# Package 'gapclosing'

August 28, 2021

Version 0.0.4
<b>Description</b> Provides functions to estimate gap-closing estimands: the disparities across cate-
gories (e.g. Black and white) that persists if a treatment variable (e.g. college) is equal-
ized (Lundberg 2021). Makes estimates by treatment modeling, outcome modeling, and doubly
robust augmented inverse probability weighting estimation, with standard errors calcu-

lated by a nonparametric bootstrap. Cross-fitting is supported. Survey weights are supported for point estimation but not for standard error estimation; those applying this package with complex survey samples should consult the data distributor to select an appropriate approach for standard error construction, which may involve calling the functions repeatedly for many sets of replicate weights provided by the data distributor.

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RoxygenNote 7.1.1

Imports stats, utils, mgcv, ranger, glmnet, Rdpack, magrittr, dplyr, forcats, ggplot2, gridExtra, tidyr, foreach, tidyselect, parallel, doParallel

Suggests testthat (>= 3.0.0), knitr, rmarkdown

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```
as.data.frame.gapclosing
```

Coerce to a Data Frame

# Description

This function converts a gapclosing object into a data frame. The gapclosing class contains results within a named list, thus simplifying things for manual user interaction with the results. In some programming settings (e.g. a bootstrap), it is easier to work with a rectangular data frame of results. This function produces that data frame.

#### Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'gapclosing'
as.data.frame(x, ...)
```

# **Arguments**

- x Object of class gapclosing, produced by a call to gapclosing().
- ... Additional arguments to be passed to or from methods.

#### Value

A data frame containing estimates.

## References

Lundberg I (2021). "The gap-closing estimand: A causal approach to study interventions that close disparities across social categories." Sociological Methods and Research. Available at https://osf.io/gx4y3/.

# **Examples**

```
# Simulate example data
simulated_data <- generate_simulated_data(n = 100)

# Fit by outcome modeling
estimate <- gapclosing(
    data = simulated_data,
    outcome_formula = formula(outcome ~ treatment * category + confounder),
    treatment_name = "treatment",
    category_name = "category",
    counterfactual_assignments = 1
)
summary(estimate)

# Convert to a data frame
estimate.df <- as.data.frame(estimate)</pre>
```

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cross\_fit\_estimator

Cross-fitting gap closing estimator

#### **Description**

This is an internal function typically called from other functions rather than by the user. It creates cross-validation folds and repeatedly calls split\_sample\_estimator to conduct cross-fitting.

# Usage

```
cross_fit_estimator(
  data,
  counterfactual_assignments,
  outcome_formula,
  treatment_formula,
  category_name,
  outcome_name,
  treatment_name,
  treatment_algorithm = "glm",
  outcome_algorithm = "lm",
  weight_name = NULL,
  n_folds = 2,
  folds_name = NULL
)
```

# Arguments

data

Data frame containing the observed data

counterfactual\_assignments

Numeric scalar or vector of length nrow(data), each element of which is on the [0,1] interval. If a scalar, the counterfactual probability by which all units are assigned to treatment condition 1. If a vector, each element i corresponds to the counterfactual probability by which each unit i is assigned to treatment condition 1.

outcome\_formula

Model formula the outcome. Covariates should include those needed for causal identification of the treatment effect (e.g. as defended in your Directed Acyclic Graph). If outcome\_algorithm = "ranger", then the outcome model will be fit separately on the treatment and control groups. Otherwise, the user must specify all interactions in the formula.

treatment\_formula

Treatment formula, in the style formula(treatment ~ covariates). Covariates should include those needed for causal identification of the treatment effect (e.g. as defended in your Directed Acyclic Graph).

category\_name

Character name of the variable indicating the categories over which the gap is defined. Must be the name of a column in data.

outcome\_name

Character name of the outcome variable. Only required when there is no outcome\_formula; otherwise extracted automatically. Must be a name of a column in data.

treatment\_name Character name of the treatment variable. Only required when there is no treatment\_formula; otherwise extracted automatically. Must be a name of a column in data.

treatment\_algorithm

Character name of the algorithm for the treatment model. One of "glm", "ridge", "gam", or "ranger". Defaults to "glm", which is a logit model. Option "ridge" is ridge regression. Option "gam" is a generalized additive model fit (see package mgcv). Option "ranger" is a random forest (see package ranger). If "ranger", this function avoids propensity scores equal to 0 or 1 by bottom- and top-coding predicted values at .001 and .999.

