# Package 'rdlocrand'

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## **Description**

The regression discontinuity (RD) design is a popular quasi-experimental design for causal inference and policy evaluation. Under the local randomization approach, RD designs can be interpreted as randomized experiments inside a window around the cutoff. This package provides tools to perform randomization inference for RD designs under local randomization: rdrandinf() to perform hypothesis testing using randomization inference, rdwinselect() to select a window around the cutoff in which randomization is likely to hold, rdsensitivity() to assess the sensitivity of the results to different window lengths and null hypotheses and rdrbounds() to construct Rosenbaum bounds for sensitivity to unobserved confounders. See Cattaneo, Titiunik and Vazquez-Bare (2016) <a href="https://sites.google.com/site/rdpackages/rdlocrand/Cattaneo-Titiunik-VazquezBare\_2016\_Stata.pdf">https://sites.google.com/site/rdpackages/rdlocrand/Cattaneo-Titiunik-VazquezBare\_2016\_Stata.pdf</a>> for further methodological details.

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rdlocrand-package

rdlocrand: Local Randomization Methods for RD Designs

#### **Description**

The regression discontinuity (RD) design is a popular quasi-experimental design for causal inference and policy evaluation. Under the local randomization approach, RD designs can be interpreted as randomized experiments inside a window around the cutoff. The rdlocrand package provides tools to analyze RD designs under local randomization: rdrandinf to perform hypothesis testing using randomization inference, rdwinselect to select a window around the cutoff in which randomization is likely to hold, rdsensitivity to assess the sensitivity of the results to different window lengths and null hypotheses and rdrbounds to construct Rosenbaum bounds for sensitivity to unobserved confounders. For more details, and related Stata and R packages useful for analysis of RD designs, visit https://sites.google.com/site/rdpackages.

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# References

M.D. Cattaneo, B. Frandsen and R. Titiunik. (2015). Randomization Inference in the Regression Discontinuity Design: An Application to Party Advantages in the U.S. Senate. *Journal of Causal Inference* 3(1): 1-24.

M.D. Cattaneo, R. Titiunik and G. Vazquez-Bare. (2016). Inference in Regression Discontinuity Designs under Local Randomization. *Stata Journal* 16(2): 331-367.

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P. Rosenbaum (2002). Observational Studies. Springer.

rdrandinf

Randomization Inference for RD Designs under Local Randomization

### **Description**

rdrandinf implements randomization inference and related methods for RD designs, using observations in a specified or data-driven selected window around the cutoff where local randomization is assumed to hold.

# Usage

```
rdrandinf(
 Υ,
 R,
 cutoff = 0,
 wl = NULL,
 wr = NULL,
 statistic = "diffmeans",
 p = 0,
 evall = NULL,
 evalr = NULL,
 kernel = "uniform",
  fuzzy = NULL,
  nulltau = 0,
  d = NULL,
  dscale = NULL,
  ci,
  interfci = NULL,
  bernoulli = NULL,
  reps = 1000,
  seed = 666,
  quietly = FALSE,
  covariates,
 obsmin = NULL,
 wmin = NULL,
 wobs = NULL,
 wstep = NULL,
 wmasspoints = FALSE,
  nwindows = 10,
  rdwstat = "diffmeans",
  approx = FALSE,
  rdwreps = 1000,
  level = 0.15,
 plot = FALSE,
 obsstep = NULL
)
```

# Arguments

Υ	a vector containing the values of the outcome variable.
R	a vector containing the values of the running variable.
cutoff	the RD cutoff (default is 0).
wl	the left limit of the window. The default takes the minimum of the running variable.
wr	the right limit of the window. The default takes the maximum of the running variable.

statistic the statistic to be used in the balance tests. Allowed options are diffmeans

(difference in means statistic), ksmirnov (Kolmogorov-Smirnov statistic) and ranksum (Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney standardized statistic). Default option is diffmeans. The statistic ttest is equivalent to diffmeans and included for

backward compatibility.

