# Package 'CohortMethod'

November 26, 2020

Type Package

cli, pillar,

```
Title New-user cohort method with large scale propensity and outcome models
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Maintainer Martijn Schuemie <schuemie@ohdsi.org>
Description CohortMethod is an R package for performing new-user cohort studies
      in an observational database in the OMOP Common Data Model. It extracts the
      necessary data from a database and uses a large set of covariates for both the
      propensity and outcome model, including for example all drugs, diagnoses, procedures,
      as well as age, comorbidity indexes, etc. Large scale regularized regression is used to
      fit the propensity and outcome models. Functions are included for trimming, stratifying,
      (variable and fixed ratio) matching and weighting by propensity scores, as well as
      diagnostic functions, such as propensity score distribution plots and plots showing
      covariate balance before and after matching and/or trimming. Supported outcome models
      are (conditional) logistic regression, (conditional) Poisson regression, and
      (stratified) Cox regression. Also included are Kaplan-Meier plots that can adjust for
      the stratification or matching.
License Apache License 2.0
VignetteBuilder knitr
URL https://ohdsi.github.io/CohortMethod, https://github.com/OHDSI/CohortMethod
BugReports https://github.com/OHDSI/CohortMethod/issues
Depends R (>= 3.5.0),
      DatabaseConnector (\geq 2.2.0),
      Cyclops (>= 3.0.0),
      FeatureExtraction (>= 3.0.0),
      Andromeda (>= 0.3.0)
Imports methods,
      ggplot2,
      gridExtra,
      grid,
      readr,
      plyr,
      dplyr,
      rlang,
```

2 R topics documented:

```
Rcpp (>= 0.11.2),
     SqlRender (\geq 1.5.2),
     survival,
     ParallelLogger (>= 2.0.0)
Suggests testthat,
     pROC,
     knitr,
     rmarkdown,
     EmpiricalCalibration,
     Eunomia
Remotes ohdsi/FeatureExtraction
LinkingTo Rcpp
NeedsCompilation yes
RoxygenNote 7.1.1
Roxygen list(markdown = TRUE)
Encoding UTF-8
```

# **R** topics documented:

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checkCmInstallation

Check is CohortMethod and its dependencies are correctly installed

# Description

Check is CohortMethod and its dependencies are correctly installed

# Usage

 ${\tt checkCmInstallation(connectionDetails)}$ 

## **Arguments**

connectionDetails

An R object of type

connectionDetails created using the function createConnectionDetails in the DatabaseConnector package.

# **Details**

This function checks whether CohortMethod and its dependencies are correctly installed. This will check the database connectivity, large scale regression engine (Cyclops), and large data object handling (ff).

CohortMethodData-class

Cohort Method Data

# Description

CohortMethodData is an S4 class that inherits from CoviarateData, which in turn inherits from Andromeda. It contains information on the cohorts, their outcomes, and baseline covariates. Information about multiple outcomes can be captured at once for efficiency reasons.

A CohortMethodData is typically created using getDbCohortMethodData(), can only be saved using saveCohortMethodData(), and loaded using loadCohortMethodData().

#### Usage

```
## $4 method for signature 'CohortMethodData'
show(object)
## $4 method for signature 'CohortMethodData'
summary(object)
```

## **Arguments**

object

An object of type CohortMethodData.

 $cohort {\tt MethodDataSimulationProfile}$ 

A simulation profile

# Description

A simulation profile

## Usage

data(cohortMethodDataSimulationProfile)

computeCovariateBalance

Compute covariate balance before and after matching and trimming

# **Description**

For every covariate, prevalence in treatment and comparator groups before and after matching/trimming are computed. When variable ratio matching was used the balance score will be corrected according the method described in Austin et al (2008).

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#### Usage

```
computeCovariateBalance(
  population,
  cohortMethodData,
  subgroupCovariateId = NULL
)
```

#### **Arguments**

population

A data frame containing the people that are remaining after matching and/or trimming.

cohortMethodData

An object of type CohortMethodData as generated using getDbCohortMethodData().

subgroupCovariateId

Optional: a covariate ID of a binary covariate that indicates a subgroup of interest. Both the before and after populations will be restricted to this subgroup before computing covariate balance.

#### **Details**

The population data frame should have the following three columns:

- rowId (numeric): A unique identifier for each row (e.g. the person ID).
- treatment (integer): Column indicating whether the person is in the target (1) or comparator (0) group.
- propensityScore (numeric): Propensity score.

#### Value

Returns a tibble describing the covariate balance before and after matching/trimming.

## References

Austin, P.C. (2008) Assessing balance in measured baseline covariates when using many-to-one matching on the propensity-score. Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety, 17: 1218-1225.

computeMdrr

Compute the minimum detectable relative risk

# **Description**

Compute the minimum detectable relative risk

## Usage

```
computeMdrr(
  population,
  alpha = 0.05,
  power = 0.8,
  twoSided = TRUE,
  modelType = "cox"
```

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## **Arguments**

population A data frame describing the study population as created using the createStudyPopulation

function. This should at least have these columns: subjectId, treatment, out-

comeCount, timeAtRisk.

alpha Type I error.

power 1 - beta, where beta is the type II error.

twoSided Consider a two-sided test?

modelType The type of outcome model that will be used. Possible values are "logistic",

"poisson", or "cox". Currently only "cox" is supported.

#### **Details**

Compute the minimum detectable relative risk (MDRR) and expected standard error (SE) for a given study population, using the actual observed sample size and number of outcomes. Currently, only computations for Cox models are implemented. For Cox model, the computations by Schoenfeld (1983) is used.

#### Value

A data frame with the MDRR and some counts.

#### References

Schoenfeld DA (1983) Sample-size formula for the proportional-hazards regression model, Biometrics, 39(3), 499-503

computePsAuc

Compute the area under the ROC curve

# **Description**

Compute the area under the ROC curve of the propensity score.

## Usage

```
computePsAuc(data, confidenceIntervals = FALSE)
```

## **Arguments**

data A data frame with at least the two columns described below confidenceIntervals

Compute 95 percent confidence intervals (computationally expensive for large data sets)

# Details

The data frame should have a least the following two columns:

- treatment (integer): Column indicating whether the person is in the target (1) or comparator (0) group.
- propensityScore (numeric): Propensity score.

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#### Value

A tibble holding the AUC and its 95 percent confidence interval

## **Examples**

```
treatment <- rep(0:1, each = 100)
propensityScore <- c(rnorm(100, mean = 0.4, sd = 0.25), rnorm(100, mean = 0.6, sd = 0.25))
data <- data.frame(treatment = treatment, propensityScore = propensityScore)
data <- data[data$propensityScore > 0 & data$propensityScore < 1, ]
computePsAuc(data)</pre>
```

createCmAnalysis

Create a CohortMethod analysis specification

# Description

Create a CohortMethod analysis specification

## Usage

```
createCmAnalysis(
  analysisId = 1,
  description = ""
  targetType = NULL,
  comparatorType = NULL,
  getDbCohortMethodDataArgs,
  createStudyPopArgs,
  createPs = FALSE,
  createPsArgs = NULL,
  trimByPs = FALSE,
  trimByPsArgs = NULL,
  trimByPsToEquipoise = FALSE,
  trimByPsToEquipoiseArgs = NULL,
  matchOnPs = FALSE,
  matchOnPsArgs = NULL,
  matchOnPsAndCovariates = FALSE,
  matchOnPsAndCovariatesArgs = NULL,
  stratifyByPs = FALSE,
  stratifyByPsArgs = NULL,
  stratifyByPsAndCovariates = FALSE,
  stratifyByPsAndCovariatesArgs = NULL,
  fitOutcomeModel = FALSE,
  fitOutcomeModelArgs = NULL
)
```

## **Arguments**

analysisId An integer that will be used later to refer to this specific set of analysis choices.

description A short description of the analysis.

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targetType If more than one target is provided for each drugComparatorOutcome, this field

should be used to select the specific target to use in this analysis.

comparatorType If more than one comparator is provided for each drugComparatorOutcome, this

field should be used to select the specific comparator to use in this analysis.

getDbCohortMethodDataArgs

An object representing the arguments to be used when calling the getDbCohortMethodData function.

createStudyPopArgs

An object representing the arguments to be used when calling the createStudyPopulation

function.

createPs Should the createPs function be used in this analysis?

createPsArgs An object representing the arguments to be used when calling the createPs

function.

trimByPs Should the trimByPs function be used in this analysis?

trimByPsArgs An object representing the arguments to be used when calling the trimByPs

function.

trimByPsToEquipoise

Should the trimByPsToEquipoise function be used in this analysis?

trimByPsToEquipoiseArgs

An object representing the arguments to be used when calling the trimByPsToEquipoise

function.

matchOnPs Should the matchOnPs function be used in this analysis?

matchOnPsArgs An object representing the arguments to be used when calling the matchOnPs

function.

 ${\tt matchOnPsAndCovariates}$ 

 $Should \ the \ {\tt matchOnPsAndCovariates} \ function \ be \ used \ in \ this \ analysis?$ 

 ${\tt matchOnPsAndCovariatesArgs}$ 

 $An object \, representing \, the \, arguments \, to \, be \, used \, when \, calling \, the \, {\tt matchOnPsAndCovariates} \,$ 

function.

stratifyByPs Should the stratifyByPs function be used in this analysis?

stratifyByPsArgs

An object representing the arguments to be used when calling the stratifyByPs

function.

