

# Package ‘ovbsa’

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**Title** Sensitivity Analysis of Omitted Variable Bias

**Version** 2.0.0

**Description** Conduct sensitivity analysis of omitted variable bias in linear econometric models using the methodology presented in Basu (2025) <[doi:10.2139/ssrn.4704246](https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4704246)>.

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**Encoding** UTF-8

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.2

**Imports** dplyr, lmtest, stats, tidyr

**Suggests** sensemakr

**URL** <https://github.com/dbasu-umass/ovbsa/>,  
<https://github.com/dbasu-umass/ovbsa>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/dbasu-umass/ovbsa/issues>

**NeedsCompilation** no

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 bsal

*basic sensitivity analysis of omitted variable bias*


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**Description**

basic sensitivity analysis of omitted variable bias

**Usage**

```
bsal(kd, ky, alpha, data, outcome, treatment, bnch_reg, other_reg)
```

**Arguments**

kd	sensitivity parameter $kD$ (scalar)
ky	sensitivity parameter $kY$ (scalar)
alpha	significance level for hypothesis test (e.g. 0.05)
data	data frame for analysis
outcome	name of outcome variable
treatment	name of treatment variable
bnch_reg	name(s) of benchmark covariate(s)
other_reg	name(s) of other regressors

**Value**

a matrix with following rows for case 1, 2 and 3 (in columns):

r2yd.x	partial $R^2$ of Y on D conditioning on X
r2dz.x	partial $R^2$ of D on Z conditioning on X
r2yz.dx	partial $R^2$ of Y on Z conditioning on D and X
estimate	unadjusted parameter estimate
adjusted_estimate	bias-adjusted parameter estimate
adjusted_se	bias-adjusted standard error
adjusted_lower_CI	bias-adjusted confidence interval lower boundary
adjusted_upper_CI	bias-adjusted confidence interval upper boundary

**Examples**

```
require("sensemakr")
Y <- "peacefactor"
D <- "directlyharmed"
X <- "female"
X_oth <- c("village", "age", "farmer_dar", "herder_dar", "pastvoted", "hhsizes_darfur")

res1 <- bsal(kd=1, ky=1, alpha=0.05, data=darfur, outcome=Y, treatment=D, bnch_reg=X, other_reg=X_oth)
```

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kdkyrngpr2ncd	<i>compute max(kD) and max(kY) for partial R2-based analysis without conditioning on treatment</i>
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**Description**

compute max(kD) and max(kY) for partial R2-based analysis without conditioning on treatment

**Usage**

```
kdkyrngpr2ncd(data, outcome, treatment, bnch_reg, other_reg = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

data	data frame for analysis
outcome	name of outcome variable
treatment	name of treatment variable
bnch_reg	name(s) of benchmark covariate(s)
other_reg	name(s) of other covariates

**Value**

a data frame with 2 columns and 1 row:

kd_high	max(kD), a scalar
ky_high	max(kY), a scalar

**Examples**

```
require("sensemakr")
Y <- "peacefactor"
D <- "directlyharmed"
X <- "female"
X_oth <- c("village", "age", "farmer_dar", "herder_dar", "pastvoted", "hhsizes_darfur")

r1 <- kdkyrngpr2ncd(data=darfur, outcome=Y, treatment=D, bnch_reg=X, other_reg=X_oth)
```

---

`kdkyrngtr2`*compute max(kD) and max(kY) for total R2-based analysis*

---

**Description**

compute max(kD) and max(kY) for total R2-based analysis

**Usage**

```
kdkyrngtr2(data, outcome, treatment, bnch_reg, other_reg = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

<code>data</code>	data frame for analysis
<code>outcome</code>	name of outcome variable
<code>treatment</code>	name of treatment variable
<code>bnch_reg</code>	name(s) of benchmark covariate(s)
<code>other_reg</code>	name(s) of other covariates

**Value**

a data frame with 2 columns and 1 row:

<code>kd_high</code>	max(kD), a scalar
<code>ky_high</code>	max(kY), a scalar

**Examples**

```
require("sensemakr")
Y <- "peacefactor"
D <- "directlyharmed"
X <- "female"
X_oth <- c("village", "age", "farmer_dar", "herder_dar", "pastvoted", "hhsizе_darfur")

r1 <- kdkyrngtr2(data=darfur, outcome=Y, treatment=D, bnch_reg=X, other_reg=X_oth)
```

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linvx	<i>quasi-triangular probability distribution function</i>
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**Description**

quasi-triangular probability distribution function

**Usage**

```
linvx(x, xvec, k)
```

**Arguments**

x	point (scalar) at which pdf is evaluated
xvec	vector of all possible x values
k	mode and median of the distribution

**Value**

the value (scalar) of the pdf at x

**Examples**

```
xfull <- runif(n=100,min=0,max=10)
xpoint <- 5
xmod <- 2
res_pdf <- linvx(x=xpoint,xvec=xfull,k=xmod)
```

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pr2ncdbias	<i>bias and std error for (kd,ky) using partial R2-based analysis without conditioning on treatment</i>
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**Description**

bias and std error for (kd,ky) using partial R2-based analysis without conditioning on treatment

**Usage**

```
pr2ncdbias(kd, ky, alpha, data, outcome, treatment, bnch_reg, other_reg = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

kd	sensitivity parameter kD (scalar)
ky	sensitivity parameter kY (scalar)
alpha	significance level for hypothesis test (e.g. 0.05)
data	data frame for analysis
outcome	name of outcome variable
treatment	name of treatment variable
bnch_reg	name(s) of benchmark covariate(s)
other_reg	name(s) of other covariate(s)

**Value**

a list with the following elements:

adjustp	Adj std error when unadj estimate>0
adjustn	Adj std error when unadj estimate<0
ciulp	Adj lower boundary of conf int when unadj estimate>0
ciubp	Adj upper boundary of conf int when unadj estimate>0
cilbn	Adj lower boundary of conf int when unadj estimate<0
ciubn	Adj upper boundary of conf int when unadj estimate<0

**Examples**

```
require("sensemakr")
Y <- "peacefactor"
D <- "directlyharmed"
X <- "female"
X_oth <- c("village", "age", "farmer_dar", "herder_dar", "pastvoted", "hhsizes_darfur")
```

```
res4<-pr2ncdbias(kd=1,ky=1,alpha=0.05,data=darfur,outcome=Y,treatment=D,bnch_reg=X,other_reg=X_oth)
```

---

salpr2ncd

*probability of conclusion being overturned using partial R2-based analysis without conditioning on treatment*

---

**Description**

probability of conclusion being overturned using partial R2-based analysis without conditioning on treatment

**Usage**

```
salpr2ncd(
  alpha,
  data,
  outcome,
  treatment,
  bnch_reg,
  other_reg,
  N,
  maxkd = NULL,
  maxky = NULL,
  k_kd = 1,
  k_ky = 1
)
```

**Arguments**

alpha	significance level (scalar) for hypothesis test (e.g. 0.05)
data	data frame for analysis
outcome	name of outcome variable
treatment	name of treatment variable
bnch_reg	name(s) of benchmark covariate(s)
other_reg	name(s) of other covariate(s)
N	number of points on grid = $N^2$
maxkd	max of sensitivity parameter kD
maxky	max of sensitivity parameter kY
k_kd	mode (and median) of sensitivity parameter kD
k_ky	mode (and median) of sensitivity parameter kY

**Value**

list with the following elements:

dataplot	data set used for contour plot
kdmax	max of sensitivity parameter kD
kymax	max of sensitivity parameter kY
frac_prob	prob of conclusion being overturned (unwt)
frac_prob_wt	prob of conclusion being overturned (wt)
frac_prob_rest	prob of conclusion being overturned (unwt, rest)
frac_prob_rest_wt	prob of conclusion being overturned (wt, rest)

**Examples**