p the order of the polynomial for outcome transformation model (default is 0).

eval1 the point at the left of the cutoff at which to evaluate the transformed outcome

is evaluated. Default is the cutoff value.

evalr specifies the point at the right of the cutoff at which the transformed outcome is

evaluated. Default is the cutoff value.

kernel specifies the type of kernel to use as weighting scheme. Allowed kernel types are

uniform (uniform kernel), triangular (triangular kernel) and epan (Epanech-

nikov kernel). Default is uniform.

fuzzy indicates that the RD design is fuzzy. fuzzy can be specified as a vector contain-

ing the values of the endogenous treatment variable, or as a list where the first element is the vector of endogenous treatment values and the second element is a string containing the name of the statistic to be used. Allowed statistics are ar (Anderson-Rubin statistic) and tsls (2SLS statistic). Default statistic is ar.

The tsls statistic relies on large-sample approximation.

nulltau the value of the treatment effect under the null hypothesis (default is 0).

d the effect size for asymptotic power calculation. Default is 0.5 \* standard devi-

ation of outcome variable for the control group.

dscale the fraction of the standard deviation of the outcome variable for the control

group used as alternative hypothesis for asymptotic power calculation. Default

is 0.5.

ci calculates a confidence interval for the treatment effect by test inversion. ci can

be specified as a scalar or a vector, where the first element indicates the value of alpha for the confidence interval (typically 0.05 or 0.01) and the remaining elements, if specified, indicate the grid of treatment effects to be evaluated. This option uses rdsensitivity to calculate the confidence interval. See corresponding help for details. Note: the default tlist can be narrow in some cases, which may truncate the confidence interval. We recommend the user to manu-

ally set a large enough tlist.

interfci the level for Rosenbaum's confidence interval under arbitrary interference be-

tween units.

bernoulli the probabilities of treatment for each unit when assignment mechanism is a

Bernoulli trial. This option should be specified as a vector of length equal to the

length of the outcome and running variables.

reps the number of replications (default is 1000).

seed the seed to be used for the randomization test.

quietly suppresses the output table.

covariates the covariates used by rdwinselect to choose the window when wl and wr are

not specified. This should be a matrix of size n x k where n is the total sample

size and k is the number of covariates.

obsmin the minimum number of observations above and below the cutoff in the smallest window employed by the companion command rdwinselect. Default is 10. wmin the smallest window to be used (if minobs is not specified) by the companion command rdwinselect. Specifying both wmin and obsmin returns an error. the number of observations to be added at each side of the cutoff at each step. wobs wstep the increment in window length (if obsstep is not specified) by the companion command rdwinselect. Specifying both obsstep and wstep returns an error. wmasspoints specifies that the running variable is discrete and each masspoint should be used as a window. nwindows the number of windows to be used by the companion command rdwinselect. Default is 10. rdwstat the statistic to be used by the companion command rdwinselect (see corresponding help for options). Default option is ttest. approx forces the companion command rdwinselect to conduct the covariate balance tests using a large-sample approximation instead of finite-sample exact randomization inference methods. the number of replications to be used by the companion command rdwinselect. rdwreps Default is 1000. level the minimum accepted value of the p-value from the covariate balance tests to be used by the companion command rdwinselect. Default is .15. plot draws a scatter plot of the minimum p-value from the covariate balance test against window length implemented by the companion command rdwinselect. obsstep the minimum number of observations to be added on each side of the cutoff for the sequence of fixed-increment nested windows. Default is 2. This option is deprecated and only included for backward compatibility.