 ${\it stratify} By Ps And Covariates$ 

Should the stratifyByPsAndCovariates function be used in this analysis?

 ${\it stratify} By Ps And Covariates Args$ 

 $An object \ representing \ the \ arguments \ to \ be \ used \ when \ calling \ the \ stratify ByPsAndCovariates$ 

function.

fitOutcomeModel

Should the fitOutcomeModel function be used in this analysis?

fitOutcomeModelArgs

An object representing the arguments to be used when calling the  $\verb|fitOutcomeModel|$ 

function.

## **Details**

Create a set of analysis choices, to be used with the runCmAnalyses function.

createCmTable1 9

|--|--|

## **Description**

Creates a formatted table of cohort characteristics, to be included in publications or reports.

## Usage

```
createCmTable1(
  balance,
  specifications = getDefaultCmTable1Specifications(),
  beforeTargetPopSize,
  beforeComparatorPopSize,
  afterTargetPopSize,
  afterComparatorPopSize,
  beforeLabel = "Before matching",
  afterLabel = "After matching",
  targetLabel = "Target",
  comparatorLabel = "Comparator",
  percentDigits = 1,
  stdDiffDigits = 2
)
```

#### **Arguments**

balance A data frame created by the computeCovariateBalance function.

specifications Specifications of which covariates to display, and how.

before Target Pop Size

The number of people in the target cohort before matching/stratification/trimming, to mention in the table header. If not provide, no number will be included in the header.

beforeComparatorPopSize

The number of people in the comparator cohort before matching/stratification/trimming, to mention in the table header. If not provide, no number will be included in the header.

afterTargetPopSize

The number of people in the target cohort after matching/stratification/trimming, to mention in the table header. If not provide, no number will be included in the header.

afterComparatorPopSize

The number of people in the comparator cohort after matching/stratification/trimming, to mention in the table header. If not provide, no number will be included in the header.

beforeLabel Label for identifying columns before matching / stratification / trimming.

Label for identifying columns after matching / stratification / trimming.

Label for identifying columns of the target cohort.

targetLabel Label for identifying cocomparatorLabel

Label for identifying columns of the comparator cohort.

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#### Value

A data frame with the formatted table 1.

```
\label{lem:createCohortMethodDataSimulationProfile} Create\ simulation\ profile
```

# Description

Creates a profile based on the provided CohortMethodData object, which can be used to generate simulated data that has similar characteristics.

#### Usage

 $create {\tt CohortMethodDataSimulationProfile} (cohort{\tt MethodData})$ 

#### **Arguments**

cohortMethodData

An object of type CohortMethodData as generated using getDbCohortMethodData().

#### **Details**

The output of this function is an object that can be used by the simulateCohortMethodData() function to generate a cohortMethodData object.

#### Value

An object of type CohortDataSimulationProfile.

 ${\tt createCreatePsArgs}$ 

Create a parameter object for the function createPs

# Description

Create a parameter object for the function createPs

#### Usage

```
createCreatePsArgs(
  excludeCovariateIds = c(),
  includeCovariateIds = c(),
  maxCohortSizeForFitting = 250000,
  errorOnHighCorrelation = TRUE,
  stopOnError = TRUE,
  prior = createPrior("laplace", exclude = c(0), useCrossValidation = TRUE),
  control = createControl(noiseLevel = "silent", cvType = "auto", seed = 1, tolerance = 2e-07, cvRepetitions = 10, startingVariance = 0.01)
)
```

### **Arguments**

excludeCovariateIds

Exclude these covariates from the propensity model.

includeCovariateIds

Include only these covariates in the propensity model.

maxCohortSizeForFitting

If the target or comparator cohort are larger than this number, they will be down-sampled before fitting the propensity model. The model will be used to compute propensity scores for all subjects. The purpose of the sampling is to gain speed.

Setting this number to 0 means no downsampling will be applied.

errorOnHighCorrelation

If true, the function will test each covariate for correlation with the treatment assignment. If any covariate has an unusually high correlation (either positive

or negative), this will throw and error.

stopOnError If an error occurr, should the function stop? Else, the two cohorts will be as-

sumed to be perfectly separable.

prior The prior used to fit the model. See Cyclops::createPrior() for details.

control The control object used to control the cross-validation used to determine the

hyperparameters of the prior (if applicable). See Cyclops::createControl() for

details.

#### **Details**

Create an object defining the parameter values.

 ${\tt createCreateStudyPopulationArgs}$ 

Create a parameter object for the function createStudyPopulation

#### **Description**

Create a parameter object for the function createStudyPopulation

# Usage

```
createCreateStudyPopulationArgs(
  firstExposureOnly = FALSE,
  restrictToCommonPeriod = FALSE,
 washoutPeriod = 0,
  removeDuplicateSubjects = FALSE,
  removeSubjectsWithPriorOutcome = TRUE,
 priorOutcomeLookback = 99999,
 minDaysAtRisk = 1,
 riskWindowStart = 0,
  addExposureDaysToStart = NULL,
  startAnchor = "cohort start",
  riskWindowEnd = 0,
  addExposureDaysToEnd = NULL,
  endAnchor = "cohort end",
  censorAtNewRiskWindow = FALSE
)
```

### **Arguments**

firstExposureOnly

Should only the first exposure per subject be included?

restrictToCommonPeriod

Restrict the analysis to the period when both exposures are observed?

washoutPeriod The minimum required continuous observation time prior to index date for a person to be included in the cohort.

removeDuplicateSubjects

Remove subjects that are in both the target and comparator cohort? See details for allowed values.

removeSubjectsWithPriorOutcome

Remove subjects that have the outcome prior to the risk window start?

priorOutcomeLookback

How many days should we look back when identifying prior outcomes?

minDaysAtRisk The minimum required number of days at risk.

riskWindowStart

The start of the risk window (in days) relative to the startAnchor.

addExposureDaysToStart

DEPRECATED: Add the length of exposure the start of the risk window? Use startAnchor instead.

startAnchor The anchor point for the start of the risk window. Can be "cohort start" or "cohort

end".

riskWindowEnd The end of the risk window (in days) relative to the endAnchor.

addExposureDaysToEnd

DEPRECATED: Add the length of exposure the risk window? Use endAnchor

instead.

end".

endAnchor The anchor point for the end of the risk window. Can be "cohort start" or "cohort

censorAtNewRiskWindow

If a subject is in multiple cohorts, should time-at-risk be censored when the new

time-at-risk starts to prevent overlap?

## **Details**

Create an object defining the parameter values.

createFitOutcomeModelArgs

Create a parameter object for the function fitOutcomeModel

# **Description**

Create a parameter object for the function fitOutcomeModel

#### Usage

```
createFitOutcomeModelArgs(
  modelType = "logistic",
  stratified = FALSE,
  useCovariates = FALSE,
  inversePtWeighting = FALSE,
  interactionCovariateIds = c(),
  excludeCovariateIds = c(),
  includeCovariateIds = c(),
  profileGrid = seq(log(0.1), log(10), length.out = 1000),
  prior = createPrior("laplace", useCrossValidation = TRUE),
  control = createControl(cvType = "auto", seed = 1, startingVariance = 0.01, tolerance
  = 2e-07, cvRepetitions = 10, noiseLevel = "quiet")
)
```

## Arguments

modelType The type of outcome model that will be used. Possible values are "logistic",

"poisson", or "cox".

stratified Should the regression be conditioned on the strata defined in the population

object (e.g. by matching or stratifying on propensity scores)?

useCovariates Whether to use the covariates in the cohortMethodData object in the outcome

model.

inversePtWeighting

Use inverse probability of treatment weighting (IPTW)? See details.

interactionCovariateIds

An optional vector of covariate IDs to use to estimate interactions with the main treatment effect.

excludeCovariateIds

Exclude these covariates from the outcome model.

includeCovariateIds

Include only these covariates in the outcome model.

profileGrid A one-dimensional grid of points on the log(relative risk) scale where the likeli-

hood for the treatment variable coefficient is sampled.

prior The prior used to fit the model. See Cyclops::createPrior() for details.

control The control object used to control the cross-validation used to determine the

hyperparameters of the prior (if applicable). See Cyclops::createControl() for

details.

## Details

Create an object defining the parameter values.

createGetDbCohortMethodDataArgs

Create a parameter object for the function getDbCohortMethodData

#### **Description**

Create a parameter object for the function getDbCohortMethodData

## Usage

```
createGetDbCohortMethodDataArgs(
   studyStartDate = "",
   studyEndDate = "",
   excludeDrugsFromCovariates = NULL,
   firstExposureOnly = FALSE,
   removeDuplicateSubjects = FALSE,
   restrictToCommonPeriod = FALSE,
   washoutPeriod = 0,
   maxCohortSize = 0,
   covariateSettings
)
```

#### **Arguments**

studyStartDate A calendar date specifying the minimum date that a cohort index date can appear. Date format is 'yyyymmdd'.

studyEndDate

A calendar date specifying the maximum date that a cohort index date can appear. Date format is 'yyyymmdd'. Important: the study end data is also used to truncate risk windows, meaning no outcomes beyond the study end date will be considered.

