

# Package ‘ShortForm’

December 13, 2023

**Type** Package

**Title** Automatic Short Form Creation

**Version** 0.5.3

**Date** 2023-12-12

**Description** Performs automatic creation of short forms of scales with an ant colony optimization algorithm and a Tabu search. As implemented in the package, the ant colony algorithm randomly selects items to build a model of a specified length, then updates the probability of item selection according to the fit of the best model within each set of searches. The algorithm continues until the same items are selected by multiple ants a given number of times in a row. On the other hand, the Tabu search changes one parameter at a time to be either free, constrained, or fixed while keeping track of the changes made and putting changes that result in worse fit in a ``tabu" list so that the algorithm does not revisit them for some number of searches. See Leite, Huang, & Marcoulides (2008) <[doi:10.1080/00273170802285743](https://doi.org/10.1080/00273170802285743)> for an applied example of the ant colony algorithm, and Marcoulides & Falk (2018) <[doi:10.1080/10705511.2017.1409074](https://doi.org/10.1080/10705511.2017.1409074)> for an applied example of the Tabu search.

**License** LGPL (>= 2.0, < 3) | Mozilla Public License

**LazyData** TRUE

**RoxygenNote** 7.2.3

**Suggests** knitr, MplusAutomation (>= 0.7), rmarkdown, testthat

**Imports** lavaan (>= 0.5-22), ggplot2, ggrepel, tidyr, stringr, methods, doSNOW, parallel, foreach

**Depends** R (>= 3.5.0)

**URL** <https://github.com/AnthonyRaborn/ShortForm>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/AnthonyRaborn/ShortForm/issues>

**Encoding** UTF-8

**NeedsCompilation** no

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.onAttach	<i>Package Attach Hook Function</i>
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### Description

Hook triggered when package attached.

### Usage

```
.onAttach(lib, pkg)
```

**Arguments**

<code>lib</code>	a character string giving the library directory where the package defining the namespace was found
<code>pkg</code>	a character string giving the name of the package

**Details**

Idea taken from <https://github.com/ntguardian/MCHT/blob/master/R/StartupMessage.R>

**Examples**

```
ShortForm:::.onAttach(.libPaths()[1], "ShortForm")
```

---

ACO-class

*An S4 class for the Ant Colony Optimization Algorithm*

---

**Description**

An S4 class for the Ant Colony Optimization Algorithm

**Value**

An S4 object of class 'ACO'.

**Slots**

`function_call` The original function call.

`summary` A summary 'data.frame' indicating the algorithm results for each iteration.

`final_solution` A 'matrix' with the final solution information, including fit indices, selected items, and pheromone level.

`best_model` A 'lavaan' object of the final solution.

`best_syntax` A 'character' vector of the final solution model syntax.

`runtime` A 'difftime' object of the total run time of the function.

add.param *Adds a parameter to the given search table. Checks whether parameter is involved in any (in)equality constraints in a fitted lavaan model*

---

### Description

Adds a parameter to the given search table. Checks whether parameter is involved in any (in)equality constraints in a fitted lavaan model

### Usage

```
add.param(  
  fitted.model,  
  ptab,  
  syntax,  
  nullval = NULL,  
  free = NULL,  
  block = NULL  
)
```

### Arguments

fitted.model	fitted lavaan model
ptab	search table
syntax	model.syntax specifying the parameter to add to the current table
nullval	optional numeric value specifying what the parameter should be fixed to (when fixed)
free	optional logical value specifying whether the parameter should initially be set free (or not)
block	optional numeric value specifying the group number to which the parameter corresponds

### Value

A data.frame with lavaan-formatted parameter values.

### Author(s)

Carl F. Falk

### References

[doi:10.1080/10705511.2017.1409074](https://doi.org/10.1080/10705511.2017.1409074)

### See Also

Other Tabu Search: [refit.model\(\)](#), [search.prep\(\)](#)

## Examples

```
## Not run:
# load simulation data and select columns used in this example
data(simulated_test_data)
tabuData <- simulated_test_data[, c(1:10)]

# specify an improper model (improper because data is unidimensional)
tabuModel <- "
Ability =~ Item1 + Item2 + Item3 + Item4
FakeAbility =~ Item5 + Item6 + Item7 + Item8
Ability ~ Outcome
FakeAbility ~ 0*Outcome"

# run the initial misspecified model for Tabu

init.model <- lavaan::lavaan(
  model = tabuModel, data = tabuData,
  auto.var = TRUE, auto.fix.first = FALSE, std.lv = TRUE, auto.cov.lv.x = TRUE
)

# Use search.prep to prepare for the Tabu search
ptab <- search.prep(fitted.model = init.model, loadings = TRUE, fcov = TRUE, errors = FALSE)

# add an additional (mispecified) parameter
additional.param <- "Item1 ~~ 0.5*Item3"
ptab <- add.param(fitted.model = init.model, ptab = ptab, syntax = additional.param)

# Perform Tabu Search
trial <- tabu.sem(init.model = init.model, ptab = ptab, obj = AIC, niter = 2, tabu.size = 5)

## End(Not run)
```

---

antcolony.lavaan

*A function to implement the ant colony optimization algorithm for short form specification searches with the package [lavaan](#).*

---

## Description

The Ant Colony Optimization (ACO) algorithm (Dorigo & Stutzle, 2004) can produce short forms of scales that are optimized with respect to characteristics selected by the developer, such as model fit and predictive relationships with other variables. The algorithm is based on the foraging behavior of a group of ants, which start searching for food in a variety of directions and then eventually all ants converge to the shortest distance to the food source. This behavior occurs because ants leave a pheromone trail behind as they search for food and ants in shorter paths leave stronger pheromone trails, which are detected by other ants and that will lead them to follow the shortest trail.

