

# Package ‘mixedBayes’

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**Type** Package

**Title** Bayesian Longitudinal Regularized Quantile Mixed Model

**Version** 0.2.4

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**Description** With high-dimensional omics features, repeated measure ANOVA leads to longitudinal gene-environment interaction studies that have intra-cluster correlations, outlying observations and structured sparsity arising from the ANOVA design. In this package, we have developed robust sparse Bayesian mixed effect models tailored for the above studies (Fan et al. (2025) <[doi:10.1093/jrsssc/qlaf027](https://doi.org/10.1093/jrsssc/qlaf027)>). An efficient Gibbs sampler has been developed to facilitate fast computation. The Markov chain Monte Carlo algorithms of the proposed and alternative methods are efficiently implemented in 'C++'. The development of this software package and the associated statistical methods have been partially supported by an Innovative Research Award from Johnson Cancer Research Center, Kansas State University.

**Depends** R (>= 4.2.0)

**License** GPL-2

**Encoding** UTF-8

**URL** <https://github.com/kunfa/mixedBayes>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/kunfa/mixedBayes/issues>

**Imports** Rcpp

**LinkingTo** Rcpp, RcppArmadillo

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mixedBayes-package	<i>Bayesian Longitudinal Regularized Quantile Mixed Model</i>
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### Description

In this package, we provide implementations of a set of high-dimensional robust Bayesian mixed-effect models to dissect longitudinal gene-environment interactions. The proposed method conducts robust Bayesian variable selection on both the main and interaction effects corresponding to individual and group levels (i.e. bi-level), respectively. Alternatively, selections only on individual levels by ignoring the group structure can also be performed. In addition, intra-cluster correlations among repeated measures are modeled via random intercept-and-slope and/or random intercept models. Imposing exact sparsity through spike-and-slab priors can be conducted on fixed effects with bi-level and/or individual level. In total, package mixedBayes provides implementations on  $2$  (robust and non-robust)  $\times 2$  (types of fixed effects)  $\times 2$  (types of random effects)  $\times 2$  (spike-and-slab or Laplacian priors) = 16 methods. Please read the details below for how to configure the method used.

### Details

The user friendly, integrated interface **mixedBayes()** allows users to flexibly choose the fitting methods by specifying the following parameter:

- slope: whether to use random intercept-and-slope model or random intercept model.
- robust: whether to use robust or non-robust methods.
- quant: to specify different quantile levels when using robust methods.
- structure: whether to specify bi-level or individual level.
- sparse: whether to use the spike-and-slab priors to impose sparsity.

The function **mixedBayes()** returns a **mixedBayes** object that contains the posterior estimates of each coefficients. S3 generic functions **selection()** and **print()** are implemented for **mixedBayes** objects. **selection()** takes a **mixedBayes** object and returns the variable selection results.

## References

- Fan, K., Jiang, Y., Ma, S., Wang, W. and Wu, C. (2025). Robust Sparse Bayesian Regression for Longitudinal Gene-Environment Interactions. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series C: Applied Statistics*, 74(5), 1372–1394 doi:10.1093/jrssc/qlaf027
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- Wu, C., Zhong, P.S. and Cui, Y. (2013). High dimensional variable selection for gene-environment interactions. *Technical Report. Michigan State University*.

## See Also

[mixedBayes](#)

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data

*simulated data for demonstrating the features of mixedBayes*

---

## Description

simulated data for demonstrating the features of mixedBayes

## Format

The data object consists of seven components: y, e, X, g, k and coeff. coeff contains the true values of parameters (main and interaction effects) used for generating y.

