

Package ‘mds’

May 8, 2026

Type Package

Title Medical Devices Surveillance

Version 0.3.2

Maintainer Gary Chung <gchung05@gmail.com>

Description A set of core functions for handling medical device event data in the context of post-market surveillance, pharmacovigilance, signal detection and trending, and regulatory reporting. Primary inputs are data on events by device and data on exposures by device. Outputs include: standardized device-event and exposure datasets, defined analyses, and time series.

License GPL-3

Encoding UTF-8

LazyData true

RoxygenNote 7.1.0

Depends R (>= 2.10)

Imports stats, parsedate, lubridate

Suggests testthat, knitr, rmarkdown

VignetteBuilder knitr

NeedsCompilation no

Author Gary Chung [aut, cre]

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2020-06-15 13:30:03 UTC

Contents

define_analyses	2
define_analyses_dataframe	5
deviceevent	5
exposure	8
maude	9
mds_ts	10

plot.mds_ts	11
sales	12
summary.mds_das	12
time_series	13

Index	15
--------------	-----------

define_analyses	<i>Assess Analyses Definitions</i>
-----------------	------------------------------------

Description

Define analyses based on an MD-PMS device-event data frame and, optionally, an MD-PMS exposure data frame. See Details for how to use.

Usage

```
define_analyses(
  deviceevents,
  device_level,
  event_level = NULL,
  exposure = NULL,
  date_level = "months",
  date_level_n = 1,
  covariates = "_none_",
  times_to_calc = NULL,
  invivo = FALSE,
  prior = NULL
)
```

Arguments

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| deviceevents | A device-events object of class <code>mds_de</code> , created by a call to <code>deviceevent()</code> . |
| device_level | String value indicating the source device variable name to analyze by. If exposure is specified, exposure data will be matched by <code>device_level</code> . If a hierarchy of 2 or more are present, see Details for important information.
Example: If the <code>deviceevents</code> variable column is <code>device_1</code> where the source variable name for <code>device_1</code> is 'Device Code', specify <code>device_level='Device Code'</code> . |
| event_level | String value indicating the source event variable name to analyze by. Note that <code>event_level</code> is not matched to exposure. If a hierarchy of 2 or more are present, see Details for important information.
Example: If the <code>deviceevents</code> variable column is <code>event_1</code> where the source variable name for <code>event_1</code> is 'Event Code', specify <code>event_level='Event Code'</code> .
Default: NULL will not analyze by event. |

exposure	Optional exposure object of class <code>mds_e</code> . See details for how exposure analyses definitions are handled. Default: NULL will not consider inclusion of exposure.
date_level	String value for the primary date unit to analyze by. Can be either 'months' or 'days'. Default: 'months'
date_level_n	Numeric value indicating the number of <code>date_level</code> s to analyze by. Example: <code>date_level='months'</code> and <code>date_level_n=3</code> indicates analysis on a quarterly level. Default: 1
covariates	Character vector specifying names of covariates to also define analyses for. Acceptable names are covariate variables specified in <code>deviceevents</code> . If the covariate is a factor, additional subgroup analyses will be defined at each level of the factor. "_none_" specifies no covariates, while "_all_" are all covariates specified in <code>deviceevents</code> . See details for more. Example: <code>c("Country", "Region")</code> Default: "_none_" specifies no covariates.
times_to_calc	Integer value indicating the number of date units counting backwards from the latest date to define analyses for. If <code>prior</code> is specified, <code>times_to_calc</code> will be ignored. Example 1: <code>times_to_calc=12</code> with <code>date_level="months"</code> and <code>date_level_n=1</code> defines analyses for the last year by month. Example 2: <code>times_to_calc=8</code> with <code>date_level="months"</code> and <code>date_level_n=3</code> defines analyses for the 2 years by quarter. Default: NULL will define analyses across all available time.
invivo	Logical value indicating whether to include <code>time_invivo</code> from <code>deviceevents</code> in the analysis definition. See details for more. Default: FALSE will not include <code>time_invivo</code> in the analysis definition.
prior	Future placeholder, currently not used.

Details

`define_analyses()` is a prerequisite to calling `time_series()`. This function enumerates all possible analyses based on input device-event (`deviceevent()`) and, optionally, exposure (`exposure()`) data frames. An analysis is defined as a set of instructions specifying at minimum the device level, event level, the date range of analysis, and the date unit. Additional instructions include the covariate level, time in-vivo status, and exposure levels.

By separating the analysis enumeration (`define_analyses()`) from the generation of the time series (`time_series()`), the user may rerun the analyses on different datasets and/or filter the analyses to only those of interest.

