

Package ‘bridgesampling’

November 19, 2025

Type Package

Title Bridge Sampling for Marginal Likelihoods and Bayes Factors

Version 1.2-1

Depends R (>= 3.0.0)

Imports mvtnorm, Matrix, Brobdingnag, stringr, coda, parallel, scales,
utils, methods

Suggests testthat, Rcpp, RcppEigen, R2jags, rjags, runjags, knitr,
rmarkdown, R.rsp, BayesFactor, rstan, rstanarm, nimble,
MCMCpack, cmdstanr (>= 0.6.0)

Description Provides functions for estimating marginal likelihoods, Bayes
factors, posterior model probabilities, and normalizing constants in general,
via different versions of bridge sampling (Meng & Wong, 1996,
<<https://www3.stat.sinica.edu.tw/statistica/j6n4/j6n43/j6n43.htm>>).
Gronau, Singmann, & Wagenmakers (2020) <[doi:10.18637/jss.v092.i10](https://doi.org/10.18637/jss.v092.i10)>.

Additional_repositories <https://stan-dev.r-universe.dev/>

License GPL (>= 2)

LazyData true

RoxygenNote 7.3.3

Encoding UTF-8

VignetteBuilder knitr, R.rsp

URL <https://github.com/quentingronau/bridgesampling>

NeedsCompilation no

Author Quentin F. Gronau [aut, cre] (ORCID:

<<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5510-6943>>),

Henrik Singmann [aut] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4842-3657>>),

Jonathan J. Forster [ctb],

Eric-Jan Wagenmakers [ths],

The JASP Team [ctb],

Jiqiang Guo [ctb],

Jonah Gabry [ctb],

Ben Goodrich [ctb],

Kees Mulder [ctb],
Perry de Valpine [ctb],
Aki Vehtari [ctb],
Giorgio Micaletto [ctb]

Maintainer Quentin F. Gronau <Quentin.F.Gronau@gmail.com>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2025-11-19 06:10:42 UTC

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bf	<i>Bayes Factor(s) from Marginal Likelihoods</i>
----	--

Description

Generic function that computes Bayes factor(s) from marginal likelihoods. `bayes_factor()` is simply an (S3 generic) alias for `bf()`.

Usage

```
bf(x1, x2, log = FALSE, ...)  
  
bayes_factor(x1, x2, log = FALSE, ...)  
  
## Default S3 method:  
bayes_factor(x1, x2, log = FALSE, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'bridge'  
bf(x1, x2, log = FALSE, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'bridge_list'  
bf(x1, x2, log = FALSE, ...)  
  
## Default S3 method:  
bf(x1, x2, log = FALSE, ...)
```

Arguments

x1	Object of class "bridge" or "bridge_list" as returned from bridge_sampler . Additionally, the default method assumes that x1 is a single numeric log marginal likelihood (e.g., from logml) and will throw an error otherwise.
x2	Object of class "bridge" or "bridge_list" as returned from bridge_sampler . Additionally, the default method assumes that x2 is a single numeric log marginal likelihood (e.g., from logml) and will throw an error otherwise.
log	Boolean. If TRUE, the function returns the log of the Bayes factor. Default is FALSE.
...	currently not used here, but can be used by other methods.

Details

Computes the Bayes factor (Kass & Raftery, 1995) in favor of the model associated with x1 over the model associated with x2.

Value

For the default method returns a list of class "bf_default" with components:

- bf: (scalar) value of the Bayes factor in favor of the model associated with x1 over the model associated with x2.
- log: Boolean which indicates whether bf corresponds to the log Bayes factor.

For the method for "bridge" objects returns a list of class "bf_bridge" with components:

- bf: (scalar) value of the Bayes factor in favor of the model associated with x1 over the model associated with x2.
- log: Boolean which indicates whether bf corresponds to the log Bayes factor.

For the method for "bridge_list" objects returns a list of class "bf_bridge_list" with components:

- bf: a numeric vector consisting of Bayes factors where each element gives the Bayes factor for one set of logmls in favor of the model associated with x1 over the model associated with x2. The length of this vector is given by the "bridge_list" element with the most repetitions. Elements with fewer repetitions will be recycled (with warning).
- bf_median_based: (scalar) value of the Bayes factor in favor of the model associated with x1 over the model associated with x2 that is based on the median values of the logml estimates.
- log: Boolean which indicates whether bf corresponds to the log Bayes factor.

Note

For examples, see [bridge_sampler](#) and the accompanying vignettes:

```
vignette("bridgesampling_example_jags")
vignette("bridgesampling_example_stan")
```

Author(s)

Quentin F. Gronau

References

Kass, R. E., & Raftery, A. E. (1995). Bayes factors. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 90(430), 773-795. doi:[10.1080/01621459.1995.10476572](https://doi.org/10.1080/01621459.1995.10476572)

bridge-methods

Methods for bridge and bridge_list objects

Description

Methods defined for objects returned from the generic [bridge_sampler](#) function.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'bridge'
summary(object, na.rm = TRUE, ...)

