Package ‘bcrm’

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bcrm-package

Bayesian Continual Reassessment Method for Phase I Dose-Escalation Trials

Description

Implements a wide variety of Bayesian CRM designs. The program can run interactively, allowing the user to enter outcomes after each cohort has been recruited, or via simulation to assess operating characteristics.

Details

Package: bcrm
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Date: 2015-01-28
License: GPL (>= 2)
LazyLoad: yes

Author(s)

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References


Description

Implements a wide variety of Bayesian CRM designs, including 1-parameter, 2-parameter and Escalation With Overdose Control (EWOC) designs. The program can run interactively, allowing the user to enter outcomes after each cohort has been recruited, or via simulation to assess operating characteristics.
Usage

bcram(stop = list(nmax = NULL, nmttd = NULL, precision = NULL, nmin = NULL, safety = NULL), data = NULL, p.tox0 = NULL, sdose = NULL, dose = NULL, ff, prior.alpha, cohort = 3, target.tox, constrain = TRUE, sdose.calculate = "mean", pointest = "plugin", tox.cutpoints = NULL, loss = NULL, start = NULL, simulate = FALSE, nsims = 1, truep = NULL, threep3 = FALSE, method = "exact", burnin.itr = 2000, production.itr = 2000, bugs.directory = "c:/Program Files/WinBUGS14/", plot = FALSE, seed = NULL, quietly = FALSE, file = NULL, N, tox, notox)

Arguments

stop A list of stopping rules for the trial. One or more of the following options should be specified

nmax The maximum sample size of the trial

safety Stops the trial if the posterior probability of the lowest dose being above the target toxicity level is greater than this number

nmttd The maximum number to be treated at final maximum tolerated dose (MTD) estimate, i.e. if the next recommended dose has already been administered to nmttd patients then the trial will stop

precision A vector of the lower and upper percentage points that the MTD 95% credible intervals for the risk of toxicity should lie within

nmin The minimum sample size of the trial. To be used in conjunction with nmttd or precision

data A named data frame giving information about dose and toxicity from previously recruited patients. If missing, then it is assumed that no data have thus far been collected. Contains the following variables:

patient Recruited patient numbers, 1, ..., n

dose Dose levels of recruited patients, ranging from 1, ..., k

tox An indicator variable for each patient (1=toxicity, 0=no toxicity)

p.tox0 A vector of length k listing the prior probabilities of experiencing the outcome at each dose level 1, ..., k (CRM "skeleton"). The standardised dose levels are formed from these probabilities using the inverse of the functional form, with a plug-in estimate for the prior mean or median of alpha, as specified in ff, prior.alpha and sdose.calculate. Alternatively standardised dose levels can be given directly using sdose.

sdose A vector of length k listing the standardised doses to be used in the CRM model. Only required if p.tox0 is missing.

dose Optional vector of length k of actual doses for plotting purposes

ff A string indicating the functional form of the dose-response curve. Options are

ht 1-parameter hyperbolic tangent

logit1 1-parameter logistic

power 1-parameter power

logit2 2-parameter logistic
prior.alpha  A list of length 3 containing the distributional information for the prior. The first element is a number from 1-4 specifying the type of distribution. Options are
1. Gamma(a,b), where a=shape, b=scale: mean=a*b, variance=a*b*b
2. Uniform(a,b), where a=min, b=max
3. Lognormal(a,b), where a=mean on the log scale, b=variance on the log scale
4. Bivariate Lognormal(a,b), where a=mean vector on the log scale, b=Variance-covariance matrix on the log scale. This prior should be used only in conjunction with a two-parameter logistic model.

The second and third elements of the list are the parameters a and b, respectively.

cohort  The size of each cohort of patients that are sequentially recruited to the trial. Defaults to 3

target.tox  The target toxicity probability. Defaults to 1/3.

constrain  Should a dose-skipping constraint be placed on the escalation procedure, as imposed by a modified CRM? Defaults to TRUE.

sdose.caculate  What plug-in estimate of the prior alpha should be used to calculate the standardised doses? Options are "mean" (default) or "median". Only required if sdose is missing.

pointest  Which summary estimate of the posterior distribution should be used to choose the next dose. Options are "plugin" (default) where the posterior mean of the model parameter(s) is plugged into the function form to obtain estimates of toxicity, or "mean" where the posterior mean probabilities of toxicity are directly used. Alternatively, a number between 0 and 1 can be specified representing the quantile of the maximum tolerated dose (MTD) posterior distribution (e.g. 0.5 specifies the posterior median). This produces an Escalation With Overdose Control (EWOC) design if the quantile is less than 0.5 (see details). Currently, EWOC designs must be fit using MCMC methods.

