Package ‘obfuscatoR’

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Type Package

Title Obfuscation Game Designs

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Description When people make decisions, they may do so using a wide variety of decision rules. The package allows users to easily create obfuscation games to test the obfuscation hypothesis. It provides an easy to use interface and multiple options designed to vary the difficulty of the game and tailor it to the user's needs. For more detail: Chorus et al., 2021, Obfuscation maximization-based decision-making: Theory, methodology and first empirical evidence, Mathematical Social Sciences, 109, 28-44.

License GPL-3

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URL https://obfuscator.edsandorf.me,
      https://github.com/edsandorf/obfuscatoR

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**Description**

The function is called when the package is loaded through library or require.

**Usage**

`.onAttach(libname, pkgname)`

**Arguments**

- `libname` : Library name
- `pkgname` : Package name

**Value**

Nothing
calculate_entropy

Calculate the entropy of each action in the design

Description

The function is a wrapper for `calc_entropy` and is meant for external use by the user. The goal for
the decision maker is to choose an action such that the observer is left as clueless as possible as to
which rule governs his actions, i.e. maximize entropy.

Usage

`calculate_entropy(design, priors = NULL)`

Arguments

design A matrix with rows equal to the number of rules and columns equal to the num-
ber of actions or a list of such matrices.
priors A vector of prior values. If the design is a list of matrices, priors can be a matrix
with rows equal to the length of the design and columns equal to the number of
rules.

Value

A list of of vectors of entropies for each possible action with the following attributes:

1. design
2. priors
3. pr_aj_rk
4. pr_rk_aj

Examples

```r
design <- matrix(c(-1, -1, -1, -1, 1,
                       -1, 0, 0, -1, 0,
                       -1, 0, -1, 0, 0,
                       0, 0, -1, 0, -1), nrow = 4L, byrow = TRUE)
calculate_entropy(design)
```

**calculate_payouts**  
*Calculate payouts*

**Description**

The function is a wrapper function for `calc_payout_obs` and `calc_payout_dm`, and exported to be used by the user. It calculates the expected payout to both observers and decision makers for each possible action undertaken by the decision maker, and the observers choice of whether or not to try and guess the rule.

**Usage**

```r
calculate_payouts(
  entropy,
  pay_obs,
  pay_dm,
  pay_no_guess,
  deterministic = FALSE
)
```

**Arguments**

- **entropy**: A list containing the entropy
- **pay_obs**: A numeric with pay to the observer for guessing correctly
- **pay_dm**: A numeric with pay to the decision maker if the observer does not guess
- **pay_no_guess**: A numeric with pay to the observer for not guessing
- **deterministic**: If TRUE a deterministic procedure is used to determine whether the observer tries to guess. Default is FALSE and the probability is calculated using a logit expression

**Value**

A list or list of lists where each list contains the payout to the observer and decision maker.

---

**calc_entropy**  
*Calculate Shannon’s Entropy*

**Description**

The function calculates Shannon’s Entropy. The function is meant for internal use only. To calculate the entropy for each action in the design, please use the wrapper function `calculate_entropy`.

**Usage**

```r
calc_entropy(design, priors = NULL)
```
Arguments

design  A matrix with rows equal to the number of rules and columns equal to the number of actions or a list of such matrices.
priors  A vector of prior values. If the design is a list of matrices, priors can be a matrix with rows equal to the length of the design and columns equal to the number of rules.

Value

Returns a vector of entropies for each possible action with the following attributes:

1. design
2. priors
3. pr_aj_rk
4. pr_rk_aj

Usage

calc_payout_dm(pr_guess, pay_dm)

Arguments

pr_guess  A vector of probabilities that the observer will guess.
pay_dm  The pay to the decision maker if the observer does not guess.

Value

A vector of expected payouts for each possible guess made by the observer
**calc_payout_obs**  
*Calculate expected payout to the observer*

**Description**

The function calculates the expected payout to the observer. The payout to the observer depends on the posterior probabilities, i.e. the probability of a rule conditional on observing an action, and the monetary payout for guessing correctly. The function is meant for internal use only. To calculate the payout to the observer, use the wrapper function `calculate_payouts`.