outcome\_algorithm

Character name of the algorithm for the outcome model. One of "lm", "ridge", "gam", or "ranger". Defaults to "lm", which is an OLS model. Option "ridge" is ridge regression. Option "gam" is a generalized additive model fit (see package mgcv). Option "ranger" is a random forest (see package ranger).

weight\_name Character name of a sampling weight variable, if any, which captures the inverse probability of inclusion in the sample. The default assumes a simple random

sample (all weights equal).

n\_folds Only used if method = "cross\_fit" and if folds is not provided. Integer scalar

containing number of cross-validation folds. The function will assign observations to folds systematically: sort the data by the variable named category\_name, then by the treatment variable, then at random. On this sorted dataset, folds are assigned systematically by repeated 1:n\_folds. To be used if the user does not

provide folds. Defaults to 2.

folds\_name Only used if method = "cross\_fit". Character string indicating a column of data

containing fold identifiers. This may be preferable to n\_folds if the researcher has a reason to assign the folds in these data by some other process, perhaps due to particulars of how these data were generated. If null (the default), folds are

assigned as stated in n\_folds.

# Value

A list with four elements.

counterfactual\_means A tibble with a counterfactual mean estimate for each category counterfactual\_means A tibble with a counterfactual disparity estimate for each pair of categories treatment\_model Object containing the fitted treatment model outcome\_model Object containing the fitted outcome model

#### References

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# **Description**

If the user has used as.data.frame(x) to convert a gapclosing object to a data frame of estimates, this function will invert back to the original list format. This function does not fully reinstate the original gapclosing object because some elements are lost when as.data.frame() is called. This function is most useful as a check on as.data.frame() and as a helper in settings like bootstrapping where a data frame is easier to work with but we want to return to the original format before returning an object to the user.

#### Usage

```
df_to_gapclosing_list(x)
```

# **Arguments**

x A data frame produced by as.data.frame(x) applied to an object x of class gapclosing.

#### Value

A list containing a subset of the elements in a gapclosing object.

#### References

Lundberg I (2021). "The gap-closing estimand: A causal approach to study interventions that close disparities across social categories." Sociological Methods and Research. Available at https://osf.io/gx4y3/.

# **Examples**

```
# Simulate example data
simulated_data <- generate_simulated_data(n = 100)

# Fit by outcome modeling
estimate <- gapclosing(
   data = simulated_data,
   outcome_formula = formula(outcome ~ treatment * category + confounder),
   treatment_name = "treatment",
   category_name = "category",
   counterfactual_assignments = 1
)
summary(estimate)

# Convert to a data frame
estimate.df <- as.data.frame(estimate)
# Convert back to a list
estimate.df <- df_to_gapclosing_list(estimate.df)</pre>
```

disparityplot

Plot a disparity

#### **Description**

Plots the factual and counterfactual mean outcomes in two categories. The returned object is a ggplot2 object which can be further customized using the syntax of ggplot2.

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#### Usage

```
disparityplot(
    x,
    category_A,
    category_B,
    custom_ylab = "Mean Outcome",
    custom_xlab = "Category"
)
```

# Arguments

X	An object of class gapciosing, which results from a call to the function gapciosing
category_A	The first category to be plotted. A value of the category_name variable in x.
category_B	The second category to be plotted. Must be a value of x\$category
custom_ylab	Custom y-axis label. Defaults to "Mean Outcome"
custom_xlab	Custom x-axis label. Defaults to "Category"

# Value

A ggplot2 object

#### References

Lundberg I (2021). "The gap-closing estimand: A causal approach to study interventions that close disparities across social categories." Sociological Methods and Research. Available at https://osf.io/gx4y3/.

|--|

# Description

Not typically called by the user directly; called indirectly via other functions. Uses glmnet to fit a ridge regression with penalty chosen by cross-validation. Returns fitted values for the data in to\_predict.

# Usage

```
fit_ridge(data, model_formula, to_predict)
```

# Arguments

data Data frame containing the observed data

model\_formula A model formula object for the ridge regression to be fitted

to\_predict Data frame containing observations for which predictions are to be made. If

NULL, defaults to the same as data.

