

Package ‘sMSROC’

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Type Package

Title Assessment of Diagnostic and Prognostic Markers

Version 0.1.2

Description Provides estimations of the Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve and the Area Under the Curve (AUC) based on the two-stages mixed-subjects ROC curve estimator (Diaz-Coto et al. (2020) <[doi:10.1515/ijb-2019-0097](https://doi.org/10.1515/ijb-2019-0097)> and Diaz-Coto et al. (2020) <[doi:10.1080/00949655.2020.1736071](https://doi.org/10.1080/00949655.2020.1736071)>).

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auc_ci_boot-internal *Confidence intervals for the AUC (bootstrap)*

Description

Computation of confidence intervals for the AUC based on Bootstrap Percentile.

Usage

```
auc_ci_boot(marker, outcome, status, observed.time, left, right, time,
            data_type, meth, grid, probs, ci.cl, ci.nboots, parallel,
            ncpus, all)
```

Arguments

marker	vector with the biomarker values.
outcome	vector with the condition of the subjects as positive, negative or unknown at the considered time time.
status	response vector.
observed.time	vector with the observed times for each subject.
left	vector with the lower edges of the observed intervals.
right	vector with the upper edges of the observed intervals.
time	point of time at which the SMS ROC curve estimator will be computed.
data_type	scenario handled.
meth	method for approximating the predictive model $P(D X = x)$.
grid	grid size.
probs	vector containing the probabilities estimated through the predictive model.
ci.cl	confidence level at which the confidence intervals will be computed.
ci.nboots	number of bootstrap samples.
parallel	indicates whether parallel computing will be performed or not.
ncpus	number of CPUs to use if parallel computing is performed.
all	indicates whether the probabilities from the predictive model will be considered for all individuals, or only for those whose outcome value (condition) is unknown.

Value

List with two components:

ic.l	lower edge of the confidence interval.
ic.u	upper edge of the confidence interval.

auc_ci_empr-internal *Confidence intervals for the AUC (empirical variance estimation)*

Description

Computation of confidence intervals for the AUC by implementing the empirical procedure for estimating the variance of the AUC, as described in [doi:10.1515/ijb20190097](https://doi.org/10.1515/ijb20190097).

Usage

```
auc_ci_empr(SE, SP, auc, probs, controls, cases, ci.cl)
```

Arguments

SE	vector containing the values of the sensitivity returned from the sMSROC function.
SP	vector containing the values of the specificity.
auc	value with the AUC estimate.
probs	vector containing the probabilities estimated through the predictive model.
controls	number of negative individuals.
cases	number of positive individuals.
ci.cl	confidence level at which confidence intervals will be computed.

Value

List with two components:

ic.l	lower edge of the confidence interval.
ic.u	upper edge of the confidence interval.

auc_ci_nvar-internal *Confidence intervals for the AUC (theoretical variance estimation)*

Description

Computation of confidence intervals for the AUC by implementing the theoretical procedure for estimating the variance of the AUC, as described in [doi:10.1515/ijb20190097](#).

Usage

```
auc_ci_nvar(marker, outcome, status, observed.time, left, right, time,
            meth, data_type, grid, probs, sd.probs, ci.cl, nboots,
            SE, SP, auc, parallel, ncpus, all)
```

Arguments

marker	vector with the biomarker values.
outcome	vector with the condition of the subjects as positive, negative or unknown at the considered time time.
status	response vector.
observed.time	vector with the observed times for each subject.
left	vector with the lower edges of the observed intervals.
right	vector with the upper edges of the observed intervals.
time	point of time at which the sMS ROC curve estimator will be computed.
meth	method for approximating the predictive model $P(D X = x)$.
data_type	scenario handled.

grid	grid size.
probs	vector containing the probabilities estimated through the predictive model.
sd.probs	vector containing the standard deviation of the probabilities of the predictive model.
ci.cl	confidence level at which the confidence intervals will be computed.
nboots	number of bootstrap samples.
SE	vector containing the values of the sensitivity returned from SMSROC function.
SP	vector containing the values of the specificity.
auc	value with the AUC estimate.
parallel	indicates whether parallel computing will be performed or not.
ncpus	number of CPUs to use if parallel computing is performed.
all	parameter indicating whether all probabilities given by the predictive model should be considered (value “ T ”) or just those corresponding to individuals whose condition as positive or negative is unknown (“ F ”). The default value is (“ T ”).

Value

List with two components:

ic.l	lower edge of the confidence interval.
ic.u	upper edge of the confidence interval.

check_ci_cl-internal	<i>Check confidence level for AUC's confidence intervals</i>
----------------------	--

Description

Checks the validity of the value entered as confidence level for computing the confidence intervals for the AUC.

Usage

```
check_ci_cl(ci.cl)
```

Arguments

ci.cl	confidence level at which the confidence intervals for the AUC will be computed.
-------	--

Details

Verifies that the value entered as confidence level ranges between 0 and 1. The 0.95 confidence level is taken as default.

Value

A list with two components:

<code>ci.cl</code>	value entered as confidence level for the AUC.
<code>message</code>	table with the warning messages generated by the function.

check_conf_int-internal

Checks for parameters to compute the confidence intervals for the AUC

Description

Check of the consistency of the parameters indicated to compute the confidence intervals for the AUC.

Usage

```
check_conf_int(conf.int, ci.cl, ci.meth, ci.nboots, parallel, ncpus)
```

Arguments

<code>conf.int</code>	parameter indicating whether confidence intervals for the AUC will be computed (“ T ”) or not (“ F ”). The default is “ F ”.
<code>ci.cl</code>	confidence level at which the confidence intervals for the AUC will be calculated. The default value is 0.95.
<code>ci.meth</code>	method for computing the confidence intervals according to doi:10.1515/ijb-20190097 . There are three options: • “E”, for the Empirical variance estimation. • “V”, for the theoretical Variance estimation. • “B”, for the Bootstrap Percentile. The empirical method E is taken as default. This parameter is ignored if <code>conf.int</code> is set to “F”.
<code>ci.nboots</code>	number of bootstrap samples to be generated when the chosen <code>ci.meth</code> is “ B ”. The default values is 500.
<code>parallel</code>	indicates whether parallel computing will be done (“ T ”) or not (“ F ”), when computing the variance of the AUC through the methods “ V ” and “ B ”.
<code>ncpus</code>	number of CPUS that will be used when parallel computing is chosen.