 ${\tt excludeDrugsFromCovariates}$ 

DEPRECATED: Should the target and comparator drugs (and their descendant concepts) be excluded from the covariates? Note that this will work if the drugs are actually drug concept IDs (and not cohort IDs).

firstExposureOnly

Should only the first exposure per subject be included? Note that this is typically done in the createStudyPopulation() function, but can already be done here for efficiency reasons.

removeDuplicateSubjects

Remove subjects that are in both the target and comparator cohort? See details for allowed values. Note that this is typically done in the createStudyPopulation function, but can already be done here for efficiency reasons.

restrictToCommonPeriod

Restrict the analysis to the period when both treatments are observed?

washoutPeriod

The minimum required continuous observation time prior to index date for a person to be included in the cohort. Note that this is typically done in the createStudyPopulation function, but can already be done here for efficiency reasons.

maxCohortSize

If either the target or the comparator cohort is larger than this number it will be sampled to this size. maxCohortSize = 0 indicates no maximum size.

```
covariateSettings
```

An object of type covariateSettings as created using the FeatureExtraction::createCovariateSettings() function.

#### **Details**

Create an object defining the parameter values.

createMatchOnPsAndCovariatesArgs

Create a parameter object for the function matchOnPsAndCovariates

## Description

Create a parameter object for the function matchOnPsAndCovariates

#### Usage

```
createMatchOnPsAndCovariatesArgs(
  caliper = 0.2,
  caliperScale = "standardized logit",
  maxRatio = 1,
  allowReverseMatch = FALSE,
  covariateIds
)
```

## **Arguments**

caliper The caliper for matching. A caliper is the distance which is acceptable for any

match. Observations which are outside of the caliper are dropped. A caliper of

0 means no caliper is used.

caliperScale The scale on which the caliper is defined. Three scales are supported: caliper-

Scale = 'propensity score', caliperScale = 'standardized', or caliperScale = 'standardized logit'. On the standardized scale, the caliper is interpreted in standard deviations of the propensity score distribution. 'standardized logit' is similar, except that the propensity score is transformed to the logit scale because the PS

is more likely to be normally distributed on that scale (Austin, 2011).

maxRatio The maximum number of persons in the comparator arm to be matched to each

person in the treatment arm. A maxRatio of 0 means no maximum: all com-

parators will be assigned to a target person.

allowReverseMatch

Allows n-to-1 matching if target arm is larger

covariateIds One or more covariate IDs in the cohortMethodData object on which subjects

should be also matched.

#### **Details**

Create an object defining the parameter values.

createMatchOnPsArgs

Create a parameter object for the function matchOnPs

# **Description**

Create a parameter object for the function matchOnPs

## Usage

```
createMatchOnPsArgs(
  caliper = 0.2,
  caliperScale = "standardized logit",
  maxRatio = 1,
  allowReverseMatch = FALSE,
  stratificationColumns = c()
)
```

#### **Arguments**

caliper

The caliper for matching. A caliper is the distance which is acceptable for any match. Observations which are outside of the caliper are dropped. A caliper of 0 means no caliper is used.

caliperScale

The scale on which the caliper is defined. Three scales are supported: caliper-Scale = 'propensity score', caliperScale = 'standardized', or caliperScale = 'standardized logit'. On the standardized scale, the caliper is interpreted in standard deviations of the propensity score distribution. 'standardized logit' is similar, except that the propensity score is transformed to the logit scale because the PS is more likely to be normally distributed on that scale (Austin, 2011).

maxRatio

The maximum number of persons in the comparator arm to be matched to each person in the treatment arm. A maxRatio of 0 means no maximum: all comparators will be assigned to a target person.

allowReverseMatch

Allows n-to-1 matching if target arm is larger

stratification Columns

Names or numbers of one or more columns in the data data.frame on which subjects should be stratified prior to matching. No persons will be matched with persons outside of the strata identified by the values in these columns.

#### **Details**

Create an object defining the parameter values.

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createPs

Create propensity scores

## **Description**

Creates propensity scores using a regularized logistic regression.

#### Usage

```
createPs(
  cohortMethodData,
  population = NULL,
  excludeCovariateIds = c(),
  includeCovariateIds = c(),
  maxCohortSizeForFitting = 250000,
  errorOnHighCorrelation = TRUE,
  stopOnError = TRUE,
  prior = createPrior("laplace", exclude = c(0), useCrossValidation = TRUE),
  control = createControl(noiseLevel = "silent", cvType = "auto", seed = 1, tolerance = 2e-07, cvRepetitions = 10, startingVariance = 0.01)
)
```

# **Arguments**

cohortMethodData

An object of type CohortMethodData as generated using getDbCohortMethodData().

population

A data frame describing the population. This should at least have a rowId column corresponding to the rowId column in the CohortMethodData covariates object and a treatment column. If population is not specified, the full population in the CohortMethodData will be used.

excludeCovariateIds

Exclude these covariates from the propensity model.

includeCovariateIds

Include only these covariates in the propensity model.

maxCohortSizeForFitting

If the target or comparator cohort are larger than this number, they will be down-sampled before fitting the propensity model. The model will be used to compute propensity scores for all subjects. The purpose of the sampling is to gain speed. Setting this number to 0 means no downsampling will be applied.

errorOnHighCorrelation

If true, the function will test each covariate for correlation with the treatment assignment. If any covariate has an unusually high correlation (either positive or negative), this will throw and error.

stopOnError

If an error occurr, should the function stop? Else, the two cohorts will be as-

sumed to be perfectly separable.

prior

The prior used to fit the model. See Cyclops::createPrior() for details.

control

The control object used to control the cross-validation used to determine the hyperparameters of the prior (if applicable). See Cyclops::createControl() for details.

#### **Examples**

```
data(cohortMethodDataSimulationProfile)
cohortMethodData <- simulateCohortMethodData(cohortMethodDataSimulationProfile, n = 1000)
ps <- createPs(cohortMethodData)</pre>
```

 ${\tt createStratifyByPsAndCovariatesArgs}$ 

Create a parameter object for the function stratifyByPsAndCovariates

#### **Description**

Create a parameter object for the function stratifyByPsAndCovariates

# Usage

```
createStratifyByPsAndCovariatesArgs(
  numberOfStrata = 5,
  baseSelection = "all",
  covariateIds
)
```

## **Arguments**

numberOfStrata Into how many strata should the propensity score be divided? The boundaries of

the strata are automatically defined to contain equal numbers of target persons.

baseSelection What is the base selection of subjects where the strata bounds are to be deter-

mined? Strata are defined as equally-sized strata inside this selection. Possible

values are "all", "target", and "comparator".

should also be stratified.

## Details

Create an object defining the parameter values.

```
{\tt createStratifyByPsArgs}
```

Create a parameter object for the function stratifyByPs

## **Description**

Create a parameter object for the function stratifyByPs

# Usage

```
createStratifyByPsArgs(
  numberOfStrata = 5,
  stratificationColumns = c(),
  baseSelection = "all"
)
```

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## **Arguments**

numberOfStrata How many strata? The boundaries of the strata are automatically defined to contain equal numbers of target persons.

stratificationColumns

Names of one or more columns in the data data.frame on which subjects should also be stratified in addition to stratification on propensity score.

baseSelection

What is the base selection of subjects where the strata bounds are to be determined? Strata are defined as equally-sized strata inside this selection. Possible values are "all", "target", and "comparator".

#### **Details**

Create an object defining the parameter values.

createStudyPopulation Create a study population

#### **Description**

Create a study population

## Usage

```
createStudyPopulation(
  cohortMethodData,
 population = NULL,
 outcomeId,
  firstExposureOnly = FALSE,
 restrictToCommonPeriod = FALSE,
 washoutPeriod = 0,
  removeDuplicateSubjects = FALSE,
  removeSubjectsWithPriorOutcome = TRUE,
  priorOutcomeLookback = 99999,
 minDaysAtRisk = 1,
 riskWindowStart = 0,
  addExposureDaysToStart = NULL,
  startAnchor = "cohort start",
 riskWindowEnd = 0,
 addExposureDaysToEnd = NULL,
 endAnchor = "cohort end",
  censorAtNewRiskWindow = FALSE
)
```

#### **Arguments**

cohortMethodData

An object of type CohortMethodData as generated using getDbCohortMethodData().

population

If specified, this population will be used as the starting point instead of the cohorts in the cohortMethodData object.

outcomeId The ID of the outcome. If not specified, no outcome-specific transformations will be performed.

firstExposureOnly

Should only the first exposure per subject be included?

restrictToCommonPeriod

Restrict the analysis to the period when both exposures are observed?

washoutPeriod The minimum required continuous observation time prior to index date for a person to be included in the cohort.

removeDuplicateSubjects

Remove subjects that are in both the target and comparator cohort? See details for allowed values.

removeSubjectsWithPriorOutcome

Remove subjects that have the outcome prior to the risk window start?

priorOutcomeLookback

How many days should we look back when identifying prior outcomes?

minDaysAtRisk The minimum required number of days at risk.

riskWindowStart

The start of the risk window (in days) relative to the startAnchor.

addExposureDaysToStart

DEPRECATED: Add the length of exposure the start of the risk window? Use startAnchor instead.

startAnchor The anchor point for the start of the risk window. Can be "cohort start" or "cohort end".

riskWindowEnd The end of the risk window (in days) relative to the endAnchor.

addExposureDaysToEnd

DEPRECATED: Add the length of exposure the risk window? Use endAnchor instead.

endAnchor The anchor point for the end of the risk window. Can be "cohort start" or "cohort end".

