SKAT Package

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1 Overview

SKAT package has functions to 1) test an association between a SNP set and continuous/binary phenotypes and 2) to compute power/sample size for future sequence association studies.

2 Association test

2.1 Example

An example dataset (SKAT.example) has a genotype matrix (Z) of 2000 individuals and 67 SNPs, vectors of continuous (y.c) and binary (y.b) phenotypes, and a covariates matrix (X).

```
> library(SKAT)
> data(SKAT.example)
> names(SKAT.example)

[1] "Z" "X" "y.c" "y.b"
> attach(SKAT.example)
```

To test an association, SKAT_Null_Model function should be first used to estimate parameters and to obtain residuals under the null model of no associations. And then, SKAT function can be used to get p-values.

```
> # continuous trait
> obj<-SKAT_Null_Model(y.c ~ X, out_type="C")
> SKAT(Z, obj)$p.value

[1] 0.002877041
> # dichotomous trait
> obj<-SKAT_Null_Model(y.b ~ X, out_type="D")
> SKAT(Z, obj)$p.value
```

```
[1] 0.1401991
```

>

When the trait is binary and the sample size is small, SKAT can produce conservative results. We developed a moment matching adjustment method that adjusts the asymptotic null distribution by estimating empirical variance and kurtosis. By default, SKAT (>= ver 0.7) will conduct a small sample adjustment when the sample size < 2000. In the following code, we use only 200 samples to run SKAT.

```
> IDX<-c(1:100,1001:1100)
> # With-adjustment
> obj.s<-SKAT_Null_Model(y.b[IDX] ~ X[IDX,],out_type="D")
Sample size (non-missing y and X) = 200, which is < 2000. The small sample adjustment is approximately approximately
```

If you don't want to use the adjustment, please set Adjustment=FALSE in the SKAT_Null_Model function.

```
> # Without-adjustment
> obj.s<-SKAT_Null_Model(y.b[IDX] ~ X[IDX,],out_type="D", Adjustment=FALSE)
> SKAT(Z[IDX,], obj.s, kernel = "linear.weighted")$p.value
[1] 0.147093
```

We recently developed an efficient resampling method to compute p-values for binary traits, and the methods are implemented in SKATBinary function. When you use this function, Adjustment=TRUE in SKAT_Null_Model is not necessary. Implemented methods are 1) Efficient resampling (ER); 2) ER with adaptive resampling (ER.A); 3) Quantile adjusted moment matching (QA); 4) Moment matching adjustment (MA); 5) No adjustment (UA); and 6) Hybrid. "Hybrid" (default method) selects a method based on the total minor allele count (MAC), the number of individuals with minor alleles (m), and the degree of case-control imbalance.

```
> # default hybrid approach
> out<-SKATBinary(Z[IDX,], obj.s, kernel = "linear.weighted")
> out$p.value
[1] 0.147093
```

>

2.2 Assign weights for each SNP

It is assumed that rarer variants are more likely to be causal variants with large effect sizes. To incorporate this assumption, the linear weighted kernel uses a weighting scheme and is formulated as ZWWZ', where Z is a genotype matrix, and $W = diag\{w_1, \ldots, w_m\}$ is a weight matrix. In the previous examples, we used the default beta(1,25) weight, $w_i = dbeta(p_i, 1, 25)$, where dbeta is a beta density function, and p_i is a minor allele frequency (MAF) of SNP i. You can use different parameters for the beta weight by changing the weights beta parameter. For example, if you want to use Madsen and Browning weight, use weight.beta=c(0.5,0.5).

```
> SKAT(Z, obj, kernel = "linear.weighted", weights.beta=c(0.5,0.5))$p.value [1] 0.4931639
```

You can make your own weight vector and use it for the weighting. For the logistic weight, we provide a function to generate the weight.

```
> # Shape of the logistic weight
>

> MAF<-1:1000/1000
> W<-Get_Logistic_Weights_MAF(MAF, par1=0.07, par2=150)
> par(mfrow=c(1,2))
> plot(MAF,W,xlab="MAF",ylab="Weights",type="l")
> plot(MAF[1:100],W[1:100],xlab="MAF",ylab="Weights",type="l")
> par(mfrow=c(1,2))
> # Use logistic weight
> weights<-Get_Logistic_Weights(Z, par1=0.07, par2=150)
> SKAT(Z, obj, kernel = "linear.weighted", weights=weights)$p.value

[1] 0.3293643
```

