

# Package ‘iMediate’

March 26, 2019

**Type** Package

**Title** Likelihood Methods for Mediation Analysis

**Version** 0.5.5

**Date** 2019-03-25

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**Depends**

**Suggests** mediation

**Imports** stats, mvtnorm, plotly, MBESS

**Description** Implements likelihood based methods for mediation analysis.

**License** GPL (>= 2)

**LazyLoad** yes

**Encoding** UTF-8

**NeedsCompilation** no

**RoxygenNote** 6.1.1

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2019-03-26 07:10:03 UTC

## R topics documented:

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iMediate-package

*Likelihood Methods for Statistical Mediation Analysis*

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## Description

iMediate is a collection of methods developed by our group for mediation analysis. It contains methods built upon likelihoods. Use `?iMediate` to see an introduction.

## Details

Package: iMediate  
Type: Package  
Version: 0.5  
Date: 2018-08-29  
License: GPL (>=2)  
LazyLoad: yes

## Author(s)

Kai Wang <kai-wang@uiowa.edu>

## References

- Wang, K. (2018) Understanding power anomalies in mediation analysis. *Psychometrika* 83 (2), 387-406.
- Wang, K. (2019) Maximum likelihood analysis of mediation models with treatment-mediator interaction. Revision submitted.
- Wang, K. (2019) Likelihood-based analysis of the statistical effects of a treatment on an outcome. To be submitted.
- Berger, R.L. (1997) Likelihood ratio tests and intersection-union tests. *Advances in statistical decision theory and applications*. Birkh"auser Boston, 225-237.

## Examples

```
data("jobs", package = "mediation")

fit.M <- lm(job_seek ~ treat + econ_hard + sex + age, data=jobs)
fit.Y <- lm(depress2 ~ treat * job_seek + econ_hard + sex + age, data=jobs)
mdn(fit.M, fit.Y, "treat")
```

---

figure.joint.prob      *Contour Plot of Joint Probabilities related to Mediated Effect*

---

### Description

Contour plot of joint probability of mediated effect and total effect in the absence of direct effect and joint probability of mediated effect and direct effect assuming  $ab = c'$

### Usage

```
figure.joint.prob(prob = "mediated.main", n = 100, sig.level = 0.05,  
  grid.size = 0.01)
```

### Arguments

prob	a character string specifying the probability to be plotted. One of "mediated.main" (default) and "mediated.direct". "mediated.main" requests the probability of the mediated effect and the main effect assuming there is no direct effect ( $c' = 0$ ). "mediated.direct" requests the probability of the mediated effect and the direct effect assuming $ab = c'$
n	sample size
sig.level	significance level used for the test of the mediated effect
grid.size	grid size for $a^2$ and $b^2$

### Details

Basic three-factor mediation model is assumed. Coefficients are standardized such that the variances of treatment, mediator, and outcome are equal to 1. Note that the y-axis is  $a^2$  and the x-axis is  $b^2$ . The default axes labels from R function `plot_ly` are switched in order to make them correct.

### Value

A plot generated using package `plotly`

### Author(s)

Kai Wang <kai-wang@uiowa.edu>

### References

Wang, K. (2018) Understanding power anomalies in mediation analysis. *Psychometrika* 83 (2), 387-406.

### Examples

```
## figure.joint.prob()                    # Figure 4 of Wang (2018)  
## figure.joint.prob(prob="mediated.direct")    # Figure 5 of Wang (2018)
```

---

figure.relative.power *Contour Plot of Relative Power: Mediated Effect versus Total Effect, Mediated Effect versus Direct Effect*

---

### Description

Contour plot of relative power of mediated effect versus total effect in the absence of direct effect and relative power of mediated effect versus direct effect when  $ab = c'$ .

### Usage

```
figure.relative.power(comparison = "mediated2main", n = 100,
  sig.level = 0.05, grid.size = 0.01)
```

### Arguments

comparison	a character string specifying the relative power to be plotted. One of "mediated2main" (default) and "mediated2direct". "mediated2main" requests the log of power ratio for the mediated effect versus the main effect assuming there is no direct effect ( $c' = 0$ ). "mediated2direct" requests the log of power ratio for the mediated effect versus the direct effect assuming $ab = c'$
n	sample size
sig.level	significance level used for the test of the mediated effect
grid.size	grid size for $a^2$ and $b^2$

### Details

Basic three-factor mediation model is assumed. Coefficients are standardized such that the variances of treatment, mediator, and outcome are equal to 1. Note that the y-axis is  $a^2$  and the x-axis is  $b^2$ . The default axes labels from R function `plot_ly` are switched in order to make them correct.

