

# Package ‘ref.ICAR’

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**Type** Package

**Title** Objective Bayes Intrinsic Conditional Autoregressive Model for Areal Data

**Version** 2.0.2

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**Description** Implements an objective Bayes intrinsic conditional autoregressive prior. This model provides an objective Bayesian approach for modeling spatially correlated areal data using an intrinsic conditional autoregressive prior on a vector of spatial random effects.

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**Encoding** UTF-8

**Imports** sf, sp, spdep, mvtnorm, coda, MCMCglmm, Rdpack, graphics, pracma, stats, classInt, dplyr, ggplot2, gtools

**RdMacros** Rdpack

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**NeedsCompilation** no

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**Repository** CRAN

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probs.icar	<i>OLM and ICAR model probabilities for areal data</i>
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## Description

Performs simultaneous selection of covariates and spatial model structure for areal data.

## Usage

```
probs.icar(
  Y,
  X,
  H,
  H.spectral = NULL,
  Sig_phi = NULL,
  b = 0.05,
  verbose = FALSE
)
```

## Arguments

Y	A vector of responses.
X	A matrix of covariates, which should include a column of 1's for models with a non-zero intercept
H	Neighborhood matrix for spatial subregions.
H.spectral	Spectral decomposition of neighborhood matrix, if user wants to pre-compute it to save time.
Sig_phi	Pseudo inverse of the neighborhood matrix, if user wants to pre-compute it to save time.
b	Training fraction for the fractional Bayes factor (FBF) approach.
verbose	If FALSE, marginal likelihood progress is not printed.

**Value**

A list containing a data frame with all posterior model probabilities and other selection information.

probs.mat	Data frame containing posterior model probabilities for all candidate OLMs and ICAR models from the data.
mod.prior	Vector of model priors used to obtain the posterior model probabilities.
logmargin.all	Vector of all (log) fractional integrated likelihoods.
base.model	Maximum (log) fractional integrated likelihood among all candidate models. All fractional Bayes factors are obtained with respect to this model.
BF.vec	Vector of fractional Bayes factors for all candidate models.

**Author(s)**

Erica M. Porter, Christopher T. Franck, and Marco A.R. Ferreira

**References**

Porter EM, Franck CT, Ferreira MAR (2024). “Objective Bayesian model selection for spatial hierarchical models with intrinsic conditional autoregressive priors.” *Bayesian Analysis*, **19**(4), 985–1011. doi:10.1214/23BA1375.

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ref.analysis	<i>MCMC Analysis and Summaries for Reference Prior on an Intrinsic Autoregressive Model for Areal Data</i>
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**Description**

Performs analysis on a geographical areal data set using the objective prior for intrinsic conditional autoregressive (ICAR) random effects (Keefe et al. 2019). It takes a shapefile, data, and region names to construct a neighborhood matrix and perform Markov chain Monte Carlo sampling on the unstructured and spatial random effects. Finally, the function obtains regional estimates and performs posterior inference on the model parameters.

**Usage**

```
ref.analysis(  
  shape.file,  
  X,  
  y,  
  x.reg.names,  
  y.reg.names,  
  shp.reg.names = NULL,  
  iters = 10000,  
  burnin = 5000,  
  verbose = TRUE,  
  tauc.start = 1,
```

```

beta.start = 1,
sigma2.start = 1,
step.tauc = 0.5,
step.sigma2 = 0.5
)

```

### Arguments

shape.file	A shapefile corresponding to the regions for analysis.
X	A matrix of covariates, which should include a column of 1's for models with a non-zero intercept
y	A vector of responses.
x.reg.names	A vector specifying the order of region names contained in X.
y.reg.names	A vector specifying the order of region names contained in y.
shp.reg.names	A vector specifying the order of region names contained in the shapefile, if there is not a NAME column in the file.
iters	Number of MCMC iterations to perform. Defaults to 10,000.
burnin	Number of MCMC iterations to discard as burn-in. Defaults to 5,000.
verbose	If FALSE, MCMC progress is not printed.
tauc.start	Starting MCMC value for the spatial dependence parameter.
beta.start	Starting MCMC value for the fixed effect regression coefficients.
sigma2.start	Starting MCMC value for the variance of the unstructured random effects.
step.tauc	Step size for the spatial dependence parameter.
step.sigma2	Step size for the variance of the unstructured random effects.

