

# Package ‘PRIM’

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**Type** Package

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**Imports** survival

**Description** This Package implements the Patient Rule Induction Method as  
suggested by Friedman and Fisher (1999).

**License** GPL (>= 3)

**LazyData** TRUE

**RoxygenNote** 5.0.1

**NeedsCompilation** no

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define_fixbox	<i>Defining a "fixbox"-Object</i>
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## Description

Function for determining on one box out of a "peel"-object.

## Usage

```
define_fixbox(prim, step)
```

## Arguments

prim	object of class "peel" from which the box should be defined.
step	number of the step (i.e. row in the argument box of the "peel"-object.) of the requested box.

## Value

define\_fixbox returns a object of class "fixbox", which is the basically same as a "peel"-object, but only contains one box. It is a list containing at least the following elements:

f	target function of the selected box.
beta	support of the selected box.
box	<p>a <a href="#">data.frame</a> with one row defining the borders of the box. The columns with "min." and "max." describe the lower and upper boundaries of the at least ordinal covariates. Therefore the value taken is the last one that is <b>not</b> included in the box.</p> <p>For the nominal variables there are columns for every category they can take. If the category is removed from the box the value FALSE is taken. The names of these columns are structured like: &lt;variable name&gt;.&lt;category&gt;</p> <p>For each variable with missing values (only if use_NAs = TRUE) there is also a column taking the value FALSE if the NAs of this variable are removed from the box. The names of these columns are structured like: &lt;variable name&gt;.NA</p>
box_metric, box_nom, box_na	easier to handle definitions of the box for other functions
subset	logical vector indicating the subset (i.e. the observations that lie in the box).
data_orig	original dataset that was used for the peeling.

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inbox	<i>Defining Subset lying in a Box</i>
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### Description

Help function that returns the subset of the whole data set which is contained in one box (fixbox). This function is needed in other functions like [PRIM\\_peel\\_bs](#).

### Usage

```
inbox(X, fixbox_metric = NULL, fixbox_nom = NULL, fixbox_na = NULL)
```

### Arguments

X	<a href="#">data.frame</a> from which the subset should be taken.
fixbox_metric	one row of a box_metric from a "peel"-object.
fixbox_nom	one element of a box_nom list from a "peel"-object.
fixbox_na	one element of a box_na list from a "peel"-object.

### Details

The arguments fixbox\_metric, fixbox\_nom, fixbox\_na can also come from a "fixbox"-object.

### Value

inbox returns a logical vector indicating the observations that lie in the box.

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inter_diss	<i>Interbox Dissimilarity</i>
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### Description

This Function calculates the interbox dissimilarity between two boxes defined on one data set.

### Usage

```
inter_diss(fixbox1, fixbox2, data)
```

### Arguments

fixbox1	first object of class "fixbox".
fixbox2	second object of class "fixbox".
data	original data used to calculate the supports needed for the interbox dissimilarity. If this argument is missing data_orig from fixbox1 is used as data.

## Details

The interbox dissimilarity is a diagnostic tool of PRIM measuring the dissimilarity between two boxes  $B_k$  and  $B_l$ . It is defined as the difference between the smallest box  $B_{kl}$  that covers both boxes and the support of their union.

The interbox dissimilarity can assume values between 0 and 1. While nested boxes have a dissimilarity of 0, it gets bigger the more different the two boxes are.

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<code>plot.peel</code>	<i>Plotting a Trajectory</i>
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---

## Description

This function plots the trajectory of a "peel"-object. In the trajectory the target functions evaluated on the data in the box are plotted against the supports beta.

## Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'peel'
plot(x, ...)
```

## Arguments

<code>x</code>	object of class "peel".
<code>...</code>	further arguments of the <code>plot</code> -function.

---

PRIM	<i>Combined Function for the Patient Rule Induction Method (PRIM)</i>
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## Description

This function is a automated implementation of PRIM as suggested by Friedman and Fisher (1999). It includes multiple peeling ([PRIM\\_peel\\_bs](#)), pasting ([PRIM\\_paste](#)) and the covering strategy to find more than one box.

## Usage

