

# Package ‘pald’

July 23, 2025

**Title** Partitioned Local Depth for Community Structure in Data

**Version** 0.0.5

**Description** Implementation of the Partitioned Local Depth (PaLD) approach which provides a measure of local depth and the cohesion of a point to another which (together with a universal threshold for distinguishing strong and weak ties) may be used to reveal local and global structure in data, based on methods described in Berenhaut, Moore, and Melvin (2022) <[doi:10.1073/pnas.2003634119](https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2003634119)>. No extraneous inputs, distributional assumptions, iterative procedures nor optimization criteria are employed. This package includes functions for computing local depths and cohesion as well as flexible functions for plotting community networks and displays of cohesion against distance.

**License** MIT + file LICENSE

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**Imports** igraph, graphics, glue

**Depends** R (>= 2.10)

**LazyData** true

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**BugReports** <https://github.com/LucyMcGowan/pald/issues>

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**Config/testthat/edition** 3

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---

aggregation

*Aggregation*

---

### Description

A synthetic data set of two-dimensional points created by Gionis et al. to demonstrate clustering aggregation.

### Usage

aggregation

### Format

A data frame with 788 rows and 2 columns, x1 and x2.

### References

A. Gionis, H. Mannila, and P. Tsaparas, Clustering aggregation. *ACM Transactions on Knowledge Discovery from Data (TKDD)*, 2007. 1(1): p. 1-30.

---

|              |                     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| any_isolated | <i>Any isolated</i> |
|--------------|---------------------|

---

**Description**

Checks for isolated points.

**Usage**

```
any_isolated(c)
```

**Arguments**

`c` A `cohesion_matrix` object, a matrix of cohesion values (see [cohesion\\_matrix](#)).

**Value**

Logical, indicating whether any points are isolated.

**Examples**

```
d <- data.frame(
  x1 = c(1, 2, 3, 6),
  x2 = c(2, 1, 3, 10)
)
D <- dist(d)
C <- cohesion_matrix(D)
any_isolated(C)
```

---

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| as_cohesion_matrix | <i>Coerce a matrix to a cohesion matrix object</i> |
|--------------------|--|

---

**Description**

`as_cohesion_matrix()` converts an existing matrix into an object of class `cohesion_matrix`.

**Usage**

```
as_cohesion_matrix(c)
```

**Arguments**

`c` A matrix of cohesion values (see [cohesion\\_matrix](#)).

**Value**

Object of class `cohesion_matrix`

## Examples

```
C <- matrix(
  c(0.25, 0.125, 0.125, 0,
    0.125, 0.25, 0, 0.125,
    0.125, 0, 0.25, 0.125,
    0, 0.125, 0.125, 0.25
  ), nrow = 4, byrow = TRUE)

class(C)

C <- as_cohesion_matrix(C)
class(C)
```

---

cognate\_dist

*Cognate Data Distance Matrix*

---

## Description

A `dist` object describing distances between 87 Indo-European languages from the perspective of cognates.

## Usage

```
cognate_dist
```

## Format

A `dist` object for 87 Indo-European languages.

## Details

Cognate relationships from a collection of essential words were collected from Dyen et al. and encoded in a 87x2665 binary matrix from which this distance matrix was derived (using Euclidean distance).

## References

I. Dyen, J. B. Kruskal, P. Black, An Indoeuropean classification: A lexicostatistical experiment. Trans. Am. Phil. Soc. 82, iii-132 (1992).

---

|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| cohesion_matrix | <i>Cohesion Matrix</i> |
|-----------------|------------------------|

---

### Description

Creates a matrix of (pairwise) cohesion values from a matrix of pairwise distances or a [dist](#) object.

### Usage

```
cohesion_matrix(d)
```

### Arguments

`d` A matrix of pairwise distances or a [dist](#) object.

