

# Package: delaydiscount (via r-universe)

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**Title** Fit Linearized Hyperbolic Model for Delay Discounting Curves

**Version** 0.0.1

**Description** Functions for estimating parameters and hyperparameters of the linearized hyperbolic model, and testing equality of hyperparameters.

**License** GPL-3

**Encoding** UTF-8

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**LazyData** true

**Suggests** knitr, rmarkdown, testthat (>= 3.0.0)

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**URL** <https://github.com/davideh-vt/delaydiscount>,  
<https://davideh-vt.github.io/delaydiscount/>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/davideh-vt/delaydiscount/issues>

**Repository** <https://davideh-vt.r-universe.dev>

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check\_input\_preconditions

*Check preconditions for an input data frame for the prepare\_data\_frame and jb\_rule\_check functions.*

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### Description

This function is a helper function for the prepare\_data\_frame and jb\_rule\_check methods.

### Usage

```
check_input_preconditions(dd_data)
```

### Arguments

dd_data	A data frame containing discounting data in long format. This function is designed to fail if the preconditions for the discounting data data frame are not met.
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### Value

NULL if the input data frame passes the format checks. Throws an error if an input check is failed.

### Examples

```
check_input_preconditions(remedi)
```

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`dd_hyperbolic_model` *This function gets model parameter estimates for each group, including hyperparameters and estimates of the variance components (the observation error and subject random effect). It also gets F-test results for pairwise equality for the hyperparameter for each pair of groups, and overall equality of all hyperparameters.*

---

## Description

This function gets model parameter estimates for each group, including hyperparameters and estimates of the variance components (the observation error and subject random effect). It also gets F-test results for pairwise equality for the hyperparameter for each pair of groups, and overall equality of all hyperparameters.

## Usage

```
dd_hyperbolic_model(dd_data)
```

## Arguments

`dd_data` A specially formatted data frame as returned by the `prepare_data_frame` function.

## Value

A list with the objects `ln_k_mean` is a data frame with estimates of the hyperparameters of each group along with the standard error of the estimate. The hyperparameter for each group can be interpreted as the mean  $\ln(k)$  for a subject in that group. `var` is a vector with entries `sigma_sq` and `g`. `sigma_sq` is the variance of the observed transformed indifference conditioned on the true  $\ln(k)$  for the subject `g` is related to the variance of the subject random effect, which is equal to  $g \cdot \text{sigma\_sq} / T$ , where `T` is the number of time points. `pairwise_f_tests` is a data frame containing the results of all of the pairwise f-tests for equality of hyperparameters. The columns `col1` and `col2` contain the groups of the pairwise F-test. The `F_stat` column contains the F-statistic, the `p_value` column contains the p-value, and the `df1` and `df2` columns contain the numerator and denominator degrees of freedom, respectively. `model_test` is a data frame containing the result of the F-test for equality of all hyperparameters. It contains the columns `F_stat`, `p_value`, `df1`, and `df2`, which have the same meaning as in the `pairwise_f_tests` data frame.

## Examples

```
prep_remedi <- prepare_data_frame(remedi)
dd_model <- dd_hyperbolic_model(prepare_remedi)
```

---

```
estimate_hyperbolic_model_params
```

*Estimate the hyperparameters for each group, as well as the variance components of the model, using maximum likelihood estimation.*

---

### Description

This function is a helper function for `dd_hyperbolic_model`. We recommend not using this function on its own.

### Usage

```
estimate_hyperbolic_model_params(dd_data)
```

### Arguments

`dd_data` A specially formatted data frame as returned by the `prepare_data_frame` function.

### Value

A list of two objects: `ln_k_mean` is a data frame with estimates of the hyperparameters of each group along with the standard error of the estimate. The hyperparameter for each group can be interpreted as the mean  $\ln(k)$  for a subject in that group. `var` is a vector with entries `sigma_sq` and `g`. `sigma_sq` is the variance of the observed transformed indifference conditioned on the true  $\ln(k)$  for the subject. `g` is related to the variance of the subject random effect, which is equal to  $g \cdot \text{sigma\_sq} / T$ , where  $T$  is the number of time points.

### Examples

```
prep_remedi <- prepare_data_frame(remedi)
param_ests <- estimate_hyperbolic_model_params(prepare_remedi)
```

---

```
get_subj_est_ln_k
```

*Return  $\ln(k)$  estimates for each subject.*

---

### Description

Return  $\ln(k)$  estimates for each subject.

### Usage

```
get_subj_est_ln_k(dd_data)
```

**Arguments**

`dd_data` A specially formatted data frame as returned by the `prepare_data_frame` function.

**Value**

A data frame consisting of one observation per subject within group with the variable `ln_k` containing that subject's estimated `ln_k` value.

**Examples**

```
prep_remedi <- prepare_data_frame(remedi)
subj_est_ln_k <- get_subj_est_ln_k(prepare_remedi)
```

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`hyperbolic_model_f_test`

*Perform an F-test for equality of some combination(s) of hyperparameters.*

---

**Description**

This function is a helper function for `dd_hyperbolic_model`. We recommend not using this function on its own.

