0$ , the edge is activated and it is highlighted in red. If the outcome vector is given, nodes with absolute connection weights summed over the outcome levels, i.e.  $\text{sum}(\text{abs}(\text{grad}[\text{outcome levels}])) > \text{thr}$ , will be highlighted in pink.



**Author(s)**

Mario Grassi <mario.grassi@unipv.it>

**References**

Amesöder, C., Hartig, F. and Pichler, M. (2024), 'cito': an R package for training neural networks using 'torch'. *Ecography*, 2024: e07143. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ecog.07143>

**Examples**

```
if (torch::torch_is_installed()){  
  
  # load ALS data  
  ig<- alsData$graph  
  data<- alsData$exprs  
  data<- transformData(data)$data  
  
  #ncores<- parallel::detectCores(logical = FALSE)  
  dnn0<- SEMdnn(ig, data, outcome = NULL, thr = NULL,  
  #hidden = 5*K, link = "selu", bias = TRUE,  
  hidden = c(10,10,10), link = "selu", bias = TRUE,  
  validation = 0, epochs = 32, ncores = 2)  
  
  gw05<- getGradientWeight(dnn0, thr = 0.5, verbose = TRUE)  
  table(E(gw05$dag)$color)  
}
```

---

getShapleyR2

*Compute variable importance using Shapley (R2) values*

---

**Description**

This function computes variable contributions for individual predictions using the Shapley values, a method from cooperative game theory where the variable values of an observation work together to achieve the prediction. In addition, to make variable contributions easily explainable, the function decomposes the entire model R-Squared (R2 or the coefficient of determination) into variable-level attributions of the variance (Redell, 2019).

**Usage**

```
getShapleyR2(  
  object,  
  newdata,  
  newoutcome = NULL,  
  thr = NULL,
```

```

ncores = 2,
verbose = FALSE,
...
)

```

### Arguments

object	A model fitting object from SEMml(), SEMdnn() or SEMrun() functions.
newdata	A matrix containing new data with rows corresponding to subjects, and columns to variables.
newoutcome	A new character vector (as.factor) of labels for a categorical output (target)(default = NULL).
thr	A numeric value [0-1] indicating the threshold to apply to the signed Shapley R2 to color the graph. If thr = NULL (default), the threshold is set to thr = 0.5*max(abs(signed Shapley R2 values)).
ncores	number of cpu cores (default = 2)
verbose	A logical value. If FALSE (default), the processed graph will not be plotted to screen.
...	Currently ignored.

### Details

Lundberg & Lee (2017) proposed a unified approach to both local explainability (the variable contribution of a single variable within a single sample) and global explainability (the variable contribution of the entire model) by applying the fair distribution of payoffs principles from game theory put forth by Shapley (1953). Now called SHAP (SHapley Additive exPlanations), this suggested framework explains predictions of ML models, where input variables take the place of players, and their contribution to a particular prediction is measured using Shapley values. Successively, Redell (2019) presented a metric that combines the additive property of Shapley values with the robustness of the R-squared (R2) of Gelman (2018) to produce a variance decomposition that accurately captures the contribution of each variable to the explanatory power of the model. We also use the signed R2, in order to denote the regulation of connections in line with a linear SEM, since the edges in the DAG indicate node regulation (activation, if positive; inhibition, if negative). This has been recovered for each edge using sign(beta), i.e., the sign of the coefficient estimates from a linear model (lm) fitting of the output node on the input nodes, as suggested by Joseph (2019). Additionally, in order to ascertain the local significance of node regulation with respect to the DAG, the Shapley decomposition of the R-squared values for each outcome node ( $r=1,\dots,R$ ) can be computed by summing the ShapleyR2 indices of their input nodes. Finally, It should be noted that the operations required to compute kernel SHAP values are inherently time-consuming, with the computational time increasing in proportion to the number of predictor variables and the number of observations. Therefore, the function uses a progress bar to check the progress of the kernel SHAP evaluation per observation.

### Value

A list of four objects: (i) shapx: the list of individual Shapley values of predictor variables per each response variable; (ii) est: a data.frame including the connections together with their signed Shapley

R-squared values; (iii) gest: if the outcome vector is given, a data.frame of signed Shapley R-squared values per outcome levels; and (iv) dag: DAG with colored edges/nodes. If  $\text{abs}(\text{sign\_r2}) > \text{thr}$  and  $\text{sign\_r2} < 0$ , the edge is inhibited and it is highlighted in blue; otherwise, if  $\text{abs}(\text{sign\_r2}) > \text{thr}$  and  $\text{sign\_r2} > 0$ , the edge is activated and it is highlighted in red. If the outcome vector is given, nodes with absolute connection weights summed over the outcome levels, i.e.  $\text{sum}(\text{abs}(\text{sign\_r2}[\text{outcome levels}])) > \text{thr}$ , will be highlighted in pink.

### Author(s)

Mario Grassi <mario.grassi@unipv.it>

### References

Shapley, L. (1953) A Value for n-Person Games. In: Kuhn, H. and Tucker, A., Eds., Contributions to the Theory of Games II, Princeton University Press, Princeton, 307-317.

Scott M. Lundberg, Su-In Lee. (2017). A unified approach to interpreting model predictions. In Proceedings of the 31st International Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS'17). Curran Associates Inc., Red Hook, NY, USA, 4768–4777.

