# Package 'simputation'

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<b>Description</b> Easy to use interfaces to a number of imputation methods that fit in the not-a-pipe operator of the 'magrittr' package.
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deparse

A deparse replacement that always returns a length-1 vector

#### **Description**

A deparse replacement that always returns a length-1 vector

#### Usage

```
deparse(...)
```

# **Arguments**

... Arguments passed on to base::deparse()

# Value

The deparsed string

# **Examples**

```
long_formula <- this_is_a_formula_with_long_variables ~
  the_test_is_checking_if_deparse_will_return +
  multiple_strings_or_not
simputation:::deparse(long_formula)</pre>
```

foretell

Alternative to 'predict' returning values of correct type.

# **Description**

Te default precict function doesn't always return the predicted variable by default. For example, when estimating a binomial model using glm, by default the log-odds are returned. foretell wraps predict while setting options so that the actual predicted value is returned.

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#### Usage

```
foretell(object, ...)
## Default S3 method:
foretell(object, ...)
## S3 method for class 'glm'
foretell(object, newdata = NULL, type, ...)
## S3 method for class 'rpart'
foretell(object, newdata, type, ...)
```

# **Arguments**

object A model object,(lm, glm, ...)

... Furher arguments passed to predict.

newdata [data.frame] a data frame in which to look for variables with which to predict.

For glmnet models this argument is mandatory.

type [character] Type of output. If missing, the type of predicted variable is re-

turned.

impute Impute using a previously fitted model.

# **Description**

Impute one or more variables using a single R object representing a previously fitted model.

### Usage

```
impute(dat, formula, predictor = foretell, ...)
impute_(dat, variables, model, predictor = foretell, ...)
```

# Arguments

dat	[data.frame] The data to be imputed.
formula	[formula] object of the form <imputed variables=""> ~ <model object=""></model></imputed>
predictor	[function] with signature object, newdata, that returns predicted values given a model object and a new dataset newdata. By default foretell is used.
	Extra arguments passed to predictor
variables	[character] Names of columns in dat to impute.
model	A model object.

impute\_cart

#### **Model specification**

Formulas are of the form

```
IMPUTED_VARIABLES ~ MODEL_OBJECT
```

The left-hand-side of the formula object lists the variable or variables to be imputed. The right-hand-side must be a model object for which an S3 predict method is implemented. Alternatively, one can specify a custom predicting function. This function must accept at least a model and a dataset, and return one predicted value for each row in the dataset.

foretell implements usefull predict methods for cases where by default the predicted output is not of the same type as the predicted variable (e.g. when using certain link functions in glm)

#### **Details**

impute\_ is an explicit version of impute that works better in programming contexts, especially in cases involving nonstandard evaluation.

# See Also

```
Other imputation: impute_cart(), impute_hotdeck, impute_lm()
```

#### **Examples**

```
irisNA <- iris
iris[1:3,1] <- NA
my_model <- lm(Sepal.Length ~ Sepal.Width + Species, data=iris)
impute(irisNA, Sepal.Length ~ my_model)</pre>
```

impute\_cart

Decision Tree Imputation

# **Description**

Imputation based on CART models or Random Forests.

#### Usage

```
impute_cart(
  dat,
  formula,
  add_residual = c("none", "observed", "normal"),
  cp,
  na_action = na.rpart,
  ...
)
impute_rf(
```