```
PRIM(formula, data, f_min, beta_min = 0.2, max_boxes = Inf,
      peel_alpha = seq(0.01, 0.4, 0.03), B = 0, target = mean,
      alter_crit = TRUE, use_NAs = TRUE, seed, print_position = TRUE,
      paste_alpha = 0.01, max_steps = 50, stop_by_dec = TRUE)
```

## Arguments

formula	an object of class "formula" with a response but no interaction terms. It indicates the response over which the target function should be maximized and the covariates that are used for the later box definitions.
data	an object of class <code>data.frame</code> containing the variables named in the formula.
f_min	minimum target the final box must have. From all boxes, that fulfill this criterion, the one with the biggest support is taken after the peeling. If this argument is missing the box with the biggest target having at least a support of beta_min is taken.
beta_min	minimum support that one Box must have.
max_boxes	maximum number of boxes to be found.
peel_alpha	vector of a sequence of different alpha-fractions used for the peelings.
B	number of bootstrap samples on which the peeling is applied to for each alpha. For $B = 0$ no bootstraps are created.
target	target-function to be maximized.
alter_crit	logical. If TRUE the alternative criterion is used for peeling.
use_NAs	logical. If TRUE observations with missing values are included in the analysis.
seed	seed to be set before the first iteration. Only useful for $B > 0$ .
print_position	logical. If TRUE the current position of the algorithm is printed out.
paste_alpha	alpha-fraction that is pasted to the box at each pasting step
max_steps	maximum number of pasting steps the function should make.
stop_by_dec	logical. If TRUE the pasting stops if the target at one step is lower than the target of the last step.

## Details

This function repeats the peeling and pasting algorithm for the same settings of the metaparameters until a stop criterion is reached. After each iteration the observations already included in a box are removed from the data, on which the next box is built. This strategy is called covering. This iteration stops if either max\_boxes is reached or if the target function of the "best" box is lower than the overall target.

In each iteration step this function does a multiple peeling characterized by the sequence alpha\_peel and B. From the peeling output the box defined by beta\_min and f\_min is chosen. After that the pasting function seeks for boxes with bigger supports and bigger targets and takes the one with the highest target function within the box.

## Value

PRIM returns an object of class "prim", which is a list containing at least the following components:

f	vector of the target functions evaluated on each box. The last element is the target of all observations not lying in a box.
beta	vector of the supports of each box. The last element is the fraction of observations not lying in a box.
box	a <code>data.frame</code> defining the borders of the boxes. Each row belongs to one box. The columns with "min." and "max." describe the lower and upper boundaries of the at least ordinal covariates. Therefore the value taken is the last one that is <b>not</b> included in the current box.

For the nominal variables there are columns for every category they can take. If the category is removed from the box the value FALSE is taken. The names of these columns are structured like: <variable name>.<category>

For each variable with missing values (only if use\_NAs = TRUE) there is also a column taking the value FALSE if the NAs of this variable are removed from the current box. The names of these columns are structured like: <variable name>.NA

box\_metric, box\_nom, box\_na

easier to handle definitions of the boxes for other functions

subsets            list of logical vectors indicating the subsets (i.e. the observations that lie in each box)

fixboxes           list of all fixbox'es defining the final boxes.

data\_orig           original dataset that is used.

## References

Friedman, J. H. and Fisher, N. I., 'Bump hunting in high-dimensional data', Statistics and Computing 9 (2) (1999), 123-143

Ott, A. and Hapfelmeier, A., 'Nonparametric Subgroup Identification by PRIM and CART: A Simulation and Application Study', Computational and Mathematical Methods in Medicine, vol. 2017 (2017), 17 pages, Article ID 5271091

## See Also

[PRIM\\_peel\\_bs](#), [PRIM\\_paste](#), [define\\_fixbox](#)

## Examples

```
# generating random data:
set.seed(123)
n <- 500
x1 <- runif(n = n, min = -1)
x2 <- runif(n = n, min = -1)
x3 <- runif(n = n, min = -1)
cat <- as.factor(sample(c("a","b","c", "d"), size = n, replace = TRUE))
wsk <- (1-sqrt(x1^2+x2^2)/sqrt(2))
y <- as.logical(rbinom(n = n, prob = wsk, size = 1))
dat <- cbind.data.frame(y, x1, x2, x3, cat)
#plot(dat$x1, dat$x2, col=dat$y+1, pch=16)
remove(x1, x2, x3, y, wsk, cat, n)

