

# Package ‘memoria’

October 13, 2022

**Type** Package

**Title** Quantifying Ecological Memory in Palaeoecological Datasets and Other Long Time-Series

**Version** 1.0.0

**Author** Blas M. Benito

**Maintainer** Blas M. Benito <blasbenito@gmail.com>

**Description** Tools to quantify ecological memory in long time-series with Random Forest models (Breiman 2001 <[doi:10.1023/A:1010933404324](https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1010933404324)>) fitted with the 'ranger' library (Wright and Ziegler 2017 <[doi:10.18637/jss.v077.i01](https://doi.org/10.18637/jss.v077.i01)>). Particularly oriented to palaeoecological datasets and simulated pollen curves produced by the 'virtualPollen' package, but also applicable to other long time-series involving a set of environmental drivers and a biotic response.

**License** GPL (>= 2)

**Encoding** UTF-8

**LazyData** true

**RoxygenNote** 6.1.1

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**Depends** R (>= 2.10)

**Imports** ggplot2, ranger, cowplot, viridis, viridisLite, zoo, stringr, HH, tidyr

**Suggests** devtools, formatR, kableExtra, magrittr, knitr, rmarkdown, rpart, rpart.plot, randomForest, virtualPollen

**NeedsCompilation** no

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2019-05-17 08:00:02 UTC

## R topics documented:

climate . . . . .	2
computeMemory . . . . .	3
experimentToTable . . . . .	5

extractMemoryFeatures . . . . .	6
mergePalaeoData . . . . .	9
palaeodata . . . . .	10
palaeodataLagged . . . . .	11
palaeodataMemory . . . . .	12
plotExperiment . . . . .	13
plotInteraction . . . . .	14
plotMemory . . . . .	15
pollen . . . . .	16
prepareLaggedData . . . . .	17
runExperiment . . . . .	18
<b>Index</b>	<b>21</b>

---

climate	<i>Dataframe with palaeoclimatic data.</i>
---------	--

---

## Description

A dataframe containing palaeoclimate data at 1 ky temporal resolution with the following columns:

## Usage

```
data(climate)
```

## Format

dataframe with 6 columns and 800 rows.

## Details

- *age* in kiloyears before present (ky BP).
- *temperatureAverage* average annual temperature in Celsius degrees.
- *rainfallAverage* average annual precipitation in millimetres per day (mm/day).
- *temperatureWarmestMonth* average temperature of the warmest month, in Celsius degrees.
- *temperatureColdestMonth* average temperature of the coldest month, in Celsius degrees.
- *oxigenIsotope* delta O18, global ratio of stable isotopes in the sea floor, see <http://lorraine-lisiecki.com/stack.html> for further details.

## Author(s)

Blas M. Benito <blasbenito@gmail.com>

computeMemory

*Quantifies ecological memory with Random Forest.***Description**

Takes the output of [prepareLaggedData](#) to fit the following model with Random Forest:

$$p_t = p_{t-1} + \dots + p_{t-n} + d_t + d_{t-1} + \dots + d_{t-n} + r$$

where:

- $d$  is a driver (several drivers can be added).
- $t$  is the time of any given value of the response  $p$ .
- $t - 1$  is the lag number 1 (in time units).
- $p_{t-1} + \dots + p_{t-n}$  represents the endogenous component of ecological memory.
- $d_{t-1} + \dots + d_{t-n}$  represents the exogenous component of ecological memory.
- $d_t$  represents the concurrent effect of the driver over the response.
- $r$  represents a column of random values, used to test the significance of the variable importance scores returned by Random Forest.

**Usage**

```
computeMemory(
  lagged.data = NULL,
  drivers = NULL,
  response = "Response",
  add.random = TRUE,
  random.mode = "autocorrelated",
  repetitions = 10,
  subset.response = "none",
  min.node.size = 5,
  num.trees = 2000,
  mtry = 2
)
```

**Arguments**

lagged.data	a lagged dataset resulting from <a href="#">prepareLaggedData</a> . See <a href="#">palaedataLagged</a> as example.
drivers	a character string or vector of character strings with variables to be used as predictors in the model (i.e. c("Suitability", "Driver.A")). <b>Important:</b> drivers names must not have the character "_".
response	character string, name of the response variable (typically, "Response_0").
add.random	if TRUE, adds a random term to the model, useful to assess the significance of the variable importance scores.