# Value

A data frame containing predicted values for observations in to\_predict.

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#### References

Lundberg I (2021). "The gap-closing estimand: A causal approach to study interventions that close disparities across social categories." Sociological Methods and Research. Available at https://osf.io/gx4y3/.

Friedman J, Hastie T, Tibshirani R (2010). "Regularization Paths for Generalized Linear Models via Coordinate Descent." Journal of Statistical Software, 33(1), 1–22. https://www.jstatsoft.org/v33/i01/.

gapclosing

Gap closing estimator

# **Description**

A function to estimate gap-closing estimands: means and disparities across categories of units that would persist under some counterfactual assignment of a treatment. To use this function, the user provides a data frame data, a rule counterfactual\_assignments for counterfactually assigning treatment, a treatment and/or an outcome model for learning statistically about the counterfactuals, and the category\_name of the variable in data over which categories are defined. The returned object summarizes factual and counterfactual means and disparities. Supported estimation algorithms include generalized linear models, ridge regression, generalized additive models, and random forests. Standard errors are supported by bootstrapping.

#### Usage

```
gapclosing(
  data,
  counterfactual_assignments,
  outcome_formula = NULL,
  treatment_formula = NULL,
  category_name,
  outcome_name = NULL,
  treatment_name = NULL,
  treatment_algorithm = "glm",
  outcome_algorithm = "lm",
  sample_split = "single_sample",
  se = FALSE,
  bootstrap_samples = 1000,
  bootstrap_method = "simple",
  parallel_cores = NULL,
  weight_name = NULL,
  n_folds = 2,
  folds_name = NULL
)
```

# **Arguments**

data Data frame containing the observed data counterfactual\_assignments

Numeric scalar or vector of length nrow(data), each element of which is on the [0,1] interval. If a scalar, the counterfactual probability by which all units are assigned to treatment condition 1. If a vector, each element i corresponds to the counterfactual probability by which each unit i is assigned to treatment condition 1.

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outcome\_formula

Outcome formula, in the style outcome ~ treatment\*covariate. Covariates should include those needed for causal identification of the treatment effect (e.g. as defended in your Directed Acyclic Graph). If outcome\_algorithm = "ranger", then the outcome model will be fit separately on the treatment and control groups. Otherwise, the user must specify all interactions in the formula.

treatment\_formula

Treatment formula, in the style treatment ~ covariate. Covariates should include those needed for causal identification of the treatment effect (e.g. as defended in your Directed Acyclic Graph).

Character name of the variable indicating the categories over which the gap is category\_name defined. Must be the name of a column in data.

> Character name of the outcome variable. Only required when there is no outcome\_formula; otherwise extracted automatically. Must be a name of a column in data.

Character name of the treatment variable. Only required when there is no treatment\_formula; otherwise extracted automatically. Must be a name of a column in data.

treatment\_algorithm

Character name of the algorithm for the treatment model. One of "glm", "ridge", "gam", or "ranger". Defaults to "glm", which is a logit model. Option "ridge" is ridge regression. Option "gam" is a generalized additive model fit (see package mgcv). Option "ranger" is a random forest (see package ranger). If "ranger", this function avoids propensity scores equal to 0 or 1 by bottom- and top-coding predicted values at .001 and .999.

outcome\_algorithm

Character name of the algorithm for the outcome model. One of "lm", "ridge", "gam", or "ranger". Defaults to "lm", which is an OLS model. Option "ridge" is ridge regression. Option "gam" is a generalized additive model fit (see package mgcv). Option "ranger" is a random forest (see package ranger).

Character for the type of sample splitting to be conducted. One of "single sample" or "cross\_fit". Defaults to "single\_sample", in which case data is used for both learning the nuisance functions and aggregating to an estimate. Option "cross\_fit" uses cross-fitting to repeatedly use part of the sample to learn the nuisance function and another part to estimate the estimand, averaged over repetitions with these roles swapped.