```

require("sensemakr")
Y <- "peacefactor"
D <- "directlyharmed"
X <- "female"
X_oth <- c("village", "age", "farmer_dar", "herder_dar", "pastvoted", "hhsizes_darfur")

darfur1 <- dplyr::slice_sample(darfur, prop=0.25)

res4 <- saltr2ncd(alpha=0.05, data=darfur1, outcome=Y, treatment=D, bnch_reg=X, other_reg=X_oth, N=500)

```

---

saltr2	<i>probability of conclusion being overturned using total R2-based analysis</i>
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**Description**

probability of conclusion being overturned using total R2-based analysis

**Usage**

```

saltr2(
  alpha,
  data,
  outcome,
  treatment,
  bnch_reg,
  other_reg,
  N,
  maxkd = NULL,
  maxky = NULL,
  k_kd = 1,
  k_ky = 1
)

```

**Arguments**

alpha	significance level for hypothesis test (e.g. 0.05)
data	data frame for analysis
outcome	name of outcome variable
treatment	name of treatment variable
bnch_reg	name(s) of benchmark covariate(s)
other_reg	name(s) of other covariate(s)
N	number of points on grid = $N^2$



maxkd	max of sensitivity parameter kD
maxky	max of sensitivity parameter kY
k_kd	mode (and median) of sensitivity parameter kD
k_ky	mode (and median) of sensitivity parameter kY

**Value**

list with the following elements:

dataplot	data set used for contour plot
kdmax	max of sensitivity parameter kD
kymax	max of sensitivity parameter kY
frac_prob	prob of conclusion being overturned (unwt)
frac_prob_wt	prob of conclusion being overturned (wt)
frac_prob_rest	prob of conclusion being overturned (unwt, rest)
frac_prob_rest_wt	prob of conclusion being overturned (wt, rest)

**Examples**

```
require("sensemakr")
Y <- "peacefactor"
D <- "directlyharmed"
X <- "female"
X_oth <- c("village", "age", "farmer_dar", "herder_dar", "pastvoted", "hhsizes_darfur")

darfur1 <- dplyr::slice_sample(darfur, prop=0.25)

res3 <- saltr2(alpha=0.05, data=darfur1, outcome=Y, treatment=D, bnch_reg=X, other_reg=X_oth, N=500)
```

---

tr2bias *bias and std error for (kd,ky) using total R2-based analysis*

---

**Description**

bias and std error for (kd,ky) using total R2-based analysis

**Usage**

```
tr2bias(kd, ky, alpha, data, outcome, treatment, bnch_reg, other_reg = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

kd	sensitivity parameter kD (scalar)
ky	sensitivity parameter kY (scalar)
alpha	significance level for hypothesis test (e.g. 0.05)
data	data frame for analysis
outcome	name of outcome variable
treatment	name of treatment variable
bnch_reg	name(s) of benchmark covariate(s)
other_reg	name(s) of other covariate(s)

**Value**

a list with the following elements:

adjustp	Adj std error when unadj estimate>0
adjustn	Adj std error when unadj estimate<0
ciulp	Adj lower boundary of conf int when unadj estimate>0
ciubp	Adj upper boundary of conf int when unadj estimate>0
ciuln	Adj lower boundary of conf int when unadj estimate<0
ciubn	Adj upper boundary of conf int when unadj estimate<0

**Examples**

```
require("sensemakr")
Y <- "peacefactor"
D <- "directlyharmed"
X <- "female"
X_oth <- c("village", "age", "farmer_dar", "herder_dar", "pastvoted", "hhsizes_darfur")

res2 <- tr2bias(kd=1, ky=1, alpha=0.05, data=darfur, outcome=Y, treatment=D, bnch_reg=X, other_reg=X_oth)
```

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