

Package ‘loo’

December 19, 2019

Type Package

Title Efficient Leave-One-Out Cross-Validation and WAIC for Bayesian Models

Version 2.2.0

Date 2019-12-18

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URL <https://mc-stan.org/loo>, <https://discourse.mc-stan.org>

BugReports <https://github.com/stan-dev/loo/issues>

Description Efficient approximate leave-one-out cross-validation (LOO) for Bayesian models fit using Markov chain Monte Carlo, as described in Vehtari, Gelman, and Gabry (2017) <doi:10.1007/s11222-016-9696-4>.

The approximation uses Pareto smoothed importance sampling (PSIS), a new procedure for regularizing importance weights.

As a byproduct of the calculations, we also obtain approximate standard errors for estimated predictive errors and for the comparison of predictive errors between models. The package also provides methods for using stacking and other model weighting techniques to average Bayesian predictive distributions.

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LazyData TRUE

Depends R (>= 3.1.2)

Imports checkmate, matrixStats (>= 0.52), parallel, stats

Suggests bayesplot (>= 1.7.0), brms (>= 2.10.0), ggplot2, graphics, knitr, rmarkdown, rstan, rstanarm (>= 2.19.0), rstantools, spdep, testthat (>= 2.1.0)

VignetteBuilder knitr

Encoding UTF-8

SystemRequirements pandoc (>= 1.12.3), pandoc-citeproc

RoxygenNote 7.0.1

NeedsCompilation no

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Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2019-12-19 09:40:05 UTC

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Description

Stan Development Team

This package implements the methods described in Vehtari, Gelman, and Gabry (2017a, 2017b) and Yao et al. (2018). To get started see the **loo** package [vignettes](#), the `loo()` function for efficient approximate leave-one-out cross-validation (LOO-CV), the `psis()` function for the Pareto smoothed importance sampling (PSIS) algorithm, or `loo_model_weights()` for an implementation of Bayesian stacking of predictive distributions from multiple models.

Details

Leave-one-out cross-validation (LOO-CV) and the widely applicable information criterion (WAIC) are methods for estimating pointwise out-of-sample prediction accuracy from a fitted Bayesian model using the log-likelihood evaluated at the posterior simulations of the parameter values. LOO-CV and WAIC have various advantages over simpler estimates of predictive error such as AIC and DIC but are less used in practice because they involve additional computational steps. This package implements the fast and stable computations for approximate LOO-CV laid out in Vehtari, Gelman, and Gabry (2017a). From existing posterior simulation draws, we compute LOO-CV using Pareto smoothed importance sampling (PSIS; Vehtari, Gelman, and Gabry, 2017b), a new procedure for regularizing and diagnosing importance weights. As a byproduct of our calculations, we also obtain approximate standard errors for estimated predictive errors and for comparing of predictive errors between two models.

We recommend PSIS-LOO-CV instead of WAIC, because PSIS provides useful diagnostics and effective sample size and Monte Carlo standard error estimates.

References

- Vehtari, A., Gelman, A., and Gabry, J. (2017a). Practical Bayesian model evaluation using leave-one-out cross-validation and WAIC. *Statistics and Computing*, 27(5), 1413–1432. doi:10.1007/s11222-016-9696-4 ([journal version](#), [preprint arXiv:1507.04544](#)).
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ap_psis

Pareto smoothed importance sampling (PSIS) using approximate posteriors

Description

Pareto smoothed importance sampling (PSIS) using approximate posteriors

Usage

```
ap_psis(log_ratios, log_p, log_g, ...)

## S3 method for class 'array'
ap_psis(log_ratios, log_p, log_g, ..., cores = getOption("mc.cores", 1))

## S3 method for class 'matrix'
ap_psis(log_ratios, log_p, log_g, ..., cores = getOption("mc.cores", 1))

## Default S3 method:
ap_psis(log_ratios, log_p, log_g, ...)
```

Arguments

log_ratios	The log-likelihood ratios (ie -log_lik)
log_p	The log-posterior (target) evaluated at S samples from the proposal distribution (g). A vector of length S.
log_g	The log-density (proposal) evaluated at S samples from the proposal distribution (g). A vector of length S.
...	Currently not in use.
cores	The number of cores to use for parallelization. This defaults to the option mc.cores which can be set for an entire R session by options(mc.cores = NUMBER). The old option loo.cores is now deprecated but will be given precedence over mc.cores until loo.cores is removed in a future release. As of version 2.0.0 the default is now 1 core if mc.cores is not set , but we recommend using as many (or close to as many) cores as possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note for Windows 10 users: it is strongly recommended to avoid using the .Rprofile file to set mc.cores (using the cores argument or setting mc.cores interactively or in a script is fine).

Methods (by class)

- array: An I by C by N array, where I is the number of MCMC iterations per chain, C is the number of chains, and N is the number of data points.
- matrix: An S by N matrix, where S is the size of the posterior sample (with all chains merged) and N is the number of data points.
- default: A vector of length S (posterior sample size).

compare

Model comparison (deprecated, old version)

Description

This function will be deprecated in a future release. Please use the new [loo_compare\(\)](#) function instead.

Usage

```
compare(..., x = list())
```

Arguments

...	At least two objects returned by loo() (or waic()).
x	A list of at least two objects returned by loo() (or waic()). This argument can be used as an alternative to specifying the objects in ...

Details

When comparing two fitted models, we can estimate the difference in their expected predictive accuracy by the difference in `elpd_loo` or `elpd_waic` (or multiplied by `-2`, if desired, to be on the deviance scale).

When that difference, `elpd_diff`, is positive then the expected predictive accuracy for the second model is higher. A negative `elpd_diff` favors the first model.

When using `compare()` with more than two models, the values in the `elpd_diff` and `se_diff` columns of the returned matrix are computed by making pairwise comparisons between each model and the model with the best ELPD (i.e., the model in the first row). Although the `elpd_diff` column is equal to the difference in `elpd_loo`, do not expect the `se_diff` column to be equal to the the difference in `se_elpd_loo`.

To compute the standard error of the difference in ELPD we use a paired estimate to take advantage of the fact that the same set of N data points was used to fit both models. These calculations should be most useful when N is large, because then non-normality of the distribution is not such an issue when estimating the uncertainty in these sums. These standard errors, for all their flaws, should give a better sense of uncertainty than what is obtained using the current standard approach of comparing differences of deviances to a Chi-squared distribution, a practice derived for Gaussian linear models or asymptotically, and which only applies to nested models in any case.

Value

A vector or matrix with class `'compare.loo'` that has its own print method. If exactly two objects are provided in `...` or `x`, then the difference in expected predictive accuracy and the standard error of the difference are returned. If more than two objects are provided then a matrix of summary information is returned (see **Details**).

References

Vehtari, A., Gelman, A., and Gabry, J. (2017a). Practical Bayesian model evaluation using leave-one-out cross-validation and WAIC. *Statistics and Computing*. 27(5), 1413–1432. doi:10.1007/s11222-016-9696-4 ([journal version](#), [preprint arXiv:1507.04544](#)).

Vehtari, A., Gelman, A., and Gabry, J. (2017b). Pareto smoothed importance sampling. [preprint arXiv:1507.02646](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:
loo1 <- loo(log_lik1)
loo2 <- loo(log_lik2)
print(compare(loo1, loo2), digits = 3)
print(compare(x = list(loo1, loo2)))

waic1 <- waic(log_lik1)
waic2 <- waic(log_lik2)
compare(waic1, waic2)

## End(Not run)
```

example_loglik_array *Objects to use in examples and tests*

Description

Example pointwise log-likelihood objects to use in demonstrations and tests. See the **Value** and **Examples** sections below.

Usage

```
example_loglik_array()
example_loglik_matrix()
```

Value

example_loglik_array() returns a 500 (draws) x 2 (chains) x 32 (observations) pointwise log-likelihood array.

example_loglik_matrix() returns the same pointwise log-likelihood values as example_loglik_array() but reshaped into a 1000 (draws*chains) x 32 (observations) matrix.

Examples

```
LLarr <- example_loglik_array()
(dim_arr <- dim(LLarr))
LLmat <- example_loglik_matrix()
(dim_mat <- dim(LLmat))

all.equal(dim_mat[1], dim_arr[1] * dim_arr[2])
all.equal(dim_mat[2], dim_arr[3])

all.equal(LLarr[, 1, ], LLmat[1:500, ])
all.equal(LLarr[, 2, ], LLmat[501:1000, ])
```

extract_log_lik *Extract pointwise log-likelihood from a Stan model*

Description

Convenience function for extracting the pointwise log-likelihood matrix or array from a fitted Stan model.

Usage

```
extract_log_lik(stanfit, parameter_name = "log_lik", merge_chains = TRUE)
```

Arguments

stanfit	A stanfit object (rstan package).
parameter_name	A character string naming the parameter (or generated quantity) in the Stan model corresponding to the log-likelihood.
merge_chains	If TRUE (the default), all Markov chains are merged together (i.e., stacked) and a matrix is returned. If FALSE they are kept separate and an array is returned.

Details

Stan does not automatically compute and store the log-likelihood. It is up to the user to incorporate it into the Stan program if it is to be extracted after fitting the model. In a Stan model, the pointwise log likelihood can be coded as a vector in the transformed parameters block (and then summed up in the model block) or it can be coded entirely in the generated quantities block. We recommend using the generated quantities block so that the computations are carried out only once per iteration rather than once per HMC leapfrog step.

For example, the following is the generated quantities block for computing and saving the log-likelihood for a linear regression model with N data points, outcome y , predictor matrix X , coefficients β , and standard deviation σ :

```
vector[N] log_lik;
for (n in 1:N) log_lik[n] = normal_lpdf(y[n] | X[n,] * beta, sigma);
```

Value

If `merge_chains=TRUE`, an S by N matrix of (post-warmup) extracted draws, where S is the size of the posterior sample and N is the number of data points. If `merge_chains=FALSE`, an I by C by N array, where $I \times C = S$.

References

- Stan Development Team (2017). The Stan C++ Library, Version 2.16.0. <https://mc-stan.org/>
- Stan Development Team (2017). RStan: the R interface to Stan, Version 2.16.1. <https://mc-stan.org/>

E_loo

Compute weighted expectations

Description

The `E_loo()` function computes weighted expectations (means, variances, quantiles) using the importance weights obtained from the [PSIS](#) smoothing procedure. The expectations estimated by the `E_loo()` function assume that the PSIS approximation is working well. **A small Pareto k estimate is necessary, but not sufficient, for `E_loo()` to give reliable estimates.** Additional diagnostic checks for gauging the reliability of the estimates are in development and will be added in a future release.

Usage

```
E_loo(x, psis_object, ...)

## Default S3 method:
E_loo(
  x,
  psis_object,
  ...,
  type = c("mean", "variance", "quantile"),
  probs = NULL,
  log_ratios = NULL
)

## S3 method for class 'matrix'
E_loo(
  x,
  psis_object,
  ...,
  type = c("mean", "variance", "quantile"),
  probs = NULL,
  log_ratios = NULL
)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	A numeric vector or matrix.
<code>psis_object</code>	An object returned by <code>psis()</code> .
<code>...</code>	Arguments passed to individual methods.
<code>type</code>	The type of expectation to compute. The options are "mean", "variance", and "quantile".
<code>probs</code>	For computing quantiles, a vector of probabilities.
<code>log_ratios</code>	Optionally, a vector or matrix (the same dimensions as <code>x</code>) of raw (not smoothed) log ratios. If working with log-likelihood values, the log ratios are the negative of those values. If <code>log_ratios</code> is specified we are able to compute Pareto k diagnostics specific to <code>E_loo()</code> .

Value

A named list with the following components:

`value` The result of the computation.

For the matrix method, `value` is a vector with `ncol(x)` elements, with one exception: when `type="quantile"` and multiple values are specified in `probs` the `value` component of the returned object is a `length(probs) by ncol(x)` matrix.

