

# Package ‘rqlm’

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**Type** Package

**Title** Modified Poisson and Least-Squares Regressions for Binary Outcome

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**Description** Modified Poisson and least-squares regression analyses for binary outcomes of Zou (2004) <doi:10.1093/aje/kwh090> and Cheung (2007) <doi:10.1093/aje/kwm223> have been standard multivariate analysis methods to estimate risk ratio and risk difference in clinical and epidemiological studies. This R package involves an easy-to-handle function to implement these analyses by simple commands. Missing data analysis tools (multiple imputation) are also involved. Also, recent studies have shown the ordinary robust variance estimator possibly has serious bias under small or moderate sample size situations for these methods. This package also provides computational tools to calculate alternative accurate confidence intervals (Noma and Gosho (2024) <Forthcoming>).

**Depends** R (>= 3.5.0)

**Imports** stats, MASS, sandwich, mice

**License** GPL-3

**Encoding** UTF-8

**LazyData** true

**NeedsCompilation** no

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rqlm-package	<i>The 'rqlm' package.</i>
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### Description

Modified Poisson and least-squares regression analyses for binary outcomes have been standard multivariate analysis methods to estimate risk ratio and risk difference in clinical and epidemiological studies. This R package involves an easy-to-handle function to implement these analyses by simple commands. Missing data analysis tools (multiple imputation) are also involved. Also, recent studies have shown the ordinary robust variance estimator possibly has serious bias under small or moderate sample size situations for these methods. This package also provides computational tools to calculate accurate confidence intervals (Noma and Gosho, 2024).

### References

- Cheung, Y. B. (2007). A modified least-squares regression approach to the estimation of risk difference. *American Journal of Epidemiology* **166**, 1337-1344.
- Noma, H. and Gosho, M. (2024). Bootstrap confidence intervals based on quasi-likelihood estimating functions for the modified Poisson and least-squares regressions for binary outcomes. Forthcoming.
- Zou, G. (2004). A modified poisson regression approach to prospective studies with binary data. *American Journal of Epidemiology* **159**, 702-706.

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bsci.ls	<i>Calculating bootstrap confidence interval for modified least-squares regression based on the quasi-score statistic</i>
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### Description

Recent studies revealed the robust standard error estimates of the modified least-squares regression analysis are generally biased under small or moderate sample settings. To adjust the bias and to provide more accurate confidence intervals, confidence interval and P-value of the test for risk difference by modified least-squares regression are calculated based on the bootstrap approach of Noma and Gosho (2024).

## Usage

```
bsci.ls(formula, data, x.name=NULL, B=1000, cl=0.95, C0=10^-5,  
digits=4, seed=527916)
```

## Arguments

formula	An object of class "formula" (or one that can be coerced to that class): a symbolic description of the model to be fitted.
data	A data frame, list or environment (or object coercible by <code>as.data.frame</code> to a data frame) containing the variables in the model.
x.name	The variable name that the confidence interval is calculated for the regression coefficient; should be involved in <code>formula</code> as an explanatory variable. Specify as a character object.
B	The number of bootstrap resampling (default: 1000)
cl	Confidence level for calculating confidence intervals (default: 0.95)
C0	A tuning parameter to control the precisions of numerical computations of confidence limits (default: $10^{-5}$ ).
digits	Number of decimal places in the output (default: 4).
seed	Seed to generate random numbers (default: 527916).

## Value

Results of the modified least-squares analyses are presented. Three objects are provided: Results of the modified least-squares regression with the Wald-type approximation by `rqlm`, the bootstrap-based confidence interval for the corresponding covariate, and P-value for the bootstrap test of  $RD=0$ .

## References

Noma, H. and Gosho, M. (2024). Bootstrap confidence intervals based on quasi-likelihood estimating functions for the modified Poisson and least-squares regressions for binary outcomes. Forthcoming.