Value

A list with the following components:

ci.cl	value entered as confidence level for the AUC.
ci.meth	value entered as method for computing the confidence intervals.
ci.nboots	value entered as number of bootstrap samples.
ci.ncpus	value entered as number of CPUs chosen.
message	table with the warning messages generated by the function.

check_grid-internal	<i>Check grid</i>
---------------------	-------------------

Description

Checking of the parameter grid.

Usage

```
check_grid(grid)
```

Arguments

grid	grid size for computing the ROC curve estimate. The default value is 1000.
------	--

Details

Verifies if the parameter entered as grid is a numerical value greater than 0.

Value

A list with two components:

grid	grid size entered.
message	table with the warning messages generated by the function.

check_marker_binout-internal

Checks of diagnosis scenarios

Description

Checks the consistency of the parameters entered for diagnosis scenarios.

Usage

```
check_marker_binout(marker, status, probs, sd.probs)
```

Arguments

marker	vector with the biomarker values. It is a mandatory parameter.
status	numeric response vector. Only two values will be taken into account. The highest one is assumed to stand for the subjects having the event under study. The lowest value, for those who do not. Any other value will not be considered. It is a mandatory parameter in diagnosis scenarios.
probs	vector containing the probabilities corresponding to the predictive model when it has been externally computed. Obviously, only values between [0,1] are admissible.
sd.probs	vector with the standard deviations of the probabilities entered in probs. It is an optional parameter.

Value

The output is a list with the following components:

marker	vector containing the biomarker values.
outcome	vector with the condition of the subjects as positive or negative.
probs	vector with the probabilities corresponding to the predictive model.
sd.probs	vector containing the standard deviations of the predictive model if they have been manually entered.
controls	number of negative subjects.
cases	number of negative subjects.
misout	number of subjects whose outcome value is not known.
message	table containing the warning messages generated during the execution of the function.

See Also

check_marker_timerc and check_marker_timeic

check_marker_timerc-internal

Check of prognosis scenarios under right censorship

Description

Checks the consistency of the parameters entered for prognosis scenarios under right censorship.

Usage

```
check_marker_timerc(marker, status, observed.time, time, probs, sd.probs)
```

Arguments

marker	vector with the biomarker values. It is a mandatory parameter.
status	numeric response vector. Only two values will be taken into account. The highest one is assumed to stand for the subjects having the event under study. The lowest value, for those who do not. Any other value will not be considered. It is mandatory in prognosis scenarios and right censorship.
observed.time	vector with the observed times for each subject. These values can be the event times or the censoring times. It is mandatory when dealing with time-dependent outcomes under right censorship.
time	point of time at which the sMS ROC curve estimator will be computed. It is a mandatory parameter. The default value is 1.
probs	vector containing the probabilities corresponding to the predictive model when it has been externally computed. Only values between [0,1] are admissible.
sd.probs	vector with the standard deviations of the probabilities entered in probs. It is an optional parameter.

Value

The function returns a list with the following components:

marker	vector containing the biomarker values.
status	response vector.
observed.time	vector containing the observed time. Recall event/censoring time.
probs	vector with the probabilities corresponding to the predictive model.
sd.probs	vector containing the standard deviations of the predictive model if they have been manually entered.
outcome	vector with the condition of the subjects at the time given in time as positive, negative or unknown.
controls	number of negative subjects.
cases	number of positive subjects.
misout	number of unknown subjects.
message	table containing the warning messages generated during the execution of the function.

See Also

check_marker_binout and check_marker_timeic

check_marke_timeic-internal

Check of prognosis scenarios under interval censorship

Description

Checks the consistency of the parameters entered for prognosis scenarios under interval censorship.

Usage

```
check_marker_timeic(marker, left, right, time, probs, sd.probs)
```

Arguments

marker	vector with the biomarker values. It is a mandatory parameter.
left	vector containing the lower edges of the observed intervals. It is mandatory in prognosis scenarios and interval censorship and ignored in other situations.
right	vector with the upper edges of the observed intervals. It is mandatory as well in prognosis scenarios and interval censorship and ignored in other situations.
time	point of time at which the SMS ROC curve estimator will be computed. It is a mandatory parameter. The default value is 1.
probs	vector containing the probabilities corresponding to the predictive model when it has been externally computed. Only values between [0,1] are admissible.
sd.probs	vector with the standard deviations of the probabilities entered in probs. It is an optional parameter.

Value

The function returns a list with the following components:

marker	vector containing the biomarker values.
left	vector containing the lower edges of the observed intervals.
right	vector containing the upper edges of the observed intervals.
probs	vector with the probabilities corresponding to the predictive model.
sd.probs	vector containing the standard deviations of the predictive model if they have been manually entered.
outcome	vector with the condition of the subjects at the time time, as positive, negative or unknown.
controls	number of negative subjects.
cases	number of positive subjects.
misout	number of subjects whose condition is unknown.
message	table containing the warning messages generated during the execution of the function.

See Also

check_marker_binout and check_marker_timerc

check_meth-internal *Check the method for estimating the predictive model*

Description

When the predictive model is entered manually by the user, this function ensures that no other method by default is used to compute it.

Usage

```
check_meth(meth, probs)
```

Arguments

meth	method for approximating the predictive model $P(D X = x)$.
probs	vector containing the probabilities corresponding to the predictive model when it is entered manually by the user.

Details

If the predictive model has been manually indicated, this function sets the parameter to "M" ignoring other options. In this way, none of the function computing the predictive model will be called.

Value

A list with one component:

meth	value set up for the method parameter. It can take either the value entered by the user or its default, if the predictive model was not manually indicated, or the value "M", when the predictive model was entered in the parameter probs.
------	---

check_nboots-internal *Check number of bootstrap samples*

Description

This function checks if the value entered as number of bootstrap samples is correct.

Usage

```
check_nboots(nboots)
```

Arguments

nboots number of bootstrap samples to be run. The default value is 500.

Value

A list with two components:

nboots value entered as number of bootstrap samples.
 message table with the warning messages generated by the function.

check_ncpus-internal *Check number of CPUs*

Description

Checks the number of CPUs to be used when parallel computing is performed. The default value is 1 and the maximum is 2.

Usage

```
check_ncpus(ncpus)
```

Arguments

ncpus number of CPUs to be used when performing parallel computing.