 ${\tt censorAtNewRiskWindow}$ 

If a subject is in multiple cohorts, should time-at-risk be censored when the new time-at-risk starts to prevent overlap?

## **Details**

Create a study population by enforcing certain inclusion and exclusion criteria, defining a risk window, and determining which outcomes fall inside the risk window.

The removeduplicateSubjects argument can have one of the following values:

- "keep all": Do not remove subjects that appear in both target and comparator cohort
- "keep first": When a subjects appear in both target and comparator cohort, only keep whichever cohort is first in time. If both cohorts start simultaneous, the person is removed from the analysis.
- "remove all": Remove subjects that appear in both target and comparator cohort completely from the analysis."

#### Value

A tibble specifying the study population. This tibble will have the following columns:

- rowId: A unique identifier for an exposure.
- subjectId: The person ID of the subject.
- cohortStartdate: The index date.
- outcomeCount The number of outcomes observed during the risk window.
- timeAtRisk: The number of days in the risk window.
- survivalTime: The number of days until either the outcome or the end of the risk window.

createTargetComparatorOutcomes

Create target-comparator-outcomes combinations.

## **Description**

Create target-comparator-outcomes combinations.

## Usage

```
createTargetComparatorOutcomes(
  targetId,
  comparatorId,
  outcomeIds,
  excludedCovariateConceptIds = c(),
  includedCovariateConceptIds = c()
)
```

# Arguments

targetId

A concept ID identifying the target drug in the exposure table. If multiple strategies for picking the target will be tested in the analysis, a named list of numbers can be provided instead. In the analysis, the name of the number to be used can be specified using the #' targetType parameter in the createCmAnalysis function.

comparatorId

A concept ID identifying the comparator drug in the exposure table. If multiple strategies for picking the comparator will be tested in the analysis, a named list of numbers can be provided instead. In the analysis, the name of the number to be used can be specified using the #' comparatorType parameter in the createCmAnalysis function.

 $\label{eq:concept} \textbf{OutcomeIds} \qquad \textbf{A vector of concept IDs indentifying the outcome} (s) \ in \ the \ outcome \ table. \\ \textbf{excludedCovariateConceptIds}$ 

A list of concept IDs that cannot be used to construct covariates. This argument is to be used only for exclusion concepts that are specific to the drug-comparator combination.

includedCovariateConceptIds

A list of concept IDs that must be used to construct covariates. This argument is to be used only for inclusion concepts that are specific to the drug-comparator combination.

#### **Details**

Create a set of hypotheses of interest, to be used with the runCmAnalyses function.

createTrimByPsArgs

Create a parameter object for the function trimByPs

## **Description**

Create a parameter object for the function trimByPs

## Usage

```
createTrimByPsArgs(trimFraction = 0.05)
```

## **Arguments**

trimFraction

This fraction will be removed from each treatment group. In the target group, persons with the highest propensity scores will be removed, in the comparator group person with the lowest scores will be removed.

## **Details**

Create an object defining the parameter values.

 ${\tt createTrimByPsToEquipoiseArgs}$ 

Create a parameter object for the function trimByPsToEquipoise

# Description

Create a parameter object for the function trimByPsToEquipoise

# Usage

```
createTrimByPsToEquipoiseArgs(bounds = c(0.3, 0.7))
```

# **Arguments**

bounds

The upper and lower bound on the preference score for keeping persons.

## **Details**

Create an object defining the parameter values.

drawAttritionDiagram 23

## **Description**

drawAttritionDiagram draws the attrition diagram, showing how many people were excluded from the study population, and for what reasons.

# Usage

```
drawAttritionDiagram(
  object,
  targetLabel = "Target",
  comparatorLabel = "Comparator",
  fileName = NULL
)
```

## **Arguments**

object Either an object of type cohortMethodData, a population object generated by

functions like createStudyPopulation, or an object of type outcomeModel.

targetLabel A label to us for the target cohort.

comparatorLabel

A label to us for the comparator cohort.

fileName Name of the file where the plot should be saved, for example 'plot.png'. See the

function ggsave in the ggplot2 package for supported file formats.

## Value

A ggplot object. Use the ggsave function to save to file in a different format.

fitOutcomeModel

Create an outcome model, and compute the relative risk

## **Description**

Create an outcome model, and computes the relative risk

## Usage

```
fitOutcomeModel(
  population,
  cohortMethodData = NULL,
  modelType = "logistic",
  stratified = FALSE,
  useCovariates = FALSE,
  inversePtWeighting = FALSE,
  interactionCovariateIds = c(),
  excludeCovariateIds = c(),
```

24 fitOutcomeModel

## **Arguments**

population A population object generated by createStudyPopulation(), potentially fil-

tered by other functions.

cohortMethodData

An object of type CohortMethodData as generated using getDbCohortMethodData().

Can be omitted if not using covariates and not using interaction terms.

modelType The type of outcome model that will be used. Possible values are "logistic",

"poisson", or "cox".

stratified Should the regression be conditioned on the strata defined in the population

object (e.g. by matching or stratifying on propensity scores)?

useCovariates Whether to use the covariates in the cohortMethodData object in the outcome

model.

inversePtWeighting

Use inverse probability of treatment weighting (IPTW)? See details.

interactionCovariateIds

An optional vector of covariate IDs to use to estimate interactions with the main

treatment effect.

excludeCovariateIds

Exclude these covariates from the outcome model.

includeCovariateIds

Include only these covariates in the outcome model.

profileGrid A one-dimensional grid of points on the log(relative risk) scale where the like-

lihood for the treatment variable coefficient is sampled. Set to NULL to skip

profiling.

prior The prior used to fit the model. See Cyclops::createPrior() for details.

control The control object used to control the cross-validation used to determine the

hyperparameters of the prior (if applicable). See Cyclops::createControl()

for details.

## **Details**

IPTW estimates the average treatment effect using stabilized inverse propensity scores (Xu et al. 2010).

# Value

An object of class OutcomeModel. Generic function print, coef, and confint are available.

## References

Xu S, Ross C, Raebel MA, Shetterly S, Blanchette C, Smith D. Use of stabilized inverse propensity scores as weights to directly estimate relative risk and its confidence intervals. Value Health. 2010;13(2):273-277. doi:10.1111/j.1524-4733.2009.00671.x

getAttritionTable 25

getAttritionTable Get the attrition table for a population

## **Description**

Get the attrition table for a population

#### Usage

```
getAttritionTable(object)
```

#### **Arguments**

object

Either an object of type CohortMethodData, a population object generated by functions like createStudyPopulation(), or an object of type outcomeModel.

#### Value

A tibble specifying the number of people and exposures in the population after specific steps of filtering.

getDbCohortMethodData Get the cohort data from the server

## **Description**

This function executes a large set of SQL statements against the database in OMOP CDM format to extract the data needed to perform the analysis.

## Usage

```
getDbCohortMethodData(
  connectionDetails,
  cdmDatabaseSchema,
  oracleTempSchema = cdmDatabaseSchema,
  targetId,
  comparatorId,
  outcomeIds,
  studyStartDate = "",
  studyEndDate = "",
  exposureDatabaseSchema = cdmDatabaseSchema,
  exposureTable = "drug_era",
  outcomeDatabaseSchema = cdmDatabaseSchema,
  outcomeTable = "condition_occurrence",
  cdmVersion = "5",
  excludeDrugsFromCovariates = NULL,
  firstExposureOnly = FALSE,
  removeDuplicateSubjects = FALSE,
  restrictToCommonPeriod = FALSE,
  washoutPeriod = 0,
```

```
maxCohortSize = 0,
  covariateSettings
)
```

#### **Arguments**

connectionDetails

An R object of type connectionDetails created using the DatabaseConnector::createConnection function.

cdmDatabaseSchema

The name of the database schema that contains the OMOP CDM instance. Requires read permissions to this database. On SQL Server, this should specify both the database and the schema, so for example 'cdm\_instance.dbo'.

oracleTempSchema

For Oracle only: the name of the database schema where you want all temporary tables to be managed. Requires create/insert permissions to this database.

targetId A unique identifier to define the target cohort. If exposureTable = DRUG\_ERA,

targetId is a concept ID and all descendant concepts within that concept ID will be used to define the cohort. If exposureTable <> DRUG\_ERA, targetId is used

to select the COHORT\_DEFINITION\_ID in the cohort-like table.

comparatorId A unique identifier to define the comparator cohort. If exposureTable = DRUG\_ERA,

comparatorId is a concept ID and all descendant concepts within that concept ID will be used to define the cohort. If exposureTable <> DRUG\_ERA, comparatorId is used to select the COHORT DEFINITION ID in the cohort-like table.

outcomeIds A list of cohort IDs used to define outcomes.

studyStartDate A calendar date specifying the minimum date that a cohort index date can ap-

pear. Date format is 'yyyymmdd'.

studyEndDate A calendar date specifying the maximum date that a cohort index date can ap-

pear. Date format is 'yyyymmdd'. Important: the study end data is also used to truncate risk windows, meaning no outcomes beyond the study end date will be

considered.

exposureDatabaseSchema

The name of the database schema that is the location where the exposure data

used to define the exposure cohorts is available.

