

# Package ‘bhm’

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**Type** Package

**Title** Biomarker Threshold Models

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**Depends** R (>= 2.10.0), coda, survival

**Imports** methods

**Description** Contains tools to fit both predictive and prognostic biomarker effects using biomarker threshold models. Evaluate the treatment effect, biomarker effect and treatment-biomarker interaction using probability index measurement. Test for treatment-biomarker interaction using residual bootstrap method.

**License** GPL (>= 2)

**LazyLoad** yes

**NeedsCompilation** no

**Repository** CRAN

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## Description

This package fits biomarker threshold regression models for predictive and prognostic biomarker effects with binary data and survival data with an unknown biomarker cutoff point (Chen et al, 2014)<DOI:10.1016/j.csda.2013.05.015>. Multivariable models can also be fitted for adjusted biomarker effect (Fang et al, 2017)<DOI:10.1016/j.csda.2017.02.011>. Tools such as Probability index are included to measure treatment effect, biomarker effect or treatment-biomarker interaction(Jiang et al, 2016)<DOI:10.1002/sim.6907>.

## Details

"bhm" is a R package for Biomarker Threshold Models. Please use the following steps to install the most recent version of 'bhm' package:

1. First, you need to install the 'devtools' package. You can skip this step if you have 'devtools' installed in your R. Invoke R and then type

```
install.packages("devtools")
```

2. Load the devtools package.

```
library(devtools)
```

3. Install "bhm" package from github with R command

```
install_github("statapps/bhm")
```

"bhm" uses different statistical methods to identify cut-point (threshold parameter) for the biomarker in either generalized linear models or Cox proportional hazards model.

A stable version of View the "bhm" package is also available from the Comprehensive R Archive Network (<https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=bhm>) and can be installed using R command

```
install.packages("bhm")
```

## Author(s)

Bingshu E. Chen

Maintainer: Bingshu E. Chen <[bingshu.chen@queensu.ca](mailto:bingshu.chen@queensu.ca)>

## References

Chen, B. E., Jiang, W. and Tu, D. (2014). A hierarchical Bayes model for biomarker subset effects in clinical trials. *Computational Statistics and Data Analysis*. vol 71, page 324-334.

Fang, T., Mackillop, W., Jiang, W., Hildesheim, A., Wacholder, S. and Chen, B. E. (2017). A Bayesian method for risk window estimation with application to HPV vaccine trial. *Computational Statistics and Data Analysis*. 112, page 53-62.

Jiang, S., Chen, B. E. and Tu, D.(2016). Inference on treatment-covariate interaction based on a nonparametric measure of treatment effects and censored survival data. *Statistics in Medicine*. 35, 2715-2725.

**See Also**

coxph, glm, survival

**Examples**

```
# fit = bhm(y~biomarker+treatment)
# print(summary(fit))
```

---

bhm

*Fitting Biomarker Threshold Models*


---

**Description**

{bhm} is a R package for Biomarker Threshold Models. It uses either Hierarchical Bayes method or profile likelihood method (Chen, et al, 2014 and Tian, et al, 2017) to identify a cut-point (threshold parameter) for the biomarker in either generalized linear models or Cox proportional hazards model. The model is specified by giving a symbolic description of the linear predictor and a description of the distribution family.

**Usage**

```
bhm(x, ...)
```

## S3 method for class 'formula'

```
bhm(formula, family, data, control = list(...),...)
```

# use

```
#       bhm(y ~ biomarker)
```

#

# to fit a prognostic model with biomarker term only

#

# use

```
#       bhm(y ~ biomarker+treatment)
```

#

# to fit a predictive model with interaction between biomarker

# and treatment, use

```
#       bhmFit(x, y, family, control)
```

#

# to fit a model without the formula

#

# Biomarker shall be in the first dependent variable

**Arguments**

formula	an object of class "formula"(or one that can be coerced to that class): a symbolic description of the model to be fitted. The details of model specification are given under 'Details'.
family	a description of the response distribution and link function to be used in the model. The available family function are either "binomial" for fitting a logistic regression model or "surv" for fitting a Cox proportional hazards model
data	an optional data frame, list or environment (or object coercible by 'as.data.frame' to a data frame) containing the variables in the model. If not found in data, the variables are taken from environment(formula), typically the environment from which glm is called.
x, y	For "bhmFit", x is a design matrix of dimension n * p and y is a vector of observations of length n for "glm" models or a "Surv" survival object for "coxph" models.
control	a list of parameters for controlling the fitting process. See "bhmControl" for details
...	additional arguments to be passed to the low level regression fitting functions (see below).

