Package 'ordbetareg'

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Type Package

Title Ordered Beta Regression Models with 'brms'

```
Version 0.8
Description Implements ordered beta regression models, which are for modeling continuous vari-
      ables with upper and lower bounds, such as
      survey sliders, dose-response relationships and indexes. For more information, see
      Kubinec (2023) <doi:10.31235/osf.io/2sx6y>. The package is a front-
      end to the R package 'brms', which
      facilitates a range of regression specifications, including hierarchical, dynamic and
      multivariate modeling.
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```

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dordbeta

Probability Density Function for the Ordered Beta Distribution

Description

This function will return the density of given variates of the ordered beta distribution conditional on values for the mean (mu), dispersion (phi) and cutpoints governing the ratio of degenerate (discrete) to continuous responses.

Usage

```
dordbeta(x = 0.9, mu = 0.5, phi = 1, cutpoints = c(-1, 1), log = FALSE)
```

Arguments

X	Variates of the ordered beta distribution (should be in the [0,1] interval).
mu	Value of the mean of the distribution. Should be in the $(0,1)$ interval (cannot be strictly equal to 0 or 1). If length is greater than 1, should be of length x.
phi	Value of the dispersion parameter. Should be strictly greater than 0. If length is greater than 1, should be of length x .
cutpoints	A vector of two numeric values for the cutpoints. Second value should
log	where to return the log density be strictly greater than the first value.

Value

Returns a vector of length x of the density of the ordered beta distribution conditional on mu and phi.

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Examples

```
# examine density (likelihood) of different possible values
# given fixed values for ordered beta parameters

x <- seq(0, 1, by=0.01)

x_dens <- dordbeta(x, mu = 0.3, phi=2, cutpoints=c(-2, 2))

# Most likely value for x is approx 1
# Note discontinuity in density function between continuous/discrete values
# density function is a combined PMF/PDF, so not a real PDF
# can though be used for MLE

plot(x_dens, x)

# discrete values should be compared to each other:
# prob of discrete 0 > prob of discrete 1

x_dens[x==0] > x_dens[x==1]
```

fit_multivariate

Fitted Ordered Beta Regression Model (Multivariate regression)

Description

A fitted ordered beta regression model with two responses, one an ordered beta regression and the other a Gaussian/Normal outcome. Useful for examining mediation analysis.

Usage

fit_multivariate

Format

an ordbetareg object

normalize

Normalize Outcome/Response to \[0,1\] Interval

Description

This function takes a continuous (double) column of data and converts it to have 0 as the lower bound and 1 as the upper bound.

```
normalize(outcome, true_bounds = NULL)
```

Arguments

outcome Any non-character vector. Factors will be converted to numeric via coercion.

true_bounds Specify this parameter with the lower and upper bound if the observed min/max

of the outcome should not be used. Useful when an upper or lower bound exists but the observed data is less than/more than that bound. The normalization

function will respect these bounds.

Details

Beta regression can only be done with a response that is continuous with a lower bound of 0 and an upper bound of 1. However, it is straightforward to transform any lower and upper-bounded continuous variable to the $\{0,1\}$ interval. This function does the transformation and saves the original bounds as attributes so that the bounds can be reverse-transformed.

Value

A numeric vector with an upper bound of 1 and a lower bound of 0. The original bounds are saved in the attributes "lower_bound" and "upper_bound".

Examples

```
# set up arbitrary upper and lower-bounded vector
outcome <- runif(1000, min=-33, max=445)

# normalize to \[0,1\]

trans_outcome <- normalize(outcome=outcome)
summary(trans_outcome)

# only works with numeric vectors and factors
try(normalize(outcome=c('a','b')))</pre>
```

ordbetareg

Fit Ordered Beta Regression Model

Description

This function allows you to estimate an ordered beta regression model via a formula syntax.