Redell, N. (2019). Shapley Decomposition of R-Squared in Machine Learning Models. arXiv: Methodology.

Gelman, A., Goodrich, B., Gabry, J., & Vehtari, A. (2019). R-squared for Bayesian Regression Models. The American Statistician, 73(3), 307–309.

Joseph, A. Parametric inference with universal function approximators (2019). Bank of England working papers 784, Bank of England, revised 22 Jul 2020.

### Examples

```
# load ALS data
ig<- alsData$graph
data<- alsData$exprs
data<- transformData(data)$data

#...with train-test (0.5-0.5) samples
set.seed(123)
train<- sample(1:nrow(data), 0.5*nrow(data))

rf0<- SEMml(ig, data[train, ], algo="rf")

res<- getShapleyR2(rf0, data[-train, ], thr=NULL, verbose=TRUE)
table(E(res$dag)$color)

# shapley R2 per response variables
R2<- abs(res$est[,4])
Y<- res$est[,1]
R2Y<- aggregate(R2~Y,data=data.frame(R2,Y),FUN="sum");R2Y
r2<- mean(R2Y$R2);r2
```

---

getSignificanceTest     *Test for the significance of neural network inputs*

---

### Description

The function computes a formal test for the significance of neural network input nodes, based on a linear relationship between the observed output and the predicted values of an input variable, when all other input variables are maintained at their mean values, as proposed by Mohammadi (2018).

### Usage

```
getSignificanceTest(object, thr = NULL, verbose = FALSE, ...)
```

### Arguments

object	A neural network object from SEMdnn() function.
thr	A numeric value [0-1] indicating the threshold to apply to the t-test values to color the graph. If thr = NULL (default), the threshold is set to thr = 0.5*max(abs(t-test values)).
verbose	A logical value. If FALSE (default), the processed graph will not be plotted to screen.
...	Currently ignored.

### Details

A neural network with an arbitrary architecture is trained, taking into account factors like the number of neurons, hidden layers, and activation function. Then, network's output is simulated to get the predicted values of the output variable, fixing all the inputs (with the exception of one nonconstant input variable) at their mean values. Subsequently, the network's predictions are stored after this process is completed for each input variable. As last step, multiple regression analysis is applied node-wise (mapping the input DAG) on the observed output nodes with the predicted values of the input nodes as explanatory variables. The statistical significance of the coefficients is evaluated with the standard t-student critical values, which represent the importance of the input variables.

### Value

A list of three object: (i) est: a data.frame including the connections together with their t\_test weights, (ii) gest: if the outcome vector is given, a data.frame of t\_test weights for outcome levels, and (iii) dag: DAG with colored edges/nodes. If  $\text{abs}(t\_test) > thr$  and  $t\_test < 0$ , the edge is inhibited and it is highlighted in blue; otherwise, if  $\text{abs}(t\_test) > thr$  and  $t\_test > 0$ , the edge is activated and it is highlighted in red. If the outcome vector is given, nodes with absolute connection weights summed over the outcome levels, i.e.  $\text{sum}(\text{abs}(t\_test[\text{outcome levels}])) > thr$ , will be highlighted in pink.

### Author(s)

Mario Grassi <mario.grassi@unipv.it>

## References

S. Mohammadi. A new test for the significance of neural network inputs. *Neurocomputing* 2018; 273: 304-322.

## Examples

```
if (torch::torch_is_installed()){

# load ALS data
ig<- alsData$graph
data<- alsData$exprs
data<- transformData(data)$data

#ncores<- parallel::detectCores(logical = FALSE)
dnn0 <- SEMdnn(ig, data, outcome = NULL, thr = NULL,
#hidden = 5*K, link = "selu", bias = TRUE,
hidden = c(10,10,10), link = "selu", bias = TRUE,
validation = 0, epochs = 32, ncores = 2)

st05<- getSignificanceTest(dnn0, thr = 2, verbose = TRUE)
table(E(st05$dag)$color)
}
```

---

getVariableImportance *Variable importance for Machine Learning models*

---

## Description

Extraction of ML variable importance measures.

## Usage

```
getVariableImportance(object, thr = NULL, verbose = FALSE, ...)
```

## Arguments

object	A model fitting object from SEMm1() function.
thr	A numeric value [0-1] indicating the threshold to apply to the variable importance values to color the graph. If thr = NULL (default), the threshold is set to thr = 0.5*max(abs(variable importance values)).
verbose	A logical value. If FALSE (default), the processed graph will not be plotted to screen.
...	Currently ignored.

**Details**

The variable (predictor) importance will be computed considering: (i) the absolute value of the z-statistic of the model parameters for "sem"; (ii) the variable importance measures from the `rpart`, `importance` or `xgb.importance` functions for "tree", "rf" or "xgb"; and (iii) the Olden's connection weights for "nn" or "dnn" methods.

**Value**

A list of three object: (i) `est`: a data.frame including the connections together with their variable importances (`VarImp`), (ii) `gest`: if the outcome vector is given, a data.frame of `VarImp` for outcome levels, and (iii) `dag`: DAG with colored edges/nodes. If  $\text{abs}(\text{VarImp}) > \text{thr}$  will be highlighted in red ( $\text{VarImp} > 0$ ) or blue ( $\text{VarImp} < 0$ ). If the outcome vector is given, nodes with variable importances summed over the outcome levels, i.e.  $\text{sum}(\text{VarImp}[\text{outcome levels}]) > \text{thr}$ , will be highlighted in pink.