## Details

### The data and model setting

Consider a longitudinal study on  $n$  subjects with  $k$  repeated measurement for each subject. Let  $Y_{ij}$  be the measurement for the  $i$ th subject at each time point  $j$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq j \leq k$ ). We use the  $m$ -dimensional vector  $\mathbf{G}_{ij}$  to denote measurements of genetic factors for the  $i$ th subject at time point  $j$ , where  $\mathbf{G}_{ij} = (G_{ij1}, \dots, G_{ijm})^\top$ . Also, we use  $p$ -dimensional vector  $\mathbf{E}_{ij}$  to denote the environment/treatment factors, where  $\mathbf{E}_{ij} = (E_{ij1}, \dots, E_{ijp})^\top$ .  $\mathbf{X}_{ij} = (1, \mathbf{T}_{ij}^\top)^\top$ , where  $\mathbf{T}_{ij}$  is a vector of time effects.  $\mathbf{Z}_{ij}$  is a  $h \times 1$  covariate associated with random effects and  $\alpha_{i,\theta}$  is a  $h \times 1$  vector of random effects. In a typical one-way repeated measure ANOVA with a fixed number (say four) of factor levels, the environment (or treatment) factor is modeled as a group of three dummy variables. Therefore, gene-environment (or treatment) interaction leads to variable selections on individual levels (main effects) and group levels (interaction effects) simultaneously. Considering the genetics factors, environment (or treatment) factors and their interactions that are jointly associated with the longitudinal phenotype, we have the following mixed-effects model at a given quantile level  $\theta$ , ( $0 < \theta < 1$ ):

$$Y_{ij} = \mathbf{X}_{ij}^\top \gamma_{0,\theta} + \mathbf{E}_{ij}^\top \gamma_{1,\theta} + \mathbf{G}_{ij}^\top \gamma_{2,\theta} + (\mathbf{G}_{ij} \otimes \mathbf{E}_{ij})^\top \gamma_{3,\theta} + \mathbf{Z}_{ij}^\top \alpha_{i,\theta} + \epsilon_{ij,\theta}.$$

where  $\gamma_{1,\theta}, \gamma_{2,\theta}, \gamma_{3,\theta}$  are  $p, m$  and  $mp$  dimensional vectors that represent the coefficients of the environment effects, the genetic effects and interaction effects, respectively. In addition,  $\gamma_{0,\theta}$  is the coefficient vector for  $\mathbf{X}_{ij}$ . The gene-environment interactions that can be expressed as a Kronecker product between the two types of main effects as a  $mp$ -dimensional vector:

$$\mathbf{G}_{ij} \otimes \mathbf{E}_{ij} = [G_{ij1}E_{ij1}, G_{ij1}E_{ij2}, \dots, G_{ij1}E_{ijp}, G_{ij2}E_{ij1}, \dots, G_{ijm}E_{ijp}]^\top.$$

The above model also includes  $\mathbf{Z}_{ij}$  with random effects  $\alpha_{i,\theta}$  to account for intra-correlations among repeated measurements. The  $h \times 1$  vector  $\mathbf{Z}_{ij}$  corresponds to the random intercept-slope model and random intercept model under  $h = 2$  and  $1$ , respectively. The model error  $\epsilon_{ij,\theta}$ 's are independent with the  $\theta$ th quantile being zero.

Without loss of generality, we suppress the subscript  $\theta$  of the regression coefficient vectors for both fixed and random effects from now on for simplicity of notation.

In this example, we generate data under random intercept-and-slope model.

## See Also

[mixedBayes](#)

## Examples

```
data(data)
length(y)
dim(g)
dim(e)
```

```
print(k)
print(X)
print(coeff)
```

---

mixedBayes

*fit a Bayesian longitudinal regularized quantile mixed model*


---

## Description

fit a Bayesian longitudinal regularized quantile mixed model

## Usage

```
mixedBayes(
  y,
  e,
  X,
  g,
  k,
  iterations = 10000,
  burn.in = 5000,
  slope = TRUE,
  robust = TRUE,
  quant = 0.5,
  sparse = TRUE,
  structure = "bilevel"
)
```

## Arguments

y	a numeric vector of repeated-measure responses in long format. The current version only supports continuous response.
e	the long-format design matrix for environment/treatment effects. In applications, this is a group of dummy variables encoding treatment levels.
X	the long-format design matrix, including an intercept and optionally time-related covariates.
g	the long-format matrix of genetic predictors.
k	integer. Number of repeated measurements per subject.
iterations	the number of MCMC iterations. The default value is 10,000.
burn.in	the number of iterations for burn-in. If NULL, no burn-in is applied and all MCMC samples are retained. The default value is 5,000.
slope	logical flag. If TRUE, random intercept-and-slope model will be used. Otherwise, random intercept model will be used. The default value is TRUE.

robust	logical flag. If TRUE, robust methods will be used. Otherwise, non-robust methods will be used. The default value is TRUE.
quant	the quantile level specified by users. Required when robust = TRUE. Ignored (set to NULL) when robust = FALSE. The default value is 0.5.
sparse	logical flag. If TRUE, spike-and-slab priors will be adopted to impose exact sparsity on regression coefficients. Otherwise, Laplacian shrinkage will be adopted. The default value is TRUE.
structure	two choices are available. "bilevel" performs selection on both main effects and interaction effects corresponding to individual and group levels, whereas "individual" performs selections only on individual levels by ignoring the group structure.

