

# Package ‘simCAT’

February 1, 2023

**Title** Implements Computerized Adaptive Testing Simulations

**Version** 0.0.0.9000

**Author** Alexandre Jaloto [aut, cre] (<<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5291-1768>>)  
Ricardo Primi [ths]

**Description** Computerized Adaptive Testing simulations with dichotomous items. Selects items with Maximum Fisher Information method or randomly, with or without constraints (content balancing and item exposure control).

**Encoding** UTF-8

**LazyData** true

**Roxygen** list(markdown = TRUE)

**RoxygenNote** 7.1.2

**Imports** dplyr,  
mirt,  
mirtCAT

**URL** <https://github.com/alexandrejaloto/simCAT>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/alexandrejaloto/simCAT/issues>

## R topics documented:

calc.info . . . . .	2
calc.prob . . . . .	2
cat.evaluation . . . . .	3
content.balancing . . . . .	4
eap . . . . .	5
exposure.rate . . . . .	5
gen.resp . . . . .	6
rmse . . . . .	6
select.item . . . . .	7
simCAT . . . . .	9
stop.cat . . . . .	11
<b>Index</b>	<b>13</b>

---

calc.info	<i>Compute item information</i>
-----------	---------------------------------

---

**Description**

Calculate information of each item in the bank for a theta

**Usage**

```
calc.info(bank, theta)
```

**Arguments**

bank	matrix with item parameters (a, b, c)
theta	current theta

**Value**

A vector with the information of each item

**Author(s)**

Alexandre Jaloto

---

calc.prob	<i>Compute probability</i>
-----------	----------------------------

---

**Description**

Calculate probability of observing certain answer to a dichotomous item, given a theta

**Usage**

```
calc.prob(theta, bank, u = 1)
```

**Arguments**

theta	theta
bank	matrix with item parameters (a, b, c)
u	1 for righth, 0 for wrong

**Value**

A vector with the probability of seeing determined response in each item

**Author(s)**

Alexandre Jaloto

---

cat.evaluation	<i>CAT Evaluation</i>
----------------	-----------------------

---

**Description**

Evaluate a CAT simulation

**Usage**

```
cat.evaluation(results, true.scores, item.name, rmax)
```

**Arguments**

results	list with results of a CAT simulation from simCAT
true.scores	true scores
item.name	vector with the name of all items in the bank
rmax	item maximum exposure rate

**Value**

a list with two elements.

evaluate is a data.frame. Each line corresponds to a replication, and the columns are the following variables:

- rmse root mean square error between true and estimated score
- se standard error of measurement
- correlation correlation between true and estimated score
- bias bias between true and estimated score
- overlap overlap rate
- min\_exp minimum exposure rate
- max\_exp maximum exposure rate
- n\_exp0 number of items not administered
- n\_exp\_rmax number of items with exposure rate higher than rmax
- length\_mean average mean of test length
- length\_sd standard deviation of test length
- length\_median average median of test length
- min\_length minimum test length
- max\_length maximum test length

conditional is a data.frame with the same variables conditioned to the true scores. The colnames are the thetas in each decil, that is, `quantile(true.scores, probs = seq(.1, 1, length.out = 10))`.

**Author(s)**

Alexandre Jaloto

---

content.balancing	<i>Content balancing</i>
-------------------	--------------------------

---

## Description

Constricts the selection with content balancing (CCAT or MCCAT)

## Usage

```
content.balancing(
  bank,
  administered = NULL,
  content.names,
  content.props,
  content.items,
  met.content = "MCCAT"
)
```

## Arguments

bank	matrix with item parameters (a, b, c)
administered	vector with administered items, NULL if it is the first item (default)
content.names	vector with the contents of the test
content.props	desirable proportion of each content in test, in the same order of content.names
content.items	vector indicating the content of each item
met.content	content balancing method <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCCAT (default): the function picks all subgroups with proportions most distant from desirable.</li> <li>• CCAT: if there is any subgroup without administered item, the function will randomly pick one. If all subgroups has at least one applied item, the function randomly picks one from those with the proportions most distant from desirable.</li> <li>• MMM: based on the desired proportions of content, the algorithm builds a sum-one cumulative distribution. Then, a random number with uniform distribution between zero and one is drawn. This number corresponds to an area in the cumulative distribution. It is from the content located in this area that the content will be selected.</li> </ul>

## Value

A numeric vector with the items that will be excluded for selection. That is, it returns the unavailable items. If all items are available, it returns NULL.