<code>random.mode</code>	either "white.noise" or "autocorrelated". See details.
<code>repetitions</code>	integer, number of random forest models to fit.
<code>subset.response</code>	character string with values "up", "down" or "none", triggers the subsetting of the input dataset. "up" only models memory on cases where the response's trend is positive, "down" selectes cases with negative trends, and "none" selects all cases.
<code>min.node.size</code>	integer, argument of the <a href="#">ranger</a> function. Minimal number of samples to be allocated in a terminal node. Default is 5.
<code>num.trees</code>	integer, argument of the <a href="#">ranger</a> function. Number of regression trees to be fitted (size of the forest). Default is 2000.
<code>mtry</code>	integer, argument of the <a href="#">ranger</a> function. Number of variables to possibly split at in each node. Default is 2.

### Details

This function uses the [ranger](#) package to fit Random Forest models. Please, check the help of the [ranger](#) function to better understand how Random Forest is parameterized in this library. This function fits the model explained above as many times as defined in the argument `repetitions`. To test the statistical significance of the variable importance scores returned by random forest, on each repetition the model is fitted with a different  $r$  (random) term. If `random.mode` equals "autocorrelated", the random term will have a temporal autocorrelation, and if it equals "white.noise", it will be a pseudo-random sequence of numbers generated with [rnorm](#), with no temporal autocorrelation. The importance of the random sequence (as computed by random forest) is stored for each model run, and used as a benchmark to assess the importance of the other predictors used in the models. Importance values of other predictors that are above the median of the importance of the random term should be interpreted as non-random, and therefore, significant.

### Value

A list with 4 slots:

- memory dataframe with five columns:
  - Variable character, names and lags of the different variables used to model ecological memory.
  - median numeric, median importance across repetitions of the given Variable according to Random Forest.
  - sd numeric, standard deviation of the importance values of the given Variable across repetitions.
  - min and max numeric, percentiles 0.05 and 0.95 of importance values of the given Variable across repetitions.
- R2 vector, values of pseudo R-squared value obtained for the Random Forest model fitted on each repetition. Pseudo R-squared is the Pearson correlation between the observed and predicted data.
- prediction dataframe, with the same columns as the dataframe in the slot memory, with the median and confidence intervals of the predictions of all random forest models fitted.
- multicollinearity multicollinearity analysis on the input data performed with [vif](#). A vif value higher than 5 indicates that the given variable is highly correlated with other variables.

**Author(s)**

Blas M. Benito <blasbenito@gmail.com>

**See Also**

[plotMemory](#), [extractMemoryFeatures](#)

##'

- Wright, M. N. & Ziegler, A. (2017). ranger: A fast implementation of random forests for high dimensional data in C++ and R. J Stat Softw 77:1-17. <https://doi.org/10.18637/jss.v077.i01>.
- Breiman, L. (2001). Random forests. Mach Learn, 45:5-32. <https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1010933404324>.
- Hastie, T., Tibshirani, R., Friedman, J. (2009). The Elements of Statistical Learning. Springer, New York. 2nd edition.

**Examples**

```
#loading data
data(palaeodataLagged)

memory.output <- computeMemory(
  lagged.data = palaeodataLagged,
  drivers = c("climate.temperatureAverage", "climate.rainfallAverage"),
  response = "Response",
  add.random = TRUE,
  random.mode = "autocorrelated",
  repetitions = 10,
  subset.response = "none"
)

str(memory.output)
str(memory.output$memory)

#plotting output
plotMemory(memory.output = memory.output)
```

---

experimentToTable

*Turns the outcome of [runExperiment](#) into a long table.*

---

**Description**

Takes the output of [runExperiment](#), extracts the dataframes containing the ecological memory patterns generated by [computeMemory](#), and binds them together into a single dataframe ready for further analyses or plotting.

## Usage

```
experimentToTable(  
  experiment.output = NULL,  
  parameters.file = NULL,  
  sampling.names = NULL,  
  R2 = TRUE  
)
```

## Arguments

`experiment.output` list, output of [runExperiment](#).

`parameters.file` dataframe of simulation parameters.

`sampling.names` vector of character strings with the names of the columns of `simulations.file`.

`R2` boolean. If TRUE, the average pseudo R-squared of the random forest models used to analyze the ecological memory pattern of the virtual taxa are shown with the taxon traits.