## Examples

```
data(exdata01)  
  
bsci.ls(y ~ x1 + x2 + x3 + x4, data=exdata01, "x3", B=10)  
# For illustration. B should be >= 1000 (the number of bootstrap resampling).
```

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<code>bsci.pois</code>	<i>Calculating bootstrap confidence interval for modified Poisson regression based on the quasi-score statistic</i>
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### Description

Recent studies revealed the risk ratio estimates and robust standard error estimates of the modified Poisson regression analysis are generally biased under small or moderate sample settings. To adjust the bias and to provide more accurate confidence intervals, confidence interval and P-value of the test for risk ratio by modified Poisson regression are calculated based on the bootstrap approach of Noma and Gosho (2024).

### Usage

```
bsci.pois(formula, data, x.name=NULL, B=1000, eform=FALSE, cl=0.95, C0=10^-5,
  digits=4, seed=527916)
```

### Arguments

<code>formula</code>	An object of class "formula" (or one that can be coerced to that class): a symbolic description of the model to be fitted.
<code>data</code>	A data frame, list or environment (or object coercible by <code>as.data.frame</code> to a data frame) containing the variables in the model.
<code>x.name</code>	The variable name that the confidence interval is calculated for the regression coefficient; should be involved in <code>formula</code> as an explanatory variable. Specify as a character object.
<code>B</code>	The number of bootstrap resampling (default: 1000)
<code>eform</code>	A logical value that specify whether the outcome should be transformed by exponential function (default: FALSE)
<code>cl</code>	Confidence level for calculating confidence intervals (default: 0.95)
<code>C0</code>	A tuning parameter to control the precisions of numerical computations of confidence limits (default: $10^{-5}$ ).
<code>digits</code>	Number of decimal places in the output (default: 4).
<code>seed</code>	Seed to generate random numbers (default: 527916).

### Value

Results of the modified Poisson analyses are presented. Three objects are provided: Results of the modified Poisson regression with the Wald-type approximation by `rqlm`, the bootstrap confidence interval for the corresponding covariate, and P-value for the bootstrap test of  $RR=1$ .

### References

Noma, H. and Gosho, M. (2024). Bootstrap confidence intervals based on quasi-likelihood estimating functions for the modified Poisson and least-squares regressions for binary outcomes. Forthcoming.

**Examples**

```
data(exdata01)

bsci.pois(y ~ x1 + x2 + x3 + x4, data=exdata01, "x3", B=10, eform=TRUE)
# For illustration. B should be >= 1000 (the number of bootstrap resampling).
```

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coeff	<i>Computation of the ordinary confidence intervals and P-values using the model variance estimator</i>
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**Description**

Confidence intervals and P-values for the linear regression model and the generalized linear model can be calculated using the ordinary model variance estimators. Through simply entering the output objects of `lm` or `glm`, the inference results are fastly computed. For the linear regression model, the exact confidence intervals and P-values based on the t-distribution are calculated. Also, for the generalized linear model, the Wald-type confidence intervals and P-values based on the asymptotic normal approximation are computed. The resultant coefficients and confidence limits can be transformed to exponential scales by specifying `eform`.

**Usage**

```
coeff(gm, eform=FALSE, cl=0.95, digits=4)
```

**Arguments**

<code>gm</code>	An output object of <code>lm</code> or <code>glm</code> .
<code>eform</code>	A logical value that specify whether the outcome should be transformed by exponential function (default: FALSE)
<code>cl</code>	Confidence level for calculating confidence intervals (default: 0.95)
<code>digits</code>	Number of decimal places in the output (default: 4).

**Value**

Results of inferences of the regression coefficients using the ordinary model variance estimators.

- `coef`: Coefficient estimates; transformed to the exponential scale if `eform=TRUE`.
- `SE`: Robust standard error estimates for `coef`.
- `CL`: Lower limits of confidence intervals.
- `CU`: Upper limits of confidence intervals.
- `P-value`: P-values for the coefficient tests.

