

Package ‘bayesplay’

July 22, 2025

Type Package
Title The Bayes Factor Playground
Version 0.9.3
Description A lightweight modelling syntax for defining likelihoods and priors and for computing Bayes factors for simple one parameter models. It includes functionality for computing and plotting priors, likelihoods, and model predictions. Additional functionality is included for computing and plotting posteriors.
License MIT + file LICENSE
Encoding UTF-8
Suggests testthat, covr, knitr, rmarkdown, markdown, vdiff, ggplot2, patrick
VignetteBuilder knitr
RoxygenNote 7.2.3
Imports methods, gginnards, stats
URL <https://github.com/bayesplay/bayesplay>
BugReports <https://github.com/bayesplay/bayesplay/issues>
NeedsCompilation no
Author Lincoln John Colling [aut, cre] (ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3572-7758>)
Maintainer Lincoln John Colling <lincoln@colling.net.nz>
Repository CRAN
Date/Publication 2023-04-13 12:10:02 UTC

Contents

extract_posterior	2
extract_predictions	2
integral	3
likelihood	3

names,bayesplay-method	5
plot	6
prior	6
sd_ratio	8
summary,bf-method	9
visual_compare	9
Index	11

extract_posterior	<i>Extract the posterior</i>
-------------------	------------------------------

Description

Extract the posterior object from a product object

Usage

extract_posterior(x)

Arguments

x a product object

Value

a posterior object

extract_predictions	<i>Extract predictions</i>
---------------------	----------------------------

Description

Extract the marginal predictions over the prior

Usage

extract_predictions(x)

Arguments

x a product object

Value

a prediction object

integral	<i>Compute integral</i>
----------	-------------------------

Description

Computes the definite integral of a product object over the range of the parameter

Usage

```
integral(obj)
```

Arguments

obj	a product object
-----	------------------

Value

A numeric of the marginal likelihood

Examples

```
# define a likelihood
data_model <- likelihood(family = "normal", mean = 5.5, sd = 32.35)

# define a prior
prior_model <- prior(family = "normal", mean = 5.5, sd = 13.3)

# multiply the likelihood by the prior
model <- data_model * prior_model

# take the integral
integral(model)
```

likelihood	<i>Specify a likelihood</i>
------------	-----------------------------

Description

Define likelihoods using different different distribution families

Usage

```
likelihood(family, ...)
```

Arguments

family	the likelihood distribution (see details)
...	see details

Details

Available distribution families:

The following distribution families can be used for the likelihood

- `normal` a normal distribution
- `student_t` a scaled and shifted t-distribution
- `noncentral_t` a noncentral t (for t statistic)
- `noncentral_d` a noncentral t (for one sample d)
- `noncentral_d2` a noncentral t (for independent samples d)
- `binomial` a binomial distribution

The parameters that need to be specified will be dependent on the family

normal distribution:

When family is set to `normal` then the following parameters must be set

- `mean` mean of the normal likelihood
- `sd` standard deviation of the normal likelihood

student_t distribution:

When family is set to `student_t` then the following parameters may be set

- `mean` mean of the scaled and shifted t likelihood
- `sd` standard deviation of the scaled and shifted t likelihood
- `df` degrees of freedom

noncentral_t distribution:

When family is set to `noncentral_t` then the following parameters may be set

- `t` the t value of the data
- `df` degrees of freedom

noncentral_d distribution:

When family is set to `noncentral_d` then the following parameters may be set

- `d` the d (mean / sd) value of the data
- `n` the sample size

noncentral_d2 distribution:

When family is set to `noncentral_d2` then the following parameters may be set

- `d` the d (mean / s_pooled) value of the data
- `n1` the sample size of group 1
- `n2` the sample size of group 2

s_{pooled} is set as below:

$$s_{\text{pooled}} = \sqrt{\frac{(n_1 - 1)s_1^2 + (n_2 - 1)s_2^2}{n_1 + n_2 - 2}}$$

binomial distribution:

When the family is set to `binomial` then the following parameters may be set

- `successes` the number of successes
- `trials` the number of trials

Value

an object of class likelihood

Examples

```
# specify a normal likelihood
likelihood(family = "normal", mean = 5.5, sd = 32.35)

# specify a scaled and shifted t likelihood
likelihood(family = "student_t", mean = 5.5, sd = 32.35, df = 10)

# specify non-central t likelihood (t scaled)
likelihood(family = "noncentral_t", t = 10, df = 10)

# specify non-central t likelihood (d scaled)
likelihood(family = "noncentral_d", d = 10, n = 10)

# specify non-central t likelihood (independent samples d scaled)
likelihood(family = "noncentral_d2", d = 10, n1 = 10, n2 = 12)

# specify a binomial likelihood
likelihood(family = "binomial", successes = 2, trials = 10)
```

names,bayesplay-method

Get names from data slot

Description

Get names from data slot

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'bayesplay'
names(x)
```

Arguments

x a bayesplay object

Value

the field names from the data slot

plot	<i>Plot a bayesplay object</i>
------	--------------------------------

Description

Plots an object created by bayesplay

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'prior'
plot(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'posterior'
plot(x, add_prior = FALSE, ...)

## S3 method for class 'likelihood'
plot(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'product'
plot(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'prediction'
plot(x, model_name = "model", ...)
```