## Details

This function is used internally by [plotExperiment](#), but it is also available to users in case they want to do other kinds of analyses or plots with the data.

## Value

A dataframe.

## Author(s)

Blas M. Benito <blasbenito@gmail.com>

## See Also

[runExperiment](#), [plotExperiment](#)

---

extractMemoryFeatures *Extracts ecological memory features on the output of [computeMemory](#).*

---

## Description

It computes the following features of the ecological memory patterns returned by [computeMemory](#):

- memory strength maximum difference in relative importance between each component (endogenous, exogenous, and concurrent) and the median of the random component. This is computed for exogenous, endogenous, and concurrent effect.

- memory length proportion of lags over which the importance of a memory component is above the median of the random component. This is only computed for endogenous and exogenous memory.
- dominance proportion of the lags above the median of the random term over which a memory component has a higher importance than the other component. This is only computed for endogenous and exogenous memory.

## Usage

```
extractMemoryFeatures(
  memory.pattern = NULL,
  exogenous.component = NULL,
  endogenous.component = NULL,
  sampling.subset = NULL,
  scale.strength = TRUE
)
```

## Arguments

- `memory.pattern` either a list resulting from [computeMemory](#), or a dataframe with memory patterns of several taxa generated by [experimentToTable](#).
- `exogenous.component` character string or vector of character strings, name of the variable or variables defining the exogenous component.
- `endogenous.component` character string, string, name of the variable defining the endogenous component. If the data was generated by [prepareLaggedData](#), `endogenous.component` would usually be "Response".
- `sampling.subset` only relevant when `analysis.output` is the result of `runExperiment`. Character string with the name of the column of the list with the simulation outcomes.
- `scale.strength` boolean. If TRUE, the strength of the ecological memory components, which has the same units as the importance scores yielded by Random Forest (percentage of increment in mean squared error when a variable is permuted), is scaled between 0 and 1.

## Details

**Warning:** this function only works when only one exogenous component (driver) is used to define the model in [computeMemory](#). If more than one driver is provided through the argument `exogenous.component`, the maximum importance scores of all exogenous variables is considered. In other words, the importance of exogenous variables is not additive.

## Value

A dataframe with 8 columns and 1 row if `memory.pattern` is the output of [computeMemory](#) and 13 columns and as many rows as taxa are in the input if it is the output of [experimentToTable](#). The columns are:

- *label* character string to identify the taxon. It either inherits its values from [experimentToTable](#), or sets the default ID as "1".
- *strength.endogenous* numeric in the range [0, 100], in importance units (percentage of increment in the mean squared error of the random forest model if the variable is permuted) difference between the maximum importance of the endogenous component at any lag and the median of the random component (see details in [computeMemory](#))
- *strength.exogenous* numeric in the range [0, 100], same as above, but for the exogenous component.
- *strenght.concurrent* numeric in the range [0, 100], same as above, but for the concurrent component (driver at lag 0).
- *length.endogenous* numeric in the range [0, 100], proportion of lags over which the importance of the endogenous memory component is above the median of the random component.
- *length.exogenous* numeric in the range [0, 1], same as above but for the exogenous memory component.
- *dominance.endogenous* numeric in the range [0, 1], proportion of the lags above the median of the random term over which a the endogenous memory component has a higher importance than the exogenous component.
- *dominance.exogenous*, opposite as above.
- *maximum.age*, numeric. As every column after this one, only provided if `memory.pattern` is the output of [experimentToTable](#). Trait of the given taxon.
- *fecundity* numeric, trait of the given taxon.
- *niche.A.mean* numeric, trait of the given taxon.
- *niche.A.sd* numeric, trait of the given taxon.
- *sampling* numeric, trait of the given taxon.

### Author(s)

Blas M. Benito <blasbenito@gmail.com>

### See Also

[computeMemory](#)

### Examples

```
#loading example data
data(palaeodataMemory)

#computing ecological memory features
memory.features <- extractMemoryFeatures(
  memory.pattern = palaeodataMemory,
  exogenous.component = c(
    "climate.temperatureAverage",
    "climate.rainfallAverage"
  ),
)
```



```
endogenous.component = "Response",
sampling.subset = NULL,
scale.strength = TRUE
)
```

---

mergePalaeoData	<i>Merges palaeoecological datasets with different time resolution.</i>
-----------------	---

---

## Description

It merges palaeoecological datasets with different time intervals between consecutive samples into a single dataset with samples separated by regular time intervals defined by the user

## Usage

```
mergePalaeoData(
  datasets.list = NULL,
  time.column = NULL,
  interpolation.interval = NULL
)
```

## Arguments

`datasets.list` list of dataframes, as in `datasets.list = list(climate = climate.dataframe, pollen = pollen.dataframe)`. The provided dataframes must have an age/time column with the same column name and the same units of time. Non-numeric columns in these dataframes are ignored.