Value

A list with two components:

ncpus value entered as number of CPUs chosen.
 message table with the warning messages generated by the function.

check_tim-internal	<i>Check tim</i>
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Description

Cheking of the parameter time.

Usage

```
check_tim(time)
```

Arguments

time	point of time at which the ROC curve estimate in prognosis scenarios will be computed. It is mandatory in this scenario.
------	--

Value

A list with two components:

time	value entered as time.
message	table with the warning messages generated by the function.

check_type_outcome-internal	<i>Check the type of scenario (diagnosis/prognosis)</i>
-----------------------------	---

Description

Determines the type of scenario handled: diagnosis or prognosis, under right or interval censorship, according to the parameters entered by the user.

Usage

```
check_type_outcome(status, observed.time, left, right)
```

Arguments

status	numeric response vector. Only two values will be taken into account. The highest one is assumed to stand for the subjects having the event under study. The lowest value, for those who do not. Any other value will not be considered.
observed.time	vector with the observed times for each subject, when dealing with time-dependent outcomes under right censorship. These values can be the event times or the censoring times.

left	vector containing the lower edges of the observed intervals. It is mandatory when dealing with prognosis scenarios and interval censorship, and will be ignored in other situations.
right	vector with the upper edges of the observed intervals. It is mandatory as well in prognosis scenarios and interval censorship and ignored in other situations.

Details

If both the vectors status and observed time are indicated the function assumes a prognosis scenario and right censorship. When only the vector status is entered, a diagnosis scenario is set up. If none of these parameters are indicated but the left and right ones, a prognosis scenario and interval censorship is assumed. Any other case, the function is not able to determine the type of scenario.

Value

A list with a single component:

type.outcome string of length 6 with the following values:

- **"binout"**, in the case of diagnosis scenarios.
- **"timerc"**, for prognosis scenarios and right censorship.
- **"timeic"**, for prognosis scenarios and interval censorship.
- **"unknow"**, if it is not possible to determine the type of scenario.

compute_ROC-internal *Weighted empirical ROC curve estimator*

Description

Computes the weighted empirical ROC curve estimator associated to the input biomarker.

Usage

```
compute_ROC(marker, probs, grid)
```

Arguments

marker	vector with the biomarker values.
probs	vector containing the probabilities corresponding to the predictive model.
grid	grid size.

Details

This function computes the weighted empirical estimators for the sensitivity (SE) and specificity (SP) using as weights the probabilities given by the predictive model. Then, the ROC curve is approximated through linear interpolation of 1 - SP and SE and computed at a partition of the $[0, 1]$ interval of size grid.

Value

The returned value is a list with the following components:

SE	vector with the weighted empirical estimator of the sensitivity.
SP	vector with the weighted empirical estimator of the specificity.
u	vector containing the points between 0 and 1 at which the ROC curve estimator will be computed. Its size is determined by the <code>grid</code> parameter.
ROC	ROC curve approximated at each point of the vector <code>u</code> .
auc	area under the weighted empirical ROC curve estimator.
marker	vector with the ordered biomarker values.
probs	vector with the probabilities of the predictive model corresponding to each biomarker value.

See Also

`SMsbinout`, `SMstimerc` and `SMstimeic`

<code>conf_int_print</code>	<i>AUC and confidence intervals</i>
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Description

Prints the AUC estimate value and its confidence intervals computed by the [SMSROC](#) function.

Usage

```
conf_int_print(sms)
```

Arguments

`sms` object of class `sms` returned by the function [SMSROC](#).

Details

This function reads the AUC, lower and upper edges of its confidence intervals and the confidence level at which they were computed and prints this information in a single line.

Value

Printed string in the console containing the AUC, its confidence intervals and the confidence level at which they were computed.

See Also

`SMSROC`

Examples

```
data(diabet)
roc <- sMSROC(marker=diabet$stab.glu, status=diabet$glyhb, conf.int="T")
conf_int_print(roc)
```

diabet

*Diabetes dataset***Description**

This dataset contains part of the Diabetes Dataset (see References), courtesy of Dr John Schorling from the Department of Medicine, University of Virginia School of Medicine. This version contains 3 variables on 403 subjects interviewed to understand the prevalence of several cardiovascular risks factors in central Virginia for African Americans.

Usage

```
data("diabet")
```

Format

A data frame with 403 observations on the following 3 variables.

`stab.glu` a numeric vector indicating the level of stabilized glucose.

`glyhb` a numeric vector indicating the level of glycosolated hemoglobin.

`age` age in years of the participants.

`diab` a numeric vector indicating whether the subject is diagnosed as diabetic (value = 1) or not (value = 0).

Details

The **diab** variable is not present in the original dataset. Here, values of glycosolated hemoglobin > 7.0 were taken as a positive diagnosis of diabetes (**diab** = 1) and those of glycosolated hemoglobin <= 7.0 as a negative diagnosis (**diab** = 0).

Source

Full dataset can be downloaded at <https://hbiostat.org/data>.

References

Willems JP, Saunders JT, Hunt DE, Schorling JB. Prevalence of coronary heart disease risk factors among rural blacks: a community-based study. *South Med J*. 1997 Aug;90(8):814-20. PMID: 9258308.

Examples

```
data(diabet)
summary(diabet)
```


evol_auc

*Evolution of the AUCs***Description**

Plots, in prognosis scenarios, the areas under the ROC curves computed by the SMSROC estimator for a sequence of times.

Usage

```
evol_auc(marker, status, observed.time, left, right,
         time = 1, meth = c("L", "S", "E"), grid = 500)
```

Arguments

marker	vector with the biomarker values.
status	numeric response vector. Only two values will be taken into account. The highest one is assumed to stand for the subjects having the event under study. The lowest value, for those who do not. Any other value will not be considered. It is mandatory in prognosis scenarios and right censorship.
observed.time	vector with the observed times for each subject, for prognosis scenarios under right censorship. Notice that these values may be the event times or the censoring times.
left	vector containing the lower edges of the observed intervals. It is mandatory in prognosis scenarios under interval censorship and ignored in other situations.
right	vector with the upper edges of the observed intervals. It is mandatory in prognosis scenarios under interval censorship and ignored in other situations. The infinity is admissible as value (indicated as inf).
time	vector of times at which the SMS ROC curve estimator will be computed. The default value is 1.
meth	method for approximating the predictive model $P(D X = x)$. There are several options available: • “E”, allocates to each individual their own status value as having the event of interest or not. Those with missing status values or censored at a fixed point of time t are dismissed. • “L”, for proportional hazards regression models. • “S”, for smooth models.
grid	grid size for computing the AUC. Default value 500.