 $then\ expectation\ is\ exposure \verb|Table| has\ form at\ of\ COHORT\ table:\ COHORT\_DEFINITION\_ID,$ 

SUBJECT\_ID, COHORT\_START\_DATE, COHORT\_END\_DATE.

outcomeDatabaseSchema

The name of the database schema that is the location where the data used to

define the outcome cohorts is available.

outcomeTable The tablename that contains the outcome cohorts. If outcomeTable <> CONDI-

TION\_OCCURRENCE, then expectation is outcomeTable has format of CO-HORT table: COHORT\_DEFINITION\_ID, SUBJECT\_ID, COHORT\_START\_DATE,

COHORT\_END\_DATE.

cdmVersion Define the OMOP CDM version used: currently supports "5".

 ${\tt excludeDrugsFromCovariates}$ 

DEPRECATED: Should the target and comparator drugs (and their descendant concepts) be excluded from the covariates? Note that this will work if the drugs are actually drug concept IDs (and not cohort IDs).

#### firstExposureOnly

Should only the first exposure per subject be included? Note that this is typically done in the createStudyPopulation() function, but can already be done here for efficiency reasons.

## removeDuplicateSubjects

Remove subjects that are in both the target and comparator cohort? See details for allowed values. Note that this is typically done in the createStudyPopulation function, but can already be done here for efficiency reasons.

## restrictToCommonPeriod

Restrict the analysis to the period when both treatments are observed?

washoutPeriod

The minimum required continuous observation time prior to index date for a person to be included in the cohort. Note that this is typically done in the createStudyPopulation function, but can already be done here for efficiency reasons.

maxCohortSize

If either the target or the comparator cohort is larger than this number it will be sampled to this size. maxCohortSize = 0 indicates no maximum size.

## covariateSettings

An object of type covariateSettings as created using the FeatureExtraction::createCovariat function.

#### Details

Based on the arguments, the treatment and comparator cohorts are retrieved, as well as outcomes occurring in exposed subjects. The treatment and comparator cohorts can be identified using the DRUG\_ERA table, or through user-defined cohorts in a cohort table either inside the CDM schema or in a separate schema. Similarly, outcomes are identified using the CONDITION\_ERA table or through user-defined cohorts in a cohort table either inside the CDM schema or in a separate schema. Covariates are automatically extracted from the appropriate tables within the CDM.

**Important**: The target and comparator drug must not be included in the covariates, including any descendant concepts. You will need to manually add the drugs and descendants to the excludedCovariateConceptIds of the covariateSettings argument.

The removeduplicateSubjects argument can have one of the following values:

- "keep all": Do not remove subjects that appear in both target and comparator cohort
- "keep first": When a subjects appear in both target and comparator cohort, only keep whichever cohort is first in time.
- "remove all": Remove subjects that appear in both target and comparator cohort completely from the analysis."

## Value

A CohortMethodData object.

 ${\tt getDefaultCmTable1Specifications}$ 

Get the default table 1 specifications

# **Description**

Loads the default specifications for a table 1, to be used with the createTable1 function. Important: currently only works for binary covariates.

## Usage

```
getDefaultCmTable1Specifications()
```

#### Value

A specifications objects.

 ${\tt getFollowUpDistribution}$ 

Get the distribution of follow-up time

## **Description**

Get the distribution of follow-up time

#### Usage

```
getFollowUpDistribution(population, quantiles = c(0, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 1))
```

## **Arguments**

population A data frame describing the study population as created using the createStudyPopulation

function. This should at least have these columns: treatment, timeAtRisk.

quantiles The quantiles of the population to compute minimum follow-up time for.

# **Details**

Get the distribution of follow-up time as quantiles. Follow-up time is defined as time-at-risk, so not censored at the outcome.

#### Value

A data frame with per treatment group at each quantile the amount of follow-up time available.

getOutcomeModel 29

getOutcomeModel

Get the outcome model

### **Description**

Get the full outcome model, so showing the betas of all variables included in the outcome model, not just the treatment variable.

## Usage

```
getOutcomeModel(outcomeModel, cohortMethodData)
```

# **Arguments**

 $\verb"outcomeModel"$ 

An object of type OutcomeModel as generated using he fitOutcomeModel() function.

cohortMethodData

An object of type CohortMethodData as generated using getDbCohortMethodData().

#### Value

A tibble.

getPsModel

Get the propensity model

# Description

Returns the coefficients and names of the covariates with non-zero coefficients.

# Usage

```
getPsModel(propensityScore, cohortMethodData)
```

## Arguments

propensityScore

The propensity scores as generated using the createPs() function.

cohortMethodData

An object of type CohortMethodData as generated using getDbCohortMethodData().

## Value

A tibble.

30 insertDbPopulation

insertDbPopulation

Insert a population into a database

#### **Description**

Insert a population into a database

## Usage

```
insertDbPopulation(
  population,
  cohortIds = c(1, 0),
  connectionDetails,
  cohortDatabaseSchema,
  cohortTable = "cohort",
  createTable = FALSE,
  dropTableIfExists = TRUE,
  cdmVersion = "5"
)
```

#### **Arguments**

population Either an object of type CohortMethodData or a population object generated by

functions like createStudyPopulation().

cohortIds The IDs to be used for the target and comparator cohort, respectively.

connectionDetails

 $An\ R\ object\ of\ type\ connection Details\ created\ using\ the\ Database Connector:: create Connection Details\ created\ using\ the\ Database Connector:: create Connection Details\ created\ using\ the\ Database\ Connector:: create Connection\ Details\ created\ using\ the\ Database\ Connector:: create\ Connection\ Details\ create\ Database\ Da$ 

function.

cohortDatabaseSchema

The name of the database schema where the data will be written. Requires write permissions to this database. On SQL Server, this should specify both the

database and the schema, so for example 'cdm\_instance.dbo'.

cohortTable The name of the table in the database schema where the data will be written.

createTable Should a new table be created? If not, the data will be inserted into an existing

table.

dropTableIfExists

If createTable = TRUE and the table already exists it will be overwritten.

cdmVersion Define the OMOP CDM version used: currently supports "5".

#### **Details**

Inserts a population table into a database. The table in the database will have the same structure as the COHORT table in the Common Data Model.

isCohortMethodData 31

is Cohort Method Data

Check whether an object is a CohortMethodData object

# Description

Check whether an object is a CohortMethodData object

# Usage

```
isCohortMethodData(x)
```

# **Arguments**

Χ

The object to check.

# Value

A logical value.

 ${\tt loadCmAnalysisList}$ 

Load a list of cmAnalysis from file

# Description

Load a list of objects of type cmAnalysis from file. The file is in JSON format.

# Usage

```
loadCmAnalysisList(file)
```

# Arguments

file

The name of the file

# Value

A list of objects of type  ${\tt cmAnalysis}.$ 

## **Description**

Loads an object of type CohortMethodData from a file in the file system.

# Usage

loadCohortMethodData(file)

## **Arguments**

file

The name of the file containing the data.

## Value

An object of class CohortMethodData.

loadTargetComparatorOutcomesList

Load a list of targetComparatorOutcomes from file

# Description

Load a list of objects of type targetComparatorOutcomes from file. The file is in JSON format.

# Usage

loadTargetComparatorOutcomesList(file)

# Arguments

file

The name of the file

#### Value

A list of objects of type targetComparatorOutcomes.

matchOnPs 33

matchOnPs Match persons by propensity:	score
--	-------

## **Description**

Use the provided propensity scores to match target to comparator persons.

#### Usage

```
matchOnPs(
  population,
  caliper = 0.2,
  caliperScale = "standardized logit",
  maxRatio = 1,
  allowReverseMatch = FALSE,
  stratificationColumns = c()
)
```

## **Arguments**

population A data frame with the three columns described below.

caliper The caliper for matching. A caliper is the distance which is acceptable for any

match. Observations which are outside of the caliper are dropped. A caliper of

0 means no caliper is used.

caliperScale The scale on which the caliper is defined. Three scales are supported: caliperScale

= 'propensity score', caliperScale = 'standardized', or caliperScale = 'standardized logit'. On the standardized scale, the caliper is interpreted in standard deviations of the propensity score distribution. 'standardized logit' is similar, except that the propensity score is transformed to the logit scale because the PS is more likely to be normally distributed on that scale (Austin, 2011).

maxRatio The maximum number of persons in the comparator arm to be matched to each

person in the treatment arm. A maxRatio of 0 means no maximum: all com-

parators will be assigned to a target person.

allowReverseMatch

Allows n-to-1 matching if target arm is larger

stratification Columns

Names or numbers of one or more columns in the data data.frame on which subjects should be stratified prior to matching. No persons will be matched with persons outside of the strata identified by the values in these columns.

