# Package 'STAAR'

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Type Package	
<b>Title</b> STAAR Procedure for Dynamic Incorporation of Multiple Functional Annotations in V Genome Sequencing Studies	/hole-
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<b>Description</b> An R package for performing STAAR procedure in whole-genome sequencing	studies.
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Encoding UTF-8	
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R topics documented:  CCT  fit_null_glm  fit_null_glmmkin  Indiv_Score_Test_Region  Indiv_Score_Test_Region_cond  STAAR  STAAR_cond	2 3 5 6
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ССТ	An analytical p-value combination method using the Cauchy distribution

## **Description**

The CCT function takes in a numeric vector of p-values, a numeric vector of non-negative weights, and return the aggregated p-value using Cauchy method.

## Usage

```
CCT(pvals, weights = NULL)
```

## **Arguments**

pvals a numeric vector of p-values, where each of the element is between 0 to 1, to be

combined.

weights a numeric vector of non-negative weights. If NULL, the equal weights are as-

sumed (default = NULL).

## Value

the aggregated p-value combining p-values from the vector pvals.

## References

Liu, Y., & Xie, J. (2020). Cauchy combination test: a powerful test with analytic p-value calculation under arbitrary dependency structures. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 115(529), 393-402. (pub)

Liu, Y., et al. (2019). Acat: A fast and powerful p value combination method for rare-variant analysis in sequencing studies. *The American Journal of Human Genetics*, 104(3), 410-421. (pub)

## **Examples**

```
pvalues <- c(2e-02, 4e-04, 0.2, 0.1, 0.8)
CCT(pvals = pvalues)
```

fit\_null\_glm

Fit generalized linear model under the null hypothesis for unrelated samples.

## **Description**

The fit\_null\_glm function is a wrapper of the glm function from the stats package that fits a regression model under the null hypothesis for unrelated samples, which provides the preliminary step for subsequent variant-set tests in whole genome sequencing data analysis. See glm for more details.

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## Usage

```
fit_null_glm(fixed, data, family = binomial(link = "logit"), ...)
```

#### **Arguments**

an object of class formula (or one that can be coerced to that class): a symbolic description of the fixed effects model to be fitted.

data

a data frame or list (or object coercible by as.data.frame to a data frame) containing the variables in the model.

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 for details of family functions). Can be either "gaussian" for continuous phenotype or "binomial" for binary phenotype.

... additional arguments that could be passed to glm.

#### Value

The function returns an object of the model fit from glm (obj\_nullmodel), with an additional element indicating the samples are unrelated (obj\_nullmodel\$relatedness = FALSE). See glm for more details.

fit\_null\_glmmkin

Fitting generalized linear mixed model with known relationship matrices under the null hypothesis for related samples.

## **Description**

The fit\_null\_glmmkin function is a wrapper of the glmmkin function from the GMMAT package that fits a regression model under the null hypothesis for related samples, which provides the preliminary step for subsequent variant-set tests in whole genome sequencing data analysis. See glmmkin for more details.

## Usage

```
fit_null_glmmkin(
    fixed,
    data = parent.frame(),
    kins,
    use_sparse = NULL,
    kins_cutoff = 0.022,
    id,
    random.slope = NULL,
    groups = NULL,
    family = binomial(link = "logit"),
    method = "REML",
    method.optim = "AI",
    maxiter = 500,
    tol = 1e-05,
    taumin = 1e-05,
```