## S3 method for class 'bridge_list'
summary(object, na.rm = TRUE, ...)

## S3 method for class 'summary.bridge'
print(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'summary.bridge_list'
print(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'bridge'
print(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'bridge_list'
print(x, na.rm = TRUE, ...)
```

Arguments

object, x	object of class bridge or bridge_list as returned from bridge_sampler .
na.rm	logical. Should NA estimates in bridge_list objects be removed? Passed to error_measures .
...	further arguments, currently ignored.

Value

The summary methods return a data.frame which contains the log marginal likelihood plus the result returned from invoking [error_measures](#).

The print methods simply print and return nothing.

bridge_sampler	<i>Log Marginal Likelihood via Bridge Sampling</i>
----------------	--

Description

Computes log marginal likelihood via bridge sampling.

Usage

```
bridge_sampler(samples, ...)

## S3 method for class 'CmdStanMCMC'
bridge_sampler(
  samples = NULL,
  repetitions = 1,
  method = "normal",
  cores = 1,
  use_neff = TRUE,
  maxiter = 1000,
  silent = FALSE,
  verbose = FALSE,
  ...
)

## S3 method for class 'stanfit'
bridge_sampler(
  samples = NULL,
  stanfit_model = samples,
  repetitions = 1,
  method = "normal",
  cores = 1,
  use_neff = TRUE,
  maxiter = 1000,
  silent = FALSE,
  verbose = FALSE,
  ...
)

## S3 method for class 'mcmc.list'
bridge_sampler(
  samples = NULL,
  log_posterior = NULL,
  ...,
  data = NULL,
  lb = NULL,
  ub = NULL,
  repetitions = 1,
```

```

param_types = rep("real", ncol(samples[[1]])),
method = "normal",
cores = 1,
use_neff = TRUE,
packages = NULL,
varlist = NULL,
envir = .GlobalEnv,
rcppFile = NULL,
maxiter = 1000,
silent = FALSE,
verbose = FALSE
)

```

```
## S3 method for class 'mcmc'
```

```

bridge_sampler(
  samples = NULL,
  log_posterior = NULL,
  ...,
  data = NULL,
  lb = NULL,
  ub = NULL,
  repetitions = 1,
  method = "normal",
  cores = 1,
  use_neff = TRUE,
  packages = NULL,
  varlist = NULL,
  envir = .GlobalEnv,
  rcppFile = NULL,
  maxiter = 1000,
  param_types = rep("real", ncol(samples)),
  silent = FALSE,
  verbose = FALSE
)

```

```
## S3 method for class 'matrix'
```

```

bridge_sampler(
  samples = NULL,
  log_posterior = NULL,
  ...,
  data = NULL,
  lb = NULL,
  ub = NULL,
  repetitions = 1,
  method = "normal",
  cores = 1,
  use_neff = TRUE,
  packages = NULL,

```

```
    varlist = NULL,  
    envir = .GlobalEnv,  
    rcppFile = NULL,  
    maxiter = 1000,  
    param_types = rep("real", ncol(samples)),  
    silent = FALSE,  
    verbose = FALSE  
  )
```

```
## S3 method for class 'stanreg'
```

```
bridge_sampler(  
  samples,  
  repetitions = 1,  
  method = "normal",  
  cores = 1,  
  use_neff = TRUE,  
  maxiter = 1000,  
  silent = FALSE,  
  verbose = FALSE,  
  ...  
)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'rjags'
```

```
bridge_sampler(  
  samples = NULL,  
  log_posterior = NULL,  
  ...,  
  data = NULL,  
  lb = NULL,  
  ub = NULL,  
  repetitions = 1,  
  method = "normal",  
  cores = 1,  
  use_neff = TRUE,  
  packages = NULL,  
  varlist = NULL,  
  envir = .GlobalEnv,  
  rcppFile = NULL,  
  maxiter = 1000,  
  silent = FALSE,  
  verbose = FALSE  
)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'runjags'
```

```
bridge_sampler(  
  samples = NULL,  
  log_posterior = NULL,  
  ...,  
)
```

```

data = NULL,
lb = NULL,
ub = NULL,
repetitions = 1,
method = "normal",
cores = 1,
use_neff = TRUE,
packages = NULL,
varlist = NULL,
envir = .GlobalEnv,
rcppFile = NULL,
maxiter = 1000,
silent = FALSE,
verbose = FALSE
)