tox.cutpoints  A vector of cutpoints for toxicity intervals if these are to be used to choose next dose. Defaults to NULL. For example Underdosing [0,0.2], Target dosing (0.2, 0.35], Excessive toxicity (0.35, 0.60], Unacceptable toxicity (0.60, 1.00] set tox.cutpoints=c(0, 0.2, 0.35, 0.60).

loss  A vector of length length(tox.cutpoints)+1 specifying the losses associated with each toxicity interval, e.g. Underdosing = 1, Target dosing =0, Excessive toxicity=1, Unacceptable toxicity=2

start  Dose level used at the beginning of the trial. Required if constrain=TRUE.

simulate  Should a simulation be conducted to assess operating characteristics? Defaults to TRUE. If FALSE, a single CRM trial is run interactively, allowing the user to input outcomes after each cohort is recruited.

nsims  Number of simulations to perform if simulate==TRUE (defaults to 1).

truep  A vector of length k giving the true probabilities of the outcome (toxicity) at each dose level 1, . . . , k in order to simulate data. Only required if simulate=TRUE

threep3  Should operating characteristics of a standard 3+3 rule-based design be calculated, for comparison with bcrm design? Defaults to FALSE. Only used in a simulation study, i.e. when simulate=TRUE.
### bcrm

**method**
Optimisation method: options are "exact" (the default), "rjags", "BRugs", or "R2WinBUGS".

**burnin.itr**
Number of burn-in iterations (default 2000).

**production.itr**
Number of production iterations (default 2000).

**bugs.directory**
Directory that contains the WinBUGS executable if method="R2WinBUGS". Defaults to "C:/Program Files/WinBUGS14/".

**plot**
Should the dose-response curve be plotted after each cohort has been entered? Defaults to FALSE.

**seed**
Integer defining the state of the random number generator to allow reproducible results. The default is to not specify a seed.

**quietly**
Should the simulation number output be suppressed when running bcrm? Defaults to FALSE.

**file**
File name where the dose-response plots are stored, in a pdf format. The program will amend the current sample size to the end of the file name.

**N**
Final sample size (deprecated). To be replaced with stop in future versions.

**tox**
(Deprecated). A vector of length k listing the number of patients who have experienced the outcome (toxicity) at each dose level 1, \ldots, k.

**notox**
(Deprecated). A vector of length k listing the number of patients who have not experienced the outcome (toxicity) at each dose level 1, \ldots, k.

---

**Details**

*bcrm* implements a Bayesian continual reassessment method (CRM) (O’Quigley et al., 1990); an adaptive design in which cohorts of patients are sequentially recruited into a Phase I trial. A binary toxicity outcome is assumed (e.g. Dose Limiting Toxicity / No Dose Limiting Toxicity). The current cohort are given a dose "closest" to the specified target toxicity level, as estimated from the posterior distributions of toxicity at each dose level from the patients thus far recruited. If \( \text{pointest} = \text{"mean"} \) then the posterior mean probability of toxicity is used to choose the next dose. If \( \text{pointest} = \text{"plugin"} \), however, the posterior mean of the model parameter(s) is plugged-into the functional form of the dose-toxicity model. To implement an EWOC design (Babb et al., 1998), \( \text{pointest} \) should be a quantile, \( q \), between 0 and 0.5. The posterior distribution of the MTD (the dose in which the probability of toxicity is equal to the target toxicity) is then calculated and the next patient is given dose closest to the \( q \)th quantile of the MTD distribution.

Alternatively, escalation can be based on intervals of toxicity from the posterior distribution using a loss function, see Neuenschwander et al., 2008. To implement this approach, the user should specify the cutpoints of the toxicity intervals using \( \text{tox.cutpoints} \) and the associated losses using \( \text{loss} \).

The possible choice of dose-toxicity model can be specified using \( \text{ff} \), and includes the 1-parameter hyperbolic tangent, logistic or power "working models", and the 2-parameter logistic model as follows:

**Hyperbolic Tangent**

\[
p(Tox|d^*) = \left[ \frac{\tanh(d^*) + 1}{2} \right]^\alpha
\]
Logistic (1-parameter)

\[ p(Tox|d^*) = \frac{\exp(3 + \alpha d^*)}{1 + \exp(3 + \alpha d^*)} \]

Power

\[ p(Tox|d^*) = d^{*\alpha} \]

Logistic (2-parameter)

\[ p(Tox|d^*) = \frac{\exp(\log(\alpha_1) + \alpha_2 d^*)}{1 + \exp(\log(\alpha_1) + \alpha_2 d^*)} \]

where \( \alpha > 0 \) is the single positive-valued parameter for the 1-parameter models, and \( \log(\alpha_1) \) and \( \alpha_2 > 0 \) are the intercept and slope parameters of the 2-parameter model.