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```
dat,
formula,
add_residual = c("none", "observed", "normal"),
na_action = na.omit,
...
)
```

# Arguments

dat [data.frame], with variables to be imputed and their predictors. formula [formula] imputation model description (see Details below).

add\_residual [character] Type of residual to add. "normal" means that the imputed value is

drawn from N(mu, sd) where mu and sd are estimated from the model's residuals (mu should equal zero in most cases). If add\_residual = "observed", residuals are drawn (with replacement) from the model's residuals. Ignored for non-

numeric predicted variables.

cp The complexity parameter used to prune the CART model. If omitted, no prun-

ing takes place. If a single number, the same complexity parameter is used for each imputed variable. If of length # of variables imputed, the complexity parameters used must be in the same order as the predicted variables in the model

formula.

na\_action [function] what to do with missings in training data. By default cases with

missing values in predicted or predictors are omitted (see 'Missings in training

data').

... further arguments passed to

• rpart for impute\_cart

• randomForest for impute\_rf

#### **Model specification**

Formulas are of the form

IMPUTED\_VARIABLES ~ MODEL\_SPECIFICATION [ | GROUPING\_VARIABLES ]

The left-hand-side of the formula object lists the variable or variables to be imputed. Variables on the right-hand-side are used as predictors in the CART or random forest model.

If grouping variables are specified, the data set is split according to the values of those variables, and model estimation and imputation occur independently for each group.

Grouping using dplyr::group\_by is also supported. If groups are defined in both the formula and using dplyr::group\_by, the data is grouped by the union of grouping variables. Any missing value in one of the grouping variables results in an error.

#### Methodology

**CART imputation** by impute\_cart can be used for numerical, categorical, or mixed data. Missing values are estimated using a Classification and Regression Tree as specified by Breiman, Friedman and Olshen (1984). This means that prediction is fairly robust agains missingess in predictors.

**Random Forest imputation** with impute\_rf can be used for numerical, categorical, or mixed data. Missing values are estimated using a Random Forest model as specified by Breiman (2001).

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#### References

Breiman, L., Friedman, J., Stone, C.J. and Olshen, R.A., 1984. Classification and regression trees. CRC press.

Breiman, L., 2001. Random forests. Machine learning, 45(1), pp.5-32.

#### See Also

Other imputation: impute\_hotdeck, impute\_lm(), impute()

impute\_hotdeck

Hot deck imputation

#### **Description**

Hot-deck imputation methods include random and sequential hot deck, k-nearest neighbours imputation and predictive mean matching.

# Usage

```
impute_rhd(
 dat,
  formula,
 pool = c("complete", "univariate", "multivariate"),
 backend = getOption("simputation.hdbackend", default = c("simputation", "VIM")),
)
impute_shd(
 dat,
  formula,
 pool = c("complete", "univariate", "multivariate"),
 order = c("locf", "nocb"),
 backend = getOption("simputation.hdbackend", default = c("simputation", "VIM")),
)
impute_pmm(
  dat,
  formula,
 predictor = impute_lm,
 pool = c("complete", "univariate", "multivariate"),
)
impute_knn(
```

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```
dat,
  formula,
 pool = c("complete", "univariate", "multivariate"),
 k = 5.
 backend = getOption("simputation.hdbackend", default = c("simputation", "VIM")),
)
```

#### **Arguments**

dat [data.frame], with variables to be imputed and their predictors.

formula [formula] imputation model description (see Details below).

[character] Specify donor pool when backend="simputation" pool

> • "complete". Only records for which the variables on the left-hand-side of the model formula are complete are used as donors. If a record has multiple missings, all imputations are taken from a single donor.

- "univariate". Imputed variables are treated one by one and independently so the order of variable imputation is unimportant. If a record has multiple missings, separate donors are drawn for each missing value.
- "multivariate". A donor pool is created for each missing data pattern. If a record has multiple missings, all imputations are taken from a single

prob [numeric] Sampling probability weights (passed through to sample). Must be

of length nrow(dat).

backend [character] Choose the backend for imputation.

further arguments passed to VIM::hotdeck if VIM is chosen as backend, other-

wise they are passed to

- order for impute\_shd and backend="simputation"
- VIM::hotdeck for impute\_shd and impute\_rhd when backend="VIM".
- VIM: kNN for impute\_knn when backend="VIM"
- The predictor function for impute\_pmm.

[character] Last Observation Carried Forward or Next Observarion Carried order

Backward. Only for backend="simputation"

predictor [function] Imputation to use for predictive part in predictive mean matching.

Any of the impute\_ functions of this package (it makes no sense to use a hot-

deck imputation).

k [numeric] Number of nearest neighbours to draw the donor from.

#### **Model specification**

Formulas are of the form

IMPUTED\_VARIABLES ~ MODEL\_SPECIFICATION [ | GROUPING\_VARIABLES ]

The left-hand-side of the formula object lists the variable or variables to be imputed. The interpretation of the independent variables on the right-hand-side depends on the imputation method.

