

Package ‘basefun’

March 6, 2026

Title Infrastructure for Computing with Basis Functions

Version 1.2-6

Date 2026-03-06

Description Some very simple infrastructure for basis functions.

Depends variables (>= 1.1-0), R (>= 3.2.0)

Imports stats, polynom, Matrix, orthopolynom, methods

Suggests quadprog, numDeriv, bibtex

URL <http://ctm.R-forge.R-project.org>

License GPL-2

NeedsCompilation yes

Author Torsten Hothorn [aut, cre] (ORCID:
<<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8301-0471>>)

Maintainer Torsten Hothorn <Torsten.Hothorn@R-project.org>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2026-03-06 17:20:09 UTC

Contents

basefun-package	2
as.basis	2
b	4
Bernstein_basis	5
c.basis	6
cyclic_basis	8
intercept_basis	9
Legendre_basis	9
log_basis	10
polynomial_basis	11
predict.basis	12

Index	14
--------------	-----------

basefun-package

*General Information on the **basefun** Package*

Description

The **basefun** package offers a small collection of objects for handling basis functions and corresponding methods.

Details

The package was written to support the **mlt** package (Hothorn 2020) and will be of limited use outside this package.

References

Hothorn T. (2020). “Most Likely Transformations: The **mlt** Package.” *Journal of Statistical Software*, **92**(1), 1–68. doi:10.18637/jss.v092.i01.

as.basis

Convert Formula or Factor to Basis Function

Description

Convert a formula or factor to basis functions

Usage

```
as.basis(object, ...)
## S3 method for class 'formula'
as.basis(object, data = NULL, remove_intercept = FALSE,
         ui = NULL, ci = NULL, negative = FALSE, scale = FALSE,
         Matrix = FALSE, prefix = "", drop_unused_levels = TRUE, ...)
## S3 method for class 'factor_var'
as.basis(object, ...)
## S3 method for class 'ordered_var'
as.basis(object, ...)
## S3 method for class 'factor'
as.basis(object, ...)
## S3 method for class 'ordered'
as.basis(object, ...)
```

Arguments

object	a formula or an object of class factor, factor_var, ordered or ordered_var
data	either a vars object or a data.frame
remove_intercept	a logical indicating if any intercept term shall be removed
ui	a matrix defining constraints
ci	a vector defining constraints
negative	a logical indicating negative basis functions
scale	a logical indicating a scaling of each column of the model matrix to the unit interval (based on observations in data)
Matrix	a logical requesting a sparse model matrix, that is, a Matrix object.
prefix	character prefix for model matrix column names (allows disambiguation of parameter names).
drop_unused_levels	logical, should factors have unused levels dropped?
...	additional arguments to model.matrix, for example contrasts

Details

as.basis returns a function for the evaluation of the basis functions with corresponding model.matrix and predict methods.

Unordered factors (classes factor and factor_var) use a dummy coding and ordered factor (classes ordered or ordered_var) lead to a treatment contrast to the last level and removal of the intercept term with monotonicity constraint. Additional arguments (...) are ignored for ordered factors.

Linear constraints on parameters parm are defined by ui %% parm >= ci.

Examples

```
## define variables and basis functions
v <- c(numeric_var("x"), factor_var("y", levels = LETTERS[1:3]))
fb <- as.basis(~ x + y, data = v, remove_intercept = TRUE, negative = TRUE,
              contrasts.arg = list(y = "contr.sum"))

## evaluate basis functions
model.matrix(fb, data = as.data.frame(v, n = 10))
## basically the same as (but wo intercept and times -1)
model.matrix(~ x + y, data = as.data.frame(v, n = 10))

### factor
xf <- gl(3, 1)
model.matrix(as.basis(xf), data = data.frame(xf = xf))

### ordered
xf <- gl(3, 1, ordered = TRUE)
model.matrix(as.basis(xf), data = data.frame(xf = unique(xf)))
```

b

*Box Product of Basis Functions***Description**

Box product of two basis functions

Usage

```
b(..., sumconstr = FALSE)
```

Arguments

... named objects of class basis
sumconstr a logical indicating if sum constraints shall be applied

Details

b() joins the corresponding design matrices by the row-wise Kronecker (or box) product.