## **Details**

The data frame should have the following three columns:

- rowId (numeric): A unique identifier for each row (e.g. the person ID).
- treatment (integer): Column indicating whether the person is in the target (1) or comparator (0) group.
- propensityScore (numeric): Propensity score.

The default caliper (0.2 on the standardized logit scale) is the one recommended by Austin (2011).

#### Value

Returns a date frame with the same columns as the input data plus one extra column: stratumId. Any rows that could not be matched are removed

#### References

Rassen JA, Shelat AA, Myers J, Glynn RJ, Rothman KJ, Schneeweiss S. (2012) One-to-many propensity score matching in cohort studies, Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety, May, 21 Suppl 2:69-80.

Austin, PC. (2011) Optimal caliper widths for propensity-score matching when estimating differences in means and differences in proportions in observational studies, Pharmaceutical statistics, March, 10(2):150-161.

#### **Examples**

matchOnPsAndCovariates

Match by propensity score as well as other covariates

## **Description**

Use the provided propensity scores and a set of covariates to match target to comparator persons.

## Usage

```
matchOnPsAndCovariates(
  population,
  caliper = 0.2,
  caliperScale = "standardized logit",
  maxRatio = 1,
  allowReverseMatch = FALSE,
  cohortMethodData,
  covariateIds
)
```

#### **Arguments**

population

A data frame with the three columns described below.

caliper

The caliper for matching. A caliper is the distance which is acceptable for any match. Observations which are outside of the caliper are dropped. A caliper of 0 means no caliper is used.

caliperScale The scale on which the caliper is defined. Three scales are supported: caliperScale

= 'propensity score', caliperScale = 'standardized', or caliperScale = 'standardized logit'. On the standardized scale, the caliper is interpreted in standard deviations of the propensity score distribution. 'standardized logit' is similar, except that the propensity score is transformed to the logit scale because the PS is more likely to be normally distributed on that scale (Austin, 2011).

maxRatio The maximum number of persons in the comparator arm to be matched to each

person in the treatment arm. A maxRatio of 0 means no maximum: all com-

parators will be assigned to a target person.

allowReverseMatch

Allows n-to-1 matching if target arm is larger

cohortMethodData

An object of type CohortMethodData as generated using getDbCohortMethodData().

covariateIds One or more covariate IDs in the cohortMethodData object on which subjects

should be also matched.

#### Details

The data frame should have the following three columns:

- rowId (numeric): A unique identifier for each row (e.g. the person ID).
- treatment (integer): Column indicating whether the person is in the target (1) or comparator (0) group.
- propensityScore (numeric): Propensity score.

The default caliper (0.2 on the standardized logit scale) is the one recommended by Austin (2011).

## Value

Returns a tibble with the same columns as the input data plus one extra column: stratumId. Any rows that could not be matched are removed

## References

Rassen JA, Shelat AA, Myers J, Glynn RJ, Rothman KJ, Schneeweiss S. (2012) One-to-many propensity score matching in cohort studies, Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety, May, 21 Suppl 2:69-80.

Austin, PC. (2011) Optimal caliper widths for propensity-score matching when estimating differences in means and differences in proportions in observational studies, Pharmaceutical statistics, March, 10(2):150-161.

plotCovariateBalanceOfTopVariables

Plot variables with largest imbalance

## **Description**

Create a plot showing those variables having the largest imbalance before matching, and those variables having the largest imbalance after matching. Requires running computeCovariateBalance first.

#### Usage

```
plotCovariateBalanceOfTopVariables(
  balance,
  n = 20,
  maxNameWidth = 100,
  title = NULL,
  fileName = NULL,
  beforeLabel = "before matching",
  afterLabel = "after matching"
)
```

#### **Arguments**

balance A data frame created by the computeCovariateBalance function.

n (Maximum) count of covariates to plot.

maxNameWidth Covariate names longer than this number of characters are truncated to create a

nicer plot.

title Optional: the main title for the plot.

fileName Name of the file where the plot should be saved, for example 'plot.png'. See the

function ggsave in the ggplot2 package for supported file formats.

beforeLabel Label for identifying data before matching / stratification / trimming.

afterLabel Label for identifying data after matching / stratification / trimming.

## Value

A ggplot object. Use the ggplot2::ggsave function to save to file in a different format.

```
plotCovariateBalanceScatterPlot
```

Create a scatterplot of the covariate balance

## **Description**

Create a scatterplot of the covariate balance, showing all variables with balance before and after matching on the x and y axis respectively. Requires running computeCovariateBalance first.

# Usage

```
plotCovariateBalanceScatterPlot(
  balance,
  absolute = TRUE,
  threshold = 0,
  title = "Standardized difference of mean",
  fileName = NULL,
  beforeLabel = "Before matching",
  afterLabel = "After matching",
  showCovariateCountLabel = FALSE,
  showMaxLabel = FALSE
)
```

## **Arguments**

balance A data frame created by the computeCovariateBalance function.

absolute Should the absolute value of the difference be used?

threshold Show a threshold value for after matching standardized difference.

title The main title for the plot.

fileName Name of the file where the plot should be saved, for example 'plot.png'. See the

function ggsave in the ggplot2 package for supported file formats.

beforeLabel Label for the x-axis. afterLabel Label for the y-axis.

showCovariateCountLabel

Show a label with the number of covariates included in the plot?

showMaxLabel Show a label with the maximum absolute standardized difference after match-

ing/stratification?

#### Value

A ggplot object. Use the ggplot2::ggsave function to save to file in a different format.

plotFollowUpDistribution

Plot the distribution of follow-up time

## **Description**

Plot the distribution of follow-up time

## Usage

```
plotFollowUpDistribution(
  population,
  targetLabel = "Target",
  comparatorLabel = "Comparator",
  yScale = "percent",
  logYScale = FALSE,
  dataCutoff = 0.95,
  title = NULL,
  fileName = NULL
)
```

# Arguments

population A data frame describing the study population as created using the createStudyPopulation

function. This should at least have these columns: treatment, timeAtRisk.

targetLabel A label to us for the target cohort.

comparatorLabel

A label to us for the comparator cohort.

yScale Should be either 'percent' or 'count'.

38 plotKaplanMeier

logYScale	Should the Y axis be on the log scale?
dataCutoff	Fraction of the data (number censored) after which the graph will not be shown.
title	The main title of the plot.
fileName	Name of the file where the plot should be saved, for example 'plot.png'. See the function ggsave in the ggplot2 package for supported file formats.

#### **Details**

Plot the distribution of follow-up time, stratified by treatment group. Follow-up time is defined as time-at-risk, so not censored at the outcome.

#### Value

A ggplot object. Use the ggsave function to save to file in a different format.

plotKaplanMeier Plot the Kaplan-Meier curve

## **Description**

plotKaplanMeier creates the Kaplan-Meier (KM) survival plot. Based (partially) on recommendations in Pocock et al (2002).

When variable-sized strata are detected, an adjusted KM plot is computed to account for stratified data, as described in Galimberti eta al (2002), using the closed form variance estimator described in Xie et al (2005).

## Usage

```
plotKaplanMeier(
   population,
   censorMarks = FALSE,
   confidenceIntervals = TRUE,
   includeZero = FALSE,
   dataTable = TRUE,
   dataCutoff = 0.9,
   targetLabel = "Treated",
   comparatorLabel = "Comparator",
   title,
   fileName = NULL
)
```

# **Arguments**

 $\label{eq:population} \textbf{A population object generated by createStudyPopulation, potentially filtered}$ 

by other functions.

censorMarks Whether or not to include censor marks in the plot.

confidenceIntervals

Plot 95 percent confidence intervals? Default is TRUE, as recommended by Pocock et al.

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includeZero Should the y axis include zero, or only go down to the lowest observed survival?

The default is FALSE, as recommended by Pocock et al.

dataTable Should the numbers at risk be shown in a table? Default is TRUE, as recom-

mended by Pocock et al.

dataCutoff Fraction of the data (number censored) after which the graph will not be shown.

The default is 90 percent as recommended by Pocock et al.

targetLabel A label to us for the target cohort.

comparatorLabel

A label to us for the comparator cohort.

title The main title of the plot.

fileName Name of the file where the plot should be saved, for example 'plot.png'. See the

function ggsave in the ggplot2 package for supported file formats.

#### Value

A ggplot object. Use the ggsave function to save to file in a different format.

#### References

Pocock SJ, Clayton TC, Altman DG. (2002) Survival plots of time-to-event outcomes in clinical trials: good practice and pitfalls, Lancet, 359:1686-89.

Galimberti S, Sasieni P, Valsecchi MG (2002) A weighted Kaplan-Meier estimator for matched data with application to the comparison of chemotherapy and bone-marrow transplant in leukaemia. Statistics in Medicine, 21(24):3847-64.

Xie J, Liu C. (2005) Adjusted Kaplan-Meier estimator and log-rank test with inverse probability of treatment weighting for survival data. Statistics in Medicine, 26(10):2276.

plotPs

Plot the propensity score distribution

## **Description**

Plots the propensity (or preference) score distribution.