The standardised doses, \( d^* \), are specified by the user using sdose, or alternatively the prior probability of toxicity at each dose level is specified using p.tox0. If the latter is used, then the standardised doses are calculated using the inverse of the functional form and a plug-in estimate of the prior mean or median, as specified in sdoseNcalculate, as follows

\[ d^* = f^{-1}(p.tox0, \alpha = a) \]

where \( f^{-1} \) is the the inverse of the chosen functional form, and the parameter(s) of the model are set equal to \( a \), either the prior mean or median of \( \alpha \).

Data that have already been accrued can be entered using the data argument. A constrained CRM design can be implemented using constrain=TRUE, in which case dose-skipping is prohibited (i.e. the next cohort can only be dosed up to one dose level above the current cohort). If a constrained model is used then the starting dose must be specified using start. Alternatively, if data have already been accrued, then the dose level of the last recruited patient determines the constraint for the next patient.

The prior is set using prior.alpha. For example prior.alpha=list(1,1,1) specifies a Gamma prior with shape and scale parameters both equal to one (i.e. an Exponential(1) distribution), whilst prior.alpha=list(2,0,10) specifies a Uniform(0,10) prior.

To specify a fixed maximum sample size of size \( m \) use stop=list(nmax=m). Alternatively, the trial can stop after \( mR \) patients have been treated at the current MTD estimate, by setting stop=list(nmtd=m2).

To implement a safety constraint as specified in Zohar and Chevret (2001) specify stop=list(safety=p), where the trial is stopped if the posterior probability that the lowest dose is greater than the target toxicity probability is greater than \( p \).

To stop the trial when the MTD estimate is within a certain level of precision, use stop=list(precision=c(l,u)), where \( l \) and \( u \) are the lower and upper percentage points that the MTD 95% credible intervals for the risk of toxicity should lie within. Finally, to prevent the trial stopping too early using these rules, the argument stop=list(nmin=m3) can be used to ensure the sample size is greater than or equal to \( m3 \). Stopping rules can be used on their own or in combination.

The trial can be run interactively using simulate=FALSE, where the user enters the outcomes for each new cohort, or as a simulation study when simulate=TRUE.

The default calculations use exact methods (method="exact") to calculate the mean and quantiles for the posterior distributions. There are three choices for MCMC calculations: method="rjags", "jags", or "coda".
method="BRugs" or method="R2WinBUGS". The first uses the JAGS software, the second uses OpenBUGS, whilst the latter uses WinBUGS. To implement these methods, users require one or more of these packages to be installed on their system.

A simulated bcrm design can be compared with the standard 3+3 rule-based method, see threep3 for more details.

Value

bcrm returns an object of class "bcrm" or "bcrm.sim"; the latter occurring when a simulation has been conducted (simulate=TRUE). The function print (i.e. print.bcrm or print.bcrm.sim) can be used to obtain summary information about the design used, the data observed, current posterior estimates of toxicity, and the next recommended dose level.

An object of class "bcrm" is a list with the following components:

dose Range of doses
sdose Standardised doses
tox A vector of length k listing the number of patients who have experienced the outcome (toxicity) at each dose level 1, ..., k
notox A vector of length k listing the number of patients who have not experienced the outcome (toxicity) at each dose level 1, ..., k
ndose A list of lists containing for each cohort the components ndose, the dose level recommended for the next patient, est, the estimated probabilities of toxicity using the chosen metric (e.g. plugin, mean, quantile), mean, the posterior mean probability of toxicity at each dose, sd, the posterior standard deviation for probability of toxicity at each dose, quantiles, the posterior quantiles for probability of toxicity at each dose. This information is only provided for cohorts recruited subsequent to any data given using tox and notox. The first component relates to the prior information.

constrain Whether a constrained CRM design was used
start The starting dose for the latest run of the model if constrain=TRUE
target.tox The target toxicity level
ff A number from 1-4 identifying the functional form, 1 = Hyperbolic tangent, 2 = 1-parameter logistic, 3 = Power, 4 = 2-parameter logistic
method The calculation method used
pointest The summary estimate used to choose the next dose, see pointest
prior.alpha Information about the prior used for alpha, see prior.alpha
data A data frame with variables ‘patient’, ‘dose’ and ‘tox’ listing the doses and outcomes of all patients in the trial

An object of class "bcrm.sim" is a list of length nsims. Each component is itself a list with components similar to those obtained from a "bcrm" object. The print function, print.bcrm.sim should be used to obtain operating characteristics from the simulation.
Note
Currently, the re-parameterisation of the two-parameter model proposed by (Babb et al., 1998) is not implemented. Therefore, users wishing to implement an EWOC design should check whether their choice of prior for the model parameter(s) translates to a sensible prior for the MTD distribution before they implement the design. For example

```r
prior.alpha<-list(1,1,1)
ff<"ht"
target.tox<-0.2
samples.alpha<-getprior(prior.alpha,2000)
mtd<-find.x(ff,target.tox,alpha=samples.alpha)
hist(mtd)
```

One-parameter models are designed as working models only, and should not be used with an escalation strategy based on intervals of the posterior probabilities of toxicity.

