

# Package ‘nimbleMacros’

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**Title** Macros Generating 'nimble' Code

**Depends** R (>= 3.4.0), nimble

**Imports** reformulas

**Suggests** knitr, markdown, testthat

**Description** Macros to generate 'nimble' code from a concise syntax. Included are macros for generating linear modeling code using a formula-based syntax and for building for() loops. For more details review the 'nimble' manual: [https://r-nimble.org/html\\_manual/cha-writing-models.html#subsec:macros](https://r-nimble.org/html_manual/cha-writing-models.html#subsec:macros).

**License** BSD\_3\_clause + file LICENSE | GPL (>= 2)

**NeedsCompilation** no

**URL** <https://r-nimble.org>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/nimble-dev/nimbleMacros/issues>

**Encoding** UTF-8

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.2

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|         |   |
|---------|---|
| FORLOOP | <i>Macro to build for loop(s) from code with index ranges in brackets</i> |
|---------|---|

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## Description

This macro takes a line of NIMBLE model code with index ranges inside brackets on either the left-hand side of a declaration or both the left- and right-hand sides of a declaration and constructs a corresponding for loop or series of nested for loops.

## Arguments

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <code>code</code>      | The right-hand side of a parameter declaration  |
| <code>modelInfo</code> | Used internally by nimbleMacros; a list of model information such as constants and dimensions |
| <code>.env</code>      | Used internally by nimbleMacros; the environment where the model was created                  |

## Value

NIMBLE code for a for loop or series of nested for loops.

## Author(s)

Ken Kellner and Perry de Valpine

## Examples

```
code <- nimbleCode({
  y[1:n, 1:2, 1] ~ FORLOOP(dnorm(mu[1:n], sigma))
  mu[1:n] <- FORLOOP(beta[1] + beta[2]*x[1:n])
})

mod <- nimbleModel(code, constants = list(n=10))
mod$getCode()
```

LINPRED

*Macro to build code for linear predictor from R formula***Description**

Converts an R formula into corresponding code for a linear predictor in NIMBLE model code. Options are available to specify a link function and to also generate code for priors corresponding to the parameters in the linear predictor.

**Arguments**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| formula          | An R formula, possibly with the parameters followed by brackets containing indices. If there are no indices, the macro attempts to guess the correct indices from the context. The formula must be right-hand side only (e.g. $\sim x$ ). This must always be the first argument supplied to LINPRED.   |
| link             | A link function that will be applied to the left-hand-side (the response) in the final linear predictor. Default is none.   |
| coefPrefix       | All model coefficient names will begin with this prefix. default is "beta_" (so 'x' becomes 'beta_x', etc.)   |
| sdPrefix         | All dispersion parameters will begin with this prefix. Default is no prefix.  |
| priors           | Prior specifications, generated with <code>setPrior()</code>  |
| modelMatrixNames | Logical indicating if parameters should be named so they match the names one would get from R's <code>model.matrix</code> . Default is FALSE.   |
| noncentered      | Logical indicating whether to use noncentered parameterization for random effects. Default is FALSE. Under the noncentered parameterization, random effects have a standard normal prior ( $\text{beta\_x\_raw} \sim \text{dnorm}(0, \text{sd} = 1)$ ) and are then scaled by the hyperparameters (mean and SD), i.e., $\text{beta\_x} = \text{mu\_beta} + \text{sd\_beta} * \text{beta\_x\_raw}$ . This parameterization can improve mixing in some cases.   |
| centerVar        | Grouping variable (covariate) to 'center' the random effects on. By default (when NULL), random effects come from normal distributions with mean 0 as with lme4. For example, for random intercepts by grouping variable x, the linear predictor would be $\text{beta\_Intercept} + \text{beta\_x}[x[i]]$ and the prior for the random effects would be $\text{beta\_x} \sim \text{dnorm}(0, \text{sd\_x})$ . When <code>centerVar = x</code> , the linear predictor would be $\text{beta\_x}[x[i]]$ and the random effect prior would be $\text{beta\_x} \sim \text{dnorm}(\text{beta\_Intercept}, \text{sd} = \text{sd\_x})$ . That is, the mean of the random effects is now <code>beta_Intercept</code> . These two formulations should yield the same results. Note that this option is unrelated to the noncentered argument despite the similar names. |
| modelInfo        | Used internally by <code>nimbleMacros</code> ; a list of model information such as constants and dimensions   |
| .env             | Used internally by <code>nimbleMacros</code> ; the environment where the model was created  |

**Value**

NIMBLE code for the linear predictor specified by the formula, and optionally the associated priors.