### Value

A list containing H, MCMC chains, parameter summaries, fitted regional values, and regional summaries.

H	The neighborhood matrix.
MCMC	Matrix of MCMC chains for all model parameters.
beta.median	Posterior medians of the fixed effect regression coefficients.
beta.hpd	Highest Posterior Density intervals for the fixed effect regression coefficients.
tauc.median	Posterior median of the spatial dependence parameter.
tauc.hpd	Highest Posterior Density interval for the spatial dependence parameter.
sigma2.median	Posterior median of the unstructured random effects variance.
sigma2.hpd	Highest Posterior Density interval for the unstructured random effects variance.
tauc.accept	Final acceptance rate for the spatial dependence parameter.
sigma2.accept	Final acceptance rate for the unstructured random effects variance.
fit.dist	Matrix of fitted posterior values for each region in the data.
reg.medians	Vector of posterior medians for fitted response by region.
reg.hpd	Data frame of Highest Posterior Density intervals by region.

**Author(s)**

Erica M. Porter, Matthew J. Keefe, Christopher T. Franck, and Marco A.R. Ferreira

**Examples**

```
## Refer to the vignette attached to the package.
```

---

 ref.MCMC

*MCMC for Reference Prior on an Intrinsic Conditional Autoregressive  
Random Effects Model for Areal Data*

---

**Description**

Implements the Metropolis-within-Gibbs sampling algorithm proposed by Ferreira et al. (2021), to perform posterior inference for the intrinsic conditional autoregressive model with spatial random effects. This algorithm uses the spectral domain for the hierarchical model to create the Spectral Gibbs Sampler (SGS), which provides notable speedups to the MCMC algorithm proposed by Keefe et al (2019).

**Usage**

```
ref.MCMC(  
  y,  
  X,  
  H,  
  iters = 10000,  
  burnin = 5000,  
  verbose = TRUE,  
  tauc.start = 1,  
  beta.start = 1,  
  sigma2.start = 1,  
  step.tauc = 0.5,  
  step.sigma2 = 0.5  
)
```

**Arguments**

y	Vector of responses.
X	Matrix of covariates. This should include a column of 1's for models with a non-zero intercept.
H	The neighborhood matrix.
iters	Number of MCMC iterations to perform. Defaults to 10,000.
burnin	Number of MCMC iterations to discard as burn-in. Defaults to 5,000.
verbose	If FALSE, MCMC progress is not printed.

tauc.start	Starting value for the spatial dependence parameter.
beta.start	Starting value for the vector of fixed effect regression coefficients.
sigma2.start	Starting value for the variance of the unstructured random effects.
step.tauc	Step size for the spatial dependence parameter
step.sigma2	Step size for the variance of the unstructured random effects.

### Value

A list containing MCMC chains and parameter summaries.

MCMCchain	Matrix of MCMC chains.
tauc.MCMC	MCMC chains for the spatial dependence parameter.
sigma2.MCMC	MCMC chains for the variance of the unstructured random effects.
phi.MCMC	MCMC chains for the spatial random effects.
beta.MCMC	MCMC chains for the fixed effect regression coefficients.
accept.sigma2	Final acceptance number for variance of the unstructured random effects.
accept.tauc	Final acceptance number for spatial dependence parameter.
accept.phi	Final acceptance number for spatial random effects.