**Examples**

```
data(exdata02)

gm1 <- glm(y ~ x1 + x2 + x3 + x4, data=exdata02, family=binomial)
coeff(gm1, eform=TRUE)
# Logistic regression analysis
# Coefficient estimates are translated to odds ratio scales

lm1 <- lm(x1 ~ x2 + x3 + x4, data=exdata02)
coeff(lm1)
# Linear regression analysis
```

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exdata01	<i>A simulated example dataset</i>
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**Description**

A simulated cohort data with binomial outcome.

- y: Dichotomous outcome variable.
- x1: Continuous covariate.
- x2: Binary covariate.
- x3: Binary covariate.
- x4: Binary covariate.

**Usage**

```
data(exdata01)
```

**Format**

A simulated cohort data with binomial outcome (n=40).

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exdata02	<i>A simulated example dataset</i>
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---

**Description**

A simulated cohort data with binomial outcome.

- y: Dichotomous outcome variable.
- x1: Continuous covariate.
- x2: Binary covariate.
- x3: Binary covariate.
- x4: Binary covariate.

**Usage**

```
data(exdata02)
```

**Format**

A simulated cohort data with binomial outcome (n=1200).

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exdata03	<i>A simulated example dataset with missing covariates</i>
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**Description**

A simulated cohort data with binomial outcome. Some covariates involve missing data.

- y: Dichotomous outcome variable.
- x1: Continuous covariate.
- x2: Binary covariate.
- x3: Binary covariate.
- x4: Binary covariate.

**Usage**

```
data(exdata03)
```

**Format**

A simulated cohort data with binomial outcome (n=1200). Some covariates involve missing data.

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mi_rqlm	<i>Multiple imputation analysis for modified Poisson and least-squares regressions</i>
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**Description**

Multiple imputation analysis for modified Poisson and least-squares regressions is performed for the imputed datasets generated by mice function in mice package. For computing covariance matrix estimate, the ordinary Rubin's rule is adapted to the sandwich variance estimates. Its validity is checked by several simulation studies for general GEE applications by Beunckens et al. (2008), Birhanu et al. (2011) and Yoo (2010).

**Usage**

```
mi_rqlm(ice, formula, family=poisson, eform=FALSE, cl=0.95, digits=4)
```

## Arguments

ice	An output object of mice function in mice package.
formula	An object of class "formula" (or one that can be coerced to that class): a symbolic description of the model to be fitted.
family	A description of the error distribution and link function to be used in the model. gaussian: Modified least-squares regression. poisson: Modified Poisson regression.
eform	A logical value that specify whether the outcome should be transformed by exponential function (default: FALSE)
cl	Confidence level for calculating confidence intervals (default: 0.95)
digits	Number of decimal places in the output (default: 4).

## Value

Results of the multiple imputation analysis for modified Poisson and least-squares regressions. For computing covariance matrix estimate, the ordinary Rubin's rule is adapted to the sandwich variance estimates.

- coef: Coefficient estimates; transformed to the exponential scale if eform=TRUE.
- SE: Robust standard error estimates for coef.
- CL: Lower limits of confidence intervals.
- CU: Upper limits of confidence intervals.
- df: Degree of freedom for the t-approximation.
- P-value: P-values for the coefficient tests.

## References

- Aloisio, K. M., Swanson, S. A., Micali, N., Field, A., and Horton, N. J. (2014). Analysis of partially observed clustered data using generalized estimating equations and multiple imputation. *Stata Journal*, **14**, 863-883.
- Beunckens, C., Sotto, C., and Molenberghs., G. (2008). A simulation study comparing weighted estimating equations with multiple imputation based estimating equations for longitudinal binary data. *Computational Statistics and Data Analysis*, **52**, 1533-1548.
- Birhanu, T., Molenberghs, G., Sotto, C., and Kenward, M. G. (2011). Doubly robust and multiple-imputation-based generalized estimating equations. *Journal of Biopharmaceutical Statistics*, **21**, 202-225.
- Little, R. J., and Rubin, D. B. (2019). *Statistical Analysis with Missing Data*, 3rd edition. New York: Wiley.
- Yoo, B. (2010). The impact of dichotomization in longitudinal data analysis: a simulation study. *Pharmaceutical Statistics*, **9**, 298-312.