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References


See Also
print.bcrm, print.bcrm.sim, plot.bcrm, plot.bcrm.sim, threep3

Examples
```r
## Dose-escalation cancer trial example as described in Neuenschwander et al 2008.
## Pre-defined doses
dose<-c(1,2,5,5,10,15,20,25,30,40,50,75,100,150,200,250)
## Pre-specified probabilities of toxicity
## [dose levels 11-15 not specified in the paper, and are for illustration only]
p.tox0<-c(0.010,0.015,0.020,0.025,0.030,0.040,0.050,0.100,0.170,0.300,0.400,0.500,0.650
```
## Data from the first 5 cohorts of 18 patients
```
data <- data.frame(patient = 1:18, dose = rep(c(1:4,7), c(3,4,5,4,2)), tox = rep(0:1, c(16,2)))
```
## Target toxicity level
```
target.tox <- 0.30
```

## A 1-parameter power model is used, with standardised doses calculated using
## the plug-in prior median
## Prior for alpha is lognormal with mean 0 (on log scale)
## and standard deviation 1.34 (on log scale)
## The recommended dose for the next cohort if posterior mean is used
```
Power.LN.bcrm <- bcrm(stop = list(nmax = 18), data = data, p.tox0 = p.tox0, dose = dose, s.dose = dose, target.tox = target.tox, constrain = FALSE, s.dose = sdose, pointest = "mean")
```
```
print(Power.LN.bcrm)
plot(Power.LN.bcrm)
```

## Simulate 10 replicate trials of size 36 (cohort size 3) using this design
## with constraint (i.e. no dose-skipping) and starting at lowest dose
## True probabilities of toxicity are set to pre-specified probabilities (p.tox0)
```
Power.LN.bcrm.sim <- bcrm(stop = list(nmax = 36), p.tox0 = p.tox0, dose = dose, target.tox = target.tox, constrain = TRUE, s.dose = sdose, pointest = "median", start = 1, simulate = TRUE, nsims = 10, truep = p.tox0)
```
```
print(Power.LN.bcrm.sim)
plot(Power.LN.bcrm.sim)
```

## Comparing this CRM design with the standard 3+3 design
## (only considering the first 12 dose levels)
## Not run:
```
Power.LN.bcrm.compare.sim <- bcrm(stop = list(nmax = 36), p.tox0 = p.tox0[1:12], dose = dose[1:12], s.dose = sdose, target.tox = target.tox, constrain = TRUE, truep = p.tox0[1:12], thr3ep = TRUE)
```
```
print(Power.LN.bcrm.compare.sim, thr3ep = TRUE)
plot(Power.LN.bcrm.compare.sim, thr3ep = TRUE)
```

## End (Not run)

## Posterior mean used to choose the next dose
## Standardised doses using reference dose, 250mg
```
s.dose <- log(dose/250)
```
## Bivariate lognormal prior for two parameters
```
mu <- c(2.15, 0.52)
Sigma <- rbind(c(0.84^2, 0.134), c(0.134, 0.80^2))
```
## Using rjags (requires JAGS to be installed)
```
TwoPLogistic.mean.bcrm <- bcrm(stop = list(nmax = 18), data = data, s.dose = s.dose, dose = dose, s.dose = dfg, prior.alpha = list(4, mu, Sigma), target.tox = target.tox, constrain = FALSE, pointest = "mean", method = "rjags")
```
```
print(TwoPLogistic.mean.bcrm)
plot(TwoPLogistic.mean.bcrm)
```

## A 2-parameter model, using an EWOC design with feasibility bound (MTD quantile)
# of 0.25 to choose the next dose
# Using rjags (requires JAGS to be installed)
# Not run:
TwoPLogistic.EWOCC.25.bcrm<-bcrm(stop=list(nmax=18),data=data,sdose=sdose,dose=dose,ff="logit2",prior.alpha=list(4,mu,Sigma),target.tox=target.tox,constrain=FALSE,pointest=0.25,method="rjags")
print(TwoPLogistic.EWOCC.25.bcrm)
plot(TwoPLogistic.EWOCC.25.bcrm)

# End(Not run)

# A 2-parameter model, using a loss function based on intervals of toxicity to choose
# the next dose
# Using rjags (requires JAGS to be installed)
# Not run:
# Toxicity cut-points
tox.cutpoints<-c(0.2,0.35,0.6)
# Losses associated with toxicity intervals
# [0,0.2]=1, (0.2,0.35]=0, (0.35,0.6]=1, (0.6,1]=2
loss<-c(1,0,1,2)
TwoPLogistic.tox.intervals.bcrm<-bcrm(stop=list(nmax=18),data=data,sdose=sdose,dose=dose,ff="logit2",prior.alpha=list(4,mu,Sigma),target.tox=target.tox,constrain=FALSE,tox.cutpoints=tox.cutpoints,loss=loss,method="rjags")
print(TwoPLogistic.tox.intervals.bcrm)
plot(TwoPLogistic.tox.intervals.bcrm)

