Package ‘visreg’

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visreg-package

Visualization of regression models

Description

visreg provides a number of plotting functions for visualizing fitted regression models: regression functions, confidence bands, partial residuals, interactions, and more.

Details

This package allows the use of visreg and visreg2d, functions for visualizing regression models. See example below for the most basic use, and the help pages for each function for details. Also see the cited manuscript for additional details. If you have a question or feature request, please e-mail me at <patrick-breheny@uiowa.edu>.

Author(s)

Patrick Breheny and Woodrow Burchett
Maintainer: Patrick Breheny <patrick-breheny@uiowa.edu>

References

- [http://pbreheny.github.io/visreg](http://pbreheny.github.io/visreg)

See Also

visreg visreg2d visreg-faq

Examples

```r
fit <- lm(Ozone ~ Solar.R + Wind + Temp, data=airquality)
visreg(fit, "Wind")
```

plot.visreg

Visualization of regression functions

Description

A function for visualizing regression models quickly and easily. Default plots contain a confidence band, prediction line, and partial residuals. Factors, transformations, conditioning, interactions, and a variety of other options are supported. The plot.visreg function accepts a visreg or visregList object as calculated by visreg and creates the plot.
plot.visreg

Usage

### S3 method for class 'visreg'

```r
plot(x, overlay=FALSE, print.cond=FALSE,
     whitespace=0.2, partial=identical(x$meta$trans, I), band=TRUE,
     rug=ifelse(partial, 0, 2), strip.names=is.numeric(x$fit[,x$meta$by]),
     legend=TRUE, top=c('line', 'points'), gg=FALSE, line.par=NULL,
     fill.par=NULL, points.par=NULL, ...)
```

Arguments

- **x**: A `visreg` or `visregList` object; see `visreg`.
- **overlay**: When by is specified, by default separate panels are used to display each cross-section. If `overlay=TRUE`, these cross-sections are overlaid on top of each other in a single plot.
- **print.cond**: If `print.cond=TRUE`, the explanatory variable values conditioned on in a conditional plot are printed to the console (default: FALSE). If `print.cond=TRUE` and `type="contrast"`, the conditions will still be printed, but they have no bearing on the plot unless interactions are present.
- **whitespace**: When `xvar` is a factor, whitespace determines the amount of space in between factors on the x-axis. Default is 0.2, meaning that 20 percent of the horizontal axis is whitespace.
- **partial**: If `partial=TRUE` (the default), partial residuals are shown on the plot.
- **band**: If `band=TRUE` (the default), confidence bands are shown on the plot.
- **rug**: By default, partial residuals are plotted. Alternatively, a rug may be plotted along the horizontal axis instead. Setting `rug=TRUE` turns off partial residuals by default; if one wants both to be plotted, both `rug=TRUE` and `partial=TRUE` need to be specified. Two types of rug plots are available. If `rug=1` or `rug=TRUE`, then a basic rug is drawn on the bottom. If `rug=2`, then separate rugs are drawn on the top for observations with positive residuals and on the bottom for observations with negative residuals. Such plots are particularly useful in logistic regression (see examples).
- **strip.names**: When `by=TRUE`, `strip.names=TRUE` adds the name of the by variable to the strip at the top of each panel. Default is `FALSE` for factors and `TRUE` for numeric by variables. `strip.names` can also be a character vector, in which case it replaces the strip names altogether with values chosen by the user.
- **legend**: For overlay plots, (overlay=TRUE), should `visreg` create a legend? If `legend=TRUE` (the default), a legend is placed in the top margin.
- **top**: By default, the model fits 'line' are plotted on top of the partial residuals; usually this is preferable, but it does run the risk of obscuring certain residuals. To change this behavior and plot the partial residuals on top, specify `top='points'`.
- **gg**: By default (`gg=FALSE`), `visreg` will use the lattice package to render the plot if multiple panels are required. If `gg=TRUE`, it will use the ggplot2 package instead, provided that it is installed.
plot.visreg2d

Visualization of regression functions for two variables

Description

Plot method for visualizing how two variables interact to affect the response in regression models.