Details

This function calls the [SMSROC](#) function at each of the times indicated in the vector `time`, and the AUC is computed according to the parameters indicated.

Value

A list with the following components:

<code>evol.auc</code>	object of class <code>ggplot</code> . A graphic line plotting the AUCs at the considered times.
<code>time</code>	vector with the ordered values of the <code>time</code> entered as parameter.
<code>auc</code>	vector with the values of the AUCs computed at the times indicated at the <code>time</code> parameter.

See Also

`SMSROC`

Examples

```
# Example of the use of the evol.AUC function
data(ktfcs)
DT = ktfcs
aucs <- evol_auc(marker = DT$score,
                  status = DT$failure,
                  observed.time = DT$time,
                  time = seq(2:3),
                  meth = "E")

aucs$evol.auc
```

explore_plot

Graphical exploratory data analysis

Description

Plots the kernel density estimations of the biomarker distributions on positive and negative individuals.

Usage

```
explore_plot(marker, status, observed.time, left, right, time)
```

Arguments

<code>marker</code>	vector with the biomarker values.
<code>status</code>	numeric response vector. The highest value is assumed to stand for the subjects having the event under study. The lowest value, for those who do not. Any other value will not be considered.
<code>observed.time</code>	vector with the observed times for each subject, for prognosis scenarios under right censorship. Notice that these values may be the event times or the censoring times.
<code>left</code>	vector containing the lower edges of the observed intervals. It is mandatory in prognosis scenarios under interval censorship and ignored in other situations.

right	vector with the upper edges of the observed intervals. It is mandatory in prognosis scenarios under interval censorship and ignored in other situations. The infinity is admissible as value (indicated as inf).
time	point of time at which the SMS ROC curve estimator will be computed. The default value is 1.

Value

The output is a list with three components:

plot	object of class ggplot.
neg	vector with the biomarker values on negative individuals.
pos	vector with the marker values on positive individuals.

See Also

explore_table

Examples

```
data(diabet)
explore_plot(marker=diabet$stab.glu, status=diabet$diab)
```

explore_table	<i>Exploratory data analysis</i>
---------------	----------------------------------

Description

This function provides descriptive statistics for the pooled sample and the samples of positive, negative individuals and those whose condition is unknown.

Usage

```
explore_table(marker, status, observed.time, left, right, time, d, ...)
```

Arguments

marker	vector with the biomarker values. It is a mandatory parameter.
status	numeric response vector. The highest value is assumed to stand for the subjects having the event under study. The lowest value, for those who do not. Any other value will not be considered.
observed.time	vector with the observed times for each subject, for prognosis scenarios under right censorship. Notice that these values may be the event times or the censoring times.
left	vector containing the lower edges of the observed intervals. It is mandatory in prognosis scenarios under interval censorship and ignored in other situations.

right	vector with the upper edges of the observed intervals. It is mandatory in prognosis scenarios under interval censorship and ignored in other situations. The infinity is admissible as value (indicated as inf).
time	point of time at which the SMS ROC curve estimator will be computed. The default value is 1.
d	number of decimal figures to which the results will be rounded.
...	additional parameters of the flextable function which allow to customize the output table.

Details

The function computes the following descriptive statistics for the pooled sample and the samples of the different groups of individuals: minimum, maximum, mean, variance, standard deviation, and first, second and third quartiles.

Value

The output is a list with two components:

summary	matrix whose columns are the statistics described above and the rows show the corresponding results for each sample.
table	object of class <code>flextable</code> that represent the matrix in summary in a customizable table.

See Also

`explore_plot`

Examples

```
data(diabet)
explore_table(marker=diabet$stab.glu, status=diabet$diab)
```

fibrosis	<i>Fibrosis dataset</i>
----------	-------------------------

Description

Synthetic dataset generated to simulate data from a study that aimed to assess the predictive ability of a constructed score to determine the worsening in the fibrosis stage in individuals infected by the hepatitis C (HC) virus. When participants underwent a target revision, their fibrosis stage, certain polymorphisms, and other clinical variables were collected. Highest stages of fibrosis were considered a worsening in the disease. See References for more information about the study.

Usage

```
data("fibrosis")
```

Format

A data frame with 722 observations and the following variables:

Id Identification label for each participant.

Score Score proposed to stratify participants infected by the HC virus according to the risk of a worsening in their fibrosis stage.

Start Lower edge of the observable interval.

Stop Upper edge of the observable interval. It can take the value infinity, represented as Inf.

Source

Synthetic dataset.

References

Vidal-Castineira JR. al. Genetic contribution of endoplasmic reticulum aminopeptidase 1 polymorphisms to liver fibrosis progression in patients with HCV infection. *Journal of Molecular Medicine*, 98:1245-1254, 2020. doi:[10.1007/s00109020019481](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00109020019481)

Examples

```
data(fibrosis)
summary(fibrosis)
```

ktfs

KTFS dataset

Description

Dataset originally delivered in the RISCA package. It contains data from kidney transplant recipients for whom the Kidney Transplant Failure Score (KTFS) was collected. The KTFS is a score proposed by Foucher et al. (2010) (see References) to assess the recipients according to their risk of returning in dialysis.

Usage

```
data("ktfs")
```

Format

A data frame with 2169 observations and the following 3 variables:

time a numeric vector depicting the follow-up time in years.

failure a numeric vector indicating the graft failure at the end of the follow-up (1-Yes, 0-Censoring).

score a numeric vector representing the KTFS value.

Source

This dataset is available at RISCA package. More information about the KTFS score can be found at <https://www.divat.fr>.

References

Foucher Y. al. A clinical scoring system highly predictive of long-term kidney graft survival. Kidney International, 78:1288-94, 2020. doi:10.1038/ki.2010.232.

Examples

```
data(ktfs)
summary(ktfs)
```

```
pred_model_binout-internal
```

Predictive model estimation in diagnosis scenarios

Description

Estimation of the predictive models in diagnosis scenarios.