#### Value

sumstats summary statistics
obs.stat observed statistic(s)
p.value randomization p-value(s)
asy.pvalue asymptotic p-value(s)
window chosen window

ci confidence interval (only if ci option is specified)

interf.ci confidence interval under interferecen (only if interfci is specified)

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#### References

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#### **Examples**

```
# Toy dataset
X <- array(rnorm(200),dim=c(100,2))
R <- X[1,] + X[2,] + rnorm(100)
Y <- 1 + R -.5*R^2 + .3*R^3 + (R>=0) + rnorm(100)
# Randomization inference in window (-.75,.75)
tmp <- rdrandinf(Y,R,wl=-.75,wr=.75)
# Randomization inference in window (-.75,.75), all statistics
tmp <- rdrandinf(Y,R,wl=-.75,wr=.75,statistic='all')
# Randomization inference with window selection
# Note: low number of replications to speed up process.
# The user should increase the number of replications.
tmp <- rdrandinf(Y,R,statistic='all',covariates=X,wmin=.5,wstep=.125,rdwreps=500)</pre>
```

rdrbounds

Rosenbaum bounds for RD designs under local randomization

#### **Description**

rdrbounds calculates lower and upper bounds for the randomization p-value under different degrees of departure from a local randomized experiment, as suggested by Rosenbaum (2002).

# Usage

```
rdrbounds(
   Y,
   R,
   cutoff = 0,
   wlist,
   gamma,
   expgamma,
   bound = "both",
   statistic = "ranksum",
```

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```
p = 0,
evalat = "cutoff",
kernel = "uniform",
fuzzy = NULL,
nulltau = 0,
prob,
fmpval = FALSE,
reps = 1000,
seed = 666
)
```

#### **Arguments**

Y a vector containing the values of the outcome variable.
R a vector containing the values of the running variable.

cutoff the RD cutoff (default is 0).

wlist the list of window lengths to be evaluated. By default the program constructs

10 windows around the cutoff, the first one including 10 treated and control observations and adding 5 observations to each group in subsequent windows.

gamma the list of values of gamma to be evaluated.

expgamma the list of values of exp(gamma) to be evaluated. Default is c(1.5,2,2.5,3).

bound specifies which bounds the command calculates. Options are upper for upper

bound, lower for lower bound and both for both upper and lower bounds. De-

fault is both.

statistic the statistic to be used in the balance tests. Allowed options are diffmeans

(difference in means statistic), ksmirnov (Kolmogorov-Smirnov statistic) and ranksum (Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney standardized statistic). Default option is diffmeans. The statistic ttest is equivalent to diffmeans and included for

backward compatibility.

p the order of the polynomial for outcome adjustment model. Default is 0.

evalat specifies the point at which the adjusted variable is evaluated. Allowed options

are cutoff and means. Default is cutoff.

kernel specifies the type of kernel to use as weighting scheme. Allowed kernel types are

uniform (uniform kernel), triangular (triangular kernel) and epan (Epanech-

nikov kernel). Default is uniform.

fuzzy indicates that the RD design is fuzzy. fuzzy can be specified as a vector contain-

ing the values of the endogenous treatment variable, or as a list where the first element is the vector of endogenous treatment values and the second element is a string containing the name of the statistic to be used. Allowed statistics are ar (Anderson-Rubin statistic) and tsls (2SLS statistic). Default statistic is ar.

The tsls statistic relies on large-sample approximation.

nulltau the value of the treatment effect under the null hypothesis. Default is 0.

prob the probabilities of treatment for each unit when assignment mechanism is a

Bernoulli trial. This option should be specified as a vector of length equal to the

length of the outcome and running variables.

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fmpval reports the p-value under fixed margins randomization, in addition to the p-value

under Bernoulli trials.

reps number of replications. Default is 1000.

seed the seed to be used for the randomization tests.

#### Value

gamma list of gamma values.

expgamma list of exp(gamma) values.

wlist window grid.

p. values p-values for each window (under gamma = 0).

list of lower bound p-values for each window and gamma pair.

upper.bound list of upper bound p-values for each window and gamma pair.

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#### References

M.D. Cattaneo, B. Frandsen and R. Titiunik. (2015). Randomization Inference in the Regression Discontinuity Design: An Application to Party Advantages in the U.S. Senate. *Journal of Causal Inference* 3(1): 1-24.

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P. Rosenbaum (2002). Observational Studies. Springer.

#### **Examples**