**Examples**

```

library("mice")

data(exdata03)

exdata03$x2 <- factor(exdata03$x2)
exdata03$x3 <- factor(exdata03$x3)
exdata03$x4 <- factor(exdata03$x4)

ice5 <- mice(exdata03,m=5)
# For illustration. m should be >=100.

mi_rqlm(ice5, y ~ x1 + x2 + x3 + x4, family=poisson, eform=TRUE)
# Modified Poisson regression analysis
# Coefficient estimates are translated to risk ratio scales

mi_rqlm(ice5, y ~ x1 + x2 + x3 + x4, family=gaussian)
# Modified least-squares regression analysis

```

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qesci.ls	<i>Calculating confidence interval for modified least-squares regression based on the quasi-score test</i>
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**Description**

Recent studies revealed the robust standard error estimates of the modified least-squares regression analysis are generally biased under small or moderate sample settings. To adjust the bias and to provide more accurate confidence intervals, confidence interval and P-value of the test for risk difference by modified least-squares regression are calculated based on the quasi-score test of Noma and Gosho (2024).

**Usage**

```
qesci.ls(formula, data, x.name=NULL, cl=0.95, C0=10^-5, digits=4)
```

**Arguments**

formula	An object of class "formula" (or one that can be coerced to that class): a symbolic description of the model to be fitted.
data	A data frame, list or environment (or object coercible by <code>as.data.frame</code> to a data frame) containing the variables in the model.
x.name	The variable name that the confidence interval is calculated for the regression coefficient; should be involved in <code>formula</code> as an explanatory variable. Specify as a character object.
cl	Confidence level for calculating confidence intervals (default: 0.95)
C0	A tuning parameter to control the precisions of numerical computations of confidence limits (default: $10^{-5}$ ).
digits	Number of decimal places in the output (default: 4).

**Value**

Results of the modified least-squares analyses are presented. Three objects are provided: Results of the modified least-squares regression with the Wald-type approximation by `rqlm`, quasi-score confidence interval for the corresponding covariate, and P-value for the quasi-score test of  $R_D=0$ .

**References**

Noma, H. and Gosho, M. (2024). Bootstrap confidence intervals based on quasi-likelihood estimating functions for the modified Poisson and least-squares regressions for binary outcomes. Forthcoming.

**Examples**

```
data(exdata01)

qesci.ls(y ~ x1 + x2 + x3 + x4, data=exdata01, "x3")
```

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<code>qesci.pois</code>	<i>Calculating confidence interval for modified Poisson regression based on the quasi-score test</i>
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**Description**

Recent studies revealed the risk ratio estimates and robust standard error estimates of the modified Poisson regression analysis are generally biased under small or moderate sample settings. To adjust the bias and to provide more accurate confidence intervals, confidence interval and P-value of the test for risk ratio by modified Poisson regression are calculated based on the quasi-score test of Noma and Gosho (2024).

**Usage**

```
qesci.pois(formula, data, x.name=NULL, eform=FALSE, cl=0.95, C0=10^-5, digits=4)
```

**Arguments**

<code>formula</code>	An object of class "formula" (or one that can be coerced to that class): a symbolic description of the model to be fitted.
<code>data</code>	A data frame, list or environment (or object coercible by <code>as.data.frame</code> to a data frame) containing the variables in the model.
<code>x.name</code>	The variable name that the confidence interval is calculated for the regression coefficient; should be involved in <code>formula</code> as an explanatory variable. Specify as a character object.
<code>eform</code>	A logical value that specify whether the outcome should be transformed by exponential function (default: FALSE)
<code>cl</code>	Confidence level for calculating confidence intervals (default: 0.95)
<code>C0</code>	A tuning parameter to control the precisions of numerical computations of confidence limits (default: $10^{-5}$ ).
<code>digits</code>	Number of decimal places in the output (default: 4).