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```
taumax = 1e+05,
tauregion = 10,
verbose = FALSE,
...
```

## **Arguments**

fixed an object of class formula (or one that can be coerced to that class): a symbolic

description of the fixed effects model to be fitted.

data a data frame or list (or object coercible by as.data.frame to a data frame)

containing the variables in the model.

kins a known positive semi-definite relationship matrix (e.g. kinship matrix in ge-

netic association studies) or a list of known positive semi-definite relationship matrices. The rownames and colnames of these matrices must at least include

all samples as specified in the id column of the data frame data.

use\_sparse a logical switch of whether the provided dense kins matrix should be trans-

formed to a sparse matrix (default = NULL).

kins\_cutoff the cutoff value for clustering samples to make the output matrix sparse block-

diagonal (default = 0.022).

id a column in the data frame data, indicating the id of samples. When there are

duplicates in id, the data is assumed to be longitudinal with repeated measures.

random. slope an optional column indicating the random slope for time effect used in a mixed

effects model for longitudinal data. It must be included in the names of data. There must be duplicates in id and method. optim must be "AI" (default = NUL-

L).

groups an optional categorical variable indicating the groups used in a heteroscedastic

linear mixed model (allowing residual variances in different groups to be different). This variable must be included in the names of data, and family must be

"gaussian" and method.optim must be "AI" (default = NULL).

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 for details of family functions).

method method of fitting the generalized linear mixed model. Either "REML" or "ML"

(default = "REML").

method.optim optimization method of fitting the generalized linear mixed model. Either "AI",

"Brent" or "Nelder-Mead" (default = "AI").

maxiter a positive integer specifying the maximum number of iterations when fitting the

generalized linear mixed model (default = 500).

tol a positive number specifying tolerance, the difference threshold for parameter

estimates below which iterations should be stopped (default = 1e-5).

taumin the lower bound of search space for the variance component parameter au (default

= 1e-5), used when method.optim = "Brent". See Details.

taumax the upper bound of search space for the variance component parameter  $\tau$  (default

= 1e5), used when method.optim = "Brent". See Details.

tauregion the number of search intervals for the REML or ML estimate of the variance

component parameter  $\tau$  (default = 10), used when method.optim = "Brent".

See Details.

verbose a logical switch for printing detailed information (parameter estimates in each iteration) for testing and debugging purpose (default = FALSE).

... additional arguments that could be passed to glm.

#### Value

The function returns an object of the model fit from glmmkin (obj\_nullmodel), with additional elements indicating the samples are related (obj\_nullmodel\$relatedness = TRUE), and whether the kins matrix is sparse when fitting the null model. See glmmkin for more details.

#### References

Chen, H., et al. (2016). Control for population structure and relatedness for binary traits in genetic association studies via logistic mixed models. *The American Journal of Human Genetics*, 98(4), 653-666. (pub)

Chen, H., et al. (2019). Efficient variant set mixed model association tests for continuous and binary traits in large-scale whole-genome sequencing studies. *The American Journal of Human Genetics*, 104(2), 260-274. (pub)

Chen, H. (2021). GMMAT: Generalized linear Mixed Model Association Tests Version 1.3.2. (web)

Indiv\_Score\_Test\_Region

Score test for individual variants in a given variant-set

## **Description**

The Indiv\_Score\_Test\_Region function takes in genotype and the object from fitting the null model to analyze the associations between a quantitative/dichotomous phenotype and all individual variants in a given variant-set by using score test.

## Usage

```
Indiv_Score_Test_Region(
  genotype,
  obj_nullmodel,
  rare_maf_cutoff = 0.01,
  rv_num_cutoff = 2
)
```

## **Arguments**

genotype an n\*p genotype matrix (dosage matrix) of the target sequence, where n is the sample size and p is the number of genetic variants.

obj\_nullmodel an object from fitting the null model, which is the output from either fit\_null\_glm function for unrelated samples or fit\_null\_glmmkin function for related samples. Note that fit\_null\_glmmkin is a wrapper of glmmkin function from the GMMAT package.

rare\_maf\_cutoff the cutoff of maximum minor allele frequency in defining rare variants (default

= 0.01).

rv\_num\_cutoff the cutoff of minimum number of variants of analyzing a given variant-set (default = 2).

#### Value

a data frame with p rows corresponding to the p genetic variants in the given variant-set and three columns: Score (the score test statistic), SE (the standard error associated with the score test statistic), and pvalue (the score test p-value). If a variant in the given variant-set has minor allele frequency = 0 or greater than rare\_maf\_cutoff, the corresponding row will be NA. If a variant in the given variant-set has standard error equal to 0, the p-value will be set as 1.

#### References

Chen, H., et al. (2016). Control for population structure and relatedness for binary traits in genetic association studies via logistic mixed models. *The American Journal of Human Genetics*, 98(4), 653-666. (pub)

