

Package ‘catR’

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Type Package

Title Procedures to generate IRT adaptive tests (CAT)

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Depends R (>= 2.8.0), sfsmisc

Description The catR package allows the generation of response patterns under computerized adaptive testing (CAT) framework, with the choice of several starting rules, next item selection routines, stopping rules and ability estimators.

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LazyLoad yes

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createItemBank	<i>Item bank generation</i>
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Description

This command creates an item bank from a matrix of item parameters. Item information functions are evaluated for all items and a fine grid of ability levels, to be supplied.

Usage

```
createItemBank(items=100, model="4PL", thMin=-4, thMax=4,
step=0.01, seed=1, D=1)
```

Arguments

items	either an integer value or a matrix of item parameters. See Details .
model	character: the name of the logistic IRT model, with possible values "1PL", "2PL", "3PL" or "4PL" (default). Ignored if items is a matrix.
thMin	numeric: the lower bound for the fine grid of ability levels (default is -4). See Details .
thMax	numeric: the upper bound for the fine grid of ability levels (default is 4). See Details .
step	numeric: the step value for the fine grid of ability levels (default is 0.01). See Details .
seed	numeric: the random seed number for the generation of item parameters (default is 1). See set.seed for further details.
D	numeric: the metric constant. Default is D=1 (for logistic metric); D=1.702 yields approximately the normal metric (Haley, 1952).

Details

If `items` is a matrix, it has the following format: one row per item and four columns, with respectively the discrimination a_i , the difficulty b_i , the pseudo-guessing c_i and the inattention d_i parameters (Barton and Lord, 1981). If `items` is an integer, it corresponds to the number of items to be included in the item bank. Corresponding item parameters are (by default) randomly drawn from the following distributions: $a_i \sim N(1, 0.2^2)$, $b_i \sim N(0, 1)$, $c_i \sim U([0, 0.25])$ and $d_i \sim U([0.75, 1])$. Inattention parameters d_i are fixed to 1 if `model` is not "4PL"; pseudo-guessing parameters c_i are fixed to zero if `model` is either "1PL" or "2PL"; and discrimination parameters a_i are fixed to 1 if `model`="1PL". The random generation of item parameters can be controlled by the `seed` argument.

The item bank consists of the `(infoTab)` matrix, which holds Fisher information functions (Baker, 1992), evaluated for each item in the bank and at each value of a sequence of ability levels. These abilities are ranging from `thMin` to `thMax` by steps of `step` units.

The returned list contains in addition the sequence of ability levels and the matrix of item parameters.

Value

A list of class "itBank" with three arguments:

itemPar	the matrix of item parameters, either provided by <code>items</code> or generated.
theta	a vector with the ability levels of the fine grid, defined by arguments <code>thMin</code> , <code>thMax</code> and <code>step</code> .
infoTab	a matrix of Fisher information functions, evaluated for each ability level (one row per ability level) and each item (one column per item).

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References

- Baker, F.B. (1992). *Item response theory: parameter estimation techniques*. New York, NY: Marcel Dekker.
- Barton, M.A., and Lord, F.M. (1981). An upper asymptote for the three-parameter logistic item-response model. Research Bulletin 81-20. Princeton, NJ: Educational Testing Service.
- Haley, D.C. (1952). Estimation of the dosage mortality relationship when the dose is subject to error. Technical report no 15. Palo Alto, CA: Applied Mathematics and Statistics Laboratory, Stanford University.

See Also

[Ii](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:

# Loading the 'tcals' parameters
data(tcals)
tcals <- as.matrix(tcals)

# Item bank creation with 'tcals' item parameters
createItemBank(tcals)

# Changing the fine grid of ability levels
createItemBank(tcals, thMin=-2, thMax=2, step=0.05)

# Item bank creation with 500 items
createItemBank(items=500)

## End(Not run)
```

eapEst

*EAP ability estimation under the 4PL model***Description**

This command returns the EAP (expected a posteriori) ability estimate for a given matrix of item parameters of the 4PL model and a given response pattern.

Usage

```
eapEst(it, x, D=1, priorDist="norm", priorPar=c(0,1),
       lower=-4, upper=4, nqp=33)
```

Arguments

<code>it</code>	numeric: a matrix with one row per item and four columns, with the values of the discrimination, the difficulty, the pseudo-guessing and the inattention parameters (in this order).
<code>x</code>	numeric: a vector of dichotomous item responses.
<code>D</code>	numeric: the metric constant. Default is <code>D=1</code> (for logistic metric); <code>D=1.702</code> yields approximately the normal metric (Haley, 1952).
<code>priorDist</code>	character: specifies the prior distribution. Possible values are "norm" (default), "unif" and "Jeffreys".
<code>priorPar</code>	numeric: vector of two components specifying the prior parameters (default is <code>c(0,1)</code>). Ignored if <code>priorDist="Jeffreys"</code> . See Details .
<code>lower</code>	numeric: the lower bound for numerical integration (default is -4).
<code>upper</code>	numeric: the upper bound for numerical integration (default is 4).
<code>nqp</code>	numeric: the number of quadrature points (default is 33).

Details

The EAP (expected a posteriori) ability estimator (Bock and Mislevy, 1982) is obtained by computing the average of the posterior distribution of ability, set as the prior distribution times the likelihood function.

Three prior distributions are available: the normal distribution, the uniform distribution and Jeffreys' prior distribution (Jeffreys, 1939, 1946). The prior distribution is specified by the argument `priorDist`, with values "norm", "unif" and "Jeffreys", respectively.

The argument `priorPar` determines either the prior mean and standard deviation of the normal prior distribution (if `priorDist="norm"`), or the range for defining the prior uniform distribution (if `priorDist="unif"`). This argument is ignored if `priorDist="Jeffreys"`.

The required integrals are approximated by numerical adaptive quadrature. This is achieved by using the [integrate.xy](#) function of the package `sfsmisc`. Arguments `lower`, `upper` and `nqp` define respectively the lower and upper bounds for numerical integration, and the number of quadrature points. By default, the numerical integration runs with 33 quadrature points on the range `[-4; 4]`, that is, a sequence of values from -4 to 4 by steps of 0.25.

Value

The estimated EAP ability level.

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References

- Bock, R. D., and Mislevy, R. J. (1982). Adaptive EAP estimation of ability in a microcomputer environment. *Applied Psychological Measurement*, 6, 431-444.
- Haley, D.C. (1952). Estimation of the dosage mortality relationship when the dose is subject to error. Technical report no 15. Palo Alto, CA: Applied Mathematics and Statistics Laboratory, Stanford University.
- Jeffreys, H. (1939). *Theory of probability*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
- Jeffreys, H. (1946). An invariant form for the prior probability in estimation problems. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London. Series A, Mathematical and Physical Sciences*, 186, 453-461.

See Also

[thetaEst](#), [integrate.xy](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:

# Loading the 'tcals' parameters
data(tcals)
tcals <- as.matrix(tcals)

# Creation of a response pattern (tcals item parameters,
# true ability level 0)
set.seed(1)
x <- rbinom(85, 1, Pi(0, tcals)$Pi)

# EAP estimation, standard normal prior distribution
eapEst(tcals, x)

# EAP estimation, uniform prior distribution upon range [-2,2]
eapEst(tcals, x, priorDist="unif", priorPar=c(-2,2))

# EAP estimation, Jeffreys' prior distribution
eapEst(tcals, x, priorDist="Jeffreys")

# Changing the integration settings
eapEst(tcals, x, nqp=100)

## End(Not run)
```

eapSem

*Standard error of EAP ability estimation under the 4PL model***Description**

This command returns the estimated standard error of the ability estimate, for a given matrix of item parameters of the 4PL model, an ability estimate and a specified estimator.

Usage

```
eapSem(thEst, it, x, D=1, priorDist="norm", priorPar=c(0,1),
       lower=-4, upper=4, nqp=33)
```

Arguments

thEst	numeric: the EAP ability estimate.
it	numeric: a matrix with one row per item and four columns, with the values of the discrimination, the difficulty, the pseudo-guessing and the inattention parameters (in this order).
x	numeric: a vector of dichotomous item responses.
D	numeric: the metric constant. Default is $D=1$ (for logistic metric); $D=1.702$ yields approximately the normal metric (Haley, 1952).
priorDist	character: specifies the prior distribution. Possible values are "norm" (default), "unif" and "Jeffreys".
priorPar	numeric: vector of two components specifying the prior parameters (default is $c(0,1)$). Ignored if <code>priorDist="Jeffreys"</code> . See Details .
lower	numeric: the lower bound for numerical integration (default is -4).
upper	numeric: the upper bound for numerical integration (default is 4).
nqp	numeric: the number of quadrature points (default is 33).

Details

This command computes the standard error of the EAP (expected a posteriori) ability estimator (Bock and Mislevy, 1982).

Three prior distributions are available: the normal distribution, the uniform distribution and Jeffreys' prior distribution (Jeffreys, 1939, 1946). The prior distribution is specified by the argument `priorDist`, with values "norm", "unif" and "Jeffreys", respectively.