```
# Toy dataset
R <- runif(100,-1,1)
Y <- 1 + R -.5*R^2 + .3*R^3 + (R>=0) + rnorm(100)
# Rosenbaum bounds
# Note: low number of replications and windows to speed up process.
# The user should increase these values.
rdrbounds(Y,R,expgamma=c(1.5,2),wlist=c(.3),reps=100)
```

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rdsensitivity

Sensitivity analysis for RD designs under local randomization

# Description

rdsensitivity analyze the sensitivity of randomization p-values and confidence intervals to different window lengths.

# Usage

```
rdsensitivity(
 Υ,
 R,
 cutoff = 0,
 wlist,
 tlist,
  statistic = "diffmeans",
 p = 0,
 evalat = "cutoff",
 kernel = "uniform",
 fuzzy = NULL,
 ci,
 reps = 1000,
 seed = 666,
 nodraw = FALSE,
 quietly = FALSE
)
```

# **Arguments**

Υ	a vector containing the values of the outcome variable.
R	a vector containing the values of the running variable.
cutoff	the RD cutoff (default is 0).
wlist	the list of window lengths to be evaluated. By default the program constructs 10 windows around the cutoff, the first one including 10 treated and control observations and adding 5 observations to each group in subsequent windows.
tlist	the list of values of the treatment effect under the null to be evaluated. By default the program employs ten evenly spaced points within the asymptotic confidence interval for a constant treatment effect in the smallest window to be used.
statistic	the statistic to be used in the balance tests. Allowed options are diffmeans (difference in means statistic), ksmirnov (Kolmogorov-Smirnov statistic) and ranksum (Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney standardized statistic). Default option is diffmeans. The statistic ttest is equivalent to diffmeans and included for backward compatibility.
р	the order of the polynomial for outcome adjustment model. Default is 0.

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evalat specifies the point at which the adjusted variable is evaluated. Allowed options

are cutoff and means. Default is cutoff.

kernel specifies the type of kernel to use as weighting scheme. Allowed kernel types are

uniform (uniform kernel), triangular (triangular kernel) and epan (Epanech-

nikov kernel). Default is uniform.

fuzzy indicates that the RD design is fuzzy. fuzzy can be specified as a vector contain-

ing the values of the endogenous treatment variable, or as a list where the first element is the vector of endogenous treatment values and the second element is a string containing the name of the statistic to be used. Allowed statistics are ar (Anderson-Rubin statistic) and tsls (2SLS statistic). Default statistic is ar.

The tsls statistic relies on large-sample approximation.

ci returns the confidence interval corresponding to the indicated window length.

ci has to be a scalar or a two-dimensional vector, where the first value needs to be one of the values in wlist. The second value, if specified, indicates the value

of alpha for the confidence interval. Default alpha is .05 (95% level CI).

reps number of replications. Default is 1000.

seed the seed to be used for the randomization tests.

nodraw suppresses contour plot.
quietly suppresses the output table.

#### Value

tlist treatment effects grid

wlist window grid

results table with corresponding p-values for each window and treatment effect pair.

ci confidence interval (if ci is specified).

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## **Examples**

```
# Toy dataset R <- runif(100,-1,1) Y <- 1 + R -.5*R^2 + .3*R^3 + (R>=0) + rnorm(100) # Sensitivity analysis # Note: low number of replications to speed up process. # The user should increase the number of replications. tmp <- rdsensitivity(Y,R,wlist=seq(.75,2,by=.25),tlist=seq(0,5,by=1),reps=500)
```

rdwinselect

Window selection for RD designs under local randomization

# **Description**

rdwinselect implements the window-selection procedure based on balance tests for RD designs under local randomization. Specifically, it constructs a sequence of nested windows around the RD cutoff and reports binomial tests for the running variable runvar and covariate balance tests for covariates covariates (if specified). The recommended window is the largest window around the cutoff such that the minimum p-value of the balance test is larger than a prespecified level for all nested (smaller) windows. By default, the p-values are calculated using randomization inference methods.

# Usage