**Usage**

```

antcolony.lavaan(
  data = NULL,
  sample.cov = NULL,
  sample.nobs = NULL,
  ants = 20,
  evaporation = 0.9,
  antModel,
  list.items = NULL,
  full = NULL,
  i.per.f = NULL,
  factors = NULL,
  bifactor = NULL,
  steps = 50,
  lavaan.model.specs = list(model.type = "cfa", auto.var = T, estimator = "default",
    ordered = NULL, int.ov.free = TRUE, int.lv.free = FALSE, auto.fix.first = TRUE,
    auto.fix.single = TRUE, auto.var = TRUE, auto.cov.lv.x = TRUE, auto.th = TRUE,
    auto.delta = TRUE, auto.cov.y = TRUE, std.lv = F, group = NULL, group.label = NULL,
    group.equal = "loadings", group.partial = NULL, group.w.free = FALSE),
  pheromone.calculation = "gamma",
  fit.indices = c("cfi", "tli", "rmsea"),
  fit.statistics.test = "(cfi > 0.95)&(tli > 0.95)&(rmsea < 0.06)",
  summaryfile = NULL,
  feedbackfile = NULL,
  max.run = 1000,
  parallel = T
)

```

**Arguments**

<code>data</code>	The data being used in data frame format. Default value is null. Only one of <code>data</code> or <code>sample.cov</code> should be used.
<code>sample.cov</code>	The sample covariance matrix. See <a href="#">lavaan</a> for the specific format needed. Default value is null. Only one of <code>data</code> or <code>sample.cov</code> should be used.
<code>sample.nobs</code>	A numeric value indicating the number of observations in the sample covariance matrix. If <code>sample.cov</code> is used, this must be filled in. Default value is null.
<code>ants</code>	A numeric value indicating the number of ants to send (e.g., number of short forms to evaluate) per iteration. Default value is 20.
<code>evaporation</code>	A numeric value which sets the percentage of the pheromone that is retained after evaporation between steps of the algorithm. Default value is 0.9, indicating 10 (0,1), exclusive.
<code>antModel</code>	The lavaan formatted model. See <a href="#">lavaan</a> for more details. Defaults to the default <a href="#">lavaan</a> values. NOTE: Each factor and/or regression needs to be specified on a single line. Newline breaks and carriage returns WILL break the function.
<code>list.items</code>	A list containing one or more character vectors of item names for each factor, where each factor is a separate element of the list. The items should be input in the order in which the factors are input in <code>i.per.f</code> and <code>factors</code> .

<code>full</code>	A numeric value indicating the total number of unique items in the test or scale.
<code>i.per.f</code>	Vector with number of items per factor (e.g. target number), in the same order of <code>list.items</code> and <code>factors</code> .
<code>factors</code>	Character vector with names of factors in the same order of <code>list.items</code> and <code>i.per.f</code> .
<code>bifactor</code>	Either the name of the factor that all of the chosen items will load on (as character), or 'NULL' if the model is not a bifactor model.
<code>steps</code>	A numeric value that sets the stopping rule, which is the number of ants in a row for which the model does not change.
<code>lavaan.model.specs</code>	A list which contains the specifications for the lavaan model. The default values are the defaults for lavaan to perform a CFA. See <a href="#">lavaan</a> for more details.
<code>pheromone.calculation</code>	A character string specifying the method for calculating the pheromone strength. Must be one of "gamma" (standardized latent regression coefficients), "beta" (standardized observed regression coefficients), "regression" (both latent and observed regression coefficients, if they exist) or "variance" (proportion of variance explained by model). You must specify the entire string. Default is gamma.
<code>fit.indices</code>	The fit indices (in lavaan format) extracted for model optimization. See <a href="#">lavaan</a> for more details.
<code>fit.statistics.test</code>	A character vector of the logical test being used for model optimization. The default is " $(cfi > 0.95) \& (tli > 0.95) \& (rmsea < 0.06)$ ". The format for the logical test should match 1) the names of the indices being used in <a href="#">lavaan</a> and 2) the default provided above. At least one fit index must be included.
<code>summaryfile</code>	The name of the summary file generated. A .txt file is suggested. Default is "summary.txt" and writes into the current working directory. This file writes a line for each ant within each step and includes (a) a vector of a 0/1 value for each item indicating whether the item was selected by that ant, (b) the run number, (c) the count number, (d) the ant number, and (e) the current pheromone level.
<code>feedbackfile</code>	The name of the feedback file generated. An .html file is suggested. Default is "iteration.html" and writes into the current working directory. This file saves the result of each run, which includes (a) the run number, (b) the count number, (c) the ant number, (d) the step number (if the current run is successful) or "Failure" (if the current run is unsuccessful), and for successful runs (f) the chosen fit statistics (from <code>fit.indices</code> ), the average of the gammas and betas (standardized regression coefficients), and the overall variance explained of the current run.
<code>max.run</code>	The maximum number of ants to run before the algorithm stops. This includes failed iterations as well. Default is 1000.
<code>parallel</code>	An option for using parallel processing. If TRUE, the function will utilize all available cores (up to the number of ants). Default is TRUE.

## Details

This function sends a specified number of ants per iteration, which randomly select items to build a model, then evaluates the model based on pheromone levels. The pheromone levels are updated after each iteration according to the best-fitting model of that iteration. The algorithm's stopping rule is to end the search when a certain solution is the same for a given number of ants in a row.

PREPARATORY STEPS: For the ACO algorithm implementation for short for selection, the following decisions are needed:

1. Determine the target size for the short form.
2. Determine which characteristics should be optimized.
3. Define how the pheromone level will be computed: This is a function of the characteristics of the short form that will be optimized. In Leite, Huang and Marcoulides (2008), the pheromone level was zero if model fit indices did not meet Hu and Bentler's (1999) suggested thresholds, and equal to the sum of path coefficients of a predictor variable if model fit indices met thresholds. Currently, the package only implements pheromone calculation based on regression coefficients or variance explained, with user-selected model fit index thresholds.
4. Define how many short forms should be evaluated before the best-so-far pheromone level is examined. Leite, Huang and Marcoulides (2008) used 10 short forms.
5. Define the percentage of pheromone evaporation, if any. Leite, Huang and Marcoulides (2008) used 5%.
6. Define convergence criterion. Leite, Huang and Marcoulides (2008) set the algorithm to converge if the short form did not improve in 100 x number of short forms in step 4.

IMPLEMENTATION: Once these decisions are made, the ACO algorithm selects short forms with the following steps:

- Step 1. All items are assigned an initial weight of 1.
- Step 2. A set of  $n$  short forms is selected by sampling with probability proportional to the item weights.
- Step 3. Fit the latent variable model to the  $n$  short forms.
- Step 4. Calculate the pheromone levels for the  $n$  short forms. Define the best-so-far pheromone level (if iteration 1) or compare the current best pheromone from the set of  $n$  short forms to the best-so-far pheromone.
- Step 5. If the pheromone level of the best short form from step 4 exceeds the best-so-far pheromone level, update the best-so-far pheromone level and add it to the current weight of the items of the best short form.
- Step 6. Return to step 2 until convergence criterion is reached.