The argument `priorPar` determines either the prior mean and standard deviation of the normal prior distribution (if `priorDist="norm"`), or the range for defining the prior uniform distribution (if `priorDist="unif"`). This argument is ignored if `priorDist="Jeffreys"`.

The required integrals are approximated by numerical adaptive quadrature. This is achieved by using the `integrate.xy` function of the package `sfsmisc`. Arguments `lower`, `upper` and `nqp` define respectively the lower and upper bounds for numerical integration, and the number of quadrature points. By default, the numerical integration runs with 33 quadrature points on the range $[-4; 4]$, that is, a sequence of values from -4 to 4 by steps of 0.25.

Note that in the current version, the EAP ability estimate must be specified through the `thEst` argument.

Value

The estimated standard error of the EAP ability level.

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References

- Bock, R. D., and Mislevy, R. J. (1982). Adaptive EAP estimation of ability in a microcomputer environment. *Applied Psychological Measurement*, 6, 431-444.
- Haley, D.C. (1952). Estimation of the dosage mortality relationship when the dose is subject to error. Technical report no 15. Palo Alto, CA: Applied Mathematics and Statistics Laboratory, Stanford University.
- Jeffreys, H. (1939). *Theory of probability*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
- Jeffreys, H. (1946). An invariant form for the prior probability in estimation problems. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London. Series A, Mathematical and Physical Sciences*, 186, 453-461.

See Also

[thetaEst](#), [integrate.xy](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:

# Loading the 'tcals' parameters
data(tcals)
tcals <- as.matrix(tcals)

# Creation of a response pattern (tcals item parameters,
# true ability level 0)
set.seed(1)
x <- rbinom(85, 1, Pi(0, tcals)$Pi)

# EAP estimation, standard normal prior distribution
th <- eapEst(tcals, x)
c(th, eapSem(th, tcals, x))

# EAP estimation, uniform prior distribution upon range [-2,2]
th <- eapEst(tcals, x, priorDist="unif", priorPar=c(-2,2))
c(th, eapSem(th, tcals, x, priorDist="unif", priorPar=c(-2,2)))

# EAP estimation, Jeffreys' prior distribution
th <- eapEst(tcals, x, priorDist="Jeffreys")
c(th, eapSem(th, tcals, x, priorDist="Jeffreys"))

## End(Not run)
```

EPV

*Expected Posterior Variance (EPV)***Description**

This command returns the expected posterior variance (EPV) for a given item, as used for Minimum Expected Posterior Variance (MEPV) criterion.

Usage

```
EPV(itemBank, item, x, theta, it, priorDist="norm",
    priorPar=c(0,1), D=1, parInt=c(-4,4,33))
```

Arguments

itemBank	an item bank, i.e. a list of class <code>itBank</code> , typically an output of the function <code>createItemBank</code> .
item	numeric: the item (referred to as its rank in the item bank) for which the maximum information must be computed.
x	binary: a vector of item responses, coded as 0 or 1 only.
theta	numeric: the provisional ability estimate.
it	numeric: a matrix with one row per item and four columns, with the values of the discrimination, the difficulty, the pseudo-guessing and the inattention parameters (in this order). The number of rows of <code>it</code> must be equal to the length of <code>x</code> .
priorDist	character: specifies the prior distribution. Possible values are "norm" (default) and "unif".
priorPar	numeric: vector of two components specifying the prior parameters (default is <code>c(0,1)</code>) of the prior ability distribution.
D	numeric: the metric constant. Default is <code>D=1</code> (for logistic metric); <code>D=1.702</code> yields approximately the normal metric (Haley, 1952).
parInt	numeric: vector of three components, defining the sequence of ability values for computing the posterior variance. See Details .

Details

The EPV can be used as a rule for selecting the next item in the CAT process (Choi and Swartz, 2009; Owen, 1975; van der Linden, 1998). This command serves as a subroutine for the `nextItem` function.

Let k be the number of administered items, and set x_1, \dots, x_k as the provisional response pattern. Set $\hat{\theta}_k$ as the provisional ability estimate (with the first k responses) and let j be the item of interest (not previously administered). Set also $P_j(\theta)$ as the probability of answering item j correctly for a given ability level θ , and set $Q_j(\theta) = 1 - P_j(\theta)$. Finally, set $Var(\theta|x_1, \dots, x_k, 0)$ and $Var(\theta|x_1, \dots, x_k, 1)$ as the posterior variances of θ , given the provisional response pattern (updated by response 0 and 1 respectively). Then, the EPV for item j equals

$$EPV_j = P_j(\hat{\theta}_k) Var(\theta|x_1, \dots, x_k, 1) + Q_j(\hat{\theta}_k) Var(\theta|x_1, \dots, x_k, 0)$$

The posterior variance $Var(\theta|x_1, \dots, x_k, x_j)$ (where x_j takes value 0 or 1) is computed as the squared standard error of the EAP estimate of ability, using the response pattern (x_1, \dots, x_k, x_j) . This is done by a joint use of the `eapEst` and `eapSem` functions.

The prior distribution is set up by the arguments `priorDist` and `priorPar`, with the by-default standard normal distribution. The range of integration is defined by the `parInt` argument, with by default, the sequence from -4 to 4 and of length 33 (or, by steps of 0.25). See the function `eapEst` for further details.

The item bank is provided through the argument `itemBank`. The provisional response pattern and the related item parameters are provided by the arguments `x` and `it` respectively. The target item (for which the maximum information computed) is given by its number in the item bank, through the `item` argument.

Value

The expected posterior variance for the selected item.

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References

- Choi, S. W., and Swartz, R. J. (2009). Comparison of CAT item selection criteria for polytomous items. *Applied Psychological Measurement*, 32, 419-440.
- Haley, D.C. (1952). Estimation of the dosage mortality relationship when the dose is subject to error. Technical report no 15. Palo Alto, CA: Applied Mathematics and Statistics Laboratory, Stanford University.
- Owen, R. J. (1975). A Bayesian sequential procedure for quantal response in the context of adaptive mental testing. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 70, 351-356.
- van der Linden, W. J. (1998). Bayesian item selection criteria for adaptive testing. *Psychometrika*, 63, 201-216.

See Also

`nextItem`, `eapEst`, `eapSem`

Examples

```
## Not run:

# Loading the 'tcals' parameters
data(tcals)
tcals <- as.matrix(tcals)

# Item bank creation with 'tcals' item parameters
bank <- createItemBank(tcals)

# Selection of two arbitrary items (15 and 20) of the
# 'tcals' data set
```

```

it <- bank$itemPar[c(15,20),]

# Creation of a response pattern
x <- c(0,1)

# MEI for item 1, provisional ability level 0
EPV(bank, 1, x, 0, it)

# With prior standard deviation 2
EPV(bank, 1, x, 0, it, priorPar=c(0,2))

## End(Not run)

```

Ii

*Item information functions, first and second derivatives (4PL)***Description**

This command returns the Fisher information functions for a given matrix of item parameters of the 4PL model and a given ability value. Numerical values of the first and second derivatives of the item information functions are also returned.

Usage

```
Ii(th, it, D=1)
```

Arguments

th	numeric: the ability value.
it	numeric: a matrix with one row per item and four columns, with the values of the discrimination, the difficulty, the pseudo-guessing and the inattention parameters (in this order).
D	numeric: the metric constant. Default is D=1 (for logistic metric); D=1.702 yields approximately the normal metric (Haley, 1952).

Details

The first and second derivatives are computed algebraically from the four-parameter logistic (4PL) model (Barton and Lord, 1981). These derivatives are necessary for both the estimation of ability and the computation of related standard errors.

Value

A list with three arguments:

Ii	the vector with item informations (one value per item)
dIi	the vector with first derivatives of the item information functions (one value per item)
d2Ii	the vector with second derivatives of the item information functions (one value per item)

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References

Barton, M.A., and Lord, F.M. (1981). An upper asymptote for the three-parameter logistic item-response model. Research Bulletin 81-20. Princeton, NJ: Educational Testing Service.

Haley, D.C. (1952). Estimation of the dosage mortality relationship when the dose is subject to error. Technical report no 15. Palo Alto, CA: Applied Mathematics and Statistics Laboratory, Stanford University.

See Also

[Pi, thetaEst](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:

# Loading the 'tcals' parameters
data(tcals)
tcals <- as.matrix(tcals)

# Item information functions and derivatives
# (various th and D values)
Ii(th=0, tcals)
Ii(th=0, tcals, D=1.702)
Ii(th=1, tcals)

## End(Not run)
```

 MEI

 (Maximum) Expected Information (MEI)

Description

This command returns the expected information (EI) for a given item, as used for Maximum Expected Information (MEI) criterion.