# Greater loss associated with overdosing and unacceptable toxicity
# [0,0.2]=1, (0.2,0.35]=0, (0.35,0.6]=2, (0.6,1]=4
loss2<-c(1,0,2,4)
TwoPLogistic.tox.intervals.2.bcrm<-bcrm(stop=list(nmax=18),data=data,sdose=sdose,dose=dose,ff="logit2",prior.alpha=list(4,mu,Sigma),target.tox=target.tox,constrain=FALSE,tox.cutpoints=tox.cutpoints,loss=loss2,method="rjags")
print(TwoPLogistic.tox.intervals.2.bcrm)
plot(TwoPLogistic.tox.intervals.2.bcrm)

# End(Not run)

---

**find.x**

*Obtain samples from the maximum tolerated dose (MTD) distribution.*

**Description**

Given a posterior (or prior) sample of the parameters, this function inverts the given functional form to obtain samples from the MTD distribution.

**Usage**

```
find.x(ff, ptox, alpha)
```
Arguments

ff  A string indicating the functional form of the dose-response curve. Options are
    1-parameter hyperbolic tangent
    1-parameter logistic
    1-parameter power
    2-parameter logistic

tox  The required probability of DLT. For example, if the MTD distribution is sought
     then set tox to the target toxicity level.

alpha  A sample from the posterior (or prior) distribution of the parameter(s).

Details

Given a posterior (or prior) sample of the parameters, this function inverts the given functional form
to obtain samples from the MTD distribution or any other targeted quantile.

Author(s)

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code originally developed by J. Jack Lee and Nan Chen, Department of Biostatistics,
the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center

References

Sweeting M., Mander A., Sabin T. bcrm: Bayesian Continual Reassessment Method Designs
jstatsoft.org/article/view/v05i13

See Also

bcrm, getprior, Posterior.exact, Posterior.BRugs, Posterior.R2WinBUGS

Examples

```r
## Dose-escalation cancer trial example as described in Neuenschwander et al 2008.
## Pre-defined doses
dose<-c(1,2,5,10,15,20,25,30,40,50,75,100,150,200,250)
## Pre-specified probabilities of toxicity
p.tox<-c(0.010,0.015,0.020,0.025,0.030,0.040,0.050,0.100,0.150,0.200,0.250)
## Data from the first 5 cohorts of 18 patients
tox<-c(0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0)
notox<-c(3,4,5,4,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0)
## Target toxicity level
target.tox<-0.30

## Prior distribution for the MTD given a lognormal(0,1.34^2) distribution for alpha
## and a power model functional form
prior.alpha<-list(3,0,1.34^2)
```
getprior

```
ff<"power"
samples.alpha<-getprior(prior.alpha,2000)
mtd<-find.x(ff,target.tox,alpha=samples.alpha)
hist(mtd)

## Standardised doses
sdose<-find.x(ff,p.tox0,alpha=1)

## Posterior distribution of the MTD (on standardised dose scale) using data
## from the cancer trial described in Neuenschwander et al 2008.
## Using rjags
posterior.samples<-Posterior.rjags(tox,notox,sdose,ff,prior.alpha
       ,burnin.itr=2000,production.itr=2000)
posterior.mtd<-find.x(ff,target.tox,alpha=posterior.samples)
hist(posterior.mtd)
```

**getprior**  
Samples from the specified prior distribution.

**Description**

A sample of specified size is obtained from the prior distribution.

**Usage**

```
getprior(prior.alpha, n)
```

**Arguments**

- `prior.alpha`: A list of length 3 containing the distributional information for the prior. The first element is a number from 1-4 specifying the type of distribution. Options are
  1. Gamma(a,b), where a=shape, b=scale: mean=a*b, variance=a*b*b
  2. Uniform(a,b), where a=min, b=max
  3. Lognormal(a,b), where a=mean on the log scale, b=variance on the log scale
  4. Bivariate Lognormal(a,b), where a=mean vector on the log scale, b=Variance-covariance matrix on the log scale. This prior should be used only in conjunction with a two-parameter logistic model.

  The second and third elements of the list are the parameters a and b, respectively.

- `n`: The number of samples.