For the default/vector method the `value` component is scalar, with one exception: when `type` is "quantile" and multiple values are specified in `probs` the `value` component is a vector with `length(probs)` elements.

pareto_k Function-specific diagnostic.

If `log_ratios` is not specified when calling `E_loo()`, `pareto_k` will be `NULL`. Otherwise, for the matrix method it will be a vector of length `ncol(x)` containing estimates of the shape parameter k of the generalized Pareto distribution. For the default/vector method, the estimate is a scalar.

Examples

```
# Use rstanarm package to quickly fit a model and get both a log-likelihood
# matrix and draws from the posterior predictive distribution
library("rstanarm")

# data from help("lm")
ctl <- c(4.17,5.58,5.18,6.11,4.50,4.61,5.17,4.53,5.33,5.14)
trt <- c(4.81,4.17,4.41,3.59,5.87,3.83,6.03,4.89,4.32,4.69)
d <- data.frame(
  weight = c(ctl, trt),
  group = gl(2, 10, 20, labels = c("Ctl","Trt"))
)
fit <- stan_glm(weight ~ group, data = d, refresh = 0)
yrep <- posterior_predict(fit)
dim(yrep)

log_ratios <- -1 * log_lik(fit)
dim(log_ratios)

r_eff <- relative_eff(exp(-log_ratios), chain_id = rep(1:4, each = 1000))
psis_object <- psis(log_ratios, r_eff = r_eff, cores = 2)

E_loo(yrep, psis_object, type = "mean")
E_loo(yrep, psis_object, type = "var")
E_loo(yrep, psis_object, type = "quantile", probs = 0.5) # median
E_loo(yrep, psis_object, type = "quantile", probs = c(0.1, 0.9))

# To get Pareto k diagnostic with E_loo we also need to provide the negative
# log-likelihood values using the log_ratios argument.
E_loo(yrep, psis_object, type = "mean", log_ratios = log_ratios)
```

Description

Given a sample x , Estimate the parameters k and σ of the generalized Pareto distribution (GPD), assuming the location parameter is 0. By default the fit uses a prior for k , which will stabilize estimates for very small sample sizes (and low effective sample sizes in the case of MCMC samples). The weakly informative prior is a Gaussian prior centered at 0.5.

Usage

```
gpdfit(x, wip = TRUE, min_grid_pts = 30, sort_x = TRUE)
```

Arguments

x	A numeric vector. The sample from which to estimate the parameters.
wip	Logical indicating whether to adjust k based on a weakly informative Gaussian prior centered on 0.5. Defaults to TRUE.
min_grid_pts	The minimum number of grid points used in the fitting algorithm. The actual number used is <code>min_grid_pts + floor(sqrt(length(x)))</code> .
sort_x	If TRUE (the default), the first step in the fitting algorithm is to sort the elements of <code>x</code> . If <code>x</code> is already sorted in ascending order then <code>sort_x</code> can be set to FALSE to skip the initial sorting step.

Details

Here the parameter k is the negative of k in Zhang & Stephens (2009).

Value

A named list with components `k` and `sigma`.

References

Zhang, J., and Stephens, M. A. (2009). A new and efficient estimation method for the generalized Pareto distribution. *Technometrics* **51**, 316-325.

See Also

[psis\(\)](#), [pareto-k-diagnostic](#)

kfold-generic

Generic function for K-fold cross-validation for developers

Description

For developers of Bayesian modeling packages, **loo** includes a generic function `kfold()` so that methods may be defined for K-fold CV without name conflicts between packages. See, for example, the `kfold()` methods in the **rstanarm** and **brms** packages.

The **Value** section below describes the objects that `kfold()` methods should return in order to be compatible with `loo_compare()` and the **loo** package print methods.

Usage

```
kfold(x, ...)
```

```
is.kfold(x)
```

Arguments

x A fitted model object.
 ... Arguments to pass to specific methods.

Value

For developers defining a `kfold()` method for a class "foo", the `kfold.foo()` function should return a list with class `c("kfold", "loo")` with at least the following named elements:

- "estimates": A 1x2 matrix containing the ELPD estimate and its standard error. The matrix must have row name "elpd_kfold" and column names "Estimate" and "SE".
- "pointwise": A Nx1 matrix with column name "elpd_kfold" containing the pointwise contributions for each data point.

It is important for the object to have at least these classes and components so that it is compatible with other functions like `loo_compare()` and `print()` methods.

kfold-helpers

Helper functions for K-fold cross-validation

Description

These functions can be used to generate indexes for use with K-fold cross-validation. See the **Details** section for explanations.

Usage

```
kfold_split_random(K = 10, N = NULL)
```

```
kfold_split_stratified(K = 10, x = NULL)
```

```
kfold_split_grouped(K = 10, x = NULL)
```

Arguments

K The number of folds to use.
 N The number of observations in the data.
 x A discrete variable of length N with at least K levels (unique values). Will be coerced to a [factor](#).

Details

`kfold_split_random()` splits the data into K groups of equal size (or roughly equal size).

For a categorical variable `x` `kfold_split_stratified()` splits the observations into K groups ensuring that relative category frequencies are approximately preserved.

For a grouping variable `x`, `kfold_split_grouped()` places all observations in `x` from the same group/level together in the same fold. The selection of which groups/levels go into which fold (relevant when when there are more groups than folds) is randomized.

Value

An integer vector of length N where each element is an index in 1:K.

Examples

```
ids <- kfold_split_random(K = 5, N = 20)
print(ids)
table(ids)

x <- sample(c(0, 1), size = 200, replace = TRUE, prob = c(0.05, 0.95))
table(x)
ids <- kfold_split_stratified(K = 5, x = x)
print(ids)
table(ids, x)

grp <- gl(n = 50, k = 15, labels = state.name)
length(grp)
head(table(grp))

ids_10 <- kfold_split_grouped(K = 10, x = grp)
(tab_10 <- table(grp, ids_10))
colSums(tab_10)

ids_9 <- kfold_split_grouped(K = 9, x = grp)
(tab_9 <- table(grp, ids_9))
colSums(tab_9)
```

 loo

Efficient approximate leave-one-out cross-validation (LOO)

Description

The `loo()` methods for arrays, matrices, and functions compute PSIS-LOO CV, efficient approximate leave-one-out (LOO) cross-validation for Bayesian models using Pareto smoothed importance sampling (PSIS). This is an implementation of the methods described in Vehtari, Gelman, and Gabry (2017a, 2017b).

The `loo_i()` function enables testing log-likelihood functions for use with the `loo.function()` method.

Usage

```
loo(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'array'
loo(
  x,
```

```

    ...,
    r_eff = NULL,
    save_psis = FALSE,
    cores = getOption("mc.cores", 1),
    is_method = c("psis", "tis", "sis")
)

## S3 method for class 'matrix'
loo(
  x,
  ...,
  r_eff = NULL,
  save_psis = FALSE,
  cores = getOption("mc.cores", 1),
  is_method = c("psis", "tis", "sis")
)

## S3 method for class '`function`'
loo(
  x,
  ...,
  data = NULL,
  draws = NULL,
  r_eff = NULL,
  save_psis = FALSE,
  cores = getOption("mc.cores", 1),
  is_method = c("psis", "tis", "sis")
)

loo_i(
  i,
  llfun,
  ...,
  data = NULL,
  draws = NULL,
  r_eff = NULL,
  is_method = "psis"
)

is.loo(x)

is.psis_loo(x)

```

Arguments

x	A log-likelihood array, matrix, or function. The Methods (by class) section, below, has detailed descriptions of how to specify the inputs for each method.
r_eff	Vector of relative effective sample size estimates for the likelihood ($\exp(\log_lik)$)

of each observation. This is related to the relative efficiency of estimating the normalizing term in self-normalizing importance sampling when using posterior draws obtained with MCMC. If MCMC draws are used and `r_eff` is not provided then the reported PSIS effective sample sizes and Monte Carlo error estimates will be over-optimistic. If the posterior draws are independent then `r_eff=1` and can be omitted. See the `relative_eff()` helper functions for computing `r_eff`.

<code>save_psis</code>	Should the "psis" object created internally by <code>loo()</code> be saved in the returned object? The <code>loo()</code> function calls <code>psis()</code> internally but by default discards the (potentially large) "psis" object after using it to compute the LOO-CV summaries. Setting <code>save_psis=TRUE</code> will add a <code>psis_object</code> component to the list returned by <code>loo</code> . Currently this is only needed if you plan to use the <code>E_loo()</code> function to compute weighted expectations after running <code>loo</code> .
<code>cores</code>	The number of cores to use for parallelization. This defaults to the option <code>mc.cores</code> which can be set for an entire R session by <code>options(mc.cores = NUMBER)</code> . The old option <code>loo.cores</code> is now deprecated but will be given precedence over <code>mc.cores</code> until <code>loo.cores</code> is removed in a future release. As of version 2.0.0 the default is now 1 core if <code>mc.cores</code> is not set , but we recommend using as many (or close to as many) cores as possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note for Windows 10 users: it is strongly recommended to avoid using the <code>.Rprofile</code> file to set <code>mc.cores</code> (using the <code>cores</code> argument or setting <code>mc.cores</code> interactively or in a script is fine).
<code>is_method</code>	The importance sampling method to use. The following methods are implemented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <code>"psis"</code>: Pareto-Smoothed Importance Sampling (PSIS). Default method. • <code>"tis"</code>: Truncated Importance Sampling (TIS) with truncation at \sqrt{S}, where S is the number of posterior draws. • <code>"sis"</code>: Standard Importance Sampling (SIS).
<code>data, draws, ...</code>	For the <code>loo.function()</code> method and the <code>loo_i()</code> function, these are the data, posterior draws, and other arguments to pass to the log-likelihood function. See the Methods (by class) section below for details on how to specify these arguments.
<code>i</code>	For <code>loo_i()</code> , an integer in $1:N$.
<code>llfun</code>	For <code>loo_i()</code> , the same as <code>x</code> for the <code>loo.function()</code> method. A log-likelihood function as described in the Methods (by class) section.

Details

The `loo()` function is an S3 generic and methods are provided for 3-D pointwise log-likelihood arrays, pointwise log-likelihood matrices, and log-likelihood functions. The array and matrix methods are the most convenient, but for models fit to very large datasets the `loo.function()` method is more memory efficient and may be preferable.

Value

The `loo()` methods return a named list with class `c("psis_loo", "loo")` and components:

- estimates** A matrix with two columns (Estimate, SE) and four rows (elpd_loo, mcse_elpd_loo, p_loo, looic). This contains point estimates and standard errors of the expected log pointwise predictive density (elpd_loo), the Monte Carlo standard error of elpd_loo (mcse_elpd_loo), the effective number of parameters (p_loo) and the LOO information criterion looic (which is just $-2 * \text{elpd_loo}$, i.e., converted to deviance scale).
- pointwise** A matrix with four columns (and number of rows equal to the number of observations) containing the pointwise contributions of each of the above measures (elpd_loo, mcse_elpd_loo, p_loo, looic).
- diagnostics** A named list containing two vectors:
- **pareto_k**: Estimates of the shape parameter k of the generalized Pareto fit to the importance ratios for each leave-one-out distribution. See the [pareto-k-diagnostic](#) page for details.
 - **n_eff**: PSIS effective sample size estimates.
- psis_object** This component will be NULL unless the `save_psis` argument is set to TRUE when calling `loo()`. In that case `psis_object` will be the object of class "psis" that is created when the `loo()` function calls `psis()` internally to do the PSIS procedure.

The `loo_i()` function returns a named list with components `pointwise` and `diagnostics`. These components have the same structure as the `pointwise` and `diagnostics` components of the object returned by `loo()` except they contain results for only a single observation.