### Author(s)

Erica M. Porter, Matthew J. Keefe, Christopher T. Franck, and Marco A.R. Ferreira

### References

- Keefe MJ, Ferreira MAR, Franck CT (2019). “Objective Bayesian analysis for Gaussian hierarchical models with intrinsic conditional autoregressive priors.” *Bayesian Analysis*, **14**(1), 181 – 209. [doi:10.1214/18BA1107](https://doi.org/10.1214/18BA1107).
- Keefe MJ, Ferreira MAR, Franck CT (2018). “On the formal specification of sum-zero constrained intrinsic conditional autoregressive models.” *Spatial Statistics*, **24**, 54–65. [doi:10.1016/j.spasta.2018.03.007](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.spasta.2018.03.007).
- Ferreira MAR, Porter EM, Franck CT (2021). “Fast and scalable computations for Gaussian hierarchical models with intrinsic conditional autoregressive spatial random effects.” *Computational Statistics and Data Analysis*, **162**, 107264. ISSN 0167-9473, [doi:10.1016/j.csda.2021.107264](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.csda.2021.107264).

### Examples

```
#### Fit the model for simulated areal data on a grid ####

### Load extra libraries
library(sp)
library(methods)
library(spdep)
library(mvtnorm)

### Generate areal data on a grid
```

```

rows=5; cols=5
tauc=1
sigma2=2; beta=c(1,5)

### Create grid
grid <- GridTopology(c(1,1), c(1,1), c(cols,rows))
polys <- as(grid, "SpatialPolygons")
spgrid <- SpatialPolygonsDataFrame(polys,data=data.frame(row.names=row.names(polys)))

### Create neighborhood matrix
grid.nb <- poly2nb(spgrid,queen=FALSE)
W <- nb2mat(grid.nb, style="B")

### Put spatially correlated data in grid
p <- length(beta)
num.reg <- (rows*cols)
if(p>1){x1<-rmvnorm(n=num.reg,mean=rep(0,p-1),sigma=diag(p-1))} else{x1<-NULL}
X <- cbind(rep(1,num.reg),x1)
Dmat <- diag(apply(W,1,sum))
H <- Dmat - W
row.names(H) <- NULL

### Obtain true response vector
theta_true <- rnorm(num.reg,mean=0,sd=sqrt(sigma2))
Q <- eigen(H,symmetric=TRUE)$vectors
eigH <- eigen(H,symmetric=TRUE)$values
D <- diag(eigH)
Qmat <- Q[,1:(num.reg-1)]
phimat <- diag(1/sqrt(eigH[1:(num.reg-1)]))
z <- t(rmvnorm(1,mean=rep(0,num.reg-1),sigma=diag(num.reg-1)))
phi_true <- sqrt((1/tauc)*sigma2)*(Qmat%*%phimat%*%z)
Y <- X%*%beta + theta_true + phi_true

### Fit the model
set.seed(5432)
model <- ref.MCMC(y=Y,X=X,H=H, iters=15000, burnin=5000, verbose=TRUE, tauc.start=.1, beta.start=-1,
  sigma2.start=.1, step.tauc=0.5,
  step.sigma2=0.5)

#### Small example for checking
model <- ref.MCMC(y=Y,X=X,H=H, iters=1000, burnin=50, verbose=TRUE, tauc.start=.1, beta.start=-1,
  sigma2.start=.1, step.tauc=0.5,
  step.sigma2=0.5)

```

**Description**

This function creates trace plots for the parameters in the ICAR reference prior model (Keefe et al. 2019).

**Usage**

```
ref.plot(MCMCchain, X, burnin, num.reg)
```

**Arguments**

MCMCchain	Matrix of MCMC chains for the model parameters.
X	Matrix of covariates.
burnin	Number of MCMC iterations from MCMCchain discarded as burn-in.
num.reg	Number of regions in the areal data set.

**Value**

Trace plots for the fixed effect regression coefficients, the precision parameter, and the unstructured random effects variance.

**Author(s)**

Erica M. Porter, Matthew J. Keefe, Christopher T. Franck, and Marco A.R. Ferreira

**Examples**

```
## Refer to the vignette attached to the package.
```

---

ref.summary

*Parameter Summaries for MCMC Analysis*

---

**Description**

Takes a matrix of MCMC chains, iterations, and acceptance values to return posterior summaries of the parameters, including posterior medians, intervals, and acceptance rates.