## Value

A list with four elements: the first containing a named matrix with final model's best fit indices, the final pheromone level (either the mean of the standardized regression coefficients (gammas, betas, or both), or the mean variance explained), and a series of 0/1 values indicating the items selected in the final solution, the second element containing the summary matrix of the best fit statistic value(s) for each run, the items chosen for said best fit, the mean gamma, beta, and variance explained for the best fit, and the item pheromone levels after each run, the third containing the best-fitting lavaan model object, and the fourth containing the best-fitting model syntax.



**Author(s)**

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**See Also**

[antcolony.mplus](#)

Other Ant Colony Algorithms: [antcolony.mplus\(\)](#)

**Examples**

```
# a 3-factor example using the HolzingerSwineford1939 data from `lavaan`

# some changes to the default values
# notice that in this example we are recreating the original model
abilityShortForm <- antcolony.lavaan(
  data = lavaan::HolzingerSwineford1939,
  ants = 2, evaporation = 0.7,
  antModel = " visual =~ x1 + x2 + x3
             textual =~ x4 + x5 + x6
             speed  =~ x7 + x8 + x9 ",
  list.items = list(c(
    "x1",
    "x2", "x3"
  ), c("x4", "x5", "x6"), c("x7", "x8", "x9")), full = 9, i.per.f =
  c(3, 3, 3), factors = c("visual", "textual", "speed"), steps = 2, fit.indices =
  c("cfi"), fit.statistics.test = "(cfi > 0.6)", summaryfile =
  NULL, feedbackfile = NULL, max.run = 2, parallel = FALSE
)
## Not run:
# using simulated test data and the default values for lavaan.model.specs
# first, read in the original or "full" model
data(exampleAntModel) # a character vector for a lavaan model

# then, create the list of the items by the factors
# in this case, all items load onto the general 'Ability' factor
list.items <- list(c(
  "Item1", "Item2", "Item3", "Item4", "Item5",
  "Item6", "Item7", "Item8", "Item9", "Item10",
  "Item11", "Item12", "Item13", "Item14", "Item15",
  "Item16", "Item17", "Item18", "Item19", "Item20",
  "Item21", "Item22", "Item23", "Item24", "Item25",
  "Item26", "Item27", "Item28", "Item29", "Item30",
  "Item31", "Item32", "Item33", "Item34", "Item35",
  "Item36", "Item37", "Item38", "Item39", "Item40",
  "Item41", "Item42", "Item43", "Item44", "Item45",
  "Item46", "Item47", "Item48", "Item49", "Item50",
  "Item51", "Item52", "Item53", "Item54", "Item55", "Item56"
))

# load the data
data(simulated_test_data)
```

```
# finally, call the function with some minor changes to the default values.
abilityShortForm <- antcolony.lavaan(
  data = simulated_test_data,
  ants = 5, evaporation = 0.7, antModel = exampleAntModel,
  list.items = list.items, full = 56, i.per.f = 20,
  factors = "Ability", steps = 3, fit.indices = c("cfi", "rmsea"),
  fit.statistics.test = "(cfi > 0.95)&(rmsea < 0.05)",
  summaryfile = "summary.txt",
  feedbackfile = "iteration.html",
  max.run = 500
)

abilityShortForm # print the results of the final short form

## End(Not run)
```

---

antcolony.mplus	<i>A function to implement the ant colony optimization algorithm for short form specification searches, either using MPlus directly via <a href="#">system</a> calls or using Mplus indirectly with the package <a href="#">MplusAutomation</a>.</i>
-----------------	--

---

## Description

The Ant Colony Optimization (ACO) algorithm (Dorigo & Stutzle, 2004) can produce short forms of scales that are optimized with respect to characteristics selected by the developer, such as model fit and predictive relationships with other variables. The algorithm is based on the foraging behavior of a group of ants, which start searching for food in a variety of directions and then eventually all ants converge to the shortest distance to the food source. This behavior occurs because ants leave a pheromone trail behind as they search for food and ants in shorter paths leave stronger pheromone trails, which are detected by other ants and that will lead them to follow the shortest trail.

## Usage

```
antcolony.mplus(
  ants = 20,
  evaporation = 0.95,
  mplus = NULL,
  list.items = NULL,
  full = NULL,
  i.per.f = NULL,
  factors = NULL,
  steps = 50,
  max.run = 1000,
  resultfile = NULL,
  summaryfile = "summary.txt",
  min.CFI = 0.95,
  min.TLI = 0.95,
```

```

max.RMSEA = 0.06,
feedbackfile = "iteration.html",
loc.gammas,
loc.variances,
predictors,
var.predictors,
Mplus.Automation = FALSE,
dataOut = "tempModel.dat",
modelOut = "tempModel.inp"
)

```

### Arguments

ants	A numeric value indicating the number of ants to send send (short forms to evaluate) per iteration. Default value is 20.
evaporation	A numeric value which sets the percentage of the pheremone that is retained after evaporation between steps of the algorithm. Default value is 0.9, indicating 10 (0,1), exclusive.
mplus	When Mplus.Automation=FALSE, this is a character value indicating the name of the MPlus input file without the file extension ".inp". If not in the current working directory, include the full file path where it is located. This file will be changed during the ant colony search, so it's suggested to make a backup of the original file before running the function. When Mplus.Automation=TRUE, this is an object of class <a href="#">mplusObject</a> created by <a href="#">MplusAutomation</a> and containing the initial model.
list.items	A list containing one or more character vectors of item names for each factor, where each factor is a separate element of the list. The items should be input in the order in which the factors are input in <code>i.per.f</code> and <code>factors</code> .
full	A numeric value indicating the total number of unique items in the test or scale.
i.per.f	A vector with number of items per factor (e.g. target number), in the same order of <code>list.items</code> and <code>factors</code> .
factors	A character vector with the names of the factors in the same order of <code>list.items</code> and <code>i.per.f</code> .
steps	A numeric value that sets the stopping rule, which is the number of ants in a row for which the model does not change.
max.run	The maximum number of ants to run before the algorithm stops. This includes failed iterations as well. Default is 1000.
resultfile	A character vector containing the file path where the MPlus results for the current ant model is saved. If the file is not in the current working directory, the full path must be specified. Not used when Mplus.Automation=FALSE.
summaryfile	A character vector containing the name of the summary file generated. A .txt file is suggested. Default is "summary.txt" and writes into the current working directory. This file writes a line for each ant within each step and includes (a) a vector of a 0/1 value for each item indicating whether the item was selected by that ant, (b) the run number, (c) the count number, (d) the ant number, and (e) the current pheromone level.