Methods (by class)

- **array**: An I by C by N array, where I is the number of MCMC iterations per chain, C is the number of chains, and N is the number of data points.
- **matrix**: An S by N matrix, where S is the size of the posterior sample (with all chains merged) and N is the number of data points.
- **function**: A function `f()` that takes arguments `data_i` and `draws` and returns a vector containing the log-likelihood for a single observation i evaluated at each posterior draw. The function should be written such that, for each observation i in $1:N$, evaluating

```
f(data_i = data[i, , drop=FALSE], draws = draws)
```

results in a vector of length S (size of posterior sample). The log-likelihood function can also have additional arguments but `data_i` and `draws` are required.

If using the function method then the arguments `data` and `draws` must also be specified in the call to `loo()`:

- **data**: A data frame or matrix containing the data (e.g. observed outcome and predictors) needed to compute the pointwise log-likelihood. For each observation i , the i th row of `data` will be passed to the `data_i` argument of the log-likelihood function.
- **draws**: An object containing the posterior draws for any parameters needed to compute the pointwise log-likelihood. Unlike `data`, which is indexed by observation, for each observation the entire object `draws` will be passed to the `draws` argument of the log-likelihood function.
- The `...` can be used if your log-likelihood function takes additional arguments. These arguments are used like the `draws` argument in that they are recycled for each observation.

Defining loo() methods in a package

Package developers can define `loo()` methods for fitted models objects. See the example `loo.stanfit()` method in the **Examples** section below for an example of defining a method that calls `loo.array()`. The `loo.stanreg()` method in the **rstanarm** package is an example of defining a method that calls `loo.function()`.

References

Vehtari, A., Gelman, A., and Gabry, J. (2017a). Practical Bayesian model evaluation using leave-one-out cross-validation and WAIC. *Statistics and Computing*. 27(5), 1413–1432. doi:10.1007/s11222-016-9696-4 ([journal version](#), [preprint arXiv:1507.04544](#)).

Vehtari, A., Gelman, A., and Gabry, J. (2017b). Pareto smoothed importance sampling. [preprint arXiv:1507.02646](#)

See Also

- The **loo** package [vignettes](#) for demonstrations.
- [psis\(\)](#) for the underlying Pareto Smoothed Importance Sampling (PSIS) procedure used in the LOO-CV approximation.
- [pareto-k-diagnostic](#) for convenience functions for looking at diagnostics.
- [loo_compare\(\)](#) for model comparison.

Examples

```
### Array and matrix methods (using example objects included with loo package)
# Array method
LLarr <- example_loglik_array()
rel_n_eff <- relative_eff(exp(LLarr))
loo(LLarr, r_eff = rel_n_eff, cores = 2)

# Matrix method
LLmat <- example_loglik_matrix()
rel_n_eff <- relative_eff(exp(LLmat), chain_id = rep(1:2, each = 500))
loo(LLmat, r_eff = rel_n_eff, cores = 2)

## Not run:
### Usage with stanfit objects
# see ?extract_log_lik
log_lik1 <- extract_log_lik(stanfit1, merge_chains = FALSE)
rel_n_eff <- relative_eff(exp(log_lik1))
loo(log_lik1, r_eff = rel_n_eff, cores = 2)

## End(Not run)

### Using log-likelihood function instead of array or matrix
set.seed(124)

# Simulate data and draw from posterior
N <- 50; K <- 10; S <- 100; a0 <- 3; b0 <- 2
```

```

p <- rbeta(1, a0, b0)
y <- rbinom(N, size = K, prob = p)
a <- a0 + sum(y); b <- b0 + N * K - sum(y)
fake_posterior <- as.matrix(rbeta(S, a, b))
dim(fake_posterior) # S x 1
fake_data <- data.frame(y,K)
dim(fake_data) # N x 2

llfun <- function(data_i, draws) {
  # each time called internally within loo the arguments will be equal to:
  # data_i: ith row of fake_data (fake_data[i,, drop=FALSE])
  # draws: entire fake_posterior matrix
  dbinom(data_i$y, size = data_i$K, prob = draws, log = TRUE)
}

# Use the loo_i function to check that llfun works on a single observation
# before running on all obs. For example, using the 3rd obs in the data:
loo_3 <- loo_i(i = 3, llfun = llfun, data = fake_data, draws = fake_posterior, r_eff = NA)
print(loo_3$pointwise[, "elpd_loo"])

# Use loo.function method (setting r_eff=NA since this posterior not obtained via MCMC)
loo_with_fn <- loo(llfun, draws = fake_posterior, data = fake_data, r_eff = NA)

# If we look at the elpd_loo contribution from the 3rd obs it should be the
# same as what we got above with the loo_i function and i=3:
print(loo_with_fn$pointwise[3, "elpd_loo"])
print(loo_3$pointwise[, "elpd_loo"])

# Check that the loo.matrix method gives same answer as loo.function method
log_lik_matrix <- sapply(1:N, function(i) {
  llfun(data_i = fake_data[i,, drop=FALSE], draws = fake_posterior)
})
loo_with_mat <- loo(log_lik_matrix, r_eff = NA)
all.equal(loo_with_mat$estimates, loo_with_fn$estimates) # should be TRUE!

## Not run:
### For package developers: defining loo methods

# An example of a possible loo method for 'stanfit' objects (rstan package).
# A similar method is planned for a future release of rstan (or is already
# released, depending on when you are reading this). In order for users
# to be able to call loo(stanfit) instead of loo.stanfit(stanfit) the
# NAMESPACE needs to be handled appropriately (roxygen2 and devtools packages
# are good for that).
#
loo.stanfit <-
function(x,
  pars = "log_lik",
  ...,
  save_psis = FALSE,
  cores = getOption("mc.cores", 1)) {
  stopifnot(length(pars) == 1L)

```

```

LLarray <- loo::extract_log_lik(stanfit = x,
                              parameter_name = pars,
                              merge_chains = FALSE)
r_eff <- loo::relative_eff(x = exp(LLarray), cores = cores)
loo::loo.array(LLarray,
              r_eff = r_eff,
              cores = cores,
              save_psis = save_psis)
}

## End(Not run)

```

 loo-datasets

Datasets for loo examples and vignettes

Description

Small datasets for use in **loo** examples and vignettes. The Kline and milk datasets are also included in the **rethinking** package (McElreath, 2016a), but we include them here as **rethinking** is not on CRAN.

Details

Currently the data sets included are:

- Kline: Small dataset from Kline and Boyd (2010) on tool complexity and demography in Oceanic islands societies. This data is discussed in detail in McElreath (2016a,2016b). ([Link to variable descriptions](#))
- milk: Small dataset from Hinde and Milligan (2011) on primate milk composition. This data is discussed in detail in McElreath (2016a,2016b). ([Link to variable descriptions](#))

References

- Hinde and Milligan. 2011. *Evolutionary Anthropology* 20:9-23.
- Kline, M.A. and R. Boyd. 2010. *Proc R Soc B* 277:2559-2564.
- McElreath, R. (2016a). *rethinking*: Statistical Rethinking book package. R package version 1.59.
- McElreath, R. (2016b). *Statistical rethinking: A Bayesian course with examples in R and Stan*. Chapman & Hall/CRC.

Examples

```

str(Kline)
str(milk)

```

Description

Note: VGG2017a refers to Vehtari, Gelman, and Gabry (2017a). See **References**, below.

ELPD and `elpd_loo`

The ELPD is the theoretical expected log pointwise predictive density for a new dataset (Eq 1 in VGG2017a), which can be estimated, e.g., using cross-validation. `elpd_loo` is the Bayesian LOO estimate of the expected log pointwise predictive density (Eq 4 in VGG2017a) and is a sum of N individual pointwise log predictive densities. Probability densities can be smaller or larger than 1, and thus log predictive densities can be negative or positive. For simplicity the ELPD acronym is used also for expected log pointwise predictive probabilities for discrete models. Probabilities are always equal or less than 1, and thus log predictive probabilities are 0 or negative.

Standard error of `elpd_loo`

As `elpd_loo` is defined as the sum of N independent components (Eq 4 in VGG2017a), we can compute the standard error by using the standard deviation of the N components and multiplying by \sqrt{N} (Eq 23 in VGG2017a). This standard error is a coarse description of our uncertainty about the predictive performance for unknown future data. When N is small or there is severe model misspecification, the current SE estimate is overoptimistic and the actual SE can even be twice as large. Even for moderate N , when the SE estimate is an accurate estimate for the scale, it ignores the skewness. When making model comparisons, the SE of the component-wise (pairwise) differences should be used instead (see the `se_diff` section below and Eq 24 in VGG2017a).

Monte Carlo SE of `elpd_loo`

The Monte Carlo standard error is the estimate for the computational accuracy of MCMC and importance sampling used to compute `elpd_loo`. Usually this is negligible compared to the standard describing the uncertainty due to finite number of observations (Eq 23 in VGG2017a).

`p_loo` (effective number of parameters)

`p_loo` is the difference between `elpd_loo` and the non-cross-validated log posterior predictive density. It describes how much more difficult it is to predict future data than the observed data. Asymptotically under certain regularity conditions, `p_loo` can be interpreted as the *effective number of parameters*. In well behaving cases $p_{\text{loo}} < N$ and $p_{\text{loo}} < p$, where p is the total number of parameters in the model. $p_{\text{loo}} > N$ or $p_{\text{loo}} > p$ indicates that the model has very weak predictive capability and may indicate a severe model misspecification. See below for more on interpreting `p_loo` when there are warnings about high Pareto k diagnostic values.

Pareto k estimates

The Pareto k estimate is a diagnostic for Pareto smoothed importance sampling (PSIS), which is used to compute components of elpd_loo . In importance-sampling LOO (the full posterior distribution is used as the proposal distribution). The Pareto k diagnostic estimates how far an individual leave-one-out distribution is from the full distribution. If leaving out an observation changes the posterior too much then importance sampling is not able to give reliable estimate. If $k < 0.5$, then the corresponding component of elpd_loo is estimated with high accuracy. If $0.5 < k < 0.7$ the accuracy is lower, but still ok. If $k > 0.7$, then importance sampling is not able to provide useful estimate for that component/observation. Pareto k is also useful as a measure of influence of an observation. Highly influential observations have high k values. Very high k values often indicate model misspecification, outliers or mistakes in data processing. See Section 6 of Gabry et al. (2019) for an example.

Interpreting p_{loo} when Pareto k is large: If $k > 0.7$ then we can also look at the p_{loo} estimate for some additional information about the problem:

- If $p_{\text{loo}} \ll p$ (the total number of parameters in the model), then the model is likely to be misspecified. Posterior predictive checks (PPCs) are then likely to also detect the problem. Try using an overdispersed model, or add more structural information (nonlinearity, mixture model, etc.).
- If $p_{\text{loo}} < p$ and the number of parameters p is relatively large compared to the number of observations (e.g., $p > N/5$), it is likely that the model is so flexible or the population prior so weak that it's difficult to predict the left out observation (even for the true model). This happens, for example, in the simulated 8 schools (in VGG2017a), random effect models with a few observations per random effect, and Gaussian processes and spatial models with short correlation lengths.
- If $p_{\text{loo}} > p$, then the model is likely to be badly misspecified. If the number of parameters $p \ll N$, then PPCs are also likely to detect the problem. See the case study at <https://avehtari.github.io/modelselection/roaches.html> for an example. If p is relatively large compared to the number of observations, say $p > N/5$ (more accurately we should count number of observations influencing each parameter as in hierarchical models some groups may have few observations and other groups many), it is possible that PPCs won't detect the problem.

elpd_diff

elpd_diff is the difference in elpd_loo for two models. If more than two models are compared, the difference is computed relative to the model with highest elpd_loo .

se_diff

The standard error of component-wise differences of elpd_loo (Eq 24 in VGG2017a) between two models. This SE is *smaller* than the SE for individual models due to correlation (i.e., if some observations are easier and some more difficult to predict for all models).