Usage

```r
## S3 method for class 'visreg2d'
plot(x, plot.type=c("image","persp","rgl","gg"),
     xlab, ylab, zlab, color, print.cond=FALSE, whitespace=0.2, ...)
```
Arguments

x
A `visreg2d` object.

plot.type
The style of plot to be produced. The following three options are supported:
- 'image', a filled contour plot.
- 'gg', a filled contour plot using `ggplot2`.
- 'persp', a 3 dimensional perspective plot.
- 'rgl', a version of the perspective plot that can be rotated. Note: requires the rgl package to use.

xlab
Axis label for x variable

ylab
Axis label for y variable

zlab
Axis label for outcome

color
For `plot.type='persp'` or `plot.type='rgl'`, the color of the surface. For `plot.type='image'` or `plot.type='gg'`, a vector of colors used to establish a color palette.

print.cond
If `print.cond=TRUE`, the explanatory variable values conditioned on in a conditional plot are printed to the console (default: FALSE). If `print.cond=TRUE` and `type="contrast"`, the conditions will still be printed, but they have no bearing on the plot unless interactions are present.

whitespace
When `xvar` or `yvar` is a factor, whitespace determines the amount of space in between the factors. Default is 0.2, meaning that 20 percent of the axis is whitespace.

... Graphical parameters can be passed to the function to customize the plots.

Author(s)

Patrick Breheny and Woodrow Burchett

References

- [http://pbreheny.github.io/visreg](http://pbreheny.github.io/visreg)

See Also


Examples

```r
fit <- lm(Ozone ~ Solar.R + Wind + Temp + I(Wind^2) + I(Temp^2) + I(Wind*Temp) + I(Wind*Temp^2) + I(Temp*Wind^2) + I(Temp^2*Wind^2), data=airquality)

visreg2d(fit, x="Wind", y="Temp", plot.type="image")
visreg2d(fit, x="Wind", y="Temp", plot.type="image",
  color=c("purple", "green", "red"))
```
subsetting.visreg

## Requires the rgl package
## Not run:
visreg2d(fit, x="Wind", y="Temp", plot.type="rgl")
## End(Not run)

## Requires the ggplot2 package
## Not run:
visreg2d(fit, x="Wind", y="Temp", plot.type="gg")
## End(Not run)

subset.visreg

Subset a visreg object

**Description**

Subset a visreg object so that only a portion of the full model is plotted.

**Usage**

```r
## S3 method for class 'visreg'
subset(x, sub, ...)
```

**Arguments**

- `x` A *visreg* object.
- `sub` Logical expression indicating elements to keep, as in *subset*.
- `...` Not used.

**Examples**

```r
# Fit a model and construct a visreg object
airquality$Heat <- cut(airquality$Temp,3,labels=c("Cool","Mild","Hot"))
fit <- lm(Ozone ~ Solar.R + Wind*Heat, data=airquality)
v <- visreg(fit, "Wind", by="Heat", plot=FALSE)

# Plot only certain levels
vv <- subset(v, Heat %in% c("Cool", "Hot"))
plot(vv)

# Plot only up to wind 15 mph
vv <- subset(v, Wind < 15)
plot(vv)
```
**Description**

A function for visualizing regression models quickly and easily. Default plots contain a confidence band, prediction line, and partial residuals. Factors, transformations, conditioning, interactions, and a variety of other options are supported. The `visreg` function performs the calculations and, if `plot=TRUE` (the default), these calculations are passed to `plot.visreg` for plotting.

**Usage**

```r
visreg(fit, xvar, by, breaks=3, type=c("conditional", "contrast"), data=NULL, trans=I, scale=c("linear","response"), xtrans, alpha=.05, nn=101, cond=list(), jitter=FALSE, collapse=FALSE, plot=TRUE, ...)
```