The analyses definitions will always include rollup levels for each of `device_level`, `event_level` (if specified), and `covariates`. Rollups are analyses at all device, event, and/or covariate levels. These rollup analyses will be indicated by the keyword 'All' in the analysis definition.

When a hierarchy of 2 or more variables for either `device_level` or `event_level` are present in `deviceevents`, `define_analyses()` will enforce the 1-level-up parent level ONLY. Additional

higher parent levels are not currently enforced, thus the user is advised to uniquely name the 1-level-up parent level. The parent level DOES NOT ROLLUP currently because the parent level is intended to separate disparate data and devices. This may change in the future.

If exposure is specified, any available match_levels will be used to calculate the appropriate timeframe for analyses. The exception are the special rollup analyses (see prior paragraph).

When covariates are specified, a special rollup analysis definition will always be defined that does not consider the covariates at all. This analysis can be identified by covariate='Data' and covariate_level='All' in the output mds_da object.

When covariates are specified and there is no variation in the distribution of covariate values (e.g. all males, all 10, all missing) in the device- and event-specific dataset, these specific analyses will be dropped.

When factor covariates are specified, covariate-level analyses may be defined two ways: 1) detect an overall covariate level effect, also known as a 3-dimensional analysis, and 2) subset the data by each level of the covariate, also known as a subgroup analysis. 1) will be denoted as covariate_level='All' in the output mds_da object, while 2) will specify the factor level in covariate_level.

If invivo=TRUE, define_analyses() will first verify if data exists in the time_invivo variable for the given device_level, event_level, and, if applicable, covariates level. If no data exists, invivo will be implicitly assigned to FALSE.

Value

A list of defined analyses of class mds_das. Each list item, indexed by a numeric key, defines a set of analyses for a unique combination of device, event, and covariate level. Each list item is of the class mds_da. Attributes of class mds_das are as follows:

- date_level** Defined value for date_level
- date_level_n** Defined value for date_level_n
- device_level** Defined value for device_level
- event_level** Defined value for event_level
- times_to_calc** Defined value for times_to_calc
- prior_used** Boolean for whether prior was specified.
- timestamp** System time when the analyses were defined.

Examples

```
# Device-Events
de <- deviceevent(
  data_frame=maude,
  time="date_received",
  device_hierarchy=c("device_name", "device_class"),
  event_hierarchy=c("event_type", "medical_specialty_description"),
  key="report_number",
  covariates=c("region"),
  descriptors="_all_")
# Exposures
ex <- exposure(
```

```

data_frame=sales,
time="sales_month",
device_hierarchy="device_name",
match_levels="region",
count="sales_volume")
# Defined Analyses - Simple example
da <- define_analyses(de, "device_name")
# Defined Analyses - Simple example with a quarterly analysis
da <- define_analyses(de, "device_name", date_level_n=3)
# Defined Analyses - Example with event type, exposures, and covariates
da <- define_analyses(de, "device_name", "event_type", ex, covariates="region")

```

define_analyses_dataframe

Create Data Frame from Analyses Definitions

Description

Returns a data frame summarizing all defined analyses from the mds_das object.

Usage

```
define_analyses_dataframe(inlist)
```

Arguments

inlist Object of class mds_das

Value

A data frame with each row representing an analysis.

deviceevent

MD-PMS Device Event Data Frame

Description

Converts a data frame into a MD-PMS Device Event data frame.

Usage

```

deviceevent(
  data_frame,
  time,
  device_hierarchy,
  event_hierarchy,
  key = NULL,
  covariates = NULL,
  descriptors = NULL,
  time_invivo = NULL
)