References

Vehtari, A., Gelman, A., and Gabry, J. (2017a). Practical Bayesian model evaluation using leave-one-out cross-validation and WAIC. *Statistics and Computing*. 27(5), 1413–1432. doi:10.1007/s11222-016-9696-4 (journal version, preprint arXiv:1507.04544).

Vehtari, A., Gelman, A., and Gabry, J. (2017b). Pareto smoothed importance sampling. [preprint arXiv:1507.02646](#)

Gabry, J. , Simpson, D. , Vehtari, A. , Betancourt, M. and Gelman, A. (2019), Visualization in Bayesian workflow. *J. R. Stat. Soc. A*, 182: 389-402. doi:10.1111/rssa.12378 ([journal version](#), [preprint arXiv:1709.01449](#), [code on GitHub](#))

loo_approximate_posterior

Efficient approximate leave-one-out cross-validation (LOO) for posterior approximations

Description

Efficient approximate leave-one-out cross-validation (LOO) for posterior approximations

Usage

```
loo_approximate_posterior(x, log_p, log_g, ...)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'array'
loo_approximate_posterior(
  x,
  log_p,
  log_g,
  ...,
  save_psis = FALSE,
  cores = getOption("mc.cores", 1)
)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'matrix'
loo_approximate_posterior(
  x,
  log_p,
  log_g,
  ...,
  save_psis = FALSE,
  cores = getOption("mc.cores", 1)
)
```

```
## S3 method for class '`function`'
loo_approximate_posterior(
  x,
  ...,
  data = NULL,
  draws = NULL,
  log_p = NULL,
  log_g = NULL,
)
```

```

  save_psis = FALSE,
  cores = getOption("mc.cores", 1)
)

```

Arguments

x	A log-likelihood array, matrix, or function. The Methods (by class) section, below, has detailed descriptions of how to specify the inputs for each method.
log_p	The log-posterior (target) evaluated at S samples from the proposal distribution (g). A vector of length S.
log_g	The log-density (proposal) evaluated at S samples from the proposal distribution (g). A vector of length S.
save_psis	Should the "psis" object created internally by loo_approximate_posterior() be saved in the returned object? See loo() for details.
cores	The number of cores to use for parallelization. This defaults to the option mc.cores which can be set for an entire R session by options(mc.cores = NUMBER). The old option loo.cores is now deprecated but will be given precedence over mc.cores until loo.cores is removed in a future release. As of version 2.0.0 the default is now 1 core if mc.cores is not set , but we recommend using as many (or close to as many) cores as possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note for Windows 10 users: it is strongly recommended to avoid using the .Rprofile file to set mc.cores (using the cores argument or setting mc.cores interactively or in a script is fine).
data, draws, ...	For the loo_approximate_posterior.function() method, these are the data, posterior draws, and other arguments to pass to the log-likelihood function. See the Methods (by class) section below for details on how to specify these arguments.

Details

The loo_approximate_posterior() function is an S3 generic and methods are provided for 3-D pointwise log-likelihood arrays, pointwise log-likelihood matrices, and log-likelihood functions. The implementation works for posterior approximations where it is possible to compute the log density for the posterior approximation.

Value

The loo_approximate_posterior() methods return a named list with class c("psis_loo_ap", "psis_loo", "loo"). It has the same structure as the objects returned by loo() but with the additional slot:

posterior_approximation A list with two vectors, log_p and log_g of the same length containing the posterior density and the approximation density for the individual draws.

Methods (by class)

- array: An I by C by N array, where I is the number of MCMC iterations per chain, C is the number of chains, and N is the number of data points.

- `matrix`: An S by N matrix, where S is the size of the posterior sample (with all chains merged) and N is the number of data points.
- `function`: A function $f()$ that takes arguments `data_i` and `draws` and returns a vector containing the log-likelihood for a single observation i evaluated at each posterior draw. The function should be written such that, for each observation i in $1:N$, evaluating

```
f(data_i = data[i,, drop=FALSE], draws = draws)
```

results in a vector of length S (size of posterior sample). The log-likelihood function can also have additional arguments but `data_i` and `draws` are required.

If using the function method then the arguments `data` and `draws` must also be specified in the call to `loo()`:

- `data`: A data frame or matrix containing the data (e.g. observed outcome and predictors) needed to compute the pointwise log-likelihood. For each observation i , the i th row of `data` will be passed to the `data_i` argument of the log-likelihood function.
- `draws`: An object containing the posterior draws for any parameters needed to compute the pointwise log-likelihood. Unlike `data`, which is indexed by observation, for each observation the entire object `draws` will be passed to the `draws` argument of the log-likelihood function.
- The `...` can be used if your log-likelihood function takes additional arguments. These arguments are used like the `draws` argument in that they are recycled for each observation.

References

Magnusson, M., Riis Andersen, M., Jonasson, J. and Vehtari, A. (2019). Leave-One-Out Cross-Validation for Large Data. In *International Conference on Machine Learning*

Magnusson, M., Riis Andersen, M., Jonasson, J. and Vehtari, A. (2019). Leave-One-Out Cross-Validation for Model Comparison in Large Data.

See Also

[loo\(\)](#), [psis\(\)](#), [loo_compare\(\)](#)

loo_compare

Model comparison

Description

Compare fitted models based on [ELPD](#).

By default the `print` method shows only the most important information. Use `print(..., simplify=FALSE)` to print a more detailed summary.

Usage

```

loo_compare(x, ...)

## Default S3 method:
loo_compare(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'compare.loo'
print(x, ..., digits = 1, simplify = TRUE)

## S3 method for class 'compare.loo_ss'
print(x, ..., digits = 1, simplify = TRUE)

```

Arguments

x	An object of class "loo" or a list of such objects.
...	Additional objects of class "loo".
digits	For the print method only, the number of digits to use when printing.
simplify	For the print method only, should only the essential columns of the summary matrix be printed? The entire matrix is always returned, but by default only the most important columns are printed.

Details

When comparing two fitted models, we can estimate the difference in their expected predictive accuracy by the difference in `elpd_loo` or `elpd_waic` (or multiplied by -2 , if desired, to be on the deviance scale).

When using `loo_compare()`, the returned matrix will have one row per model and several columns of estimates. The values in the `elpd_diff` and `se_diff` columns of the returned matrix are computed by making pairwise comparisons between each model and the model with the largest ELPD (the model in the first row). For this reason the `elpd_diff` column will always have the value 0 in the first row (i.e., the difference between the preferred model and itself) and negative values in subsequent rows for the remaining models.

To compute the standard error of the difference in ELPD — which should not be expected to equal the difference of the standard errors — we use a paired estimate to take advantage of the fact that the same set of N data points was used to fit both models. These calculations should be most useful when N is large, because then non-normality of the distribution is not such an issue when estimating the uncertainty in these sums. These standard errors, for all their flaws, should give a better sense of uncertainty than what is obtained using the current standard approach of comparing differences of deviances to a Chi-squared distribution, a practice derived for Gaussian linear models or asymptotically, and which only applies to nested models in any case.

Value

A matrix with class "compare.loo" that has its own print method. See the **Details** section.

References

Vehtari, A., Gelman, A., and Gabry, J. (2017a). Practical Bayesian model evaluation using leave-one-out cross-validation and WAIC. *Statistics and Computing*. 27(5), 1413–1432. doi:10.1007/s11222-016-9696-4 ([journal version](#), [preprint arXiv:1507.04544](#)).

Vehtari, A., Gelman, A., and Gabry, J. (2017b). Pareto smoothed importance sampling. [preprint arXiv:1507.02646](#)

Examples

```
# very artificial example, just for demonstration!
LL <- example_loglik_array()
loo1 <- loo(LL, r_eff = NA) # should be worst model when compared
loo2 <- loo(LL + 1, r_eff = NA) # should be second best model when compared
loo3 <- loo(LL + 2, r_eff = NA) # should be best model when compared

comp <- loo_compare(loo1, loo2, loo3)
print(comp, digits = 2)

# show more details with simplify=FALSE
# (will be the same for all models in this artificial example)
print(comp, simplify = FALSE, digits = 3)

# can use a list of objects
loo_compare(x = list(loo1, loo2, loo3))

## Not run:
# works for waic (and kfold) too
loo_compare(waic(LL), waic(LL - 10))

## End(Not run)
```

loo_model_weights *Model averaging/weighting via stacking or pseudo-BMA weighting*

Description

Model averaging via stacking of predictive distributions, pseudo-BMA weighting or pseudo-BMA+ weighting with the Bayesian bootstrap. See Yao et al. (2018) and Vehtari, Gelman, and Gabry (2017a,2017b) for background.

Usage

```
loo_model_weights(x, ...)

## Default S3 method:
loo_model_weights(
  x,
```

```

    ...,
    method = c("stacking", "pseudobma"),
    optim_method = "BFGS",
    optim_control = list(),
    BB = TRUE,
    BB_n = 1000,
    alpha = 1,
    r_eff_list = NULL,
    cores = getOption("mc.cores", 1)
)

stacking_weights(lpd_point, optim_method = "BFGS", optim_control = list())

pseudobma_weights(lpd_point, BB = TRUE, BB_n = 1000, alpha = 1)

```

Arguments

x	A list of pointwise log-likelihood matrices or "psis_loo" objects (objects returned by <code>loo()</code>), one for each model. Each matrix/object should have dimensions S by N , where S is the size of the posterior sample (with all chains merged) and N is the number of data points. If x is a list of log-likelihood matrices then <code>loo()</code> is called internally on each matrix. Currently the <code>loo_model_weights()</code> function is not implemented to be used with results from K-fold CV, but you can still obtain weights using K-fold CV results by calling the <code>stacking_weights()</code> function directly.
...	Unused, except for the generic to pass arguments to individual methods.
method	Either "stacking" (the default) or "pseudobma", indicating which method to use for obtaining the weights. "stacking" refers to stacking of predictive distributions and "pseudobma" refers to pseudo-BMA+ weighting (or plain pseudo-BMA weighting if argument <code>BB</code> is <code>FALSE</code>).
optim_method	If <code>method="stacking"</code> , a string passed to the <code>method</code> argument of <code>stats::constrOptim()</code> to specify the optimization algorithm. The default is <code>optim_method="BFGS"</code> , but other options are available (see <code>stats::optim()</code>).
optim_control	If <code>method="stacking"</code> , a list of control parameters for optimization passed to the <code>control</code> argument of <code>stats::constrOptim()</code> .
BB	Logical used when <code>method="pseudobma"</code> . If <code>TRUE</code> (the default), the Bayesian bootstrap will be used to adjust the pseudo-BMA weighting, which is called pseudo-BMA+ weighting. It helps regularize the weight away from 0 and 1, so as to reduce the variance.
BB_n	For pseudo-BMA+ weighting only, the number of samples to use for the Bayesian bootstrap. The default is <code>BB_n=1000</code> .
alpha	Positive scalar shape parameter in the Dirichlet distribution used for the Bayesian bootstrap. The default is <code>alpha=1</code> , which corresponds to a uniform distribution on the simplex space.
r_eff_list	Optionally, a list of relative effective sample size estimates for the likelihood (<code>exp(log_lik)</code>) of each observation in each model. See <code>psis()</code> and <code>relative_eff()</code>

	helper function for computing <code>r_eff</code> . If <code>x</code> is a list of "psis_loo" objects then <code>r_eff_list</code> is ignored.
<code>cores</code>	The number of cores to use for parallelization. This defaults to the option <code>mc.cores</code> which can be set for an entire R session by <code>options(mc.cores = NUMBER)</code> . The old option <code>loo.cores</code> is now deprecated but will be given precedence over <code>mc.cores</code> until <code>loo.cores</code> is removed in a future release. As of version 2.0.0 the default is now 1 core if <code>mc.cores</code> is not set , but we recommend using as many (or close to as many) cores as possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note for Windows 10 users: it is strongly recommended to avoid using the <code>.Rprofile</code> file to set <code>mc.cores</code> (using the <code>cores</code> argument or setting <code>mc.cores</code> interactively or in a script is fine).
<code>lpd_point</code>	If calling <code>stacking_weights()</code> or <code>pseudobma_weights()</code> directly, a matrix of pointwise leave-one-out (or K-fold) log likelihoods evaluated for different models. It should be a N by K matrix where N is sample size and K is the number of models. Each column corresponds to one model. These values can be calculated approximately using <code>loo()</code> or by running exact leave-one-out or K-fold cross-validation.