min.CFI	A numeric value indicating the minimum CFI for "acceptable" model fit. Models with CFI less than this value are automatically rejected. Default is 0.95.
min.TLI	A numeric value indicating the minimum TLI for "acceptable" model fit. Models with TLI less than this value are automatically rejected. Default is 0.95.
max.RMSEA	A numeric value indicating the maximum RMSEA for "acceptable" model fit. Models with RMSEA greater than this value are automatically rejected. Default is 0.06
feedbackfile	A character vector containing the name of the feedback file generated. An .html file is suggested. Default is "iteration.html" and writes into the current working directory. This file saves the result of each run, which includes (a) the run number, (b) the count number, (c) the ant number, (d) the step number (if the current run is successful) or "Failure" (if the current run is unsuccessful), and for successful runs (f) the value of CFI, TLI, and RMSEA fit indices, the average of the gammas (standardized regression coefficients), and the overall variance explained of the current run.
loc.gammas	A numeric vector with the line numbers where the regression coefficients of the MIMIC model start and end (locations). Not used with Mplus.Automation=TRUE
loc.variances	A numeric vector with the line numbers of the residual variances of the latent factors. Not used with Mplus.Automation=TRUE
predictors	Character vector with names of predictor variables, if any.
var.predictors	A numeric vector with variances of the predictor(s), if any. Not used with Mplus.Automation=TRUE
Mplus.Automation	Logical. If TRUE, uses the MplusAutomation package to modify the model as the algorithm proceeds. The "mplus" option will then be used as Defaults to FALSE as it is in the process of being built.
dataOut	A character vector specifying the location and name of the data file generated by MplusAutomation for each iteration of the algorithm. Default is "temp-Data.dat" and saves to the current working directory. When specifying the name, be sure to use a data format that Mplus can read. You must change the working directory to the location in which this file will be saved. Only used when Mplus.Automation=TRUE.
modelOut	A character vector specifying the location and name of the Mplus model file generated by MplusAutomation for each iteration of the algorithm. Default is "tempModel.inp" and saves to the current working directory. When specifying the name of the model file, it must be a ".inp" extension. You must change the working directory to the location in which this file will be saved. Only used when Mplus.Automation=TRUE.

## Details

This function sends a specified number of ants per iteration, which randomly select items to build a model, then evaluates the model based on pheromone levels. The pheromone levels are updated after each iteration according to the best-fitting model of that iteration. The algorithm's stopping rule is to end the search when a certain solution is the same for a given number of ants in a row. When constructing the mplus dataset and when Mplus.Automation=FALSE, make sure that items

in 'categorical are' and 'usevariables' are specifications that take the same number of lines per short form.

PREPARATORY STEPS: For the ACO algorithm implementation for short for selection, the following decisions are needed:

1. Determine the target size for the short form.
2. Determine which characteristics should be optimized.
3. Define how the pheromone level will be computed: This is a function of the characteristics of the short form that will be optimized. In Leite, Huang and Marcoulides (2008), the pheromone level was zero if model fit indices did not meet Hu and Bentler's (1999) suggested thresholds, and equal to the sum of path coefficients of a predictor variable if model fit indices met thresholds. Currently, the package only implements pheromone calculation based on regression coefficients or variance explained, with user-selected model fit index thresholds.
4. Define how many short forms should be evaluated before the best-so-far pheromone level is examined. Leite, Huang and Marcoulides (2008) used 10 short forms.
5. Define the percentage of pheromone evaporation, if any. Leite, Huang and Marcoulides (2008) used 5%.
6. Define convergence criterion. Leite, Huang and Marcoulides (2008) set the algorithm to converge if the short form did not improve in 100 x number of short forms in step 4.

IMPLEMENTATION: Once these decisions are made, the ACO algorithm selects short forms with the following steps:

Step 1. All items are assigned an initial weight of 1.

Step 2. A set of n short forms is selected by sampling with probability proportional to the items' weights.

Step 3. Fit latent variable model to the n short forms.

Step 4. Calculate the pheromone levels for the n short forms. Define the best-so-far pheromone level (if iteration 1) or compare the current best pheromone from the set of n short forms to the best-so-far pheromone.

Step 5. If the pheromone level of the best short form from step 4 exceeds the best-so-far pheromone level, update the best-so-far pheromone level and add it to the current weight of the items of the best short form.

Step 6. Return to step 2 until convergence criterion is reached.

### **Value**

A named matrix containing final model's best RMSEA, CFI, and TLI values, the final pheromone level (the mean of the standardized regression coefficients (gammas)), and a series of 0/1 values indicating the items selected in the final solution.

### **Author(s)**

Walter Leite; Anthony W Raborn, <anthony.w.raborn@gmail.com>

### **References**

[doi:10.1080/00273170802285743](https://doi.org/10.1080/00273170802285743)

**See Also**

[antcolony.lavaan](#)

Other Ant Colony Algorithms: [antcolony.lavaan\(\)](#)

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
# use MplusAutomation to find a 15-item short form of a simulated 56-item unidimensional test
# first, create the list of the items by the factors
# in this case, all items load onto the general 'Ability' factor
list.items <- list(c(
  "Item1", "Item2", "Item3", "Item4", "Item5",
  "Item6", "Item7", "Item8", "Item9", "Item10",
  "Item11", "Item12", "Item13", "Item14", "Item15",
  "Item16", "Item17", "Item18", "Item19", "Item20",
  "Item21", "Item22", "Item23", "Item24", "Item25",
  "Item26", "Item27", "Item28", "Item29", "Item30",
  "Item31", "Item32", "Item33", "Item34", "Item35",
  "Item36", "Item37", "Item38", "Item39", "Item40",
  "Item41", "Item42", "Item43", "Item44", "Item45",
  "Item46", "Item47", "Item48", "Item49", "Item50",
  "Item51", "Item52", "Item53", "Item54", "Item55",
  "Item56"
))
# then, load the data
data(simulated_test_data)