2.3 Combined Test of burden test and SKAT

A test statistic of the combined test is

$$Q_{\rho} = (1 - \rho)Q_S + \rho Q_B,$$

where Q_S is a test statistic of SKAT, and Q_B is a score test statistic of the burden test. You can specify ρ value using the r.corr parameter (default: , r.corr=0).

```
> #rho=0
> SKAT(Z, obj, r.corr=0)$p.value
[1] 0.1401991
```

```
> #rho=0.9
> SKAT(Z, obj, r.corr=0.9)$p.value
[1] 0.06031026
> #rho=1, burden test
> SKAT(Z, obj, r.corr=1)$p.value
[1] 0.06095529
```

If method="optimal.adj", SKAT-O method is performed, which computes p-values with eight different values of $\rho=(0,0.1^2,0.2^2,0.3^2,0.4^2,0.5^2,0.5,1)$ and then uses the minimum p-value as a test statistic. If you want to use the original implementation of SKAT-O, use method="optimal". We recommend to use "optimal.adj", since it has a better type I error control.

```
> #Optimal Test
> SKAT(Z, obj, method="optimal.adj")$p.value
[1] 0.1008976
>
```

2.4 Combined test of rare and common variants

If you want to test combined effects of common and rare variants, you can use SKAT_CommonRare function.

```
> # Combined sum test (SKAT-C and Burden-C)
>
> SKAT_CommonRare(Z, obj)$p.value

[1] 0.2238025
> SKAT_CommonRare(Z, obj, r.corr.rare=1, r.corr.common=1)$p.value

[1] 0.1546374
> # Adaptive test (SKAT-A and Burden-A)
> SKAT_CommonRare(Z, obj, method="A")$p.value

[1] 0.4372293
> SKAT_CommonRare(Z, obj, r.corr.rare=1, r.corr.common=1, method="A")$p.value

[1] 0.1548059
```

The detailed description of each method can be found in the following reference.

Ionita-Laza, I., Lee, S., Makarov, V., Buxbaum, J. Lin, X. (2013). Sequence kernel association tests for the combined effect of rare and common variants. *American Journal of Human Genetics*, 92(6):841-53.

2.5 Imputing missing genotypes.

If there are missing genotypes, SKAT automatically imputes them based on Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium. You can choose from "bestguess", "fixed" or "random". The "bestguess" imputes missing genotypes as most likely values (0,1,2), the "fixed" imputes missing genotypes by assigning the mean genotype value (2p, p is the MAF) and the "random" imputes missing genotypes by generating binomial(2,p) random variables. The default imputation method for the SKAT function is "fixed" and for the SKATBinary function is "bestguess".

```
> # Assign missing
> Z1<-Z
> Z1[1,1:3]<-NA
> # bestguess imputation
> SKAT(Z1,obj,impute.method = "bestguess")$p.value
[1] 0.1401991
> # fixed imputation
> SKAT(Z1,obj,impute.method = "fixed")$p.value
[1] 0.1401982
> # random imputation
> SKAT(Z1,obj,impute.method = "random")$p.value
[1] 0.1401991
>
```

2.6 Resampling

SKAT package provides functions to carry out resampling to compute empirical p-values and to control family wise error rate. Two different resampling methods are implemented. "bootstrap" conducts the parametric bootstrap to resample residuals from H_0 with considering covariates. When there is no covariate, "bootstrap" is equivalent to the permutation. "perturbation" perturbs the residuals by multiplying standard normal random variables. The default method is "bootstrap". From ver 0.7, we do not provide the "perturbation" method.

When there are many genes/SNP sets to test, resampling methods can be used to control family-wise error rate. You can find an example in the next section.