Arguments

x	a prediction object
...	arguments passed to methods
add_prior	set to TRUE to add prior to the posterior plot
model_name	name of the model

Value

a ggplot2 object

prior	<i>Specify a prior</i>
-------	------------------------

Description

Define priors using different different distribution families

Usage

```
prior(family, ...)
```

Arguments

family	the prior distribution (see details)
...	see details

Details**Available distribution families:**

The following distributions families can be used for the prior

- normal a normal distribution
- student_t a scaled and shifted t-distribution
- cauchy a Cauchy distribution
- uniform a uniform distribution
- point a point
- beta a beta distribution The parameters that need to be specified will be dependent on the family

Normal distribution:

When family is set to normal then the following parameters may be set

- mean mean of the normal prior
- sd standard deviation of the normal prior
- range (optional) a vector specifying the parameter range

Student t distribution:

When family is set to student_t then the following parameters may be set

- mean mean of the scaled and shifted t prior
- sd standard deviation of the scaled and shifted t prior
- df degrees of freedom of the scaled and shifted t prior
- range (optional) a vector specifying the parameter range

Cauchy distribution:

When family is set to cauchy then the following parameters may be set

- location the centre of the Cauchy distribution (default: 0)
- scale the scale of the Cauchy distribution
- range (optional) a vector specifying the parameter range

Uniform distribution:

When family is set to uniform then the following parameters must be set

- min the lower bound
- max the upper bound

Point:

When family is set to point then the following parameters may be set

- point the location of the point prior (default: 0)

Beta:

When family is set to beta then the following parameters may be set

- alpha the first shape parameter
- beta the second shape parameter

Value

an object of class prior

Examples

```
# specify a normal prior
prior(family = "normal", mean = 0, sd = 13.3)

# specify a half-normal (range 0 to Infinity) prior
prior(family = "normal", mean = 0, sd = 13.3, range = c(0, Inf))

# specify a student t prior
prior(family = "student_t", mean = 0, sd = 13.3, df = 79)

# specify a truncated t prior
prior(family = "student_t", mean = 0, sd = 13.3, df = 79, range = c(-40, 40))

# specify a cauchy prior
prior(family = "cauchy", location = 0, scale = .707)

# specify a half cauchy prior
prior(family = "cauchy", location = 0, scale = 1, range = c(-Inf, 0))

# specify a uniform prior
prior(family = "uniform", min = 0, max = 20)

# specify a point prior
prior(family = "point", point = 0)

# specify a beta prior
prior(family = "beta", alpha = 2.5, beta = 3.8)
```

sd_ratio

Compute the Savage-Dickey density ratio

Description

Computes the Savage-Dickey density ratio from a posterior object at a specified point

Usage

```
sd_ratio(x, point)
```

Arguments

x	a posterior object
point	the point at which to evaluate the Savage-Dickey ratio

Value

A numeric of the Savage-Dickey density ratio

Examples

```
# define a likelihood
data_model <- likelihood(family = "normal", mean = 5.5, sd = 32.35)

# define a prior
prior_model <- prior(family = "normal", mean = 5.5, sd = 13.3)

model <- extract_posterior(data_model * prior_model)

# compute the Savage-Dickey density ratio at 0
sd_ratio(model, 0)
```

summary,bf-method	<i>Summarise a Bayes factor</i>
-------------------	---------------------------------

Description

Provide a verbal summary of a Bayes factor and the level of evidence

Usage

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

Arguments

object a bf object

Value

No return, called for side effects

visual_compare	<i>Visually compare two models</i>
----------------	------------------------------------

Description

Visually compare two models

Usage

```
visual_compare(model1, model2, ratio = FALSE)
```

Arguments

model1	a predictive object
model2	a predictive object
ratio	show ratio rather than comparison (default: FALSE)

Value

A ggplot2 object

Examples

```
# define two models
data_model <- likelihood(family = "normal", .5, 1)
h0_mod <- prior(family = "point", point = 0)
h1_mod <- prior(family = "normal", mean = 0, sd = 10)
m0 <- extract_predictions(data_model * h0_mod)
m1 <- extract_predictions(data_model * h1_mod)

# visually compare the model
visual_compare(m0, m1)
# plot the ratio of the two model predictions
visual_compare(m0, m1, ratio = TRUE)
```

Index

`extract_posterior`, [2](#)
`extract_predictions`, [2](#)

`integral`, [3](#)

`likelihood`, [3](#)

`names`, `bayesplay`-method, [5](#)

`plot`, [6](#)
`prior`, [6](#)

`sd_ratio`, [8](#)
`summary`, `bf`-method, [9](#)

`visual_compare`, [9](#)