**Usage**

```
ref.summary(  
  MCMCchain,  
  tauc.MCMC,  
  sigma2.MCMC,  
  beta.MCMC,  
  phi.MCMC,  
  accept.phi,  
  accept.sigma2,  
  accept.tauc,
```

```

    iters = 10000,
    burnin = 5000
  )

```

### Arguments

MCMCchain	Matrix of MCMC chains for the ICAR model parameters.
tauc.MCMC	MCMC chains for the spatial dependence parameter.
sigma2.MCMC	MCMC chains for the variance of the unstructured random effects.
beta.MCMC	MCMC chains for the fixed effect regression coefficients.
phi.MCMC	MCMC chains for the spatial random effects.
accept.phi	Final acceptance number for spatial random effects.
accept.sigma2	Final acceptance number for variance of the unstructured random effects.
accept.tauc	Final acceptance number for the spatial dependence parameter.
iters	Number of MCMC iterations in MCMCchain.
burnin	Number of MCMC iterations discarded as burn-in for MCMCchain.

### Value

Parameter summaries

beta.median	Posterior medians of the fixed effect regression coefficients.
beta.hpd	Highest Posterior Density intervals for the fixed effect regression coefficients.
tauc.median	Posterior median of the spatial dependence parameter.
tauc.hpd	Highest Posterior Density interval for the spatial dependence parameter.
sigma2.median	Posterior median of the unstructured random effects variance.
sigma2.hpd	Highest Posterior Density interval for the unstructured random effects variance.
tauc.accept	Final acceptance rate for the spatial dependence parameter.
sigma2.accept	Final acceptance rate for the unstructured random effects variance.

### Author(s)

Erica M. Porter, Matthew J. Keefe, Christopher T. Franck, and Marco A.R. Ferreira

### Examples

```
## Refer to the vignette attached to the package.
```

---

reg.summary	<i>Regional Summaries for Areal Data Modeled by ICAR Reference Prior Model</i>
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---

**Description**

This function takes data and sampled MCMC chains for an areal data set and gives fitted posterior values and summaries by region using the model by (Keefe et al. 2019).

**Usage**

```
reg.summary(MCMCchain, X, Y, burnin)
```

**Arguments**

MCMCchain	Matrix of MCMC chains, using the sampling from (Keefe et al. 2019).
X	Matrix of covariates.
Y	Vector of responses.
burnin	Number of MCMC iterations discarded as burn-in in MCMCchain.

**Value**

A list of the fitted distributions by region, and medians and credible intervals by region.

fit.dist	Matrix of fitted posterior values for each region in the data.
reg.medians	Vector of posterior medians for fitted response by region.
reg.cred	Data frame of credible intervals by region.

**Author(s)**

Erica M. Porter, Matthew J. Keefe, Christopher T. Franck, and Marco A.R. Ferreira

**Examples**

```
## Refer to the vignette attached to the package.
```

---

`shape.H`*Creating a Neighborhood Matrix for Areal Data from a Shapefile*

---

**Description**

Takes a path to a shape file and creates a neighborhood matrix. This neighborhood matrix can be used with the objective ICAR model (Keefe et al. 2018).

**Usage**

```
shape.H(shape.file)
```

**Arguments**

`shape.file`      File path to a shapefile.

**Value**

A list containing a neighborhood matrix and the `SpatialPolygonsDataFrame` object corresponding to the shape file.

`H`                      A neighborhood matrix.

`map`                    `SpatialPolygonsDataFrame` object from the provided shapefile.

**Author(s)**

Erica M. Porter, Matthew J. Keefe, Christopher T. Franck, and Marco A.R. Ferreira

**Examples**

```
#### Load extra libraries
library(sp)
library(sf)

### Read in a shapefile of the contiguous U.S. from package data
system.path <- system.file("extdata", "us.shape48.shp", package = "ref.ICAR", mustWork = TRUE)
shp.layer <- gsub('.shp', '', basename(system.path))
shp.path <- dirname(system.path)
us.shape48 <- st_read(dsn = path.expand(shp.path), layer = shp.layer)

shp.data <- shape.H(system.path)
names(shp.data)
```

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