Details

`loo_model_weights()` is a wrapper around the `stacking_weights()` and `pseudobma_weights()` functions that implements stacking, pseudo-BMA, and pseudo-BMA+ weighting for combining multiple predictive distributions. We can use approximate or exact leave-one-out cross-validation (LOO-CV) or K-fold CV to estimate the expected log predictive density (ELPD).

The stacking method (`method="stacking"`), which is the default for `loo_model_weights()`, combines all models by maximizing the leave-one-out predictive density of the combination distribution. That is, it finds the optimal linear combining weights for maximizing the leave-one-out log score.

The pseudo-BMA method (`method="pseudobma"`) finds the relative weights proportional to the ELPD of each model. However, when `method="pseudobma"`, the default is to also use the Bayesian bootstrap (`BB=TRUE`), which corresponds to the pseudo-BMA+ method. The Bayesian bootstrap takes into account the uncertainty of finite data points and regularizes the weights away from the extremes of 0 and 1.

In general, we recommend stacking for averaging predictive distributions, while pseudo-BMA+ can serve as a computationally easier alternative.

Value

A numeric vector containing one weight for each model.

References

Vehtari, A., Gelman, A., and Gabry, J. (2017a). Practical Bayesian model evaluation using leave-one-out cross-validation and WAIC. *Statistics and Computing*. 27(5), 1413–1432. doi:10.1007/s11222-016-9696-4 ([journal version](#), [preprint arXiv:1507.04544](#)).

Vehtari, A., Gelman, A., and Gabry, J. (2017b). Pareto smoothed importance sampling. [preprint arXiv:1507.02646](#)

Yao, Y., Vehtari, A., Simpson, D., and Gelman, A. (2018) Using stacking to average Bayesian predictive distributions. *Bayesian Analysis*, advance publication, doi:10.1214/17-BA1091. ([online](#)).

See Also

- The **loo** package [vignettes](#), particularly [Bayesian Stacking and Pseudo-BMA weights using the loo package](#).
- `loo()` for details on leave-one-out ELPD estimation.
- `constrOptim()` for the choice of optimization methods and control-parameters.
- `relative_eff()` for computing `r_eff`.

Examples

```
## Not run:
### Demonstrating usage after fitting models with RStan
library(rstan)

# generate fake data from N(0,1).
N <- 100
y <- rnorm(N, 0, 1)

# Suppose we have three models: N(-1, sigma), N(0.5, sigma) and N(0.6,sigma).
stan_code <- "
  data {
    int N;
    vector[N] y;
    real mu_fixed;
  }
  parameters {
    real<lower=0> sigma;
  }
  model {
    sigma ~ exponential(1);
    y ~ normal(mu_fixed, sigma);
  }
  generated quantities {
    vector[N] log_lik;
    for (n in 1:N) log_lik[n] = normal_lpdf(y[n]| mu_fixed, sigma);
  }"

mod <- stan_model(model_code = stan_code)
fit1 <- sampling(mod, data=list(N=N, y=y, mu_fixed=-1))
fit2 <- sampling(mod, data=list(N=N, y=y, mu_fixed=0.5))
fit3 <- sampling(mod, data=list(N=N, y=y, mu_fixed=0.6))
model_list <- list(fit1, fit2, fit3)
log_lik_list <- lapply(model_list, extract_log_lik)

# optional but recommended
r_eff_list <- lapply(model_list, function(x) {
  ll_array <- extract_log_lik(x, merge_chains = FALSE)
  relative_eff(exp(ll_array))
})
```

```

})

# stacking method:
wts1 <- loo_model_weights(
  log_lik_list,
  method = "stacking",
  r_eff_list = r_eff_list,
  optim_control = list(reltol=1e-10)
)
print(wts1)

# can also pass a list of psis_loo objects to avoid recomputing loo
loo_list <- lapply(1:length(log_lik_list), function(j) {
  loo(log_lik_list[[j]], r_eff = r_eff_list[[j]])
})

wts2 <- loo_model_weights(
  loo_list,
  method = "stacking",
  optim_control = list(reltol=1e-10)
)
all.equal(wts1, wts2)

# pseudo-BMA+ method:
set.seed(1414)
loo_model_weights(loo_list, method = "pseudobma")

# pseudo-BMA method (set BB = FALSE):
loo_model_weights(loo_list, method = "pseudobma", BB = FALSE)

# calling stacking_weights or pseudobma_weights directly
lpd1 <- loo(log_lik_list[[1]], r_eff = r_eff_list[[1]])$pointwise[,1]
lpd2 <- loo(log_lik_list[[2]], r_eff = r_eff_list[[2]])$pointwise[,1]
lpd3 <- loo(log_lik_list[[3]], r_eff = r_eff_list[[3]])$pointwise[,1]
stacking_weights(cbind(lpd1, lpd2, lpd3))
pseudobma_weights(cbind(lpd1, lpd2, lpd3))
pseudobma_weights(cbind(lpd1, lpd2, lpd3), BB = FALSE)

## End(Not run)

```

loo_subsample

*Efficient approximate leave-one-out cross-validation (LOO) using
subsampling*

Description

Efficient approximate leave-one-out cross-validation (LOO) using subsampling

Usage

```

loo_subsample(x, ...)

## S3 method for class ``function``
loo_subsample(
  x,
  ...,
  data = NULL,
  draws = NULL,
  observations = 400,
  log_p = NULL,
  log_g = NULL,
  r_eff = NULL,
  save_psis = FALSE,
  cores = getOption("mc.cores", 1),
  loo_approximation = "plpd",
  loo_approximation_draws = NULL,
  estimator = "diff_srs",
  llgrad = NULL,
  llhess = NULL
)

```

Arguments

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| x | A function. The Methods (by class) section, below, has detailed descriptions of how to specify the inputs. |
| data, draws, ... | For <code>loo_subsample.function()</code> , these are the data, posterior draws, and other arguments to pass to the log-likelihood function. |
| observations | <p>The subsample observations to use. The argument can take four (4) types of arguments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NULL to use all observations. The algorithm then just uses standard <code>loo()</code> or <code>loo_approximate_posterior()</code>. • A single integer to specify the number of observations to be subsampled. • A vector of integers to provide the indices used to subset the data. <i>These observations need to be subsampled with the same scheme as given by the estimator argument.</i> • A <code>psis_loo_ss</code> object to use the same observations that were used in a previous call to <code>loo_subsample()</code>. |
| log_p, log_g | Should be supplied only if approximate posterior draws are used. The default (NULL) indicates draws are from "true" posterior (i.e. using MCMC). If not NULL then they should be specified as described in loo_approximate_posterior() . |
| r_eff | Vector of relative effective sample size estimates for the likelihood ($\exp(\log_{\text{lik}})$) of each observation. This is related to the relative efficiency of estimating the normalizing term in self-normalizing importance sampling when using posterior draws obtained with MCMC. If MCMC draws are used and <code>r_eff</code> is not |

provided then the reported PSIS effective sample sizes and Monte Carlo error estimates will be over-optimistic. If the posterior draws are independent then $r_{\text{eff}}=1$ and can be omitted. See the `relative_eff()` helper functions for computing r_{eff} .

<code>save_psis</code>	Should the "psis" object created internally by <code>loo_subsample()</code> be saved in the returned object? See <code>loo()</code> for details.
<code>cores</code>	The number of cores to use for parallelization. This defaults to the option <code>mc.cores</code> which can be set for an entire R session by <code>options(mc.cores = NUMBER)</code> . The old option <code>loo.cores</code> is now deprecated but will be given precedence over <code>mc.cores</code> until <code>loo.cores</code> is removed in a future release. As of version 2.0.0 the default is now 1 core if <code>mc.cores</code> is not set , but we recommend using as many (or close to as many) cores as possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note for Windows 10 users: it is strongly recommended to avoid using the <code>.Rprofile</code> file to set <code>mc.cores</code> (using the <code>cores</code> argument or setting <code>mc.cores</code> interactively or in a script is fine).
<code>loo_approximation</code>	What type of approximation of the <code>loo_i</code> 's should be used? The default is "plpd" (the log predictive density using the posterior expectation). There are six different methods implemented to approximate <code>loo_i</code> 's (see the references for more details): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "plpd": uses the lpd based on point estimates (i.e., $p(y_i \hat{\theta})$). "lpd": uses the lpds (i.e., $p(y_i y)$). "tis": uses truncated importance sampling to approximate PSIS-LOO. "waic": uses waic (i.e., $p(y_i y) - p_{\text{waic}}$). "waic_grad_marginal": uses waic approximation using first order delta method and posterior marginal variances to approximate p_{waic} (ie. $p(y_i \hat{\theta}) - p_{\text{waic_grad_marginal}}$). Requires gradient of likelihood function. "waic_grad": uses waic approximation using first order delta method and posterior covariance to approximate p_{waic} (ie. $p(y_i \hat{\theta}) - p_{\text{waic_grad}}$). Requires gradient of likelihood function. "waic_hess": uses waic approximation using second order delta method and posterior covariance to approximate p_{waic} (ie. $p(y_i \hat{\theta}) - p_{\text{waic_grad}}$). Requires gradient and Hessian of likelihood function. <p>As point estimates of $\hat{\theta}$, the posterior expectations of the parameters are used.</p>
<code>loo_approximation_draws</code>	The number of posterior draws used when integrating over the posterior. This is used if <code>loo_approximation</code> is set to "lpd", "waic", or "tis".
<code>estimator</code>	How should <code>elpd_loo</code> , <code>p_loo</code> and <code>looic</code> be estimated? The default is "diff_srs". <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "diff_srs": uses the difference estimator with simple random sampling (srs). <code>p_loo</code> is estimated using standard srs. "hh": uses the Hansen-Hurwitz estimator with sampling proportional to size, where <code>abs</code> of <code>loo_approximation</code> is used as size. "srs": uses simple random sampling and ordinary estimation.
<code>llgrad</code>	The gradient of the log-likelihood. This is only used when <code>loo_approximation</code> is "waic_grad", "waic_grad_marginal", or "waic_hess". The default is NULL.

`llhess` The hessian of the log-likelihood. This is only used with `loo_approximation = "waic_hess"`. The default is `NULL`.

Details

The `loo_subsample()` function is an S3 generic and a methods is currently provided for log-likelihood functions. The implementation works for both MCMC and for posterior approximations where it is possible to compute the log density for the approximation.

Value

`loo_subsample()` returns a named list with class `c("psis_loo_ss", "psis_loo", "loo")`. This has the same structure as objects returned by `loo()` but with the additional slot:

- `loo_subsampling`: A list with two vectors, `log_p` and `log_g`, of the same length containing the posterior density and the approximation density for the individual draws.

Methods (by class)

- `function`: A function `f()` that takes arguments `data_i` and `draws` and returns a vector containing the log-likelihood for a single observation `i` evaluated at each posterior draw. The function should be written such that, for each observation `i` in `1:N`, evaluating

```
f(data_i = data[i,, drop=FALSE], draws = draws)
```

results in a vector of length `S` (size of posterior sample). The log-likelihood function can also have additional arguments but `data_i` and `draws` are required.