2.7 Plink Binary format files

SKAT package can use plink binary format files for genome-wide data analysis. To use plink files, plink bed, bim and fam files, and your own setid file that contains information of SNP sets are needed. Example files can be found on the SKAT/MetaSKAT google group page.

```
> # To run this code, first download and unzip example files
Generate SSD file
> # Create the MW File
> File.Bed<-"./Example1.bed"
> File.Bim<-"./Example1.bim"
> File.Fam<-"./Example1.fam"
> File.SetID<-"./Example1.SetID"
> File.SSD<-"./Example1.SSD"
> File.Info<-"./Example1.SSD.info"
> # To use binary ped files, you have to generate SSD file first.
> # If you already have a SSD file, you do not need to call this function.
> Generate_SSD_SetID(File.Bed, File.Bim, File.Fam, File.SetID, File.SSD, File.Info)
Check duplicated SNPs in each SNP set
No duplicate
1000 Samples, 10 Sets, 984 Total SNPs
[1] "SSD and Info files are created!"
```

Now you can open SSD and Info file and run SKAT.

```
> FAM<-Read_Plink_FAM(File.Fam, Is.binary=FALSE)
> y<-FAM$Phenotype
> # To use a SSD file, please open it first. After finishing using it, you must close it.
> SSD.INFO<-Open_SSD(File.SSD, File.Info)
1000 Samples, 10 Sets, 984 Total SNPs
Open the SSD file
> # Number of samples
> SSD.INFO$nSample
[1] 1000
> # Number of Sets
> SSD.INFO$nSets
[1] 10
> obj<-SKAT_Null_Model(y ~ 1, out_type="C")</pre>
> out<-SKAT.SSD.All(SSD.INFO, obj)
> out
$results
    SetID
              P.value N.Marker.All N.Marker.Test
1 GENE_01 0.77747880
                                94
                                              84
2 GENE_02 0.06245208
                               84
3 GENE_03 0.38416582
                               108
                                             108
4 GENE_04 0.46179268
                               101
                                             101
5 GENE_05 0.18548863
                               103
                                             103
6 GENE_06 0.93255760
                               94
                                             94
7 GENE_07 0.18897220
                               104
                                             104
8 GENE_08 0.73081683
                                96
                                              96
9 GENE_09 0.67366458
                               100
                                             100
10 GENE_10 0.40310682
                               100
                                             100
$P.value.Resampling
NULL
attr(,"class")
```

[1] "SKAT_SSD_ALL"

If you have a plink covariate file, you can use Read_Plink_FAM_Cov file to read both FAM and covariate files.

```
> File.Cov<-"./Example1.Cov"
> FAM_Cov<-Read_Plink_FAM_Cov(File.Fam, File.Cov, Is.binary=FALSE)
> # First 5 rows
> FAM_Cov[1:5,]

FID IID PID MID Sex Phenotype X1 X2
1 FID454 1 0 0 1 0.679793 1.0297614 1
```

- > # Run with covariates
- $> X1 = FAM_Cov$X1$
- $> X2 = FAM_Cov$X2$
- > y<-FAM_Cov\$Phenotype
- > obj<-SKAT_Null_Model(y ~ X1 + X2, out_type="C")</pre>
- > out<-SKAT.SSD.All(SSD.INFO, obj)
- > out

\$results

	SetID	P.value	N.Marker.All	N.Marker.Test
1	GENE_01	0.77771227	94	94
2	GENE_02	0.06157071	84	84
3	GENE_03	0.39818504	108	108
4	GENE_04	0.46548442	101	101
5	GENE_05	0.18981516	103	103
6	GENE_06	0.94073952	94	94
7	GENE_07	0.18779019	104	104
8	GENE_08	0.74559501	96	96
9	GENE_09	0.66573796	100	100
10	GENE_10	0.40204308	100	100

\$P.value.Resampling
NULL

```
attr(,"class")
[1] "SKAT_SSD_ALL"
```

To use custom weight, you need to make a weight file and read it using "Read_SNP_WeightFile" function. The weight file should have two columns, SNP ID and weight values. The output object of "Read_SNP_WeightFile" can be used as a parameter in SKAT.SSD functions

```
> # Custom weight
> # File: Example1_Weight.txt
> obj.SNPWeight<-Read_SNP_WeightFile("./Example1_Weight.txt")</pre>
```

```
> out<-SKAT.SSD.All(SSD.INFO, obj, obj.SNPWeight=obj.SNPWeight)
> out
```