**Author(s)**

Mario Grassi <mario.grassi@unipv.it>

**References**

add references

**Examples**

```
# load ALS data
ig<- alsData$graph
data<- alsData$exprs
data<- transformData(data)$data

#ncores<- parallel::detectCores(logical = FALSE)
m10<- SEMml(ig, data, outcome=NULL, algo="rf", ncores=2)

vi05<- getVariableImportance(m10, thr=0.5, verbose=TRUE)
table(E(vi05$dag)$color)
```

---

mapGraph

*Map additional variables (nodes) to a graph object*

---

**Description**

The function insert additional nodes to a graph object. Among the node types, additional source or sink nodes can be added. Regarding the former, source nodes can represent: (i) data variables; (ii) a group variable; (iii) Latent Variables (LV). For the latter, sink nodes represent the levels of a categorical outcome variable and are linked with all graph nodes.' Moreover, `mapGraph()` can also create a new graph object starting from a compact symbolic formula.

**Usage**

```
mapGraph(graph, type, C = NULL, LV = NULL, f = NULL, verbose = FALSE, ...)
```

**Arguments**

graph	An igraph object.
type	A character value specifying the type of mapping. Five types can be specified. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "source", source nodes are linked to sink nodes of the graph.</li> <li>2. "group", an additional group source node is added to the graph.</li> <li>3. "outcome", additional <math>c=1,2,\dots,C</math> sink nodes are added to the graph.</li> <li>4. "LV", additional latent variable (LV) source nodes are added to the graph.</li> <li>5. "clusterLV", a series of clusters for the data are computed and a different LV source node is added separately for each cluster.</li> </ol>
C	the number of labels of the categorical sink node (default = NULL).
LV	The number of LV source nodes to add to the graph. This argument needs to be specified when <code>type = "LV"</code> . When <code>type = "clusterLV"</code> the LV number is defined internally equal to the number of clusters. (default = NULL).
f	A formula object (default = NULL). A new graph object is created according to the specified formula object.
verbose	If TRUE display the mapped graph (default = FALSE)
...	Currently ignored.

**Value**

mapGraph returns invisibly the graphical object with the mapped node variables.

**Author(s)**

Mario Grassi <mario.grassi@unipv.it>

**Examples**

```
# Load Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)
ig<- alsData$graph; gplot(ig)

# ... map source nodes to sink nodes of ALS graph
ig1 <- mapGraph(ig, type = "source"); gplot(ig1, l="dot")

# ... map group source node to ALS graph
ig2 <- mapGraph(ig, type = "group"); gplot(ig2, l="fdp")

# ... map outcome sink (C=2) to ALS graph
ig3 <- mapGraph(ig, type = "outcome", C=2); gplot(ig3, l="fdp")

# ... map LV source nodes to ALS graph
ig4 <- mapGraph(ig, type = "LV", LV = 3); gplot(ig4, l="fdp")
```

```
# ... map LV source nodes to the cluster nodes of ALS graph
ig5 <- mapGraph(ig, type = "clusterLV"); gplot(ig5, l="dot")

# ... create a new graph with the formula variables
formula <- as.formula("z4747 ~ z1432 + z5603 + z5630")
ig6 <- mapGraph(f=formula); gplot(ig6)
```

---

nplot

*Create a plot for a neural network model*

---

## Description

The function draws a neural network plot as a neural interpretation diagram using with the [plotnet](#) function of the **NeuralNetTools** R package.

## Usage

```
nplot(dnn.fit, bias = FALSE, ...)
```

## Arguments

dnn.fit	A neural network model from <b>cito</b> R package.
bias	A logical value, indicating whether to draw biases in the layers (default = FALSE).
...	Currently ignored.

## Details

The induced subgraph of the input graph mapped on data variables. Based on the estimated connection weights, if the connection weight  $W > 0$ , the connection is activated and it is highlighted in red; if  $W < 0$ , the connection is inhibited and it is highlighted in blue.

## Value

The function invisibly returns the graphical object representing the neural network architecture designed by NeuralNetTools.

## Author(s)

Mario Grassi <mario.grassi@unipv.it>

## References

Beck, M.W. 2018. NeuralNetTools: Visualization and Analysis Tools for Neural Networks. Journal of Statistical Software. 85(11):1-20.



**Examples**

```

if (torch::torch_is_installed()){

# load ALS data
ig<- alsData$graph
data<- alsData$exprs
data<- transformData(data)$data

#ncores<- parallel::detectCores(logical = FALSE)
dnn0 <- SEMdnn(ig, data, train=1:nrow(data), grad = FALSE,
#hidden = 5*K, link = "selu", bias = TRUE,
hidden = c(10, 10, 10), link = "selu", bias =TRUE,
validation = 0, epochs = 32, ncores = 2)

for (j in 1:length(dnn0$model)) {
  nnj <- dnn0$model[[j]][[1]]
  nplot(nnj)
  Sys.sleep(5)
}
}

```

---

predict.DNN

*SEM-based out-of-sample prediction using layer-wise DNN*


---

**Description**

Predict method for DNN objects.