### Details

Computes the matrix of (pairwise) cohesion values,  $C_{xw}$ , from a matrix of pairwise distances or a [dist](#) object. Cohesion is an interpretable probability that reflects the strength of alignment of a point,  $w$ , to another point,  $x$ . The rows of the cohesion matrix can be seen as providing neighborhood weights. These values may be used for defining associated weighted graphs (for the purpose of community analysis) as in Berenhaut, Moore, and Melvin (2022).

Given an  $n \times n$  distance matrix, the sum of the entries in the resulting cohesion matrix is always equal to  $n/2$ . Cohesion is partitioned local depth (see [local\\_depths](#)) and thus the row sums of the cohesion matrix provide a measure of local depth centrality.

If you have a matrix that is already a cohesion matrix and you would like to add the class, see [as\\_cohesion\\_matrix\(\)](#).

### Value

The matrix of cohesion values. An object of class `cohesion_matrix`.

### References

K. S. Berenhaut, K. E. Moore, R. L. Melvin, A social perspective on perceived distances reveals deep community structure. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.*, 119(4), 2022.

### Examples

```
plot(exdata1)
text(exdata1 + .08, lab = 1:8)

D <- dist(exdata1)
C <- cohesion_matrix(D)
C

## neighbor weights (provided by cohesion) for the 8th point in exdata1
C[8, ]
```

```
localdepths <- rowSums(C)
```

---

```
cohesion_strong      Cohesion Matrix: Strong Ties
```

---

## Description

Provides the symmetrized and thresholded matrix of cohesion values.

## Usage

```
cohesion_strong(c, symmetric = TRUE)
```

## Arguments

**c** A `cohesion_matrix` object, a matrix of cohesion values (see [cohesion\\_matrix](#)).

**symmetric** Logical. Whether the returned matrix should be made symmetric (using the minimum); the default is TRUE.

## Details

The threshold is that provided by `strong_threshold` (and is equal to half of the average of the diagonal of `c`). Values of the cohesion matrix which are less than the threshold are set to zero. The symmetrization, if desired, is computed using the entry-wise (parallel) minimum of `C` and its transpose (i.e.,  $\min(C_{ij}, C_{ji})$ ). The matrix provided by `cohesion_strong` (with default `symmetric = TRUE`) is the adjacency matrix for the graph of strong ties (the cluster graph), see [community\\_graphs](#) and [pald](#).

## Value

The symmetrized cohesion matrix in which all entries corresponding to weak ties are set to zero.

## Examples

```
C <- cohesion_matrix(dist(exdata2))
strong_threshold(C)
cohesion_strong(C)

## To illustrate the calculation performed
C_strong <- C

## C_strong is equal to cohesion_strong(C, symmetric = FALSE)
C_strong[C < strong_threshold(C)] <- 0

## C_strong_sym is equal to cohesion_strong(C)
C_strong_sym <- pmin(C_strong, t(C_strong))

## The (cluster) graph whose adjacency matrix, CS,
```

```
## is the matrix of strong ties
CS <- cohesion_strong(C)

if (requireNamespace("igraph", quietly = TRUE)) {
  G_strong <- igraph::simplify(
    igraph::graph.adjacency(CS, weighted = TRUE, mode = "undirected")
  )
  plot(G_strong)
}
```

---

|                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| community_clusters | <i>Community clusters</i> |
|--------------------|---------------------------|

---

## Description

Community clusters

## Usage

```
community_clusters(c)
```

## Arguments

`c` A `cohesion_matrix` object, a matrix of cohesion values (see [cohesion\\_matrix](#)).

## Value

A data frame with two columns:

- `point`: The points from cohesion matrix `c`
- `community`: The community cluster labels

## Examples

```
D <- dist(exdata2)
C <- cohesion_matrix(D)
community_clusters(C)
```

---

`community_graphs`*Community Graphs*

---

## Description

Provides the graphs whose edge weights are (mutual) cohesion, together with a graph layout.