```

Arguments

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <code>data_frame</code> | The input data frame requiring components specified in the remaining arguments. |
| <code>time</code> | Character name of date variable in <code>data_frame</code> corresponding to the event. Class must be Date, POSIXt, or character.
Example: "event_date" |
| <code>device_hierarchy</code> | Vector of character variable names representing the device hierarchy in <code>data_frame</code> . Vector ordering is lowest level first, most general level last. If more than 2 variables, see important note in Details.
Example: <code>c("Version", "Device", "ProductLine")</code> |
| <code>event_hierarchy</code> | Vector of character variable names representing the event hierarchy in <code>data_frame</code> . Vector ordering is most specific event category first, most broad event category last. If more than 2 variables, see important note in Details.
Example: <code>c("Event Code", "Event Group")</code> |
| <code>key</code> | Character name of (uniquely identifying) primary key variable in <code>data_frame</code> . Class must be character or numeric.
Example: "key_ID"
Default: NULL will create a key variable. |
| <code>covariates</code> | Vector of character variable names representing the desired covariates to retain, all of which must be of class numeric or factor. "_all_" includes all covariates, assumed to be remaining variables in <code>data_frame</code> not already specified in <code>key</code> , <code>time</code> , <code>device_hierarchy</code> , or <code>event_hierarchy</code> . Covariates must be numeric, categorical, or binary in nature.
Example: <code>c("Reporter", "Operation Time", "Country")</code>
Default: NULL includes no covariates. |
| <code>descriptors</code> | Vector of character variable names representing additional descriptive variables that will not be used in any analyses but may be recalled or displayed later during individual device-event review. "_all_" includes all remaining variables in <code>data_frame</code> not already specified in <code>key</code> , <code>time</code> , <code>device_hierarchy</code> , <code>event_hierarchy</code> , or <code>covariates</code> . Typical descriptors are free text or high-dimensional categoricals. |

	Example: <code>c("Description", "Unique Device Identifier")</code> Default: NULL includes no descriptors.
<code>time_invivo</code>	Character name of numeric variable in <code>data_frame</code> representing the time in vivo of the device at the time of the event time. See details for more. IMPORTANT: If a call to <code>define_analyses()</code> is planned, <code>time_invivo</code> must be in the time units specified collectively by its parameters <code>date_level</code> and <code>date_level_n</code> . Example: "Implanted Months". A value of 45 in the variable <code>data_frame\$'Implanted Months'</code> would indicate 45 units of time elapsed since the device was first in vivo. If <code>date_level="months"</code> and <code>date_level_n=1</code> , this will be interpreted by <code>define_analyses()</code> as 45 months. Default: NULL indicates this variable will not be used.

Details

When more than 2 variables are specified in either `device_hierarchy` or `event_hierarchy`, it is important to note that a subsequent call to `define_analyses()` currently only utilizes a maximum of 2 variables: the lowest level and the 1-level-up parent. The user may enforce full hierarchy in >2 variable cases by ensuring that the parent values are uniquely named.

`time_invivo` can be thought of more generally as the time of exposure of the device to the subject at the time of the event. The common usage is duration of the implant in the patient at time of event, for an implantable medical device.

Value

A standardized MD-PMS data frame of class `mds_de`. Rows are deduplicated. Attributes are as follows:

key Original variable name for key

time Original variable name for time

device_hierarchy Vector of original variable names for `device_hierarchy` with converted variable names correspondingly named.

event_hierarchy Vector of original variable names for `event_hierarchy` with converted variable names correspondingly named.

covariates Vector of original variable names for `covariates` with converted variable names correspondingly named.

descriptors Vector of original variable names for `descriptors` with converted variable names correspondingly named.

Examples

```
# A barebones dataset
de <- deviceevent(maude, "date_received", "device_name", "event_type")
# With more variables and variable types
de <- deviceevent(
  data_frame=maude,
  time="date_received",
```

```

device_hierarchy=c("device_name", "device_class"),
event_hierarchy=c("event_type", "medical_specialty_description"),
key="report_number",
covariates=c("region"),
descriptors="_all_"

```

exposure	<i>MD-PMS Exposure Data Frame</i>
----------	-----------------------------------

Description

Converts a data frame into a MD-PMS Exposure data frame.

Usage

```

exposure(
  data_frame,
  time,
  device_hierarchy,
  event_hierarchy = NULL,
  key = NULL,
  match_levels = NULL,
  count = NULL
)

```

Arguments

data_frame	The input data frame requiring components specified in the remaining arguments.
time	Character name of date variable in data_frame. Class must be Date, POSIXt, or character. Example: "event_date"
device_hierarchy	Vector of character variable names representing the device hierarchy in data_frame. Vector ordering is lowest level first, most general level last. Example: c("Version", "Device", "ProductLine")
event_hierarchy	Vector of character variable names representing the event hierarchy in data_frame. Vector ordering is most specific event category first, most broad event category last. Example: c("Family", "Device", "ProductCode") Default: NULL will not include any event hierarchy.
key	Character name of (uniquely identifying) primary key variable in data_frame. Class must be character or numeric. Example: "key_ID" Default: NULL will create a key variable.