Examples

```
### set-up a Bernstein polynomial
xv <- numeric_var("x", support = c(1, pi))
bb <- Bernstein_basis(xv, order = 3, ui = "increasing")
## and treatment contrasts for a factor at three levels
fb <- as.basis(~ g, data = factor_var("g", levels = LETTERS[1:3]))

### join them: we get one intercept and two deviation _functions_
bfb <- b(bern = bb, f = fb)

### generate data + coefficients
x <- expand.grid(mkgrid(bfb, n = 10))
cf <- c(1, 2, 2.5, 2.6)
cf <- c(cf, cf + 1, cf + 2)

### evaluate bases
model.matrix(bfb, data = x)

### plot functions
plot(x$x, predict(bfb, newdata = x, coef = cf), type = "p",
     pch = (1:3)[x$g])
legend("bottomright", pch = 1:3,
      legend = colnames(model.matrix(fb, data = x)))
```

Bernstein_basis *Bernstein Basis Functions*

Description

Basis functions defining a polynomial in Bernstein form

Usage

```
Bernstein_basis(var, order = 2, ui = c("none", "increasing", "decreasing",
                                       "cyclic", "zerointegral", "positive",
                                       "negative", "concave", "convex"),
               extrapolate = FALSE, log_first = FALSE, fun = NULL)
```

Arguments

var	a <code>numeric_var</code> object
order	the order of the polynomial, one defines a linear function
ui	a character describing possible constraints
extrapolate	logical; if TRUE, the polynomial is extrapolated linearly outside support(var). In particular, the second derivative of the polynomial at support(var) is constrained to zero.
log_first	logical; the polynomial in Bernstein form is defined on the log-scale if TRUE. It makes sense to define the support as $c(1, q)$, ie putting the first basis function of the polynomial on $\log(1)$.
fun	a list of functions for transforming the input data, typically of length three: the monotone transformation and its first two derivatives.

Details

Bernstein_basis returns a function for the evaluation of the basis functions with corresponding `model.matrix` and `predict` methods for polynomials in Bernstein form, see Farouki (2012).

References

Farouki R. T. (2012). "The Bernstein Polynomial Basis: A Centennial Retrospective." *Computer Aided Geometric Design*, **29**(6), 379–419. doi:10.1016/j.cagd.2012.03.001.

Examples

```
### set-up basis
bb <- Bernstein_basis(numeric_var("x", support = c(0, pi)),
                    order = 3, ui = "increasing")

### generate data + coefficients
x <- as.data.frame(mkgrid(bb, n = 100))
cf <- c(1, 2, 2.5, 2.6)
```

```

### evaluate basis (in two equivalent ways)
bb(x[1:10],drop = FALSE]
model.matrix(bb, data = x[1:10],drop = FALSE])

### check constraints
cnstr <- attr(bb(x[1:10],drop = FALSE]), "constraint")
all(cnstr$ui %>% cf > cnstr$ci)

### evaluate and plot Bernstein polynomial defined by
### basis and coefficients
plot(x$x, predict(bb, newdata = x, coef = cf), type = "l")

### evaluate and plot first derivative of
### Bernstein polynomial defined by basis and coefficients
plot(x$x, predict(bb, newdata = x, coef = cf, deriv = c(x = 1)),
      type = "l")

### illustrate constrained estimation by toy example
N <- 100
order <- 10
x <- seq(from = 0, to = pi, length.out = N)
y <- rnorm(N, mean = -sin(x) + .5, sd = .5)

if (require("quadprog")) {
  prnt_est <- function(ui) {
    xv <- numeric_var("x", support = c(0, pi))
    xb <- Bernstein_basis(xv, order = 10, ui = ui)
    X <- model.matrix(xb, data = data.frame(x = x))
    uiM <- as(attr(X, "constraint")$ui, "matrix")
    ci <- attr(X, "constraint")$ci
    if (all(is.finite(ci)))
      parm <- solve.QP(crossprod(X), crossprod(X, y),
                      t(uiM), ci)$solution
    else
      parm <- coef(lm(y ~ 0 + X))
    plot(x, y, main = ui)
    lines(x, X %>% parm, col = col[ui], lwd = 2)
  }
  ui <- eval(formals(Bernstein_basis)$ui)
  col <- 1:length(ui)
  names(col) <- ui
  layout(matrix(1:length(ui),
                ncol = ceiling(sqrt(length(ui))))))
  tmp <- sapply(ui, function(x) try(prnt_est(x)))
}

```

Description

Concatenate basis functions column-wise

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'basis'  
c(..., recursive = FALSE)
```

Arguments

...	named objects of class basis
recursive	always FALSE

Details

c() joins the corresponding design matrices column-wise, ie, the two functions defined by the two bases are added.

Examples