## S3 method for class 'MCMC_refClass'
bridge_sampler(
  samples,
  repetitions = 1,
  method = "normal",
  cores = 1,
  use_neff = TRUE,
  maxiter = 1000,
  silent = FALSE,
  verbose = FALSE,
  ...
)

```

Arguments

<code>samples</code>	an <code>mcmc.list</code> object, a fitted <code>stanfit</code> object, a <code>stanreg</code> object, an <code>rjags</code> object, a <code>runjags</code> object, or a matrix with posterior samples (colnames need to correspond to parameter names in <code>lb</code> and <code>ub</code>) with posterior samples.
<code>...</code>	additional arguments passed to <code>log_posterior</code> . Ignored for the <code>stanfit</code> and <code>stanreg</code> methods.
<code>repetitions</code>	number of repetitions.
<code>method</code>	either "normal" or "warp3".
<code>cores</code>	number of cores used for evaluating <code>log_posterior</code> . On unix-like systems (where <code>.Platform\$OS.type == "unix"</code> evaluates to <code>TRUE</code> ; e.g., Linux and MacOS) forking via <code>mclapply</code> is used. Hence elements needed for evaluation should be in the <code>.GlobalEnv</code> . For other systems (e.g., Windows) <code>makeCluster</code> is used and further arguments specified below will be used.
<code>use_neff</code>	Logical. If <code>TRUE</code> , the effective sample size (compared to the nominal sample size) is used in the optimal bridge function and in the iterative scheme's uncertainty calculations (making MCSE computation take into account autocorrelation in MCMC samples). Default is <code>TRUE</code> . If <code>FALSE</code> , the nominal sample size

	is used instead. If <code>samples</code> is a matrix, it is assumed that the matrix contains the samples of one chain in order. If samples come from more than one chain, we recommend to use an <code>mcmc.list</code> object for optimal performance.
<code>maxiter</code>	maximum number of iterations for the iterative updating scheme. Default is 1,000 to avoid infinite loops.
<code>silent</code>	Boolean which determines whether to print the number of iterations of the updating scheme to the console. Default is <code>FALSE</code> .
<code>verbose</code>	Boolean. Should internal debug information be printed to console? Default is <code>FALSE</code> .
<code>stanfit_model</code>	for the <code>stanfit</code> method, an additional object of class <code>"stanfit"</code> with the same model as <code>samples</code> , which will be used for evaluating the <code>log_posterior</code> (i.e., it does not need to contain any samples). The default is to use <code>samples</code> . In case <code>samples</code> was compiled in a different R session or on another computer with a different OS or setup, the <code>samples</code> model usually cannot be used for evaluation. In this case, one can compile the model on the current computer with <code>iter = 0</code> and pass it here (this usually needs to be done before <code>samples</code> is loaded).
<code>log_posterior</code>	function or name of function that takes a parameter vector and the data as input and returns the log of the unnormalized posterior density (i.e., a scalar value). If the function name is passed, the function should exist in the <code>.GlobalEnv</code> . For special behavior if <code>cores > 1</code> see Details .
<code>data</code>	data object which is used in <code>log_posterior</code> .
<code>lb</code>	named vector with lower bounds for parameters.
<code>ub</code>	named vector with upper bounds for parameters.
<code>param_types</code>	character vector of length <code>ncol(samples)</code> with <code>"real"</code> , <code>"simplex"</code> or <code>"circular"</code> . For all regular bounded or unbounded continuous parameters, this should just be <code>"real"</code> . However, if there are parameters which lie on a simplex or on the circle, this should be noted here. Simplex parameters are parameters which are bounded below by zero and collectively sum to one, such as weights in a mixture model. For these, the stick-breaking transformation is performed as described in the Stan reference manual. The circular variables are given a numerical representation to which the normal distribution is most likely a good fit. Only possible to use with <code>bridge_sampler.matrix</code> .
<code>packages</code>	character vector with names of packages needed for evaluating <code>log_posterior</code> in parallel (only relevant if <code>cores > 1</code> and <code>.Platform\$OS.type != "unix"</code>).
<code>varlist</code>	character vector with names of variables needed for evaluating <code>log_posterior</code> (only needed if <code>cores > 1</code> and <code>.Platform\$OS.type != "unix"</code> as these objects will be exported to the nodes). These objects need to exist in <code>envir</code> .
<code>envir</code>	specifies the environment for <code>varlist</code> (only needed if <code>cores > 1</code> and <code>.Platform\$OS.type != "unix"</code> as these objects will be exported to the nodes). Default is <code>.GlobalEnv</code> .
<code>rcppFile</code>	in case <code>cores > 1</code> and <code>log_posterior</code> is an Rcpp function, <code>rcppFile</code> specifies the path to the cpp file (will be compiled on all cores).

Details

Bridge sampling is implemented as described in Meng and Wong (1996, see equation 4.1) using the "optimal" bridge function. When `method = "normal"`, the proposal distribution is a multivariate

normal distribution with mean vector equal to the sample mean vector of samples and covariance matrix equal to the sample covariance matrix of samples. For a recent tutorial on bridge sampling, see Gronau et al. (in press).

When `method = "warp3"`, the proposal distribution is a standard multivariate normal distribution and the posterior distribution is "warped" (Meng & Schilling, 2002) so that it has the same mean vector, covariance matrix, and skew as the samples. `method = "warp3"` takes approximately twice as long as `method = "normal"`.

Note that for the matrix method, the lower and upper bound of a parameter cannot be a function of the bounds of another parameter. Furthermore, constraints that depend on multiple parameters of the model are not supported. This usually excludes, for example, parameters that constitute a covariance matrix or sets of parameters that need to sum to one.

However, if the retransformations are part of the model itself and the `log_posterior` accepts parameters on the real line and performs the appropriate Jacobian adjustments, such as done for `stanfit` and `stanreg` objects, such constraints are obviously possible (i.e., we currently do not know of any parameter supported within Stan that does not work with the current implementation through a `stanfit` object).

Parallel Computation: On unix-like systems forking is used via `mclapply`. Hence elements needed for evaluation of `log_posterior` should be in the `.GlobalEnv`.

On other OSes (e.g., Windows), things can get more complicated. For normal parallel computation, the `log_posterior` function can be passed as both function and function name. If the latter, it needs to exist in the environment specified in the `envir` argument. For parallel computation when using an Rcpp function, `log_posterior` can only be passed as the function name (i.e., character). This function needs to result from calling `sourceCpp` on the file specified in `rcppFile`.

Due to the way `rstan` currently works, parallel computations with `stanfit` and `stanreg` objects only work with forking (i.e., NOT on Windows).

Value

If `repetitions = 1`, returns a list of class `"bridge"` with components:

- `logml`: estimate of the log marginal likelihood.
- `niter`: number of iterations of the iterative updating scheme.
- `method`: bridge sampling method that was used to obtain the estimate.
- `q11`: log posterior evaluations for posterior samples.
- `q12`: log proposal evaluations for posterior samples.
- `q21`: log posterior evaluations for samples from the proposal.
- `q22`: log proposal evaluations for samples from the proposal.
- `mcse_logml`: Monte Carlo standard error of `logml` on the log-scale (Micaletto & Vehtari, 2025).

If `repetitions > 1`, returns a list of class `"bridge_list"` with components:

- `logml`: numeric vector of log marginal likelihood estimates.
- `niter`: numeric vector with the number of iterations of the iterative updating scheme for each repetition.

- `method`: bridge sampling method that was used to obtain the estimates.
- `repetitions`: number of repetitions.
- `mcse_logml`: numeric vector of Monte Carlo standard errors on the log-scale (Micaletto & Vehtari, 2025), one per repetition.

Warning

Note that the results depend strongly on the parameter priors. Therefore, it is strongly advised to think carefully about the priors before calculating marginal likelihoods. For example, the prior choices implemented in **rstanarm** or **brms** might not be optimal from a testing point of view. We recommend to use priors that have been chosen from a testing and not a purely estimation perspective.

Also note that for testing, the number of posterior samples usually needs to be substantially larger than for estimation.

Note

To be able to use a `stanreg` object for samples, the user crucially needs to have specified the `diagnostic_file` when fitting the model in **rstanarm**.

Author(s)

Quentin F. Gronau and Henrik Singmann. Parallel computing (i.e., `cores > 1`) and the `stanfit` method use code from `rstan` by Jiaqing Guo, Jonah Gabry, and Ben Goodrich. Ben Goodrich added the `stanreg` method. Kees Mulder added methods for simplex and circular variables. Giorgio Micaletto and Aki Vehtari added the `CmdStanMCMC` method (for `cmdstanr`) and calculation of the Monte Carlo Standard Error (MCSE).

References

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- vignette("bridgesampling_tutorial")
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See Also

`bf` allows the user to calculate Bayes factors and `post_prob` allows the user to calculate posterior model probabilities from bridge sampling estimates. `bridge-methods` lists some additional methods that automatically invoke the `error_measures` function.

Examples