<code>match_levels</code>	<p>Vector of character variable names in <code>data_frame</code> representing additional grouping factors for exposure. Specified variables will be implicitly matched to equivalently named variables contained in the <code>mds_de</code> object class.</p> <p>Example: <code>c("Country", "Region")</code></p> <p>Default: NULL will not include any additional grouping factors.</p>
<code>count</code>	<p>Character name of exposure count variable in <code>data_frame</code>. Class must be numeric.</p> <p>Example: <code>"Units Sold"</code></p> <p>Default: NULL will assume each row represents one exposure.</p>

Value

A standardized MD-PMS data frame of class `mds_e`. Rows are deduplicated. Attributes are as follows:

key Original variable name for key

time Original variable name for time

device_hierarchy Vector of original variable names for `device_hierarchy` with converted variable names correspondingly named.

event_hierarchy Vector of original variable names for `event_hierarchy` with converted variable names correspondingly named.

match_levels Vector of variable names for grouping factors

count Original variable name for count

Examples

```
# A barebones dataset
ex <- exposure(sales, "sales_month", "device_name")
# With more variables and variable types
ex <- exposure(
  data_frame=sales,
  time="sales_month",
  device_hierarchy="device_name",
  match_levels="region",
  count="sales_volume")
```

Description

A dataset containing 535 events reported into the FDA MAUDE database on bone cement in 2017. Data were obtained via the openFDA API (<https://open.fda.gov>).

Usage

```
maude
```

Format

A data frame with 535 rows and 15 variables. Full variable descriptions may be found on the FDA Device Reference Guide (<https://open.fda.gov>). Note that `region` is a simulated variable not present in MAUDE. Descriptions as follows:

report_number Identifying number for the adverse event report.

event_type Outcomes associated with the adverse event.

date_received Date the report was received by the FDA.

product_problem_flag Indicates whether or not a report was about the quality, performance or safety of a device.

adverse_event_flag Whether the report is about an incident where the use of the device is suspected to have resulted in an adverse outcome in a patient.

report_source_code Source of the adverse event report.

lot_number The lot number found on the label or packaging material.

model_number The exact model number found on the device label or accompanying packaging.

manufacturer_d_name Device manufacturer name.

manufacturer_d_country Device manufacturer country.

brand_name The trade or proprietary name of the suspect medical device as used in product labeling or in the catalog.

device_name This is the proprietary name, or trade name, of the cleared device.

medical_specialty_description Regulation Medical Specialty is assigned based on the regulation (e.g. 21 CFR Part 888 is Orthopedic Devices).

device_class A risk based classification system for all medical devices ((Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, section 513)

region A simulated, randomly assigned geographical region for package example purposes.

Source

<https://open.fda.gov/data/maude/>

```
mds_ts
```

Example List of mds_ts Time Series Objects

Description

An example list of time series objects (class `mds_ts`) generated using the `mds` package.

Usage

```
mds_ts
```

Format

A list of 3 elements each of class `mds_ts`

Source

See `?maude` and `?sales` for source device-event and exposure data. See `?mds::time_series` for how to generate `mds_ts` time series.

plot.mds_ts

Plot MD-PMS Time Series

Description

Quickly visualizes an MD-PMS times series of class `mds_ts`.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'mds_ts'
plot(x, mode = "nA", xlab = "Time", ylab = "Count", main = NULL, ...)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>mds_ts</code> .
<code>mode</code>	Series to plot. Valid values are: 'nA', 'nB', 'nC', 'nD', 'exposure', 'rate'. 'rate' is simply 'nA' / 'exposure'. See details for more. Default: 'nA'
<code>xlab</code>	x-axis label #' Default: 'Time'
<code>ylab</code>	y-axis label Default: 'Count'
<code>main</code>	Plot title Default: NULL infers the title from <code>x</code> and <code>mode</code> .
<code>...</code>	Further arguments to pass onto <code>plot()</code> generic.

Details

mode values defined as follows. Note: The following definitions use a device-event pair as a working example, however it may also be a covariate-device pair.

'nA' Counts of the device-event pair.

'nB' Counts of the device for all other events.

'nC' Counts of all other devices for the event.

'nD' Counts of all other devices for all other events.

'exposure' Counts of exposure for the device-event pair.

'rate' A crude rate, calculated as the device-event counts pair divided by the exposure counts.

sales	<i>Simulated Device Sales Data</i>
-------	------------------------------------

Description

A dataset containing simulated monthly sales by device and country for devices reported in the maude dataset. For package usage examples, this data serves as a proxy for exposures. Data were generated using a random normal distribution weighted by the number of reported events by device and country.

Usage

sales

Format

A data frame with 360 rows and 4 variables:

device_name Name of the device mapped from the maude dataset.

region Geographical region mapped from the maude dataset.

sales_month The month of sales.

sales_volume The volume of sales.