## Usage

```
community_graphs(c)
```

## Arguments

`c` A `cohesion_matrix` object, a matrix of cohesion values (see [cohesion\\_matrix](#)).

## Details

Constructs the graphs whose edge weights are (mutual) cohesion (see [cohesion\\_matrix](#)), self-loops are removed. The graph `G` has adjacency matrix equal to the symmetrized cohesion matrix (using the entry-wise parallel minimum of `C` and its transpose). The graph `G_strong` has adjacency matrix equal to the thresholded and symmetrized cohesion matrix (see [cohesion\\_strong](#)). The threshold is equal to half of the average of the diagonal of the cohesion matrix (see [strong\\_threshold](#)).

A layout is also computed using the Fruchterman-Reingold (FR) force-directed graph drawing algorithm. As a result, it may provide a somewhat different layout each time it is run.

## Value

A list consisting of:

- `G`: the weighted (community) graph whose edge weights are mutual cohesion
- `G_strong`: the weighted (community) graph consisting of edges for which mutual cohesion is greater than the threshold for strong ties (see [strong\\_threshold](#))
- `layout`: the layout, using the Fruchterman Reingold (FR) force-directed graph drawing for the graph `G`

## Examples

```
C <- cohesion_matrix(dist(exdata2))
plot(community_graphs(C)$G_strong)
plot(community_graphs(C)$G_strong, layout = community_graphs(C)$layout)
```



---

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| cultures | <i>Cultures pairwise dissimilarities</i> |
|----------|--|

---

**Description**

Pairwise dissimilarities are given by the cultural fixation index obtained from World Values Survey responses.

**Usage**

```
cultures
```

**Format**

A 59x59 matrix of dissimilarities

**References**

M. Muthukrishna, et al., Beyond western, educated, industrial, rich, and democratic (WEIRD) psychology: measuring and mapping scales of cultural and psychological distance. *Psychol. Sci.* 1, 24 (2020).

R. Inglehart et al, World Values Survey: All Rounds-Country-Pooled Datafile 1981-2014, (JD Systems Institute, Madrid 2014).

---

|                    |                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| dist_cohesion_plot | <i>Distance Cohesion Plot</i> |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|

---

**Description**

Provides a plot of cohesion against distance, with the threshold indicated by a horizontal line.

**Usage**

```
dist_cohesion_plot(  
  d,  
  mutual = FALSE,  
  xlim_max = NULL,  
  cex = 1,  
  colors = NULL,  
  weak_gray = FALSE  
)
```

**Arguments**

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| d         | A matrix of pairwise distances or a <code>dist</code> object.  |
| mutual    | Set to TRUE to consider mutual cohesion (i.e., symmetrized using the minimum); the default is FALSE. |
| xlim_max  | If desired, set the maximum value of distance which is displayed on the x-axis.                      |
| cex       | Factor by which points should be scaled relative to the default.                                     |
| colors    | A vector of color names, if none is given a default is provided.                                     |
| weak_gray | Set to TRUE to display the plot with all weak ties plotted in gray; the default is FALSE.            |

**Details**

The plot of cohesion against distance provides a visualization for the manner in which distance is transformed. The threshold distinguishing strong and weak ties is indicated by a horizontal line. When there are separated regions with different density, one can often observe vertical bands of color, see example below and Berenhaut, Moore, and Melvin (2022). For each distance pair in  $d$ , the corresponding value of cohesion is computed. If the pair is within a single cluster, the point is colored (with the same color provided by the `pald` and `plot_community_graphs` functions). Weak ties appear below the threshold.

Note that cohesion is not symmetric, and so all  $n^2$  points are plotted. A gray point above the threshold corresponds to a pair in which the value of cohesion is greater than the threshold in only one direction. If one only wants to observe mutual cohesion (i.e., cohesion made symmetric via the minimum), set `mutual = TRUE`.

**Value**

A plot of cohesion against distance with threshold indicated by a horizontal line.