Usage

```
pred_model_binout(marker, status, meth)
```

Arguments

- | | |
|--------|--|
| marker | vector with the biomarker values. |
| status | numeric response vector. The highest value is assumed to stand for the subjects having the event under study. The lowest value, for those who do not. Any other value will not be considered. |
| meth | method for approximating the predictive model $P(D X = x)$. The options are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “L”, for Linear logistic regression models. • “S”, for Smooth models. |

Details

- If meth = “L”, the logit transformation of the predictive model is approximated by a linear logistic regression model:

$$P(D|X = x) = 1/(1 + \exp\{-\{\beta_0 + \beta_1 x\}\}),$$

with $\beta_0, \beta_1 \in \mathcal{R}$.

- If meth = “S”, the logit transformation of the predictive model is estimated by the smooth logistic regression,

$$P(D|X = x) = 1/(1 + \exp\{-s(x)\}),$$

being $s(\cdot)$ the smooth function (splines, doi:10.1002/sim.4780080504).

Value

The returned value is a list with the two components:

marker	vector containing the ordered marker values.
probs	vector with the probabilities corresponding to each marker value estimated through the predictive model.

See Also

sMS_binout and sMSROC

pred_model_emp-internal

Predictive model (naive estimation)

Description

Naive estimation of the predictive model.

Usage

```
pred_model_emp(marker, status)
```

Arguments

marker	vector with the biomarker values.
status	numeric response vector. The highest value is assumed to stand for the subjects having the event under study. The lowest value, for those who do not. Any other value will not be considered.

Details

This method for estimating the predictive model is used in both diagnosis and prognosis scenarios. It allocates individuals their own condition as positive or negative. Those with unknown condition are dismissed.

Value

The returned value is a list with two components:

marker	vector containing the ordered marker values.
probs	vector with the probabilities corresponding to each marker value estimated through the predictive model.

See Also

sMS_binout, sMS_timerc, sMS_timeic and sMSROC

pred_model_timeic-internal

Predictive model in prognosis scenarios (I)

Description

Estimation of the predictive model in prognosis scenarios under interval censorship.

Usage

```
pred_model_timeic(marker, left, right, outcome, time, meth)
```

Arguments

marker	vector with the biomarker values.
left	vector containing the lower edges of the observed intervals. It is mandatory in prognosis scenarios and interval censorship and ignored in other situations.
right	vector with the upper edges of the observed intervals. It is mandatory as well in prognosis scenarios and interval censorship and ignored in other situations.
outcome	vector with the condition of the subjects as positive, negative or unknown at the considered time time.
time	point of time at which the sMS ROC curve estimator will be computed.
meth	method for approximating the predictive model $P(D X = x)$. The options are: • “L”, for proportional hazards regression models taking into account the observation intervals (see Details). • “S”, for proportional hazards regression models without taking into account the observation intervals (see Details).

Details

- If meth = **“L”**, the event times are assumed to come from a Cox proportional hazards regression model and the predictive model is estimated as indicated in [doi:10.1080/00949655.2020.1736071](https://doi.org/10.1080/00949655.2020.1736071).

$$P(T \leq t \mid X = x) = \frac{S(U|x) - S(t|x)}{S(U|x) - S(V|x)},$$

where $U = \min\{t, L\}$ and $V = \max\{t, R\}$, being L and R the random variables that stand for the edges of the observable interval containing the event time.

- If meth = **“S”**, the approximation is done by

$$P(T \leq t \mid X = x) = 1 - S(t|x),$$

being $S(\cdot)$ the survival function at time t given the marker value, estimated through a proportional hazard model for interval censored data according to [doi:10.2307/2530698](https://doi.org/10.2307/2530698).

Value

The returned value is a list with three components:

marker	vector containing the ordered marker values.
probs	vector with the probabilities corresponding to each marker value estimated through the predictive model.
outcome	vector with the condition of the subjects as positive, negative or censored at the considered time time.

See Also

sMS_timeic and sMSROC

pred_model_timerc-internal

Predictive model in prognosis scenarios (II)

Description

Estimation of the predictive model in prognosis scenarios under right censorship.

Usage

```
pred_model_timerc(marker, status, observed.time, outcome, time, meth)
```

Arguments

marker	vector with the biomarker values.
status	numeric response vector. The highest value is assumed to stand for the subjects having the event under study. The lowest value, for those who do not. Any other value will not be considered.
observed.time	vector with the observed times for each subject. Notice that these values may be the event times or the censoring times.
outcome	vector with the status of the subjects as positive, negative or censored (unknown) at the considered time time.
time	point of time at which the sMS ROC curve estimator will be computed.
meth	method for approximating the predictive model $P(D X = x)$. The options are: • “L”, for proportional hazards regression models (see Details). • “S”, for smooth models (see Details).

Details

- If meth = “**L**”, the event times are assumed to come from a Cox proportional hazards regression model:

$$P(T \leq t \mid X = x) = 1 - \exp\{-\Delta_0(t) \cdot \exp\{\beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot \log(x)\}\},$$

where $\Delta_0(\cdot)$ is the baseline hazard function and $\beta_0, \beta_1 \in \mathcal{R}$.

- If meth = “**S**”, the approximation is done by

$$P(T \leq t \mid X = x) = 1 - \exp\{-\Delta_0(t) \cdot \exp\{s(x)\}\}$$

being $s(\cdot)$ the smooth function (penalized splines, [doi:10.1111/14679868.00125](https://doi.org/10.1111/14679868.00125)).

Value

The returned value is a list with three components:

marker	vector containing the ordered marker values.
probs	vector with the probabilities corresponding to each marker value estimated through the predictive model.
outcome	vector with the status of the subjects as positive, negative or censored at the considered time time.

See Also

sMS_timer and sMSROC

print.sMSROC	<i>Print sMSROC</i>
--------------	---------------------

Description

Prints the estimated AUC and the probabilistic model used to compute the predictive model.

Usage

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

Arguments

x	object of class SMS returned by the function sMSROC .
...	Ignored.

Details

This function prints the estimated area under the ROC curve computed through the sMSROC estimator and the probabilistic model used to compute the predictive model.

Value

Printed output in the console containing the information described above.

See Also

sMSROC

Examples

```
data(diabet)
roc <- sMSROC(marker=diabet$stab.glu, status=diabet$glyhb, conf.int="T")
print(roc)
```

probs_pred

Plot of the predictive model

Description

This function plots the predicted probabilities for each marker value computed through the predictive model together, with 95% pointwise confidence intervals.