Logical indicating whether standard errors should be calculated. Default is FALSE. Standard errors assume a simple random sample by default; to stratify by (category x treatment), see the bootstrap\_method argument. Because many datasets are not simple random samples, users should carefully consider whether a simple random sample bootstrap will accurately capture uncertainty.

bootstrap\_samples

Only used if se = TRUE. Number of bootstrap samples. Default is 1000.

bootstrap\_method

Only used if se = TRUE. A character string stating how to conduct bootstrap samples. If "simple", then samples are drawn with replacement from the full data. If "stratified", then the bootstrap is carried out within subpopulations defined by category and treatment. The latter may be useful if the sample contains only a small number of observations in these cells and the user wants to ensure that every (category x treatment) cell appears in every bootstrap sample. With "stratified", inference assumes that in repeated samples from the true population the

treatment\_name

outcome\_name

sample\_split

se

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proportion in each (category x treatment) cell would not change; this may or may not correspond to the true sampling process. Users should be cautious.

parallel\_cores Integer number of cores for parallel processing of the bootstrap. Defaults to

sequential processing.

weight\_name Character name of a sampling weight variable, if any, which captures the inverse

probability of inclusion in the sample. The default assumes a simple random

sample (all weights equal).

n\_folds Only used if method = "cross\_fit" and if folds is not provided. Integer scalar

containing number of cross-validation folds. The function will assign observations to folds systematically: sort the data by the variable named category\_name, then by the treatment variable, then at random. On this sorted dataset, folds are assigned systematically by repeated 1:n\_folds. To be used if the user does not

provide folds. Defaults to 2.

folds\_name Only used if method = "cross\_fit". Character string indicating a column of data

containing fold identifiers. This may be preferable to n\_folds if the researcher has a reason to assign the folds in these data by some other process, perhaps due to particulars of how these data were generated. If null (the default), folds are

assigned as stated in n\_folds.

#### Value

An object of S3 class gapclosing, which supports summary(), print(), and plot() functions. The returned object can be coerced to a data frame of estimates with as.data.frame(). The object returned by a call to gapclosing contains several elements.

- factual\_means A tibble containing the factual mean outcome in each category
- factual\_disparities A tibble containing the disparities in factual mean outcomes across categories
- counterfactual\_means A tibble containing the counterfactual mean outcome (post-intervention mean) in each category
- counterfactual\_disparities A tibble containing the counterfactual disparities (gap-closing estimands) across categories
- change\_means A tibble containing the additive and proportional change from factual to counterfactual values for mean outcomes
- change\_disparities A tibble containing the additive and proportional change from factual to counterfactual values for disparities in mean outcomes (e.g. proportion of the factual gap which is closed by the intervention)
- all\_estimators A list containing estimates by treatment modeling, outcome modeling, and doubly-robust estimation. If any of these are not applicable, estimates are NA.
- primary\_estimator\_name The name of the primary estimator (treatment\_modeling, outcome\_modeling, or doubly\_robust). The estimates reported in the first 6 slots of the returned object come from this estimator.

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• treatment\_model The fitted treatment model (or models on each fold in the case of cross-fitting). Note that this model object is a point estimate with standard errors derived from the algorithm used to fit it; any standard errors within treatment\_model do not come from boot-strapping by the package.

- outcome\_model The fitted outcome model (or models on each fold in the case of cross-fitting). Note that this model object is a point estimate with standard errors derived from the algorithm used to fit it; any standard errors within treatment\_model do not come from bootstrapping by the package.
- call The call that produced this gapclosing object
- arguments A list of all arguments from the call to gapclosing

#### References

Lundberg I (2021). "The gap-closing estimand: A causal approach to study interventions that close disparities across social categories." Sociological Methods and Research. Available at https://osf.io/gx4y3/.

Friedman J, Hastie T, Tibshirani R (2010). "Regularization Paths for Generalized Linear Models via Coordinate Descent." Journal of Statistical Software, 33(1), 1–22. https://www.jstatsoft.org/v33/i01/.

Wood S (2017). Generalized Additive Models: An Introduction with R, 2 edition. Chapman and Hall/CRC.

Wright MN, Ziegler A (2017). "ranger: A Fast Implementation of Random Forests for High Dimensional Data in C++ and R." Journal of Statistical Software, 77(1), 1–17. doi: 10.18637/jss.v077.i01.