```
### set-up Bernstein and log basis functions  
xv <- numeric_var("x", support = c(1, pi))  
bb <- Bernstein_basis(xv, order = 3, ui = "increasing")  
lb <- log_basis(xv, remove_intercept = TRUE)  
  
### join them  
blb <- c(bern = bb, log = lb)  
  
### generate data + coefficients  
x <- as.data.frame(mkgrid(blb, n = 100))  
cf <- c(1, 2, 2.5, 2.6, 2)  
  
### evaluate bases  
model.matrix(blb, data = x[1:10], ,drop = FALSE])  
  
### evaluate and plot function defined by  
### bases and coefficients  
plot(x$x, predict(blb, newdata = x, coef = cf), type = "l")  
  
### evaluate and plot first derivative of function  
### defined by bases and coefficients  
plot(x$x, predict(blb, newdata = x, coef = cf, deriv = c(x = 1)),  
      type = "l")
```

cyclic_basis	<i>Cyclic Basis Function</i>
--------------	------------------------------

Description

The cyclic basis function for modelling seasonal effects

Usage

```
cyclic_basis(var, order = 3, frequency)
```

Arguments

var	a <code>numeric_var</code> object
order	the order of the basis function
frequency	frequency

Details

`cyclic_basis` returns a set of sin and cosine functions for modelling seasonal effects, see Held and Paul (2012), Section 2.2.

For any choice of coefficients, the function returns the same value when evaluated at multiples of frequency.

References

Held L., Paul M. (2012). “Modeling Seasonality in Space-time Infectious Disease Surveillance Data.” *Biometrical Journal*, **54**(6), 824–843. doi:[10.1002/bimj.201200037](https://doi.org/10.1002/bimj.201200037).

Examples

```
### set-up basis
cb <- cyclic_basis(numeric_var("x"), order = 3, frequency = 2 * pi)

### generate data + coefficients
x <- data.frame(x = c(0, pi, 2 * pi))

### f(0) = f(2 * pi)
cb(x)
```

intercept_basis	<i>Intercept-Only Basis Function</i>
-----------------	--------------------------------------

Description

A simple intercept as basis function

Usage

```
intercept_basis(ui = c("none", "increasing", "decreasing"), negative = FALSE)
```

Arguments

ui	a character describing possible constraints
negative	a logical indicating negative basis functions

Details

intercept_basis returns a function for the evaluation of the basis functions with corresponding model.matrix and predict methods.

Examples

```
### set-up basis
ib <- intercept_basis()

### generate data + coefficients
x <- as.data.frame(mkgrid(ib))

### 2 * 1
predict(ib, newdata = x, coef = 2)
```

Legendre_basis	<i>Legendre Basis Functions</i>
----------------	---------------------------------

Description

Basis functions defining a Legendre polynomial

Usage

```
Legendre_basis(var, order = 2, ui = c("none", "increasing", "decreasing",  
                                     "cyclic", "positive", "negative"), ...)
```

Arguments

var	a <code>numeric_var</code> object
order	the order of the polynomial, one defines a linear function
ui	a character describing possible constraints
...	additional arguments passed to <code>legendre.polynomials</code>

Details

`Legendre_basis` returns a function for the evaluation of the basis functions with corresponding `model.matrix` and `predict` methods for Legendre polynomials, see Farouki (2012).

References

Farouki R. T. (2012). "The Bernstein Polynomial Basis: A Centennial Retrospective." *Computer Aided Geometric Design*, **29**(6), 379–419. doi:10.1016/j.cagd.2012.03.001.

Examples

```
### set-up basis
lb <- Legendre_basis(numeric_var("x", support = c(0, pi)),
                    order = 3)

### generate data + coefficients
x <- as.data.frame(mkgrid(lb, n = 100))
cf <- c(1, 2, 2.5, 1.75)

### evaluate basis (in two equivalent ways)
lb(x[1:10], ,drop = FALSE)
model.matrix(lb, data = x[1:10], ,drop = FALSE)

### evaluate and plot Legendre polynomial defined by
### basis and coefficients
plot(x$x, predict(lb, newdata = x, coef = cf), type = "l")
```

log_basis

Logarithmic Basis Function

Description

The logarithmic basis function

Usage

```
log_basis(var, ui = c("none", "increasing", "decreasing"),
          remove_intercept = FALSE)
```

Arguments

var a `numeric_var` object
 ui a character describing possible constraints
 remove_intercept
 a logical indicating if the intercept term shall be removed

Details

`log_basis` returns a function for the evaluation of the basis functions with corresponding `model.matrix` and `predict` methods.

Examples