**Examples**

```
D <- dist(exdata2)
dist_cohesion_plot(D)
dist_cohesion_plot(D, mutual = TRUE)
C <- cohesion_matrix(D)
threshold <- strong_threshold(C) #the horizontal line
dist_cohesion_plot(D, mutual = TRUE, weak_gray = TRUE)
```

---

exdata1

*Example Data 1*


---

**Description**

A data set consisting of 8 points (in 2-dimensional Euclidean space) to provide a simple illustrative example. This data is displayed in Figure 1 in Berenhaut, Moore, and Melvin (2022).

**Usage**

exdata1

**Format**

A data frame with 8 rows and 2 columns, x1 and x2

**References**

K. S. Berenhaut, K. E. Moore, R. L. Melvin, A social perspective on perceived distances reveals deep community structure. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.*, 119(4), 2022.

---

exdata2

*Example Data 2*

---

**Description**

A data set consisting of 16 points (in 2-dimensional Euclidean space) to provide an illustrative example. This data is displayed in Figure 2 in Berenhaut, Moore, and Melvin (2022).

**Usage**

exdata2

**Format**

A data frame with 16 rows and 2 columns, x1 and x2

**References**

K. S. Berenhaut, K. E. Moore, R. L. Melvin, A social perspective on perceived distances reveals deep community structure. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.*, 119(4), 2022.

---

exdata3

*Example Data 3*

---

**Description**

A data set consisting of 240 points (in 2-dimensional Euclidean space) to provide an illustrative example. Points were generated from bivariate normal distributions with varying mean and variance (with covariance matrix  $cI$ ). This data is displayed in Figure 4D in Berenhaut, Moore, and Melvin (2022).

**Usage**

exdata3

**Format**

A data frame with 240 rows and 2 columns, x1 and x2

**References**

K. S. Berenhaut, K. E. Moore, R. L. Melvin, A social perspective on perceived distances reveals deep community structure. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., 119(4), 2022.

---

local\_depths

*Local (Community) Depths*

---

**Description**

Creates a vector of local depths from a matrix of distances (or dist object).

**Usage**

```
local_depths(d)
```

**Arguments**

d A matrix of pairwise distances, a `dist` object, or a `cohesion_matrix` object.

**Details**

Local depth is an interpretable probability which reflects aspects of relative position and centrality via distance comparisons (i.e.,  $d(z, x) < d(z, y)$ ).

The average of the local depth values is always 1/2. Cohesion is partitioned local depth (see `cohesion_matrix`); the row-sums of the cohesion matrix are the values of local depth.

**Value**

A vector of local depths.

**Examples**

```
D <- dist(exdata1)
local_depths(D)
C <- cohesion_matrix(D)
local_depths(C)

## local depths are the row sums of the cohesion matrix
rowSums(C)

## cognate distance data

ld_lang <- sort(local_depths(cognate_dist))
```

---

`noisy_circles`*Noisy circles*

---

**Description**

Noisy circles data generated from scikit-learn

**Usage**`noisy_circles`**Format**

A dataframe with 500 rows and 2 columns, `x1` and `x2`.

**Source**

<https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/clustering.html#clustering>

---

`noisy_moons`*Noisy moons*

---

**Description**

Noisy moons data generated from scikit-learn

**Usage**`noisy_moons`**Format**

A dataframe with 500 rows and 2 columns, `x1` and `x2`.

**Source**

<https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/clustering.html#clustering>

---

pald

*Partitioned Local Depth (PaLD)*

---

### Description

A wrapper function which computes the cohesion matrix, local depths, community graphs and provides a plot of the community graphs with connected components of the graph of strong ties colored by connected component.