**Arguments**

- `fit` The fitted model object you wish to visualize. Any object with 'predict' and 'model.frame' methods are supported, including `lm`, `glm`, `gam`, `rlm`, `coxph`, and many more.
- `xvar` Character string specifying the variable to be put on the x-axis of your plot. Both continuous variables and factors are supported.
- `by` (Optional) A variable allowing you to divide your plot into cross-sections based on levels of the by variable; particularly useful for visualizing models with interactions. Supplied as a character string. Uses the lattice package. Both continuous variables and factors are supported.
- `breaks` If a continuous variable is used for the by option, the breaks argument controls the values at which the cross-sections are taken. By default, cross-sections are taken at the 10th, 50th, and 90th quantiles. If `breaks` is a single number, it specifies the number of breaks. If `breaks` is a vector of numbers, it specifies the values at which the cross-sections are to be taken. Each partial residuals appears exactly once in the plot, in the panel it is closest to.
- `type` The type of plot to be produced. The following options are supported:
  - If 'conditional' is selected, the plot returned shows the value of the variable on the x-axis and the change in response on the y-axis, holding all other variables constant (by default, median for numeric variables and most common category for factors).
  - If 'contrast' is selected, the plot returned shows the effect on the expected value of the response by moving the x variable away from a reference point on the x-axis (for numeric variables, this is taken to be the mean).
- `data` The data frame used to fit the model. Typically, `visreg()` can figure out where the data is, so it is not necessary to provide this. In some cases, however, the data set cannot be located and must be supplied explicitly.
- `trans` The type of transformation to be applied to the data. By default, no transformation is applied. Other transformations can be specified using the `trans` argument.
- `scale` The type of scale to be used in the plots. Options include 'linear' and 'response'.
- `xtrans` An optional transformation function to be applied to the x-axis.
- `alpha` The significance level for confidence intervals. By default, `alpha=.05`.
- `nn` The number of points to be used in the calculations. By default, `nn=101`.
- `cond` A list of conditions to be used in the calculations.
- `jitter` A logical value indicating whether to jitter the data to avoid overplotting.
- `collapse` A logical value indicating whether to collapse the data when plotting.
- `plot` A logical value indicating whether to plot the model.
trans (Optional) A function specifying a transformation for the vertical axis.

scale By default, the model is plotted on the scale of the linear predictor. If scale='response' for a glm, the inverse link function will be applied so that the model is plotted on the scale of the original response.

xtrans (Optional) A function specifying a transformation for the horizontal axis. Note that, for model terms such as log(x), visreg automatically plots on the original axis (see examples).

alpha Alpha level (1-coverage) for the confidence band displayed in the plot (default: 0.05).

nn Controls the smoothness of the line and confidence band. Increasing this number will add to the computational burden, but produce a smoother plot (default: 101).

cond Named list specifying conditional values of other explanatory variables. By default, conditional plots in visreg are constructed by filling in other explanatory variables with the median (for numeric variables) or most common category (for factors), but this can be overridden by specifying their values using cond (see examples).

jitter Adds a small amount of noise to xvar. Potentially useful if many observations have exactly the same value. Default is FALSE.

collapse If the predict method for fit returns a matrix, should this be returns as multiple visreg objects bound together as a list (collapse=FALSE) or collapsed down to a single visreg object (collapse=TRUE).

plot Send the calculations to plot.visreg? Default is TRUE.

... Graphical parameters (e.g., ylab) can be passed to the function to customize the plots. If by=TRUE, lattice parameters can be passed, such as layout (see examples below).

Details

See plot.visreg for plotting options, such as changing the appearance of points, lines, confidence bands, etc.

Value

A visreg or visregList object (which is simply a list of visreg objects). A visreg object has three components:

fit A data frame with nn rows containing the fit of the model as xvar varies, along with lower and upper confidence bounds (named visregFit, visregLwr, and visregUpr, respectively). The fitted matrix of coefficients.

res A data frame with n rows, where n is the number of observations in the original data set used to model. This frame contains information about the residuals, named visregReg and visregPos; the latter records whether the residual was positive or negative.

meta Contains meta-information needed to construct plots, such as the name of the x and y variables, whether there were any by variables, etc.
visreg

Author(s)
Patrick Breheny and Woodrow Burchett

References

- [http://pbreheny.github.io/visreg](http://pbreheny.github.io/visreg)

See Also

[http://pbreheny.github.io/visreg](http://pbreheny.github.io/visreg) plot.visreg visreg2d visreg-faq