### Value

A plot generated using package `plotly`

### Author(s)

Kai Wang <kai-wang@uiowa.edu>

### References

Wang, K. (2018) Understanding power anomalies in mediation analysis. *Psychometrika* 83 (2), 387-406.

**Examples**

```
## figure.relative.power()           # Figure 2 of Wang (2018)
## figure.relative.power(comparison="mediated2direct") # Figure 3 of Wang (2018)
```

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fimle.lnl	<i>Full Information Maximum Likelihood Estimates in Linear M-model and Linear Y-model</i>
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**Description**

Parameter estimates in system of correlated linear M-model and linear Y-model with treatment-mediator interaction using the full information maximum likelihood method.

**Usage**

```
fimle.lnl(fit.M, fit.Y, treatment, rho = 0, t0 = 0, t1 = 1, m = 1)
```

**Arguments**

fit.M	a fitted model object for mediator. It must be an object generated by function “lm”
fit.Y	a fitted model object for outcome. It must be an object generated by function “lm”. It can contain treatment-mediator interaction
treatment	a character string of the name of the treatment variable. This variable takes numerical values
rho	a numerical variable specifying the correlation coefficient between the residual of the M-model and the residual of the Y-model. Its range is between -1 and 1
t0	a reference value for the treatment
t1	another value for the treatment
m	a value specifying the level of the mediator. Used for CDE computation between the residual of the M-model and the residual of the Y-model. Its range is between -1 and 1

**Details**

P-values are computed from normal distribution.

**Value**

A list containing the following components:

M.model	a data frame containing the results for the M-model
Y.model	a data frame containing the results for the Y-model
Effects	a data frame containing estimated ACME, ADE, Total Effect, and CDE for treatment values t1 and t0
Variance	a matrix of variances and covariances of the parameters estimates

**Author(s)**

Kai Wang <kai-wang@uiowa.edu>

**References**

Wang, K. (2019) Maximum likelihood analysis of mediation models with treatment-mediator interaction. Revision submitted.

**Examples**

```
data("jobs", package = "mediation")

fit.M <- lm(job_seek ~ treat + econ_hard + sex + age, data=jobs)
fit.Y <- lm(depress2 ~ treat + job_seek + econ_hard + sex + age, data=jobs)
fimle.lnl(fit.M, fit.Y, "treat", rho=0.2)

fit.M <- lm(job_seek ~ treat + econ_hard + sex + age , data=jobs)
fit.Y <- lm(depress2 ~ treat*job_seek+ econ_hard + sex + age , data=jobs)
fimle.lnl(fit.M, fit.Y, "treat", rho=0.5)
```

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 mdn

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*Mediation Analysis via Likelihood*


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**Description**

mdn conducts mediation analysis in terms of likelihood.

**Usage**

```
mdn(fit.M, fit.Y, X, sig.level = 0.05, B = 0)
```

**Arguments**

fit.M	a fitted model object for mediator. It is an object from which the function logLik can extract the log-likelihood. Examples include those from “lm”, “glm”, etc.
fit.Y	a fitted model object for outcome. It can be of a class different from the model for the mediator
X	a character string of the name of the treatment variable.
sig.level	a numerical variable specifying the significance level for the test of the mediated effect.
B	an integer specifying the number of replicates used in the bootstrapping method for the confidence interval. Default value is 0 and bootstrapping is not conducted

## Details

Necessary log-likelihoods are extracted from the two fitted models. Various effects are then calculated. Significance of the mediated effect is known up to whether it is larger or smaller than `sig.level`. If it is larger, a 1 is reported; otherwise a 0 is reported. There is no p-value.

## Value

A list with class "mdn" containing the following components:

<code>result</code>	a data frame containing the results of the mediation analysis. There are five variables. They include estimates of various effects and lower and upper bounds of the bootstrap confidence interval at level <code>(1-sig.level)</code> followed by test statistics and their respective p-values.
<code>test</code>	a character string specifying the test statistic used for the mediated effect
<code>Test</code>	a numerical value of 0 or 1. If the specified test statistic is significant, its value is 1; otherwise its value is 0
<code>sig.level</code>	a numerical variable specifying the significance level for the test of the mediated effect.
<code>Sample.size</code>	number of subjects in the data
<code>B</code>	an integer specifying the number of replicates used for the bootstrapping

## Author(s)

Kai Wang <kai-wang@uiowa.edu>

## References

Berger, R.L. (1997) Likelihood ratio tests and intersection-union tests. *Advances in statistical decision theory and applications*. Birkhäuser Boston, 225-237.