**Details**

A vector of size n is returned from the specified prior distribution.
Author(s)

Michael Sweeting <mjs212@medschl.cam.ac.uk> (University of Cambridge, UK), drawing on code originally developed by J. Jack Lee and Nan Chen, Department of Biostatistics, the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center

References


See Also

`bcrm`, `find.x`

Examples

```r
prior.alpha <- list(1,1,1)
samples.alpha <- getprior(prior.alpha, 2000)
hist(samples.alpha)
```

Description

The estimated dose-toxicity curve using the Bayesian continuous reassessment method is plotted for the patients thus far recruited into the trial

Usage

```r
## S3 method for class 'bcrm'
plot(x, file = NULL, each = FALSE, trajectory = FALSE, ...)  
```

Arguments

- `x` An object of class "bcrm", as returned by `bcrm`
- `each` Should posterior summaries be plotted after each recruited cohort? Defaults to FALSE.
- `trajectory` Should the sequential dose trajectory of the recruited patients be plotted, along with the observed toxicities? Defaults to FALSE.
- `file` File name where the dose-response plots are stored, in a pdf format. The program will amend the current sample size to the end of the file name.
- `...` Further arguments passed to or from other methods
Details

The estimated 2.5%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 97.5% quantiles of the probability of toxicity are plotted for each dose. Additionally, a histogram of the number of toxicities and non-toxicities is plotted at each experimented dose.

If trajectory = TRUE then the sequential dose trajectory and observed toxicities are plotted.

Author(s)

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References


See Also

bcrm

plot.bcrm.sim

Plot the operating characteristics from the simulated trials

Description

Plots of the operating characteristics obtained from a CRM simulation.

Usage

```r
## S3 method for class 'bcrm.sim'
plot(x, trajectories = FALSE, file = NULL, threep3 = FALSE, ...)
```

Arguments

- `x` An object of class "bcrm.sim", as returned by `bcrm` when conducting a simulation.
- `trajectories` Should a summary plot of the trajectories of administered dose levels be plotted? Defaults to FALSE.
- `file` File name where the operating characteristic plot is stored, in a pdf format.
- `threep3` Should operating characteristics of a standard 3+3 rule-based design be plotted alongside the bcrm design? Defaults to FALSE.
- `...` Further arguments passed to or from other methods
plot.threep3

Details
This function plots the sample size distribution (if variable), the experimentation distribution, the recommended dose distribution and the percentage of subjects who experience the toxicity outcome (dose-limiting toxicity). If trajectories = TRUE then summary statistics of administered dose levels for each patient are plotted instead. If threep3 = TRUE then the operating characteristics of the standard 3+3 design are plotted alongside those of the bcrm design (see threep3 for more details).

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References

See Also
print.bcrm.sim, bcrm, threep3

Description
Plots of the operating characteristics obtained from a standard 3+3 trial, using threep3

Usage
## S3 method for class 'threep3'
plot(x, file = NULL, ...)

Arguments
x An object of class "threep3", as returned by threep3.
file File name where the operating characteristic plot is stored, in a pdf format.
... Further arguments passed to or from other methods

Details
This function plots the sample size distribution, the experimentation distribution, the recommended dose distribution and the percentage of subjects who experience the toxicity outcome (dose-limiting toxicity) for the standard 3+3 trial.
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References


See Also

threep3

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**Posterior**

*Calculate posterior distribution of CRM model parameter(s)*

**Description**

Given the prior, functional form of the dose-toxicity model, and data, this function returns the posterior distribution (via either MCMC samples, or posterior summaries) of the CRM model parameter(s).

**Usage**

```r
Posterior.exact(tox, notox, sdose, ff, prior, alpha)
Posterior.rjags(tox, notox, sdose, ff, prior, alpha, burnin.itr, production.itr)
Posterior.BRugs(tox, notox, sdose, ff, prior, alpha, burnin.itr, production.itr)
Posterior.R2WinBUGS(tox, notox, sdose, ff, prior, alpha, burnin.itr, production.itr, bugs.directory)
```

**Arguments**

- `tox`: A vector of length k listing the number of patients who have experienced the outcome (toxicity) at each dose level 1,...,k. If missing, then it is assumed that no data have thus far been collected.
- `notox`: A vector of length k listing the number of patients who have not experienced the outcome (toxicity) at each dose level 1,...,k. If missing, then it is assumed that no data have thus far been collected.
- `sdose`: A vector of length k listing the standardised doses used in the CRM model.
- `ff`: A string indicating the functional form of the dose-response curve. Options are:
  - `ht` 1-parameter hyperbolic tangent
  - `logit1` 1-parameter logistic
  - `power` 1-parameter power
  - `logit2` 2-parameter logistic
prior.alpha  A list of length 3 containing the distributional information for the prior. The first
   element is a number from 1-4 specifying the type of distribution. Options are
   1. Gamma(a,b), where a=shape, b=scale: mean=a*b, variance=a*b*b
   2. Uniform(a,b), where a=min, b=max
   3. Lognormal(a,b), where a=mean on the log scale, b=standard deviation on
      the log scale
   4. Bivariate Lognormal(a,b), where a=mean vector on the log scale, b=Variance-
      covariance matrix on the log scale. This prior should be used only in con-
      junction with a two-parameter logistic model.
   The second and third elements of the list are the parameters a and b, respectively.

burnin.itr  Number of burn-in iterations (default 2000).
production.itr  Number of production iterations (default 2000).
bugs.directory  Directory that contains the WinBUGS executable if
   method="R2WinBUGS". Default is "C:/Program Files/WinBUGS14/".