`time.column` character string, name of the time/age column of the datasets provided in `datasets.list`.

`interpolation.interval` temporal resolution of the output data, in the same units as the age/time columns of the input data

## Details

This function fits a [loess](#) model of the form  $y \sim x$ , where  $y$  is any column given by `columns.to.interpolate` and  $x$  is the column given by the `time.column` argument. The model is used to interpolate column  $y$  on a regular time series of intervals equal to `interpolation.interval`. All columns in every provided dataset go through this process to generate the final data with samples separated by regular time intervals. Non-numeric columns are ignored, and absent from the output dataframe.

## Value

A dataframe with every column of the initial dataset interpolated to a regular time grid of resolution defined by `interpolation.interval`. Column names follow the form `datasetName.columnName`, so the origin of columns can be tracked.

**Author(s)**

Blas M. Benito <blasbenito@gmail.com>

**Examples**

```
#loading data
data(pollen)
data(climate)

x <- mergePalaeoData(
  datasets.list = list(
    pollen=pollen,
    climate=climate
  ),
  time.column = "age",
  interpolation.interval = 0.2
)
```

---

palaeodata

*Dataframe with pollen and climate data.*

---

**Description**

A dataframe with a regular time grid of 0.2 ky resolution resulting from applying `mergePalaeoData` to the datasets `climate` and `pollen`:

**Usage**

```
data(palaeodata)
```

**Format**

dataframe with 10 columns and 7986 rows.

**Details**

- *age* in ky before present (ky BP).
- *pinus* pollen counts of Pinus.
- *quercus* pollen counts of Quercus.
- *poaceae* pollen counts of Poaceae.
- *artemisia* pollen counts of Artemisia.
- *temperatureAverage* average annual temperature in Celsius degrees.

- *rainfallAverage* average annual precipitation in millimetres per day (mm/day).
- *temperatureWarmestMonth* average temperature of the warmest month, in Celsius degrees.
- *temperatureColdestMonth* average temperature of the coldest month, in Celsius degrees.
- *oxigenIsotope* delta O18, global ratio of stable isotopes in the sea floor, see <http://lorraine-lisiecki.com/stack.html> for further details.

**Author(s)**

Blas M. Benito <blasbenito@gmail.com>

---

palaeodataLagged      Lagged data generated by [prepareLaggedData](#).

---

**Description**

A dataframe resulting from the application of [prepareLaggedData](#) to the dataset [palaeodata](#). The dataframe columns are:

**Usage**

```
data(palaeodataLagged)
```

**Format**

dataframe with 13 columns and 3988 rows.

**Details**

- *Response\_0* numeric, values of the response variable selected by the user in the argument *response* of the function [prepareLaggedData](#). This column is used as response variable by the function [computeMemory](#). In this case, Response represent pollen counts of Pinus.
- *Response\_0.2-1* numeric, time delayed values of the response for different lags (in ky). Considered together these columns represent the endogenous ecological memory.
- *climate.temperatureAverage\_0* numeric, values of the variable *temperatureAverage* for the lag 0 (no lag). This column represents the concurrent effect of the temperature over the response. #'
- *climate.rainfallAverage\_0* numeric, values of the variable *rainfallAverage* for the lag 0 (no lag). This column represents the concurrent effect of rainfall over the response.
- *climate.temperatureAverage\_0.2-1* numeric, time delayed values of *temperatureAverage* for lags 0.2 to 1 (in ky). #'
- *climate.rainfallAverage\_0.2-1* numeric, time delayed values of *rainfallAverage* for lags 0.2 to 1 (in ky).

**Author(s)**

Blas M. Benito <blasbenito@gmail.com>

---

palaeodataMemory      *Output of* `computeMemory`

---

### Description

List containing the output of `computeMemory` applied to `palaeodataLagged`. Its slots are:

### Usage

```
data(palaeodataMemory)
```

### Format

List with four slots.