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 impute\_rhd Variables in MODEL\_SPECIFICATION and/or GROUPING\_VARIABLES are used to split the data set into groups prior to imputation. Use ~ 1 to specify that no grouping is to be applied.

- impute\_shd Variables in MODEL\_SPECIFICATION are used to sort the data. When multiple variables are specified, each variable after the first serves as tie-breaker for the previous one.
- impute\_knn The predictors are used to determine Gower's distance between records (see gower\_topn). This may include the variables to be imputed..
- impute\_pmm Predictive mean matching. The MODEL\_SPECIFICATION is passed through to the predictor function.

If grouping variables are specified, the data set is split according to the values of those variables, and model estimation and imputation occur independently for each group.

Grouping using dplyr::group\_by is also supported. If groups are defined in both the formula and using dplyr::group\_by, the data is grouped by the union of grouping variables. Any missing value in one of the grouping variables results in an error.

#### Methodology

**Random hot deck imputation** with impute\_rhd can be applied to numeric, categorical or mixed data. A missing value is copied from a sampled record. Optionally samples are taken within a group, or with non-uniform sampling probabilities. See Andridge and Little (2010) for an overview of hot deck imputation methods.

**Sequential hot deck imputation** with impute\_rhd can be applied to numeric, categorical, or mixed data. The dataset is sorted using the 'predictor variables'. Missing values or combinations thereof are copied from the previous record where the value(s) are available in the case of LOCF and from the next record in the case of NOCF.

**Predictive mean matching** with impute\_pmm can be applied to numeric data. Missing values or combinations thereof are first imputed using a predictive model. Next, these predictions are replaced with observed (combinations of) values nearest to the prediction. The nearest value is the observed value with the smallest absolute deviation from the prediction.

**K-nearest neighbour imputation** with impute\_knn can be applied to numeric, categorical, or mixed data. For each record containing missing values, the k most similar completed records are determined based on Gower's (1977) similarity coefficient. From these records the actual donor is sampled.

#### Using the VIM backend

The VIM package has efficient implementations of several popular imputation methods. In particular, its random and sequential hotdeck implementation is faster and more memory-efficient than that of the current package. Moreover, VIM offers more fine-grained control over the imputation process then **simputation**.

If you have this package installed, it can be used by setting backend="VIM" for functions supporting this option. Alternatively, one can set options(simputation.hdbackend="VIM") so it becomes the default.

Simputation will map the simputation call to a function in the VIM package. In particular:

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• impute\_rhd is mapped to VIM::hotdeck where imputed variables are passed to the variable argument and the union of predictor and grouping variables are passed to domain\_var. Extra arguments in . . . are passed to VIM::hotdeck as well. Argument pool is ignored.

- impute\_shd is mapped to VIM::hotdeck where imputed variables are passed to the variable argument, predictor variables to ord\_var and grouping variables to domain\_var. Extra arguments in ... are passed to VIM::hotdeck as well. Arguments pool and order are ignored. In VIM the donor pool is determined on a per-variable basis, equivalent to setting pool="univariate" with the simputation backend. VIM is LOCF-based. Differences between simputation and VIM likely occurr when the sorting variables contain missings.
- impute\_knn is mapped to VIM::kNN where imputed variables are passed to variable, predictor variables are passed to dist\_var and grouping variables are ignored with a message. Extra arguments in . . . are passed to VIM::kNN as well. Argument pool is ignored. Note that simputation adheres stricktly to the Gower's original definition of the distance measure, while VIM uses a generalized variant that can take ordered factors into account.

By default, VIM's imputation functions add indicator variables to the original data to trace what values have been imputed. This is switched off by default for consistency with the rest of the simputation package, but it may be turned on again by setting imp\_var=TRUE.

#### References

Andridge, R.R. and Little, R.J., 2010. A review of hot deck imputation for survey non-response. International statistical review, 78(1), pp.40-64.

Gower, J.C., 1971. A general coefficient of similarity and some of its properties. Biometrics, pp.857–871.