# Create the mplusObject with MplusAutomation
# notice the explicit call of each item, instead of the shorthand "Item1-Item56"
initial.MplusAutomation.model <- MplusAutomation::mplusObject(
  TITLE = "Trial ACO MplusAutomation with FERA 2016 Data;",
  MODEL = "Ability BY Item1 Item2 Item3 Item4 Item5
Item6 Item7 Item8 Item9 Item10 Item11 Item12
Item13 Item14 Item15 Item16 Item17 Item18
Item19 Item20 Item21 Item22 Item23 Item24
Item25 Item26 Item27 Item28 Item29 Item30
Item31 Item32 Item33 Item34 Item35 Item36
Item37 Item38 Item39 Item40 Item41 Item42
Item43 Item44 Item45 Item46 Item47 Item48
Item49 Item50 Item51 Item52 Item53 Item54
Item55 Item56;",
  ANALYSIS = "ESTIMATOR = WLSMV;",
  VARIABLE = "CATEGORICAL = Item1 Item2 Item3 Item4 Item5
Item6 Item7 Item8 Item9 Item10 Item11 Item12
Item13 Item14 Item15 Item16 Item17 Item18
Item19 Item20 Item21 Item22 Item23 Item24
Item25 Item26 Item27 Item28 Item29 Item30
Item31 Item32 Item33 Item34 Item35 Item36
Item37 Item38 Item39 Item40 Item41 Item42
Item43 Item44 Item45 Item46 Item47 Item48
Item49 Item50 Item51 Item52 Item53 Item54
Item55 Item56;",
```

```

OUTPUT = "stdyx;",
rdata = simulated_test_data
)

# finally, call the function with some minor changes to the default values.
abilityShortForm <- antcolony.mplus(
  ants = 3, evaporation = 0.7,
  mplus = initial.MplusAutomation.model, list.items = list.items, full = 56,
  i.per.f = 15, factors = "Ability", steps = 3, max.run = 50, resultfile = NULL,
  summaryfile = "C:/Users/lordmaxwell/Desktop/summary.txt",
  min.CFI = 0.95, min.TLI = 0.95, max.RMSEA = 0.06,
  feedbackfile = "C:/Users/lordmaxwell/Desktop/iteration.html", Mplus.Automation = TRUE,
  dataOut = "exampleModel.dat",
  modelOut = "exampleModel.inp"
)

## End(Not run)

```

---

exampleAntModel	<i>Model syntax for the example in the <a href="#">antcolony.lavaan</a> function.</i>
-----------------	---

---

### Description

A character vector containing the model syntax used for the one factor, 56-item example in the [antcolony.lavaan](#).

### Usage

```
exampleAntModel
```

### Format

A character vector.

---

modelCheck-class	<i>An S4 class for the modelCheck object</i>
------------------	--

---

### Description

An S4 class for the modelCheck object

### Value

An S4 object of class 'ACO'.

**Slots**

`model.output` A 'lavaan' object.  
`warnings` A 'character' vector of any warnings.  
`errors` A 'character' vector of any errors.  
`model.syntax` A 'character' vector of the modelCheck model syntax.

---

`plot,ACO,ANY-method`     *Plot method for class 'ACO'*

---

**Description**

Plot method for class 'ACO'

**Usage**

```
## S4 method for signature 'ACO,ANY'
plot(x, y, type = "all", ...)
```

**Arguments**

<code>x, y</code>	An S4 object of class 'ACO'
<code>type</code>	A 'character' value specifying the plot type. One of "all" (for all plots), "pheromone", "gamma", "beta", or "variance".
<code>...</code>	Not used.

---

`plot,SA,ANY-method`     *Plot method for class 'SA'*

---

**Description**

Plot method for class 'SA'

**Usage**

```
## S4 method for signature 'SA,ANY'
plot(x, y, ...)
```

**Arguments**

<code>x, y</code>	An S4 object of class 'SA'.
<code>...</code>	Not used.



---

plot,TS,ANY-method      *Plot method for class 'TS'*

---

**Description**

Plot method for class 'TS'

**Usage**

```
## S4 method for signature 'TS,ANY'
plot(x, y, ...)
```

**Arguments**

x, y	An S4 object of class 'TS'.
...	Not used.

---

refit.model	<i>Given a fitted lavaan model and a search table, refits the model using the search table as specifying what changes should be done (parameters fixed/freed).</i>
-------------	--

---

**Description**

This is not meant to be called explicitly as [tabu.sem](#) uses this internally for model refitting.

**Usage**

```
refit.model(fitted.model, ptab)
```

**Arguments**

fitted.model	fitted model of class lavaan
ptab	search table

**Value**

An object of class lavaan if the new model fits, or an object of class try-error if the model update fails.

**Author(s)**

Carl F. Falk

**References**

[doi:10.1080/10705511.2017.1409074](https://doi.org/10.1080/10705511.2017.1409074)

**See Also**

Other Tabu Search: [add.param\(\)](#), [search.prep\(\)](#)

---

SA-class

*An S4 class for the Simulated Annealing Algorithm*

---

**Description**

An S4 class for the Simulated Annealing Algorithm

**Value**

An S4 object of class ‘SA’.

**Slots**

`function_call` The original function call.

`chains` The number of chains used.

`chain_results` A ‘matrix’ (for multiple chains) or a ‘list’ (for a single chain) of the chain results.

`all_fit` A summary ‘vector’ indicating the model fit results for each iteration.

`best_fit` The best model fit result using the selected ‘fitStatistic’.

`best_model` A ‘modelCheck’ object of the final solution.

`best_syntax` A ‘character’ vector of the final solution model syntax.

`runtime` A ‘difftime’ object of the total run time of the function.

---

`search.prep`

*Given a fitted lavaan model (e.g., CFA), prepares a table that contains parameters that can be fixed/freed as part of a model specification search.*

---

**Description**

Given a fitted lavaan model (e.g., CFA), prepares a table that contains parameters that can be fixed/freed as part of a model specification search.

**Usage**

```
search.prep(fitted.model, loadings = TRUE, fcov = TRUE, errors = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

fitted.model - an object of class "lavaan" that contains the initially fitted model for the search  
 loadings - a logical value that indicates whether cross-loadings will be part of the search  
 fcov - a logical value indicating whether factor covariances will be part of the search  
 errors - a logical value indicating whether error covariances will be part of the search

**Value**

A data.frame with lavaan-formatted parameter values.