# **Examples**

```
# Simulate example data
simulated_data <- generate_simulated_data(n = 100)</pre>
# Fit by outcome modeling
# You can add standard errors with se = T
estimate <- gapclosing(</pre>
 data = simulated_data,
  outcome_formula = outcome ~ treatment * category + confounder,
  treatment_name = "treatment",
 category_name = "category",
  counterfactual\_assignments = 1
summary(estimate)
# Fit by treatment modeling
# You can add standard errors with se = T
estimate <- gapclosing(</pre>
  data = simulated_data,
  treatment_formula = treatment ~ category + confounder,
  outcome_name = "outcome",
 category_name = "category";
 counterfactual_assignments = 1
summary(estimate)
# Fit by doubly-robust estimation
```

generate\_simulated\_data

```
# You can add standard errors with se = T
estimate <- gapclosing(</pre>
  data = simulated_data,
  outcome_formula = outcome ~ treatment * category + confounder,
  treatment_formula = treatment ~ category + confounder,
  category_name = "category",
  counterfactual\_assignments = 1
)
summary(estimate)
# Fit by doubly-robust cross-fitting estimation with random forests
# You can add standard errors with se = T
estimate <- gapclosing(</pre>
  data = simulated_data,
  outcome_formula = outcome ~ category + confounder,
  treatment_formula = treatment ~ category + confounder,
  category_name = "category",
  counterfactual_assignments = 1,
  outcome_algorithm = "ranger",
  treatment_algorithm = "ranger",
  sample_split = "cross_fit"
summary(estimate)
```

generate\_simulated\_data

Generate simulated data

# **Description**

Generates simulated data to illustrate the gapclosing function

# Usage

```
generate_simulated_data(n = 1000)
```

#### **Arguments**

n

Number of observations to be generated

#### Value

A data frame with n rows and 4 columns containing simulated data containing category over which disparities are defined, a confounder that affects treatment assignment, a binary treatment, and a continuous outcome.

# References

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pairwise\_diff

Pairwise difference calculator

#### **Description**

A function to estimate the pairwise differences of estimates made for each category.

#### Usage

```
pairwise_diff(category_means_data, category_name)
```

#### **Arguments**

```
category_means_data
```

Data frame containing two columns: the category-specific mean estimate (a column named estimate) and the category name (named as specified in category\_name)

category\_name Th

The name of the column containing the category identifier.

#### Value

A data frame with pairwise differences of estimate over pairs of categories.

#### References

Lundberg I (2021). "The gap-closing estimand: A causal approach to study interventions that close disparities across social categories." Sociological Methods and Research. Available at https://osf.io/gx4y3/.

Friedman J, Hastie T, Tibshirani R (2010). "Regularization Paths for Generalized Linear Models via Coordinate Descent." Journal of Statistical Software, 33(1), 1–22. https://www.jstatsoft.org/v33/i01/.

Wood S (2017). Generalized Additive Models: An Introduction with R, 2 edition. Chapman and Hall/CRC.

Wright MN, Ziegler A (2017). "ranger: A Fast Implementation of Random Forests for High Dimensional Data in C++ and R." Journal of Statistical Software, 77(1), 1–17. doi: 10.18637/jss.v077.i01.

#### **Examples**

plot.gapclosing

Plot function for gapclosing objects

#### **Description**

Produces summary plots for a gapclosing object.

#### Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'gapclosing'
plot(x, return_plots = F, arranged = F, ...)
```

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# **Arguments**

Х	An object of class gapclosing, which results from a call to the function gapclosing
return_plots	Logical, defaults to FALSE. If TRUE, returns a list of the 4 plots without printing. Defaults to FALSE, in which case the console will interactively ask the user to hit "return" to proceed through printouts of the four plots, with no plots returned.
arranged	Logical, defaults to FALSE. If TRUE, returns a list of the 4 plots arranged in a 2x2 table. Useful to visualize all four in one screen.
	Other arguments to plot commands

# Value

If return\_plots = TRUE, returns a list of ggplot2 objects. If return\_plots = FALSE (the default), then nothing is returned and output is printed.

#### References

Lundberg I (2021). "The gap-closing estimand: A causal approach to study interventions that close disparities across social categories." Sociological Methods and Research. Available at https://osf.io/gx4y3/.

point_estimator	Point estimator for gap-closing estimands	

#### **Description**

This is an internal function typically called from other functions rather than by the user. It uses a learning sample to learn the nuisance functions (treatment and outcome model) and then an auxiliary estimation sample to use those functions in estimation of the gap-closing estimand. For single-sample estimation, both the learning and estimation samples are the same. For cross-fitting, this function is called repeatedly with the roles of each dataset swapped.

# Usage