Usage

```
MEI(itemBank, item, x, theta, it, method="BM", priorDist="norm",
    priorPar=c(0,1), D=1, range=c(-4,4), parInt=c(-4,4,33),
    infoType="observed")
```

Arguments

<code>itemBank</code>	an item bank, i.e. a list of class <code>itBank</code> , typically an output of the function <code>createItemBank</code> .
<code>item</code>	numeric: the item (referred to as its rank in the item bank) for which the maximum information must be computed.
<code>x</code>	binary: a vector of item responses, coded as 0 or 1 only.
<code>theta</code>	numeric: the provisional ability estimate.
<code>it</code>	numeric: a matrix with one row per item and four columns, with the values of the discrimination, the difficulty, the pseudo-guessing and the inattention parameters (in this order). The number of rows of <code>it</code> must be equal to the length of <code>x</code> .
<code>method</code>	character: the ability estimator. Possible values are "BM" (default), "ML" and "WL". See Details .
<code>priorDist</code>	character: specifies the prior distribution. Possible values are "norm" (default), "unif" and "Jeffreys". Ignored if <code>method</code> is neither "BM" nor "EAP". See Details .
<code>priorPar</code>	numeric: vector of two components specifying the prior parameters (default is $c(0, 1)$) of the prior ability distribution. Ignored if <code>method</code> is neither "BM" nor "EAP", or if <code>priorDist</code> ="Jeffreys". See Details .
<code>D</code>	numeric: the metric constant. Default is $D=1$ (for logistic metric); $D=1.702$ yields approximately the normal metric (Haley, 1952).
<code>range</code>	numeric: vector of two components specifying the range wherein the ability estimate must be looked for (default is $c(-4, 4)$). Ignored if <code>method</code> =="EAP".
<code>parInt</code>	numeric: vector of three components, holding respectively the values of the arguments <code>lower</code> , <code>upper</code> and <code>nqp</code> of the <code>eapEst</code> command. Default vector is $(-4, 4, 33)$. Ignored if <code>method</code> is not "EAP".
<code>infoType</code>	character: the type of information function to be used. Possible values are "observed" (default) for observed information function, and "Fisher" for Fisher information function.

Details

The MEI (van der Linden, 1998; van der Linden and Pashley, 2000) can be used as a rule for selecting the next item in the CAT process (see also Choi and Swartz, 2009). This command serves as a subroutine for the `nextItem` function.

Let k be the number of administered items, and set x_1, \dots, x_k as the provisional response pattern. Set $\hat{\theta}_k$ as the provisional ability estimate (with the first k responses) and let j be the item of interest (not previously administered). Set also $P_j(\theta)$ as the probability of answering item j correctly for a given ability level θ , and set $Q_j(\theta) = 1 - P_j(\theta)$. Finally, set $\hat{\theta}_{k+1}^0$ and $\hat{\theta}_{k+1}^1$ as the ability estimates computed under the condition that the response to item j is 0 or 1 respectively (that is, if the response pattern is updated by 0 or 1 for item j). Then, the MEI for item j equals

$$MEI_j = P_j(\hat{\theta}_k) I_j(\hat{\theta}_{k+1}^1) + Q_j(\hat{\theta}_k) I_j(\hat{\theta}_{k+1}^0)$$

where $I_j(\theta)$ is the information function for item j .

Two types of information functions are available. The first one is the observed information function, defined as

$$I_j(\theta) = -\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} \log P_j(\theta).$$

(van der Linden, 1998). The second one is Fisher information function:

$$I_j(\theta) = -E \left[\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} \log P_j(\theta) \right].$$

Under the 1PL and the 2PL models, these functions are identical (Veerkamp, 1996).

The observed and Fisher information functions are specified by the `infoType` argument, with respective values "observed" and "Fisher". By default, the observed information function is considered (Choi and Swartz, 2009; van der Linden, 1998).

The estimator of provisional ability is defined by means of the arguments `method`, `priorDist`, `priorPar`, `D`, `range` and `parInt` of the `thetaEst` function. See the corresponding help file for further details.

The item bank is provided through the argument `itemBank`. The provisional response pattern and the related item parameters are provided by the arguments `x` and `it` respectively. The target item (for which the maximum information computed) is given by its number in the item bank, through the `item` argument.

Value

The required maximum expected information for the selected item.

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References

- Choi, S. W., and Swartz, R. J. (2009). Comparison of CAT item selection criteria for polytomous items. *Applied Psychological Measurement*, 32, 419-440.
- Haley, D.C. (1952). Estimation of the dosage mortality relationship when the dose is subject to error. Technical report no 15. Palo Alto, CA: Applied Mathematics and Statistics Laboratory, Stanford University.
- van der Linden, W. J. (1998). Bayesian item selection criteria for adaptive testing. *Psychometrika*, 63, 201-216.
- van der Linden, W. J., and Pashley, P. J. (2000). Item selection and ability estimation in adaptive testing. In W. J. van der Linden and C. A. W. Glas (Eds.), *Computerized adaptive testing. Theory and practice* (pp. 1-25). Boston, MA: Kluwer.
- Veerkamp, W. J. J. (1996). *Statistical inference for adaptive testing*. Internal report. Enschede, The Netherlands: University of Twente.

See Also

`Ii`, `OIi`, `nextItem`, `integrate.xy`, `thetaEst`

Examples

```
## Not run:

# Loading the 'tcals' parameters
data(tcals)
tcals <- as.matrix(tcals)

# Item bank creation with 'tcals' item parameters
bank <- createItemBank(tcals)

# Selection of two arbitrary items (15 and 20) of the
# 'tcals' data set
it <- bank$itemPar[c(15,20),]

# Creation of a response pattern
x <- c(0,1)

# MEI for item 1, provisional ability level 0
MEI(bank, 1, x, 0, it)

# With Fisher information instead
MEI(bank, 1, x, 0, it, infoType="Fisher")

# With WL estimator instead
MEI(bank, 1, x, 0, it, method="WL")

## End(Not run)
```

MWI

Maximum likelihood weighted information (MLWI) and maximum posterior weighted information (MPWI)

Description

This command returns the maximum likelihood (MLWI) or the maximum posterior (MPWI) weighted information for a given item and an item bank.

Usage

```
MWI(itemBank, item, x, it, lower=-4, upper=4, nqp=33,
    type="MLWI", priorDist="norm", priorPar=c(0,1))
```

Arguments

<code>itemBank</code>	an item bank, i.e. a list of class <code>itBank</code> , typically an output of the function <code>createItemBank</code> .
<code>item</code>	numeric: the item (referred to as its rank in the item bank) for which the maximum information must be computed.
<code>x</code>	binary: a vector of item responses, coded as 0 or 1 only.

<code>it</code>	numeric: a matrix with one row per item and four columns, with the values of the discrimination, the difficulty, the pseudo-guessing and the inattention parameters (in this order). The number of rows of <code>it</code> must be equal to the length of <code>x</code> .
<code>lower</code>	numeric: the lower bound for numerical integration (default is -4).
<code>upper</code>	numeric: the upper bound for numerical integration (default is 4).
<code>nqp</code>	numeric: the number of quadrature points (default is 33).
<code>type</code>	character: the type of information to be computed. Possible values are "MLWI" (default) and "MPWI". See Details .
<code>priorDist</code>	character: the prior ability distribution. Possible values are "norm" (default) for the normal distribution, and "unif" for the uniform distribution. Ignored if <code>type</code> is not "MPWI".
<code>priorPar</code>	numeric: a vector of two components with the prior parameters. If <code>priorDist</code> is "norm", then <code>priorPar</code> contains the mean and the standard deviation of the normal distribution. If <code>priorDist</code> is "unif", then <code>priorPar</code> contains the bounds of the uniform distribution. The default values are 0 and 1 respectively. Ignored if <code>type</code> is not "MPWI".

Details

Both the MLWI (Veerkamp and Berger, 1997) and the MPWI (van der Linden, 1998; van der Linden and Pashley, 2000) can be used as rules for selecting the next item in the CAT process (see also Choi and Swartz, 2009). This command serves as a subroutine for the `nextItem` function.

Let k be the number of administered items, and set x_1, \dots, x_k as the binary responses to the first k administered items. Set also $I_j(\theta)$ as the information function of item j evaluated at θ , and set $L(\theta|x_1, \dots, x_k)$ as the likelihood function evaluated at θ , given the provisional response pattern. Then, the MLWI for item j is given by

$$MLWI_j = \int I_j(\theta) L(\theta|x_1, \dots, x_k) d\theta$$

and the MPWI by

$$MPWI_j = \int I_j(\theta) \pi(\theta) L(\theta|x_1, \dots, x_k) d\theta$$

where $\pi(\theta)$ is the prior distribution of the ability level.

These integrals are approximated by the `integrate.xy` function from the package `sfsmisc`. The range of integration is set up by the arguments `lower`, `upper` and `nqp`, giving respectively the lower bound, the upper bound and the number of quadrature points. The default range goes from -4 to 4 with length 33 (that is, by steps of 0.25).