```
rdwinselect(
 R,
 Χ,
  cutoff = 0,
 obsmin = NULL,
 wmin = NULL.
 wobs = NULL,
 wstep = NULL,
 wmasspoints = FALSE,
  nwindows = 10,
  statistic = "diffmeans",
  p = 0,
  evalat = "cutoff",
  kernel = "uniform",
  approx = FALSE,
  level = 0.15,
  reps = 1000.
  seed = 666,
  plot = FALSE,
  quietly = FALSE,
  obsstep = NULL
)
```

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#### **Arguments**

R a vector containing the values of the running variable.

X the matrix of covariates to be used in the balancing tests. The matrix is optional

but the recommended window is only provided when at least one covariate is specified. This should be a matrix of size  $n \times k$  where n is the total sample size

and \$k\$ is the number of covariates.

cutoff the RD cutoff (default is 0).

obsmin the minimum number of observations above and below the cutoff in the smallest

window. Default is 10.

wmin the smallest window to be used.

wobs the number of observations to be added at each side of the cutoff at each step.

Default is 5

wstep the increment in window length.

wmasspoints specifies that the running variable is discrete and each masspoint should be used

as a window.

nwindows the number of windows to be used. Default is 10.

statistic the statistic to be used in the balance tests. Allowed options are diffmeans (dif-

ference in means statistic), ksmirnov (Kolmogorov-Smirnov statistic), ranksum (Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney standardized statistic) and hotelling (Hotelling's T-squared statistic). Default option is diffmeans. The statistic ttest is equiv-

alent to diffmeans and included for backward compatibility.

p the order of the polynomial for outcome adjustment model (for covariates). De-

fault is 0.

evalat specifies the point at which the adjusted variable is evaluated. Allowed options

are cutoff and means. Default is cutoff.

kernel specifies the type of kernel to use as weighting scheme. Allowed kernel types are

uniform (uniform kernel), triangular (triangular kernel) and epan (Epanech-

nikov kernel). Default is uniform.

approx forces the command to conduct the covariate balance tests using a large-sample

approximation instead of finite-sample exact randomization inference methods.

level the minimum accepted value of the p-value from the covariate balance tests.

Default is .15.

reps number of replications. Default is 1000.

seed the seed to be used for the randomization tests.

plot draws a scatter plot of the minimum p-value from the covariate balance test

against window length.

quietly suppress output

obsstep the minimum number of observations to be added on each side of the cutoff for

the sequence of fixed-increment nested windows. This option is deprecated and

only included for backward compatibility.

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#### Value

window recommended window (NA is covariates are not specified)

wlist list of window lengths

results table including window lengths, minimum p-value in each window, correspond-

ing number of the variable with minimum p-value (i.e. column of covariate matrix), Binomial test p-value and sample sizes to the left and right of the cutoff

in each window.

summary statistics.

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# **Examples**

```
# Toy dataset
X <- array(rnorm(200),dim=c(100,2))
R <- X[1,] + X[2,] + rnorm(100)
# Window selection adding 5 observations at each step
# Note: low number of replications to speed up process.
tmp <- rdwinselect(R,X,obsmin=10,wobs=5,reps=500)
# Window selection setting initial window and step
# The user should increase the number of replications.
tmp <- rdwinselect(R,X,wmin=.5,wstep=.125,reps=500)
# Window selection with approximate (large sample) inference and p-value plot
tmp <- rdwinselect(R,X,wmin=.5,wstep=.125,approx=TRUE,nwin=80,quietly=TRUE,plot=TRUE)</pre>
```

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