

Package ‘OrdFacReg’

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Type Package

Title Least Squares, Logistic, and Cox-Regression with Ordered Predictors

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Description In biomedical studies, researchers are often interested in assessing the association between one or more ordinal explanatory variables and an outcome variable, at the same time adjusting for covariates of any type. The outcome variable may be continuous, binary, or represent censored survival times. In the absence of a precise knowledge of the response function, using monotonicity constraints on the ordinal variables improves efficiency in estimating parameters, especially when sample sizes are small. This package implements an active set algorithm that efficiently computes such estimators.

License GPL (>= 2)

LazyLoad yes

URL <http://www.kasparrufibach.ch>

NeedsCompilation no

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OrdFacReg-package	<i>Least Squares, Logistic, and Cox-Regression with Ordered Predictors</i>
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Description

In biomedical studies, researchers are often interested in assessing the association between one or more ordinal explanatory variables and an outcome variable, at the same time adjusting for covariates of any type. The outcome variable may be continuous, binary, or represent censored survival times. In the absence of a precise knowledge of the response function, using monotonicity constraints on the ordinal variables improves efficiency in estimating parameters, especially when sample sizes are small. This package implements an active set algorithm that efficiently computes such estimators.

Details

Package:	OrdFacReg
Type:	Package
Version:	1.0.8
Date:	2026-04-26
License:	GPL (>=2)
LazyLoad:	yes

Use this package to get estimates in least squares, logistic, or Cox-regression where coefficients corresponding to dummy variables of ordered factors are estimated to be in non-decreasing order and at least 0. The package offers an active set algorithm implemented in the functions `ordFacReg` for least squares and logistic regression and `ordFacRegCox` for Cox-regression.

Author(s)

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References

Rufibach, K. (2010). An Active Set Algorithm to Estimate Parameters in Generalized Linear Models with Ordered Predictors. *Comput. Statist. Data Anal.*, **54**, 1442-1456.

See Also

Examples are given in the help files of the functions `ordFacReg` and `ordFacRegCox`.

internal

*Internal functions for ordered factor regression functions***Description**

Internal functions for ordered factor regression functions.

Details

These functions are not intended to be called by users directly.

Abeta Function $A(\beta)$ in Rufibach (2010) that collects the indices of the inequalities violated by β .

constraintMats Function that computes the matrices B (collects the basis vectors given in Theorem 3.1 of Duembgen et al. (2007)) and V (collects the vectors v_i that make up the cone K in Section 3.1 of Duembgen et al. (2007)).

coxDeriv Computes gradient of (pseudo-)log-likelihood function in Cox-regression.

coxLoglik Computes value of (pseudo-)log-likelihood function in Cox-regression.

coxSubspace Computes maximizer on subspace, denoted by $\tilde{\psi}(A)$ in Table 1 of Duembgen et al. (2007).

dummy Generate a matrix of dummy variables corresponding to the levels of the inputted factor. The dummy variable corresponding to the lowest level of the factor is omitted.

expandBeta After computation of β on subspace “blow up” this vector again to original dimension.

indexDummy Compute column numbers of the dummy variables of the ordered factor(s).

lmLSE Compute value of least squares criterion and least squares estimate.

lmSS Compute value of least squares criterion and its gradient.

logRegDeriv Gradient of log-likelihood function in logistic regression.

logRegLoglik Compute value of log-likelihood function in logistic regression.

logRegSubspace Computes maximizer on subspace, denoted by $\tilde{\psi}(A)$ in Table 1 of Duembgen et al. (2007).

LSEsubspace Computes maximizer on subspace, denoted by $\tilde{\psi}(A)$ in Table 1 of Duembgen et al. (2007).

maxStep Compute maximal permissible steplength, denoted by t in Table 1 in Duembgen et al. (2007).

phi_jl Function ϕ in Rufibach (2010) that maps the original indices (i, j) to the inequality index i .

setminus Remove elements in vector B from vector A .

shrinkBeta Collapse β according to the active constraints specified by the set A .

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References

Duembgen, L., Huesler, A. and Rufibach, K. (2010). Active set and EM algorithms for log-concave densities based on complete and censored data. Technical report 61, IMSV, Univ. of Bern, available at <https://arxiv.org/abs/0707.4643>.