## Details

### Data layout

Consider a longitudinal study with repeated measurements per subject. The response vector  $y$  and the design matrices  $X$ ,  $e$  and  $g$  must all be provided in long format and share the same row ordering. In practice, each row corresponds to one observation from a particular subject at a particular time point.

The interaction terms between genetic and environmental factors (G×E) are constructed internally within the function and therefore do not need to be provided by the user.

### Model

Consider the data model described in "data":

$$Y_{ij} = \mathbf{X}_{ij}^\top \boldsymbol{\gamma}_0 + \mathbf{E}_{ij}^\top \boldsymbol{\gamma}_1 + \mathbf{G}_{ij}^\top \boldsymbol{\gamma}_2 + (\mathbf{G}_{ij} \otimes \mathbf{E}_{ij})^\top \boldsymbol{\gamma}_3 + \mathbf{Z}_{ij}^\top \boldsymbol{\alpha}_i + \epsilon_{ij}.$$

Here  $\boldsymbol{\gamma}_0$  is the coefficient vector for  $\mathbf{X}_{ij}$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\gamma}_1$  is the coefficient vector for  $\mathbf{E}_{ij}$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\gamma}_2$  is the coefficient vector for the genetic variants, and  $\boldsymbol{\gamma}_3$  is the coefficient vector for the interactions of the genetic variants with environment factors.

where  $\boldsymbol{\gamma}_1 = (\gamma_{11}, \dots, \gamma_{1p})^\top$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\gamma}_2 = (\gamma_{21}, \dots, \gamma_{2m})^\top$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\gamma}_3 = (\gamma_{31}, \dots, \gamma_{3m})^\top$  where  $\gamma_{3l} = (\gamma_{3l1}, \dots, \gamma_{3lp})^\top$  for  $l = 1, \dots, m$ .

The subject-specific random effects  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_i$  capture within-subject correlation. For random intercept-and-slope model,  $\mathbf{Z}_{ij}^\top = (1, j)$  and  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_i = (\alpha_{i1}, \alpha_{i2})^\top$ . For random intercept model,  $Z_{ij} = 1$  and  $\alpha_i = \alpha_{i1}$ .

When 'structure=bilevel'(default), bi-level selection on main and interaction effects will be conducted corresponding to individual and group levels, respectively. When 'structure="individual"', selections only on individual levels by ignoring the group structure will be performed.

When 'slope=TRUE' (default), random intercept-and-slope model will be used as the mixed effects model. Otherwise, random intercept model will be used.

When 'sparse=TRUE' (default), spike-and-slab priors are imposed to identify important main and interaction effects. Otherwise, Laplacian shrinkage will be used.

When 'robust=TRUE' (default), the distribution of  $\epsilon_{ij}$  is defined as an asymmetric Laplace distribution with density.

$f(\epsilon_{ij}|\theta, \tau) = \theta(1 - \theta) \exp\{-\tau\rho_{\theta}(\epsilon_{ij})\}$ , ( $i = 1, \dots, n, j = 1, \dots, k$ ), which leads to a Bayesian formulation of quantile regression. Otherwise,  $\epsilon_{ij}$  follows a normal distribution.

Please check the references for more details about the prior distributions.

## Value

An object of class "mixedBayes" is returned, which is a list with components:

posterior	Posterior samples for fixed effects and random effects.
coefficient	Posterior median estimates of coefficients for fixed effects and random effects.
sparse	Logical value indicating whether spike-and-slab priors were used.
robust	Logical value indicating whether the robust (quantile regression) model was used.
slope	Logical value indicating whether a random intercept-and-slope model was used.
quant	Quantile level used when robust = TRUE; otherwise NULL.
structure	Character string specifying the selection structure ("bilevel" or "individual").
k	Number of repeated measurements per subject.
iterations	Total number of MCMC iterations.
burn.in	Number of burn-in iterations.