**Author(s)**

Carl F. Falk

**References**

[doi:10.1080/10705511.2017.1409074](https://doi.org/10.1080/10705511.2017.1409074)

**See Also**

Other Tabu Search: [add.param\(\)](#), [refit.model\(\)](#)

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
# load simulation data and select columns used in this example
data(simulated_test_data)
tabuData <- simulated_test_data[, c(1:10)]

# specify an improper model (improper because data is unidimensional)
tabuModel <- "
Ability =~ Item1 + Item2 + Item3 + Item4
FakeAbility =~ Item5 + Item6 + Item7 + Item8
Ability ~ Outcome
FakeAbility ~ 0*Outcome"

# run the initial misspecified model for Tabu

init.model <- lavaan::lavaan(
  model = tabuModel, data = tabuData,
  auto.var = TRUE, auto.fix.first = FALSE, std.lv = TRUE, auto.cov.lv.x = TRUE
)

# Use search.prep to prepare for the Tabu search
ptab <- search.prep(fitted.model = init.model, loadings = TRUE, fcov = TRUE, errors = FALSE)

# add an additional (mispecified) parameter
additional.param <- "Item1 ~~ 0.5*Item3"
ptab <- add.param(fitted.model = init.model, ptab = ptab, syntax = additional.param)
```

```
# Perform Tabu Search
trial <- tabu.sem(init.model = init.model, ptab = ptab, obj = AIC, niter = 2, tabu.size = 5)

## End(Not run)
```

---

shortExampleAntModel *Model syntax for the short example in the [antcolony.lavaan](#) function.*

---

### Description

A character vector containing the model syntax used for the one factor, 15-item, example in the [antcolony.lavaan](#).

### Usage

```
shortExampleAntModel
```

### Format

A character vector.

---

ShortForm

ShortForm *package*

---

### Description

Automated Item Selection Algorithms for Short Forms

### Details

See the README on [GitHub](#) for more information.

---

ShortFormStartup	<i>Create Package Startup Message</i>
------------------	---------------------------------------

---

**Description**

Makes package startup message.

**Usage**

```
ShortFormStartup()
```

**Details**

Idea taken from <https://github.com/ntguardian/MCHT/blob/master/R/StartupMessage.R>

**Examples**

```
ShortForm:::ShortFormStartup()
```

---

show, ACO-method	<i>Print method for class 'ACO'</i>
------------------	-------------------------------------

---

**Description**

Print method for class 'ACO'

**Usage**

```
## S4 method for signature 'ACO'  
show(object)
```

**Arguments**

object            An S4 object of class 'ACO'

---

show,SA-method	<i>Print method for class 'SA'</i>
----------------	------------------------------------

---

**Description**

Print method for class 'SA'

**Usage**

```
## S4 method for signature 'SA'  
show(object)
```

**Arguments**

object            An S4 object of class 'SA'.

---

show,TS-method	<i>Print method for class 'TS'</i>
----------------	------------------------------------

---

**Description**

Print method for class 'TS'

**Usage**

```
## S4 method for signature 'TS'  
show(object)
```

**Arguments**

object            An S4 object of class 'TS'.

---

simulatedAnnealing	<i>An adaptation of the simulated annealing algorithm for psychometric models.</i>
--------------------	--

---

## Description

Simulated annealing mimics the physical process of annealing metals together. [Kirkpatrick et al. \(1983\)](#) introduces this analogy and demonstrates its use; the implementation here follows this demonstration closely, with some modifications to make it better suited for psychometric models.

## Usage

```
simulatedAnnealing(
  initialModel,
  originalData,
  maxSteps,
  fitStatistic = "cfi",
  temperature = "linear",
  maximize = TRUE,
  Kirkpatrick = TRUE,
  randomNeighbor = TRUE,
  lavaan.model.specs = list(model.type = "cfa", auto.var = TRUE, estimator = "default",
    ordered = NULL, int.ov.free = TRUE, int.lv.free = FALSE, std.lv = TRUE,
    auto.fix.first = FALSE, auto.fix.single = TRUE, auto.cov.lv.x = TRUE, auto.th = TRUE,
    auto.delta = TRUE, auto.cov.y = TRUE),
  maxChanges = 5,
  restartCriteria = "consecutive",
  maximumConsecutive = 25,
  maxItems = NULL,
  items = NULL,
  bifactor = FALSE,
  setChains = 1,
  shortForm = T,
  ...
)
```

## Arguments

initialModel	The initial model as a character vector with lavaan model.syntax.
originalData	The original data.frame with variable names.
maxSteps	The number of iterations for which the algorithm will run.
fitStatistic	Either a single model fit statistic produced by lavaan, or a user-defined fit statistic function.
temperature	Either an acceptable character value, or a user-defined temperature function. The acceptable values are "linear", "quadratic", or "logistic".

maximize	Logical indicating if the goal is to maximize (TRUE) the fitStatistic for model selection.
Kirkpatrick	Either TRUE to use Kirkpatrick et al. (1983) acceptance probability, or a user-defined function for accepting proposed models.
randomNeighbor	Either TRUE to use the included function for randomNeighbor selection, or a user-defined function for creating random models.
lavaan.model.specs	A list which contains the specifications for the lavaan model. The default values are the defaults for lavaan to perform a CFA. See <a href="#">lavaan</a> for more details.
maxChanges	An integer value greater than 1 setting the maximum number of parameters to change within randomNeighbor. When creating a short form, should be no greater than the smallest reduction in items loading on one factor; e.g., when reducing a 2-factor scale from 10 items on each factor to 8 items on the first and 6 items on the second, maxChanges should be no greater than 2.
restartCriteria	Either "consecutive" to restart after maxConsecutiveSelection times with the same model chosen in a row, or a user-defined function.
maximumConsecutive	A positive integer value used with restartCriteria.
maxItems	When creating a short form, a vector of the number of items per factor you want the short form to contain. Defaults to NULL.
items	A character vector of item names. Defaults to NULL. Ignored if maxItems==FALSE.
bifactor	Logical. Indicates if the latent model is a bifactor model. If TRUE, assumes that the last latent variable in the provided model syntax is the bifactor (i.e., all of the retained items will be set to load on the last latent variable). Ignored if maxItems==FALSE.
setChains	Numeric. Sets the number of parallel chains to run. Default to 1, which also sets the algorithm to run serially (e.g., on a single processor). Values greater than 1 result in the chains running on parallel processes using the doSNOW and foreach packages.
shortForm	Logical. Are you creating a short form (TRUE) or not (FALSE)? Default is TRUE.
...	Further arguments to be passed to other functions. Not implemented for any of the included functions.

## Details

### Outline of the Pieces of the Simulated Annealing Algorithm

- initialModel – the initial, full form
- currentModel – the model of the current step
- maxSteps – the maximum number of steps (iterations)
- currentStep – the current step
- currentTemp – the current temperature. A function of the number of steps (such that temp = 0 at maxSteps), and values that control the shape of the overall temperature. A part of the function that determines the acceptance probability of newly – generated models



- `randomNeighbor` – a function that determines how the form is changed at each step. Should be able to change one or more parameters, and should have a way to control how many are changed.
- `goal` – a function that determines the "goodness" of the `currentModel`. Typically in SA goodness is defined as minimization! Sometimes called an energy function
- `selectionFunction` – a function that determines if a `randomNeighbor` change is accepted. Uses the `goal` function that determines the "goodness" of the `currentModel` and the "goodness" of the `randomNeighbor`, and the `currentTemp` to generate a probability of acceptance, then compares this probability to a `Uniform(0,1)` variable to determine if accepted or not. A standard

$$P(model_2|goal_1, goal_2, currentTemp) = \begin{cases} (\exp \frac{-(goal_2 - goal_1)}{currentTemp}), & (goal_1 > goal_2) \\ 1, & (goal_1 \leq goal_2) \end{cases} \quad (\text{Kirkpatrick et al., 1983})$$

- `bestModel` – the model with the best value of the goal function achieved so far
- `bestGoal` – the best value of the goal function achieved so far
- `restartCriteria` – if utilized, this would "restart" the SA process by changing `currentModel` to `bestModel` and continuing the process. Could be based on (1) the `currentStep` value, (2) the difference between `goal(currentModel)` and `goal(bestModel)`, (3) randomness (i.e., could randomly restart, could randomly restart based on some values, etc), (4) other criteria.

## Value

A named list: the 'bestModel' found, the 'bestFit', and 'allFit' values found by the algorithm.

## Examples