Rufibach, K. (2010). An Active Set Algorithm to Estimate Parameters in Generalized Linear Models with Ordered Predictors. *Comput. Statist. Data Anal.*, **54**, 1442-1456.

See Also

All these functions are used by the ordered factor computation functions `ordFacReg` and `ordFacRegCox`.

<code>ordFacReg</code>	<i>Compute least squares or logistic regression for ordered predictors</i>
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Description

This function computes estimates in least squares or logistic regression where coefficients corresponding to dummy variables of ordered factors are estimated to be in non-decreasing order and at least 0. An active set algorithm as described in Duembgen et al. (2007) is used.

Usage

```
ordFacReg(D, Z, fact, ordfact, ordering = NA, type = c("LS", "logreg"),
          intercept = TRUE, display = 0, eps = 0)
```

Arguments

<code>D</code>	Response vector, either in R^n (least squares) or in $\{0, 1\}^n$ (logistic).
<code>Z</code>	Matrix of predictors. Factors are coded with levels from 1 to j .
<code>fact</code>	Specify columns in Z that correspond to unordered factors.
<code>ordfact</code>	Specify columns in Z that correspond to ordered factors.
<code>ordering</code>	Vector of the same length as <code>ordfact</code> . Specifies ordering of ordered factors: "i" means that the coefficients of the corresponding ordered factor are estimated in non-decreasing order and "d" means non-increasing order. See the examples below for details.
<code>type</code>	Specify type of response variable.
<code>intercept</code>	If TRUE, an intercept (= column of all 1's) is added to the design matrix.
<code>display</code>	If <code>display == 1</code> progress of the algorithm is output.
<code>eps</code>	Quantity to which the criterion in the Basic Procedure 2 in Duembgen et al. (2007) is compared.

Details

For a detailed description of the problem and the algorithm we refer to Rufibach (2010).

Value

L	Value of the criterion function at the maximum.
beta	Computed regression coefficients.
A	Set A of active constraints.
design.matrix	Design matrix that was generated.

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References

Duembgen, L., Huesler, A. and Rufibach, K. (2010). Active set and EM algorithms for log-concave densities based on complete and censored data. Technical report 61, IMSV, Univ. of Bern, available at <https://arxiv.org/abs/0707.4643>.

Rufibach, K. (2010). An Active Set Algorithm to Estimate Parameters in Generalized Linear Models with Ordered Predictors. *Comput. Statist. Data Anal.*, **54**, 1442-1456.

See Also

[ordFacRegCox](#) computes estimates for Cox-regression.

Examples

```
## =====
## To illustrate least squares estimation, we generate the same data
## that was used in Rufibach (2010), Table 1.
## =====

## -----
## initialization
## -----
n <- 200
Z <- NULL
intercept <- FALSE

## -----
## quantitative variables
## -----
n.q <- 3
set.seed(14012009)
if (n.q > 0){for (i in 1:n.q){Z <- cbind(Z, rnorm(n, mean = 1, sd = 2)}}}

## -----
## unordered factors
## -----
un.levels <- 3
for (i in 1:length(un.levels)){Z <- cbind(Z, sample(rep(1:un.levels[i],
```

```

      each = ceiling(n / un.levels))[1:n]})
fact <- n.q + 1:length(un.levels)

## -----
## ordered factors
## -----
levels <- 8
for (i in 1:length(un.levels)){Z <- cbind(Z, sample(rep(1:levels[i],
  each = ceiling(n / levels))[1:n]})}
ordfact <- n.q + length(un.levels) + 1:length(levels)

## -----
## generate data matrices
## -----
Y <- prepareData(Z, fact, ordfact, ordering = NA, intercept)$Y

## -----
## generate response
## -----
D <- apply(Y * matrix(c(rep(c(2, -3, 0), each = n), rep(c(1, 1), each = n),
  rep(c(0, 2, 2, 2, 2, 5, 5), each = n)), ncol = ncol(Y)), 1, sum) +
  rnorm(n, mean = 0, sd = 4)

## -----
## compute estimates
## -----
res1 <- lmLSE(D, Y)
res2 <- ordFacReg(D, Z, fact, ordfact, ordering = "i", type = "LS", intercept,
  display = 1, eps = 0)
b1 <- res1$beta
g1 <- lmSS(b1, D, Y)$dL
b2 <- res2$beta
g2 <- lmSS(b2, D, Y)$dL
Ls <- c(lmSS(b1, D, Y)$L, lmSS(b2, D, Y)$L)
names(Ls) <- c("LSE", "ordFact")
disp <- cbind(1:length(b1), round(cbind(b1, g1, cumsum(g1)), 4),
  round(cbind(b2, g2, cumsum(g2)), 4))

## -----
## display results
## -----
disp
Ls

## =====
## Artificial data is used to illustrate logistic regression.
## =====

## -----
## initialization
## -----
set.seed(1977)
n <- 500