# apply the PRIM function to find the best boxes with a support of at least 0.1:
p <- PRIM(y~., data=dat, beta_min = 0.1, max_boxes = 3)
p
```

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PRIM_paste	<i>Pasting-Function</i>
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## Description

This function is an implementation of the Pasting-Algorithm as suggested by Friedman and Fisher (1999). In each iteration the fraction alpha is pasted to one edge of the current box.

## Usage

```
PRIM_paste(fixbox, paste_alpha = 0.01, max_steps = 50, stop_by_dec = TRUE)
```

## Arguments

fixbox	an object of class fixbox, which was defined after the peeling function and now should be used for pasting.
paste_alpha	alpha-fraction that is pasted to the box at each iteration.
max_steps	maximum number of pasting steps the function should make.
stop_by_dec	logical. If TRUE the pasting stops if the target at one step is lower than the target of the last step.

## Details

The outcome of this function is also a "peel"-object, because it has basically the same structure as the outcome of the peeling functions. The only difference is, that pasting goes from small supports to bigger ones, while by peeling its the other way round.

## Value

PRIM\_paste returns an object of class "peel", which is a list containing at least the following components:

f	vector of the target functions evaluated on the box at each pasting step.
beta	vector of the supports beta of the boxes at each pasting step.
box	<p>a <a href="#">data.frame</a> defining the borders of the boxes. Each row belongs to one pasting step. The columns with "min." and "max." describe the lower and upper boundaries of the at least ordinal covariates. Therefore the value taken is the last one that is <b>not</b> included in the current box.</p> <p>For the nominal variables there are columns for every category they can take. If the category is removed from the box the value FALSE is taken. The names of these columns are structured like: &lt;variable name&gt;.&lt;category&gt;</p> <p>For each variable with missing values (only if use_NAs = TRUE) there is also a column taking the value FALSE if the NAs of this variable are removed from the current box. The names of these columns are structured like: &lt;variable name&gt;.NA</p>
box_metric, box_nom, box_na	easier to handle definitions of the boxes for other functions
subsets	list of logical vectors indicating the subsets at each pasting step (i.e. the observations that lie in the box)
data_orig	original dataset that is used (extracted from fixbox).

## References

- Friedman, J. H. and Fisher, N. I., 'Bump hunting in high-dimensional data', Statistics and Computing **9** (2) (1999), 123-143
- Ott, A. and Hapfelmeier, A., 'Nonparametric Subgroup Identification by PRIM and CART: A Simulation and Application Study', Computational and Mathematical Methods in Medicine, vol. 2017 (2017), 17 pages, Article ID 5271091

## Examples

```
# generating random data:
set.seed(123)
n <- 500
x1 <- runif(n = n, min = -1)
x2 <- runif(n = n, min = -1)
x3 <- runif(n = n, min = -1)
cat <- as.factor(sample(c("a", "b", "c", "d"), size = n, replace = TRUE))
wsk <- (1-sqrt(x1^2+x2^2)/sqrt(2))
y <- as.logical(rbinom(n = n, prob = wsk, size = 1))
dat <- cbind.data.frame(y, x1, x2, x3, cat)
#plot(dat$x1, dat$x2, col=dat$y+1, pch=16)
remove(x1, x2, x3, y, wsk, cat, n)

# apply the PRIM_peel function:
prim <- PRIM_peel(y ~ ., data = dat, beta_min = .01, peel_alpha = .1)
plot(prim)
abline(h=prim$f[17], v=prim$beta[17]) # box decided to paste
fix <- define_fixbox(prim, 17) # define fixbox

# apply the PRIM_paste function:
paste <- PRIM_paste(fix, stop_by_dec = FALSE)
head(cbind(paste$box, paste$f, paste$beta))
```

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PRIM\_peel

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*Peeling-Function*


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## Description

This function is an implementation of the (singular) Peeling-Algorithm as suggested by Friedman and Fisher (1999). In each iteration the fraction alpha is peeled from one edge of the current box.

## Usage