**Usage**

```

## S3 method for class 'DNN'
predict(object, newdata, newoutcome = NULL, verbose = FALSE, ...)

```

**Arguments**

object	A model fitting object from SEMdnn() function.
newdata	A matrix containing new data with rows corresponding to subjects, and columns to variables.
newoutcome	A new character vector (as.factor) of labels for a categorical output (target) (default = NULL).
verbose	Print predicted out-of-sample MSE values (default = FALSE).
...	Currently ignored.

**Value**

A list of three objects:

1. "PE", vector of the amse = average MSE over all (sink and mediators) graph nodes;  $r^2 = 1 - \text{amse}$ ; and srmr= Standardized Root Means Square Residual between the out-of-bag correlation matrix and the model correlation matrix.
2. "mse", vector of the Mean Squared Error (MSE) for each out-of-bag prediction of the sink and mediators graph nodes.
3. "Yhat", the matrix of continuous predicted values of graph nodes (excluding source nodes) based on out-of-bag samples.

**Author(s)**

Mario Grassi <mario.grassi@unipv.it>

**Examples**

```
if (torch::torch_is_installed()){

# Load Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)
ig<- alsData$graph
data<- alsData$exprs
data<- transformData(data)$data
group<- alsData$group

#...with train-test (0.5-0.5) samples
set.seed(123)
train<- sample(1:nrow(data), 0.5*nrow(data))
#ncores<- parallel::detectCores(logical = FALSE)

start<- Sys.time()
dnn0 <- SEMdnn(ig, data[train, ],
# hidden = 5*K, link = "selu", bias = TRUE,
hidden = c(10,10,10), link = "selu", bias = TRUE,
validation = 0, epochs = 32, ncores = 2)
end<- Sys.time()
print(end-start)
pred.dnn <- predict(dnn0, data[-train, ], verbose=TRUE)

# SEMrun vs. SEMdnn MSE comparison
sem0 <- SEMrun(ig, data[train, ], algo="ricf", n_rep=0)
pred.sem <- predict(sem0, data[-train,], verbose=TRUE)

#...with a categorical (as.factor) outcome
outcome <- factor(ifelse(group == 0, "control", "case")); table(outcome)

start<- Sys.time()
dnn1 <- SEMdnn(ig, data[train, ], outcome[train, ],
#hidden = 5*K, link = "selu", bias = TRUE,
hidden = c(10,10,10), link = "selu", bias = TRUE,
```

```

validation = 0, epochs = 32, ncores = 2)
end<- Sys.time()
print(end-start)

pred <- predict(dnn1, data[-train, ], outcome[-train], verbose=TRUE)
yhat <- pred$Yhat[ ,levels(outcome)]; head(yhat)
yobs <- outcome[-train]; head(yobs)
classificationReport(yobs, yhat, verbose=TRUE)$stats
}

```

---

predict.ML

*SEM-based out-of-sample prediction using node-wise ML*


---

### Description

Predict method for ML objects.

### Usage

```

## S3 method for class 'ML'
predict(object, newdata, newoutcome = NULL, ncores = 2, verbose = FALSE, ...)

```

### Arguments

object	A model fitting object from SEMml() function.
newdata	A matrix containing new data with rows corresponding to subjects, and columns to variables.
newoutcome	A new character vector (as.factor) of labels for a categorical output (target)(default = NULL).
ncores	number of cpu cores (default = 2)
verbose	Print predicted out-of-sample MSE values (default = FALSE).
...	Currently ignored.

### Value

A list of 3 objects:

1. "PE", vector of the amse = average MSE over all (sink and mediators) graph nodes; r2 = 1 - amse; and srmr= Standardized Root Means Squared Residual between the out-of-bag correlation matrix and the model correlation matrix.
2. "mse", vector of the Mean Squared Error (MSE) for each out-of-bag prediction of the sink and mediators graph nodes.
3. "Yhat", the matrix of continuous predicted values of graph nodes (excluding source nodes) based on out-of-bag samples.

**Author(s)**

Mario Grassi <mario.grassi@unipv.it>

**Examples**

```
# Load Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)
ig<- alsData$graph
data<- alsData$exprs
data<- transformData(data)$data
group<- alsData$group

#...with train-test (0.5-0.5) samples
set.seed(123)
train<- sample(1:nrow(data), 0.5*nrow(data))

start<- Sys.time()
# ... tree
res1<- SEMml(ig, data[train, ], algo="tree")
mse1<- predict(res1, data[-train, ], verbose=TRUE)

# ... rf
res2<- SEMml(ig, data[train, ], algo="rf")
mse2<- predict(res2, data[-train, ], verbose=TRUE)

# ... xgb
res3<- SEMml(ig, data[train, ], algo="xgb")
mse3<- predict(res3, data[-train, ], verbose=TRUE)

# ... nn
res4<- SEMml(ig, data[train, ], algo="nn")
mse4<- predict(res4, data[-train, ], verbose=TRUE)
end<- Sys.time()
print(end-start)

#...with a categorical (as.factor) outcome
outcome <- factor(ifelse(group == 0, "control", "case")); table(outcome)

res5 <- SEMml(ig, data[train, ], outcome[train], algo="tree")
pred <- predict(res5, data[-train, ], outcome[-train], verbose=TRUE)
yhat <- pred$Yhat[ ,levels(outcome)]; head(yhat)
yobs <- outcome[-train]; head(yobs)
classificationReport(yobs, yhat, verbose=TRUE)$stats
```

**Description**

Given the values of (observed) x-variables in a SEM, this function may be used to predict the values of (observed) y-variables. The predictive procedure consists of two steps: (1) construction of the topological layer (TL) ordering of the input graph; (2) prediction of the node y values in a layer, where the nodes included in the previous layers act as predictors x.