```

```

Z <- NULL
intercept <- FALSE

## -----
## quantitative variables
## -----
n.q <- 2
if (n.q > 0){for (i in 1:n.q){Z <- cbind(Z, rnorm(n, rgamma(2, 2, 1)))}}

## -----
## unordered factors
## -----
un.levels <- c(8, 2)
for (i in 1:length(un.levels)){Z <- cbind(Z, sample(round(runif(n, 0,
  un.levels[i] - 1)) + 1))}
fact <- n.q + 1:length(un.levels)

## -----
## ordered factors
## -----
levels <- c(2, 4, 10)
for (i in 1:length(levels)){Z <- cbind(Z, sample(round(runif(n, 0,
  levels[i] - 1)) + 1))}
ordfact <- n.q + length(un.levels) + 1:length(levels)

## -----
## generate response
## -----
D <- sample(c(rep(0, n / 2), rep(1, n/2)))

## -----
## generate design matrix
## -----
Y <- prepareData(Z, fact, ordfact, ordering = NA, intercept)$Y

## -----
## compute estimates
## -----
res1 <- matrix(glm.fit(Y, D, family = binomial(link = logit))$coefficients, ncol = 1)
res2 <- ordFacReg(D, Z, fact, ordfact, ordering = NA, type = "logreg",
  intercept = intercept, display = 1, eps = 0)
b1 <- res1
g1 <- logRegDeriv(b1, D, Y)$dL
b2 <- res2$beta
g2 <- logRegDeriv(b2, D, Y)$dL
Ls <- unlist(c(logRegLoglik(res1, D, Y), res2$L))
names(Ls) <- c("MLE", "ordFact")
disp <- cbind(1:length(b1), round(cbind(b1, g1, cumsum(g1)), 4),
  round(cbind(b2, g2, cumsum(g2)), 4))

## -----
## display results
## -----

```

```

disp
Ls

## -----
## compute estimates when the third ordered factor should
## have *decreasing* estimated coefficients
## -----
res3 <- ordFacReg(D, Z, fact, ordfact, ordering = c("i", "i", "d"),
  type = "logreg", intercept = intercept, display = 1, eps = 0)
b3 <- res3$beta
g3 <- logRegDeriv(b3, D, Y)$dL
Ls <- unlist(c(logRegLoglik(res1, D, Y), res2$L, res3$L))
names(Ls) <- c("MLE", "ordFact ddd", "ordFact iid")
disp <- cbind(1:length(b1), round(cbind(b1, b2, b3), 4))

## -----
## display results
## -----
disp
Ls

```

ordFacRegCox

Compute Cox-regression for ordered predictors

Description

This function computes estimates in Cox-regression where coefficients corresponding to dummy variables of ordered factors are estimated to be in non-decreasing order and at least 0. An active set algorithm as described in Duembgen et al. (2007) is used.

Usage

```
ordFacRegCox(ttf, tf, Z, fact, ordfact, ordering = NA, intercept = TRUE,
  display = 0, eps = 0)
```

Arguments

ttf	Survival times.
tf	Censoring indicator (1 = event, 0 = censored).
Z	Matrix of predictors. Factors are coded with levels from 1 to j .
fact	Specify columns in Z that correspond to unordered factors.
ordfact	Specify columns in Z that correspond to ordered factors.
ordering	Vector of the same length as ordfact. Specifies ordering of ordered factors: "i" means that the coefficients of the corresponding ordered factor are estimated in non-decreasing order and "d" means non-increasing order. See the examples in ordFacReg for details.
intercept	If TRUE, an intercept (= column of all 1's) is added to the design matrix.

display	If display == 1 progress of the algorithm is output.
eps	Quantity to which the criterion in the Basic Procedure 2 in Duembgen et al. (2007) is compared.

Details

For a detailed description of the problem and the algorithm we refer to Rufibach (2010).