### Usage

```
pald(
  d,
  show_plot = TRUE,
  show_labels = TRUE,
  only_strong = FALSE,
  emph_strong = 2,
  edge_width_factor = 50,
  colors = NULL,
  layout = NULL,
  ...
)
```

### Arguments

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <code>d</code>                 | A matrix of pairwise distances or a <code>dist</code> object.  |
| <code>show_plot</code>         | Set to TRUE to display plot; the default is TRUE.  |
| <code>show_labels</code>       | Set to FALSE to omit vertex labels (to display a subset of labels, use optional parameter <code>vertex.label</code> to modify the label list). Default: TRUE.  |
| <code>only_strong</code>       | Set to TRUE if only strong ties, <code>G_strong</code> , should be displayed; the default FALSE will show both strong (colored by connected component) and weak ties (in gray).  |
| <code>emph_strong</code>       | Numeric. The numeric factor by which the edge widths of strong ties are emphasized in the display; the default is 2.   |
| <code>edge_width_factor</code> | Numeric. Modify to change displayed edge widths. Default: 50.  |
| <code>colors</code>            | A vector of display colors, if none is given a default list (of length 24) is provided.  |
| <code>layout</code>            | A layout for the graph. If none is specified, FR-graph drawing algorithm is used.  |
| <code>...</code>               | Optional parameters to pass to the <code>igraph::plot.igraph</code> function. Some commonly passed arguments include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><code>vertex.label</code> A vector containing label names. If none is given, the row-names of <code>c</code> are used</li> <li><code>vertex.size</code> A numeric value for vertex size (default = 1)</li> <li><code>vertex.color.vec</code> A vector of color names for coloring the vertices</li> <li><code>vertex.label.cex</code> A numeric value for modifying the vertex label size. (default = 1)</li> </ul> |

## Details

This function re-computes the cohesion matrix each time it is run. To avoid unnecessary computation when creating visualizations, use the function `cohesion_matrix` to compute the cohesion matrix which may then be taken as input for `local_depths`, `strong_threshold`, `cohesion_strong`, `community_graphs`, and `plot_community_graphs`. For further details regarding each component, see the documentation for each of the above functions.

## Value

A list consisting of:

- `C`: the matrix of cohesion values
- `local_depths`: a vector of local depths
- `clusters`: a vector of (community) cluster labels
- `threshold`: the threshold above which cohesion is considered particularly strong
- `C_strong`: the thresholded matrix of cohesion values
- `G`: the graph whose edges weights are mutual cohesion
- `G_strong`: the weighted graph whose edges are those for which cohesion is particularly strong
- `layout`: a FR force-directed layout associated with `G`

## References

K. S. Berenhaut, K. E. Moore, R. L. Melvin, A social perspective on perceived distances reveals deep community structure. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.*, 119(4), 2022.

## Examples

```
D <- dist(exdata2)
pald_results <- pald(D)
pald_results$local_depths
pald(D, layout = as.matrix(exdata2), show_labels = FALSE)

C <- cohesion_matrix(D)
local_depths(C)
plot_community_graphs(C, layout = as.matrix(exdata2), show_labels = FALSE)

pald_languages <- pald(cognate_dist)
head(pald_languages$local_depths)
```

---

pald\_colors                      *PaLD Color Palette*

---

**Description**

A vector of colors to use if comparing other clustering methods. These are the default colors used in the plotting functions.

**Usage**

pald\_colors

**Format**

A vector of 24 colors

---

plot\_community\_graphs   *Plot Community Graphs*

---

**Description**

Provides a plot of the community graphs, with connected components of the graph of strong ties colored by connected component.

**Usage**

```
plot_community_graphs(
  c,
  show_labels = TRUE,
  only_strong = FALSE,
  emph_strong = 2,
  edge_width_factor = 50,
  colors = NULL,
  ...
)
```