## Author(s)

Alexandre Jaloto

---

eap	<i>EAP estimation</i>
-----	-----------------------

---

**Description**

Estimates theta with Expected a Posteriori

**Usage**

```
eap(pattern, bank)
```

**Arguments**

pattern	response pattern (0 and 1) with the number of columns corresponding to the number of items
bank	data.frame with item parameters (a, b, c)

**Details**

40 quadrature points, ranging from -4 to 4. Priori with normal distribution (mean = 0, sd = 1).

**Value**

data.frame with estimated theta and SE.

**Author(s)**

Alexandre Jaloto

---

exposure.rate	<i>Compute exposure rates</i>
---------------	-------------------------------

---

**Description**

Calculate exposure rate of items in a bank

**Usage**

```
exposure.rate(previous, item.name)
```

**Arguments**

previous	list with previous responses. Each element corresponds to a person and has the names of the applied items.
item.name	vector with the name of all items in the bank

**Value**

data.frame with

- items name of the items
- Freq exposure rate

**Author(s)**

Alexandre Jaloto

---

gen.resp	<i>Generate response pattern</i>
----------	----------------------------------

---

**Description**

Generate response pattern based on probability of answering correct a dichotomous item, given a theta and an item bank

**Usage**

```
gen.resp(theta, bank)
```

**Arguments**

theta	theta
bank	matrix with item parameters (a, b, c)

**Value**

A vector with the probability of seeing determined response in each item

**Author(s)**

Alexandre Jaloto

---

rmse	<i>Root Mean square Error</i>
------	-------------------------------

---

**Description**

Calculate the root mean square error

**Usage**

```
rmse(true, estimated)
```

**Arguments**

true	true values
estimate	estimated values

**Value**

A numeric vector

**Author(s)**

Alexandre Jaloto

---

select.item	<i>Select next item</i>
-------------	-------------------------

---

**Description**

Select next item to be administered

**Usage**

```
select.item(
  bank,
  theta,
  administered = NULL,
  sel.method = "MFI",
  cat.type = "variable",
  threshold = 0.3,
  SE,
  acceleration = 1,
  met.weight = "mcclarty",
  max.items = 45,
  content.names = NULL,
  content.props = NULL,
  content.items = NULL,
  met.content = "MCCAT"
)
```

**Arguments**

bank	matrix with item parameters (a, b, c)
theta	current theta
administered	vector with administered items, NULL if it is the first item
sel.method	selection method
cat.type	CAT with variable or fixed length. Necessary only for progressive method.
threshold	threshold for cat.type. Necessary only for progressive method.
SE	current standard error. Necessary only for progressive method, with cat.type = "variable"
acceleration	acceleration parameter. Necessary only for progressive method.
met.weight	the procedure to calculate the progressive's weight in variable-length CAT. It can be "magis" or "mcclarty" (default). See details.
max.items	maximum number of items to be administered. Necessary only for progressive method, with cat.type = "variable"

content.names	vector with the contents of the test
content.props	desirable proportion of each content in test, in the same order of content.names
content.items	vector indicating the content of each item
met.content	content balancing method: MCCAT (default), CCAT or MMM. See content.balancing for more information.