**Value**

Results of the modified Poisson analyses are presented. Three objects are provided: Results of the modified Poisson regression with the Wald-type approximation by `rqlm`, quasi-score confidence interval for the corresponding covariate, and P-value for the quasi-score test of  $RR=1$ .

**References**

Noma, H. and Gosho, M. (2024). Bootstrap confidence intervals based on quasi-likelihood estimating functions for the modified Poisson and least-squares regressions for binary outcomes. Forthcoming.

**Examples**

```
data(exdata01)

qesci.pois(y ~ x1 + x2 + x3 + x4, data=exdata01, "x3", eform=TRUE)
```

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<code>rqlm</code>	<i>Modified Poisson and least-squares regression analyses for binary outcomes</i>
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**Description**

Modified Poisson and least-squares regression analyses for binary outcomes are performed. This function is handled by a similar way with `lm` or `glm`. The model fitting to the binary data can be specified by `family`. Also, the resultant coefficients and confidence limits can be transformed to exponential scales by specifying `eform`. The standard error estimates are calculated using the standard robust variance estimator by `sandwich` package.

**Usage**

```
rqlm(formula, data, family=poisson, eform=FALSE, cl=0.95, digits=4)
```

**Arguments**

<code>formula</code>	An object of class "formula" (or one that can be coerced to that class): a symbolic description of the model to be fitted.
<code>data</code>	A data frame, list or environment (or object coercible by <code>as.data.frame</code> to a data frame) containing the variables in the model.
<code>family</code>	A description of the error distribution and link function to be used in the model. <code>gaussian</code> : Modified least-squares regression. <code>poisson</code> : Modified Poisson regression.
<code>eform</code>	A logical value that specify whether the outcome should be transformed by exponential function (default: <code>FALSE</code> )
<code>cl</code>	Confidence level for calculating confidence intervals (default: 0.95)
<code>digits</code>	Number of decimal places in the output (default: 4).

## Value

Results of the modified Poisson and least-squares regression analyses.

- coef: Coefficient estimates; transformed to the exponential scale if eform=TRUE.
- SE: Robust standard error estimates for coef.
- CL: Lower limits of confidence intervals.
- CU: Upper limits of confidence intervals.
- P-value: P-values for the coefficient tests.

## References

Cheung, Y. B. (2007). A modified least-squares regression approach to the estimation of risk difference. *American Journal of Epidemiology* **166**, 1337-1344.

Noma, H. and Goshu, M. (2024). Bootstrap confidence intervals based on quasi-likelihood estimating functions for the modified Poisson and least-squares regressions for binary outcomes. Forthcoming.

White, H. (1982). Maximum likelihood estimation of misspecified models. *Econometrica*, **50**, 1-25.

Zou, G. (2004). A modified poisson regression approach to prospective studies with binary data. *American Journal of Epidemiology* **159**, 702-706.

## Examples

```
data(exdata02)
```

```
rqlm(y ~ x1 + x2 + x3 + x4, data=exdata02, family=poisson, eform=TRUE)
# Modified Poisson regression analysis
# Coefficient estimates are translated to risk ratio scales
```

```
rqlm(y ~ x1 + x2 + x3 + x4, data=exdata02, family=gaussian)
# Modified least-squares regression analysis
```

```
rqlm(y ~ x1 + x2 + x3 + x4, data=exdata02, family=gaussian, digits=3)
# Modified least-squares regression analysis
# Number of decimal places can be changed by specifying "digits"
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