**Details**

'biomarker' is a Biomarker variable. This variable is required and shall be the first dependent variable in the formula.

"interaction" is an option of fitting model with interactin term. When interaction = TRUE, a predictive biomarker model will be fitted. When interaction = FALSE, a prognostic biomarker model will be fitted. Both Biomarker and Treatment variables are required if 'interaction' = TRUE and 'treatment' shall be the second variable in the formula.

"bhmFit" and "bhmGibbs" are the workhorse functions: they are not normally called directly but can be more efficient where the response vector, design matrix and family have already been calculated.

"x.cdf" is a function that maps biomarker values to interval (0, 1) using its empirical cumulative distribution function. After the threshold parameters are identified, the biomarker variable will be transformed back to its original scale.

**Value**

bhm returns an object of class inheriting from "bhm" which inherits from the class glm or 'coxph'. See later in this section.

The function "summary" (i.e., "summary.bhm") can be used to obtain or print a summary of the results, for example, the 95

An object of class "bhm" is a list containing at least the following components:

c.max	a vector of the mean estimates for the threshold parameter(s)
coefficients	a named vector of coefficients from 'bhm'
c.fit	fitted conditional regression model given $c = c.max$
cg	Gibbs sample for threshold parmeter c
bg	Gibbs sample for the coefficients beta

**Note**

The logistic regression part are based on codes wrote by Tian Fang.

**Author(s)**

Bingshu E. Chen (bingshu.chen@queensu.ca)

**References**

Chen, B. E., Jiang, W. and Tu, D. (2014). A hierarchical Bayes model for biomarker subset effects in clinical trials. *Computational Statistics and Data Analysis*. vol 71, page 324-334.

**See Also**

[glm](#), [coxph](#), [bhmControl](#)

**Examples**

```
##
## Generate a random data set
n = 300
b = c(0.5, 1, 1.5)
data = surv.gendat(n, c0 = 0.40, beta = b)
age = runif(n, 0, 1)*100
tm = data[, 1]
status = data[, 2]
trt = data[, 3]
ki67 = data[, 4]
## fit a biomarker threshold survival model with one single cut point

fit = bhm(Surv(tm, status)~ki67+trt+age, interaction = TRUE, B=5, R=10)

## here B=5 and R=10 is used for test run. In general, B > 500 and R > 2000 is
## recommend for the analysis of biomarker variable. To fit a model with
## two cut points, use:
##
##     fit = bhm(Surv(tm, status)~bmk+trt+age, B = 500, R = 2000, c.n = 2)
##
## To print the output, use
##
##     print(fit)
##
```

bhmControl

*Auxiliary function for bhm fitting***Description**

Auxiliary function for `bhm` fitting. Typically only used internally by `'bhmFit'`, but may be used to construct a control argument to either function.

**Usage**

```
bhmControl(method = 'Bayes', interaction, biomarker.main, alpha,
           B, R, thin, epsilon, c.n, beta0, sigma0)
```

**Arguments**

<code>method</code>	choose either 'Bayes' for Bayes method with MCMC or 'profile' for profile likelihood method with Bootstrap. The default value is 'Bayes'
<code>interaction</code>	an option of fitting model with interaction term When <code>interaction = TRUE</code> , a predictive biomarker model will be fitted When <code>interaction = FALSE</code> , a prognostic biomarker model will be fitted The default value is <code>interaction = TRUE</code> .
<code>biomarker.main</code>	include biomarker main effect, default is <code>TRUE</code>
<code>B</code>	number of burn in
<code>R</code>	number of replications for Bayes meothd or number of Bootstrap for profile likelihood method
<code>thin</code>	thinning parameter for Gibbs samples, default is 2
<code>epsilon</code>	biomarker (transformed) step length for profile likelihood method, default is 0.01
<code>alpha</code>	significance level (e.g. <code>alpha=0.05</code> )
<code>c.n</code>	number of threshold (i.e. the cut point), default is 1
<code>beta0</code>	initial value for mean of the prior distribution of beta, default is 0
<code>sigma0</code>	initial value for variance of the prior distribution of beta, default is 10000

**Details**

Control is used in model fitting of "bhm".