Details

Posterior.exact produces posterior summary statistics of the CRM model parameter(s), and
probabilities of toxicity at the dose levels using exact Bayesian computation (integration) of the
posterior distribution. If Posterior.BRugs or Posterior.R2WinBUGS is specified, then posterior
samples of the CRM model parameter(s) is returned by the function.

Author(s)

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References

Sweeting M., Mander A., Sabin T. bcrm: Bayesian Continual Reassessment Method Designs
jstatsoft.org/article/view/v05i13

See Also

bcrm

Examples

## Dose-escalation cancer trial example as described in Neuenschwander et al 2008.
## Pre-defined doses
dose<-c(1,2.5,5,10,15,20,25,30,40,50,75,100,150,200,250)
## Pre-specified probabilities of toxicity
## [dose levels 11-15 not specified in the paper, and are for illustration only]
p.tox0<-c(0.010,0.015,0.020,0.025,0.030,0.040,0.050,0.100,0.170,0.300,0.400,0.500,0.650
   ,0.800,0.900)
## Data from the first 5 cohorts of 18 patients
tox<-c(0,0,0,0,2,0,0,0,0,0,0,0)
notox<-c(3,4,5,4,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0)
## Target toxicity level

```r
target.tox <- 0.30
```

## Lognormal prior

```r
prior.alpha <- list(3, 0, 1.34^2)
```

## Power functional form

```r
ff <- "power"
```

## Standardised doses

```r
sdose <- find.x(ff, p.tox = 0, alpha = 1)
```

## Posterior distribution of the model parameter using exact computation

```r
post.exact <- Posterior.exact(tox, notox, sdose, ff, prior.alpha)
p = print(post.exact)
```

## Posterior distribution of the model parameter using rjags

```r
post.rjags <- Posterior.rjags(tox, notox, sdose, ff, prior.alpha
  , burnin.itr = 2000, production.itr = 2000)
p = print(mean(post.rjags))
hist(post.rjags)
```

## Posterior distribution of the model parameter using BRugs (Windows and i386 Linux only)

```r
if(Sys.info()$sysname %in% c("Windows", "Linux")){
  post.BRugs <- Posterior.BRugs(tox, notox, sdose, ff, prior.alpha
    , burnin.itr = 2000, production.itr = 2000)
p = print(mean(post.BRugs))
hist(post.BRugs)
}
```

---

### print.bcrm

*Print information regarding a trial conducted using the Bayesian continuous reassessment method*

#### Description

Print method for a trial or series of trials conducted using a `bcrm` model.

#### Usage

```r
## S3 method for class 'bcrm'
print(x, ...)
## S3 method for class 'bcrm.sim'
print(x, tox.cutpoints = NULL, trajectories = FALSE, threep3 = FALSE, ...)
```

#### Arguments

- `x` An object of class "bcrm" or "bcrm.sim" as returned by `bcrm`
- `tox.cutpoints` An optional argument passed to `print.bcrm.sim` specifying the cutpoints of toxicity for which the operating characteristics are to be categorised. Defaults to `seq(from=0, to=1, by=0.2)`
print.bcrm

trajectories Should the individual simulation dose and outcome trajectories be returned? Defaults to FALSE.

threep3 Should operating characteristics of a standard 3+3 rule-based design be displayed alongside those from the bcrm design? Defaults to FALSE.

... Further arguments passed to or from other methods

Details
If a single trial is conducted, then the print function currently produces summary information about the design used, the data observed, current posterior estimates of toxicity, and the next recommended dose level. If a simulation study is conducted, then the following operating characteristics are printed:

Experimentation proportion Proportion of patients recruited to each dose, and to each true region of toxicity, across the simulated trials

Recommendation proportion Proportion of trials that recommend each of the dose levels as the final maximum tolerated dose (i.e. with toxicity "closest" to the target toxicity level), and the associated regions of true toxicity for the recommended MTDs

If trajectories = TRUE then the dose level administered and outcome observed are returned as matrices for every patient (column) in every simulation (row). If threep3 = TRUE then the operating characteristics of the standard 3+3 design are displayed alongside those of the bcrm design (see threep3 for more details).

Value
The following two components are returned from print.bcrm.sim:

exp A matrix with number of rows equal to the number of doses, and number of columns equal to the number of simulations. Gives the experimentation proportions for each dose within each simulation.

rec A vector with length equal to the number of simulations, giving the recommended MTD for each simulation.