```
PRIM_peel(formula, data, peel_alpha = 0.05, beta_min = 0.01,
  target = mean, alter_crit = TRUE, use_NAs = TRUE)
```

## Arguments

formula	an object of class " <a href="#">formula</a> " with a response but no interaction terms. It indicates the response over which the target function should be maximized and the covariates that are used for the later box definitions. If this argument is missing, the argument data is used as the <a href="#">model.frame</a> .
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<code>data</code>	an object of class <code>data.frame</code> containing the variables named in the formula.
<code>peel_alpha</code>	alpha-fraction used for the peeling.
<code>beta_min</code>	minimum support that one Box should have (stop-criterion).
<code>target</code>	target-function to be maximized.
<code>alter_crit</code>	logical. If TRUE the alternative criterion is used for peeling.
<code>use_NAs</code>	logical. If TRUE observations with missing values are included in the analysis.

### Details

The outcome of the formula can either be numeric, logical or a survival object (see [Surv](#)). If it is a survival object the target is set to the number of events per amount of time.

This function is the main part of the multiple Version `PRIM_peel_bs`.

### Value

`PRIM_peel` returns an object of class "peel", which is a list containing at least the following components:

<code>f</code>	vector of the target functions evaluated on the box at each peeling step.
<code>beta</code>	vector of the supports beta of the boxes at each peeling step.
<code>box</code>	a <code>data.frame</code> defining the borders of the boxes. Each row belongs to one peeling step. The columns with "min." and "max." describe the lower and upper boundaries of the at least ordinal covariates. Therefore the value taken is the last one that is <b>not</b> included in the current box.  For the nominal variables there are columns for every category they can take. If the category is removed from the box the value FALSE is taken. The names of these columns are structured like: <variable name>.<category>  For each variable with missing values (only if <code>use_NAs</code> = TRUE) there is also a column taking the value FALSE if the NAs of this variable are removed from the current box. The names of these columns are structured like: <variable name>.NA
<code>box_metric</code> , <code>box_nom</code> , <code>box_na</code>	easier to handle definitions of the boxes for other functions
<code>subsets</code>	list of logical vectors indicating the subsets at each peeling step (i.e. the observations that lie in the box)
<code>data_orig</code>	original dataset that is used for the peeling.

### References

Friedman, J. H. and Fisher, N. I., 'Bump hunting in high-dimensional data', *Statistics and Computing* **9** (2) (1999), 123-143

Ott, A. and Hapfelmeier, A., 'Nonparametric Subgroup Identification by PRIM and CART: A Simulation and Application Study', *Computational and Mathematical Methods in Medicine*, vol. 2017 (2017), 17 pages, Article ID 5271091

### Examples

```
# generating random data:
set.seed(123)
n <- 500
x1 <- runif(n = n, min = -1)
```

```

x2 <- runif(n = n, min = -1)
x3 <- runif(n = n, min = -1)
cat <- as.factor(sample(c("a","b","c", "d"), size = n, replace = TRUE))
wsk <- (1-sqrt(x1^2+x2^2)/sqrt(2))
y <- as.logical(rbinom(n = n, prob = wsk, size = 1))
dat <- cbind.data.frame(y, x1, x2, x3, cat)
#plot(dat$x1, dat$x2, col=dat$y+1, pch=16)
remove(x1, x2, x3, y, wsk, cat, n)

# apply the PRIM_peel function:
prim <- PRIM_peel(formula=y ~ ., data=dat, beta_min = .01, peel_alpha = .1)
plot(prim) # trajectory
prim$box # box definitions

```

PRIM\_peel\_bs

*Multiple Peeling-Function*

## Description

This function is an implementation of the multiple Peeling-Algorithm as suggested by Friedman and Fisher (1999). The singular peeling function `PRIM_peel` is repeated for different alpha's and bootstrap samples out of the original data.

## Usage