**Value**

This function checks the internal consistency and returns a list of value as inputed to control model fit of `bhm`.

**Note**

Based on code from Tian Fang.

**Author(s)**

Bingshu E. Chen

**See Also**[bhm](#)**Examples**

```
## To fit a prognostic model for biomarker with two cut-points,  
## 500 burn-in samples and 10000 Gibbs samples,  
  
ctl = bhmControl(interaction = FALSE, B = 500, R = 10000, c.n = 2)  
  
##  
## then fit the following model  
##  
# fit = bhmFit(x, y, family = 'surv', control = ctl)  
##
```

---

data	<i>dataset</i>
------	----------------

---

**Description**

dataset for biomarker threshold model (bhm)

**Usage**

# to generate survival data, use:

```
surv.gendat(n, c0, beta)
```

# to generate glm data, use:

```
glm.gendat(n, c0, beta)
```

**Arguments**

n	sample size
c0	cut off point, for example c0 = 0.4
beta	regression coefficient, for example, beta = c(0.3, log(0.5), log(0.25))

**Format**

The format of the data set for analysis shall be a data frame with a response variable (either a Surv object for Cox model or a glm response variable object) and at least one dependent variable as the biomarker variable.

**Details**

data set of prostate cancer in the 'survival' package is used as an example in paper by Chen, et al. (2014).

**Source**

prostate dataset can be loaded with 'library(survival)'.

**References**

Chen, B. E., Jiang, W. and Tu, D. (2014). A hierarchical Bayes model for biomarker subset effects in clinical trials. *Computational Statistics and Data Analysis*. vol 71, page 324-334.

**Examples**

```
#data(data)
## maybe str(data) ; plot(data) ...
c0 = 0.4
b = c(-0.5, 1.5, 1.3)
data = surv.gendat(n=300, c0 = c0, beta = b)
```

---

pIndex

*Probability Index for Survival Time Difference*

---

**Description**

{pIndex} is a function to estimate and test difference of survival time among groups. It is defined as  $p = \Pr\{T_1 < T_2\}$ , where  $T_1$  is survival time for subjects in group 1 and  $T_2$  is survival time in group 2.

**Usage**

```
pIndex(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'formula'
pIndex(formula, data, control = list(...),...)
###To estimate probability index for treatment and control groups (define by trt):
#
# fit = pIndex(Surv(time, status) ~ trt)
#
###To estimate probability index difference for treatment and control
###groups (define by trt) between biomarker positive and biomarker negative
###subjects(i.e. Treatment-biomarker interaction):
#
# fit = pIndex(Surv(time, status) ~ trt+biomarker)
#
```



**Arguments**

formula	an object of class "formula"(or one that can be coerced to that class): a symbolic description of the model to be fitted. The details of model specification are given under 'Details'.
data	an optional data frame, list or environment (or object coercible by 'as.data.frame' to a data frame) containing the variables in the model. If not found in data, the variables are taken from environment(formula), typically the environment from which pIndex is called.
x	Here covariate x is a design matrix of dimension $n * 1$ (for two sample test) or dimension $n * 2$ (for treatment * biomarker interaction).
control	a list of parameters for controlling the fitting process. See 'pIndexControl' for details
...	additional arguments to be passed to the low level regression fitting functions (see below).

**Details**

pIndex(y~x) will estimate probability index of two groups (eg. treatment vs control) define by x.  
 pIndex(y~x1 + x2) will estimate the difference of probability index of x1 (eg. treatment vs control) between biomarker positive and biomarker negative groups (x2). Function print(x) can be used to print a summary of pIndex results.