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References

See Also
bcrm, threep3
print.threep3  

| print.threep3 | Print information regarding the operating characteristics of a standard 3+3 design |

### Description

Print method for a 3+3 design specified using a threep3.

### Usage

```r
## S3 method for class 'threep3'
print(x, tox.cutpoints = NULL, dose = NULL, ...)
```

### Arguments

- **x**: An object of class "threep3" as returned by threep3
- **tox.cutpoints**: An optional argument passed to print.threep3 specifying the cutpoints of toxicity for which the operating characteristics are to be categorised. Defaults to `seq(from=0, to=1, by=0.2)`
- **dose**: Optional vector of length `k` of actual doses for presentation purposes
- **...**: Further arguments passed to or from other methods

### Details

The following operating characteristics are printed for the standard 3+3 design:

- **Sample size**: Mean, minimum and maximum sample size of the design
- **Experimentation proportion**: Proportion of patients recruited to each dose, and to each true region of toxicity, on average
- **Recommendation proportion**: Proportion of 3+3 trials that would recommend each of the dose levels as the final maximum tolerated dose (see threep3 for definition of the MTD), and the associated regions of true toxicity for the recommended MTDs
- **Average number of patients**: The average number of patients dosed at each level
- **Average number of DLTs**: The average number of DLTs seen at each level

### Author(s)

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### References

threep3

See Also

threep3

threep3  Calculate all possible trial pathways for the standard 3+3 design, together with their probability of occurring

Description

All possible pathways of a standard 3+3 design are calculated and assigned a probability of occurring. This facilitates the calculation of operating characteristics, using print.threep3 and plot.threep3.

Usage

threep3(truep, start = 1, dose = NULL)

Arguments

truep  A vector of length k (the number of doses being considered in the trial), with values equal to the true probabilities of toxicity at the dose levels.

start  Starting dose level. Defaults to 1, i.e. the lowest dose level

dose  Optional vector of length k of actual doses for presentation purposes

Details

The dose-escalation schema used here relates to that defined by Chang et al. (2006), which incorporates dose de-escalation also. Variations of this design exist in the literature (see Storer 1989, Reiner et al. 1999).

The first cohort of three patients are administered the starting dose (usually the lowest dose). The trial then proceeds as follows:

- If none of the three patients experience a DLT, then dose the next three patients at the next highest dose level;
- If one of the three patients last treated experiences a DLT, then dose the next three patients at the current dose level;
- If at least two patients in the first dose level experience a DLT the trial is stopped for safety and no dose is recommended;

Escalation / de-escalation rules to the next dose level for subsequent cohorts proceed as follows:

- Escalate: If 0/3 or at most 1/6 DLTs are observed in the current cohort AND the next highest dose has not yet been tested;
- Stay at current dose level: If 1/3 DLTs have been observed at this level. Dose a further three patients at the same level;
• De-Escalate: If at least two out of three to six patients experience DLTs at the current dose level AND fewer than six patients have been dosed at the next lowest level

If none of the rules above are satisfied then the trial stops. If the current dose level has at most one DLT observed then this is claimed to be the MTD, otherwise the dose level below is deemed to be the MTD.

If dose-escalation extends to doses outside of that defined by dose, the MTD is determined to be the largest dose in dose.

Value

threep3 returns an object of class "threep3". The function print (i.e. print.threep3) can be used to obtain operating characteristics of the design used.

An object of class "threep3" is a list with the following components:

prob A vector with the probabilities of each design occurring. As all possible designs are calculated, this vector sums to one
ssize A vector with the sample size of each design
mtd A vector of dose levels giving the recommended maximum tolerated dose (MTD) at the end of the trial
exp A vector of length k giving the average trial experimentation proportions at each dose level
dltno A vector with the number of toxicities (DLTs) that occur in each trial
truep The true probabilities of toxicity at each dose level, specified by the user
dose The actual doses as supplied in the function arguments
n.average The average number of patients dosed at each level
dltn.average The average number of DLTs experienced at each dose level
all.designs A matrix containing all possible 3+3 designs, with each row representing a different design. Columns labelled "d k" and "tox k" represent the dose level and number of toxicities for the kth cohort, respectively.

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References


See Also

threep3

Examples

```r
## What are the operating characteristics of a standard 3x3 design if we consider only the first
## 12 doses of the dose-escalation cancer trial example as described in Neuenschwander et al 2008.
## Pre-defined doses
dose<-c(1,2,5,5,10,15,20,25,30,40,50,75,100)
## Pre-specified probabilities of toxicity
p.tox0<-c(0.010,0.015,0.020,0.025,0.030,0.040,0.050,0.100,0.170,0.300,0.400,0.500)

## Not run:
design.threep3<-threep3(true=p.tox0,start=1,dose=dose)
pred(design.threep3)
plot(design.threep3)

## End(Not run)
```
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