#### See Also

```
Other imputation: impute_cart(), impute_lm(), impute()
```

impute\_lm

(Robust) Linear Regression Imputation

#### **Description**

Regression imputation methods including linear regression, robust linear regression with M-estimators, regularized regression with lasso/elasticnet/ridge regression.

#### Usage

```
impute_lm(
  dat,
  formula,
  add_residual = c("none", "observed", "normal"),
  na_action = na.omit,
  ...
)
```

impute\_lm

```
impute_rlm(
  dat,
  formula,
  add_residual = c("none", "observed", "normal"),
  na_action = na.omit,
  ...
)

impute_en(
  dat,
  formula,
  add_residual = c("none", "observed", "normal"),
  na_action = na.omit,
  family = c("gaussian", "poisson"),
  s = 0.01,
  ...
)
```

# **Arguments**

dat [data.frame], with variables to be imputed and their predictors.

formula [formula] imputation model description (See Model description)

add\_residual [character] Type of residual to add. "normal" means that the imputed value is

drawn from N(mu, sd) where mu and sd are estimated from the model's residuals (mu should equal zero in most cases). If add\_residual = "observed", residuals are drawn (with replacement) from the model's residuals. Ignored for non-

numeric predicted variables.

na\_action [function] what to do with missings in training data. By default cases with

missing values in predicted or predictors are omitted (see 'Missings in training

data').

... further arguments passed to

• lm for impute\_lm

• rlm for impute\_rlm

• glmnet for impute\_en

family Response type for elasticnet / lasso regression. For family="gaussian" the imputed variables are general numeric variables. For family="poisson" the

imputed variables are nonnegative counts. See glmnet for details.

The value of  $\lambda$  to use when computing predictions for lasso/elasticnet regression (parameter s of predict.glmnet). For impute\_en the (optional) parameter lambda is passed to glmnet when estimating the model (which is advised

against).

#### Value

s

dat, but imputed where possible.

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#### **Model specification**

Formulas are of the form

IMPUTED\_VARIABLES ~ MODEL\_SPECIFICATION [ | GROUPING\_VARIABLES ]

The left-hand-side of the formula object lists the variable or variables to be imputed. The right-hand side excluding the optional GROUPING\_VARIABLES model specification for the underlying predictor.

If grouping variables are specified, the data set is split according to the values of those variables, and model estimation and imputation occur independently for each group.

Grouping using dplyr::group\_by is also supported. If groups are defined in both the formula and using dplyr::group\_by, the data is grouped by the union of grouping variables. Any missing value in one of the grouping variables results in an error.

Grouping is ignored for impute\_const.

# Methodology

**Linear regression model imputation** with impute\_lm can be used to impute numerical variables based on numerical and/or categorical predictors. Several common imputation methods, including ratio and (group) mean imputation can be expressed this way. See lm for details on possible model specification.

**Robust linear regression through M-estimation** with impute\_rlm can be used to impute numerical variables employing numerical and/or categorical predictors. In M-estimation, the minimization of the squares of residuals is replaced with an alternative convex function of the residuals. A concise online description of M-estimation can be found here. Also see e.g. Huber (1981).

Lasso/elastic net/ridge regression imputation with impute\_en can be used to impute numerical variables employing numerical and/or categorical predictors. For this method, the regression coefficients are found by minimizing the least sum of squares of residuals augmented with a penalty term depending on the size of the coefficients. For lasso regression (Tibshirani, 1996), the penalty term is the sum of squares of the coefficients. For ridge regression (Hoerl and Kennard, 1970), the penalty term is the sum of absolute values of the coefficients. Elasticnet regression (Zou and Hastie, 2010) allows switching from lasso to ridge by penalizing by a weighted sum of the sum-of-squares and sum of absolute values term.

#### References

Huber, P.J., 2011. Robust statistics (pp. 1248-1251). Springer Berlin Heidelberg.

Hoerl, A.E. and Kennard, R.W., 1970. Ridge regression: Biased estimation for nonorthogonal problems. Technometrics, 12(1), pp.55-67.

Tibshirani, R., 1996. Regression shrinkage and selection via the lasso. Journal of the Royal Statistical Society. Series B (Methodological), pp.267-288.