```
## -----
## Example 1: Estimating the Normalizing Constant of a Two-Dimensional
##           Standard Normal Distribution
## -----

library(bridgesampling)
library(mvtnorm)

samples <- rmvnorm(1e4, mean = rep(0, 2), sigma = diag(2))
colnames(samples) <- c("x1", "x2")
log_density <- function(samples.row, data) {
  -.5*t(samples.row) %*% samples.row
}

lb <- rep(-Inf, 2)
ub <- rep(Inf, 2)
names(lb) <- names(ub) <- colnames(samples)
bridge_result <- bridge_sampler(samples = samples, log_posterior = log_density,
                               data = NULL, lb = lb, ub = ub, silent = TRUE)

# compare to analytical value
analytical <- log(2*pi)
print(cbind(bridge_result$logml, analytical))

## Not run:

## -----
## Example 2: Hierarchical Normal Model
## -----

# for a full description of the example, see
vignette("bridgesampling_example_jags")

library(R2jags)

### generate data ###

set.seed(12345)

mu <- 0
```

```

tau2 <- 0.5
sigma2 <- 1

n <- 20
theta <- rnorm(n, mu, sqrt(tau2))
y <- rnorm(n, theta, sqrt(sigma2))

### set prior parameters
alpha <- 1
beta <- 1
mu0 <- 0
tau20 <- 1

### functions to get posterior samples ###

### H0: mu = 0

getSamplesModelH0 <- function(data, niter = 52000, nburnin = 2000, nchains = 3) {

  model <- "
  model {
    for (i in 1:n) {
      theta[i] ~ dnorm(0, invTau2)
      y[i] ~ dnorm(theta[i], 1/sigma2)
    }
    invTau2 ~ dgamma(alpha, beta)
    tau2 <- 1/invTau2
  }"

  s <- jags(data, parameters.to.save = c("theta", "invTau2"),
            model.file = textConnection(model),
            n.chains = nchains, n.iter = niter,
            n.burnin = nburnin, n.thin = 1)

  return(s)
}

### H1: mu != 0

getSamplesModelH1 <- function(data, niter = 52000, nburnin = 2000,
                              nchains = 3) {

  model <- "
  model {
    for (i in 1:n) {
      theta[i] ~ dnorm(mu, invTau2)
      y[i] ~ dnorm(theta[i], 1/sigma2)
    }
    mu ~ dnorm(mu0, 1/tau20)
    invTau2 ~ dgamma(alpha, beta)
    tau2 <- 1/invTau2
  }"

```

```

    }"

    s <- jags(data, parameters.to.save = c("theta", "mu", "invTau2"),
              model.file = textConnection(model),
              n.chains = nchains, n.iter = niter,
              n.burnin = nburnin, n.thin = 1)

    return(s)

}

### get posterior samples ###

# create data lists for Jags
data_H0 <- list(y = y, n = length(y), alpha = alpha, beta = beta, sigma2 = sigma2)
data_H1 <- list(y = y, n = length(y), mu0 = mu0, tau20 = tau20, alpha = alpha,
               beta = beta, sigma2 = sigma2)