**Usage**

```r
calc_payout_obs(pr_rk_aj, pay_obs)
```

**Arguments**

- `pr_rk_aj`: A matrix of posterior probabilities
- `pay_obs`: The pay to the observer for guessing correctly.

**Value**

A vector of expected pays for each possible guess

---

**calc_pr_aj_rk**  
*Calculate Pr(a_j|r_k)*

**Description**

The function calculates the probability of an action conditional on a given rule and is part of calculating the entropy of an action. The function is meant for internal use only.

**Usage**

```r
calc_pr_aj_rk(design)
```

**Arguments**

- `design`: A matrix with rows equal to the number of rules and columns equal to the number of actions or a list of such matrices.

**Value**

An r x a matrix of probabilities
**calc_pr_guess**

Calculate the probability that the observer will try to guess the rule

---

**Description**

The function calculates the probability that an observer will try to guess which rule governs the decision maker’s actions. The function is meant for internal use only. It can be printed alongside the payouts calculated using `print_payout` if `print_all = TRUE`.

**Usage**

```r
calc_pr_guess(expected_payout_obs, payout_obs_no_guess, deterministic)
```

**Arguments**

- `expected_payout_obs`  
  Vector of expected payout to the observer from guessing
- `payout_obs_no_guess`  
  The payout to the observer from not guessing
- `deterministic`  
  A boolean equal to TRUE if we treat the decision to guess as deterministic. Defaults to TRUE.

**Value**

A vector with the probabilities that an observer will guess

---

**calc_pr_rk_aj**

Calculate $Pr(r_{k \mid a_j})$

---

**Description**

The function calculates the probability of a rule conditional on observing a given action and is part of calculating the entropy of an action. This probability is also referred to as the posterior probability. The function is meant for internal use only.

**Usage**

```r
calc_pr_rk_aj(pr_aj_rk, priors)
```

**Arguments**

- `pr_aj_rk`  
  A matrix with the probabilities of actions conditional on a given rule.
- `priors`  
  A vector of prior values. If the design is a list of matrices, priors can be a matrix with rows equal to the length of the design and columns equal to the number of rules.
check_design_opt  

**Value**

An \( r \times a \) matrix of probabilities

---

**Description**

The function checks the list of design options specified by the user and sets sensible defaults where no option is specified. The function is meant for internal use only and is not exported to be used by the users. All options can be overridden by the user by appropriately specifying `design_opt_input`.

Below is a list defining each of the options available to be specified in `design_opt_input`.

**Usage**

```r
check_design_opt(design_opt_input)
```

**Arguments**

- `design_opt_input`  
  A list of user supplied design options.

**Details**

- `rules`  
  Number of rules (i.e. rows)

- `actions`  
  Number of actions (i.e. columns)

- `min`  
  Minimum number of actions available for the considered rule

- `max`  
  Maximum number of actions available for the considered rule

- `min_fit`  
  Minimum number of rules fitting each permitted action conditional on the rule

- `obligatory`  
  Number of rules with obligatory actions

- `sd_entropy`  
  Specifies the standard deviation of the entropy values

- `designs`  
  Number of designs to generate

- `max_iter`  
  Maximum number of iterations before stopping search for designs

- `seed`  
  A seed for the random number generator. Useful for replicability

**Value**

Returns a list of design options with the missing from input replaced by default values
construct_design

Function to create a rule-action matrix

Description
The function creates a rule-action matrix (i.e. an obfuscation design) subject to a list of pre-programmed restrictions. These restrictions are in place to ensure that no invalid designs are created. Some of these restrictions can be changed by the user by appropriately specifying the design_opt_input. Each matrix is a design for one period of the obfuscation game. This function is for internal use only. To create an obfuscation design, the user should use generate_designs.