If using the function method then the arguments `data` and `draws` must also be specified in the call to `loo()`:

- `data`: A data frame or matrix containing the data (e.g. observed outcome and predictors) needed to compute the pointwise log-likelihood. For each observation `i`, the `i`th row of `data` will be passed to the `data_i` argument of the log-likelihood function.
- `draws`: An object containing the posterior draws for any parameters needed to compute the pointwise log-likelihood. Unlike `data`, which is indexed by observation, for each observation the entire object `draws` will be passed to the `draws` argument of the log-likelihood function.
- The `...` can be used if your log-likelihood function takes additional arguments. These arguments are used like the `draws` argument in that they are recycled for each observation.

References

- Magnusson, M., Riis Andersen, M., Jonasson, J. and Vehtari, A. (2019). Leave-One-Out Cross-Validation for Large Data. In *International Conference on Machine Learning*
- Magnusson, M., Riis Andersen, M., Jonasson, J. and Vehtari, A. (2019). Leave-One-Out Cross-Validation for Model Comparison in Large Data.

See Also

[loo\(\)](#), [psis\(\)](#), [loo_compare\(\)](#)

nobs.psis_loo_ss	<i>The number of observations in a psis_loo_ss object.</i>
------------------	--

Description

The number of observations in a psis_loo_ss object.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'psis_loo_ss'
nobs(object, ...)
```

Arguments

object	a psis_loo_ss object.
...	Currently unused.

obs_idx	<i>Get observation indices used in subsampling</i>
---------	--

Description

Get observation indices used in subsampling

Usage

```
obs_idx(x, rep = TRUE)
```

Arguments

x	A psis_loo_ss object.
rep	If sampling with replacement is used, an observation can have multiple samples and these are then repeated in the returned object if rep=TRUE (e.g., a vector c(1,1,2) indicates that observation 1 has been subampled two times). If rep=FALSE only the unique indices are returned.

Value

An integer vector.

pareto-k-diagnostic *Diagnostics for Pareto smoothed importance sampling (PSIS)*

Description

Print a diagnostic table summarizing the estimated Pareto shape parameters and PSIS effective sample sizes, find the indexes of observations for which the estimated Pareto shape parameter k is larger than some threshold value, or plot observation indexes vs. diagnostic estimates. The **Details** section below provides a brief overview of the diagnostics, but we recommend consulting Vehtari, Gelman, and Gabry (2017a, 2017b) for full details.

Usage

```
pareto_k_table(x)

pareto_k_ids(x, threshold = 0.5)

pareto_k_values(x)

psis_n_eff_values(x)

mcse_loo(x, threshold = 0.7)

## S3 method for class 'psis_loo'
plot(
  x,
  diagnostic = c("k", "n_eff"),
  ...,
  label_points = FALSE,
  main = "PSIS diagnostic plot"
)

## S3 method for class 'psis'
plot(
  x,
  diagnostic = c("k", "n_eff"),
  ...,
  label_points = FALSE,
  main = "PSIS diagnostic plot"
)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object created by <code>loo()</code> or <code>psis()</code> .
<code>threshold</code>	For <code>pareto_k_ids()</code> , <code>threshold</code> is the minimum k value to flag (default is 0.5). For <code>mcse_loo()</code> , if any k estimates are greater than <code>threshold</code> the MCSE

	estimate is returned as NA (default is 0.7). See Details for the motivation behind these defaults.
diagnostic	For the plot method, which diagnostic should be plotted? The options are "k" for Pareto k estimates (the default) or "n_eff" for PSIS effective sample size estimates.
label_points, ...	For the plot() method, if label_points is TRUE the observation numbers corresponding to any values of k greater than 0.5 will be displayed in the plot. Any arguments specified in ... will be passed to <code>graphics::text()</code> and can be used to control the appearance of the labels.
main	For the plot() method, a title for the plot.

Details

The reliability and approximate convergence rate of the PSIS-based estimates can be assessed using the estimates for the shape parameter k of the generalized Pareto distribution:

- If $k < 0.5$ then the distribution of raw importance ratios has finite variance and the central limit theorem holds. However, as k approaches 0.5 the RMSE of plain importance sampling (IS) increases significantly while PSIS has lower RMSE.
- If $0.5 \leq k < 1$ then the variance of the raw importance ratios is infinite, but the mean exists. TIS and PSIS estimates have finite variance by accepting some bias. The convergence of the estimate is slower with increasing k . If k is between 0.5 and approximately 0.7 then we observe practically useful convergence rates and Monte Carlo error estimates with PSIS (the bias of TIS increases faster than the bias of PSIS). If $k > 0.7$ we observe impractical convergence rates and unreliable Monte Carlo error estimates.
- If $k \geq 1$ then neither the variance nor the mean of the raw importance ratios exists. The convergence rate is close to zero and bias can be large with practical sample sizes.

If the estimated tail shape parameter k exceeds 0.5, the user should be warned, although in practice we have observed good performance for values of k up to 0.7. (Note: If k is greater than 0.5 then WAIC is also likely to fail, but WAIC lacks its own diagnostic.) When using PSIS in the context of approximate LOO-CV, then even if the PSIS estimate has a finite variance the user should consider sampling directly from $p(\theta^s|y_{-i})$ for any problematic observations i , use k -fold cross-validation, or use a more robust model. Importance sampling is likely to work less well if the marginal posterior $p(\theta^s|y)$ and LOO posterior $p(\theta^s|y_{-i})$ are much different, which is more likely to happen with a non-robust model and highly influential observations.

Effective sample size and error estimates: In the case that we obtain the samples from the proposal distribution via MCMC the `loo` package also computes estimates for the Monte Carlo error and the effective sample size for importance sampling, which are more accurate for PSIS than for IS and TIS (see Vehtari et al (2017b) for details). However, the PSIS effective sample size estimate will be **over-optimistic when the estimate of k is greater than 0.7**.

Value

`pareto_k_table()` returns an object of class "pareto_k_table", which is a matrix with columns "Count", "Proportion", and "Min. n_eff", and has its own print method.

pareto_k_ids() returns an integer vector indicating which observations have Pareto k estimates above threshold.

pareto_k_values() returns a vector of the estimated Pareto k parameters.

psis_n_eff_values() returns a vector of the estimated PSIS effective sample sizes.

mcse_loo() returns the Monte Carlo standard error (MCSE) estimate for PSIS-LOO. MCSE will be NA if any Pareto k values are above threshold.

The plot() method is called for its side effect and does not return anything. If x is the result of a call to loo() or psis() then plot(x, diagnostic) produces a plot of the estimates of the Pareto shape parameters (diagnostic = "k") or estimates of the PSIS effective sample sizes (diagnostic = "n_eff").

References

Vehtari, A., Gelman, A., and Gabry, J. (2017a). Practical Bayesian model evaluation using leave-one-out cross-validation and WAIC. *Statistics and Computing*. 27(5), 1413–1432. doi:10.1007/s11222-016-9696-4 (journal version, preprint arXiv:1507.04544).

Vehtari, A., Gelman, A., and Gabry, J. (2017b). Pareto smoothed importance sampling. preprint arXiv:1507.02646

See Also

[psis\(\)](#) for the implementation of the PSIS algorithm.

print.loo

Print methods

Description

Print methods

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'loo'
print(x, digits = 1, ...)

## S3 method for class 'waic'
print(x, digits = 1, ...)

## S3 method for class 'psis_loo'
print(x, digits = 1, plot_k = FALSE, ...)

## S3 method for class 'importance_sampling_loo'
print(x, digits = 1, plot_k = FALSE, ...)

## S3 method for class 'psis_loo_ap'
print(x, digits = 1, plot_k = FALSE, ...)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'psis'
print(x, digits = 1, plot_k = FALSE, ...)

## S3 method for class 'importance_sampling'
print(x, digits = 1, plot_k = FALSE, ...)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object returned by <code>loo()</code> , <code>psis()</code> , or <code>waic()</code> .
<code>digits</code>	An integer passed to <code>base::round()</code> .
<code>...</code>	Arguments passed to <code>plot.psis_loo()</code> if <code>plot_k</code> is TRUE.
<code>plot_k</code>	Logical. If TRUE the estimates of the Pareto shape parameter k are plotted. Ignored if <code>x</code> was generated by <code>waic()</code> . To just plot k without printing use the <code>plot()</code> method for 'loo' objects.

Value

`x`, invisibly.

See Also

[pareto-k-diagnostic](#)

psislw

Pareto smoothed importance sampling (deprecated, old version)

Description

As of version 2.0.0 this function is **deprecated**. Please use the `psis()` function for the new PSIS algorithm.

Usage

```
psislw(
  lw,
  wcp = 0.2,
  wtrunc = 3/4,
  cores = getOption("mc.cores", 1),
  llfun = NULL,
  llargs = NULL,
  ...
)
```

Arguments

lw	A matrix or vector of log weights. For computing LOO, $lw = -\log_lik$, the <i>negative</i> of an S (simulations) by N (data points) pointwise log-likelihood matrix.
wcp	The proportion of importance weights to use for the generalized Pareto fit. The $100*wcp\%$ from which to estimate the parameters of the generalized Pareto distribution.
wtrunc	For truncating very large weights to S^{wtrunc} . Set to zero for no truncation.
cores	The number of cores to use for parallelization. This defaults to the option <code>mc.cores</code> which can be set for an entire R session by <code>options(mc.cores = NUMBER)</code> , the old option <code>loo.cores</code> is now deprecated but will be given precedence over <code>mc.cores</code> until it is removed. As of version 2.0.0, the default is now 1 core if <code>mc.cores</code> is not set, but we recommend using as many (or close to as many) cores as possible.
llfun, llargs	See <code>loo.function()</code> .
...	Ignored when <code>psislw()</code> is called directly. The ... is only used internally when <code>psislw()</code> is called by the <code>loo()</code> function.

Value

A named list with components `lw_smooth` (modified log weights) and `pareto_k` (estimated generalized Pareto shape parameter(s) k).

References

- Vehtari, A., Gelman, A., and Gabry, J. (2017a). Practical Bayesian model evaluation using leave-one-out cross-validation and WAIC. *Statistics and Computing*. 27(5), 1413–1432. doi:10.1007/s11222-016-9696-4 ([journal version](#), [preprint arXiv:1507.04544](#)).
- Vehtari, A., Gelman, A., and Gabry, J. (2017b). Pareto smoothed importance sampling. [preprint arXiv:1507.02646](#)

See Also

[pareto-k-diagnostic](#) for PSIS diagnostics.

relative_eff

Convenience function for computing relative efficiencies

Description

`relative_eff()` computes the the MCMC effective sample size divided by the total sample size.

Usage

```

relative_eff(x, ...)

## Default S3 method:
relative_eff(x, chain_id, ...)

## S3 method for class 'matrix'
relative_eff(x, chain_id, ..., cores = getOption("mc.cores", 1))

## S3 method for class 'array'
relative_eff(x, ..., cores = getOption("mc.cores", 1))

## S3 method for class '`function`'
relative_eff(
  x,
  chain_id,
  ...,
  cores = getOption("mc.cores", 1),
  data = NULL,
  draws = NULL
)

## S3 method for class 'importance_sampling'
relative_eff(x, ...)

```

Arguments

x	A vector, matrix, 3-D array, or function. See the Methods (by class) section below for details on specifying x. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For use with the <code>loo()</code> function, the values in x (or generated by x, if a function) should be likelihood values (i.e., $\exp(\log_lik)$), not on the log scale. • For generic use with <code>psis()</code>, the values in x should be the reciprocal of the importance ratios (i.e., $\exp(-\log_ratios)$).
chain_id	A vector of length $NROW(x)$ containing MCMC chain indexes for each row of x (if a matrix) or each value in x (if a vector). No chain_id is needed if x is a 3-D array. If there are C chains then valid chain indexes are values in 1:C.
cores	The number of cores to use for parallelization.
data, draws, ...	Same as for the <code>loo()</code> function method.

Value

A vector of relative effective sample sizes.

Methods (by class)

- default: A vector of length S (posterior sample size).