```
ordbetareg(
  formula = NULL,
  data = NULL,
  true_bounds = NULL,
  phi_reg = "none",
```

```
use_brm_multiple = FALSE,
  coef_prior_mean = 0,
  coef_prior_SD = 5,
  intercept_prior_mean = NULL,
  intercept_prior_SD = NULL,
  phi_prior = 0.1,
  dirichlet_prior = c(1, 1, 1),
  phi_coef_prior_mean = 0,
  phi_coef_prior_SD = 5,
  phi_intercept_prior_mean = NULL,
  phi_intercept_prior_SD = NULL,
  extra_prior = NULL,
 manual_prior = NULL,
  init = "0",
  return_stancode = FALSE,
)
```

Arguments

formula Either an R formula in the form response/DV \sim var1 + var2 etc. or formula

object as created/called by the brms brms::bf function.

data An R data frame or tibble containing the variables in the formula

2 numeric vector of the minimum and maximum bounds to properly normalize

the outcome/response

phi_reg Whether you are including a linear model predicting the dispersion parameter,

phi, and/or for the response. If you are including models for both, pass option 'both'. If you only have an intercept for the outcome (i.e. a 1 in place of covariates), pass 'only'. If you only have intercepts for phi (such as a varying intercepts/random effects) model, pass the value "intercepts". To set priors on these intercepts, use the extra-prior option with the brms::set_prior function

diese intercepts, use the extra-prior option with the binis..set_prior

(class="sd"). If no model of any kind for phi, the default, pass 'none'.

use_brm_multiple

(T/F) Whether the model should use brms::brm_multiple for multiple imputation over multiple dataframes passed as a list to the data argument

coef_prior_mean

The mean of the Normal distribution prior on the regression coefficients (for predicting the mean of the response). Default is 0.

coef_prior_SD The SD of the Normal distribution prior on the regression coefficients (for predicting the mean of the response). Default is 5, which makes the prior weakly

informative on the logit scale.

intercept_prior_mean

The mean of the Normal distribution prior for the intercept. By default is NULL, which means the intercept receives the same prior as coef_prior_mean. To zero out the intercept, set this parameter to 0 and coef_prior_SD to a very

> small number (0.01 or smaller). NOTE: the default intercept in brms is centered (mean-subtracted) by default. To use a traditional intercept, either add 0 + Intercept to the formula or specify center=FALSE in the bf formula function for brms. See brms::brmsformula() for more info.

intercept_prior_SD

The SD of the Normal distribution prior for the intercept. By default is NULL, which means the intercept receives the same prior SD as coef_prior_SD.

phi_prior

The mean parameter of the exponential prior on phi, which determines the dispersion of the beta distribution. The default is .1, which equals a mean of 10 and is thus weakly informative on the interval (0.4, 30). If the response has very low variance (i.e. tightly) clusters around a specific value, then decreasing this prior (and increasing the expected value) may be helpful. Checking the value of phi in the output of the model command will reveal if a value of 0.1 (mean of 10) is too small.

dirichlet_prior

A vector of three integers corresponding to the prior parameters for the dirchlet distribution (alpha parameter) governing the location of the cutpoints between the components of the response (continuous vs. degenerate). The default is 1 which puts equal probability on degenerate versus continuous responses. Likely only needs to be changed in a repeated sampling situation to stabilize the cutpoint locations across samples.

phi_coef_prior_mean

The mean of the Normal distribution prior on the regression coefficients for predicting phi, the dispersion parameter. Only useful if a linear model is being fit to phi. Default is 0.

phi_coef_prior_SD

The SD of the Normal distribution prior on the regression coefficients for predicting phi, the dispersion parameter. Only useful if a linear model is being fit to phi. Default is 5, which makes the prior weakly informative on the exponential scale.

phi_intercept_prior_mean

The mean of the Normal distribution prior for the phi (dispersion) regression intercept. By default is NULL, which means the intercept receives the same prior as phi_coef_prior_mean. To zero out the intercept, set this parameter to 0 and phi_coef_prior_SD to a very small number (0.01 or smaller).

phi_intercept_prior_SD

The SD of the Normal distribution prior for the phi (dispersion) regression intercept. By default is NULL, which means the intercept receives the same prior SD as phi_coef_prior_SD.

extra_prior

An additional prior, such as a prior for a specific regression coefficient, added to the outcome regression by passing one of the brms functions brms::set_prior or brms::prior_string with appropriate values.

If you want to set your own custom priors with brms, use this option to pass any valid brms priors such as those created with brms::set_prior or brms::prior_string. Note that this option replaces any other priors set. Useful especially when doing something unorthodox like modeling cutpoints.

manual_prior

init

This parameter is used to determine starting values for the Stan sampler to begin Markov Chain Monte Carlo sampling. It is set by default at 0 because the non-linear nature of beta regression means that it is possible to begin with extreme values depending on the scale of the covariates. Setting this to 0 helps the sampler find starting values. It does, on the other hand, limit the ability to detect convergence issues with Rhat statistics. If that is a concern, such as with an experimental feature of brms, set this to "random" to get more robust starting values (just be sure to scale the covariates so they are not too large in absolute size).

return_stancode

If TRUE, will pass back the *only* the Stan code for the model as a character vector rather than fitting the model.

... All other arguments passed on to the brm function

Details

This function is a wrapper around the brms::brm function, which is a powerful Bayesian regression modeling engine using Stan. To fully explore the options available, including dynamic and hierarchical modeling, please see the documentation for the brm function above. As the ordered beta regression model is currently not available in brms natively, this modeling function allows a brms model to be fit with the ordered beta regression distribution.

For more information about the model, see the paper here: https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/2sx6y/.

This function allows you to set priors on the dispersion parameter, the cutpoints, and the regression coefficients (see below for options). However, to add specific priors on individual covariates, you would need to use the brms::set_prior function by specifying an individual covariate (see function documentation) and passing the result of the function call to the extra_prior argument.

This function will also automatically normalize the outcome so that it lies in the $\setminus [0,1\setminus]$ interval, as required by beta regression. For further information, see the documentation for the normalize function.

Priors can be set on a variety of coefficients in the model, see the description of parameters coef_prior_mean and intercept_prior_mean, in addition to setting a custom prior with the extra_prior option. When setting priors on intercepts, it is important to note that by default, all intercepts in brms are centered (the means are subtracted from the data). As a result, a prior set on the default intercept will have a different interpretation than a traditional intercept (i.e. the value of the outcome when the covariates are all zero). To change this setting, use the brms::bf() function as a wrapper around the formula with the option center=FALSE to set priors on a traditional non-centered intercept.

Note that while brms also supports adding 0 + Intercept to the formula to address this issue, ordbetareg does not support this syntax. Instead, use center=FALSE as an option to brms::bf().

Value

A brms object fitted with the ordered beta regression distribution.

Examples

load survey data that comes with the package

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```
library(dplyr)
data("pew")
# prepare data
model_data <- select(pew,therm,</pre>
             education="F_EDUCCAT2_FINAL",
             region="F_CREGION_FINAL",
             income="F_INCOME_FINAL")
# It takes a while to fit the models. Run the code
# below if you want to load a saved fitted model from the
# package, otherwise use the model-fitting code
data("ord_fit_mean")
 # fit the actual model
 if(.Platform$OS.type!="windows") {
   ord_fit_mean <- ordbetareg(formula=therm ~ education + income +</pre>
      (1|region),
      data=model_data,
      cores=2,chains=2)
 }
# access values of the coefficients
summary(ord_fit_mean)
```