**Usage**

```
hyperbolic_model_f_test(dd_data, hypothesis)
```

**Arguments**

`dd_data` A specially formatted data frame as returned by the `prepare_data_frame` function.

`hypothesis` A list of string vectors. Each string is the name of a group. No group appears in more than one vector. Each vector represents a set of hyperparameters that are assumed to be equal under the null hypothesis.

**Value**

A list with the entries `F_stat`, the test statistic of the F-test; `p_value`, the p-value of the F-test; `df1`, the numerator degrees of freedom of the F-test (dimensionality of  $H_0$ ); `df2`, the denominator degrees of freedom of the F-test.

**Examples**

```
prep_remedi <- prepare_data_frame(remedi)
f_test_result <- hyperbolic_model_f_test(prepare_remedi, list(c("EFT", "NCC")))
```

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jb_rule_check	<i>Apply Johnson-Bickel rule checks to each subject.</i>
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### Description

The rules are:

1. There must be no more than one pair of consecutive time points in which the indifference point increases by more than 0.2.
2. The indifference point must decrease by at least 0.1 from the earliest to the latest time point.

### Usage

```
jb_rule_check(dd_data)
```

### Arguments

dd_data	A data frame containing discounting data in long format. The data should be in long format, with columns identifying the subject, group and time point for each observation, and the indifference point. The variables should be named subj, group, delay, and indiff, respectively. Values for indifference points should be between 0 and 1, exclusive. All delays should be positive. All subjects should have observations for the exact same set of delays.
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### Value

A data frame consisting of one observation per subject within group with the boolean variables C1 and C2 which are TRUE if the corresponding rule was passed and FALSE if it was not.

### Examples

```
rule_check_result <- jb_rule_check(remedi)
```

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prepare_data_frame	<i>Prepare a data frame containing discounting for use on the other functions in this package.</i>
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### Description

This includes: Reducing the data frame to only contain the expected variables. Sorting the observations into an expected order. Transforming delay and indifference for the linearized model. Estimating  $\ln(k)$  for each subject. Calculating residuals from observed values vs predictions by estimated  $\ln(k)$ .

**Usage**

```
prepare_data_frame(dd_data)
```

**Arguments**

**dd\_data** A data frame containing discounting data in long format. The data should be in long format, with columns identifying the subject, group and time point for each observation, and the indifference point. The variables should be named **subj**, **group**, **delay**, and **indiff**, respectively. Values for indifference points should be between 0 and 1, exclusive. All delays should be positive. All subjects should have observations for the exact same set of delays.

**Value**

A data frame compatible with the other functions in this package.

**Examples**

```
prep_remеди <- prepare_data_frame(remеди)
```

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remеди	<i>REMEDI data</i>
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**Description**

Delay discounting survey data from 434 adult subjects who reported having obesity and type 2 diabetes.

**Usage**

```
remеди
```

**Format**

remеди:

A data frame with 3,038 rows and 5 columns:

**study** Study name (always REMEDI)

**subj** Subject ID Number

**group** Condition group

**delay** The wait in days to receive the reward,

**indiff** The requisite proportion of reward needed for the subject to be indifferent to waiting for the full reward or receiving a reduced reward immediately

**Source**

Brown, et al. (2023). "Episodic future thinking in type 2 diabetes: Further development and validation of the Health Information Thinking control for clinical trials". *PLoS ONE* 18(8): e0289478 <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0289478>

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simulate_dataset	<i>Simulate a dataset from the hierarchical linearized hyperbolic model.</i>
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**Description**

Simulate a dataset from the hierarchical linearized hyperbolic model.

**Usage**

```
simulate_dataset(groups, num_subj, time_points, mean_ln_k, sigma_sq, g)
```

**Arguments**

groups	A character vector, with each component naming a group.
num_subj	An integer vector the same length as the vector of groups. Each entry represents the number of subjects in the respective group.
time_points	A vector of positive numbers in increasing order, representing the time points at which a subject's delay discounting rate is measured.
mean_ln_k	A numeric vector of the same length as the vector of groups. Each value represents the population ln_k mean for that group.
sigma_sq	The variance of an observed indifference points's transformed value, conditional on the variance.
g	Parameter controlling the variance of individual subject ln k parameters. Equal to $\text{Var}(\ln_k) * (\text{Number of time points}) / \text{sigma\_sq}$ , that is, the ratio of the variance of a subject ln k parameter to the variance of the estimate of a subject ln k parameter (conditional on the true ln k parameter).

**Value**

A data frame of simulated delay discounting data containing one observation per delay per subject. It contains the following columns: subj: A number identifying the subject. true\_ln\_k: The true ln\_k parameter of that subject. group: The subject's group. delay: The delay for the observation. indiff: The indifference point for the subject at the delay the observation corresponds to, between 0 and 1, representing the proportion of the reward the subject would need to receive to choose receiving the smaller reward now instead of waiting the delay for the full reward.

**Examples**

```
dd_data <- simulate_dataset(groups = c("EFT", "NCC"),
  num_subj = c(75, 150),
  time_points = c(30, 90, 180, 365, 1095, 1825, 3650),
  mean_ln_k = c(-6.7, -6),
  sigma_sq = 1.5, g = 10)
```

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