## Usage

```
plotPs(
   data,
   unfilteredData = NULL,
   scale = "preference",
   type = "density",
   binWidth = 0.05,
   targetLabel = "Target",
   comparatorLabel = "Comparator",
   showCountsLabel = FALSE,
   showAucLabel = FALSE,
   showEquiposeLabel = FALSE,
   equipoiseBounds = c(0.3, 0.7),
   unitOfAnalysis = "subjects",
```

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```
title = NULL,
fileName = NULL
)
```

## Arguments

data A data frame with at least the two columns described below

unfilteredData To be used when computing preference scores on data from which subjects have

already been removed, e.g. through trimming and/or matching. This data frame

should have the same structure as data.

scale The scale of the graph. Two scales are supported: scale = 'propensity' or

scale = 'preference'. The preference score scale is defined by Walker et al

(2013).

type Type of plot. Four possible values: type = 'density' type = 'histogram',

type = 'histogramCount', or type = 'histogramProportion'. 'histogram'

defaults to 'histogramCount'.

binWidth For histograms, the width of the bins

targetLabel A label to us for the target cohort.

comparator Label

A label to us for the comparator cohort.

showCountsLabel

Show subject counts?

showAucLabel Show the AUC?

showEquiposeLabel

Show the percentage of the population in equipoise?

equipoiseBounds

The bounds on the preference score to determine whether a subject is in equipoise.

unitOfAnalysis The unit of analysis in the input data. Defaults to 'subjects'.

title Optional: the main title for the plot.

fileName Name of the file where the plot should be saved, for example 'plot.png'. See the

function ggplot2::ggsave() for supported file formats.

## **Details**

The data frame should have a least the following two columns:

- treatment (integer): Column indicating whether the person is in the target (1) or comparator (0) group
- propensityScore (numeric): Propensity score

## Value

A ggplot object. Use the ggplot2::ggsave() function to save to file in a different format.

# References

Walker AM, Patrick AR, Lauer MS, Hornbrook MC, Marin MG, Platt R, Roger VL, Stang P, and Schneeweiss S. (2013) A tool for assessing the feasibility of comparative effectiveness research, Comparative Effective Research, 3, 11-20

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#### **Examples**

```
treatment <- rep(0:1, each = 100)
propensityScore <- c(rnorm(100, mean = 0.4, sd = 0.25), rnorm(100, mean = 0.6, sd = 0.25))
data <- data.frame(treatment = treatment, propensityScore = propensityScore)
data <- data[data$propensityScore > 0 & data$propensityScore < 1, ]
plotPs(data)</pre>
```

plotTimeToEvent

Plot time-to-event

## **Description**

Plot time-to-event

# Usage

```
plotTimeToEvent(
  cohortMethodData,
  population = NULL,
  outcomeId,
  firstExposureOnly = FALSE,
  restrictToCommonPeriod = FALSE,
  washoutPeriod = 0,
  removeDuplicateSubjects = FALSE,
  minDaysAtRisk = 1,
  riskWindowStart = 0,
  addExposureDaysToStart = NULL,
  startAnchor = "cohort start",
  riskWindowEnd = 0,
  addExposureDaysToEnd = NULL,
  endAnchor = "cohort end",
  censorAtNewRiskWindow = FALSE,
  periodLength = 7,
  numberOfPeriods = 52,
  showFittedLines = TRUE,
  targetLabel = "Target",
  comparatorLabel = "Comparator",
  title = NULL,
  fileName = NULL
)
```

# Arguments

cohortMethodData

An object of type CohortMethodData as generated using getDbCohortMethodData().

population If specified, this population will be used as the starting point instead of the co-

horts in the cohortMethodData object.

outcomeId The ID of the outcome. If not specified, no outcome-specific transformations

will be performed.

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firstExposureOnly

Should only the first exposure per subject be included?

restrictToCommonPeriod

Restrict the analysis to the period when both exposures are observed?

washoutPeriod The minimum required continuous observation time prior to index date for a

person to be included in the cohort.

removeDuplicateSubjects

Remove subjects that are in both the target and comparator cohort? See details

for allowed values.

minDaysAtRisk The minimum required number of days at risk.

riskWindowStart

The start of the risk window (in days) relative to the startAnchor.

addExposureDaysToStart

DEPRECATED: Add the length of exposure the start of the risk window? Use

startAnchor instead.

startAnchor The anchor point for the start of the risk window. Can be "cohort start" or

"cohort end".

riskWindowEnd The end of the risk window (in days) relative to the endAnchor.

addExposureDaysToEnd

DEPRECATED: Add the length of exposure the risk window? Use endAnchor

instead.

endAnchor The anchor point for the end of the risk window. Can be "cohort start" or

"cohort end".

censorAtNewRiskWindow

If a subject is in multiple cohorts, should time-at-risk be censored when the new

time-at-risk starts to prevent overlap?

periodLength The length in days of each period shown in the plot.

numberOfPeriods

Number of periods to show in the plot. The periods are equally divided before

and after the index date.

showFittedLines

Fit lines to the proportions and show them in the plot?

targetLabel A label to us for the target cohort.

comparatorLabel

A label to us for the comparator cohort.

title Optional: the main title for the plot.

fileName Name of the file where the plot should be saved, for example 'plot.png'. See

ggplot2::ggsave() for supported file formats.

# **Details**

Creates a plot showing the number of events over time in the target and comparator cohorts, both before and after index date. The plot also distinguishes between events inside and outside the time-at-risk period. This requires the user to (re)specify the time-at-risk using the same arguments as the createStudyPopulation() function. Note that it is not possible to specify that people with the outcome prior should be removed, since the plot will show these prior events.

#### Value

A ggplot object. Use the ggplot2::ggsave() function to save to file in a different format.

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runCmAnalyses

Run a list of analyses

## **Description**

Run a list of analyses

## Usage

```
runCmAnalyses(
  connectionDetails,
  cdmDatabaseSchema,
 oracleTempSchema = cdmDatabaseSchema,
  exposureDatabaseSchema = cdmDatabaseSchema,
  exposureTable = "drug_era",
 outcomeDatabaseSchema = cdmDatabaseSchema,
  outcomeTable = "condition_occurrence",
  cdmVersion = 5,
 outputFolder = "./CohortMethodOutput",
  cmAnalysisList,
  targetComparatorOutcomesList,
  refitPsForEveryOutcome = FALSE,
  refitPsForEveryStudyPopulation = TRUE,
  prefilterCovariates = TRUE,
  getDbCohortMethodDataThreads = 1,
  createPsThreads = 1,
 psCvThreads = 1,
  createStudyPopThreads = 1,
  trimMatchStratifyThreads = 1,
 prefilterCovariatesThreads = 1,
  fitOutcomeModelThreads = 1,
 outcomeCvThreads = 1,
  outcomeIdsOfInterest
)
```

## **Arguments**

connectionDetails

An R object of type connectionDetails created using the function createConnectionDetails in the DatabaseConnector package.

cdmDatabaseSchema

The name of the database schema that contains the OMOP CDM instance. Requires read permissions to this database. On SQL Server, this should specify both the database and the schema, so for example 'cdm\_instance.dbo'.

oracleTempSchema

For Oracle only: the name of the database schema where you want all temporary tables to be managed. Requires create/insert permissions to this database.

exposureDatabaseSchema

The name of the database schema that is the location where the exposure data used to define the exposure cohorts is available. If exposure Table = DRUG\_ERA,

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exposureDatabaseSchema is not used by assumed to be cdmSchema. Requires read permissions to this database.

exposureTable The tablename that contains the exposure cohorts. If exposureTable <> DRUG\_ERA,

then expectation is exposure Table has format of COHORT table: COHORT\_DEFINITION\_ID,

SUBJECT\_ID, COHORT\_START\_DATE, COHORT\_END\_DATE.

outcome Database Schema

The name of the database schema that is the location where the data used to define the outcome cohorts is available. If exposureTable = CONDITION\_ERA, exposureDatabaseSchema is not used by assumed to be cdmSchema. Requires read permissions to this database.

outcomeTable The tablename that contains the outcome cohorts. If outcomeTable <> CONDI-

TION\_OCCURRENCE, then expectation is outcomeTable has format of CO-HORT table: COHORT\_DEFINITION\_ID, SUBJECT\_ID, COHORT\_START\_DATE,

COHORT END DATE.

cdmVersion Define the OMOP CDM version used: currently support "4" and "5".

outputFolder Name of the folder where all the outputs will written to.

 $\verb|cmAnalysisList| A list of objects of type \verb|cmAnalysis| as created using the `createCmAnalysis| \\$ 

function.

targetComparatorOutcomesList

A list of objects of type targetComparatorOutcomes as created using the createTargetComparatorOutcomes function.

refitPsForEveryOutcome

Should the propensity model be fitted for every outcome (i.e. after people who already had the outcome are removed)? If false, a single propensity model will be fitted, and people who had the outcome previously will be removed afterwards.

refitPsForEveryStudyPopulation

Should the propensity model be fitted for every study population definition? If false, a single propensity model will be fitted, and the study population criteria will be applied afterwards.

prefilterCovariates

If TRUE, and some outcome models require filtering covariates by concept ID (e.g. because includeCovariateIds or interactionCovariateIds is specified), this filtering will be done once for all outcome models that need it. This can greatly speed up the analyses if multiple outcome models require the same filtering.

getDbCohortMethodDataThreads

The number of parallel threads to use for building the cohortMethod data objects.

createPsThreads

The number of parallel threads to use for fitting the propensity models.

psCvThreads The number of parallel threads to use for the cross- validation when estimating the hyperparameter for the propensity model. Note that the total number of CV

threads at one time could be createPsThreads \* psCvThreads.

createStudyPopThreads

The number of parallel threads to use for creating the study population.

trimMatchStratifyThreads

The number of parallel threads to use for trimming, matching and stratifying. prefilterCovariatesThreads

The number of parallel threads to use for prefiltering covariates.

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## fitOutcomeModelThreads

The number of parallel threads to use for fitting the outcome models.

#### outcomeCvThreads

The number of parallel threads to use for the cross-validation when estimating the hyperparameter for the outcome model. Note that the total number of CV threads at one time could be fitOutcomeModelThreads \* outcomeCvThreads.

#### outcomeIdsOfInterest

If provided, creation of non-essential files will be skipped for all other outcome IDs. This could be helpful to speed up analyses with many controls.

#### **Details**

Run a list of analyses for the target-comparator-outcomes of interest. This function will run all specified analyses against all hypotheses of interest, meaning that the total number of outcome models is length(cmAnalysisList) \* length(targetComparatorOutcomesList) (if all analyses specify an outcome model should be fitted). When you provide several analyses it will determine whether any of the analyses have anything in common, and will take advantage of this fact. For example, if we specify several analyses that only differ in the way the outcome model is fitted, then this function will extract the data and fit the propensity model only once, and re-use this in all the analysis.

#### Value

A tibble describing for each target-comparator-outcome-analysisId combination where the intermediary and outcome model files can be found, relative to the outputFolder.

save CmAnalysis List

Save a list of cmAnalysis to file

## **Description**

Write a list of objects of type cmAnalysis to file. The file is in JSON format.

# Usage