### Details

In the progressive, the administered item is the one that has the highest weight. The weight of the item  $i$  is calculated as following:

$$W_i = (1 - s)R_i + sI_i$$

where  $R$  is a random number between zero and the maximum information of an item in the bank for the current  $\theta$ ,  $I$  is the item information and  $s$  is the importance of the component. As the application progresses, the random component loses importance. There are some ways to calculate  $s$ . For fixed-length CAT, Barrada et al. (2008) uses

$$s = 0$$

if it is the first item of the test. For the other administering items,

$$s = \frac{\sum_{f=1}^q (f-1)^k}{\sum_{f=1}^Q (f-1)^k}$$

where  $q$  is the number of the item position in the test,  $Q$  is the test length and  $k$  is the acceleration parameter. simCAT uses these two equations for fixed-length CAT. For variable-length, simCAT can use "magis" (Magis & Barrada, 2017):

$$s = \max\left[\frac{I(\theta)}{I_{stop}}, \frac{q}{M-1}\right]^k$$

where  $I(\theta)$  is the item information for the current  $\theta$ ,  $I_{stop}$  is the information corresponding to the stopping error value, and  $M$  is the maximum length of the test. simCAT uses as default "mcclarty" (adapted from McClarty et al., 2006):

$$s = \left(\frac{SE_{stop}}{SE}\right)^k$$

where  $SE$  is the standard error for the current  $\theta$ ,  $SE_{stop}$  is the stopping error value.

### Value

A list with two elements

- item the number of the selected item in item bank
- name name of the selected item (row name)

### Author(s)

Alexandre Jaloto



## References

- Barrada, J. R., Olea, J., Ponsoda, V., & Abad, F. J. (2008). *Incorporating randomness in the Fisher information for improving item-exposure control in CATs*. *British Journal of Mathematical and Statistical Psychology*, 61(2), 493–513. 10.1348/000711007X230937
- Leroux, A. J., & Dodd, B. G. (2016). *A comparison of exposure control procedures in CATs using the GPC model*. *The Journal of Experimental Education*, 84(4), 666–685. 10.1080/00220973.2015.1099511
- Magis, D., & Barrada, J. R. (2017). *Computerized adaptive testing with R: recent updates of the package catR*. *Journal of Statistical Software*, 76(Code Snippet 1). 10.18637/jss.v076.c01
- McClarty, K. L., Sperling, R. A., & Dodd, B. G. (2006). *A variant of the progressive-restricted item exposure control procedure in computerized adaptive testing*. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Francisco

---

simCAT	CAT simulation
--------	----------------

---

## Description

A CAT simulation with dichotomous items.

## Usage

```
simCAT(
  resps,
  bank,
  start.theta = 0,
  sel.method = "MFI",
  cat.type = "variable",
  acceleration = 1,
  met.weight = "mcclarty",
  threshold = 0.3,
  rmax = 1,
  content.names = NULL,
  content.props = NULL,
  content.items = NULL,
  met.content = "MCCAT",
  stop = list(se = 0.3, hypo = 0.015, hyper = Inf)
)
```

## Arguments

resps	a matrix with responses (0 and 1). The number of columns corresponds to the number of items
bank	matrix with item parameters (a, b, c)
start.theta	first theta
sel.method	item selection method
cat.type	CAT with variable or fixed length Necessary only for progressive method.
acceleration	acceleration parameter. Necessary only for progressive method.

<code>met.weight</code>	the procedure to calculate the progressive's weight in variable-length CAT. It can be "magis" or "mcclarty" (default). See details.
<code>threshold</code>	threshold for <code>cat.type</code> . Necessary only for progressive method.
<code>rmax</code>	item maximum exposure rate
<code>content.names</code>	vector with the contents of the test
<code>content.props</code>	desirable proportion of each content in test, in the same order of <code>content.names</code>
<code>content.items</code>	vector indicating the content of each item
<code>met.content</code>	content balancing method: MCCAT (default), CCAT #' or MMM. See <code>content.balancing</code> for more information.
<code>stop</code>	list with stopping rule and thresholds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <code>se</code> minimum standard error</li> <li>• <code>delta.theta</code> minimum absolute difference between current and previous theta</li> <li>• <code>hypo</code> minimum standard error reduction</li> <li>• <code>hyper</code> minimum standard error reduction after achieving <code>se</code></li> <li>• <code>info</code> maximum information of an available item</li> <li>• <code>max.items</code> maximum number of items</li> <li>• <code>min.items</code> maximum number of items</li> <li>• <code>fixed</code> fixed number of items</li> </ul>