# fit models
samples_H0 <- getSamplesModelH0(data_H0)
samples_H1 <- getSamplesModelH1(data_H1)

### functions for evaluating the unnormalized posteriors on log scale ###
log_posterior_H0 <- function(samples.row, data) {

  mu <- 0
  invTau2 <- samples.row[[ "invTau2" ]]
  theta <- samples.row[ paste0("theta[", seq_along(data$y), "]") ]

  sum(dnorm(data$y, theta, data$sigma2, log = TRUE)) +
    sum(dnorm(theta, mu, 1/sqrt(invTau2), log = TRUE)) +
    dgamma(invTau2, data$alpha, data$beta, log = TRUE)

}

log_posterior_H1 <- function(samples.row, data) {

  mu <- samples.row[[ "mu" ]]
  invTau2 <- samples.row[[ "invTau2" ]]
  theta <- samples.row[ paste0("theta[", seq_along(data$y), "]") ]

  sum(dnorm(data$y, theta, data$sigma2, log = TRUE)) +
    sum(dnorm(theta, mu, 1/sqrt(invTau2), log = TRUE)) +
    dnorm(mu, data$mu0, sqrt(data$tau20), log = TRUE) +
    dgamma(invTau2, data$alpha, data$beta, log = TRUE)

}

# specify parameter bounds H0
cn <- colnames(samples_H0$BUGSoutput$sims.matrix)
cn <- cn[cn != "deviance"]
lb_H0 <- rep(-Inf, length(cn))

```

```

ub_H0 <- rep(Inf, length(cn))
names(lb_H0) <- names(ub_H0) <- cn
lb_H0[[ "invTau2" ]] <- 0

# specify parameter bounds H1
cn <- colnames(samples_H1$BUGSoutput$sims.matrix)
cn <- cn[cn != "deviance"]
lb_H1 <- rep(-Inf, length(cn))
ub_H1 <- rep(Inf, length(cn))
names(lb_H1) <- names(ub_H1) <- cn
lb_H1[[ "invTau2" ]] <- 0

# compute log marginal likelihood via bridge sampling for H0
H0.bridge <- bridge_sampler(samples = samples_H0, data = data_H0,
                           log_posterior = log_posterior_H0, lb = lb_H0,
                           ub = ub_H0, silent = TRUE)

print(H0.bridge)

# compute log marginal likelihood via bridge sampling for H1
H1.bridge <- bridge_sampler(samples = samples_H1, data = data_H1,
                           log_posterior = log_posterior_H1, lb = lb_H1,
                           ub = ub_H1, silent = TRUE)

print(H1.bridge)

# compute percentage error
print(error_measures(H0.bridge)$percentage)
print(error_measures(H1.bridge)$percentage)

# compute Bayes factor
BF01 <- bf(H0.bridge, H1.bridge)
print(BF01)

# compute posterior model probabilities (assuming equal prior model probabilities)
post1 <- post_prob(H0.bridge, H1.bridge)
print(post1)

# compute posterior model probabilities (using user-specified prior model probabilities)
post2 <- post_prob(H0.bridge, H1.bridge, prior_prob = c(.6, .4))
print(post2)

## End(Not run)

## Not run:

## -----
## Example 3: rstanarm
## -----
library(rstanarm)

# N.B.: remember to specify the diagnostic_file

```

```

fit_1 <- stan_glm(mpg ~ wt + qsec + am, data = mtcars,
                 chains = 2, cores = 2, iter = 5000,
                 diagnostic_file = file.path(tempdir(), "df.csv"))
bridge_1 <- bridge_sampler(fit_1)
fit_2 <- update(fit_1, formula = . ~ . + cyl)
bridge_2 <- bridge_sampler(fit_2, method = "warp3")
bf(bridge_1, bridge_2)

## End(Not run)

```

error_measures

Error Measures for Estimated Marginal Likelihood

Description

Computes error measures for estimated marginal likelihood.

Usage

```

error_measures(bridge_object, ...)