The argument `type` defines the type of information to be computed. The default value, "MLWI", computes the MLWI value, while the MPWI value is obtained with `type="MPWI"`. For the latter, the `priorDist` and `priorPar` arguments fix the prior ability distribution. The normal distribution is set up by `priorDist="norm"` and then, `priorPar` contains the mean and the standard deviation of the normal distribution. If `priorDist` is "unif", then the uniform distribution is considered, and `priorPar` fixes the lower and upper bounds of that uniform distribution. By default, the standard normal prior distribution is assumed. This argument is ignored whenever method is not "MPWI".

The item bank is provided through the argument `itemBank`. The provisional response pattern and the related item parameters are provided by the arguments `x` and `it` respectively. The target item (for which the maximum information computed) is given by its number in the item bank, through the `item` argument.

Value

The required maximum information for the selected item.

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- Veerkamp, W. J. J., and Berger, M. P. F. (1997). Some new item selection criteria for adaptive testing. *Journal of Educational and Behavioral Statistics*, 22, 203-226.

See Also

[Ii](#), [nextItem](#), [integrate.xy](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:

# Loading the 'tcals' parameters
data(tcals)
tcals <- as.matrix(tcals)

# Item bank creation with 'tcals' item parameters
bank <- createItemBank(tcals)

# Selection of two arbitrary items (15 and 20) of the
# 'tcals' data set
it <- bank$itemPar[c(15,20),]

# Creation of a response pattern
x <- c(0,1)

# MLWI for item 1
MWI(bank, 1, x, it)

# MPWI for item 1
MWI(bank, 1, x, it, type="MPWI")

# MLWI for item 1, different integration range
MWI(bank, 1, x, it, lower=-2, upper=2, nqp=20)

# MPWI for item 1, uniform prior distribution on the range [-2,2]
```



```
MWI(bank, 1, x, it, type="MPWI", priorDist="unif", priorPar=c(-2,2))

## End(Not run)
```

nextItem

Selection of the next item

Description

This command selects the next item to be administered, given the list of previously administered items and the current ability estimate, with several possible criteria.

Usage

```
nextItem(itemBank, theta, out=NULL, x=NULL, criterion="MFI",
  method="BM", priorDist="norm", priorPar=c(0,1), D=1,
  range=c(-4,4), parInt=c(-4,4,33), infoType="observed")
```

Arguments

itemBank	an item bank of class <code>itBank</code> as output of the function <code>createItemBank</code> .
theta	numeric: the current value of the ability estimate (default is 0).
out	either a vector of integer values specifying the items previously administered, or <code>NULL</code> (default).
x	numeric: the provisional response pattern, with the same length as <code>out</code> (and <code>NULL</code> by default). Ignored if <code>method</code> is either "MFI" or "Owen". See Details .
criterion	character: the method for next item selection. Possible values are "MFI" (default), "Owen" "MLWI", "MPWI", "MEI", "MEPV" and random. See Details .
method	character: the ability estimator. Possible values are "BM" (default), "ML" and "WL". See Details .
priorDist	character: the prior ability distribution. Possible values are "norm" (default) for the normal distribution, and "unif" for the uniform distribution. Ignored if <code>type</code> is not "MPWI".
priorPar	numeric: a vector of two components with the prior parameters. If <code>priorDist</code> is "norm", then <code>priorPar</code> contains the mean and the standard deviation of the normal distribution. If <code>priorDist</code> is "unif", then <code>priorPar</code> contains the bounds of the uniform distribution. The default values are 0 and 1 respectively. Ignored if <code>type</code> is not "MPWI".
D	numeric: the metric constant. Default is <code>D=1</code> (for logistic metric); <code>D=1.702</code> yields approximately the normal metric (Haley, 1952).
range	numeric: vector of two components specifying the range wherein the ability estimate must be looked for (default is <code>c(-4,4)</code>). Ignored if <code>method=="EAP"</code> .

<code>parInt</code>	numeric: a vector of three numeric values, specifying respectively the lower bound, the upper bound and the number of quadrature points for numerical integration (default is <code>c(-4, 4, 33)</code>). Ignored if <code>method</code> is either "MFI" or "Owen". See Details .
<code>infoType</code>	character: the type of information function to be used. Possible values are "observed" (default) for observed information function, and "Fisher" for Fisher information function. Ignored if <code>criterion</code> is not "MEI".

Details

Currently seven methods are available for selecting the next item to be administered in the adaptive test. For a given current ability estimate, the next item is selected (among the available items) by using: the maximum Fisher information (MFI) criterion, the maximum likelihood weighted information (MLWI) (Veerkamp and Berger, 1997), the maximum posterior weighted information (MPWI) (van der Linden, 1998), Owen's procedure (Owen, 1975), the maximum expected information (MEI) criterion (van der Linden, 1998), the minimum expected posterior variance (MEPV) or by selecting the next item completely randomly among the available items.

The MFI criterion selects the next item as the one which maximizes the item information function (Baker, 1992). The most informative item is selected from the table of item informations provided by the bank of items specified with `itemBank`. Owen's procedure consists in selecting as next the item whose difficulty level is closest to the current ability estimate. Under the IPL model, both Owen and MFI methods are equivalent. The MLWI and MPWI criteria select the next item as the one with maximal information, weighted either by the likelihood function or the posterior distribution. See the function [MWI](#) for further details. Finally, the MEI criterion selects the item with maximum expected information, computed with the [MEI](#) function.

The method for next item selection is specified by the `criterion` argument. Possible values are "MFI" for maximum Fisher information criterion, "Owen" for Owen's method, "MLWI" for maximum likelihood weighted information criterion, "MPWI" for the maximum posterior weighted information criterion, "MEI" for the maximum expected information criterion, "MEPV" for minimum expected posterior variance, and "random" for random selection. Other values return an error message.

For MFI, MEI and Owen criteria, the provisional ability estimate must be supplied through the `theta` argument (by default, it is equal to zero). For MLWI and MPWI criteria, this argument is ignored.

The available items are those that are not specified in the `out` argument. By default, `out` is `NULL`, which means that all items are available.

For MEI, MEPV, MLWI and MPWI methods, the provisional response pattern must be provided through the `x` argument. It must be of 0/1 entries and of the same length as the `out` argument. It is ignored with MFI and Owen criteria. Moreover, the range of integration (or posterior variance computation) is specified by the triplet `parInt`, where the first, second, and third value correspond to the arguments `lower`, `upper` and `nqp` of the [MWI](#) function, respectively.

The method, `priorDist`, `priorPar`, `D`, `range` and `intPar` arguments fix the ability estimator. See the [thetaEst](#) function for further details.

Finally, for MEI criterion, the type of information function must be supplied through the `infoType` argument. It is equal to "observed" by default, which refers to the observed information function, and the other possible value is "Fisher" for Fisher information function. See the [MEI](#) function for further details. This argument is ignored if `criterion` is not "MEI".

Value

A list with three arguments:

item	the selected item (identified by its number in the item bank).
par	the vector of item parameters of the selected item.
info	the value of the MFI, Fisher's information, the MLWI, the MPWI, the MEI, the EPV, or NA (for "random" criterion) for the selected item and the current ability estimate.
criterion	the value of the criterion argument.

Note

van der Linden and Pashley (2000) also introduced the Maximum Expected Posterior Weighted Information (MEPWI) criterion, as a mix of both MEI and MPWI methods. However, Choi and Swartz (2009) established that this method is completely equivalent to MPWI. For this reason, MEPWI was not implemented here.

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See Also

[createItemBank](#), [MWI](#), [MEI](#), [thetaEst](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:

# Loading the 'tcals' parameters
data(tcals)
tcals <- as.matrix(tcals)

# Item bank creation with 'tcals' item parameters
bank <- createItemBank(tcals)
```

[illegible]

OIi

*Observed information function (4PL)***Description**

This command returns the observed information functions for a given matrix of item parameters of the 4PL model and a given ability value.

Usage

```
OIi(th, it, x, D=1)
```

Arguments

th	numeric: the ability value.
it	numeric: a matrix with one row per item and four columns, with the values of the discrimination, the difficulty, the pseudo-guessing and the inattention parameters (in this order).
x	numeric: the item response (coded as 0 or 1). Can be either a single value or a vector of the same length of the number of items.
D	numeric: the metric constant. Default is D=1 (for logistic metric); D=1.702 yields approximately the normal metric (Haley, 1952).

Details

The observed information function for item j is given by

$$-\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} \log L(\theta|x_j)$$

where θ is the ability level, L is the likelihood function and x_j is the item response. For dichotomous item response models with success probability $P_j(\theta)$, it takes the following form:

$$-\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} \log L(\theta|x_j) = \frac{P_j Q_j P_j'^2 - (x_j - P_j) [P_j Q_j P_j'' + P_j^2 (P_j - Q_j)]}{P_j^2 Q_j^2}$$

where $P_j = P_j(\theta)$, $Q_j = 1 - P_j$ and P_j' and P_j'' are the first and second derivatives of P_j respectively.