```
point_estimator(
   data_learn,
   data_estimate,
   counterfactual_assignments,
   outcome_formula,
   treatment_formula,
   category_name,
   outcome_name,
   treatment_name,
   treatment_algorithm = "glm",
   outcome_algorithm = "lm",
   weight_name = NULL
)
```

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#### **Arguments**

data\_learn Data frame in which treatment and outcome models will be learned

data\_estimate Data frame in which the learned models will be converted to an estimate of the

gap-closing estimand

counterfactual\_assignments

Numeric scalar or vector of length nrow(data), each element of which is on the [0,1] interval. If a scalar, the counterfactual probability by which all units are assigned to treatment condition 1. If a vector, each element i corresponds to the counterfactual probability by which each unit i is assigned to treatment condition 1

outcome\_formula

Model formula the outcome. Covariates should include those needed for causal identification of the treatment effect (e.g. as defended in your Directed Acyclic Graph). If outcome\_algorithm = "ranger", then the outcome model will be fit separately on the treatment and control groups. Otherwise, the user must specify all interactions in the formula.

treatment\_formula

outcome\_name

Treatment formula, in the style formula(treatment ~ covariates). Covariates should include those needed for causal identification of the treatment effect (e.g. as defended in your Directed Acyclic Graph).

category\_name Character name of the variable indicating the categories over which the gap is defined. Must be the name of a column in data.

Character name of the outcome variable. Only required when there is no outcome\_formula; otherwise extracted automatically. Must be a name of a column in data.

treatment\_name Character name of the treatment variable. Only required when there is no treatment\_formula; otherwise extracted automatically. Must be a name of a column in data.

treatment\_algorithm

Character name of the algorithm for the treatment model. One of "glm", "ridge", "gam", or "ranger". Defaults to "glm", which is a logit model. Option "ridge" is ridge regression. Option "gam" is a generalized additive model fit (see package mgcv). Option "ranger" is a random forest (see package ranger). If "ranger", this function avoids propensity scores equal to 0 or 1 by bottom- and top-coding predicted values at .001 and .999.

outcome\_algorithm

Character name of the algorithm for the outcome model. One of "lm", "ridge", "gam", or "ranger". Defaults to "lm", which is an OLS model. Option "ridge" is ridge regression. Option "gam" is a generalized additive model fit (see package mgcv). Option "ranger" is a random forest (see package ranger).

weight\_name Character name of a sampling weight variable, if any, which captures the inverse probability of inclusion in the sample. The default assumes a simple random sample (all weights equal).

#### Value

@return A list with four elements.

counterfactual\_means A tibble with a counterfactual mean estimate for each category counterfactual\_means A tibble with a counterfactual disparity estimate for each pair of categories treatment\_model Object containing the fitted treatment model outcome\_model Object containing the fitted outcome model

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#### References

Lundberg I (2021). "The gap-closing estimand: A causal approach to study interventions that close disparities across social categories." Sociological Methods and Research. Available at https://osf.io/gx4y3/.

print.gapclosing Print function for gapclosing objects

# **Description**

Prints the same output as generated by summary

# Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'gapclosing'
print(
    x,
    ...,
    digits = 2,
    quote = FALSE,
    right = FALSE,
    row.names = FALSE,
    max = NULL
)
```

# **Arguments**

X	An object of class gapclosing, which results from a call to the function gapclosing
	Other arguments to print commands
digits	Argument passed to print.data.frame
quote	Argument passed to print.data.frame
right	Argument passed to print.data.frame
row.names	Argument passed to print.data.frame
max	Argument passed to print.data.frame

#### Value

Prints a summary of the estimates.

# References

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summary.gapclosing Summary function for gapclosing objects

# **Description**

Summarizes the S3 class object returned by the gapclosing function

### Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'gapclosing'
summary(object, ...)
```

# Arguments

object An object of class gapclosing, which results from a call to the function gapclosing
... Other arguments to summary commands

#### Value

Prints a summary of the estimates.

# References

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