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'SEM'
predict(object, newdata, newoutcome = NULL, verbose = FALSE, ...)
```

**Arguments**

object	An object, as that created by the function SEMrun() with the argument group set to the default group = NULL.
newdata	A matrix with new data, with rows corresponding to subjects, and columns to variables.
newoutcome	A new character vector (as.factor) of labels for a categorical output (target)(default = NULL).
verbose	A logical value. If FALSE (default), the processed graph will not be plotted to screen.
...	Currently ignored.

**Details**

The function first creates a layer-based structure of the input graph. Then, a SEM-based predictive approach (Rooij et al., 2022) is used to produce predictions while accounting for the graph structure based on the topological layer ( $j=1, \dots, L$ ) of the input graph. In each iteration, the response (output) variables, y are the nodes in the  $j=1, \dots, (L-1)$  layer and the predictor (input) variables, x are the nodes belonging to the successive,  $(j+1), \dots, L$  layers. Predictions (for y given x) are based on the (joint y and x) model-implied variance-covariance (Sigma) matrix and mean vector (Mu) of the fitted SEM, and the standard expression for the conditional mean of a multivariate normal distribution. Thus, the layer structure described in the SEM is taken into consideration, which differs from ordinary least squares (OLS) regression.

**Value**

A list of 3 objects:

1. "PE", vector of the amse = average MSE over all (sink and mediators) graph nodes;  $r2 = 1 - \text{amse}$ ; and srmr= Standardized Root Means Square Residual between the out-of-bag correlation matrix and the model correlation matrix.
2. "mse", vector of the Mean Squared Error (MSE) for each out-of-bag prediction of the sink and mediators graph nodes.
3. "Yhat", the matrix of continuous predicted values of graph nodes (excluding source nodes) based on out-of-bag samples.

**Author(s)**

Mario Grassi <mario.grassi@unipv.it>

**References**

de Rooij M, Karch JD, Fokkema M, Bakk Z, Pratiwi BC, and Kelderman H (2023). SEM-Based Out-of-Sample Predictions, Structural Equation Modeling: A Multidisciplinary Journal, 30:1, 132-148 <<https://doi.org/10.1080/10705511.2022.2061494>>

Grassi M, Palluzzi F, Tarantino B (2022). SEMgraph: An R Package for Causal Network Analysis of High-Throughput Data with Structural Equation Models. Bioinformatics, 38 (20), 4829–4830 <<https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btac567>>

**Examples**

```
# load ALS data
data<- alsData$exprs
data<- transformData(data)$data
group<- alsData$group

#...with train-test (0.5-0.5) samples
set.seed(123)
train<- sample(1:nrow(data), 0.5*nrow(data))

# predictors, source+mediator; outcomes, mediator+sink

ig <- alsData$graph; gplot(ig)
sem0 <- SEMrun(ig, data[train,], algo="ricf", n_rep=0)
pred0 <- predict(sem0, newdata=data[-train,], verbose=TRUE)

# predictors, source+mediator+group; outcomes, source+mediator+sink

ig1 <- mapGraph(ig, type = "group"); gplot(ig1)
data1 <- cbind(group, data); head(data1[,5])
sem1 <- SEMrun(ig1, data1[train,], algo="ricf", n_rep=0)
pred1 <- predict(sem1, newdata= data1[-train,], verbose=TRUE)

# predictors, source nodes; outcomes, sink nodes

ig2 <- mapGraph(ig, type = "source"); gplot(ig2)
sem2 <- SEMrun(ig2, data[train,], algo="ricf", n_rep=0)
pred2 <- predict(sem2, newdata=data[-train,], verbose=TRUE)
```

## Description

The function builds the topological layer (TL) ordering of the input graph to fit a series of Deep Neural Networks (DNN) models, where the nodes in one layer act as response variables (output)  $y$  and the nodes in the successive layers act as predictors (input)  $x$ . Each fit uses the `dnn` function of the `cito` R package, based on the deep learning framework 'torch'.

The **torch** package is native to R, so it's computationally efficient and the installation is very simple, as there is no need to install Python or any other API, and DNNs can be trained on CPU, GPU and MacOS GPUs. In order to install **torch** please follow these steps:

```
install.packages("torch")
library(torch)
install_torch(reinstall = TRUE)
```

For setup GPU or if you have problems installing **torch** package, check out the [installation](#) help from the torch developer.

## Usage