### Details

- memory dataframe with five columns:
  - Variable character, names and lags of the different variables used to model ecological memory.
  - median numeric, median importance across repetitions of the given Variable according to Random Forest.
  - sd numeric, standard deviation of the importance values of the given Variable across repetitions.
  - min and max numeric, percentiles 0.05 and 0.95 of importance values of the given Variable across repetitions.
- R2 vector, values of pseudo R-squared value obtained for the Random Forest model fitted on each repetition. Pseudo R-squared is the Pearson correlation between the observed and predicted data.
- prediction dataframe, with the same columns as the dataframe in the slot memory, with the median and confidence intervals of the predictions of all random forest models fitted.
- multicollinearity multicollinearity analysis on the input data performed with `vif`. A vif value higher than 5 indicates that the given variable is highly correlated with other variables.

### Author(s)

Blas M. Benito <blasbenito@gmail.com>

---

plotExperiment      *Plots the output of [runExperiment](#).*

---

### Description

It takes the output of [runExperiment](#), and generates plots of ecological memory patterns for a large number of simulated pollen curves.

### Usage

```
plotExperiment(
  experiment.output = NULL,
  parameters.file = NULL,
  experiment.title = NULL,
  sampling.names = NULL,
  legend.position = "bottom",
  R2 = NULL,
  filename = NULL,
  strip.text.size = 12,
  axis.x.text.size = 8,
  axis.y.text.size = 12,
  axis.x.title.size = 14,
  axis.y.title.size = 14,
  title.size = 18,
  caption = ""
)
```

### Arguments

experiment.output	list, output of <a href="#">runExperiment</a> .
parameters.file	dataframe of simulation parameters.
experiment.title	character string, title of the plot.
sampling.names	vector of character strings with the names of the columns used in the argument simulations.file of <a href="#">runExperiment</a> . If NULL, no pdf plot is produced.
legend.position	legend position in ggplot object. One of "bottom", "right", "none".
R2	boolean. If TRUE, pseudo R-squared values are printed along with the traits of the virtual taxa.
filename	character string, path and name (without extension) of the output pdf file.
strip.text.size	size of the facet's labels.
axis.x.text.size	size of the labels in x axis.

`axis.y.text.size` size of the labels in y axis.  
`axis.x.title.size` size of the title of the x axis.  
`axis.y.title.size` size of the title of the y axis.  
`title.size` size of the plot title.  
`caption` character string, caption of the output figure.

**Value**

A ggplot2 object.

**Author(s)**

Blas M. Benito <blasbenito@gmail.com>

**See Also**

[plotMemory](#), [runExperiment](#)

---

`plotInteraction` *Plots response surfaces for tree-based models.*

---

**Description**

Plots a response surface plot or interaction plot (2 predictors and a model response) for models of the functions [ranger](#), [randomForest](#), and [rpart](#). It also plots the observed data on top of the predicted surface.

**Usage**

```
plotInteraction(  
  model = NULL,  
  data = NULL,  
  x = NULL,  
  y = NULL,  
  z = NULL,  
  grid = 100,  
  point.size.range = c(0.1, 1)  
)
```

**Arguments**

model	a model object produced by the functions <a href="#">ranger</a> , <a href="#">randomForest</a> , or <a href="#">rpart</a> .
data	dataframe used to fit the model.
x	character string, name of column in data to be plotted in the x axis.
y	character string, name of column in data to be plotted in the y axis.
z	character string, name of column in data to be plotted as a surface. Generally, the name of the response variable in model.
grid	numeric, resolution of the x and y axes.
point.size.range	numeric vector with two values defining the range size of the points representing the observed data.

**Value**

A ggplot object.

**Author(s)**

Blas M. Benito <blasbenito@gmail.com>

---

plotMemory

*Plots output of [computeMemory](#)*

---

**Description**

Plots the ecological memory pattern yielded by [computeMemory](#).

**Usage**

```
plotMemory(
  memory.output = NULL,
  title = "Ecological memory pattern",
  legend.position = "right",
  filename = NULL
)
```

**Arguments**

memory.output	a dataframe with one time series per column.
title	character string, name of the numeric column to be used as response in the model.
legend.position	character vector, names of the numeric columns to be used as predictors in the model.
filename	character string, name of output pdf file. If NULL or empty, no pdf is produced. It shouldn't include the extension of the output file.