Wang, K. (2019) Likelihood-based analysis of the statistical effects of a treatment on an outcome. Submitted.

## Examples

```
data("jobs", package = "mediation")

fit.M <- lm(job_seek ~ treat + econ_hard + sex + age, data=jobs)
fit.Y <- lm(depress2 ~ treat + job_seek + econ_hard + sex + age, data=jobs)
mdn(fit.M, fit.Y, "treat")
mdn(fit.M, fit.Y, "treat", B=100)
```

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 print.mdn

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*Print Method for Class "mdn"*


---

### Description

print.mdn is the print utility for the output from function mdn

### Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'mdn'
print(x, ...)
```

### Arguments

x	an output from function mdn
...	not used.

### Details

The p-value for the mediated effect is displayed as greater or smaller than sig.level. For instance, if it is not significant at level 0.05, then "> 0.05" is displayed.

### Author(s)

Kai Wang <kai-wang@uiowa.edu>

### Examples

```
data("jobs", package = "mediation")

fit.M <- lm(job_seek ~ treat + econ_hard + sex + age, data=jobs)
fit.Y <- lm(depress2 ~ treat + job_seek + econ_hard + sex + age, data=jobs)
mdn(fit.M, fit.Y, "treat")
```

---

 pwr.mdn

---

*Power and Sample Size for Mediation Analysis*


---

### Description

pwr.mdn Compute power of tests related to mediation analysis or sample size to achieve desired power.

### Usage

```
pwr.mdn(a, b, c.p, tau1, tau2, n = NULL, power = NULL, alpha = 0.05)
```



**Arguments**

a	specified value for coefficient $a$
b	specified value for coefficient $b$
c.p	specified value for coefficient $c'$
tau1	specified value of the ratio of residual variance of mediator $M$ to the variance of the treatment $X$
tau2	specified value of the ratio of residual variance of outcome $Y$ to the variance of the treatment $X$
n	the sample size available. Either "n" or "power" must be provided
power	a value specifying the desired power. Either "n" or "power" must be provided
alpha	specified significance level

**Details**

This model is for the basic three-factor model. If coefficients are standardized, then  $\tau_1 = 1 - a^2$  and  $\tau_2 = 1 - (c')^2 - b^2 - 2abc'$ .

**Value**

A  $2 \times 5$  matrix

**Author(s)**

Kai Wang <kai-wang@uiowa.edu>

**References**

Wang, K. (2018) Understanding power anomalies in mediation analysis. *Psychometrika* 83 (2), 387-406.

**Examples**

```
n = 100
X = rnorm(n)
s2X = mean((X-mean(X))^2)
a=0.3
b=0.3
c.p = a*b

pwr.mdn(a, b, c.p, 1/s2X, 1/s2X, alpha=0.05, power=0.8)
pwr.mdn(a, b, c.p, 1/s2X, 1/s2X, alpha=0.05, n=200)

## Using standardized coefficients
pwr.mdn(a, b, c.p, 1-a^2, 1-c.p^2-b^2-2*a*b*c.p, alpha=0.05, power=0.8)
pwr.mdn(a, b, c.p, 1-a^2, 1-c.p^2-b^2-2*a*b*c.p, alpha=0.05, n=200)
```

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S.test

*S test of Berger (1996)*

---

**Description**

S.test conducts the S test proposed in Berger (1996)

**Usage**

```
S.test(u1, u2, alpha)
```

**Arguments**

u1	a numerical value between 0 and 1.
u2	a numerical value between 0 and 1.
alpha	a numerical variable specifying the significance level for the test.

**Value**

If (u1, u2) falls in the rejection region of the S test, a 1 is returned; otherwise a 0 is returned.

**Author(s)**

Kai Wang <kai-wang@uiowa.edu>

**References**

Berger, R.L. (1997) Likelihood ratio tests and intersection-union tests. *Advances in statistical decision theory and applications*. Birkh"auser Boston, 225-237.

**Examples**

```
S.test(0.1, 0.4, 0.05)
```

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