Usage

```
probs_pred(sms, var, nboots, parallel, ncpus)
```

Arguments

sms	object of class SMS returned from function sMSROC .
var	parameter indicating whether 95% pointwise confidence intervals for the predictive model will be plotted (value "T") or not (value "F"). The default value is "F" .
nboots	number of bootstrap samples to be generated for computing the pointwise confidence intervals. The default value is 500.
parallel	parameter indicating whether parallel computing will be performed (value "T") or not (value "F"). The default is "F" .
ncpus	number of CPUS to be used in the case of carrying out parallel computing. The default value is 1 and the maximum is 2.

Details

The function plots the probability function estimation of the predictive model versus the biomarker. It also computes and plots 95% pointwise confidence intervals on the same graphic when the var parameter is set to **"T"**.

The variance of the probability estimates, obtained by the predictive model, is computed via bootstrap with nboots samples.

Value

A list with these components:

plot	object of class <code>ggplot</code> (graphical output).
thres	ordered biomarker values (x-axis coordinates).
probs	predicted probabilities (y-axis coordinates).
sd.probs	estimates of the standard deviation of the predicted probabilities.

See Also

`pred_model_binout`, `pred_model_timerc` and `pred_model_timeic`

Examples

```
data(ktfbs)
DT <- ktfbs
roc <- SMSROC(marker = DT$score,
              status = DT$failure,
              observed.time = DT$time,
              time = 5,
              meth = "S")
probs <- probs_pred(sms = roc)
probs$plot
```

SMSROC

sMS ROC curve estimator computation

Description

Core function for computing the sMS ROC estimator which fits the estimation of the ROC curve when the outcome of interest is time-dependent (**prognosis** scenarios) and when it is not (**diagnosis** scenarios).

Usage

```
SMSROC(marker, status, observed.time, left, right, time,
        meth, grid, probs, sd.probs,
        conf.int, ci.cl, ci.meth, ci.nboots, parallel, ncpus, all)
```

Arguments

marker	vector with the biomarker values.
status	numeric response vector. The highest value is assumed to stand for the subjects having the event under study. The lowest one, for those who do not. Any other value will not be considered. It is a mandatory parameter in diagnosis scenarios.

observed.time	vector with the observed times for each subject, for prognosis scenarios under right censorship. Notice that these values may be the event times or the censoring times.
left	vector containing the lower edges of the observed intervals. It is mandatory in prognosis scenarios under interval censorship and ignored in other situations.
right	vector with the upper edges of the observed intervals. It is mandatory in prognosis scenarios under interval censorship and ignored in other situations. The infinity is admissible as value (indicated as inf).
time	point of time at which the sMS ROC curve estimator will be computed. The default value is 1.
meth	method for approximating the predictive model $P(D X = x)$. There are several options available: • “E”, allocates to each individual their own condition as positive or negative. Those whose condition is unknown at time <code>time</code> are dismissed. • “L”, for Linear logistic regression and proportional hazards regression models (see Details). • “S”, for Smooth models (see Details).
probs	vector containing the probabilities corresponding to the predictive model when it has been externally computed. Only values within [0,1] are admissible.
sd.probs	vector with the standard deviations of the probabilities entered in <code>probs</code> . It is an optional parameter.
grid	grid size for computing the AUC. Default value 1000.
conf.int	indicates whethet a confidence interval for the AUC will be computed (“T”) or not (“F”). The default value is (“F”).
ci.cl	confidence level at which the confidence interval for the AUC will be provided. The default value is 95%. This parameter is ignored when <code>conf.int</code> is set to “F” .
ci.meth	method for computing the confidence interval for the AUC. There are three options: • “E”, for the Empirical variance estimation. • “V”, for the theoretical Variance estimation. • “B”, for the Bootstrap percentile approximation. The empirical method E is taken as default value and the parameter is ignored too when <code>ci.cl</code> value is “F” .
ci.nboots	number of bootstrap samples to be run when Bootstrap is set as <code>ci.meth</code> parameter. The default value is 500 and it is not taken into account when no confidence interval is computed.
parallel	indicates whether parallel computing will be done (“T”) or not (“F”) when computing the variance of the AUC through the methods “V” and “B” .
ncpus	number of CPUS that will be used when parallel computing is chosen. The default value is 1 and the maximum is 2.
all	parameter indicating whether all probabilities given by the predictive model should be considered (value “T”) or just those corresponding to individuals whose condition as positive or negative is unknown (“F”). The default value is (“T”).

Details

The Two-stages mixed-subjects (sMSROC) ROC curve estimator links diagnosis and prognosis scenarios through a general predictive model (first stage) and the weighted empirical estimator of the cumulative distribution function of the biomarker (second stage).

The predictive model $P(D|X = x)$ depicts the relationship between the biomarker and the binary response variable. It is approximated through the most suitable probabilistic model.

For **diagnosis** scenarios:

- If meth = “**L**”, the logit transformation of the predictive model is approximated by a linear logistic regression model:

$$P(D|X = x) = 1/(1 + \exp\{-\beta_0 + \beta_1 x\}),$$

with $\beta_0, \beta_1 \in \mathcal{R}$.

- If meth = “**S**”, the logit transformation of the predictive model is estimated by the smooth logistic regression,

$$P(D|X = x) = 1/(1 + \exp\{-s(x)\}),$$

being $s(\cdot)$ the smooth function (splines, doi:10.1002/sim.4780080504).

Notice that the predictive model allows to compute the probability of being positive/negative even when the actual belonging group is unknown.

For **prognosis** scenarios and right censorship:

- If meth = “**L**”, the event times are assumed to come from a Cox proportional hazards regression model:

$$P(T \leq t | X = x) = 1 - \exp\{-\Delta_0(t) \cdot \exp\{\beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot \log(x)\}\},$$

where $\Delta_0(\cdot)$ is the baseline hazard function and $\beta_0, \beta_1 \in \mathcal{R}$.

- If meth = “**S**”, the approximation is done by

$$P(T \leq t | X = x) = 1 - \exp\{-\Delta_0(t) \cdot \exp\{s(x)\}\}$$

being $s(\cdot)$ the smooth function (penalized splines, doi:10.1111/14679868.00125).

Finally, for **prognosis** scenarios and interval censorship:

- If meth = “**L**”, the event times are assumed to come from a Cox proportional hazards regression model and the predictive model is estimated as indicated in doi:10.1080/00949655.2020.1736071.

$$P(T \leq t | X = x) = \frac{S(U|x) - S(t|x)}{S(U|x) - S(V|x)},$$

where $U = \min\{t, L\}$ and $V = \max\{t, R\}$, being L and R the random variables that stand for the edges of the observable interval containing the event time.