Under the 2PL model, the observed information function is exactly equal to Fisher's information function

$$-E \left[\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} \log L(\theta|x_j) \right] = \frac{P_j'^2}{P_j Q_j}$$

(van der Linden, 1998; Veerkamp, 1996).

The observed information function is used to compute some item selection criteria, such as the Maximum Expected Information (MEI). See [nextItem](#) for further details.

Value

A vector with the observed item informations (one per item).

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- Veerkamp, W. J. J. (1996). *Statistical inference for adaptive testing*. Internal report. Enschede, The Netherlands: University of Twente.

See Also

[createItemBank](#), [nextItem](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:

# Loading the 'tcals' parameters
data(tcals)
tcals <- as.matrix(tcals)

# Observed information functions
# (various th, x and D values)
OIi(th=0, tcals, x=0)
OIi(th=0, tcals, x=0, D=1.702)
OIi(th=0, tcals, x=1)
OIi(th=1, tcals, x=1)

## End(Not run)
```

Description

This command returns the item response probabilities for a given matrix of item parameters of the 4PL model and a given ability value. Numerical values of the first, second and third derivatives of the response probabilities are also returned.

Usage

```
Pi(th, it, D=1)
```

Arguments

th	numeric: the ability value.
it	numeric: a matrix with one row per item and four columns, with the values of the discrimination, the difficulty, the pseudo-guessing and the inattention parameters (in this order).
D	numeric: the metric constant. Default is D=1 (for logistic metric); D=1.702 yields approximately the normal metric (Haley, 1952).

Details

The first, second and third derivatives are computed algebraically from the four-parameter logistic (4PL) model (Barton and Lord, 1981). These derivatives are necessary for both the estimation of ability and the computation of related standard errors.

Value

A list with four arguments:

Pi	the vector with response probabilities (one value per item)
dPi	the vector with first derivatives of the response probabilities (one value per item)
d2Pi	the vector with second derivatives of the response probabilities (one value per item)
d3Pi	the vector with third derivatives of the response probabilities (one value per item)

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- Haley, D.C. (1952). Estimation of the dosage mortality relationship when the dose is subject to error. Technical report no 15. Palo Alto, CA: Applied Mathematics and Statistics Laboratory, Stanford University.

See Also

[Ii, thetaEst](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:

# Loading the 'tcals' parameters
data(tcals)
tcals <- as.matrix(tcals)

# Response probabilities and derivatives (various th and D values)
Pi(th=0, tcals)
Pi(th=0, tcals, D=1.702)
Pi(th=1, tcals)

## End(Not run)
```

randomCAT

Random generation of adaptive tests

Description

This command generates a response pattern to an adaptive test, for a given item bank, a true ability level, and several lists of CAT parameters (starting items, stopping rule, provisional and final ability estimators).

Usage

```
randomCAT(trueTheta, itemBank, maxItems=50,
  start=list(fixItems=NULL, seed=NULL, nrItems=1, theta=0,
    halfRange=2, startSelect="bOpt"), test=list(method="BM",
    priorDist="norm", priorPar=c(0,1), range=c(-4,4), D=1,
    parInt=c(-4,4,33), itemSelect="MFI", infoType="observed"),
  stop=list(rule="length", thr=20, alpha=0.05),
  final=list(method="BM", priorDist="norm",
    priorPar=c(0,1), range=c(-4,4), D=1, parInt=c(-4,4,33),
    alpha=0.05))
## S3 method for class 'cat':
print(x, ...)
## S3 method for class 'cat':
plot(x, ci=FALSE, alpha=0.05, trueTh=TRUE, classThr=NULL, ...)
```

Arguments

trueTheta	numeric: the value of the true ability level.
itemBank	an item bank, i.e. a list of class <code>itBank</code> , typically an output of the function <code>createItemBank</code> .
maxItems	numeric: the maximal number of items to be administered (default is 50).
start	a list with the options for starting the adaptive test. See Details .
test	a list with the options for provisional ability estimation and next item selection. See Details .

<code>stop</code>	a list with the options of the stopping rule. See Details .
<code>final</code>	a list with the options for final ability estimation. See Details .
<code>x</code>	an object of class "cat", typically an output of <code>randomCAT</code> function.
<code>ci</code>	logical: should the confidence intervals be plotted for each provisional ability estimate? (default is <code>TRUE</code>).
<code>alpha</code>	numeric: the significance level for provisional confidence intervals (default is 0.05). Ignored if <code>ci</code> is <code>FALSE</code> .
<code>trueTh</code>	logical: should the true ability level be drawn by a horizontal line? (default is <code>TRUE</code>).
<code>classThr</code>	either a numeric value giving the classification threshold to be displayed, or <code>NULL</code> .
<code>...</code>	other generic arguments to be passed to <code>print</code> and <code>plot</code> functions.

Details

The `randomCAT` function generates an adaptive test using an item bank specified by argument `itemBank`, and for a given true ability level specified by argument `trueTheta`. The maximal length of the test can be fixed through the `maxItems` argument, with a default value of 50 items.

The test specification is made by means of four lists of options: one list for the selection of the starting items, one list with the options for provisional ability estimation, one list to define the stopping rule, and one list with the options for final ability estimation. These lists are specified respectively by the arguments `start`, `test`, `stop` and `final`.

The `start` list can contain one or several of the following arguments:

- `fixItems`: either a vector of integer values, setting the items to be administered as first items, or `NULL` (default) to let the function select the items.
- `seed`: either a numeric value to fix the random seed for item selection, or `NULL` (default) to select the items on the basis of their difficulty level. Ignored if `fixItems` is not `NULL`.
- `nrItems`: the number of first items to be selected (default is 1). Ignored if `fixItems` is not `NULL`.
- `theta`: the central initial ability value, used to define the range of ability levels for selecting the first items (default is 0). Ignored if either `fixItems` or `seed` is not `NULL`. See [startItems](#) for further details.
- `halfRange`: the half range of starting ability levels for selecting the first items (default is 2). Ignored if either `fixItems` or `seed` is not `NULL`. See [startItems](#) for further details.
- `startSelect`: the method for selecting the first items of the test, with possible values "bOpt" (default) and "MFI". Ignored if either `fixItems` or `seed` is not `NULL`. See [startItems](#) for further details.

These arguments are passed to the function [startItems](#) to select the first items of the test.

The `test` list can contain one or several of the following arguments:

- `method`: a character string to specify the method for ability estimation. Possible values are: "BM" (default) for Bayesian modal estimation (Birnbaum, 1969), "ML" for maximum likelihood estimation (Lord, 1980), "EAP" for expected a posteriori (EAP) estimation (Bock and Mislevy, 1982), and "WL" for weighted likelihood estimation (Warm, 1989).
- `priorDist`: a character string which sets the prior distribution. Possible values are: "norm" (default) for normal distribution, "unif" for uniform distribution, and "Jeffreys" for Jeffreys' noninformative prior distribution (Jeffreys, 1939, 1946). ignored if `method` is neither "BM" nor "EAP".

- `priorPar`: a vector of two numeric components, which sets the parameters of the prior distribution. If (`method="BM"` or `method=="EAP"`) and `priorDist="norm"`, the components of `priorPar` are respectively the mean and the standard deviation of the prior normal density. If (`method="BM"` or `method=="EAP"`) and `priorDist="unif"`, the components of `priorPar` are respectively the lower and upper bound of the prior uniform density. Ignored in all other cases. By default, `priorPar` takes the parameters of the prior standard normal distribution (i.e., `priorPar=c(0,1)`). In addition, `priorPar` also provides the prior parameters for the computation of MLWI and MPWI values for next item selection (see [nextItem](#) for further details).
- `range`: the maximal range of ability levels, set as a vector of two numeric components. The ability estimate will always lie to this interval (set by default to $[-4, 4]$). Ignored if `method=="EAP"`.
- `D`: the value of the metric constant. Default is $D=1$ for logistic metric. Setting $D=1.702$ yields approximately the normal metric (Haley, 1952).
- `parInt`: a numeric vector of three components, holding respectively the values of the arguments `lower`, `upper` and `nqp` of the [eapEst](#), [eapSem](#) and `MWI` commands. It specifies the range of quadrature points for numerical integration, and is used for computing the EAP estimate, its standard error, and the MLWI and MPWI values for next item selection. Default vector is $(-4, 4, 33)$, thus setting the range from -4 to 4 by steps of 0.25 . Ignored if `method` is not "EAP" and if `itemSelect` is neither "MLWI" nor "MPWI".
- `itemSelect`: the rule for next item selection, with possible values "MFI" (default) for maximum Fisher information criterion; "Owen" for Owen's procedure; "MLWI" and "MPWI" for respectively maximum likelihood and posterior weighted information criterion; "MEPV" for minimum expected posterior variance; "MEI" for maximum expected information; and "random" for random selection. For further details, see [nextItem](#).
- `infoType`: character: the type of information function to be used for next item selection. Possible values are "observed" (default) for observed information function, and "Fisher" for Fisher information function. Ignored if `itemselect` is not "MEI".