## S3 method for class 'bridge'
error_measures(bridge_object, ...)

## S3 method for class 'bridge_list'
error_measures(bridge_object, na.rm = TRUE, ...)

```

Arguments

bridge_object	an object of class "bridge" or "bridge_list" as returned from bridge_sampler .
...	additional arguments (currently ignored).
na.rm	a logical indicating whether missing values in logml estimates should be removed. Ignored for the bridge method.

Details

Computes error measures for marginal likelihood bridge sampling estimates. The approximate errors for a bridge_object of class "bridge" that has been obtained with method = "normal" and repetitions = 1 are based on Fruehwirth-Schnatter (2004). Not applicable in case the object of class "bridge" has been obtained with method = "warp3" and repetitions = 1. To assess the uncertainty of the estimate in this case, it is recommended to run the "warp3" procedure multiple times.

Value

If `bridge_object` is of class "bridge" and has been obtained with `method = "normal"` and `repetitions = 1`, returns a list with components:

- `re2`: approximate relative mean-squared error for marginal likelihood estimate.
- `cv`: approximate coefficient of variation for marginal likelihood estimate (assumes that bridge estimate is unbiased).
- `percentage`: approximate percentage error of marginal likelihood estimate.

If `bridge_object` is of class "bridge_list", returns a list with components:

- `min`: minimum of the log marginal likelihood estimates.
- `max`: maximum of the log marginal likelihood estimates.
- `IQR`: interquartile range of the log marginal likelihood estimates.

Note

For examples, see [bridge_sampler](#) and the accompanying vignettes:
`vignette("bridgesampling_example_jags")`
`vignette("bridgesampling_example_stan")`

Author(s)

Quentin F. Gronau

References

Fruehwirth-Schnatter, S. (2004). Estimating marginal likelihoods for mixture and Markov switching models using bridge sampling techniques. *The Econometrics Journal*, 7, 143-167. doi:[10.1111/j.1368423X.2004.00125.x](#)

See Also

The summary methods for `bridge` and `bridge_list` objects automatically invoke this function, see [bridge-methods](#).

 ier

Standardized International Exchange Rate Changes from 1975 to 1986

Description

This data set contains the changes in monthly international exchange rates for pounds sterling from January 1975 to December 1986 obtained from West and Harrison (1997, pp. 612-615). Currencies tracked are US Dollar (column `us_dollar`), Canadian Dollar (column `canadian_dollar`), Japanese Yen (column `yen`), French Franc (column `franc`), Italian Lira (column `lira`), and the (West) German Mark (column `mark`). Each series has been standardized with respect to its sample mean and standard deviation.

Usage

ier

Format

A matrix with 143 rows and 6 columns.

Source

West, M., Harrison, J. (1997). *Bayesian forecasting and dynamic models* (2nd ed.). Springer-Verlag, New York.

Lopes, H. F., West, M. (2004). Bayesian model assessment in factor analysis. *Statistica Sinica*, 14, 41-67.

Examples

```
## Not run:

#####
# BAYESIAN FACTOR ANALYSIS (AS PROPOSED BY LOPES & WEST, 2004)
#####

library(bridgesampling)
library(rstan)

cores <- 4
options(mc.cores = cores)

data("ier")

#-----
# plot data
#-----

currency <- colnames(ier)
label <- c("US Dollar", "Canadian Dollar", "Yen", "Franc", "Lira", "Mark")
op <- par(mfrow = c(3, 2), mar = c(6, 6, 3, 3))

for (i in seq_along(currency)) {
  plot(ier[,currency[i]], type = "l", col = "darkblue", axes = FALSE,
       ylim = c(-4, 4), ylab = "", xlab = "", lwd = 2)
  axis(1, at = 0:12*12, labels = 1975:1987, cex.axis = 1.7)
  axis(2, at = pretty(c(-4, 4)), las = 1, cex.axis = 1.7)
  mtext("Year", 1, cex = 1.5, line = 3.2)
  mtext("Exchange Rate Changes", 2, cex = 1.4, line = 3.2)
  mtext(label[i], 3, cex = 1.6, line = .1)
}

par(op)

#-----
```

```

# stan model
#-----

model_code <-
"data {
  int<lower=1> T; // number of observations
  int<lower=1> m; // number of variables
  int<lower=1> k; // number of factors
  matrix[T,m] Y; // data matrix
}
transformed data {
  int<lower = 1> r;
  vector[m] zeros;
  r = m * k - k * (k - 1) / 2; // number of non-zero factor loadings
  zeros = rep_vector(0.0, m);
}
parameters {
  real beta_lower[r - k]; // lower-diagonal elements of beta
  real<lower = 0> beta_diag [k]; // diagonal elements of beta
  vector<lower = 0>[m] sigma2; // residual variances
}
transformed parameters {
  matrix[m,k] beta;
  cov_matrix[m] Omega;
  // construct lower-triangular factor loadings matrix
  {
    int index_lower = 1;
    for (j in 1:k) {
      for (i in 1:m) {
        if (i == j) {
          beta[j,j] = beta_diag[j];
        } else if (i >= j) {
          beta[i,j] = beta_lower[index_lower];
          index_lower = index_lower + 1;
        } else {
          beta[i,j] = 0.0;
        }
      }
    }
  }
  Omega = beta * beta' + diag_matrix(sigma2);
}
model {
  // priors
  target += normal_lpdf(beta_diag | 0, 1) - k * normal_lccdf(0 | 0, 1);
  target += normal_lpdf(beta_lower | 0, 1);
  target += inv_gamma_lpdf(sigma2 | 2.2 / 2.0, 0.1 / 2.0);

  // likelihood
  for(t in 1:T) {
    target += multi_normal_lpdf(Y[t] | zeros, Omega);
  }
}"

```

```

# compile model
model <- stan_model(model_code = model_code)

#-----
# fit models and compute log marginal likelihoods
#-----

# function for generating starting values
init_fun <- function(nchains, k, m) {
  r <- m * k - k * (k - 1) / 2
  out <- vector("list", nchains)
  for (i in seq_len(nchains)) {
    beta_lower <- array(runif(r - k, 0.05, 1), dim = r - k)
    beta_diag <- array(runif(k, .05, 1), dim = k)
    sigma2 <- array(runif(m, .05, 1.5), dim = m)
    out[[i]] <- list(beta_lower = beta_lower,
                    beta_diag = beta_diag,
                    sigma2 = sigma2)
  }
  return(out)
}

set.seed(1)
stanfit <- bridge <- vector("list", 3)
for (k in 1:3) {
  stanfit[[k]] <- sampling(model,
                        data = list(Y = ier, T = nrow(ier),
                                    m = ncol(ier), k = k),
                        iter = 11000, warmup = 1000, chains = 4,
                        init = init_fun(nchains = 4, k = k, m = ncol(ier)),
                        cores = cores, seed = 1)
  bridge[[k]] <- bridge_sampler(stanfit[[k]], method = "warp3",
                              repetitions = 10, cores = cores)
}