ord_fit_mean

Fitted Ordered Beta Regression Model

Description

A fitted ordered beta regression model to the mean of the thermometer column from the pew data.

Usage

```
ord_fit_mean
```

Format

an ordbetareg object

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ord_fit_phi

Fitted Ordered Beta Regression Model (Phi Regression)

Description

A fitted ordered beta regression model to the dispersion parameter of the thermometer column from the pew data.

Usage

```
ord_fit_phi
```

Format

an ordbetareg object

pew

Pew American Trends Panel Wave 28

Description

A dataset with the non-missing responses for the 28th wave of the Pew American Trends Panel survey.

Usage

pew

Format

A data frame with 140 variables and 2,538 observations.

Source

https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/dataset/american-trends-panel-wave-28/]

plot_heiss

plot_heiss

Heiss Plot for Predicted Proportions of Bounded Scale Components

Description

The Heiss plot, developed by the statistician Andrew Heiss, is a plot of the predicted proportions of components on a bounded scale that are grouped by the unique levels of a grouping variable or factor (such as a random effect) in the model. The plot excels at showing how the scale components—that is, the bottom, middle continuous, and top ends of the scale—vary with a discrete variable while also capturing posterior uncertainty. This plot was the winner of the 2023 ordbetareg Visualization Prize.