```
Indiv_Score_Test_Region_cond
```

Conditional score test for individual variants in a given variant-set

## **Description**

The Indiv\_Score\_Test\_Region\_cond function takes in genotype, the genotype of variants to be adjusted for in conditional analysis, and the object from fitting the null model to analyze the conditional associations between a quantitative/dichotomous phenotype and all individual variants in a given variant-set by using score test, adjusting for a given list of variants.

## Usage

```
Indiv_Score_Test_Region_cond(
  genotype,
  genotype_adj,
  obj_nullmodel,
  rare_maf_cutoff = 0.01,
  rv_num_cutoff = 2,
  method_cond = c("optimal", "naive")
)
```

## **Arguments**

genotype

an n\*p genotype matrix (dosage matrix) of the target sequence, where n is the sample size and p is the number of genetic variants.

genotype\_adj

an n\*p\_adj genotype matrix (dosage matrix) of the target sequence, where n is the sample size and p\_adj is the number of genetic variants to be adjusted for in conditional analysis (or a vector of a single variant with length n if p\_adj is 1).

obj\_nullmodel

an object from fitting the null model, which is the output from either fit\_null\_glm function for unrelated samples or fit\_null\_glmmkin function for related samples. Note that fit\_null\_glmmkin is a wrapper of glmmkin function from the GMMAT package.

rare\_maf\_cutoff

the cutoff of maximum minor allele frequency in defining rare variants (default = 0.01).

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rv\_num\_cutoff the cutoff of minimum number of variants of analyzing a given variant-set (default = 2).

method\_cond

a character value indicating the method for conditional analysis. optimal refers to regressing residuals from the null model on genotype\_adj as well as all covariates used in fitting the null model (fully adjusted) and taking the residuals; naive refers to regressing residuals from the null model on genotype\_adj and taking the residuals (default = optimal).

#### Value

a data frame with p rows corresponding to the p genetic variants in the given variant-set and three columns: Score\_cond (the conditional score test statistic adjusting for variants in genotype\_adj), SE\_cond (the standard error associated with the conditional score test statistic), and pvalue\_cond (the conditional score test p-value). If a variant in the given variant-set has minor allele frequency = 0 or greater than rare\_maf\_cutoff, the corresponding row will be NA. If a variant in the given variant-set has standard error equal to 0, the p-value will be set as 1.

#### References

Chen, H., et al. (2016). Control for population structure and relatedness for binary traits in genetic association studies via logistic mixed models. *The American Journal of Human Genetics*, 98(4), 653-666. (pub)

Sofer, T., et al. (2019). A fully adjusted two-stage procedure for rank-normalization in genetic association studies. *Genetic Epidemiology*, 43(3), 263-275. (pub)

STAAR

STAAR procedure using omnibus test

## **Description**

The STAAR function takes in genotype, the object from fitting the null model, and functional annotation data to analyze the association between a quantitative/dichotomous phenotype and a variant-set by using STAAR procedure. For each variant-set, the STAAR-O p-value is a p-value from an omnibus test that aggregated SKAT(1,25), SKAT(1,1), Burden(1,25), Burden(1,1), ACAT-V(1,25), and ACAT-V(1,1) together with p-values of each test weighted by each annotation using Cauchy method.

## Usage