**Arguments**

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| c           | A cohesion_matrix object, a matrix of cohesion values (see <a href="#">cohesion_matrix</a> ).   |
| show_labels | Set to FALSE to omit vertex labels (to display a subset of labels, use optional parameter vertex.label to modify the label list). Default: TRUE.                  |
| only_strong | Set to TRUE if only strong ties, G_strong, should be displayed; the default FALSE will show both strong (colored by connected component) and weak ties (in gray). |
| emph_strong | Numeric. The numeric factor by which the edge widths of strong ties are emphasized in the display; the default is 2.  |



|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| edge_width_factor | Numeric. Modify to change displayed edge widths. Default: 50.  |
| colors            | A vector of display colors, if none is given a default list (of length 24) is provided.  |
| ...               | Optional parameters to pass to the <code>igraph::plot.igraph</code> function. Some commonly passed arguments include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <code>layout</code> A layout for the graph. If none is specified, FR-graph drawing algorithm is used.</li> <li>• <code>vertex.label</code> A vector containing label names. If none is given, the rownames of <code>c</code> are used</li> <li>• <code>vertex.size</code> A numeric value for vertex size (default = 1)</li> <li>• <code>vertex.color.vec</code> A vector of color names for coloring the vertices</li> <li>• <code>vertex.label.cex</code> A numeric value for modifying the vertex label size. (default = 1)</li> </ul> |

### Details

Plots the community graph, `G`, with the sub-graph of strong ties emphasized and colored by connected component. If no layout is provided, the Fruchterman-Reingold (FR) graph drawing algorithm is used. Note that the FR graph drawing algorithm may provide a somewhat different layout each time it is run. You can also access and save a given graph layout using `community_graphs(C)$layout`. The example below shows how to display only a subset of vertex labels.

Note that the parameter `emph_strong` is for visualization purposes only and does not influence the network layout.

### Value

A plot of the community graphs.

### Examples

```
C <- cohesion_matrix(dist(exdata1))
plot_community_graphs(C, emph_strong = 1, layout = as.matrix(exdata1))
plot_community_graphs(C, only_strong = TRUE)

C2 <- cohesion_matrix(cognate_dist)
subset_lang_names <- rownames(C2)
subset_lang_names[sample(1:87, 60)] <- ""
plot_community_graphs(C2, vertex.label = subset_lang_names, vertex.size = 3)
```

---

strong\_threshold

*Cohesion Threshold for Strong Ties*

---

### Description

Given a cohesion matrix, provides the value of the threshold above which values of cohesion are considered "particularly strong".

**Usage**

```
strong_threshold(c)
```

**Arguments**

`c` A `cohesion_matrix` object, a matrix of cohesion values (see [cohesion\\_matrix](#)).

**Details**

The threshold considered in Berenhaut, Moore, and Melvin (2022) which may be used for distinguishing between strong and weak ties. The threshold is equal to half the average of the diagonal of the cohesion matrix, see Berenhaut, Moore, and Melvin (2022).

**Value**

The value of the threshold.

**References**

K. S. Berenhaut, K. E. Moore, R. L. Melvin, A social perspective on perceived distances reveals deep community structure. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.*, 119(4), 2022.

**Examples**

```
C <- cohesion_matrix(dist(exdata1))
strong_threshold(C)
mean(diag(C)) / 2

## points whose cohesion are greater than the threshold may be considered
## (strong) neighbors
which(C[3, ] > strong_threshold(C))

## note that the number of (strongly-cohesive) neighbors varies across the
## space
which(C[4, ] > strong_threshold(C))
C[4, c(2, 3, 4, 6)] # cohesion values can provide neighbor weights
```

---

tissue\_dist

*Tissue Data Distance Matrix*


---

**Description**

A `dist` object describing distances from a subset of tissue gene expression data from the following papers:

- <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17906632>
- <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21177656>
- <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24271388> obtained from the **tissuesGeneExpression** bioconductor package.

**Usage**

`tissue_dist`

**Format**

A `dist` object of 189 tissue types

**Details**

The original data frame had 189 rows, each with a corresponding tissue, such as colon, kidney or cerebellum. There were 22,215 columns corresponding to gene expression data from each of these rows. This was then converted into a distance matrix.

**References**

M. Love and R. Irizarry. `tissueGeneExpression`. Bioconductor Package

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