Usage

```
plot_heiss(
  object,
  grouping_fac = NULL,
  recode_group_labels = NULL,
  ndraws = NULL,
  show_category_perc_labels = TRUE,
  category_label_font_size = 3,
  category_label_accuracy = 1,
  strip_text_font = element_text(face = "plain", size = 9),
  plot_title = "Predicted Proportions of Bounded Scale Components",
  plot_subtitle = paste0("By Unique Values of ", grouping_fac),
  plot_caption = NULL,
  plot_caption_width = 70,
  calc_func = mean,
  1b = 0.05,
  upb = 0.95,
  plot_font_size = 11,
  plot_font = "",
 y_axis_label = "Predicted Proportions",
  legend_name = "Scale Components",
  component_colors = c("#ef8737", "#bb292c", "#62205f"),
  component_labels = c("0", "(0-1)", "1"),
)
```

Arguments

object A fitted ordbetareg() model object.

grouping_fac A charact

A character string indicating the name of the discrete column in the data used for grouping predictions. Must be a valid column name that was passed to ordbetareg().

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recode_group_labels

Optional. A character vector of new labels for the grouping factor levels. Must match the number and order of unique levels/values in grouping_fac.

ndraws

Optional. The number of posterior draws to use for predictions. If NULL, all available draws are used.

show_category_perc_labels

Logical. Whether to display category percentage labels on the plot. Defaults to TRUE.

category_label_font_size

The ggplot2 font size for the labels on the scale components (if show_category_perc_labels is TRUE). Defaults to 3.

category_label_accuracy

The accuracy, or amount of rounding, for component label ranges on the plot (if show_category_perc_labels is TRUE). Default is 1. See scales::label_percent() for more info on meaning of accuracy parameter.

strip_text_font

A ggplot2::element_text object defining the font style for facet strip text. Defaults to element_text(face = "plain", size = 9).

plot_title Title of the plot. Defaults to "Predicted Proportions of Bounded Scale Components".

plot_subtitle Subtitle of the plot. Defaults to a message indicating the grouping variable.

plot_caption Caption text for the plot. If NULL, the default, will use a detailed but static description of the plot contents.

plot_caption_width

Width (in characters) at which the caption is wrapped. Defaults to 60.

calc_func A function used to calculate the central tendency of predictions. Defaults to

1b Lower bound for uncertainty intervals. Defaults to 0.05 (5th percentile).

upb Upper bound for uncertainty intervals. Defaults to 0.95 (95th percentile).

plot_font_size Base font size for the plot. Defaults to 11.

plot_font Base font family for the plot. Defaults to an empty string (uses system default).

y_axis_label Label for the y-axis. Defaults to "Predicted Proportions".

legend_name Legend title. Defaults to "Scale Components".

component_colors

A character vector of colors for the plot components (bottom, continuous, top). Defaults to c("#ef8737", "#bb292c", "#62205f").

component_labels

A character vector of labels for the scale/outcome components (bottom, continuous, top). Defaults to c("0", "(0-1)", "1").

... Additional arguments passed to [posterior_epred_ordbeta())]. [posterior_epred_ordbeta())]: R:posterior_epred_ordbeta())

Details

For more details of the plot, see:

Heiss, Andrew and Ye, Meng. "Enforcing Boundaries: China's Overseas NGO Law and Operational Constraints for Global Civil Society." Working Paper, 2023. https://stats.andrewheiss.com/compassionate-clam/notebook/manuscript.html.

Value

A ggplot2 object representing the predicted proportions of the components.

Examples

```
# Load a fitted model object and create a plot for
# distinct values of the factor education
#
# data('ord_fit_mean')
#
# plot_heiss(ord_fit_mean,ndraws=100)
#
# See introductory package vignette for more information on function options
```

posterior_epred_ordbeta.brmsfit

Calculate Probability of Response Components

Description

This function is an alternative to the brms default posterior_epred to allow for predictions of the probability of the bottom, top, or middle (i.e. continuous) parts of the response. Useful when wanting to understand what the effect of a covariate is on bottom or top values of the scale.

```
## S3 method for class 'brmsfit'
posterior_epred_ordbeta(
   object,
   component = "all",
   newdata = NULL,
   re_formula = NULL,
   re.form = NULL,
   resp = NULL,
   dpar = NULL,
   nlpar = NULL,
   ndraws = NULL,
   draw_ids = NULL,
   sort = FALSE,
   ...
)
```