These arguments are passed to the functions [thetaEst](#) (or [eapEst](#)) and [semTheta](#) (or [eapSem](#)) to estimate the ability level and the standard error of this estimate. In addition, some arguments are passed to [nextItem](#) to select the next item appropriately.

The stop list can contain one or several of the following arguments:

- `rule`: a character string specifying the type of stopping rule. Possible values are: "length" (default), to stop the test after a pre-specified number of items administered; "precision", to stop the test when the provisional standard error of ability becomes less than or equal to the pre-specified value; and "classification", for which the test ends whenever the provisional confidence interval (set by the `alpha` argument) does not hold the classification threshold anymore.
- `thr`: a numeric value fixing the threshold of the stopping rule. If `rule="length"`, `thr` is the maximal number of items to be administered (in practice, it is replaced by the value of the `maxItems` argument if the latter is smaller than `thr`). If `rule="precision"`, `thr` is the precision level (i.e. the standard error) to be reached before stopping. Finally, if `rule="classification"`, `thr` corresponds to the ability level which serves as a classification rule (i.e. which must not be covered by the provisional confidence interval).
- `alpha`: the significance (or α) level for computing the provisional confidence interval of ability. Ignored if `rule` is not "classification".

Eventually, the final list can contain one or several arguments of the test list (with possibly different values), as well as the additional `alpha` argument. The latter specifies the α level of the

final confidence interval of ability, which is computed as

$$[\hat{\theta} - z_{1-\alpha/2} se(\hat{\theta}); \hat{\theta} + z_{1-\alpha/2} se(\hat{\theta})]$$

where $\hat{\theta}$ and $se(\hat{\theta})$ are respectively the ability estimate and its standard error. Note that the argument `itemSelect` of the test list is not used for final estimation of the ability level, and is therefore not allowed into the `final` list.

If some arguments of these lists are missing, they are automatically set to their default value. The contents of the lists is checked with the `testList` function, and the adaptive test is generated only if the lists are adequately defined. Otherwise, a message error is printed.

The function `plot.cat` represents the set of provisional and final ability estimates throughout the test. Corresponding confidence intervals (with confidence level defined by the argument `alpha`) are also drawn if `ci=TRUE` (which is not the default value). The true ability level can be drawn by a horizontal solid line by specifying `trueTh=TRUE` (which is the default value); setting it to `FALSE` will undo the drawing. Finally, any classification threshold can be additionally displayed by specifying a numeric value to the argument `classThr`. The default value `NULL` does not display any threshold.

Value

The function `randomCAT` returns a list of class "cat" with the following arguments:

<code>trueTheta</code>	the value of the <code>trueTheta</code> argument.
<code>maxItems</code>	the value of the <code>maxItems</code> argument.
<code>testItems</code>	a vector with the items that were administered during the test.
<code>itemPar</code>	a matrix with the parameters of the items administered during the test.
<code>pattern</code>	the generated response pattern (as vector of 0 and 1 entries).
<code>thetaProv</code>	a vector with the provisional ability estimates.
<code>seprov</code>	a vector with the standard errors of the provisional ability estimates.
<code>thFinal</code>	the final ability estimate.
<code>seFinal</code>	the standrad error of the final ability estimate.
<code>ciFinal</code>	the confidence interval of the final ability estimate.
<code>startFixItems</code>	the value of the <code>start\$fixItems</code> argument (or its default value if missing).
<code>startSeed</code>	the value of the <code>start\$seed</code> argument (or its default value if missing).
<code>startNrItems</code>	the value of the <code>start\$nrItems</code> argument (or its default value if missing).
<code>startTheta</code>	the value of the <code>start\$theta</code> argument (or its default value if missing).
<code>startHalfRange</code>	the value of the <code>start\$halfRange</code> argument (or its default value if missing).
<code>startThStart</code>	the starting ability values used for selecting the first items of the test.
<code>startSelect</code>	the value of the <code>start\$startSelect</code> argument (or its default value if missing).
<code>provMethod</code>	the value of the <code>test\$method</code> argument (or its default value if missing).
<code>provDist</code>	the value of the <code>test\$priorDist</code> argument (or its default value if missing).
<code>provPar</code>	the value of the <code>test\$priorPar</code> argument (or its default value if missing).
<code>provRange</code>	the value of the <code>test\$range</code> argument (or its default value if missing).

<code>provD</code>	the value of the <code>test\$D</code> argument (or its default value if missing).
<code>itemSelect</code>	the value of the <code>test\$itemSelect</code> argument (or its default value if missing).
<code>infoType</code>	the value of the <code>test\$infoType</code> argument (or its default value if missing).
<code>stopRule</code>	the value of the <code>stop\$rule</code> argument (or its default value if missing).
<code>stopThr</code>	the value of the <code>stop\$thr</code> argument (or its default value if missing).
<code>stopAlpha</code>	the value of the <code>stop\$alpha</code> argument (or its default value if missing).
<code>endWarning</code>	a logical indicator indicating whether the adaptive test stopped because the stopping rule was satisfied or not.
<code>finalMethod</code>	the value of the <code>final\$method</code> argument (or its default value if missing).
<code>finalDist</code>	the value of the <code>final\$priorDist</code> argument (or its default value if missing).
<code>finalPar</code>	the value of the <code>final\$priorPar</code> argument (or its default value if missing).
<code>finalRange</code>	the value of the <code>final\$range</code> argument (or its default value if missing).
<code>finalD</code>	the value of the <code>final\$D</code> argument (or its default value if missing).
<code>finalAlpha</code>	the value of the <code>final\$alpha</code> argument (or its default value if missing).

The function `print.cat` returns similar (but differently organized) results.

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- Warm, T.A. (1989). Weighted likelihood estimation of ability in item response models. *Psychometrika*, 54, 427-450.

See Also

[testList](#), [startItems](#), [nextItem](#), [thetaEst](#), [semTheta](#), [eapEst](#), [eapSem](#), [MWI](#), [MEI](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:
# Loading the 'tcals' parameters
data(tcals)
tcals <- as.matrix(tcals)

# Item bank creation with 'tcals' item parameters
bank <- createItemBank(tcals)

# Creation of a starting list: 5 items, initial theta 0, bw 2
start <- list(nrItems=5, theta=0, halfRange=2)

# Creation of 'test' list: weighted likelihood
# estimation of provisional ability, and MEI criterion
# for next item selection
test <- list(method="WL", itemSelect="MEI")

# Creation of 'final' list: EAP estimation of final
# ability
final <- list(method="EAP")

# Creation of a stopping rule: precision criterion, standard
# error to be reached 0.3
stop <- list(rule="precision", thr=0.3)

# CAT test
res <- randomCAT(0, bank, start=start, test=test, stop=stop,
  final=final)

# New 'test' and 'final' rules (BM and EAP estimation
# with Jeffreys' prior)
test2 <- list(method="BM", priorDist="Jeffreys")
final2 <- list(method="EAP", priorDist="Jeffreys")

# New stopping rule: classification criterion, with
# classification threshold 0 and alpha level 0.05
stop2 <- list(rule="classification", thr=0, alpha=0.05)

# CAT test with new 'test', 'stop' and 'final' rules
res2 <- randomCAT(0, bank, start=start, test=test2, stop=stop2,
  final=final2)

# New stopping rule: classification criterion, with
# classification threshold 0.5 and alpha level 0.05
stop3 <- list(rule="classification", thr=0.5, alpha=0.05)

# CAT test with new 'stop' rule
res3 <- randomCAT(0, bank, start=start, test=test2, stop=stop3,
  final=final2)

# new 'test' and 'stop' rule for next item selection
```

```

test3 <- list(method="WL", itemSelect="MLWI")
stop4 <- list(rule="length",thr=10)
res4 <- randomCAT(0, bank, start=start, test=test3, stop=stop4,
  final=final2)

# Plotting results
plot(res)
plot(res, ci=TRUE)
plot(res, ci=TRUE, trueTh=FALSE)
plot(res, ci=TRUE, classThr=1)

# With mistake
plot(res, ci=0.05)
plot(res, classThr=TRUE)

## End(Not run)

```

semTheta

Standard error of ability estimation under the 4PL model

Description

This command returns the estimated standard error of the ability estimate, for a given matrix of item parameters of the 4PL model, an ability estimate and a specified estimator.

Usage