## Details

In the progressive, the administered item is the one that has the highest weight. The weight of the item  $i$  is calculated as following:

$$W_i = (1 - s)R_i + sI_i$$

where  $R$  is a random number between zero and the maximum information of an item in the bank for the current theta,  $I$  is the item information and  $s$  is the importance of the component. As the application progresses, the random component loses importance. There are some ways to calculate  $s$ . For fixed-length CAT, Barrada et al. (2008) uses

$$s = 0$$

if it is the first item of the test. For the other administering items,

$$s = \frac{\sum_{f=1}^q (f-1)^k}{\sum_{f=1}^Q (f-1)^k}$$

where  $q$  is the number of the item position in the test,  $Q$  is the test length and  $k$  is the acceleration parameter. simCAT uses these two equations for fixed-length CAT. For variable-length, simCAT can use "magis" (Magis & Barrada, 2017):

$$s = \max\left[\frac{I(\theta)}{I_{stop}}, \frac{q}{M-1}\right]^k$$

where  $I(\theta)$  is the item information for the current theta,  $I_{stop}$  is the information corresponding to the stopping error value, and  $M$  is the maximum length of the test. simCAT uses as default "mcclarty" (adapted from McClarty et al., 2006):

$$s = \frac{SE_{stop}^k}{SE}$$

where  $SE$  is the standard error for the current theta,  $SE_{stop}$  is the stopping error value.

**Author(s)**

Alexandre Jaloto

**References**

- Barrada, J. R., Olea, J., Ponsoda, V., & Abad, F. J. (2008). *Incorporating randomness in the Fisher information for improving item-exposure control in CATs*. *British Journal of Mathematical and Statistical Psychology*, 61(2), 493–513. 10.1348/000711007X230937
- Leroux, A. J., & Dodd, B. G. (2016). *A comparison of exposure control procedures in CATs using the GPC model*. *The Journal of Experimental Education*, 84(4), 666–685. 10.1080/00220973.2015.1099511
- Magis, D., & Barrada, J. R. (2017). *Computerized adaptive testing with R: recent updates of the package catR*. *Journal of Statistical Software*, 76(Code Snippet 1). 10.18637/jss.v076.c01
- McClarty, K. L., Sperling, R. A., & Dodd, B. G. (2006). *A variant of the progressive-restricted item exposure control procedure in computerized adaptive testing*. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Francisco

---

stop.cat	<i>Check if the CAT ended</i>
----------	-------------------------------

---

**Description**

Check if any stopping rule has been achieved

**Usage**

```
stop.cat(
  rule = list(se = NULL, delta.theta = NULL, hypo = NULL, hyper = NULL, info = NULL,
    max.items = NULL, min.items = NULL, fixed = NULL),
  current = list(se = NULL, delta.theta = NULL, info = NULL, applied = NULL, delta.se =
    NULL)
)
```

**Arguments**

rule	list with stopping rules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• se minimum standard error</li> <li>• delta.theta minimum absolute difference between current and previous theta</li> <li>• hypo minimum standard error reduction</li> <li>• hyper minimum standard error reduction after achieving se</li> <li>• info maximum information of an available item</li> <li>• max.items maximum number of items</li> <li>• min.items maximum number of items</li> <li>• fixed fixed number of items</li> </ul>
current	list with current values <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• se current standard error</li> <li>• delta.theta absolute difference between current and previous theta</li> <li>• info maximum information of an available item for current theta</li> <li>• applied quantitative of applied items</li> <li>• delta.se standard error reduction</li> </ul>

**Value**

A list with two elements:

- stop TRUE if any stopping rule has been achieved
- convergence logical. FALSE if the CAT stopped because it achieved the maximum number of items. TRUE for any other case.

**Author(s)**

Alexandre Jaloto

# Index

`calc.info`, [2](#)  
`calc.prob`, [2](#)  
`cat.evaluation`, [3](#)  
`content.balancing`, [4](#)  
  
`eap`, [5](#)  
`exposure.rate`, [5](#)  
  
`gen.resp`, [6](#)  
  
`rmse`, [6](#)  
  
`select.item`, [7](#)  
`simCAT`, [9](#)  
`stop.cat`, [11](#)