- **matrix**: An S by N matrix, where S is the size of the posterior sample (with all chains merged) and N is the number of data points.
- **array**: An I by C by N array, where I is the number of MCMC iterations per chain, C is the number of chains, and N is the number of data points.
- **function**: A function $f()$ that takes arguments `data_i` and `draws` and returns a vector containing the log-likelihood for a single observation i evaluated at each posterior draw. The function should be written such that, for each observation i in $1:N$, evaluating

```
f(data_i = data[i,, drop=FALSE], draws = draws)
```

results in a vector of length S (size of posterior sample). The log-likelihood function can also have additional arguments but `data_i` and `draws` are required.

If using the function method then the arguments `data` and `draws` must also be specified in the call to `loo()`:

- **data**: A data frame or matrix containing the data (e.g. observed outcome and predictors) needed to compute the pointwise log-likelihood. For each observation i , the i th row of `data` will be passed to the `data_i` argument of the log-likelihood function.
 - **draws**: An object containing the posterior draws for any parameters needed to compute the pointwise log-likelihood. Unlike `data`, which is indexed by observation, for each observation the entire object `draws` will be passed to the `draws` argument of the log-likelihood function.
 - The `...` can be used if your log-likelihood function takes additional arguments. These arguments are used like the `draws` argument in that they are recycled for each observation.
- **importance_sampling**: If x is an object of class "psis", `relative_eff()` simply returns the `r_eff` attribute of x .

Examples

```
LLarr <- example_loglik_array()
LLmat <- example_loglik_matrix()
dim(LLarr)
dim(LLmat)

rel_n_eff_1 <- relative_eff(exp(LLarr))
rel_n_eff_2 <- relative_eff(exp(LLmat), chain_id = rep(1:2, each = 500))
all.equal(rel_n_eff_1, rel_n_eff_2)
```

Description

Implementation of standard importance sampling (SIS).

Usage

```

sis(log_ratios, ...)

## S3 method for class 'array'
sis(log_ratios, ..., r_eff = NULL, cores = getOption("mc.cores", 1))

## S3 method for class 'matrix'
sis(log_ratios, ..., r_eff = NULL, cores = getOption("mc.cores", 1))

## Default S3 method:
sis(log_ratios, ..., r_eff = NULL)

```

Arguments

<code>log_ratios</code>	An array, matrix, or vector of importance ratios on the log scale (for Importance sampling LOO, these are <i>negative</i> log-likelihood values). See the Methods (by class) section below for a detailed description of how to specify the inputs for each method.
<code>...</code>	Arguments passed on to the various methods.
<code>r_eff</code>	Vector of relative effective sample size estimates containing one element per observation. The values provided should be the relative effective sample sizes of $1/\exp(\log_ratios)$ (i.e., $1/ratios$). This is related to the relative efficiency of estimating the normalizing term in self-normalizing importance sampling. See the <code>relative_eff()</code> helper function for computing <code>r_eff</code> . If using <code>psis</code> with draws of the <code>log_ratios</code> not obtained from MCMC then the warning message thrown when not specifying <code>r_eff</code> can be disabled by setting <code>r_eff</code> to NA.
<code>cores</code>	The number of cores to use for parallelization. This defaults to the option <code>mc.cores</code> which can be set for an entire R session by <code>options(mc.cores = NUMBER)</code> . The old option <code>loo.cores</code> is now deprecated but will be given precedence over <code>mc.cores</code> until <code>loo.cores</code> is removed in a future release. As of version 2.0.0 the default is now 1 core if <code>mc.cores</code> is not set , but we recommend using as many (or close to as many) cores as possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note for Windows 10 users: it is strongly recommended to avoid using the <code>.Rprofile</code> file to set <code>mc.cores</code> (using the <code>cores</code> argument or setting <code>mc.cores</code> interactively or in a script is fine).

Value

The `sis()` methods return an object of class "sis", which is a named list with the following components:

`log_weights` Vector or matrix of smoothed (and truncated) but *unnormalized* log weights, *minus the largest log ratio* for numerical reasons. To get normalized weights use the `weights` method provided for objects of class `sis`.

`diagnostics` A named list containing one vector:

- `pareto_k`: Not used in `sis`, all set to 0.
- `n_eff`: effective sample size estimates.

Objects of class "sis" also have the following [attributes](#):

`norm_const_log` Vector of precomputed values of `colLogSumExps(log_weights)` that are used internally by the `weights` method to normalize the log weights.

`r_eff` If specified, the user's `r_eff` argument.

`tail_len` Not used for `sis`.

`dims` Integer vector of length 2 containing `S` (posterior sample size) and `N` (number of observations).

`method` Method used for importance sampling, here `sis`.

Methods (by class)

- `array`: An I by C by N array, where I is the number of MCMC iterations per chain, C is the number of chains, and N is the number of data points.
- `matrix`: An S by N matrix, where S is the size of the posterior sample (with all chains merged) and N is the number of data points.
- `default`: A vector of length S (posterior sample size).

References

Vehtari, A., Gelman, A., and Gabry, J. (2017a). Practical Bayesian model evaluation using leave-one-out cross-validation and WAIC. *Statistics and Computing*. 27(5), 1413–1432. doi:10.1007/s11222-016-9696-4 ([journal version](#), [preprint arXiv:1507.04544](#)).

Vehtari, A., Gelman, A., and Gabry, J. (2017b). Pareto smoothed importance sampling. [preprint arXiv:1507.02646](#)

See Also

- [psis\(\)](#) for approximate LOO-CV using PSIS.
- [loo\(\)](#) for approximate LOO-CV.
- [pareto-k-diagnostic](#) for PSIS diagnostics.

Examples

```
log_ratios <- -1 * example_loglik_array()
r_eff <- relative_eff(exp(-log_ratios))
sis_result <- sis(log_ratios, r_eff = r_eff)
str(sis_result)

# extract smoothed weights
lw <- weights(sis_result) # default args are log=TRUE, normalize=TRUE
ulw <- weights(sis_result, normalize=FALSE) # unnormalized log-weights

w <- weights(sis_result, log=FALSE) # normalized weights (not log-weights)
uw <- weights(sis_result, log=FALSE, normalize = FALSE) # unnormalized weights
```

tis

*Truncated importance sampling (TIS)***Description**

Implementation of Truncated (self-normalized) importance sampling (TIS), truncated at $S^{(1/2)}$ as recommended by Ionides (2008).

Usage

```
tis(log_ratios, ...)

## S3 method for class 'array'
tis(log_ratios, ..., r_eff = NULL, cores = getOption("mc.cores", 1))

## S3 method for class 'matrix'
tis(log_ratios, ..., r_eff = NULL, cores = getOption("mc.cores", 1))

## Default S3 method:
tis(log_ratios, ..., r_eff = NULL)
```

Arguments

log_ratios	An array, matrix, or vector of importance ratios on the log scale (for Importance sampling LOO, these are <i>negative</i> log-likelihood values). See the Methods (by class) section below for a detailed description of how to specify the inputs for each method.
...	Arguments passed on to the various methods.
r_eff	Vector of relative effective sample size estimates containing one element per observation. The values provided should be the relative effective sample sizes of $1/\exp(\log_ratios)$ (i.e., $1/ratios$). This is related to the relative efficiency of estimating the normalizing term in self-normalizing importance sampling. See the relative_eff() helper function for computing r_eff. If using psis with draws of the log_ratios not obtained from MCMC then the warning message thrown when not specifying r_eff can be disabled by setting r_eff to NA.
cores	The number of cores to use for parallelization. This defaults to the option mc.cores which can be set for an entire R session by options(mc.cores = NUMBER). The old option loo.cores is now deprecated but will be given precedence over mc.cores until loo.cores is removed in a future release. As of version 2.0.0 the default is now 1 core if mc.cores is not set , but we recommend using as many (or close to as many) cores as possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note for Windows 10 users: it is strongly recommended to avoid using the .Rprofile file to set mc.cores (using the cores argument or setting mc.cores interactively or in a script is fine).

Value

The `tis()` methods return an object of class "sis", which is a named list with the following components:

`log_weights` Vector or matrix of smoothed (and truncated) but *unnormalized* log weights, *minus the largest log ratio* for numerical reasons. To get normalized weights use the `weights` method provided for objects of class `tis`.

`diagnostics` A named list containing one vector:

- `pareto_k`: Not used in `tis`, all set to 0.
- `n_eff`: effective sample size estimates.

Objects of class "tis" also have the following [attributes](#):

`norm_const_log` Vector of precomputed values of `colLogSumExps(log_weights)` that are used internally by the `weights` method to normalize the log weights.

`r_eff` If specified, the user's `r_eff` argument.

`tail_len` Not used for `tis`.

`dims` Integer vector of length 2 containing S (posterior sample size) and N (number of observations).

`method` Method used for importance sampling, here `tis`.

Methods (by class)

- `array`: An I by C by N array, where I is the number of MCMC iterations per chain, C is the number of chains, and N is the number of data points.
- `matrix`: An S by N matrix, where S is the size of the posterior sample (with all chains merged) and N is the number of data points.
- `default`: A vector of length S (posterior sample size).

References

Ionides, Edward L. (2008). Truncated importance sampling. *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics* 17(2): 295–311.

See Also

- [psis\(\)](#) for approximate LOO-CV using PSIS.
- [loo\(\)](#) for approximate LOO-CV.
- [pareto-k-diagnostic](#) for PSIS diagnostics.

Examples

```
log_ratios <- -1 * example_loglik_array()
r_eff <- relative_eff(exp(-log_ratios))
tis_result <- tis(log_ratios, r_eff = r_eff)
str(tis_result)

# extract smoothed weights
```

```
lw <- weights(tis_result) # default args are log=TRUE, normalize=TRUE
ulw <- weights(tis_result, normalize=FALSE) # unnormalized log-weights

w <- weights(tis_result, log=FALSE) # normalized weights (not log-weights)
uw <- weights(tis_result, log=FALSE, normalize = FALSE) # unnormalized weights
```