**Value**

A ggplot object.

**Author(s)**

Blas M. Benito <blasbenito@gmail.com>

**See Also**

[computeMemory](#)

**Examples**

```
#loading data
data(palaeodataMemory)

#plotting memory pattern
plotMemory(memory.output = palaeodataMemory)
```

---

pollen

*Dataframe with pollen counts.*

---

**Description**

A dataframe with the following columns:

**Usage**

```
data(pollen)
```

**Format**

dataframe with 5 columns and 639 rows.

**Details**

- *age* in kiloyears before present (ky BP).
- *pinus* pollen counts of Pinus.
- *quercus* pollen counts of Quercus.
- *poaceae* pollen counts of Poaceae.
- *artemisia* pollen counts of Artemisia.

**Author(s)**

Blas M. Benito <blasbenito@gmail.com>



---

prepareLaggedData      *Organizes time series data into lags.*

---

### Description

Takes a multivariate time series, where at least one variable is meant to be used as a response while the others are meant to be used as predictors in a model, and organizes it in time lags, generating one new column per lag and variable in the model.

### Usage

```
prepareLaggedData(  
  input.data = NULL,  
  response = NULL,  
  drivers = NULL,  
  time = NULL,  
  oldest.sample = "first",  
  lags = NULL,  
  time.zoom = NULL,  
  scale = FALSE  
)
```

### Arguments

<code>input.data</code>	a dataframe with one time series per column.
<code>response</code>	character string, name of the numeric column to be used as response in the model.
<code>drivers</code>	character vector, names of the numeric columns to be used as predictors in the model.
<code>time</code>	character vector, name of the numeric column with the time/age.
<code>oldest.sample</code>	character string, either "first" or "last". When "first", the first row taken as the oldest case of the time series and the last row is taken as the newest case, so ecological memory flows from the first to the last row of <code>input.data</code> . When "last", the last row is taken as the oldest sample, and this is the mode that should be used when <code>input.data</code> represents a palaeoecological dataset. Default behavior is "first".
<code>lags</code>	numeric vector of positive integers, lags to be used in the equation. Generally, a regular sequence of numbers, in the same units as <code>time</code> . The use <code>seq</code> to define it is highly recommended. If 0 is absent from <code>lags</code> , it is added automatically to allow the consideration of a concurrent effect. Lags should take into account the temporal resolution of the data, and be aligned to it. For example, if the interval between consecutive samples is 100 years, <code>lags</code> should be something like <code>0, 100, 200, 300</code> . Lags can also be multiples of the time resolution, such as <code>0, 200, 400, 600</code> (in the case time resolution is 100 years).
<code>time.zoom</code>	numeric vector of two numbers of the <code>time</code> column used to subset the data if desired.

`scale` boolean, if TRUE, applies the `scale` function to normalize the data. Required if the lagged data is going to be used to fit linear models.

### Details

The function interprets the `time` column as an index representing the

### Value

A dataframe with columns representing time-delayed values of the drivers and the response. Column names have the lag number as a suffix. The response variable is identified in the output as "Response\_0".

### Author(s)

Blas M. Benito <blasbenito@gmail.com>

### See Also

[computeMemory](#)

### Examples

```
#loading data
data(palaeodata)

#adding lags
lagged.data <- prepareLaggedData(
  input.data = palaeodata,
  response = "pollen.pinus",
  drivers = c("climate.temperatureAverage", "climate.rainfallAverage"),
  time = "age",
  oldest.sample = "last",
  lags = seq(0.2, 1, by=0.2),
  time.zoom=NULL,
  scale=FALSE
)
str(lagged.data)
```

---

runExperiment

*Computes ecological memory patterns on simulated pollen curves produced by the virtualPollen library.*

---

### Description

Applies [computeMemory](#) to assess ecological memory on a large set of virtual pollen curves.

**Usage**

```
runExperiment(
  simulations.file = NULL,
  selected.rows = 1,
  selected.columns = 1,
  parameters.file = NULL,
  parameters.names = NULL,
  sampling.names = NULL,
  driver.column = NULL,
  response.column = "Response_0",
  subset.response = "none",
  time.column = "Time",
  time.zoom = NULL,
  lags = NULL,
  repetitions = 10
)
```

**Arguments**

`simulations.file` list of dataframes, output of the function `simulatePopulation` of the `virtualPollen` library.