```

PRIM_peel_bs(formula, data, peel_alpha = seq(0.01, 0.4, 0.03), B = 0,
  beta_min = 0.01, target = mean, alter_crit = TRUE, use_NAs = TRUE,
  seed, print_position = TRUE)

```

## Arguments

formula	an object of class " <code>formula</code> " with a response but no interaction terms. It indicates the response over which the target function should be maximized and the covariates that are used for the later box definitions.
data	an object of class <code>data.frame</code> containing the variables named in the formula.
peel_alpha	vector of a sequence of different alpha-fractions used for the peelings.
B	number of bootstrap samples on which the peeling is applied to for each alpha. For $B = 0$ no bootstraps are created.
beta_min	minimum support that one Box should have (stop-criterion).
target	target-function to be maximized.
alter_crit	logical. If TRUE the alternative criterion is used for peeling.
use_NAs	logical. If TRUE observations with missing values are included in the analysis.
seed	seed to be set before the first iteration. Only useful for $B > 0$ .
print_position	logical. If TRUE the current position of the algorithm is printed out.

## Details

The outcome of the formula can either be numeric, logical or a survival object (see [Surv](#)). If it is a survival object the target is set to the number of events per amount of time.

The output of this function can become very large because all outputs of the singular peel function PRIM\_peel are put together in one output. Therefore it is usefull to remove all the dominated boxes (see [remove\\_dominated](#)).

## Value

PRIM\_peel\_bs returns an object of class "peel", which is a list containing at least the following components:

f	vector of the target functions evaluated on the box at each peeling step.
beta	vector of the supports beta of the boxes at each peeling step.
box	a <a href="#">data.frame</a> defining the borders of the boxes. Each row belongs to one peeling step. The columns with "min." and "max." describe the lower and upper boundaries of the at least ordinal covariates. Therefore the value taken is the last one that is <b>not</b> included in the current box.  For the nominal variables there are columns for every category they can take. If the category is removed from the box the value FALSE is taken. The names of these columns are structured like: <variable name>.<category>  For each variable with missing values (only if use_NAs = TRUE) there is also a column taking the value FALSE if the NAs of this variable are removed from the current box. The names of these columns are structured like: <variable name>.NA
box_metric, box_nom, box_na	easier to handle definitions of the boxes for other functions
subsets	list of logical vectors indicating the subsets at each peeling step (i.e. the observations that lie in the box)
data_orig	original dataset that is used for the peeling.

## References

Friedman, J. H. and Fisher, N. I., 'Bump hunting in high-dimensional data', Statistics and Computing **9** (2) (1999), 123-143

Ott, A. and Hapfelmeier, A., 'Nonparametric Subgroup Identification by PRIM and CART: A Simulation and Application Study', Computational and Mathematical Methods in Medicine, vol. 2017 (2017), 17 pages, Article ID 5271091

## See Also

[remove\\_dominated](#), [PRIM\\_peel](#), [PRIM\\_paste](#), [PRIM](#)

## Examples

```
# generating random data:
set.seed(123)
n <- 500
x1 <- runif(n = n, min = -1)
x2 <- runif(n = n, min = -1)
x3 <- runif(n = n, min = -1)
cat <- as.factor(sample(c("a","b","c", "d"), size = n, replace = TRUE))
```

```

wsk <- (1-sqrt(x1^2+x2^2)/sqrt(2))
y <- as.logical(rbinom(n = n, prob = wsk, size = 1))
dat <- cbind.data.frame(y, x1, x2, x3, cat)
#plot(dat$x1, dat$x2, col=dat$y+1, pch=16)
remove(x1, x2, x3, y, wsk, cat, n)

# apply the PRIM_peel_bs function:
prim <- PRIM_peel_bs(formula=y ~ ., data=dat, beta_min = .01)
plot(prim) # multiple trajectory
head(prim$box) # box definitions

```

---

print.PRIM	<i>Printing a "PRIM"-Object</i>
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---

### Description

This function prints a PRIM-object. It is a method for the generic function `print` of class "PRIM".

### Usage

```

## S3 method for class 'PRIM'
print(x, ...)

```

### Arguments

<code>x</code>	object of class "PRIM".
<code>...</code>	further arguments of the <a href="#">print</a> -function.

---

relfreq	<i>Relative Frequency Plots</i>
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---

### Description

This Function creates the relative frequency plots of a box defined by [define\\_fixbox](#).

### Usage