```
STAAR(
  genotype,
  obj_nullmodel,
  annotation_phred = NULL,
  rare_maf_cutoff = 0.01,
  rv_num_cutoff = 2
)
```

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#### **Arguments**

genotype an n\*p genotype matrix (dosage matrix) of the target sequence, where n is the

sample size and p is the number of genetic variants.

 $obj\_nullmodel \quad an object from fitting the null model, which is the output from either \verb|fit_null_glm| \\$ 

function for unrelated samples or fit\_null\_glmmkin function for related samples. Note that fit\_null\_glmmkin is a wrapper of the glmmkin function from

the GMMAT package.

annotation\_phred

a data frame or matrix of functional annotation data of dimension p\*q (or a vector of a single annotation score with length p). Continuous scores should be given in PHRED score scale, where the PHRED score of j-th variant is defined to be  $-10*log10(rank(-score_j)/total)$  across the genome. (Binary) categorical scores should be taking values 0 or 1, where 1 is functional and 0 is non-functional. If not provided, STAAR will perform the SKAT(1,25), SKAT(1,1), Burden(1,25), Burden(1,1), ACAT-V(1,25), ACAT-V(1,1) and ACAT-O tests (default = NUL-L).

rare\_maf\_cutoff

the cutoff of maximum minor allele frequency in defining rare variants (default

= 0.01).

rv\_num\_cutoff the cutoff of minimum number of variants of analyzing a given variant-set (de-

fault = 2).

#### Value

a list with the following members:

num\_variant: the number of variants with minor allele frequency > 0 and less than rare\_maf\_cutoff in the given variant-set that are used for performing the variant-set using STAAR.

cMAC: the cumulative minor allele count of variants with minor allele frequency > 0 and less than rare\_maf\_cutoff in the given variant-set.

RV\_label: the boolean vector indicating whether each variant in the given variant-set has minor allele frequency > 0 and less than rare\_maf\_cutoff.

results\_STAAR\_0: the STAAR-O p-value that aggregated SKAT(1,25), SKAT(1,1), Burden(1,25), Burden(1,1), ACAT-V(1,25), and ACAT-V(1,1) together with p-values of each test weighted by each annotation using Cauchy method.

results\_ACAT\_0: the ACAT-O p-value that aggregated SKAT(1,25), SKAT(1,1), Burden(1,25), Burden(1,1), ACAT-V(1,25), and ACAT-V(1,1) using Cauchy method.

results\_STAAR\_S\_1\_25: a vector of STAAR-S(1,25) p-values, including SKAT(1,25) p-value weighted by MAF, the SKAT(1,25) p-values weighted by each annotation, and a STAAR-S(1,25) p-value by aggregating these p-values using Cauchy method.

results\_STAAR\_S\_1\_1: a vector of STAAR-S(1,1) p-values, including SKAT(1,1) p-value weighted by MAF, the SKAT(1,1) p-values weighted by each annotation, and a STAAR-S(1,1) p-value by aggregating these p-values using Cauchy method.

results\_STAAR\_B\_1\_25: a vector of STAAR-B(1,25) p-values, including Burden(1,25) p-value weighted by MAF, the Burden(1,25) p-values weighted by each annotation, and a STAAR-B(1,25) p-value by aggregating these p-values using Cauchy method.

results\_STAAR\_B\_1\_1: a vector of STAAR-B(1,1) p-values, including Burden(1,1) p-value weighted by MAF, the Burden(1,1) p-values weighted by each annotation, and a STAAR-B(1,1) p-value by aggregating these p-values using Cauchy method.

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results\_STAAR\_A\_1\_25: a vector of STAAR-A(1,25) p-values, including ACAT-V(1,25) p-value weighted by MAF, the ACAT-V(1,25) p-values weighted by each annotation, and a STAAR-A(1,25) p-value by aggregating these p-values using Cauchy method.

results\_STAAR\_A\_1\_1: a vector of STAAR-A(1,1) p-values, including ACAT-V(1,1) p-value weighted by MAF, the ACAT-V(1,1) p-values weighted by each annotation, and a STAAR-A(1,1) p-value by aggregating these p-values using Cauchy method.

#### References

Li, X., Li, Z., et al. (2020). Dynamic incorporation of multiple in silico functional annotations empowers rare variant association analysis of large whole-genome sequencing studies at scale. *Nature Genetics*, 52(9), 969-983. (pub)

Li, Z., Li, X., et al. (2022). A framework for detecting noncoding rare-variant associations of large-scale whole-genome sequencing studies. *Nature Methods*, 19(12), 1599-1611. (pub)

Liu, Y., et al. (2019). Acat: A fast and powerful p value combination method for rare-variant analysis in sequencing studies. *The American Journal of Human Genetics*, 104(3), 410-421. (pub)

Li, Z., Li, X., et al. (2020). Dynamic scan procedure for detecting rare-variant association regions in whole-genome sequencing studies. *The American Journal of Human Genetics*, 104(5), 802-814. (pub)

STAAR\_cond

STAAR procedure for conditional analysis using omnibus test

## Description

The STAAR\_cond function takes in genotype, the genotype of variants to be adjusted for in conditional analysis, the object from fitting the null model, and functional annotation data to analyze the conditional association between a quantitative/dichotomous phenotype and a variant-set by using STAAR procedure, adjusting for a given list of variants. For each variant-set, the conditional STAAR-O p-value is a p-value from an omnibus test that aggregated conditional SKAT(1,25), SKAT(1,1), Burden(1,25), Burden(1,1), ACAT-V(1,25), and ACAT-V(1,1) together with conditional p-values of each test weighted by each annotation using Cauchy method.

## Usage