```
SEMdnn(
  graph,
  data,
  outcome = NULL,
  thr = NULL,
  nboot = 0,
  hidden = c(10L, 10L, 10L),
  link = "relu",
  bias = TRUE,
  dropout = 0,
  loss = "mse",
  validation = 0,
  lambda = 0,
  alpha = 0.5,
  optimizer = "adam",
  lr = 0.01,
  epochs = 100,
  device = "cpu",
  ncores = 2,
  early_stopping = FALSE,
  verbose = FALSE,
  ...
)
```

## Arguments

<code>graph</code>	An <code>igraph</code> object.
<code>data</code>	A matrix with rows corresponding to subjects, and columns to graph nodes (variables).
<code>outcome</code>	A character vector (as <code>factor</code> ) of labels for a categorical output (target). If <code>NULL</code> (default), the categorical output (target) will not be considered.

thr	A numeric value [0-1] indicating the threshold to apply to the Olden's connection weights to color the graph. If thr = NULL (default), the threshold is set to $\text{thr} = 0.5 * \max(\text{abs}(\text{connection weights}))$ .
nboot	number of bootstrap samples that will be used to compute cheap (lower, upper) CIs for all input variable weights. As a default, nboot = 0.
hidden	hidden units in layers; the number of layers corresponds with the length of the hidden units. As a default, hidden = c(10L, 10L, 10L).
link	A character value describing the activation function to use, which might be a single length or be a vector with many activation functions assigned to each layer. As a default, link = "selu".
bias	A logical vector, indicating whether to employ biases in the layers, which can be either vectors of logicals for each layer (number of hidden layers + 1 (final layer)) or of length one. As a default, bias = TRUE.
dropout	A numerical value for the dropout rate, which is the probability that a node will be excluded from training. As a default, dropout = 0.
loss	A character value specifying the at which the network should be optimized. For regression problem used in SEMdnn(), the user can specify: (a) "mse" (mean squared error), "mae" (mean absolute error), or "gaussian" (normal likelihood). As a default, loss = "mse".
validation	A numerical value indicating the proportion of the data set that should be used as a validation set (randomly selected, default = 0).
lambda	A numerical value indicating the strength of the regularization, $\lambda(L1 + L2)$ for lambda penalty (default = 0).
alpha	A numerical vector to add L1/L2 regularization into the training. Set the alpha parameter for each layer to $(1-\alpha)L1 + \alpha L2$ . It must fall between 0 and 1 (default = 0.5).
optimizer	A character value indicating the optimizer to use for training the network. The user can specify: "adam" (ADAM algorithm), "adagrad" (adaptive gradient algorithm), "rmsprop" (root mean squared propagation), "rprop" (resilient back-propagation), "sgd" (stochastic gradient descent). As a default, optimizer = "adam".
lr	A numerical value indicating the learning rate given to the optimizer (default = 0.01).
epochs	A numerical value indicating the epochs during which the training is conducted (default = 100).
device	A character value describing the CPU/GPU device ("cpu", "cuda", "mps") on which the neural network should be trained on. As a default, device = "cpu".
ncores	number of cpu cores (default = 2)
early_stopping	If set to integer, training will terminate if the loss increases over a predetermined number of consecutive epochs and apply validation loss when available. Default is FALSE, no early stopping is applied.
verbose	The training loss values of the DNN model are displayed as output, comparing the training, validation and baseline in the last epoch (default = FALSE).
...	Currently ignored.



## Details

By mapping data onto the input graph, `SEMdnn()` creates a set of DNN models based on the topological layer ( $j=1, \dots, L$ ) structure of the input graph. In each iteration, the response (output) variables,  $y$  are the nodes in the  $j=1, \dots, (L-1)$  layer and the predictor (input) variables,  $x$  are the nodes belonging to the successive,  $(j+1), \dots, L$  layers. Each DNN model is a Multilayer Perceptron (MLP) network, where every neuron node is connected to every other neuron node in the hidden layer above and every other hidden layer below. Each neuron's value is determined by calculating a weighted summation of its outputs from the hidden layer before it, and then applying an activation function. The calculated value of every neuron is used as the input for the neurons in the layer below it, until the output layer is reached.

If `boot != 0`, the function will implement the cheap bootstrapping proposed by Lam (2002) to generate uncertainties, i.e. 90 for DNN parameters. Bootstrapping can be enabled by setting a small number (1 to 10) of bootstrap samples. Note, however, that the computation can be time-consuming for massive DNNs, even with cheap bootstrapping!

## Value

An S3 object of class "DNN" is returned. It is a list of 5 objects:

1. "fit", a list of DNN model objects, including: the estimated covariance matrix (Sigma), the estimated model errors (Psi), the fitting indices (fitIdx), and the parameterEstimates, i.e., the data.frame of Olden's connection weights.
2. "gest", the data.frame of estimated connection weights (parameterEstimates) of outcome levels, if outcome != NULL.
3. "model", a list of all  $j=1, \dots, (L-1)$  fitted MLP network models.
4. "graph", the induced DAG of the input graph mapped on data variables. The DAG is colored based on the Olden's connection weights ( $W$ ), if  $\text{abs}(W) > \text{thr}$  and  $W < 0$ , the edge is inhibited and it is highlighted in blue; otherwise, if  $\text{abs}(W) > \text{thr}$  and  $W > 0$ , the edge is activated and it is highlighted in red. If the outcome vector is given, nodes with absolute connection weights summed over the outcome levels, i.e.  $\text{sum}(\text{abs}(W[\text{outcome levels}])) > \text{thr}$ , will be highlighted in pink.
5. "data", input data subset mapping graph nodes.

## Author(s)

Mario Grassi <mario.grassi@unipv.it>

## References

- Amesöder, C., Hartig, F. and Pichler, M. (2024), 'cito': an R package for training neural networks using 'torch'. *Ecography*, 2024: e07143. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ecog.07143>
- Grassi M, Palluzzi F, Tarantino B (2022). SEMgraph: An R Package for Causal Network Analysis of High-Throughput Data with Structural Equation Models. *Bioinformatics*, 38 (20), 4829–4830. <<https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btac567>>
- Lam, H. (2022). Cheap bootstrap for input uncertainty quantification. WSC '22: Proceedings of the Winter Simulation Conference, 2318 - 2329.

**Examples**