- If meth = “**S**”, the approximation is done by

$$P(T \leq t | X = x) = 1 - S(t|x),$$

being $S(\cdot)$ the survival function at time t given the marker value, estimated through a proportional hazard model for interval censored data according to doi:10.2307/2530698.

The confidence intervals for the AUC can be computed in three different ways according to parameter `ci.meth`. When it is set to "E" the variance of the AUC is estimated by the empirical procedure and when the chosen option is "V", the theoretical approximation is used (see [doi:10.1515/ijb2019-0097](https://doi.org/10.1515/ijb2019-0097)). The third option is by using the Bootstrap percentile.

Value

The output is an object of class `sMSROC` with the following components:

<code>thres</code>	vector containing the biomarker values for which sensitivity and specificity were computed.
<code>SE</code>	vector with the estimates of the sensitivity.
<code>SP</code>	vector with the estimates of the specificity.
<code>probs</code>	vector with the probabilities corresponding to the predictive model.
<code>u</code>	vector containing the points between 0 and 1 at which the ROC curve estimator will be computed. Its size is determined by the <code>grid</code> parameter.
<code>ROC</code>	ROC curve approximated at each point of the vector <code>u</code> .
<code>auc</code>	area under sMSROC curve estimator.
<code>auc.ci.l</code>	lower edge of the confidence interval for the AUC.
<code>auc.ci.u</code>	upper edge of the confidence interval for the AUC.
<code>ci.cl</code>	confidence level at which the confidence interval for the AUC were computed.
<code>ci.meth</code>	method chosen for computing the confidence interval for the AUC.
<code>time</code>	point of time at which the sMS ROC curve estimator was computed in prognosis scenarios.
<code>data</code>	list containing several parameters used in the internal functions, when applicable: • <code>data_type</code> - type of scenario handled (diagnosis/prognosis, under right or interval censorship). • <code>grid</code> - grid size. • <code>marker</code> - vector with the biomarker values. • <code>outcome</code> - vector with the condition of the individuals at time <code>time</code> as positive, negative or unknown. • <code>ncpus</code> - CPUs used if parallel computing was performed. • <code>ci.nboots</code> - number of bootstrap samples generated for computing the confidence intervals for the AUC. • <code>parallel</code> - was parallel computing performed? • <code>meth</code> - method used to compute the predictive model. • <code>status</code> - response vector. • <code>observed.time</code> - vector with the observed times for each subject. • <code>left</code> - vector with the lower edges of the observed intervals. • <code>right</code> - vector with the upper edges of the observed intervals.
<code>message</code>	table containing the warning messages generated during the execution of the function.

References

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- S. Díaz-Coto, N. O. Corral-Blanco, and P. Martínez-Camblor. Two-stage receiver operating-characteristic curve estimator for cohort studies. *The International Journal of Biostatistics*, 17:117–137, 2021. doi:[10.1515/ijb20190097](https://doi.org/10.1515/ijb20190097).
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- B. Efron and R. J. Tibshirani. *An Introduction to the Bootstrap*. CRC press, 1994.

Examples

```
data(ktfs)
DT <- ktfs
sROC <- SMSROC(marker = DT$score, status = DT$failure,
               observed.time = DT$time, time = 5, meth = "L", conf.int = "T",
               ci.cl = 0.90, ci.meth = "E")
```

sMSROC_plot

Plot of the SMS ROC curve estimate

Description

Provides informative plots of the SMS ROC curve estimates.

Usage

```
sMSROC_plot(sMS, m.value)
```

Arguments

sMS	object of class SMS returned from function SMSROC .
m.value	marker value. It is an optional parameter that, when indicated, adds over the graphic of the ROC curve, the point which corresponds to that marker value.

Details

The function provides two types of graphics:

- A basic plot approximating the ROC curve by the pairs given by the sequences **1 - SP** and **SE**, from the SMSROC object. The layers `geom_roc()` and `roc_style()` from the [plotROC](#) package were added to this plot, which make possible to take advantage of the functionality of this package.
- A customized graphic of the ROC curve whose class is `ggplot`, obtained approximating the sequences **1 - SP** and **SE**. When the parameter `m.value` is indicated, the final plot displays over the ROC curve estimate the point that corresponds to the entered value.

Value

A list with the following elements:

<code>basic.plot</code>	object that can be used and customized by the tools from the plotROC package.
<code>roc.plot</code>	object of class <code>ggplot</code> . Although it is already customized (title, colors, axis labels, ..., etc.) the end-users can make their own changes by adding the corresponding layers, with the available tools from the <code>ggplot2</code> package.

See Also

`SMSROC`

Examples

```
# Example of the use of the plot.SMSROC function
data(ktfS)
DT = ktfS
ROC <- SMSROC(marker = DT$score,
               status = DT$failure,
               observed.time = DT$time,
               time = 5,
               meth = "S")
plot <- SMSROC_plot(SMS = ROC, m.value = 4.2)
plot$basicplot; plot$rocplot
```

sMS_binout-internal *sMS estimator for diagnostic biomarkers*

Description

Wrap function for computing the sMS estimator in diagnosis scenarios.

Usage

```
sMS_binout(marker, status, meth, grid, probs, all)
```

Arguments

marker	vector with the biomarker values.
status	numeric response vector.
meth	method for approximating the predictive model $P(D X = x)$. • “E”, allocates to each individual their own condition as positive or negative. Those whose condition is unknown at time time are dismissed. • “L”, for Linear logistic regression models (see details in sMSROC). • “S”, for Smooth models (see details sMSROC).
grid	grid size.
probs	vector with the probabilities from the predictive model when it is manually entered.
all	parameter indicating whether all probabilities given by the predictive model should be considered (value “T”) or just those corresponding to individuals whose condition as positive or negative is unknown (“F”). The default value is (“T”).

Details

The function obtains the probabilities corresponding to the predictive model (first stage of the sMS ROC curve estimator). If they were not manually entered, the functions `pred.mod.emp` or `pred.mod.binout` are called depending on the chosen `meth`. Then, it calls the function `computeROC` to compute the weighted empirical ROC curve estimator (second stage).