\$results

```
P.value N.Marker.All N.Marker.Test
    SetID
1 GENE_01 0.58647860
                                94
2 GENE_02 0.03286684
                                84
                                              84
3 GENE_03 0.25752493
                               108
                                             108
4 GENE_04 0.18486050
                               101
                                             101
5 GENE_05 0.43670123
                               103
                                             103
6 GENE_06 0.98039703
                                94
                                              94
7 GENE_07 0.12460640
                               104
                                             104
8 GENE_08 0.78814493
                                96
                                             96
9 GENE_09 0.80206141
                               100
                                             100
10 GENE_10 0.34070404
                               100
                                             100
```

\$P.value.Resampling
NULL

```
attr(,"class")
[1] "SKAT_SSD_ALL"
```

The output object of SKAT.SSD.All has an output dataframe object "results". You can save it using write table function.

```
> output.df = out$results
> write.table(output.df, file="./save.txt", col.names=TRUE, row.names=FALSE)
```

If more than one gene/SNP sets are to be tested, you should adjust for multiple testing to control for family-wise error rate. It can be done bonferroni correction. If gene/SNP sets are correlated, however, this approach can be conservative. Alternatively, you can directly control family wise error rate (FWER) using the resampling method.

```
> obj<-SKAT_Null_Model(y ~ 1, out_type="C", n.Resampling=1000, type.Resampling="bootstrap") > out<-SKAT.SSD.All(SSD.INFO, obj)
```

> # No gene is significant with controling FWER = 0.05

> Resampling_FWER(out,FWER=0.05)

\$result

NULL

\$n

[1] 0

\$ID

NULL

```
> # 1 gene is significant with controling FWER = 0.5
> Resampling_FWER(out,FWER=0.5)
$result
    SetID
             P.value N.Marker.All N.Marker.Test
2 GENE_02 0.06245208
                                84
$n
[1] 1
$ID
[1] 2
  "SKAT.SSD.OneSet" or "SKAT.SSD.OneSet_SetIndex" functions can be used
to test a single gene/SNP set. Alternatively, you can obtain a genotype matrix
using "Get_Genotypes_SSD" function and then run SKAT.
> obj<-SKAT_Null_Model(y ~ 1, out_type="C")</pre>
> # test the second gene
> id<-2
> SetID<-SSD.INFO$SetInfo$SetID[id]
> SKAT.SSD.OneSet(SSD.INFO,SetID, obj)$p.value
[1] 0.06245208
> SKAT.SSD.OneSet_SetIndex(SSD.INFO,id, obj)$p.value
[1] 0.06245208
> # test the second gene with the logistic weight.
> Z<-Get_Genotypes_SSD(SSD.INFO, id)
> weights = Get_Logistic_Weights(Z, par1=0.07, par2=150)
> SKAT(Z, obj, weights=weights)$p.value
[1] 0.7227001
  SKAT_CommonRare function also can be used with SSD files.
> # test all genes in SSD file
> obj<-SKAT_Null_Model(y ~ X1 + X2, out_type="C")</pre>
> out<-SKAT_CommonRare.SSD.All(SSD.INFO, obj)</pre>
> out
$results
                               Q N.Marker.All N.Marker.Test N.Marker.Rare
     SetID
              P.value
1 GENE_01 0.70833804 8678.419
                                           94
                                                          94
```

```
GENE_02 0.01961982 11572.715
                                           84
                                                          84
                                                                         0
3 GENE_03 0.53912934 10656.127
                                          108
                                                         108
                                                                          0
4 GENE_04 0.34134633 10780.365
                                          101
                                                         101
                                                                          0
                                                                         0
5 GENE_05 0.20548007 11592.362
                                          103
                                                         103
6 GENE_06 0.92017774 7539.066
                                           94
                                                          94
                                                                         0
7 GENE_07 0.24712642 11545.172
                                                                         0
                                          104
                                                         104
 GENE_08 0.66303494 9014.899
                                                                          0
                                           96
                                                          96
  GENE_09 0.66044604 9399.011
                                                                         0
                                          100
                                                         100
10 GENE_10 0.30882075 10635.298
                                          100
                                                         100
                                                                          0
   N.Marker.Common
1
                94
2
                84
3
               108
4
               101
5
               103
6
                94
7
               104
8
                96
9
               100
10
               100
$P.value.Resampling
```

NULL

```
attr(,"class")
[1] "SKAT_SSD_ALL"
>
>
```

After finishing, please close the SSD file.