```
saveCmAnalysisList(cmAnalysisList, file)
```

## **Arguments**

 $\label{lem:cmanalysis} \mbox{cmAnalysis list to be written to file} \\$ 

file The name of the file where the results will be written

 ${\tt save Cohort Method Data} \quad \textit{Save the cohort method data to file}$ 

# Description

Saves an object of type CohortMethodData to a file.

## Usage

saveCohortMethodData(cohortMethodData, file)

## **Arguments**

cohortMethodData

An object of type CohortMethodData as generated using getDbCohortMethodData().

file

The name of the file where the data will be written. If the file already exists it will be overwritten.

## Value

Returns no output.

 ${\tt saveTargetComparatorOutcomesList}$ 

Save a list of targetComparatorOutcomes to file

# Description

Write a list of objects of type targetComparatorOutcomes to file. The file is in JSON format.

# Usage

saveTargetComparatorOutcomesList(targetComparatorOutcomesList, file)

# Arguments

targetComparatorOutcomesList

The targetComparatorOutcomes list to be written to file

file The name of the file where the results will be written

simulateCohortMethodData

simulateCohortMethodData

Generate simulated data

## **Description**

Creates a CohortMethodData object with simulated data.

## Usage

```
simulateCohortMethodData(profile, n = 10000)
```

## **Arguments**

An object of type CohortMethodDataSimulationProfile as generated using the createCohortMethodDataSimulationProfile() function.

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n The size of the population to be generated.

## **Details**

This function generates simulated data that is in many ways similar to the original data on which the simulation profile is based. The contains same outcome, comparator, and outcome concept IDs, and the covariates and their 1st order statistics should be comparable.

## Value

An object of type CohortMethodData.

stratifyByPs

Stratify persons by propensity score

## **Description**

Use the provided propensity scores to stratify persons. Additional stratification variables for stratifications can also be used.

# Usage

```
stratifyByPs(
  population,
  numberOfStrata = 5,
  stratificationColumns = c(),
  baseSelection = "all"
)
```

#### **Arguments**

population A data frame with the three columns described below numberOfStrata How many strata? The boundaries of the strata are automatically defined to contain equal numbers of target persons.

stratification Columns

Names of one or more columns in the data data.frame on which subjects should also be stratified in addition to stratification on propensity score.

baseSelection

What is the base selection of subjects where the strata bounds are to be determined? Strata are defined as equally-sized strata inside this selection. Possible values are "all", "target", and "comparator".

## **Details**

The data frame should have the following three columns:

- rowId (numeric): A unique identifier for each row (e.g. the person ID).
- treatment (integer): Column indicating whether the person is in the target (1) or comparator (0) group.
- propensityScore (numeric): Propensity score.

#### Value

Returns a tibble with the same columns as the input data plus one extra column: stratumId.

## **Examples**

```
rowId <- 1:200
treatment <- rep(0:1, each = 100)
propensityScore <- c(runif(100, min = 0, max = 1), runif(100, min = 0, max = 1))
data <- data.frame(rowId = rowId, treatment = treatment, propensityScore = propensityScore)</pre>
result <- stratifyByPs(data, 5)</pre>
```

stratifyByPsAndCovariates

Stratify persons by propensity score and other covariates

## **Description**

Use the provided propensity scores and covariates to stratify persons.

## Usage

```
stratifyByPsAndCovariates(
 population,
 numberOfStrata = 5,
 baseSelection = "all",
 cohortMethodData,
  covariateIds
)
```

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## **Arguments**

population A data frame with the three columns described below

numberOfStrata Into how many strata should the propensity score be divided? The boundaries of

the strata are automatically defined to contain equal numbers of target persons.

baseSelection What is the base selection of subjects where the strata bounds are to be deter-

mined? Strata are defined as equally-sized strata inside this selection. Possible

values are "all", "target", and "comparator".

cohortMethodData

An object of type CohortMethodData as generated using getDbCohortMethodData().

covariateIds One or more covariate IDs in the cohortMethodData object on which subjects

should also be stratified.

## **Details**

The data frame should have the following three columns:

- rowId (numeric): A unique identifier for each row (e.g. the person ID).
- treatment (integer): Column indicating whether the person is in the target (1) or comparator (0) group.
- propensityScore (numeric): Propensity score.

#### Value

Returns a date frame with the same columns as the input population plus one extra column: stratumId.

summarizeAnalyses

Create a summary report of the analyses

## **Description**

Create a summary report of the analyses

#### Usage

summarizeAnalyses(referenceTable, outputFolder)

# **Arguments**

referenceTable A dplyr::tibble as created by the runCmAnalyses function.

outputFolder Name of the folder where all the outputs have been written to.

#### Value

A tibble containing summary statistics for each target-comparator-outcome-analysis combination.

50 trimByPs

trimByPs	Trim persons by propensity score

# Description

Use the provided propensity scores to trim subjects with extreme scores.

# Usage

```
trimByPs(population, trimFraction = 0.05)
```

## **Arguments**

population A data frame with the three columns described below

trimFraction This fraction will be removed from each treatment group. In the target group,

persons with the highest propensity scores will be removed, in the comparator

group person with the lowest scores will be removed.

## **Details**

The data frame should have the following three columns:

- rowId (numeric): A unique identifier for each row (e.g. the person ID).
- treatment (integer): Column indicating whether the person is in the target (1) or comparator (0) group.
- propensityScore (numeric): Propensity score.

## Value

Returns a tibble with the same three columns as the input.

# **Examples**

```
rowId <- 1:2000
treatment <- rep(0:1, each = 1000)
propensityScore <- c(runif(1000, min = 0, max = 1), runif(1000, min = 0, max = 1))
data <- data.frame(rowId = rowId, treatment = treatment, propensityScore = propensityScore)
result <- trimByPs(data, 0.05)</pre>
```

trimByPsToEquipoise

Keep only persons in clinical equipoise

# Description

Use the preference score to trim subjects that are not in clinical equipoise

## Usage

```
trimByPsToEquipoise(population, bounds = c(0.3, 0.7))
```

#### **Arguments**

population A data frame with at least the three columns described below.

bounds The upper and lower bound on the preference score for keeping persons.

## **Details**

The data frame should have the following three columns:

- rowId (numeric): A unique identifier for each row (e.g. the person ID).
- treatment (integer): Column indicating whether the person is in the target (1) or comparator (0) group.
- propensityScore (numeric): Propensity score.

# Value

Returns a tibble with the same three columns as the input.

## References

Walker AM, Patrick AR, Lauer MS, Hornbrook MC, Marin MG, Platt R, Roger VL, Stang P, and Schneeweiss S. (2013) A tool for assessing the feasibility of comparative effectiveness research, Comparative Effective Research, 3, 11-20

# **Examples**

```
rowId <- 1:2000
treatment <- rep(0:1, each = 1000)
propensityScore <- c(runif(1000, min = 0, max = 1), runif(1000, min = 0, max = 1))
data <- data.frame(rowId = rowId, treatment = treatment, propensityScore = propensityScore)
result <- trimByPsToEquipoise(data)</pre>
```

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