Value

L	Value of the criterion function at the maximum.
beta	Computed regression coefficients.
A	Set A of active constraints.
design.matrix	Design matrix that was generated.

Author(s)

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References

- Duembgen, L., Huesler, A. and Rufibach, K. (2010). Active set and EM algorithms for log-concave densities based on complete and censored data. Technical report 61, IMSV, Univ. of Bern, available at <https://arxiv.org/abs/0707.4643>.
- Rufibach, K. (2010). An Active Set Algorithm to Estimate Parameters in Generalized Linear Models with Ordered Predictors. *Comput. Statist. Data Anal.*, **54**, 1442-1456.

See Also

[ordFacReg](#) computes estimates for least squares and logistic regression.

Examples

```
## =====
## Artificial data is used to illustrate Cox-regression.
## =====

## -----
## initialization
## -----
set.seed(1977)
n <- 500
Z <- NULL
intercept <- FALSE

## -----
## quantitative variables
```

```

## -----
n.q <- 2
if (n.q > 0){for (i in 1:n.q){Z <- cbind(Z, rnorm(n, rgamma(2, 2, 1)))}}

## -----
## unordered factors
## -----
un.levels <- c(8, 2)[2]
for (i in 1:length(un.levels)){Z <- cbind(Z, sample(round(runif(n, 0,
  un.levels[i] - 1)) + 1))}
fact <- n.q + 1:length(un.levels)

## -----
## ordered factors
## -----
levels <- c(4, 5, 10)
for (i in 1:length(levels)){Z <- cbind(Z, sample(round(runif(n, 0,
  levels[i] - 1)) + 1))}
ordfact <- n.q + length(un.levels) + 1:length(levels)

## -----
## generate response
## -----
ttf <- rexp(n)
tf <- round(runif(n))

## -----
## generate design matrix
## -----
Y <- prepareData(Z, fact, ordfact, ordering = NA, intercept)$Y

## -----
## compute estimates
## -----
res1 <- eha::coxreg.fit(Y, Surv(ttf, tf), max.survs = length(tf),
  strats = rep(1, length(tf)))$coefficients
res2 <- ordFacRegCox(ttf, tf, Z, fact, ordfact, ordering = NA,
  intercept = intercept, display = 1, eps = 0)
b1 <- matrix(res1, ncol = 1)
g1 <- coxDeriv(b1, ttf, tf, Y)$dL
b2 <- res2$beta
g2 <- coxDeriv(b2, ttf, tf, Y)$dL
Ls <- c(coxLoglik(b1, ttf, tf, Y)$L, res2$L)
names(Ls) <- c("MLE", "ordFact")
disp <- cbind(1:length(b1), round(cbind(b1, g1, cumsum(g1)), 4),
  round(cbind(b2, g2, cumsum(g2)), 4))

## -----
## display results
## -----
disp
Ls

```

prepareData	<i>Prepare input data to be used in active set algorithm</i>
-------------	--

Description

This function takes a matrix consisting of quantitative variables, unordered, and ordered factors and generates the corresponding matrix of dummy variables, and some further quantities that are used by the active set algorithm in [ordFacReg](#) and [ordFacRegCox](#).

Usage

```
prepareData(Z, fact = NA, ordfact, ordering = NA, intercept = TRUE)
```

Arguments

<code>Z</code>	Matrix with quantitative variables in the first c columns, unordered factors in the next columns, and finally unordered factors. The latter two need to have levels from 1 to j .
<code>fact</code>	Specify columns in Z that correspond to unordered factors.
<code>ordfact</code>	Specify columns in Z that correspond to ordered factors.
<code>ordering</code>	Vector of the same length as <code>ordfact</code> . Specifies ordering of ordered factors: "i" means that the coefficients of the corresponding ordered factor are estimated in non-decreasing order and "d" means non-increasing order. See the examples in ordFacReg for details.
<code>intercept</code>	If TRUE, an intercept (= column of all 1's) is added to the design matrix.

Value

Quantities that are used by the active set algorithm. The names of the objects roughly correspond to those in Rufibach (2010).

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References

Rufibach, K. (2010). An Active Set Algorithm to Estimate Parameters in Generalized Linear Models with Ordered Predictors. *Comput. Statist. Data Anal.*, **54**, 1442-1456.

See Also

This function is used by the ordered factor computation functions [ordFacReg](#) and [ordFacRegCox](#).

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