> Close_SSD()

Close the opened SSD file: /private/var/folders/xd/f13v97k97dq91vdbg87smshc0000gn/T/RtmpgWEJ

2.8 Plink Binary format files: SKATBinary

SKATBinary functions can be used with plink formatted files. This section shows example code. Example plink files can be found on the SKAT/MetaSKAT google group page.

```
> # File names
> File.Bed<-"./SKATBinary.example.bed"
> File.Bim<-"./SKATBinary.example.bim"
> File.Fam<-"./SKATBinary.example.fam"
> File.Cov<-"./SKATBinary.example.cov"</pre>
```

```
> File.SetID<-"./SKATBinary.example.SetID"
> File.SSD<-"./SKATBinary.example.SSD"
> File.Info<-"./SKATBinary.example.SSD.info"
> # Generate SSD file, and read fam and cov files
> # If you already have a SSD file, you do not need to call this function.
> Generate_SSD_SetID(File.Bed, File.Bim, File.Fam, File.SetID, File.SSD, File.Info)
Check duplicated SNPs in each SNP set
No duplicate
2000 Samples, 30 Sets, 340 Total SNPs
[1] "SSD and Info files are created!"
> FAM<-Read_Plink_FAM_Cov(File.Fam, File.Cov, Is.binary=TRUE, cov_header=FALSE)
> # open SSD files
> SSD.INFO<-Open_SSD(File.SSD, File.Info)
2000 Samples, 30 Sets, 340 Total SNPs
Open the SSD file
> # No adjustment is needed
> obj<-SKAT_Null_Model(Phenotype ~ COV1 + COV2, out_type="D", data=FAM, Adjustment=FALSE)
> # SKAT
> out.skat<-SKATBinary.SSD.All(SSD.INFO, obj, method="SKAT")
> # SKAT-0
> out.skato<-SKATBinary.SSD.All(SSD.INFO, obj, method="SKATO")
> # First 5 variant sets, SKAT
> out.skat$results[1:5,]
          P.value N.Marker.All N.Marker.Test MAC m Method.bin
 SetID
     1 0.92753378 11 11 18 17 ER 2.512149e-07
1
     2 0.24947578
                           2
                                         2 3 3
                                                         ER 3.544808e-02
                           7
                                         7 19 19
                                                         ER 3.312382e-08
3
     3 0.60706345
4
     4 0.08566388
                           11
                                        11 19 18
                                                         ER 6.640864e-08
                           4
     5 0.63625247
                                         4 18 18
                                                         ER 2.721199e-07
  The effective number of tests and QQ plots can be obtained using the mini-
mum achievable p-values (MAP).
> # Effective number of test is smaller than 30 (number of variant sets)
> # Use SKAT results
> Get_EffectiveNumberTest(out.skat$results$MAP, alpha=0.05)
[1] 28
> # QQ plot
> QQPlot_Adj(out.skat$results$P.value, out.skat$results$MAP)
```

3 Power/Sample Size calculation.

3.1 Dataset

SKAT package provides a haplotype dataset (SKAT.haplotypes) which contains a haplotype matrix of 10,000 haplotypes over 200kb region (Haplotype), and a dataframe with information on each SNP. These haplotypes were simulated using a calibrated coalescent model (cosi) with mimicking linkage disequilibrium structure of European ancestry. If you don't have any haplotype information, use this dataset to compute power/sample size.

```
> data(SKAT.haplotypes)
> names(SKAT.haplotypes)
[1] "Haplotype" "SNPInfo"
> attach(SKAT.haplotypes)
```

3.2 Power/Sample Size calculation

The following example uses the haplotypes in SKAT.haplotypes with the following parameters.