Examples

```
# Linear models
fit <- lm(Ozone ~ Solar.R + Wind + Temp, data=airquality)
visreg(fit)
visreg(fit, "Wind", type="contrast")
visreg(fit, "Wind", type="conditional")

# Factors
airquality$Heat <- cut(airquality$Temp, 3, labels=c("Cool","Mild","Hot"))
fit.heat <- lm(Ozone ~ Solar.R + Wind + Heat, data=airquality)
visreg(fit.heat, "Heat", type="contrast")
visreg(fit.heat, "Heat", type="conditional")

# Transformations
fit1 <- lm(Ozone ~ Solar.R + Wind + Temp + I(Wind^2), data=airquality)
fit2 <- lm(log(Ozone) ~ Solar.R + Wind + Temp, data=airquality)
fit3 <- lm(log(Ozone) ~ Solar.R + Wind + Temp + I(Wind^2), data=airquality)
visreg(fit1, "Wind")
visreg(fit2, "Wind", trans=exp, ylab="Ozone")
visreg(fit3, "Wind", trans=exp, ylab="Ozone")

# Conditioning
visreg(fit, "Wind", cond=list(Temp=50))
visreg(fit, "Wind", print.cond=TRUE)
visreg(fit, "Wind", cond=list(Temp=100))

# Interactions
fit.in1 <- lm(Ozone~ Solar.R + Wind*Heat, data=airquality)
visreg(fit.in1, "Wind", by="Heat")
visreg(fit.in1, "Heat", by="Wind")
visreg(fit.in1, "Wind", by="Heat", type="contrast")
visreg(fit.in1, "Heat", by="Wind", breaks=6)
visreg(fit.in1, "Heat", by="Wind", breaks=c(0,10,20))
```
## Overlay

visreg(fit.in1, "Wind", by="Heat", overlay=TRUE)

## Logistic regression

data("birthwt", package="MASS")
birthwt$race <- factor(birthwt$race, labels=c("White","Black","Other"))
birthwt$smoke <- factor(birthwt$smoke, labels=c("Nonsmoker","Smoker"))
fit <- glm(low~age+race+smoke+lwt, data=birthwt, family="binomial")
visreg(fit, "lwt",
      xlab="Mother's Weight", ylab="Log odds (low birthweight)")
visreg(fit, "lwt", scale="response", partial=FALSE,
      xlab="Mother's Weight", ylab="P(low birthweight)")
visreg(fit, "lwt", scale="response", partial=FALSE,
      xlab="Mother's Weight", ylab="P(low birthweight)", rug=2)

## Proportional hazards

require(survival)
data(ovarian)
ovarian$rx <- factor(ovarian$rx)
fit <- coxph(Surv(futime, fustat) ~ age + rx, data=ovarian)
visreg(fit, "age", ylab="log(Hazard ratio)")

## Robust regression

require(MASS)
fit <- rlm(Ozone ~ Solar.R + Wind*Heat, data=airquality)
visreg(fit, "Wind", cond=list(Heat="Mild"))

## And more...; anything with a 'predict' method should work

## Return raw components of plot

v <- visreg(fit, "Wind", cond=list(Heat="Mild"))

---

### Frequently Asked Questions for visreg

#### Description

This page tries to answer some of the questions that I get asked most often about how to use the visreg package. If you have a question that does not appear below, I can be reached at <patrick-breheny@uiowa.edu>.

#### Frequent asked questions

1. **What is the difference between 'conditional' and 'contrast' plots?**
   
   Suppose our data looked like:
we fit a model with

```
fit <- lm(SBP ~ Sex + Age)
```

and we want to plot the relationship between Age and SBP. A 'conditional' plot illustrates the relationship between the two, conditional on the sex being, say, Male (the default in `visreg` is to choose the most common category).

The 'contrast' plot in `visreg`, on the other hand, illustrates the effect on SBP of a change in age – the default in `visreg` is to use the mean age as the reference point for this change. Since the above model does not have an interaction, this effect will be the same for men and women, and thus does not require you to specify a sex for the plot.

Both conditional and contrast plots answer subtly different questions, and both are useful in different situations.

