

Package ‘shrinkem’

June 10, 2026

Type Package

Title Approximate Bayesian Regularization for Parsimonious Estimates

Date 2026-06-10

Version 0.3.0

Author Joris Mulder [aut, cre],
Diana Karimova [aut, ctb],
Sara van Erp [ctb],
Roger Leenders [ctb]

Maintainer Joris Mulder <j.mulder3@tilburguniversity.edu>

Description Approximate Bayesian regularization using Gaussian approximations. The input is a vector of estimates and a Gaussian error covariance matrix of the key parameters. Bayesian shrinkage is then applied to obtain parsimonious solutions. The method is described on Karimova, van Erp, Leenders, and Mulder (2025) <[DOI:10.1016/j.jmp.2025.102925](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmp.2025.102925)>. Gibbs samplers are used for model fitting. The shrinkage priors that are supported are Gaussian (ridge) priors, Laplace (lasso) priors (Park and Casella, 2008 <[DOI:10.1198/016214508000000337](https://doi.org/10.1198/016214508000000337)>), and horse-shoe priors (Carvalho, et al., 2010; <[DOI:10.1093/biomet/asq017](https://doi.org/10.1093/biomet/asq017)>). These priors include an option for grouped regularization of different subsets of parameters (Meier et al., 2008; <[DOI:10.1111/j.1467-9868.2007.00627.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9868.2007.00627.x)>). F priors are used for the penalty parameters λ^2 (Mulder and Pericchi, 2018 <[DOI:10.1214/17-BA1092](https://doi.org/10.1214/17-BA1092)>). This correspond to half-Cauchy priors on λ (Carvalho, Polson, Scott, 2010 <[DOI:10.1093/biomet/asq017](https://doi.org/10.1093/biomet/asq017)>).

License GPL (>= 3)

Encoding UTF-8

RoxygenNote 7.3.3

Imports Rcpp, stats, extraDistr, CholWishart, matrixcalc, logspline

LinkingTo Rcpp, RcppArmadillo

Suggests tinytest

NeedsCompilation yes

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2026-06-10 18:40:02 UTC

Contents

F	2
mvF	3
shrinkem	4
Index	7

F *The (scaled) F Distribution*

Description

Density and random generation for the F distribution with first degrees of freedom $df1$, second degrees of freedom $df2$, and scale parameter β .

Usage

```
dF(x, df1, df2, beta, log = FALSE)
```

```
rF(n, df1, df2, beta)
```

Arguments

x	vector of quantities.
df1	First degrees of freedom
df2	Second degrees of freedom
beta	Scale parameter
log	logical; if TRUE, density is given as $\log(p)$.
n	number of draws

Value

`dF` gives the probability density of the F distribution. `rF` gives random draws from the F distribution.

References

Mulder and Pericchi (2018). The Matrix-F Prior for Estimating and Testing Covariance Matrices. *Bayesian Analysis*, 13(4), 1193-1214. <<https://doi.org/10.1214/17-BA1092>>

Examples

```
draws_F <- rF(n=1e4, df1=2, df2=4, beta=1)
hist(draws_F, 500, xlim=c(0, 10), freq=FALSE)
seqx <- seq(0, 10, length=1e5)
lines(seqx, dF(seqx, df1=2, df2=4, beta=1), col=2, lwd=2)
```

Description

Density and random generation for the matrix variate F distribution with first degrees of freedom df1, second degrees of freedom df2, and scale matrix B.

Usage

```
dmvF(x, df1, df2, B, log = FALSE)
```

```
rmvF(n, df1, df2, B)
```

Arguments

x	Positive definite matrix of quantities.
df1	First degrees of freedom
df2	Second degrees of freedom
B	Positive definite scale matrix
log	logical; if TRUE, density is given as log(p).
n	Number of draws

Value

dmvF returns the probability density of the matrix F distribution. rmvF returns a numeric array, say R, of dimension $p \times p \times n$, where each element $R[, , i]$ is a positive definite matrix, a realization of the matrix F distribution.

References

Mulder and Pericchi (2018). The Matrix-F Prior for Estimating and Testing Covariance Matrices. Bayesian Analysis, 13(4), 1193-1214. <<https://doi.org/10.1214/17-BA1092>>

Examples

```
set.seed(20180222)
draws_F <- rmvF(n=1, df1=2, df2=4, B=diag(2))
dmvF(draws_F[, , 1], df1=2, df2=4, B=diag(2))
```

shrinkem

*Fast Bayesian regularization using Gaussian approximations***Description**

The shrinkem function can be used for regularizing a vector of estimates using Bayesian shrinkage methods where the uncertainty of the estimates are assumed to follow a Gaussian distribution.