# example output
summary(bridge[[2]])

#-----
# compute posterior model probabilities
#-----

pp <- post_prob(bridge[[1]], bridge[[2]], bridge[[3]],
               model_names = c("k = 1", "k = 2", "k = 3"))
pp

op <- par(mar = c(6, 6, 3, 3))
boxplot(pp, axes = FALSE,
        ylim = c(0, 1), ylab = "",
        xlab = "")
axis(1, at = 1:3, labels = colnames(pp), cex.axis = 1.7)

```

```
axis(2, cex.axis = 1.1)
mtext("Posterior Model Probability", 2, cex = 1.5, line = 3.2)
mtext("Number of Factors", 1, cex = 1.4, line = 3.2)
par(op)

## End(Not run)
```

logml

Log Marginal Likelihoods from Bridge Objects

Description

Generic function that returns log marginal likelihood from bridge objects. For objects of class "bridge_list", which contains multiple log marginal likelihoods, fun is performed on the vector and its result returned.

Usage

```
logml(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'bridge'
logml(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'bridge_list'
logml(x, fun = median, ...)
```

Arguments

x	Object of class "bridge" or "bridge_list" as returned from bridge_sampler .
...	Further arguments passed to fun.
fun	Function which returns a scalar value and is applied to the logml vector of "bridge_list" objects. Default is median .

Value

scalar numeric

post_prob	<i>Posterior Model Probabilities from Marginal Likelihoods</i>
-----------	--

Description

Generic function that computes posterior model probabilities from marginal likelihoods.

Usage

```
post_prob(x, ..., prior_prob = NULL, model_names = NULL)

## S3 method for class 'bridge'
post_prob(x, ..., prior_prob = NULL, model_names = NULL)

## S3 method for class 'bridge_list'
post_prob(x, ..., prior_prob = NULL, model_names = NULL)

## Default S3 method:
post_prob(x, ..., prior_prob = NULL, model_names = NULL)
```

Arguments

x	Object of class "bridge" or "bridge_list" as returned from bridge_sampler . Additionally, the default method assumes that all passed objects are numeric log marginal likelihoods (e.g., from logml) and will throw an error otherwise.
...	further objects of class "bridge" or "bridge_list" as returned from bridge_sampler . Or numeric values for the default method.
prior_prob	numeric vector with prior model probabilities. If omitted, a uniform prior is used (i.e., all models are equally likely a priori). The default NULL corresponds to equal prior model weights.
model_names	If NULL (the default) will use model names derived from deparsing the call. Otherwise will use the passed values as model names.

Value

For the default method and the method for "bridge" objects, a named numeric vector with posterior model probabilities (i.e., which sum to one).

For the method for "bridge_list" objects, a matrix consisting of posterior model probabilities where each row sums to one and gives the model probabilities for one set of logmls. The (named) columns correspond to the models and the number of rows is given by the "bridge_list" element with the most repetitions. Elements with fewer repetitions will be recycled (with warning).

Note

For realistic examples, see [bridge_sampler](#) and the accompanying vignettes:
[vignette\("bridgesampling_example_jags"\)](#)
[vignette\("bridgesampling_example_stan"\)](#)

Author(s)

Quentin F. Gronau and Henrik Singmann

Examples

```
H0 <- structure(list(logml = -20.8084543022433, niter = 4, method = "normal"),
  .Names = c("logml", "niter", "method"), class = "bridge")
H1 <- structure(list(logml = -17.9623077558729, niter = 4, method = "normal"),
  .Names = c("logml", "niter", "method"), class = "bridge")
H2 <- structure(list(logml = -19, niter = 4, method = "normal"),
  .Names = c("logml", "niter", "method"), class = "bridge")

post_prob(H0, H1, H2)
post_prob(H1, H0)

## all produce the same (only names differ):
post_prob(H0, H1, H2)
post_prob(H0$logml, H1$logml, H2$logml)
post_prob(c(H0$logml, H1$logml, H2$logml))
post_prob(H0$logml, c(H1$logml, H2$logml))
post_prob(H0$logml, c(H1$logml, H2$logml), model_names = c("H0", "H1", "H2"))

### with bridge list elements:
H0L <- structure(list(logml = c(-20.8088381186739, -20.8072772698116,
-20.808454454621, -20.8083419072281, -20.8087870541247, -20.8084887398113,
-20.8086023582344, -20.8079083169745, -20.8083048489095, -20.8090050811436),
  niter = c(4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4), method = "normal",
  repetitions = 10), .Names = c("logml", "niter", "method",
"repetitions"), class = "bridge_list")