```
## Not run:
data(exampleAntModel)
data(simulated_test_data)
trial1 <- simulatedAnnealing(
  initialModel = lavaan::cfa(
    model = exampleAntModel,
    data = simulated_test_data
  ),
  originalData = simulated_test_data, maxSteps = 3,
  fitStatistic = "rmsea", maximize = FALSE
)
summary(trial1) # shows the resulting model

trial2 <- simulatedAnnealing(
  initialModel = exampleAntModel,
  originalData = simulated_test_data,
  maxSteps = 2, maxItems = 30, items = paste0("Item", 1:56)
)
summary(trial2) # shows the resulting model

## End(Not run)
```

---

simulated\_test\_data    *A simulated data set based on a standardized test.*

---

### Description

Simulated response patterns, abilities, and outcomes based on a uni-dimensional state-issued standardized test.

### Usage

```
simulated_test_data
```

### Format

An object of class `data.frame` with 1000 rows and 58 columns.

### Details

@format A data frame of 1000 rows (observations) and 58 columns (variables):

**Outcome** a binary external criterion variable correlated with TrueAbility

**TrueAbility** the simulated true ability parameter used to generate response patterns

**Item1-Item56** binary responses to items generated using the TrueAbility parameters and simulated 3PL item parameters generated from the distribution of parameters estimated from a state-issued standardized test

---

summary,ACO-method    *Summary method for class 'ACO'*

---

### Description

Summary method for class 'ACO'

### Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'ACO'
summary(object)
```

### Arguments

object                    An S4 object of class 'ACO'

---

summary,SA-method	<i>Summary method for class 'SA'</i>
-------------------	--------------------------------------

---

**Description**

Summary method for class 'SA'

**Usage**

```
## S4 method for signature 'SA'  
summary(object)
```

**Arguments**

object            An S4 object of class 'SA'.

---

summary,TS-method	<i>Summary method for class 'TS'</i>
-------------------	--------------------------------------

---

**Description**

Summary method for class 'TS'

**Usage**

```
## S4 method for signature 'TS'  
summary(object)
```

**Arguments**

object            An S4 object of class 'TS'.

---

tabu.sem	<i>Given a fitted lavaan model, a search table, and an objective criterion, performs a Tabu model specification search. Currently only supports neighbors that are 1 move away from the current model.</i>
----------	--

---

## Description

Given a fitted lavaan model, a search table, and an objective criterion, performs a Tabu model specification search. Currently only supports neighbors that are 1 move away from the current model.

## Usage

```
tabu.sem(init.model, ptab, obj, niter = 30, tabu.size = 5)
```

## Arguments

init.model	initial fitted model of class lavaan
ptab	search table (e.g., created by search.prep) that lists candidate parameters that can be modified as part of the search and how the parameters can be modified (fixed to what values)
obj	objective function to be MINIMIZED. Any function that takes a lavaan object as the sole argument and returns a numeric value can be used.
niter	number of Tabu iterations to perform
tabu.size	size of Tabu list

## Value

A list with three elements: best.obj, the numerical value of the best (minimal) objective function achieved; best.mod, the final lavaan model, and best.binvec, a data.frame of the lavaan-formatted parameter table for the final model.

## Author(s)

Carl F. Falk

## References

[doi:10.1080/10705511.2017.1409074](https://doi.org/10.1080/10705511.2017.1409074)

## Examples

```
# load simulation data and select columns used in this example
data(simulated_test_data)
tabuData <- simulated_test_data[, c(1:10)]

# specify an improper model (improper because data is unidimensional)
```

```

tabuModel <- "
Ability =~ Item1 + Item2 + Item3 + Item4
FakeAbility =~ Item5 + Item6 + Item7 + Item8
Ability ~ Outcome
FakeAbility ~ 0*Outcome"

# run the initial misspecified model for Tabu

init.model <- lavaan::lavaan(
  model = tabuModel, data = tabuData,
  auto.var = TRUE, auto.fix.first = FALSE, std.lv = TRUE, auto.cov.lv.x = TRUE
)

# Use search.prep to prepare for the Tabu search
ptab <- search.prep(fitted.model = init.model, loadings = TRUE, fcov = TRUE, errors = FALSE)

# Perform Tabu Search
trial <- tabu.sem(init.model = init.model, ptab = ptab, obj = AIC, niter = 2, tabu.size = 5)

```

---

tabuShortForm

*Short Form Tabu Search*


---

## Description

Given an initial (full) lavaan model string, the original data, a criterion function to minimize, and some additional specifications, performs a Tabu model specification search. Currently only supports neighbors that are 1 move away from the current model.