2. Can `visreg` be used for mixed models (i.e., from the 'nlme' or 'lme4' packages)?

Sort of. The underlying basis on which `visreg` operates is by using the predict method to plot predictions from the model. Predictions for mixed models are complicated. In particular, there is no `se.fit` option provided by the `predict` methods in the `nlme` and `lme4` packages, so you cannot obtain confidence bands for conditional plots. Nevertheless, `visreg` will produce plots of estimated coefficients and partial residuals.

In addition, there may be certain nesting structures among the covariates that `visreg` cannot be aware of; for example, if you are trying to plot the effect of age for various individuals, fixing sex at `sex=Male`, this may involve setting the sex of female subjects to `Male` for the sake of the plot. Whether such a plot has any meaning, you will have to judge for yourself. In general, contrast plots are more trustworthy than conditional plots, given the intricacies of setting up conditions in a hierarchical model.

Keep in mind that depending on what sort of predictions (BLUPs) you are interested in, you may need to manually control the inclusion of random effects in your predictions. By default, `visreg` includes no random effects (i.e., `level=0` for `nlme` models and `re.form=NA` for `lme4` models). If you are including a random effect as a by variable in `visreg`, you most likely want to add those effects back in, and you will have to do so manually, by directly specifying the appropriate `level` or `re.form` argument to `predict` (see `?predict.nlme` or `?predict.merMod`). Handling this appropriately is the user's responsibility; I cannot hope to automatically decide this for all possible mixed models that could be passed to `visreg`.

As mentioned above, you cannot obtain confidence bands for conditional plots. In the words of the authors of the `lme4` package, "There is no option for computing standard errors of predictions because it is difficult to define an efficient method that incorporates uncertainty in the variance parameters": hence no `se.fit` option. You can, however, get confidence bands for 'contrast' plots. In a contrast plot, the random effects cancel and the above issue is avoided.

If you are running into difficulty using `visreg` with mixed models, feel free to e-mail me; mixed models have been less extensively tested with `visreg` than fixed-effect models, and there may still be bugs to work out.
3. **How do I use visreg for a model with offset terms?**

By default, visreg is set up to provide conditional plots in which all other terms are set to their median value (or most common category). This includes offset terms. It is not uncommon, however, to want to see results with the offset included. To obtain these results, one needs to specify the offset among the arguments to cond. For example, using the Insurance data from the MASS package:

```r
utils::data(Insurance, package = "MASS")
fit <- glm(Claims ~ District + Group + Age + offset(log(Holders)), data = Insurance, family = poisson)
visreg(fit, "Group", scale = "response")
```

This will provide the model’s predictions for the expected number of claims given the median number of holders (here, 136). To obtain the expected number of claims per holder, we need to specify Holders=1 in cond:

```r
visreg(fit, "Group", scale = "response", cond = list(Holders=1))
```

Note also that to ensure proper functionality with all of visreg’s options, the use of the offset() function, rather than the offset= argument, is recommended.

4. **Why doesn’t visreg work with models I fit with package XXX?**

visreg() relies on being able to call certain generic functions to interface with the fitted model object that is passed to it. Specifically, if fit is the fit of a model that is passed to visreg, the following have to work:

```r
model.frame(fit) formula(fit)
```

If they do not, there is nothing I can really do on the visreg end to get it to work – the author of the package would need to add support for those generic functions to make it more portable.

If the above lines of code do work and visreg still fails, please let me know – perhaps there is a bug somewhere that I can fix.

**Author(s)**

Patrick Breheny and Woodrow Burchett

Maintainer: Patrick Breheny <patrick-breheny@uiowa.edu>

**References**

- [http://pbreheny.github.io/visreg](http://pbreheny.github.io/visreg)

---

**visreg2d**

**Visualization of regression functions for two variables**

**Description**

A function used to visualize how two variables interact to affect the response in regression models.
Usage

visreg2d(fit, xvar, yvar, type=c("conditional", "contrast"), data=NULL,
trans=I, scale=c("linear", "response"), nn=99, cond=list(), plot=TRUE,
...)