Usage

```
shrinkem(
  x,
  Sigma,
  type,
  group,
  iterations,
  burnin,
  store,
  cred.level,
  df1,
  df2,
  scale2,
  lambda2.fixed,
  lambda2,
  nugget,
  ...
)
```

Arguments

x	A vector of estimates.
Sigma	A covariance matrix capturing the uncertainty of the estimates (e.g., error covariance matrix).
type	A character string which specifies the type of regularization method is used. Currently, the types "ridge", "lasso", and "horseshoe", are supported.
group	A vector of integers denoting the group membership of the estimates, where each group receives a different global shrinkage parameter which is adapted to the observed data.
iterations	Number of posterior draws after burnin. Default = 5e4.
burnin	Number of posterior draws in burnin. Default = 1e3.
store	Store every store-th draw from posterior. Default = 1 (implying that every draw is stored).
cred.level	The significance level that is used to check whether a parameter is nonzero depending on whether 0 is contained in the credible interval. The default is cred.level = 0.95.

df1	First hyperparameter (degrees of freedom) of the prior for a shrinkage parameter λ^2 , which follows a $F(df1,df2,scale2)$ distribution. The default is $df1 = 1$. For $df1 = 1$, this corresponds to half-t distribution for λ with degrees of freedom $df2$ and scale parameter $\sqrt{scale2/df2}$.
df2	Second hyperparameter (degrees of freedom) of the prior for a shrinkage parameter λ^2 , which follows a $F(df1,df2,scale2)$ distribution. The default is $df2 = 1$.
scale2	Second hyperparameter (scale parameter) of the prior for a shrinkage parameter λ^2 , which follows a $F(df1,df2,scale2)$ distribution. The default is $scale2 = 1e3$.
lambda2.fixed	Logical indicating whether the penalty parameters(s) is/are fixed. Default is FALSE.
lambda2	Positive scalars of length equal to the number of groups in 'group'. The argument is only used if the argument 'lambda2.fixed' is 'TRUE'.
nugget	A small positive value close to 0 which is used to avoid numerically singular matrices. The default is $1e-8$.
...	Parameters passed to and from other functions.

Value

The output is an object of class `shrinkem`. The object has elements:

- `estimates`: A data frame with the input estimates, the shrunken posterior mean, median, and mode, the lower and upperbound of the credibility interval based on the shrunken posterior, and a logical which indicates if zero is contained in the credibility interval.
- `draws`: List containing the posterior draws of the effects (`beta`), the prior parameters (`tau2`, `gamma2`), and the penalty parameters (`psi2` and `lambda2`).
- `dim.est`: The dimension of the input estimates of `beta`.
- `input.est`: The input vector of the unshrunken estimates of `beta`.
- `call`: Input call.

References

Karimovo, van Erp, Leenders, and Mulder (2024). Honey, I Shrank the Irrelevant Effects! Simple and Fast Approximate Bayesian Regularization. <<https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/2g8qm>>

Examples

```
# EXAMPLE
estimates <- -5:5
covmatrix <- diag(11)
# Bayesian horseshoe where all beta's have the same global shrinkage
# (using default 'group' argument)
shrink1 <- shrinkem(estimates, covmatrix, type="horseshoe")
# posterior modes of middle three estimates are practically zero

# plot posterior densities
```

```
old.par.mfrow <- par(mfrow = c(1,1))
old.par.mar <- par(mar = c(0, 0, 0, 0))
par(mfrow = c(11,1))
par(mar = c(1,2,1,2))
for(p in 1:ncol(shrink1$draws$beta)){plot(density(shrink1$draws$beta[,p]),
  xlim=c(-10,10),main=colnames(shrink1$draws$beta)[p])}
par(mfrow = old.par.mfrow)
par(mar = old.par.mar)

# Bayesian horseshoe where first three and last three beta's have different
# global shrinkage parameter than other beta's
shrink2 <- shrinkem(estimates, covmatrix, type="horseshoe",
  group=c(rep(1,3),rep(2,5),rep(1,3)))
# posterior modes of middle five estimates are virtually zero

# plot posterior densities
par(mfrow = c(11,1))
par(mar = c(1,2,1,2))
for(p in 1:ncol(shrink2$draws$beta)){plot(density(shrink2$draws$beta[,p]),xlim=c(-10,10),
  main=colnames(shrink2$draws$beta)[p])}
par(mfrow = old.par.mfrow)
par(mar = old.par.mar)
```

Index

dF (F), [2](#)
dmvF (mvF), [3](#)

F, [2](#)

mvF, [3](#)

rF (F), [2](#)
rmvF (mvF), [3](#)

shrinkem, [4](#)