update.psis_loo_ss *Update psis_loo_ss objects*

Description

Update psis_loo_ss objects

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'psis_loo_ss'
update(
  object,
  ...,
  data = NULL,
  draws = NULL,
  observations = NULL,
  r_eff = NULL,
  cores = getOption("mc.cores", 1),
  loo_approximation = NULL,
  loo_approximation_draws = NULL,
  llgrad = NULL,
  llhess = NULL
)
```

Arguments

object	A psis_loo_ss object to update.
...	Currently not used.
data	For loo_subsample.function(), these are the data, posterior draws, and other arguments to pass to the log-likelihood function.
draws	For loo_subsample.function(), these are the data, posterior draws, and other arguments to pass to the log-likelihood function.
observations	The subsample observations to use. The argument can take four (4) types of arguments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NULL to use all observations. The algorithm then just uses standard loo() or loo_approximate_posterior(). • A single integer to specify the number of observations to be subsampled.

- A vector of integers to provide the indices used to subset the data. *These observations need to be subsampled with the same scheme as given by the estimator argument.*
 - A psis_loo_ss object to use the same observations that were used in a previous call to loo_subsample().
- r_eff** Vector of relative effective sample size estimates for the likelihood ($\exp(\log_lik)$) of each observation. This is related to the relative efficiency of estimating the normalizing term in self-normalizing importance sampling when using posterior draws obtained with MCMC. If MCMC draws are used and r_eff is not provided then the reported PSIS effective sample sizes and Monte Carlo error estimates will be over-optimistic. If the posterior draws are independent then r_eff=1 and can be omitted. See the `relative_eff()` helper functions for computing r_eff.
- cores** The number of cores to use for parallelization. This defaults to the option `mc.cores` which can be set for an entire R session by `options(mc.cores = NUMBER)`. The old option `loo.cores` is now deprecated but will be given precedence over `mc.cores` until `loo.cores` is removed in a future release. **As of version 2.0.0 the default is now 1 core if mc.cores is not set**, but we recommend using as many (or close to as many) cores as possible.
- Note for Windows 10 users: it is **strongly recommended** to avoid using the `.Rprofile` file to set `mc.cores` (using the `cores` argument or setting `mc.cores` interactively or in a script is fine).
- loo_approximation** What type of approximation of the `loo_i`'s should be used? The default is "p1pd" (the log predictive density using the posterior expectation). There are six different methods implemented to approximate `loo_i`'s (see the references for more details):
- "p1pd": uses the lpd based on point estimates (i.e., $p(y_i|\hat{\theta})$).
 - "lpd": uses the lpds (i.e., $p(y_i|y)$).
 - "tis": uses truncated importance sampling to approximate PSIS-LOO.
 - "waic": uses waic (i.e., $p(y_i|y) - p_{waic}$).
 - "waic_grad_marginal": uses waic approximation using first order delta method and posterior marginal variances to approximate p_{waic} (ie. $p(y_i|\hat{\theta})$ -p_waic_grad_marginal). Requires gradient of likelihood function.
 - "waic_grad": uses waic approximation using first order delta method and posterior covariance to approximate p_{waic} (ie. $p(y_i|\hat{\theta})$ -p_waic_grad). Requires gradient of likelihood function.
 - "waic_hess": uses waic approximation using second order delta method and posterior covariance to approximate p_{waic} (ie. $p(y_i|\hat{\theta})$ -p_waic_grad). Requires gradient and Hessian of likelihood function.
- As point estimates of $\hat{\theta}$, the posterior expectations of the parameters are used.
- loo_approximation_draws** The number of posterior draws used when integrating over the posterior. This is used if `loo_approximation` is set to "lpd", "waic", or "tis".

llgrad	The gradient of the log-likelihood. This is only used when <code>loo_approximation</code> is "waic_grad", "waic_grad_marginal", or "waic_hess". The default is NULL.
llhess	The hessian of the log-likelihood. This is only used with <code>loo_approximation = "waic_hess"</code> . The default is NULL.

Details

If `observations` is updated then if a vector of indices or a `psis_loo_ss` object is supplied the updated object will have exactly the observations indicated by the vector or `psis_loo_ss` object. If a single integer is supplied, new observations will be sampled to reach the supplied sample size.

Value

A `psis_loo_ss` object.

waic	<i>Widely applicable information criterion (WAIC)</i>
------	---

Description

The `waic()` methods can be used to compute WAIC from the pointwise log-likelihood. However, we recommend LOO-CV using PSIS (as implemented by the `loo()` function) because PSIS provides useful diagnostics as well as effective sample size and Monte Carlo estimates.

Usage

```
waic(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'array'
waic(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'matrix'
waic(x, ...)

## S3 method for class '`function`'
waic(x, ..., data = NULL, draws = NULL)

is.waic(x)
```

Arguments

`x` A log-likelihood array, matrix, or function. The **Methods (by class)** section, below, has detailed descriptions of how to specify the inputs for each method.

`draws, data, ...` For the function method only. See the **Methods (by class)** section below for details on these arguments.

Value

A named list (of class `c("waic", "loo")`) with components:

`estimates` A matrix with two columns ("Estimate", "SE") and three rows ("elpd_waic", "p_waic", "waic"). This contains point estimates and standard errors of the expected log pointwise predictive density (elpd_waic), the effective number of parameters (p_waic) and the information criterion waic (which is just $-2 * \text{elpd_waic}$, i.e., converted to deviance scale).

`pointwise` A matrix with three columns (and number of rows equal to the number of observations) containing the pointwise contributions of each of the above measures (elpd_waic, p_waic, waic).

Methods (by class)

- `array`: An I by C by N array, where I is the number of MCMC iterations per chain, C is the number of chains, and N is the number of data points.
- `matrix`: An S by N matrix, where S is the size of the posterior sample (with all chains merged) and N is the number of data points.
- `function`: A function `f()` that takes arguments `data_i` and `draws` and returns a vector containing the log-likelihood for a single observation i evaluated at each posterior draw. The function should be written such that, for each observation i in $1:N$, evaluating

```
f(data_i = data[i,, drop=FALSE], draws = draws)
```

results in a vector of length S (size of posterior sample). The log-likelihood function can also have additional arguments but `data_i` and `draws` are required.

If using the function method then the arguments `data` and `draws` must also be specified in the call to `loo()`:

- `data`: A data frame or matrix containing the data (e.g. observed outcome and predictors) needed to compute the pointwise log-likelihood. For each observation i , the i th row of `data` will be passed to the `data_i` argument of the log-likelihood function.
- `draws`: An object containing the posterior draws for any parameters needed to compute the pointwise log-likelihood. Unlike `data`, which is indexed by observation, for each observation the entire object `draws` will be passed to the `draws` argument of the log-likelihood function.
- The `...` can be used if your log-likelihood function takes additional arguments. These arguments are used like the `draws` argument in that they are recycled for each observation.

References

- Watanabe, S. (2010). Asymptotic equivalence of Bayes cross validation and widely application information criterion in singular learning theory. *Journal of Machine Learning Research* **11**, 3571–3594.
- Vehtari, A., Gelman, A., and Gabry, J. (2017a). Practical Bayesian model evaluation using leave-one-out cross-validation and WAIC. *Statistics and Computing*. 27(5), 1413–1432. doi:10.1007/s11222-016-9696-4 ([journal version](#), [preprint arXiv:1507.04544](#)).
- Vehtari, A., Gelman, A., and Gabry, J. (2017b). Pareto smoothed importance sampling. [preprint arXiv:1507.02646](#)

See Also

- The **loo** package [vignettes](#) and Vehtari, Gelman, and Gabry (2017a, 2017b) for more details on why we usually prefer `loo()` to `waic()`.
- [loo_compare\(\)](#) for comparing models on approximate LOO-CV or WAIC.

Examples

```
### Array and matrix methods
LLarr <- example_loglik_array()
dim(LLarr)

LLmat <- example_loglik_matrix()
dim(LLmat)

waic_arr <- waic(LLarr)
waic_mat <- waic(LLmat)
identical(waic_arr, waic_mat)

## Not run:
log_lik1 <- extract_log_lik(stanfit1)
log_lik2 <- extract_log_lik(stanfit2)
(waic1 <- waic(log_lik1))
(waic2 <- waic(log_lik2))
print(compare(waic1, waic2), digits = 2)

## End(Not run)
```

```
weights.importance_sampling
```

Pareto smoothed importance sampling (PSIS)

Description

Implementation of Pareto smoothed importance sampling (PSIS), a method for stabilizing importance ratios. The version of PSIS implemented here corresponds to the algorithm presented in Vehtari, Gelman and Gabry (2017b). For PSIS diagnostics see the [pareto-k-diagnostic](#) page.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'importance_sampling'
weights(object, ..., log = TRUE, normalize = TRUE)

psis(log_ratios, ...)

## S3 method for class 'array'
psis(log_ratios, ..., r_eff = NULL, cores = getOption("mc.cores", 1))
```

```
## S3 method for class 'matrix'
psis(log_ratios, ..., r_eff = NULL, cores = getOption("mc.cores", 1))

## Default S3 method:
psis(log_ratios, ..., r_eff = NULL)

is.psis(x)

is.sis(x)

is.tis(x)
```

Arguments

object	For the <code>weights()</code> method, an object returned by <code>psis()/tis()/sis()</code> (a list with same class name "psis"/"tis"/"sis").
...	Arguments passed on to the various methods.
log	For the <code>weights()</code> method, should the weights be returned on the log scale? Defaults to TRUE.
normalize	For the <code>weights()</code> method, should the weights be normalized? Defaults to TRUE.
log_ratios	An array, matrix, or vector of importance ratios on the log scale (for PSIS-LOO these are <i>negative</i> log-likelihood values). See the Methods (by class) section below for a detailed description of how to specify the inputs for each method.
r_eff	Vector of relative effective sample size estimates containing one element per observation. The values provided should be the relative effective sample sizes of $1/\exp(\log_ratios)$ (i.e., $1/ratios$). This is related to the relative efficiency of estimating the normalizing term in self-normalizing importance sampling. If <code>r_eff</code> is not provided then the reported PSIS effective sample sizes and Monte Carlo error estimates will be over-optimistic. See the <code>relative_eff()</code> helper function for computing <code>r_eff</code> . If using <code>psis</code> with draws of the <code>log_ratios</code> not obtained from MCMC then the warning message thrown when not specifying <code>r_eff</code> can be disabled by setting <code>r_eff</code> to NA.
cores	The number of cores to use for parallelization. This defaults to the option <code>mc.cores</code> which can be set for an entire R session by <code>options(mc.cores = NUMBER)</code> . The old option <code>loo.cores</code> is now deprecated but will be given precedence over <code>mc.cores</code> until <code>loo.cores</code> is removed in a future release. As of version 2.0.0 the default is now 1 core if <code>mc.cores</code> is not set , but we recommend using as many (or close to as many) cores as possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note for Windows 10 users: it is strongly recommended to avoid using the <code>.Rprofile</code> file to set <code>mc.cores</code> (using the <code>cores</code> argument or setting <code>mc.cores</code> interactively or in a script is fine).
x	For <code>is.psis()</code> , an object to check.

Value

The `weights()` method returns an object with the same dimensions as the `log_weights` component of the "psis"/"tis"/"sis" object. The `normalize` and `log` arguments control whether the returned weights are normalized and whether or not to return them on the log scale.

The `psis()` methods return an object of class "psis", which is a named list with the following components:

`log_weights` Vector or matrix of smoothed (and truncated) but *unnormalized* log weights, *minus the largest log ratio* for numerical reasons. To get normalized weights use the `weights` method provided for objects of class "psis".

`diagnostics` A named list containing two vectors:

- `pareto_k`: Estimates of the shape parameter k of the generalized Pareto distribution. See the [pareto-k-diagnostic](#) page for details.
- `n_eff`: PSIS effective sample size estimates.

Objects of class "psis" also have the following [attributes](#):

`norm_const_log` Vector of precomputed values of `colLogSumExps(log_weights)` that are used internally by the `weights` method to normalize the log weights.

`tail_len` Vector of tail lengths used for fitting the generalized Pareto distribution.

`r_eff` If specified, the user's `r_eff` argument.

`dims` Integer vector of length 2 containing S (posterior sample size) and N (number of observations).

`method` Method used for importance sampling, here `psis`.

Methods (by class)

- `array`: An I by C by N array, where I is the number of MCMC iterations per chain, C is the number of chains, and N is the number of data points.
- `matrix`: An S by N matrix, where S is the size of the posterior sample (with all chains merged) and N is the number of data points.
- `default`: A vector of length S (posterior sample size).

References

Vehtari, A., Gelman, A., and Gabry, J. (2017a). Practical Bayesian model evaluation using leave-one-out cross-validation and WAIC. *Statistics and Computing*. 27(5), 1413–1432. doi:10.1007/s11222-016-9696-4 ([journal version](#), [preprint arXiv:1507.04544](#)).

Vehtari, A., Gelman, A., and Gabry, J. (2017b). Pareto smoothed importance sampling. [preprint arXiv:1507.02646](#)

See Also

- [loo\(\)](#) for approximate LOO-CV using PSIS.
- [pareto-k-diagnostic](#) for PSIS diagnostics.

Examples

```
log_ratios <- -1 * example_loglik_array()
r_eff <- relative_eff(exp(-log_ratios))
psis_result <- psis(log_ratios, r_eff = r_eff)
str(psis_result)
plot(psis_result)

# extract smoothed weights
lw <- weights(psis_result) # default args are log=TRUE, normalize=TRUE
ulw <- weights(psis_result, normalize=FALSE) # unnormalized log-weights

w <- weights(psis_result, log=FALSE) # normalized weights (not log-weights)
uw <- weights(psis_result, log=FALSE, normalize = FALSE) # unnormalized weights
```

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