Arguments

object	An ordbetareg/brms object
component	The type of response component, i.e., the probability of the bottom end of the scale, the top end, or the middle (i.e.) continuous values.
newdata	see brms::posterior_epred
re_formula	see brms::posterior_epred
re.form	see brms::posterior_epred
resp	see brms::posterior_epred
dpar	see brms::posterior_epred
nlpar	see brms::posterior_epred
ndraws	see brms::posterior_epred
draw_ids	see brms::posterior_epred
sort	see brms::posterior_epred
	see brms::posterior_epred

Details

To predict the top, bottom, or "middle" (i.e. continuous) components of the response, set the component argument to "top", "bottom" or "continuous". By default, component is set to "all", which will replicate behavior of the default posterior_epred function.

All other arguments besides component are the same as the standard generic posterior_predict. For more information on the relevant arguments for posterior_epred, see brusherior_epred.

Value

An S x N matrix where S is the number of posterior draws and N is the number of observations.

Examples

```
data('ord_fit_mean')
# use function to calculate probability of top end of scale
pr_1s <- posterior_epred_ordbeta(ord_fit_mean,component="top")
# use function to calculate probability of bottom end of scale
pr_0s <- posterior_epred_ordbeta(ord_fit_mean,component="top")
# use function to calculate probability of continuous /
# beta-distributed part of scale
pr_beta <- posterior_epred_ordbeta(ord_fit_mean,component="top")</pre>
```

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Description

The standard brms::pp_check plot available via brms is not accurate for ordbetareg models because an ordered beta regression has both continuous and discrete components. This function implements a bar plot and a density plot for the continuous and discrete elements separately, and will return accurate posterior predictive plots relative to the data.

Usage

```
pp_check_ordbeta(
  model = NULL,
  dv = NULL,
  type = "both",
  ndraws = 10,
  cores = NULL,
  group = NULL,
  new_theme = NULL,
  outcome_label = NULL,
  animate = FALSE,
  reverse_bounds = TRUE,
  facet_scales = "fixed"
)
```

Arguments

model	A fitted ordbetareg model.
dv	If you fit a model with multiple DVs/responses, pass the name of the DV as a character value. Note: this must be the same as the name of the column in the data used to fit the model.
type	Default is "both" for creating both a discrete (bar) and continuous (density) plot. Can also be "discrete" for only the bar plot for discrete values (0/1) or "continuous" for continuous values (density plot).
ndraws	Number of posterior draws to use to calculate estimates and show in plot. Defaults to 10.
cores	Number of cores to use to produce posterior predictive distribution. Defaults to NULL or 1 core.
group	A factor variable of the same number of rows as the data that is used to broduce grouped (faceted) plots of the posterior distribution.
new_theme	Any additional themes to be added to ggplot2 (default is NULL).
outcome_label	A character value that will replace the name of the outcome in the plot (default is the name of the response variable in the data frame).

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animate Whether to animate each posterior draw for continuous distributions (defaults to FALSE). Requires installation of the gganimate and transform R packages.

reverse_bounds Whether to plot data using the original bounds in the data (i.e. not 0 and 1).

facet_scales The option passed on to the facet_wrap function in ggplot2 for the type of scale for facetting if passing a variable for group. Defaults to "fixed" scales but can be set to "free_y" to allow probability density/bar count scales to vary

or "free" to allow both x and y axes to vary (i.e., also outcome axis ticks).

Value

If "both", prints both plots and returns a list of both plots as ggplot2 objects. Otherwise, prints and returnst the specific plot as a ggplot2 object.