```

semTheta(thEst, it, x=NULL, D=1, method="BM", priorDist="norm",
  priorPar=c(0,1), parInt=c(-4,4,33))

```

Arguments

thEst	numeric: the ability estimate.
it	numeric: a matrix with one row per item and four columns, with the values of the discrimination, the difficulty, the pseudo-guessing and the inattention parameters (in this order).
x	numeric: a vector of dichotomous item responses (default is NULL). Ignored if method is not "EAP".
D	numeric: the metric constant. Default is D=1 (for logistic metric); D=1.702 yields approximately the normal metric (Haley, 1952).
method	character: the ability estimator. Possible values are "BM" (default), "ML" and "WL". See Details .
priorDist	character: specifies the prior distribution. Possible values are "norm" (default), "unif" and "Jeffreys". Ignored if method is neither "BM" nor "EAP". See Details .
priorPar	numeric: vector of two components specifying the prior parameters (default is c(0,1)) of the prior ability distribution. Ignored if method is neither "BM" nor "EAP", or if priorDist="Jeffreys". See Details .

`parInt` numeric: vector of three components, holding respectively the values of the arguments `lower`, `upper` and `nqp` of the `eapEst` command. Default vector is `(-4, 4, 33)`. Ignored if `method` is not "EAP".

Details

Four ability estimators are available: the maximum likelihood (ML) estimator (Lord, 1980), the Bayes modal (BM) estimator (Birnbaum, 1969), the expected a posteriori (EAP) estimator (Bock and Mislevy, 1982) and the weighted likelihood (WL) estimator (Warm, 1989). The selected estimator is specified by the `method` argument, with values "ML", "BM", "EAP" and "WL" respectively.

For the BM and EAP estimators, three prior distributions are available: the normal distribution, the uniform distribution and the Jeffreys' prior distribution (Jeffreys, 1939, 1946). The prior distribution is specified by the argument `priorPar`, with values "norm", "unif" and "Jeffreys", respectively. The `priorPar` argument is ignored if `method`="ML" or `method`="WL".

The argument `priorPar` determines either: the prior mean and standard deviation of the normal prior distribution (if `priorDist`="norm"), or the range for defining the prior uniform distribution (if `priorDist`="unif"). This argument is ignored if `priorDist`="Jeffreys".

The `eapPar` argument sets the range and the number of quadrature points for numerical integration in the EAP process. By default, it takes the vector value `(-4, 4, 33)`, that is, 33 quadrature points on the range `[-4; 4]` (or, by steps of 0.25). See `eapEst` for further details.

Note that in the current version, the ability estimate must be specified through the `thEst` argument. Moreover, the response pattern must be specified through the `x` argument to compute the standard error of the EAP estimate. For the other estimation methods, this is not necessary, and `x` is set to NULL by default for this purpose.

Value

The estimated standard error of the ability level.

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References

- Barton, M.A., and Lord, F.M. (1981). An upper asymptote for the three-parameter logistic item-response model. Research Bulletin 81-20. Princeton, NJ: Educational Testing Service.
- Birnbaum, A. (1969). Statistical theory for logistic mental test models with a prior distribution of ability. *Journal of Mathematical Psychology*, 6, 258-276.
- Bock, R. D., and Mislevy, R. J. (1982). Adaptive EAP estimation of ability in a microcomputer environment. *Applied Psychological Measurement*, 6, 431-444.
- Haley, D.C. (1952). Estimation of the dosage mortality relationship when the dose is subject to error. Technical report no 15. Palo Alto, CA: Applied Mathematics and Statistics Laboratory, Stanford University.
- Jeffreys, H. (1939). *Theory of probability*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
- Jeffreys, H. (1946). An invariant form for the prior probability in estimation problems. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London. Series A, Mathematical and Physical Sciences*, 186, 453-461.

Lord, F.M. (1980). *Applications of item response theory to practical testing problems*. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.

Warm, T.A. (1989). Weighted likelihood estimation of ability in item response models. *Psychometrika*, 54, 427-450.

See Also

[eapSem](#), [thetaEst](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:

# Loading the 'tcals' parameters
data(tcals)
tcals <- as.matrix(tcals)

# Creation of a response pattern (tcals item parameters,
# true ability level 0)
set.seed(1)
x <- rbinom(85, 1, Pi(0, tcals)$Pi)

# ML estimation
th <- thetaEst(tcals, x, method="ML")
c(th, semTheta(th, tcals, method="ML"))

# BM estimation, standard normal prior distribution
th <- thetaEst(tcals, x)
c(th, semTheta(th, tcals))

# BM estimation, uniform prior distribution upon range [-2,2]
th <- thetaEst(tcals, x, method="BM", priorDist="unif",
               priorPar=c(-2,2))
c(th, semTheta(th, tcals, method="BM", priorDist="unif",
               priorPar=c(-2,2)))

# BM estimation, Jeffreys' prior distribution
th <- thetaEst(tcals, x, method="BM", priorDist="Jeffreys")
c(th, semTheta(th, tcals, method="BM", priorDist="Jeffreys"))

# EAP estimation, standard normal prior distribution
th <- thetaEst(tcals, x, method="EAP")
c(th, semTheta(th, tcals, x, method="EAP"))

# EAP estimation, uniform prior distribution upon range [-2,2]
th <- thetaEst(tcals, x, method="EAP", priorDist="unif",
               priorPar=c(-2,2))
c(th, semTheta(th, tcals, x, method="EAP", priorDist="unif",
               priorPar=c(-2,2)))

# EAP estimation, Jeffreys' prior distribution
th <- thetaEst(tcals, x, method="EAP", priorDist="Jeffreys")
c(th, semTheta(th, tcals, x, method="EAP", priorDist="Jeffreys"))

# WL estimation
th <- thetaEst(tcals, x, method="WL")
```



```
c(th, semTheta(th, tcals, method="WL"))

## End(Not run)
```

startItems	<i>Selection of the first items</i>
------------	-------------------------------------

Description

This command selects the first items of the adaptive test, either randomly or on the basis of their difficulty level.

Usage

```
startItems(itemBank, fixItems=NULL, seed=NULL, nrItems=1,
           theta=0, halfRange=2, startSelect="bOpt")
```

Arguments

itemBank	an item bank of class <code>itBank</code> as output of the function <code>createItemBank</code> .
fixItems	either a vector of integer values or <code>NULL</code> (default). See Details .
seed	either a numeric value or <code>NULL</code> (default). Ignored if <code>fixItems</code> is not <code>NULL</code> . See Details .
nrItems	numeric: the number of starting items to be selected (default is 1). Ignored if <code>fixItems</code> is not <code>NULL</code> .
theta	numeric: the initial ability level for selecting the first items (default is 0). Ignored if either <code>fixItems</code> or <code>seed</code> is not <code>NULL</code> . See Details .
halfRange	numeric: the half of the range of initial ability values (default is 2). Ignored if either <code>fixItems</code> or <code>seed</code> is not <code>NULL</code> . See Details .
startSelect	character: the criterion for selecting the first items. Possible values are "bOpt" (default) and "MFI". See Details .

Details

This function permits to select the first items of the test. The number of starting items is given by the `nrItems` argument, with default value 1.

The first item(s) of the adaptive test can be selected by one of the following methods.

1. By specifying the item(s) to be administered. The argument `fixItems` then holds the item number(s) as listed in the item bank. Setting `fixItems` to `NULL` (default value) disables this method.
2. By selecting it (them) randomly into the item bank. The argument `seed` permits to fix the random selection by specifying the random seed number. Setting `seed` to `NULL` (default value) disables this method.
3. By selecting the item(s) according to an initial sequence of ability values (see below). In this case, two criteria can be used: either one selects the item(s) whose difficulty level is as close as possible to the initial ability value(s), or one selects the most informative item(s) for the given initial ability value(s). The criterion is specified by the `startSelect` argument, with values "bOpt" (default) for the 'difficulty' criterion, and "MFI" for the 'information' criterion.

The third method above will be used if and only if both `fixItems` and `seed` arguments are fixed to `NULL`. Otherwise, one of the first two methods will be used (see also [testList](#) for details about debugging misspecifications of the starting arguments).

The sequence of initial ability estimates is specified by the triplet of arguments (`nrItems`, `theta`, `halfRange`). As mentioned above, `nrItems` is the number of items to select, and thus the length of the sequence. The `theta` value is the central ability value, and `halfRange` sets half of the range of the ability values. These three arguments altogether permit to define any type of (equidistant) ability values. For instance,

- the set $(-1, 1)$ can be obtained by specifying the triplet to $(2, 0, 1)$;
- the set $(-1, 0, 1)$ can be obtained by specifying the triplet to $(3, 0, 1)$;
- the set $(-1, 0, 1, 2)$ can be obtained by specifying the triplet to $(4, 0.5, 1.5)$;
- etc.

Value

A list with four arguments:

<code>items</code>	the selected items (identified by their number in the item bank).
<code>par</code>	the matrix of item parameters of the selected items (one row per item).
<code>thStart</code>	the sequence of starting ability values used for selecting the items.
<code>startSelect</code>	the value of the <code>startSelect</code> argument.