```

if (torch::torch_is_installed()){

# load ALS data
ig<- alsData$graph
data<- alsData$exprs
data<- transformData(data)$data
group<- alsData$group

#...with train-test (0.5-0.5) samples
set.seed(123)
train<- sample(1:nrow(data), 0.5*nrow(data))
ncores<- parallel::detectCores(logical = FALSE)

start<- Sys.time()
dnn0<- SEMdnn(ig, data[train, ], thr = NULL,
#hidden = 5*K, link = "selu", bias = TRUE,
hidden = c(10,10,10), link = "selu", bias = TRUE,
validation = 0, epochs = 32, ncores = 2)
end<- Sys.time()
print(end-start)

#str(dnn0, max.level=2)
dnn0$fit$fitIdx
parameterEstimates(dnn0$fit)
gplot(dnn0$graph)
table(E(dnn0$graph)$color)

#...with source nodes -> graph layer structure -> sink nodes

#Topological layer (TL) ordering
K<- c(12, 5, 3, 2, 1, 8)
K<- rev(K[-c(1,length(K))]);K

ig1<- mapGraph(ig, type="source"); gplot(ig1)

start<- Sys.time()
dnn1<- SEMdnn(ig1, data[train, ], thr = NULL,
hidden = 5*K, link = "selu", bias = TRUE,
validation = 0, epochs = 32, ncores = 2)
end<- Sys.time()
print(end-start)

#Visualization of the neural network structure
nn1 <- dnn1$model[[1]][[1]]
nplot(nn1, bias=FALSE)

#str(dnn1, max.level=2)
dnn1$fit$fitIdx
mean(dnn1$fit$Psi)
parameterEstimates(dnn1$fit)

```

```

gplot(dnn1$graph)
table(E(dnn1$graph)$color)

#...with a categorical outcome, a train set (0.5) and a validation set (0.2)
outcome<- factor(ifelse(group == 0, "control", "case")); table(outcome)

start<- Sys.time()
dnn2<- SEMdnn(ig, data[train, ], outcome[train], thr = NULL,
#hidden = 5*K, link = "selu", bias = TRUE,
hidden = c(10,10,10), link = "selu", bias = TRUE,
validation = 0.2, epochs = 32, ncores = 2)
end<- Sys.time()
print(end-start)

#str(dnn2, max.level=2)
dnn2$fit$fitIdx
parameterEstimates(dnn2$fit)
gplot(dnn2$graph)
table(E(dnn2$graph)$color)
table(V(dnn2$graph)$color)
}

```

---

SEMml

*Nodewise SEM train using Machine Learning (ML)*


---

## Description

The function converts a graph to a collection of nodewise-based models: each mediator or sink variable can be expressed as a function of its parents. Based on the assumed type of relationship, i.e. linear or non-linear, `SEMml()` fits a ML model to each node (variable) with non-zero incoming connectivity. The model fitting is performed equation-by equation ( $r=1,\dots,R$ ) times, where  $R$  is the number of mediators and sink nodes.

## Usage