Arguments

fit
The fitted model object you wish to visualize. Any object with 'predict' and
'model.frame' methods are supported, including lm, glm, gam, rlm, coxph, and
many more.

xvar
Character string specifying the variable to be put on the x-axis of your plot. Both
continuous variables and factors are supported.

yvar
Character string specifying the variable to be put on the y-axis of your plot. Both
continuous variables and factors are supported.

type
The type of plot to be produced. The following options are supported:

  • If 'conditional' is selected, the plot returned shows the value of the vari-
    able on the x-axis and the change in response on the y-axis, holding all
    other variables constant (by default, median for numeric variables and most
    common category for factors).

  • If 'contrast' is selected, the plot returned shows the effect on the expected
    value of the response by moving the x variable away from a reference point
    on the x-axis (for numeric variables, this is taken to be the mean).

For more details, see references.

data
The data frame used to fit the model. Typically, visreg() can figure out where
the data is, so it is not necessary to provide this. In some cases, however, the
data set cannot be located and must be supplied explicitly.

trans
(Optional) A function specifying a transformation for the vertical axis.

scale
By default, the model is plotted on the scale of the linear predictor. If scale='response'
for a glm, the inverse link function will be applied so that the model is plotted
on the scale of the original response.

nn
Resolution of the three dimensional plot. Higher values will results in a smoother
looking plot.

cond
Named list specifying conditional values of other explanatory variables. By
default, conditional plots in visreg are constructed by filling in other explanatory
variables with the median (for numeric variables) or most common category (for
factors), but this can be overridden by specifying their values using cond (see
examples).

plot
Send the calculations to plot.visreg2d, producing a plot? Default is TRUE.

...  
Graphical parameters (e.g., ylab) can be passed to the function to customize the
plots.

Value

A visreg2d object consisting of:
visreg2d

x Values of xvar to be plotted
y Values of yvar to be plotted
z Values of outcome to be plotted
meta Meta-information needed to construct plots, such as the name of the x and y variables.

Author(s)

Patrick Breheny and Woodrow Burchett

References

- http://pbreheny.github.io/visreg

See Also

http://pbreheny.github.io/visreg/surface.html visreg

Examples

```r
fit <- lm(Ozone ~ Solar.R + Wind + Temp + I(Wind^2) + I(Temp^2) +
I(Wind*Temp)+I(Wind*Temp^2) + I(Temp*Wind^2) + I(Temp^2*Wind^2),
data=airquality)
visreg2d(fit, x="Wind", y="Temp", plot.type="image")
visreg2d(fit, x="Wind", y="Temp", plot.type="persp")

## Requires the rgl package
## Not run:
visreg2d(fit, x="Wind", y="Temp", plot.type="rgl")

## End(Not run)

## Requires the ggplot2 package
## Not run:
visreg2d(fit, x="Wind", y="Temp", plot.type="gg")

## End(Not run)
```
visregList

Join multiple visreg objects together in a list

Description

This function takes multiple visreg objects, from separate calls to visreg(), and joins them together in a single object. The single object will be of type visregList unless collapse=TRUE is specified, in which case the list will be collapsed back down into a single visreg object.

Usage

visregList(..., labels, collapse=FALSE)

Arguments

... visreg objects, as produced by calls to visreg.
labels A character vector with length corresponding to the number of visreg objects passed to the function that provides labels for the different objects in subsequent plots. Only has an effect if collapse=TRUE.
collapse If TRUE, the resulting object will be collapsed down into a single visreg object. If FALSE, the resulting object will be a visregList.

Value

A visreg or visregList object, depending on the value of collapse.

Author(s)

Patrick Breheny

See Also

visreg plot.visreg

Examples

fit <- lm(Ozone ~ Solar.R + Wind + Temp, data=airquality)
v1 <- visreg(fit, "Wind", plot=FALSE, alpha=0.2)
v2 <- visreg(fit, "Wind", plot=FALSE, alpha=0.01)
vv1 <- visregList(v1, v2, collapse=FALSE)
vv2 <- visregList(v1, v2, collapse=TRUE, labels=c("Confidence: 0.80", "Confidence: 0.99"))
op <- par(mfrow=c(1,2))
plot(vv1)
par(op)
plot(vv2)
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