```
relfreq(fixbox, plot_together = TRUE, ...)
```

### Arguments

<code>fixbox</code>	object of class "fixbox" to be used to create the relative frequency plots.
<code>plot_together</code>	logical. If TRUE all plots are drawn together in one figure by <code>par(mfrow = ...)</code> .
<code>...</code>	further arguments of the functions <a href="#">plot</a> and <a href="#">barplot</a> .

### Details

Relative frequency plots are a diagnostic tool for a result of PRIM (`fixbox`). These are histograms or barplots illustrating ratios of distributions  $r_{jk}$  for each variable  $x_j$ . This ratio is defined by the distribution of  $x_j$  in one box  $B_k$  divided by the distribution of this variable over the whole data set.

**See Also**[define\\_fixbox](#), [PRIM](#)**Examples**

```
# generating random data:
set.seed(123)
n <- 500
x1 <- runif(n = n, min = -1)
x2 <- runif(n = n, min = -1)
x3 <- runif(n = n, min = -1)
cat <- as.factor(sample(c("a","b","c", "d"), size = n, replace = TRUE))
wsk <- (1-sqrt(x1^2+x2^2)/sqrt(2))
y <- as.logical(rbinom(n = n, prob = wsk, size = 1))
dat <- cbind.data.frame(y, x1, x2, x3, cat)
plot(dat$x1, dat$x2, col=dat$y+1, pch=16)
remove(x1, x2, x3, y, wsk, cat, n)

# apply the PRIM function to find the best box with a support of at least 0.1:
p <- PRIM(y~., data=dat, beta_min = 0.1, max_boxes = 1, print_position = FALSE)

# relative frequency plots:
relfreq(p$fixboxes[[1]])
```

---

remove_dominated	<i>Remove Dominated Boxes from a Peeling Output</i>
------------------	---

---

**Description**

This function removes all boxes from one "peel"-object that are dominated by another box. I.e. there is at least one other box with a better output and a bigger support beta.

**Usage**

```
remove_dominated(prim, sort = TRUE, dup.rm = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

prim	object of class "peel".
sort	logical. If TRUE the boxes in the output are sorted decreasing by their box supports.
dup.rm	logical. Tf TRUE duplicated boxes in the output are removed. Boxes are duplicated if another box has exactly the same target and support.

**Details**

Dominated boxes mainly occur in outputs of the multiple peeling function ([PRIM\\_peel\\_bs](#)). So this function is practically only useful for "peel"-objects being the results of such a function. Without the dominated boxes the object gets much smaller by keeping all the relevant boxes. Also the trajectory (see [plot.peel](#)) without the not useful dominated boxes looks much clearer.

Value

This function returns another "peel"-object having the same structure as the input object, just without the dominated boxes.

See Also

[PRIM\\_peel\\_bs](#), [plot.peel](#)

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var_select	<i>Sequential Relevance of Box-defining Variables</i>
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---

Description

This function creates a table of the sequential relevance of the variables used in the definition of a box defined by [define\\_fixbox](#).

Usage

```
var_select(fixbox)
```

Arguments

fixbox	object of class "fixbox" to be used to create the table of the sequential variable relevances.
--------	--

Details

This function does a sequential removal off all variables defining one box. In each iteration every variable left in the box definition is tried to be completely left out of the definition. From all variables this one is removed, which causes the least decrease of the target function evaluated on all observations lying in the box.

Value

var\_select returns a list with the following components:

tab	table showing the sequential relevances of the variables used in the definition of the fixbox.
fixboxes	list of the boxes defined at every iteration step (by removing of one variable).

See Also

[define\\_fixbox](#), [PRIM](#)

**Examples**

```
# generating random data:
set.seed(123)
n <- 500
x1 <- runif(n = n, min = -1)
x2 <- runif(n = n, min = -1)
x3 <- runif(n = n, min = -1)
cat <- as.factor(sample(c("a","b","c", "d"), size = n, replace = TRUE))
wsk <- (1-sqrt(x1^2+x2^2)/sqrt(2))
y <- as.logical(rbinom(n = n, prob = wsk, size = 1))
dat <- cbind.data.frame(y, x1, x2, x3, cat)
plot(dat$x1, dat$x2, col=dat$y+1, pch=16)
remove(x1, x2, x3, y, wsk, cat, n)

# apply the PRIM function to find the best box with a support of at least 0.1:
p <- PRIM(y~., data=dat, beta_min = 0.1, max_boxes = 1, print_position = FALSE)

# sequential variable relevances:
var_select(p$fixboxes[[1]])$tab
```

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