Usage
construct_design(design_opt)

Arguments
design_opt List of design options

Value
A rules-action matrix

extract_attr

Extract attributes

Description
Extracts the attributes of objects nested in a list

Usage
extract_attr(x, str_attr)

Arguments
x A list of objects with attributes or an object with an attribute
str_attr A non-empty character string specifying which attribute is to be extracted

Value
Returns a list the length of x containing the specified attribute. If the attribute does not exist, returns NULL
generate_designs

Generate obfuscation designs

design_opt_input <- list(rules = 4, actions = 5)
design <- generate_designs(design_opt_input)
extract_attr(design, "design_conditions")

design_opt_input <- list(rules = 4, actions = 5, designs = 2)
design <- generate_designs(design_opt_input)
extract_attr(design, "design_conditions")

Description

The function takes the list of design options design_opt_input and generates one or more obfuscation designs subject to the specified restrictions. A full specification of all the options available can be found in the manual along with detailed examples of different designs. At a minimum the user must supply the number of rules and actions, i.e. the dimensions of the design problem.

Usage

generate_designs(design_opt_input = list())

Arguments

design_opt_input

A list of user supplied design options.

Value

A list of matrices with rules and actions

Examples

design_opt_input <- list(rules = 4,
    actions = 5)
generate_designs(design_opt_input)
last

Get the last element of a vector

Description

last extracts the last element of a vector

Usage

last(x)

Arguments

x A vector

Examples

x <- 1:4
last(x)

x <- c("hello", "my", "name", "is", "buttons")
last(x)

obfuscatoR

obfuscatoR: Designs and analysis of the obfuscation game

Description

When people make decisions, they may do so using a wide variety of decision rules. The package allows users to easily create obfuscation games to test the obfuscation hypothesis. It provides an easy to use interface and multiple options designed to vary the difficulty of the game and tailor it to the user’s needs.
### print_design

**Prints the design**

**Description**

Takes a design or list of designs and prints them to the console. To store a design, please see `save_design`. Depending on the print options, additional text is provided with information on the considered rule and/or the design generation process.

**Usage**

```r
print_design(design, print_all = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

- `design`:
  A matrix with rows equal to the number of rules and columns equal to the number of actions.

- `print_all`:
  If TRUE prints information on the number of iterations and whether all design conditions were met. Default is FALSE.

**Examples**

```r
design_opt_input <- list(rules = 4,
                          actions = 5)

design <- generate_designs(design_opt_input)

print_design(design)
print_design(design, TRUE)
```

### print_entropy

**Prints the entropy of the different actions**

**Description**

The function prints the vector of entropies for each possible action. Depending on printing options, additional information about the probability calculations can be provided.

**Usage**

```r
print_entropy(entropy, digits = 3, print_all = FALSE)
```
print_payout

Arguments

entropy The entropy measure from calculate_entropy
digits The number of digits to round to. Default 3.
print_all If TRUE will print all information on intermediary calculations

Examples

design <- matrix(c(-1, -1, -1, -1, 1, -1, 0, 0, -1, 0, -1, 0, -1, 0, 0, -1, 0, -1), nrow = 4, byrow = TRUE)
entropy <- calculate_entropy(design)
print_entropy(entropy)
print_entropy(entropy, digits = 4)
print_entropy(entropy, print_all = TRUE)

print_payout

Print the payouts

Description

The function formats and prints the payout to the observer and decision maker.

Usage

print_payout(payout, digits = 3, print_all = FALSE)

Arguments

payout A list of calculated payouts
digits The number of digits to round to. Default 3.
print_all If TRUE will print the probabilities of guessing
save_design

Save obfuscation designs

Description
The function takes a design or a list of designs and stores them in .csv files in the specified folder.

Usage
save_design(x, x_name, path = getwd())

Arguments
- x: A design or list of designs
- x_name: A character string with the name of the file
- path: A string giving the path to where the designs are stored. The default is the current working directory

Value
Nothing is returned
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