Source

Random normal distribution using `rnorm()`.

summary.mds_das	<i>Summarize a Collection of MD-PMS Defined Analyses Prints basic counts and date ranges by various analysis factors as defined in the original <code>define_analyses()</code> call.</i>
-----------------	--

Description

Summarize a Collection of MD-PMS Defined Analyses Prints basic counts and date ranges by various analysis factors as defined in the original `define_analyses()` call.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'mds_das'
summary(object, ...)
```

Arguments

object	A MD-PMS Defined Analyses object of class <code>mds_das</code>
...	Additional arguments affecting the summary produced

Value

List of analyses counts and date ranges.

time_series	<i>Generate Time Series from Defined Analysis or Analyses</i>
-------------	---

Description

Creates time series data frame(s) from defined analysis/analyses (`define_analyses()`), device-event data frame (`deviceevent()`), and optionally, exposure data frame (`exposure()`). If analysis includes covariates or time in-vivo, creates the relevant supporting data frame.

Usage

```
time_series(analysis, ...)

## S3 method for class 'list'
time_series(analysis, ...)

## S3 method for class 'mds_das'
time_series(analysis, ...)

## S3 method for class 'mds_da'
time_series(analysis, deviceevents, exposure = NULL, use_hierarchy = T, ...)
```

Arguments

analysis	A defined analysis object of class <code>mds_da</code> , list of class <code>mds_das</code> , or a list of objects each of class <code>mds_da</code> , usually created by <code>define_analyses()</code> .
...	Further arguments for future work.
deviceevents	A device-event data frame of class <code>mds_de</code> , usually created by <code>deviceevent()</code> . This should be the same data frame used to generate analysis.
exposure	Optional exposure data frame of class <code>mds_e</code> , usually created by <code>exposure()</code> . This should be the same data frame used to generate analysis, if exposure data was used. Default: NULL will not consider exposure data.
use_hierarchy	Deprecated - do not use. Logical value indicating whether device and event hierarchies should be used in counting contingency tables for disproportionality analysis.

Value

A standardized MD-PMS time series data frame of class `mds_ts`.

The data frame contains, by defined date levels, the following columns:

- nA** Count of the device & event level of interest. If covariate analysis is indicated, this will be at the covariate & device level of interest.
- nB** Optional. Count of the device & non-event, or if covariate analysis, covariate & non-device. nB will be missing if this is an 'All' level analysis.
- nC** Optional. Count of the non-device & event, or if covariate analysis, non-covariate & device. nC will be missing if this is an 'All' level analysis.
- nD** Optional. Count of the non-device & non-event, or if covariate analysis, non-covariate & non-device. nD will be missing if this is an 'All' level analysis.
- ids** List of all keys from deviceevents constituting nA.
- exposure** Optional. Count of exposures applicable to nA. This counts at the device and covariate levels but not at the event level. If a matching device and/or covariate level is not found, then exposure will be NA. The exception is an 'All' level analysis, which counts exposures across all levels.
- ids_exposure** Optional. List of all exposure keys from exposure applicable to nA.

The `mds_ts` class attributes are as follows:

- title** Short description of the analysis.
- analysis** The analysis definition of class `mds_da`.
- exposure** Boolean of whether exposure counts are present.
- dpa** Boolean of whether 2x2 contingency table counts are present (presumably for disproportionality analysis or 'DPA').
- dpa_detail** Optional. If `dpa` is TRUE, list object containing labels for the DPA contingency table.
- covar_data** Optional. If analysis definition includes covariate level or time in-vivo, `data.frame` object containing the relevant data.

Methods (by class)

- `list`: Generate time series from a list
- `mds_das`: Generate time series from a list of defined analyses
- `mds_da`: Generate time series using defined analysis

Examples

```
de <- deviceevent(maude, "date_received", "device_name", "event_type")
ex <- exposure(sales, "sales_month", "device_name", count="sales_volume")
da <- define_analyses(de, "device_name", exposure=ex)
# Time series on one analysis
time_series(da, de, ex)
# Time series on multiple analyses
time_series(da[1:3], de, ex)
```

Index

* datasets

maude, [9](#)

mds_ts, [10](#)

sales, [12](#)

define_analyses, [2](#)

define_analyses_dataframe, [5](#)

deviceevent, [5](#)

exposure, [8](#)

maude, [9](#)

mds_ts, [10](#)

plot.mds_ts, [11](#)

sales, [12](#)

summary.mds_das, [12](#)

time_series, [13](#)