Zou, H. and Hastie, T., 2005. Regularization and variable selection via the elastic net. Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series B (Statistical Methodology), 67(2), pp.301-320.

#### See Also

Getting started with simputation,

Other imputation: impute\_cart(), impute\_hotdeck, impute()

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#### **Examples**

```
data(iris)
irisNA <- iris
irisNA[1:4, "Sepal.Length"] <- NA</pre>
irisNA[3:7, "Sepal.Width"] <- NA</pre>
# impute a single variable (Sepal.Length)
i1 <- impute_lm(irisNA, Sepal.Length ~ Sepal.Width + Species)</pre>
# impute both Sepal.Length and Sepal.Width, using robust linear regression
i2 <- impute_rlm(irisNA, Sepal.Length + Sepal.Width ~ Species + Petal.Length)
```

impute\_median

*Impute (group-wise) medians* 

#### **Description**

Impute medians of group-wise medians.

# Usage

```
impute_median(
  dat,
  formula,
  add_residual = c("none", "observed", "normal"),
  type = 7,
)
```

#### **Arguments**

dat

type

[data.frame], with variables to be imputed and their predictors. [formula] imputation model description (See Model description) formula add\_residual [character] Type of residual to add. "normal" means that the imputed value is drawn from N(mu, sd) where mu and sd are estimated from the model's residuals (mu should equal zero in most cases). If add\_residual = "observed", residuals are drawn (with replacement) from the model's residuals. Ignored for nonnumeric predicted variables.

[integer] Specifies the algorithm to compute the median. See the 'details'

section of quantile.

Currently not used.

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#### **Model Specification**

Formulas are of the form

```
IMPUTED_VARIABLES ~ MODEL_SPECIFICATION [ | GROUPING_VARIABLES ]
```

The left-hand-side of the formula object lists the variable or variables to be imputed. Variables in MODEL\_SPECIFICATION and/or GROUPING\_VARIABLES are used to split the data set into groups prior to imputation. Use ~ 1 to specify that no grouping is to be applied.

# **Examples**

```
# group-wise median imputation
irisNA <- iris
irisNA[1:3,1] <- irisNA[4:7,2] <- NA
a <- impute_median(irisNA, Sepal.Length ~ Species)
head(a)

# group-wise median imputation, all variables except species
a <- impute_median(irisNA, . - Species ~ Species)
head(a)</pre>
```

impute\_multivariate

Multivariate, model-based imputation

# **Description**

Models that simultaneously optimize imptuation of multiple variables. Methods include imputation based on EM-estimation of multivariate normal parameters, imputation based on iterative Random Forest estimates and stochastic imptuation based on bootstrapped EM-estimatin of multivariate normal parameters.

# Usage

```
impute_em(dat, formula, verbose = 0, ...)
impute_mf(dat, formula, ...)
```

#### **Arguments**

dat [data.frame] with variables to be imputed.
formula [formula] imputation model description

verbose [numeric] Control amount of output printed to screen. Higher values mean

more output, typically per iteration.

- $0 \text{ or a number} \ge 1 \text{ for impute\_em}$
- 0, 1, or 2 for impute\_emb

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#### ... Options passed to

• norm::em.norm for impute\_em

• missForest::missForest for impute\_mf

#### **Model specification**

Formulas are of the form

[IMPUTED\_VARIABLES] ~ MODEL\_SPECIFICATION [ | GROUPING\_VARIABLES ]

When IMPUTED\_VARIABLES is empty, every variable in MODEL\_SPECIFICATION will be imputed. When IMPUTED\_VARIABLES is specified, all variables in IMPUTED\_VARIABLES and MODEL\_SPECIFICATION are part of the model, but only the IMPUTED\_VARIABLES are imputed in the output.

GROUPING\_VARIABLES specify what categorical variables are used to split-impute-combine the data. Grouping using dplyr::group\_by is also supported. If groups are defined in both the formula and using dplyr::group\_by, the data is grouped by the union of grouping variables. Any missing value in one of the grouping variables results in an error.

#### Methodology

**EM-based imputation** with impute\_em only works for numerical variables. These variables are assumed to follow a multivariate normal distribution for which the means and covariance matrix is estimated based on the EM-algorithm of Dempster Laird and Rubin (1977). The imputations are the expected values for missing values, conditional on the value of the estimated parameters.