**Value**

pIndex returns an object of class inheriting from "pIndex". When  $B > 0$ , an object of class "pIndex" is a list containing at least the following components:

theta	the estimated probability index
theta.b	Bootstrap or Jackknife sample of the probability index
sd	standard deviation of theta based on resampling
ci	(1-alpha) percent confidence interval based on resampling

**Note**

This function is part of the bhm package.

**Author(s)**

Bingshu E. Chen (bingshu.chen@queensu.ca)

**References**

Jiang, S., Chen, B. E. and Tu, D.(2016). Inference on treatment-covariate interaction based on a nonparametric measure of treatment effects and censored survival data. *Statistics in Medicine*. 35, 2715-2725.

**See Also**

[bhm](#), [pIndexControl](#),

**Examples**

```
##
## Generate a random data set
n = 300
b = c(0.5, 1, 1.5)
data = surv.gendat(n, c0 = 0.40, beta = b)
age = runif(n, 0, 1)*100
tm = data[, 1]
status = data[, 2]
trt = data[, 3]
ki67 = data[, 4]
#
### No run
#
# fit = pIndex(Surv(tm, status) ~ trt + ki67)
#
```

---

pIndexControl

*Auxiliary function for pIndex fitting*

---

**Description**

Auxiliary function for [pIndex](#) fitting. Typically only used internally by 'pIndexFit', but may be used to construct a control argument to either function.

**Usage**

```
pIndexControl(method = c("Efron", "Elc", "Elw", "Pic"),
              model = c("default", "local", "threshold"),
              ci = c("Bootstrap", "Jackknife"), weights = NULL,
              kernel = NULL, h = 0.1, w = seq(0.05, 0.95, 0.05),
              alpha = 0.05, B = 0, pct = 0.5)
```

**Arguments**

method	choose either 'Efron' for Efron method, 'Elc' for conditional empirical likelihood, or 'Elw' for weighted empirical likelihood method. The default value is 'Efron'
model	'default' for default pIndex model, 'local' for kernel method, 'threshold' for threshold method
ci	Method to construct confidence interval, 'Bootstrap' for Bootstrap method and 'Jackknife' for Jackknife method
weights	case weight

kernel	kernel function types, including "gaussian", "epanechnikov", "rectangular", "triangular", "biweight", "cosine", "optcosine". The default value is 'gaussian'
h	bandwidth, default is 0.1
w	percentile of biomarker value for local fit
B	number of Bootstrap sample
alpha	significance level (e.g. alpha=0.05)
pct	Percentile of threshold (i.e. the cut point), default is 0.5

**Details**

Control is used in model fitting of 'pIndex'.

**Value**

This function checks the internal consistency and returns a list of value as inputed to control model fit of pIndex.

**Note**

Based on code from Bingshu E. Chen.

**Author(s)**

Bingshu E. Chen

**See Also**

[bhm](#), [pIndex](#)

**Examples**

```
## To calculate the probability index for a biomarker with conditional empirical likelihood method,
## and the corresponding 90 percent CI using Bootstrap method with 10000 bootstrap sample

ctl = pIndexControl(method = 'Elc', ci = 'Bootstrap', B = 10000, alpha = 0.1)

##
## then fit the following model
##
# fit = pIndex(y~x1 + x2, family = 'surv', control = ctl)
##
```

---

plot	<i>plot a fitted object or a summary of fitted object</i>
------	---

---

### Description

plot and summary are used to provide a short summary of outputs from "bhm", "pIndex", "resboot".

### Usage

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

### Arguments

x	a class returned from "pIndex" or "resboot" fit
...	other options used in plot()

### Details

plot.pIndex is called to plot object or summary of object from the probability index model [pIndex](#). plot.resboot is called to plot object or summary of object from the residual bootstrap method for biomarker threshold models [resboot](#). summary(fit) provides detail summary of 'bhm' model fit, including parameter estimates, standard errors, and 95 percent CIs.

The default method, plot.default has its own help page. Use methods("plot") to get all the methods for the plot generic.

### Author(s)

Bingshu E. Chen

### See Also

The default method for plot [plot.default](#). [glm](#) [bhm](#) [pIndex](#) [resboot](#)

### Examples

```
#  
# plot(fit)  
#
```

---

print	<i>print a fitted object or a summary of fitted object</i>
-------	--

---

## Description

print and summary are used to provide a short summary of outputs from "bhm", "pIndex", "resboot".

## Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'bhm'
print(x, ...)
## S3 method for class 'pIndex'
print(x, ...)
## S3 method for class 'resboot'
print(x, ...)
## S3 method for class 'summary.bhm'
print(x, ...)
## S3 method for class 'bhm'
summary(object, ...)
```

## Arguments

x	a class returned from bhm, pIndex or resboot fit
...	other options used in print()
object	object returned from model fit

## Details

print.bhm is called to print object or summary of object from the biomarker threshold models [bhm](#). print.pIndex is called to print object or summary of object from the probability index model [pIndex](#). print.resboot is called to print object or summary of object from the residual bootstrap method for biomarker threshold models [resboot](#). summary(fit) provides detail summary of 'bhm' model fit, including parameter estimates, standard errors, and 95 percent CIs.

The default method, print.default has its own help page. Use methods("print") to get all the methods for the print generic.

## Author(s)

Bingshu E. Chen

## See Also

The default method for print [print.default](#). [glm](#) [bhm](#) [pIndex](#) [resboot](#)

**Examples**

```
#
# print(fit)
#
```

---

resboot

*Residual Bootstrap Test (RBT) for treatment-biomarker interaction*


---

**Description**

{resboot} is a function to test the existence of treatment-biomarker interaction in biomarker threshold model  $g(Y) = b_0 + b_1 \cdot I(w > c) + b_2 \cdot z + b_3 \cdot I(w > c) \cdot z$ .

**Usage**

```
resboot(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'formula'
resboot(formula, family, data=list(...), B = 100, epsilon = 0.01, ...)
#
###To test the null hypothesis of interaction between treatment variable
###(define by z) and biomarker variables (define by w) for survival dataa,
###use:
#
# fit = resboot(Surv(time, status) ~ w + z + w:z)
#
```

**Arguments**

formula	an object of class "formula"(or one that can be coerced to that class): a symbolic description of the model to be fitted. The details of model specification are given under 'Details'.
family	default is family = 'Surv' for survival data.
data	an optional data frame, list or environment (or object coercible by 'as.data.frame' to a data frame) containing the variables in the model. If not found in data, the variables are taken from environment(formula), typically the environment from which resboot is called.
x	Here covariate x is a design matrix of dimension $n \times 1$ (for two sample test) or dimension $n \times 2$ (for treatment * biomarker interaction).
B	Number of bootstraps, default is $B = 100$
epsilon	Biomarker (transformed) step length for profile likelihood method, default is $\epsilon = 0.01$
...	additional arguments to be passed to the low level regression fitting functions (see below).

**Details**

resboot(y~w + z + w:z) will give residual bootstrap p-value for interaction between biomarker variable (w) and treatment variable (z). The null hypothesis is given by  $H_0: b_3 = 0$ , where  $b_3$  is the regression coefficient for the interaction term  $I(w>c)*z$ . Function print(x) can be used to print a summary of resboot results.

**Value**

resboot returns an object of class inheriting from "resboot". When  $B > 0$ , an object of class "resboot" is a list containing at least the following components:

theta	the estimated probability index
theta.b	Bootstrap or Jackknife sample of the probability index
sd	standard deviation of theta based on resampling
ci	(1-alpha) percent confidence interval based on resampling

**Note**

Based on code from Parisa Gavanji.

**Author(s)**

Bingshu E. Chen (bingshu.chen@queensu.ca)

**References**

Gavanji, P., Chen, B. E. and Jiang, W.(2018). Residual Bootstrap test for interactions in biomarker threshold models with survival data. *Statistics in Biosciences*.

**See Also**

[bhm](#)

**Examples**

```
##
## Generate a random data set
n = 300
b = c(0.5, 1, 1.5)
data = surv.gendat(n, c0 = 0.40, beta = b)
tm = data[, 1]
status = data[, 2]
trt = data[, 3]
ki67 = data[, 4]
#
### No run
#
# fit = resboot(Surv(tm, status) ~ trt + ki67)
#
```

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