Examples

```
# need a fitted ordbetareg model

data("ord_fit_mean")

out_plots <- pp_check_ordbeta(ord_fit_mean)

# view discrete bar plot

out_plots$discrete

# view continuous density plot

out_plots$continuous

# change title using ggplot2 ggtitle function

out_plots$discrete + ggplot2::ggtitle("New title")</pre>
```

rordbeta

Generate Ordered Beta Variates

Description

This function will generate ordered beta random variates given values for the mean (mu), dispersion (phi) and cutpoints governing the ratio of degenerate (discrete) to continuous responses.

```
rordbeta(n = 100, mu = 0.5, phi = 1, cutpoints = c(-1, 1))
```

sim_data

Arguments

n	Number of variates to generate.
mu	Value of the mean of the distribution. Should be in the $\setminus (0,1)$ interval (cannot be strictly equal to 0 or 1). If length is greater than 1, should be of length n.
phi	Value of the dispersion parameter. Should be strictly greater than 0. If length is greater than 1, should be of length n.
cutpoints	A vector of two numeric values for the cutpoints. Second value should be strictly greater than the first value.

Value

A vector of length n of variates from the ordered beta distribution.

Examples

```
# generate 100 random variates with an average of 0.7
# all will be in the closed interval \[0,1\]

ordbeta_var <- rordbeta(n=100, mu=0.7, phi=2)

# Will be approx mean = 0.7 with high positive skew
summary(ordbeta_var)</pre>
```

sim_data

Simulated Ordered Beta Regression Values

Description

The simulated draws used in the vignette for calculating statistical power.

Usage

sim_data

Format

A dataframe

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sim_ordbeta	sim_ordbeta	Power Calculation via Simulation of the Ordered Beta Regression Model
-------------	-------------	--

Description

This function allows you to calculate power curves (or anything else) via simulating the ordered beta regression model.

Usage

```
sim_ordbeta(
    N = 1000,
    k = 5,
    iter = 1000,
    cores = 1,
    phi = 1,
    cutpoints = c(-1, 1),
    beta_coef = NULL,
    beta_type = "continuous",
    treat_assign = 0.5,
    return_data = FALSE,
    seed = as.numeric(Sys.time()),
    ...
)
```

Arguments

N	The sample size for the simulation. Include a vector of integers to examine power/results for multiple sample sizes.
k	The number of covariates/predictors.
iter	The number of simulations to run. For power calculation, should be at least 500 (yes, this will take some time).
cores	The number of cores to use to parallelize the simulation.
phi	Value of the dispersion parameter in the beta distribution.
cutpoints	Value of the two cutpoints for the ordered model. By default are the values -1 and +1 (these are interpreted in the logit scale and so should not be too large). The farther apart, the fewer degenerate (0 or 1) responses there will be in the distribution.
beta_coef	If not null, a vector of length k of the true predictor coefficients/treatment values to use for the simulation. Otherwise, coefficients are drawn from a random uniform distribution from -1 to 1 for each predictor.
beta_type	Can be either continuous or binary. Use the latter for conventional treatments with two values.

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treat_assign	If beta_type is set to binary, you can use this parameter to set the proportion of N assigned to treatment. By default, the parameter is set to 0.5 for equal/balanced treatment control groups.
return_data	Whether to return the simulated dqta as a list in the data column of the returned data frame.
seed	The seed to use to make the results reproducible. Set automatically to a date-time stamp.
	Any other arguments are passed on to the brms::brm function to control modeling options.

Details

This function implements the simulation found in Kubinec (2022). This simulation allows you to vary the sample size, number & type of predictors, values of the predictors (or treatment values), and the power to target. The function returns a data frame with one row per simulation draw and covariate k.

Value

a tibble data frame with columns of simulated and estimated values and rows for each simulation iteration X coefficient combination. I.e., if there are five predictors, and 1,000 iterations, the resulting data frame will have 1,000 rows. If there are multiple values for N, then each value of N will have its own set of iterations, making the final size of the data a multiple of the number of sample sizes to iterate over. The data frame will have the following columns: 1.

Examples

```
# This function takes a while to run as it has
# to fit an ordered beta regression to each
# draw. The package comes with a saved
# simulation dataset you can inspect to see what the
# result looks like
data("sim_data")
library(dplyr)
# will take a while to run this
 if(.Platform$OS.type!="windows") {
    sim_data <- sim_ordbeta(N=c(250,750),
    k=1,
   beta_coef = .5,
    iter=5, cores=2,
   beta_type="binary",
   treat_assign=0.3)
    }
```

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```
# to get the power values by N, simply summarize/group
# by N with functions from the R package dplyr
sim_data %>%
  group_by(N) %>%
  summarize(mean_power=mean(power))
```

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