```

SEMml(
  graph,
  data,
  outcome = NULL,
  algo = "sem",
  thr = NULL,
  nboot = 0,
  ncores = 2,
  verbose = FALSE,
  ...
)

```

**Arguments**

graph	An igraph object.
data	A matrix with rows corresponding to subjects, and columns to graph nodes (variables).
outcome	A character vector (as.factor) of labels for a categorical output (target). If NULL (default), the categorical output (target) will not be considered.
algo	ML method used for nodewise-network predictions. Six algorithms can be specified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• algo="sem" (default) for a linear SEM, see <a href="#">SEMrun</a>.</li> <li>• algo="tree" for a CART model, see <a href="#">rpart</a>.</li> <li>• algo="rf" for a random forest model, see <a href="#">ranger</a>.</li> <li>• algo="xgb" for a XGBoost model, see <a href="#">xgboost</a>.</li> <li>• algo="nn" for a small neural network model (1 hidden layer and 10 nodes), see <a href="#">nnet</a>.</li> <li>• algo="dnn" for a large neural network model (1 hidden layers and 1000 nodes), see <a href="#">dnn</a>.</li> </ul>
thr	A numeric value [0-1] indicating the threshold to apply to the variable importance values to color the graph. If thr = NULL (default), the threshold is set to thr = 0.5*max(abs(variable importance values)).
nboot	number of bootstrap samples that will be used to compute cheap (lower, upper) CIs for all input variable weights. As a default, nboot = 0.
ncores	number of cpu cores (default = 2)
verbose	A logical value. If FALSE (default), the processed graph will not be plotted to screen.
...	Currently ignored.

**Details**

By mapping data onto the input graph, `SEMml()` creates a set of nodewise-based models based on the directed links, i.e., a set of edges pointing in the same direction, between two nodes in the input graph that are causally relevant to each other. The mediator or sink variables can be characterized in detail as functions of their parents. An ML model (sem, tree, rf, xgb, nn, dnn) can then be fitted to each variable with non-zero inbound connectivity. With  $R$  representing the number of mediators and sink nodes in the network, the model fitting process is performed equation-by-equation ( $r=1,\dots,R$ ) times.

If `boot != 0`, the function will implement the cheap bootstrapping proposed by Lam (2002) to generate uncertainties, i.e. 90 for ML parameters. Bootstrapping can be enabled by setting a small number (1 to 10) of bootstrap samples. Note, however, that the computation can be time-consuming for massive MLs, even with cheap bootstrapping!

**Value**

An S3 object of class "ML" is returned. It is a list of 5 objects:

1. "fit", a list of ML model objects, including: the estimated covariance matrix (Sigma), the estimated model errors (Psi), the fitting indices (fitIdx), and the parameterEstimates, i.e., the variable importance measures (VarImp).
2. "gest", the data.frame of variable importances (parameterEstimates) of outcome levels, if outcome != NULL.
3. "model", a list of all the fitted non-linear nodewise-based models (tree, rf, xgb, nn or dnn).
4. "graph", the induced DAG of the input graph mapped on data variables. The DAG with colored edge/nodes based on the variable importance measures, i.e., if  $\text{abs}(\text{VarImp}) > \text{thr}$  will be highlighted in red ( $\text{VarImp} > 0$ ) or blue ( $\text{VarImp} < 0$ ). If the outcome vector is given, nodes with variable importances summed over the outcome levels, i.e.  $\text{sum}(\text{VarImp}[\text{outcome levels}]) > \text{thr}$ , will be highlighted in pink.
5. "data", input data subset mapping graph nodes.

Using the default `algo="sem"`, the usual output of a linear nodewise-based, SEM, see [SEMrun](#) (`algo="cggm"`), will be returned.

### Author(s)

Mario Grassi <mario.grassi@unipv.it>

### References

Grassi M., Palluzzi F., and Tarantino B. (2022). SEMgraph: An R Package for Causal Network Analysis of High-Throughput Data with Structural Equation Models. *Bioinformatics*, 38 (20), 4829–4830 <<https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btac567>>

Breiman L., Friedman J.H., Olshen R.A., and Stone, C.J. (1984) Classification and Regression Trees. Chapman and Hall/CRC.

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Chen T., and Guestrin C. (2016). XGBoost: A Scalable Tree Boosting System. Proceedings of the 22nd ACM SIGKDD International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining.

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Lam, H. (2022). Cheap bootstrap for input uncertainty quantification. WSC '22: Proceedings of the Winter Simulation Conference, 2318 - 2329.

### Examples

```
# Load Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)
ig<- alsData$graph
data<- alsData$exprs
data<- transformData(data)$data
group<- alsData$group

#...with train-test (0.5-0.5) samples
set.seed(123)
train<- sample(1:nrow(data), 0.5*nrow(data))

start<- Sys.time()
```

```

# ... tree
res1<- SEMml(ig, data[train, ], algo="tree")

# ... rf
res2<- SEMml(ig, data[train, ], algo="rf")

# ... xgb
res3<- SEMml(ig, data[train, ], algo="xgb")

# ... nn
res4<- SEMml(ig, data[train, ], algo="nn")

end<- Sys.time()
print(end-start)

#visualizaation of the colored dag for algo="nn"
gplot(res4$graph, l="dot", main="nn")

#Comparison of fitting indices (in train data)
res1$fit$fitIdx #tree
res2$fit$fitIdx #rf
res3$fit$fitIdx #xgb
res4$fit$fitIdx #nn

#Comparison of parameter estimates (in train data)
parameterEstimates(res1$fit) #tree
parameterEstimates(res2$fit) #rf
parameterEstimates(res3$fit) #xgb
parameterEstimates(res4$fit) #nn

#Comparison of VarImp (in train data)
table(E(res1$graph)$color) #tree
table(E(res2$graph)$color) #rf
table(E(res3$graph)$color) #xgb
table(E(res4$graph)$color) #nn

#Comparison of AMSE, R2, SRMR (in test data)
print(predict(res1, data[-train, ])$PE) #tree
print(predict(res2, data[-train, ])$PE) #rf
print(predict(res3, data[-train, ])$PE) #xgb
print(predict(res4, data[-train, ])$PE) #nn

#...with a categorical (as.factor) outcome
outcome <- factor(ifelse(group == 0, "control", "case")); table(outcome)

res5 <- SEMml(ig, data[train, ], outcome[train], algo="tree")
gplot(res5$graph)
table(E(res5$graph)$color)
table(V(res5$graph)$color)

pred <- predict(res5, data[-train, ], outcome[-train], verbose=TRUE)
yhat <- pred$Yhat[ ,levels(outcome)]; head(yhat)
yobs <- outcome[-train]; head(yobs)

```

```
classificationReport(yobs, yhat, verbose=TRUE)$stats
```

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