- 1. Subregion length = 3k bp
- 2. Causal percent = 20%
- 3. Negative percent = 20%
- 4. For continuous traits, $\beta=c|log_{10}(MAF)|$ (BetaType = "Log") with $\beta=2$ at MAF = 10^{-4}
- 5. For binary traits, $log(OR) = c|log_{10}(MAF)|$ (OR.Type = "Log") with OR = 2 at MAF = 10^{-4} , and 50% of samples are cases and 50% of samples are controls

```
> set.seed(500)
> out.c<-Power_Continuous(Haplotype,SNPInfo$CHROM_POS, SubRegion.Length=5000,
+ Causal.Percent= 20, N.Sim=10, MaxBeta=2,Negative.Percent=20)

[1] "10/10"
> out.b<-Power_Logistic(Haplotype,SNPInfo$CHROM_POS, SubRegion.Length=5000,
+ Causal.Percent= 20, N.Sim=10 ,MaxOR=7, Negative.Percent=20)

[1] "10/10"
> out.c
```

```
1e-06
          0.01
                   0.001
500 0.5601495 0.4507543 0.2745436
1000 0.6983510 0.6372979 0.4477310
1500 0.7393476 0.6978347 0.5840998
2000 0.7741144 0.7169529 0.6649380
2500 0.8041370 0.7386689 0.6938517
3000 0.8224103 0.7660432 0.6997755
3500 0.8349515 0.7896737 0.7015918
4000 0.8484832 0.8037123 0.7049269
4500 0.8647970 0.8109526 0.7122846
5000 0.8834324 0.8165985 0.7253563
$R.sq
[1] 0.0693529
attr(,"class")
[1] "SKAT_Power"
> out.b
$Power
                   0.001
                             1e-06
          0.01
500 0.3894872 0.2757429 0.1330505
1000 0.5888308 0.4573657 0.2436726
1500 0.7021843 0.5859396 0.3485361
2000 0.7763091 0.6650800 0.4668508
2500 0.8234240 0.7280271 0.5483447
3000 0.8516985 0.7775865 0.5943673
3500 0.8718116 0.8108489 0.6269605
4000 0.8899993 0.8317031 0.6603647
4500 0.9081573 0.8464714 0.6968862
5000 0.9262225 0.8594656 0.7324297
attr(,"class")
[1] "SKAT_Power"
> Get_RequiredSampleSize(out.c, Power=0.8)
\alpha = 1.00e-02
[1] 2431.102
\alpha = 1.00e-03
[1] 3867.782
\alpha = 1.00e-06
[1] "> 5000"
```

\$Power

```
> Get_RequiredSampleSize(out.b, Power=0.8)
$`alpha = 1.00e-02`
[1] 2251.417

$`alpha = 1.00e-03`
[1] 3336.919

$`alpha = 1.00e-06`
[1] "> 5000"
>
```

In this example, N.Sim=10 was used to get results quickly. When you do the power calculation, please increase it to more than 100. When BetaType = "Log" or OR.Type = "Log", the effect size of continuous trait and the log odds ratio of binary traits are $c|log_{10}(MAF)|$, where c is determined by Max_Beta or Max_OR. For example, c = 2/4 = 0.5 when the Max_Beta = 2. In this case, a causal variant with MAF=0.01 has $\beta = 1$. For binary traits, c = log(7)/4 = 0.486 with MAX_OR=7. And thus, a causal variant with MAF=0.01 has log OR = 0.972.

If you consider non-zero r.corr (ρ) values to compute power, Power_Continuous_R or Power_Logistic_R functions can be used instead. Since they use slightly different method to compute power, power estimates from Power_Continuous_R and Power_Logistic_R can be slightly different from estimates from Power_Continuous and Power_Logistic although r.corr=0.

If you want to computer the power of SKAT-O by estimating the optimal r.corr, use r.corr=2. The estimated optimal r.corr is

$$r.corr = p_1^2 (2p_2 - 1)^2,$$

where p_1 is the proportion of nonzero β s, and p_2 is the proportion of negative (or positive) β s among the non-zero β s.

2000 0.7707641 0.7148115 0.6664808

```
2500 0.8032711 0.7341910 0.6946357
3000 0.8253110 0.7606592 0.6998229
3500 0.8407660 0.7863270 0.7011542
4000 0.8569269 0.8038311 0.7035340
4500 0.8759197 0.8137950 0.7089662
5000 0.8968032 0.8214246 0.7192218
$R.sq
[1] 0.0693529
$r.corr
[1] 0.0144
attr(,"class")
[1] "SKAT_Power"
> Get_RequiredSampleSize(out.c, Power=0.8)
\alpha = 1.00e-02
[1] 2449.686
$`alpha = 1.00e-03`
[1] 3890.566
\alpha = 1.00e-06
[1] "> 5000"
```