H1L <- structure(list(logml = c(-17.961665507006, -17.9611290723151,
-17.9607509604499, -17.9608629535992, -17.9602093576442, -17.9600223300432,
-17.9610157118017, -17.9615557696561, -17.9608437034849, -17.9606743200309),
  niter = c(4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 3, 4), method = "normal",
  repetitions = 10), .Names = c("logml", "niter", "method",
"repetitions"), class = "bridge_list")

post_prob(H1L, H0L)
post_prob(H1L, H0L, H0) # last element recycled with warning.
```

turtles

Turtles Data from Janzen, Tucker, and Paukstis (2000)

Description

This data set contains information about 244 newborn turtles from 31 different clutches. For each turtle, the data set includes information about survival status (column y; 0 = died, 1 = survived),

birth weight in grams (column x), and clutch (family) membership (column clutch; an integer between one and 31). The clutches have been ordered according to mean birth weight.

Usage

```
turtles
```

Format

A data.frame with 244 rows and 3 variables.

Source

Janzen, F. J., Tucker, J. K., & Paukstis, G. L. (2000). Experimental analysis of an early life-history stage: Selection on size of hatchling turtles. *Ecology*, 81(8), 2290-2304. doi:10.2307/177115

Overstall, A. M., & Forster, J. J. (2010). Default Bayesian model determination methods for generalised linear mixed models. *Computational Statistics & Data Analysis*, 54, 3269-3288. doi:10.1016/j.csda.2010.03.008

Sinharay, S., & Stern, H. S. (2005). An empirical comparison of methods for computing Bayes factors in generalized linear mixed models. *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics*, 14(2), 415-435. doi:10.1198/106186005X47471

Examples

```
## Not run:

#####
# BAYESIAN GENERALIZED LINEAR MIXED MODEL (PROBIT REGRESSION)
#####

library(bridgesampling)
library(rstan)

data("turtles")

#-----
# plot data
#-----

# reproduce Figure 1 from Sinharay & Stern (2005)
xticks <- pretty(turtles$clutch)
yticks <- pretty(turtles$x)

plot(1, type = "n", axes = FALSE, ylab = "", xlab = "", xlim = range(xticks),
     ylim = range(yticks))
points(turtles$clutch, turtles$x, pch = ifelse(turtles$y, 21, 4), cex = 1.3,
       col = ifelse(turtles$y, "black", "darkred"), bg = "grey", lwd = 1.3)
axis(1, cex.axis = 1.4)
mtext("Clutch Identifier", side = 1, line = 2.9, cex = 1.8)
axis(2, las = 1, cex.axis = 1.4)
mtext("Birth Weight (Grams)", side = 2, line = 2.6, cex = 1.8)
```



```

#-----
# Analysis: Natural Selection Study (compute same BF as Sinharay & Stern, 2005)
#-----

### H0 (model without random intercepts) ###
H0_code <-
"data {
  int<lower = 1> N;
  int<lower = 0, upper = 1> y[N];
  real<lower = 0> x[N];
}
parameters {
  real alpha0_raw;
  real alpha1_raw;
}
transformed parameters {
  real alpha0 = sqrt(10.0) * alpha0_raw;
  real alpha1 = sqrt(10.0) * alpha1_raw;
}
model {
  // priors
  target += normal_lpdf(alpha0_raw | 0, 1);
  target += normal_lpdf(alpha1_raw | 0, 1);

  // likelihood
  for (i in 1:N) {
    target += bernoulli_lpmf(y[i] | Phi(alpha0 + alpha1 * x[i]));
  }
}"

### H1 (model with random intercepts) ###
H1_code <-
"data {
  int<lower = 1> N;
  int<lower = 0, upper = 1> y[N];
  real<lower = 0> x[N];
  int<lower = 1> C;
  int<lower = 1, upper = C> clutch[N];
}
parameters {
  real alpha0_raw;
  real alpha1_raw;
  vector[C] b_raw;
  real<lower = 0> sigma2;
}
transformed parameters {
  vector[C] b;
  real<lower = 0> sigma = sqrt(sigma2);
  real alpha0 = sqrt(10.0) * alpha0_raw;
  real alpha1 = sqrt(10.0) * alpha1_raw;
  b = sigma * b_raw;
}

```

```

model {
  // priors
  target += - 2 * log(1 + sigma2); // p(sigma2) = 1 / (1 + sigma2) ^ 2
  target += normal_lpdf(alpha0_raw | 0, 1);
  target += normal_lpdf(alpha1_raw | 0, 1);

  // random effects
  target += normal_lpdf(b_raw | 0, 1);

  // likelihood
  for (i in 1:N) {
    target += bernoulli_lpmf(y[i] | Phi(alpha0 + alpha1 * x[i] + b[clutch[i]]));
  }
}

set.seed(1)
### fit models ###
stanfit_H0 <- stan(model_code = H0_code,
  data = list(y = turtles$y, x = turtles$x, N = nrow(turtles)),
  iter = 15500, warmup = 500, chains = 4, seed = 1)
stanfit_H1 <- stan(model_code = H1_code,
  data = list(y = turtles$y, x = turtles$x, N = nrow(turtles),
    C = max(turtles$clutch), clutch = turtles$clutch),
  iter = 15500, warmup = 500, chains = 4, seed = 1)

set.seed(1)
### compute (log) marginal likelihoods ###
bridge_H0 <- bridge_sampler(stanfit_H0)
bridge_H1 <- bridge_sampler(stanfit_H1)

### compute approximate percentage errors ###
error_measures(bridge_H0)$percentage
error_measures(bridge_H1)$percentage

### summary ###
summary(bridge_H0)
summary(bridge_H1)

### compute Bayes factor ("true" value: BF01 = 1.273) ###
bf(bridge_H0, bridge_H1)

## End(Not run)

```

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