Value

The returned value is a list with the following components:

SE	vector with the weighted empirical estimator of the sensitivity.
SP	vector with the weighted empirical estimator of the specificity.
u	vector containing the points between 0 and 1 at which the ROC curve estimator will be computed. Its size is determined by the <code>grid</code> parameter.
ROC	ROC curve approximated at each point of the vector <code>u</code> .
auc	area under the weighted empirical ROC curve estimator.
marker	vector with the ordered biomarker values.
probs	vector with the probabilities of the predictive model corresponding to each biomarker value.

See Also

`pred_mod_emp`, `pred_mod_binout`, `computeROC`, `sMS_timer` and `sMS_timeic`

sMS_timeic-internal *sMS estimator for prognostic biomarkers and interval censoring*

Description

Wrap function for computing the sMS estimator in prognosis scenarios under interval censorship.

Usage

```
sMS_timeic(marker, left, right, outcome, time, meth, grid, probs, all)
```

Arguments

marker	vector with the biomarker values.
left	vector containing the lower edges of the observed intervals.
right	vector with the upper edges of the observed intervals. The infinity is admissible as value (indicated as inf).
outcome	vector containing the condition of the individuals as positive, negative or censored at the time <code>time</code> .
time	point of time at which the sMSROC curve estimator will be computed.
meth	method for approximating the predictive model $P(D X = x)$. • “E”, allocates to each individual their own condition as positive or negative. Those whose condition is unknown at time <code>time</code> are dismissed. • “L”, for proportional hazards regression models taking into account the observation intervals (see Details sMSROC). • “S”, for proportional hazards regression models without taking into account the observation intervals (see Details sMSROC).
grid	grid size.
probs	vector with the probabilities from the predictive model when it is manually entered.
all	parameter indicating whether all probabilities given by the predictive model should be considered (value “T”) or just those corresponding to individuals whose condition as positive or negative is unknown (“F”). The default value is (“T”).

Details

This function gets the probabilities corresponding to the predictive model (first stage of the sMS ROC curve estimator). If they were not manually entered, the functions `pred.mod.emp` or `pred.mod.timeic` are called depending on the chosen `meth`. Then, it calls the function `computeROC` to compute the weighted empirical ROC curve estimator (second stage).

Value

The returned value is a list with the following components:

SE	vector with the weighted empirical estimator of the sensitivity.
SP	vector with the weighted empirical estimator of the specificity.
u	vector containing the points between 0 and 1 at which the ROC curve estimator will be computed. Its size is determined by the <code>grid</code> parameter.
ROC	ROC curve approximated at each point of the vector <code>u</code> .
auc	area under the weighted empirical ROC curve estimator.
marker	vector with the ordered biomarker values.
outcome	vector with the condition of the individuals at time <code>time</code> as positive, negative or unknown.
probs	vector with the probabilities of the predictive model corresponding to each biomarker value.

See Also

`pred.mod.emp`, `pred.mod.binout`, `computeROC`, `sMS.binout` and `sMS.timerc`

sMS_timerc

sMS estimator for prognostic biomarkers and right censorship

Description

Wrap function for computing the sMS estimator in prognosis scenarios under right censorship.

Usage

```
sMS_timerc(marker, status, observed.time, outcome, time,
            meth, grid, probs, all)
```

Arguments

marker	vector with the biomarker values.
status	numeric response vector.
observed.time	vector with the observed times. These values may be the event times or the censoring times.
outcome	vector containing the condition of the individuals as positive, negative or censored (unknown) at the time <code>time</code> .
time	point of time at which the sMSROC curve estimator will be computed.
meth	method for approximating the predictive model $P(D X = x)$. • “E”, allocates to each individual their own condition as positive or negative. Those whose condition is unknown at time <code>time</code> are dismissed.

- “L”, for Linear proportional hazards regression models (see details in [sMSROC](#)).
- “S”, for Smooth models (see details in [sMSROC](#)).

grid	grid size.
probs	vector with the probabilities from the predictive model when it is manually entered.
all	parameter indicating whether all probabilities given by the predictive model should be considered (value “T”) or just those corresponding to individuals whose condition as positive or negative is unknown (“F”). The default value is (“T”).

Details

This function gets the probabilities corresponding to the predictive model (first stage of the sMS ROC curve estimator). If they were not manually entered, the functions `pred.mod.emp` or `pred.mod.timer` are called depending on the chosen **meth**. Then, it calls the function `computeROC` to compute the weighted empirical ROC curve estimator (second stage).

Value

The returned value is a list with the following components:

SE	vector with the weighted empirical estimator of the sensitivity.
SP	vector with the weighted empirical estimator of the specificity.
u	vector containing the points between 0 and 1 at which the ROC curve estimator will be computed. Its size is determined by the <code>grid</code> parameter.
ROC	ROC curve approximated at each point of the vector <code>u</code> .
auc	area under the weighted empirical ROC curve estimator.
marker	vector with the ordered biomarker values.
outcome	vector with the condition of the individuals at time <code>time</code> as positive, negative or censored (unknown).
probs	vector with the probabilities of the predictive model corresponding to each biomarker value.

See Also

`pred.mod.emp`, `pred.mod.binout`, `computeROC`, `sMS.timer`, `sMS.timeic`

variance_probs-internal

Variance of the predictive model

Description

Estimation of the variance of the predictive model by bootstrap.

Usage

```
variance_probs(marker, outcome, status, observed.time, left, right, time,
               meth, data_type, grid, probs, ci.nboots, parallel, ncpus, all)
```

Arguments

marker	vector with the biomarker values.
outcome	vector with the condition of the subjects as positive, negative or unknown at the considered time time.
status	response vector with the outcome values. The highest one is assumed to stand for the subjects having the event under study.
observed.time	vector with the observed times for each subject.
left	vector with the lower edges of the observed intervals.
right	vector with the upper edges of the observed intervals.
time	point of time at which the sMS ROC curve estimator will be computed.
meth	method for approximating the predictive model $P(D X = x)$.
data_type	scenario handled.
grid	grid size.
probs	vector containing the probabilities estimated through to the predictive model.
ci.nboots	number of bootstrap samples.
parallel	indicates whether parallel computing will be done or not.
ncpus	number of CPUs to use if parallel computing is performed.
all	indicates whether the probabilities from the predictive model should be considered or not.

Value

List with a single component:

sd.probs	vector containing the standard deviation of the probabilities of the predictive model.
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