## See Also

[data](#)

## Examples

```
data(data)

## default method (robust sparse bi-level selection under random intercept-and-slope model)
fit = mixedBayes(y,e,X,g,k,structure="bilevel")
fit$coefficient

## Compute TP and FP
b = selection(fit,sparse=TRUE)
index = which(coeff!=0)
pos = which(b != 0)
tp = length(intersect(index, pos))
fp = length(pos) - tp
list(tp=tp, fp=fp)

## alternative: robust sparse individual level selections under random intercept-and-slope model
fit = mixedBayes(y,e,X,g,k,structure="individual")
fit$coefficient

## alternative: non-robust sparse bi-level selection under random intercept-and-slope model
fit = mixedBayes(y,e,X,g,k,robust=FALSE, quant = NULL, structure="bilevel")
fit$coefficient
```

```
## alternative: robust sparse bi-level selection under random intercept model
fit = mixedBayes(y,e,X,g,k,slope=FALSE, structure="bilevel")
fit$coefficient
```

---

predict\_mixedBayes      *Make predictions from a mixedBayes object*

---

### Description

Make predictions from a mixedBayes object

### Usage

```
predict_mixedBayes(object, y, X, e, g, k, slope, loss)
```

### Arguments

object	a mixedBayes object.
y	a numeric vector of repeated-measure responses in long format. The current version only supports continuous response.
X	the long-format design matrix, including an intercept and optionally time-related covariates.
e	the long-format design matrix for environment/treatment effects. In applications, this is a group of dummy variables encoding treatment levels.
g	the long-format matrix of genetic predictors.
k	integer. Number of repeated measurements per subject.
slope	logical flag. If TRUE, random intercept-and-slope model will be used.
loss	character string specifying the prediction loss function. "L1" for mean absolute error; "L2" for mean squared error.

### Value

an object of class 'mixedBayes.pred' is returned, which is a list with components:

pred_error	prediction error.
y_hat	predicted values of the repeated measured responses.

### See Also

[mixedBayes](#)

**Examples**

```

data(data)

fit <- mixedBayes(y, e, X, g, k, structure = "bilevel")
pred1 <- predict_mixedBayes(fit, y, X, e, g, k, slope = TRUE, loss = "L1")
print(pred1$pred_error)
fit <- mixedBayes(y, e, X, g, k, robust =FALSE, quant =NULL,structure = "bilevel")
pred2 <- predict_mixedBayes(fit, y, X, e, g, k, slope = TRUE, loss = "L2")
print(pred2$pred_error)

```

---

reformat	<i>This function changes the format of the longitudinal data from wide format to long format</i>
----------	--

---

**Description**

This function changes the format of the longitudinal data from wide format to long format

**Usage**

```
reformat(k, data, type="r")
```

**Arguments**

k	the number of repeated measurement.
data	either the response matrix or the predictor matrix.
type	"r" for response matrix, "d" for design matrix.

**Value**

the reformatted response vector or predictor matrix.

---

selection	<i>Variable selection for a mixedBayes object</i>
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---

**Description**

Variable selection for a mixedBayes object

**Usage**

```
selection(obj, sparse)
```

## Arguments

obj	mixedBayes object.
sparse	logical flag. If TRUE, spike-and-slab priors will be used to shrink coefficients of irrelevant covariates to zero exactly.

## Details

If sparse, the median probability model (MPM) (Barbieri and Berger, 2004) is used to identify predictors that are significantly associated with the response variable. Otherwise, variable selection is based on 95% credible interval. Please check the references for more details about the variable selection.

## Value

an object of class 'selection' is returned, which is a list with component:

index                    a vector of indicators of selected effects.

## References

Ren, J., Zhou, F., Li, X., Ma, S., Jiang, Y. and Wu, C. (2023). Robust Bayesian variable selection for gene-environment interactions. *Biometrics*,79(2),684-694 doi:10.1111/biom.13670

Barbieri, M.M. and Berger, J.O. (2004). Optimal predictive model selection. *Ann. Statist.*, 32(3):870–897

## See Also

[mixedBayes](#)

## Examples

```
data(data)
## sparse
fit = mixedBayes(y,e,X,g,k,structure="bilevel")
selected=selection(fit,sparse=TRUE)
selected

## non-sparse
fit = mixedBayes(y,e,X,g,k,sparse=FALSE,structure="bilevel")
selected=selection(fit,sparse=FALSE)
selected
```

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