**Author(s)**

Ken Kellner

**Examples**

```
constants <- list(x = rnorm(3), x2 = factor(letters[1:3]))
code <- nimbleCode({
  mu[1:3] <- LINPRED(~x + x2)
})

mod <- nimbleModel(code, constants = constants)
mod$getCode()
```

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LINPRED\_PRIORS

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*Macro to build code for priors on a linear predictor from an R formula*


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**Description**

Generates appropriate priors for a linear predictor derived from an R formula. As such it makes the most sense to use this macro together with the LINPRED macro, which takes similar arguments.

**Arguments**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| formula          | An R formula The formula must be right-hand side only (e.g., ~x). This must always be the first argument supplied to LINPRED_PRIORS.  |
| coefPrefix       | All model coefficient names will begin with this prefix. default is "beta_" (so 'x' becomes 'beta_x', etc.)   |
| sdPrefix         | All dispersion parameters will begin with this prefix. Default is no prefix.  |
| priors           | List of prior specifications, generated using setPriors. setPriors()  |
| modelMatrixNames | Logical indicating if parameters should be named so they match the names one would get from R's model.matrix. Default is FALSE.   |
| noncentered      | Logical indicating whether to use noncentered parameterization for random effects. Default is FALSE. Under the noncentered parameterization, random effects have a standard normal prior ( $\text{beta\_x\_raw} \sim \text{dnorm}(0, \text{sd} = 1)$ ) and are then scaled by the hyperparameters (mean and SD), i.e., $\text{beta\_x} = \text{mu\_beta} + \text{sd\_beta} * \text{beta\_x\_raw}$ . This parameterization can improve mixing in some cases. |

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| centerVar | Grouping variable (covariate) to 'center' the random effects on. By default (when NULL), random effects come from normal distributions with mean 0 as with lme4. For example, for random intercepts by grouping variable x, the linear predictor would be $\text{beta\_Intercept} + \text{beta\_x}[x[i]]$ and the prior for the random effects would be $\text{beta\_x} \sim \text{dnorm}(0, \text{sd\_x})$ . When centerVar = x, the linear predictor would be $\text{beta\_x}[x[i]]$ and the random effect prior would be $\text{beta\_x} \sim \text{dnorm}(\text{beta\_Intercept}, \text{sd} = \text{sd\_x})$ . That is, the mean of the random effects is now beta_Intercept. These two formulations should yield the same results. Note that this option is unrelated to the noncentered argument despite the similar names. |
| modelInfo | Used internally by nimbleMacros; a list of model information such as constants and dimensions   |
| .env      | Used internally by nimbleMacros; the environment where the model was created  |

**Value**

NIMBLE code for the priors specified by the formula.

**Author(s)**

Ken Kellner

**Examples**

```
constants <- list(x = rnorm(3), x2 = factor(letters[1:3]))
code <- nimbleCode({
  LINPRED_PRIORS(~x + x2)
})

mod <- nimbleModel(code, constants = constants)
mod$getCode()
```

LM

*Macro for fitting linear models, GLMs, and GLMMs***Description**

This macro generates code for LMs, GLMs, and GLMMs using formula notation and arguments similar to R functions such as `lm()`, `glm()`, and `lmer()/glmer()`. Currently only normal, Poisson, and binomial models are supported.

**Arguments**

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| formula | An R formula, possibly with the parameters followed by brackets containing indices. If there are no indices, the macro attempts to guess the correct indices from the context. Formulas can include random effects via lme4-style notation (e.g., <code>~ x + (1 group)</code> ) |
|---------|--|

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| family           | A description of the error distribution and link function to be used in the model. This can be a character string naming a family function, a family function or the result of a call to a family function. See ?family. Supported families are gaussian (default), binomial, and poisson. |
| coefPrefix       | Character. All model coefficient names will begin with this prefix. default is "beta_" (so 'x' becomes 'beta_x', etc.)   |
| sdPrefix         | Character. All dispersion parameters will begin with this prefix. default is no prefix.  |
| priors           | List of prior specifications, generated using setPriors().   |
| modelMatrixNames | Logical indicating if parameters be named so they match the names one would get from R's model.matrix.   |
| modelInfo        | Used internally by nimbleMacros; a list of model information such as constants and dimensions  |
| .env             | Used internally by nimbleMacros; the environment where the model was created   |

**Value**

NIMBLE code for the linear model, GLM, or GLMM specified by the formula, including priors.