```
### set-up basis
lb <- log_basis(numeric_var("x", support = c(0.1, pi)))

### generate data + coefficients
x <- as.data.frame(mkgrid(lb, n = 100))

### 1 + 2 * log(x)
max(abs(predict(lb, newdata = x, coef = c(1, 2)) - (1 + 2 * log(x$x))))
```

polynomial_basis *Polynomial Basis Functions*

Description

Basis functions defining a polynomial

Usage

```
polynomial_basis(var, coef, ui = NULL, ci = NULL)
```

Arguments

var a `numeric_var` object
 coef a logical defining the order of the polynomial
 ui a matrix defining constraints
 ci a vector defining constraints

Details

`polynomial_basis` returns a function for the evaluation of the basis functions with corresponding `model.matrix` and `predict` methods.

Examples

```

### set-up basis of order 3 ommiting the quadratic term
pb <- polynomial_basis(numeric_var("x", support = c(0, pi)),
                      coef = c(TRUE, TRUE, FALSE, TRUE))

### generate data + coefficients
x <- as.data.frame(mkgrid(pb, n = 100))
cf <- c(1, 2, 0, 1.75)

### evaluate basis (in two equivalent ways)
pb(x[1:10],,drop = FALSE])
model.matrix(pb, data = x[1:10], ,drop = FALSE])

### evaluate and plot polynomial defined by
### basis and coefficients
plot(x$x, predict(pb, newdata = x, coef = cf), type = "l")

```

predict.basis

Evaluate Basis Functions

Description

Evaluate basis functions and compute the function defined by the corresponding basis

Usage

```

## S3 method for class 'basis'
predict(object, newdata, coef, dim = !is.data.frame(newdata), ...)
## S3 method for class 'cbind_bases'
predict(object, newdata, coef, dim = !is.data.frame(newdata),
        terms = names(object), ...)
## S3 method for class 'box_bases'
predict(object, newdata, coef, dim = !is.data.frame(newdata), ...)

```

Arguments

object	a basis or bases object
newdata	a list or data.frame
coef	a vector of coefficients
dim	either a logical indicating that the dimensions shall be obtained from the bases object or an integer vector with the corresponding dimensions (the latter option being very experimental)
terms	a character vector defining the elements of a cbind_bases object to be evaluated
...	additional arguments

Details

predict evaluates the basis functions and multiplies them with coef. There is no need to expand multiple variables as predict uses array models (Currie, Durban, and Eilers 2006) to compute the corresponding predictions efficiently.

References

Currie I. D., Durban M., Eilers P. H. C. (2006). “Generalized Linear Array Models with Applications to Multidimensional Smoothing.” *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series B (Statistical Methodology)*, **68**(2), 259–280. doi:[10.1111/j.14679868.2006.00543.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.14679868.2006.00543.x).

Examples

```
### set-up a Bernstein polynomial
xv <- numeric_var("x", support = c(1, pi))
bb <- Bernstein_basis(xv, order = 3, ui = "increasing")
## and treatment contrasts for a factor at three levels
fb <- as.basis(~ g, data = factor_var("g", levels = LETTERS[1:3]))

### join them: we get one intercept and two deviation _functions_
bfb <- b(bern = bb, f = fb)

### generate data + coefficients
x <- mkgrid(bfb, n = 10)
cf <- c(1, 2, 2.5, 2.6)
cf <- c(cf, cf + 1, cf + 2)

### evaluate predictions for all combinations in x (a list!)
predict(bfb, newdata = x, coef = cf)

## same but slower
matrix(predict(bfb, newdata = expand.grid(x), coef = cf), ncol = 3)
```

Index

* package

basefun-package, [2](#)

as.basis, [2](#)

b, [4](#)

basefun (basefun-package), [2](#)

basefun-package, [2](#)

Bernstein_basis, [5](#)

c.basis, [6](#)

cyclic_basis, [8](#)

intercept_basis, [9](#)

legendre.polynomials, [10](#)

Legendre_basis, [9](#)

log_basis, [10](#)

model.matrix, [3](#)

numeric_var, [5](#), [8](#), [10](#), [11](#)

polynomial_basis, [11](#)

predict.basis, [12](#)

predict.box_bases (predict.basis), [12](#)

predict.cbind_bases (predict.basis), [12](#)

vars, [3](#)