**Multivariate Random Forest imputation** with impute\_mf works for numerical, categorical or mixed data types. It is based on the algorithm of Stekhoven and Buehlman (2012). Missing values are imputed using a rough guess after which a predictive random forest is trained and used to reimpute themissing values. This is iterated until convergence.

#### References

Dempster, Arthur P., Nan M. Laird, and Donald B. Rubin. "Maximum likelihood from incomplete data via the EM algorithm." Journal of the royal statistical society. Series B (methodological) (1977): 1-38.

Stekhoven, D.J. and Buehlmann, P., 2012. MissForest—non-parametric missing value imputation for mixed-type data. Bioinformatics, 28(1), pp.112-118.

impute\_proxy

Impute by variable derivation

# **Description**

Impute missing values by a constant, by copying another variable computing transformations from other variables.

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#### Usage

```
impute_proxy(dat, formula, add_residual = c("none", "observed", "normal"), ...)
impute_const(dat, formula, add_residual = c("none", "observed", "normal"), ...)
```

#### **Arguments**

dat [data.frame], with variables to be imputed and their predictors.
formula [formula] imputation model description (See Model description)

add\_residual [character] Type of residual to add. "normal" means that the imputed value is

drawn from N(mu, sd) where mu and sd are estimated from the model's residuals (mu should equal zero in most cases). If add\_residual = "observed", residuals are drawn (with replacement) from the model's residuals. Ignored for non-

numeric predicted variables.

... Currently unused

#### **Model Specification**

Formulas are of the form

```
IMPUTED_VARIABLES ~ MODEL_SPECIFICATION [ | GROUPING_VARIABLES ]
```

The left-hand-side of the formula object lists the variable or variables to be imputed.

For impute\_const, the MODEL\_SPECIFICATION is a single value and GROUPING\_VARIABLES are ignored.

For impute\_proxy, the MODEL\_SPECIFICATION is a variable or expression in terms of variables in the dataset that must result in either a single number of in a vector of length nrow(dat).

If grouping variables are specified, the data set is split according to the values of those variables, and model estimation and imputation occur independently for each group.

Grouping using dplyr::group\_by is also supported. If groups are defined in both the formula and using dplyr::group\_by, the data is grouped by the union of grouping variables. Any missing value in one of the grouping variables results in an error.

#### **Examples**

```
irisNA <- iris
irisNA[1:3,1] <- irisNA[3:7,2] <- NA

# impute a constant
a <- impute_const(irisNA, Sepal.Width ~ 7)
head(a)
a <- impute_proxy(irisNA, Sepal.Width ~ 7)
head(a)

# copy a value from another variable (where available)
a <- impute_proxy(irisNA, Sepal.Width ~ Sepal.Length)
head(a)</pre>
```

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na.roughfix

Rough imputation for handling missing predictors.

# Description

This function is re-exported from randomForest:na.roughfix when available. Otherwise it will throw a warning and resort to options("na.action")

# Usage

```
na.roughfix(object, ...)
```

# Arguments

object an R object caryying data (e.g. data.frame) ... arguments to be passed to other methods.

simputation

simputation

# Description

A package to make imputation simpler.

#### **Details**

To get started, see the introductory vignette.

simputation\_capabilities

Capabilities depending on suggested packages.

#### **Description**

Simputation relies on a number of packages for model estimation and/or imputation. Not all of these packages are installed when **simputation** is installed.

# Usage

```
simputation_capabilities()
simputation_suggests(lib.loc = NULL)
```

#### **Arguments**

lib.loc Where to check whether a package is installed (passed to installed.packages)

#### Value

For simputation\_capabilities A named character vector of class simputation.capabilities. The class attribute allows pretty-printing of the output.

For simputation\_suggests a logical vector, stating which suggested packages are currently installed (TRUE) or not (FALSE).

#### details

simputation\_capabilities Calls every impute\_function and grabs the warning message (if any) stating that a package is missing.

simputation\_suggests checks which of the suggested packages implementing statistical models are available.

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