```
STAAR_cond(
  genotype,
  genotype_adj,
  obj_nullmodel,
  annotation_phred = NULL,
  rare_maf_cutoff = 0.01,
  rv_num_cutoff = 2,
  method_cond = c("optimal", "naive")
)
```

## **Arguments**

genotype

an n\*p genotype matrix (dosage matrix) of the target sequence, where n is the sample size and p is the number of genetic variants.

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genotype\_adj

an n\*p\_adj genotype matrix (dosage matrix) of the target sequence, where n is the sample size and p\_adj is the number of genetic variants to be adjusted for in conditional analysis (or a vector of a single variant with length n if p\_adj is 1).

obj\_nullmodel

an object from fitting the null model, which is the output from either fit\_null\_glm function for unrelated samples or fit\_null\_glmmkin function for related samples. Note that fit\_null\_glmmkin is a wrapper of the glmmkin function from the GMMAT package.

annotation\_phred

a data frame or matrix of functional annotation data of dimension p\*q (or a vector of a single annotation score with length p). Continuous scores should be given in PHRED score scale, where the PHRED score of j-th variant is defined to be  $-10*log10(rank(-score_j)/total)$  across the genome. (Binary) categorical scores should be taking values 0 or 1, where 1 is functional and 0 is non-functional. If not provided, STAAR will perform the SKAT(1,25), SKAT(1,1), Burden(1,25), Burden(1,1), ACAT-V(1,25), ACAT-V(1,1) and ACAT-O tests (default = NUL-L).

rare\_maf\_cutoff

the cutoff of maximum minor allele frequency in defining rare variants (default = 0.01).

rv\_num\_cutoff

the cutoff of minimum number of variants of analyzing a given variant-set (default = 2).

method\_cond

a character value indicating the method for conditional analysis. optimal refers to regressing residuals from the null model on genotype\_adj as well as all covariates used in fitting the null model (fully adjusted) and taking the residuals; naive refers to regressing residuals from the null model on genotype\_adj and taking the residuals (default = optimal).

## Value

a list with the following members:

 $num\_variant$ : the number of variants with minor allele frequency > 0 and less than  $rare\_maf\_cutoff$  in the given variant-set that are used for performing the variant-set using STAAR.

cMAC: the cumulative minor allele count of variants with minor allele frequency > 0 and less than rare\_maf\_cutoff in the given variant-set.

RV\_label: the boolean vector indicating whether each variant in the given variant-set has minor allele frequency > 0 and less than rare\_maf\_cutoff.

results\_STAAR\_0\_cond: the conditional STAAR-O p-value that aggregated conditional SKAT(1,25), SKAT(1,1), Burden(1,25), Burden(1,1), ACAT-V(1,25), and ACAT-V(1,1) together with conditional p-values of each test weighted by each annotation using Cauchy method.