`selected.rows` numeric vector, rows (virtual taxa) of `simulations.file` to be analyzed.

`selected.columns` numeric vector, columns (experiment treatments) of `simulations.file` to be analyzed.

`parameters.file` dataframe of simulation parameters.

`parameters.names` vector of character strings with names of traits and niche features from `parameters.file` to be included in the analysis (i.e. `c("maximum.age", "fecundity", "niche.A.mean", "niche.A.sd")`)

`sampling.names` vector of character strings with the names of the columns of `simulations.file`.

`driver.column` vector of character strings, names of the columns to be considered as drivers (generally, one of "Suitability", "Driver.A", "Driver.B").

`response.column` character string defining the response variable, typically "Response\_0".

`subset.response` character string, one of "up", "down" or "none", triggers the subsetting of the input dataset. "up" only models ecological memory on cases where the response's trend is positive, "down" selects cases with negative trends, and "none" selects all cases.

`time.column` character string, name of the time/age column. Usually, "Time".

`time.zoom` numeric vector with two numbers defining the time/age extremes of the time interval of interest.

lags	ags numeric vector of positive integers, lags to be used in the equation. Generally, a regular sequence of numbers, in the same units as time. The use <a href="#">seq</a> to define it is highly recommended. If 0 is absent from lags, it is added automatically to allow the consideration of a concurrent effect. Lags should take into account the temporal resolution of the data, and be aligned to it. For example, if the interval between consecutive samples is 100 years, lags should be something like 0, 100, 200, 300. Lags can also be multiples of the time resolution, such as 0, 200, 400, 600 (in the case time resolution is 100 years).
repetitions	integer, number of random forest models to fit.

**Value**

A list with 2 slots:

- names matrix of character strings, with as many rows and columns as `simulations.file`. Each cell holds a simulation name to be used afterwards, when plotting the results of the ecological memory analysis.
- output a list with as many columns and columns as `simulations.file`. Each slot holds an output of [computeMemory](#).
  - memory dataframe with five columns:
    - \* Variable character, names and lags of the different variables used to model ecological memory.
    - \* median numeric, median importance across repetitions of the given Variable according to Random Forest.
    - \* sd numeric, standard deviation of the importance values of the given Variable across repetitions.
    - \* min and max numeric, percentiles 0.05 and 0.95 of importance values of the given Variable across repetitions.
  - R2 vector, values of pseudo R-squared value obtained for the Random Forest model fitted on each repetition. Pseudo R-squared is the Pearson correlation between the observed and predicted data.
  - prediction dataframe, with the same columns as the dataframe in the slot memory, with the median and confidence intervals of the predictions of all random forest models fitted.
  - multicollinearity multicollinearity analysis on the input data performed with [vif](#). A vif value higher than 5 indicates that the given variable is highly correlated with other variables.

**Author(s)**

Blas M. Benito <blasbenito@gmail.com>

**See Also**

[computeMemory](#)

# Index

## \* datasets

- climate, [2](#)
- palaeodata, [10](#)
- palaeodataLagged, [11](#)
- palaeodataMemory, [12](#)
- pollen, [16](#)

climate, [2](#), [10](#)

computeMemory, [3](#), [5–8](#), [11](#), [12](#), [15](#), [16](#), [18](#), [20](#)

experimentToTable, [5](#), [7](#), [8](#)

extractMemoryFeatures, [5](#), [6](#)

loess, [9](#)

mergePalaeoData, [9](#), [10](#)

palaeodata, [10](#), [11](#)

palaeodataLagged, [3](#), [11](#), [12](#)

palaeodataMemory, [12](#)

plotExperiment, [6](#), [13](#)

plotInteraction, [14](#)

plotMemory, [5](#), [14](#), [15](#)

pollen, [10](#), [16](#)

prepareLaggedData, [3](#), [7](#), [11](#), [17](#)

randomForest, [14](#), [15](#)

ranger, [4](#), [14](#), [15](#)

rnorm, [4](#)

rpart, [14](#), [15](#)

runExperiment, [5](#), [6](#), [13](#), [14](#), [18](#)

scale, [18](#)

seq, [17](#), [20](#)

vif, [4](#), [12](#), [20](#)