## Usage

```

tabuShortForm(
  originalData,
  initialModel,
  numItems,
  criterion = function(x) {
    tryCatch(-lavaan::fitmeasures(object = x, fit.measures =
      "cfi"), error = function(e) Inf)
  },
  niter = 20,
  tabu.size = 5,
  lavaan.model.specs = list(int.ov.free = TRUE, int.lv.free = FALSE, std.lv = TRUE,
    auto.fix.first = FALSE, auto.fix.single = TRUE, auto.var = TRUE, auto.cov.lv.x =
    TRUE, auto.th = TRUE, auto.delta = TRUE, auto.cov.y = TRUE, ordered = NULL,
    model.type = "cfa", estimator = "default"),
  bifactor = FALSE,
  verbose = FALSE,
  parallel = T
)

```

**Arguments**

originalData	The original data frame with variable names.
initialModel	The initial model (typically the full form) as a character vector with lavaan model.syntax.
numItems	A numeric vector indicating the number of items to retain for each factor.
criterion	A function calculating the objective criterion to minimize. Default is to use the built-in 'rmsea' value from 'lavaan::fitmeasures()'.
niter	A numeric value indicating the number of iterations (model specification selections) to perform. Default is 50.
tabu.size	A numeric value indicating the size of Tabu list. Default is 5.
lavaan.model.specs	A list which contains the specifications for the lavaan model. The default values are the defaults for lavaan to perform a CFA. See <a href="#">lavaan</a> for more details.
bifactor	Logical. Indicates if the latent model is a bifactor model. If 'TRUE', assumes that the last latent variable in the provided model syntax is the bifactor (i.e., all of the retained items will be set to load on the last latent variable).
verbose	Logical. If 'TRUE', prints out the initial short form and the selected short form at the end of each iteration.
parallel	An option for using parallel processing. If TRUE, the function will utilize all available cores. Default is TRUE.

**Value**

A named list with the best value of the objective function ('best.obj') and the best lavaan model object ('best.mod').

**Examples**

```
shortAntModel <- "
Ability =~ Item1 + Item2 + Item3 + Item4 + Item5 + Item6 + Item7 + Item8
Ability ~ Outcome
"

data(simulated_test_data)
tabuResult <- tabuShortForm(
  initialModel = shortAntModel,
  originalData = simulated_test_data, numItems = 7,
  niter = 1, tabu.size = 3, parallel = FALSE
)
summary(tabuResult) # shows the resulting model
## Not run:
# create simulation data from the `psych` package
# four factors, 12 items each, 48 total items
# factor loading matrix - not quite simple structure
fxMatrix <-
  matrix(
    data = c(
```

```

    rep(x = c(.9, .7, .5, .3), times = 3),
    rep(0.2, times = 3 * 4 * 3), # first factor loadings

    rep(0.2, times = 3 * 4),
    rep(x = c(.9, .7, .5, .3), times = 3),
    rep(0.2, times = 3 * 4 * 2), # second factor loadings

    rep(0.2, times = 3 * 4 * 2),
    rep(x = c(.9, .7, .5, .3), times = 3),
    rep(0.2, times = 3 * 4), # third factor loadings

    rep(0.2, times = 3 * 4 * 3),
    rep(x = c(.9, .7, .5, .3), times = 3) # fourth factor loadings
  ),
  ncol = 4
)
# factor correlation matrix - all factors uncorrelated
PhiMatrix <-
  matrix(data = c(
    1, 0, 0, 0,
    0, 1, 0, 0,
    0, 0, 1, 0,
    0, 0, 0, 1
  ), ncol = 4)
tabuData <-
  psych::sim(
    fx = fxMatrix,
    Phi = PhiMatrix,
    n = 1000,
    raw = TRUE
  )$observed # observed is the simulated observed data

# NOTE: you must specify the model such that each factor is on a single line!
# otherwise, the algorithm will not work correctly!
tabuModel <- "
Trait1 =~ Item1 + Item2 + Item3 + Item4 + Item5 + Item6 +
Item7 + Item8 + Item9 + Item10 + Item11 + Item12
Trait2 =~ Item13 + Item14 + Item15 + Item16 + Item17 +
Item18 + Item19 + Item20 + Item21 + Item22 + Item23 + Item24
Trait3 =~ Item25 + Item26 + Item27 + Item28 + Item29 + Item30 +
Item31 + Item32 + Item33 + Item34 + Item35 + Item36
Trait4 =~ Item37 + Item38 + Item39 + Item40 + Item41 +
Item42 + Item43 + Item44 + Item45 + Item46 + Item47 + Item48
"

colnames(tabuData) <- paste0("Item", 1:48)
# specify the criterion function that the Tabu Search minimizes
# wrap this in a tryCatch in case a model does not converge!
# specify an appropriate error value: if minimizing, error value must be large
tabuCriterion <- function(x) {
  tryCatch(lavaan::fitmeasures(object = x, fit.measures = "chisq"),
    error = function(e) Inf
  )
}

```

```
}  
  
# use the tabuShortForm function  
# reduce form to the best 12 items  
tabuShort <- tabuShortForm(  
  initialModel = tabuModel, originalData = tabuData,  
  numItems = c(3, 3, 3, 3),  
  criterion = tabuCriterion,  
  niter = 20, tabu.size = 10  
)  
  
## End(Not run)
```

---

TS-class

*An S4 class for the Tabu Search Algorithm*

---

### **Description**

An S4 class for the Tabu Search Algorithm

### **Value**

An S4 object of class 'TS'.

### **Slots**

`function_call` The original function call.

`all_fit` A summary 'vector' indicating the model fit results for each iteration.

`best_fit` The best model fit result using the selected 'fitStatistic'. A numeric value or vector, possibly named.

`best_model` A 'lavaan' object of the final solution.

`best_syntax` A 'character' vector of the final solution model syntax.

`runtime` A 'difftime' object of the total run time of the function.

`final_tabu_list` The final list of Tabu models. Each element of the list is a 'lavaan' object.



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