results\_ACAT\_0\_cond: the conditional ACAT-O p-value that aggregated conditional SKAT(1,25), SKAT(1,1), Burden(1,25), Burden(1,1), ACAT-V(1,25), and ACAT-V(1,1) using Cauchy method.

results\_STAAR\_S\_1\_25\_cond: a vector of conditional STAAR-S(1,25) p-values, including conditional SKAT(1,25) p-value weighted by MAF, the conditional SKAT(1,25) p-values weighted by each annotation, and a conditional STAAR-S(1,25) p-value by aggregating these p-values using Cauchy method.

results\_STAAR\_S\_1\_1\_cond: a vector of conditional STAAR-S(1,1) p-values, including conditional SKAT(1,1) p-value weighted by MAF, the conditional SKAT(1,1) p-values weighted by each annotation, and a conditional STAAR-S(1,1) p-value by aggregating these p-values using Cauchy method.

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results\_STAAR\_B\_1\_25\_cond: a vector of conditional STAAR-B(1,25) p-values, including conditional Burden(1,25) p-value weighted by MAF, the conditional Burden(1,25) p-values weighted by each annotation, and a conditional STAAR-B(1,25) p-value by aggregating these p-values using Cauchy method.

results\_STAAR\_B\_1\_1\_cond: a vector of conditional STAAR-B(1,1) p-values, including conditional Burden(1,1) p-value weighted by MAF, the conditional Burden(1,1) p-values weighted by each annotation, and a conditional STAAR-B(1,1) p-value by aggregating these p-values using Cauchy method.

results\_STAAR\_A\_1\_25\_cond: a vector of conditional STAAR-A(1,25) p-values, including conditional ACAT-V(1,25) p-value weighted by MAF, the conditional ACAT-V(1,25) p-values weighted by each annotation, and a conditional STAAR-A(1,25) p-value by aggregating these p-values using Cauchy method.

results\_STAAR\_A\_1\_1\_cond: a vector of conditional STAAR-A(1,1) p-values, including conditional ACAT-V(1,1) p-value weighted by MAF, the conditional ACAT-V(1,1) p-values weighted by each annotation, and a conditional STAAR-A(1,1) p-value by aggregating these p-values using Cauchy method.

## References

- Li, X., Li, Z., et al. (2020). Dynamic incorporation of multiple in silico functional annotations empowers rare variant association analysis of large whole-genome sequencing studies at scale. *Nature Genetics*, 52(9), 969-983. (pub)
- Li, Z., Li, X., et al. (2022). A framework for detecting noncoding rare-variant associations of large-scale whole-genome sequencing studies. *Nature Methods*, 19(12), 1599-1611. (pub)
- Liu, Y., et al. (2019). Acat: A fast and powerful p value combination method for rare-variant analysis in sequencing studies. *The American Journal of Human Genetics*, 104(3), 410-421. (pub)
- Li, Z., Li, X., et al. (2020). Dynamic scan procedure for detecting rare-variant association regions in whole-genome sequencing studies. *The American Journal of Human Genetics*, 104(5), 802-814. (pub)

Sofer, T., et al. (2019). A fully adjusted two-stage procedure for rank-normalization in genetic association studies. *Genetic Epidemiology*, 43(3), 263-275. (pub)

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