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See Also

[createItemBank](#), [testList](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:

# Loading the 'tcals' parameters
data(tcals)
tcals <- as.matrix(tcals)

# Item bank creation with 'tcals' item parameters
bank <- createItemBank(tcals)

# Random selection of 4 starting items
startItems(bank, seed=1, nrItems=4)

# Selection of the first 5 starting items
startItems(bank, fixItems=1:5)

# Selecting 1 starting item, initial ability estimate is 0
startItems(bank)
```

```

# Selecting 3 starting items, initial ability estimate is 1
# and half range is 2
startItems(bank, nrItems=3, theta=1, halfRange=2)

# Idem but with 'information' criterion
startItems(bank, nrItems=3, theta=1, halfRange=2, startSelect="MFI")

# Selecting 5 starting items, initial ability estimate is 2
# and half range is 3
startItems(bank, nrItems=5, theta=2, halfRange=3)

## End(Not run)

```

tcals

Items parameters of the TCALS 1998 data set

Description

The TCALS (*Test d'Aptitude en Anglais Langue Seconde*) is an aptitude test of English language as a second language in the French speaking college of Outaouais (Gatineau, QC, Canada). The test consists of 85 items and is administered every year to newly incoming students. The item parameters of the year 1998 have been estimated under the 3PL model. Inattention parameters are therefore fixed to one.

Format

A matrix with 85 rows and four columns, respectively holding the discrimination, difficulty, pseudo-guessing and inattention parameters as calibrated on the results of the 1998 application of the TCALS questionnaire.

Source

The TCALS test was originally developed by Laurier, Froio, Pearo and Fournier (1998) and item parameters were obtained from Raiche (2002)..

References

- Laurier, M., Froio, L., Pearo C., and Fournier, M. (1998). Test de classement d'anglais langue seconde au collegial. Montreal, Canada: College de Maisonneuve.
- Raiche, G. (2002). Le depistage du sous-classement aux tests de classement en anglais, langue seconde, au collegial [The detection of under classification to the collegial English as a second language placement tests]. Gatineau, QC: College de l'Outaouais.

testList

*Testing the format of the input lists***Description**

This command tests whether format of the input lists for the random generation of adaptive tests is convenient, and returns a warning message otherwise.

Usage

```
testList(list, type="start")
```

Arguments

list	a list of arguments to be tested. See Details .
type	character: the type of list for checking. Possible values are "start" (default), "test", "stop" and "final". See Details .

Details

The testList function checks whether the list provided in the list argument is accurate for the selected type. It mainly serves as an initial check for the randomCAT function.

The four types of lists are: "start" with the parameters for selecting the first items; "test" with the options of the adaptive test (i.e. method for next item selection, provisional ability estimator and related information); "stop" with the options setting the stopping rule; and "final" with the options for final ability estimation. See the help file of randomCAT for further details about the different lists, their allowed arguments and their contents.

The function returns an "ok" message if the arguments of list match the requirement of the corresponding type. Otherwise, a message is returned with information about list - type mismatch. This will be the case if:

- list is not a list, or has no argument names,
- list has too many arguments for the type specified,
- at least one of the argument names is incorrect,
- the content of at least one argument is not adequate (e.g. character instead of numeric).

Each mismatch yields a different output message to help in debugging the problem.

Value

A list with two arguments:

test	a logical value indicating whether the format of the list is accurate (TRUE) or not (FALSE).
message	either a message to indicate the type of misspecification, or "ok" if the format is accurate.

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See Also

[randomCAT](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:

# Creation and test of a 'start' list
start <- list(nrItems=3, theta=0, halfRange=2)
testList(start, type="start")

# Modification of the list to introduce a mistake
names(start)[1] <- "nrItem"
testList(start, type="start")

# Creation and test of a 'test' list
test <- list(method="WL", itemSelect="Owen")
testList(test, type="test")

# Creation and test of a 'stop' list
stop <- list(method="WL")
testList(stop, type="test")

# Creation and test of a 'final' list (with mistake)
final <- list(method="MAP")
testList(final, type="final")

## End(Not run)
```

thetaEst

Ability estimation under the 4PL model

Description

This command returns the ability estimate for a given matrix of item parameters of the 4PL model and a given response pattern. Available estimators are maximum likelihood, Bayes modal, expected a posteriori (EAP) and weighted likelihood.

Usage

```
thetaEst(it, x, D=1, method="BM", priorDist="norm",
  priorPar=c(0,1), range=c(-4,4),
  parInt=c(-4,4,33))
```

Arguments

<code>it</code>	numeric: a matrix with one row per item and four columns, with the values of the discrimination, the difficulty, the pseudo-guessing and the inattention parameters (in this order).
<code>x</code>	numeric: a vector of dichotomous item responses.
<code>D</code>	numeric: the metric constant. Default is $D=1$ (for logistic metric); $D=1.702$ yields approximately the normal metric (Haley, 1952).
<code>method</code>	character: the ability estimator. Possible values are "BM" (default), "ML" and "WL". See Details .
<code>priorDist</code>	character: specifies the prior distribution. Possible values are "norm" (default), "unif" and "Jeffreys". Ignored if <code>method</code> is neither "BM" nor "EAP". See Details .
<code>priorPar</code>	numeric: vector of two components specifying the prior parameters (default is $c(0, 1)$) of the prior ability distribution. Ignored if <code>method</code> is neither "BM" nor "EAP", or if <code>priorDist</code> ="Jeffreys". See Details .
<code>range</code>	numeric: vector of two components specifying the range wherein the ability estimate must be looked for (default is $c(-4, 4)$). Ignored if <code>method</code> =="EAP".
<code>parInt</code>	numeric: vector of three components, holding respectively the values of the arguments <code>lower</code> , <code>upper</code> and <code>nqp</code> of the eapEst command. Default vector is $(-4, 4, 33)$. Ignored if <code>method</code> is not "EAP".

Details

Four ability estimators are available: the maximum likelihood (ML) estimator (Lord, 1980), the Bayes modal (BM) estimator (Birnbbaum, 1969), the expected a posteriori (EAP) estimator (Bock and Mislevy, 1982) and the weighted likelihood (WL) estimator (Warm, 1989). The selected estimator is specified by the `method` argument, with values "ML", "BM", "EAP" and "WL" respectively.

For the BM and EAP estimators, three prior distributions are available: the normal distribution, the uniform distribution and Jeffreys' prior distribution (Jeffreys, 1939, 1946). The prior distribution is specified by the argument `priorDist`, with values "norm", "unif" and "Jeffreys", respectively. The `priorPar` argument is ignored if `method`="ML" or `method`="WL".

The argument `priorPar` determines either the prior mean and standard deviation of the normal prior distribution (if `priorDist`="norm"), or the range for defining the prior uniform distribution (if `priorDist`="unif"). This argument is ignored if `priorDist`="Jeffreys".

The `eapPar` argument sets the range and the number of quadrature points for numerical integration in the EAP process. By default, it takes the vector value $(-4, 4, 33)$, that is, 33 quadrature points on the range $[-4; 4]$ (or, by steps of 0.25). See [eapEst](#) for further details.

The `range` argument permits to limit the interval of investigation for the ML, BM and WL ability estimates (in particular, to avoid infinite ability estimates). The default `range` is $[-4, 4]$.

Value

The estimated ability level.

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References

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- Bock, R. D., and Mislevy, R. J. (1982). Adaptive EAP estimation of ability in a microcomputer environment. *Applied Psychological Measurement*, 6, 431-444.
- Haley, D.C. (1952). Estimation of the dosage mortality relationship when the dose is subject to error. Technical report no 15. Palo Alto, CA: Applied Mathematics and Statistics Laboratory, Stanford University.
- Jeffreys, H. (1939). *Theory of probability*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
- Jeffreys, H. (1946). An invariant form for the prior probability in estimation problems. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London. Series A, Mathematical and Physical Sciences*, 186, 453-461.
- Lord, F.M. (1980). *Applications of item response theory to practical testing problems*. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.
- Warm, T.A. (1989). Weighted likelihood estimation of ability in item response models. *Psychometrika*, 54, 427-450.

See Also

[eapEst](#), [semTheta](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:

# Loading the 'tcals' parameters
data(tcals)
tcals <- as.matrix(tcals)

# Creation of a response pattern (tcals item parameters,
# true ability level 0)
set.seed(1)
x <- rbinom(85, 1, Pi(0, tcals)$Pi)

# ML estimation
thetaEst(tcals, x, method="ML")

# BM estimation, standard normal prior distribution
thetaEst(tcals, x)

# BM estimation, uniform prior distribution upon range [-2,2]
thetaEst(tcals, x, method="BM", priorDist="unif", priorPar=c(-2,2))

# BM estimation, Jeffreys' prior distribution
thetaEst(tcals, x, method="BM", priorDist="Jeffreys")

# EAP estimation, standard normal prior distribution
thetaEst(tcals, x, method="EAP")

# EAP estimation, uniform prior distribution upon range [-2,2]
thetaEst(tcals, x, method="EAP", priorDist="unif", priorPar=c(-2,2))

# EAP estimation, Jeffreys' prior distribution
thetaEst(tcals, x, method="EAP", priorDist="Jeffreys")
```

```
# WL estimation
thetaEst(tcals, x, method="WL")

## End (Not run)
```


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