**Author(s)**

Ken Kellner

**Examples**

```
constants <- list(y = rnorm(10),
                  x = rnorm(10),
                  x2 = factor(sample(letters[1:3], 10, replace=TRUE)))

code <- nimbleCode({
  LM(y ~ x + x2)
})

mod <- nimbleModel(code, constants = constants)
mod$getCode()
```

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matchPrior

---

*Match a prior from a list of prior settings*


---

**Description**

Attempts to determine which prior to put on a parameter based on a list of settings, such as the output from setPriors(). The function follows the following search pattern: (1) looks for an exact match to the parameter name including brackets; (2) a match to the parameter name without brackets; (3) goes through each value supplied to ... in order and looks for a match in the names of the settings list. Once a match is found the function returns the corresponding prior value.

**Usage**

```
matchPrior(parName, ..., priors)
```

**Arguments**

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| parName | Parameter to get a prior for, as quoted code/name, possibly including brackets/indices  |
| ...     | Character strings that categorize the parameter and match the names of elements in priors. The order is important: the first match found is used. |
| priors  | A named list of prior settings, e.g., as generated by setPriors   |

**Value**

NIMBLE code for the matching prior.

**Author(s)**

Ken Kellner

**Examples**

```
pr <- setPriors(intercept = quote(dunif(-3, 3)), 'alpha' = quote(dunif(0,1)),
               'alpha[2]' = "dnorm(0, 3)")
matchPrior(quote(alpha), priors=pr)
matchPrior(quote(alpha[2]), priors=pr)
matchPrior(quote(intercept), priors=pr)
```

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setPriors

---

*Set up prior values for different categories of nodes*


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**Description**

Generates a list of custom specifications of priors for parameters in the model. It is possible to set priors for a category of parameters (e.g., intercept, coefficient, sd, factor, continuous) or to set a prior for a specific parameter name (optionally including brackets with indices).

**Usage**

```
setPriors(
  intercept = quote(dnorm(0, sd = 1000)),
  coefficient = quote(dnorm(0, sd = 1000)),
  sd = quote(dunif(0, 100)),
  factor = NULL,
  continuous = NULL,
  lkjShape = 1,
  ...
)
```

**Arguments**

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| intercept   | Prior specification for intercepts   |
| coefficient | Prior specification for slope coefficients   |
| sd          | Prior specification for random effects SDs   |
| factor      | Prior specifications for slope coefficients corresponding to factor data   |
| continuous  | Prior specifications for slope coefficients corresponding to continuous data   |
| lkjShape    | Value of shape parameter for LKJ distribution prior, used for correlation matrix in correlated random slope and intercept models |
| ...         | Specific parameters, optionally with brackets/indices  |

**Details**

Exact name matches including brackets/indices are used first, followed by name matches without indices, followed by data type (factor/continuous) followed by parameter type (intercept/coefficient/sd). Arguments can be supplied as quoted code, a character string, or as a list of prior components. For example, to specify the prior `dnorm(0, sd = 10)` you could specify `quote(dnorm(0, sd = 10))`, or `"dnorm(0, sd = 10)"`, or `list("dnorm", 0, sd = 10)`.

**Value**

A named list of prior specifications to be passed to the `priors` argument of other macros in the package, such as `LINPRED`.

**Author(s)**

Ken Kellner

**See Also**

`[nimble::dlkj_corr_cholesky]` for more on the LKJ distribution

**Examples**

```
# Set a prior for intercept terms using quoted code
setPriors(intercept = quote(dunif(-5,5)))
# Instead using a character string
setPriors(intercept = "dunif(-5,5)")
# Set prior for slopes associated with factor covariates
setPriors(factor = quote(dnorm(0, sd = 2.5)))
# Set prior for a specific coefficient
setPriors('alpha[1]' = "dnorm(0, 3)")
```



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|                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| uppertri_mult_diag | <i>uppertri_mult_diag</i> |
|--------------------|---------------------------|

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**Description**

nimbleFunction needed when fitting correlated random effects. Generates upper triangular Cholesky factor of covariance matrix ("U" in code) from upper triangular Cholesky factor of correlation matrix ("Ustar" in code) and vector of standard deviations. Taken from the NIMBLE manual, section 5.2.4.1.2 (LKJ Distribution for Correlation Matrices).

**Usage**

```
uppertri_mult_diag(mat, vec)
```

**Arguments**

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| mat | upper triangular Cholesky factor of correlation matrix ("Ustar") |
| vec | vector of standard deviations for individual random effects      |

**Value**

The upper triangular Cholesky factor of the covariance matrix.

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