# Package 'flimo'

July 22, 2025

**Type** Package

**Title** Fixed Landscape Inference Method

**Version** 0.1.5

**Description** Likelihood-free inference method for stochastic models.
Uses a deterministic optimizer on simple simulations of the model
that are performed with a prior drawn randomness by applying the inverse transform method.
Is designed to work on its own and also by using the Julia package 'Jflimo'
available on the git page of the project: <https://metabarcoding.org/flimo>.

**Imports** compiler, ggplot2, JuliaConnectoR

**License** CeCILL

**Encoding** UTF-8

**RoxygenNote** 7.2.1

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**Suggests** knitr, rmarkdown

**NeedsCompilation** no

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**Repository** CRAN

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## Contents

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`check_simulator` *Check if simulator with fixed quantiles is well implemented*

---

## Description

Run simulations to catch random variations. Warning : does not check it formally. Warning : does not check if quantiles are used several times.

## Usage

```
check_simulator(
  simulatorQ,
  ndraw,
  Theta_lower = 0,
  Theta_upper = 1,
  ntheta = 5,
  nruns = 3
)
```

## Arguments

| | |
|---|---|
| `simulatorQ` | Function of type simulatorQ(Theta, quantiles) where Theta is the parameter set for the simulations and quantiles are drawn in U(0,1). |
| `ndraw` | Integer. Number of random variables to draw for one simulation of the model. |
| `Theta_lower` | 1D numeric array. Lower bounds of Theta parameters. |
| `Theta_upper` | 1D numeric array. Upper bounds of Theta parameters. |
| `ntheta` | Integer. Number of Theta parameters to test. |
| `nruns` | Integer. For each Theta, number of simulations to run. |

## Value

Boolean. True if no random effect was detected, False else.

## Examples

```
simulatorQ <- function(Theta, quantiles){
qpois(quantiles, lambda = Theta)
}
check_simulator(simulatorQ, 5,
Theta_lower = 50, Theta_upper = 150)
```

`flimobjective` *Objective function minimized by flimo*

## Description

Computes the summary statistics between simulations w.r.t. Theta and data. This function is to be minimized by flimoptim.

## Usage

```
flimobjective(Theta, quantiles, data, dsumstats, simulatorQ)
```

## Arguments

| | |
|---|---|
| `Theta` | 1D array. parameters for the simulations. |
| `quantiles` | 2D array containing values drawn in U(0,1). Row number = number of simulations. Column number = number of random variables to draw in one simulation. |
| `data` | 1D array containing the observations. |
| `dsumstats` | Function computing the distance between simulations and data of form dsumstats(simulations, data) where simulations : 2D array and data : 1D array. ncol(simulations) = length(data) mandatory. |
| `simulatorQ` | Function of type simulatorQ(Theta, quantiles) where Theta is the parameter set for the simulations and quantiles are drawn in U(0,1). See README for details. |

## Value

Numeric value. Distance between summary statistics of data and simulations w.r.t. Theta.

## Examples

```
quantiles <- matrix(runif(50), nrow = 10)

data <- rep(100, 5)

dsumstats <- function(simulations, data){
mean_simu <- mean(rowMeans(simulations))
mean_data <- mean(data)
(mean_simu-mean_data)^2
}

simulatorQ <- function(Theta, quantiles){
qpois(quantiles, lambda = Theta)
}

flimobjective(100, quantiles, data, dsumstats, simulatorQ)
```

`flimoptim` *Main function to use flimo inference*

## Description

Computes several parameter inferences with R optimizer or Julia optimizer in a full Julia mode. In R mode (default) : L-BFGS-B optimization or other methods available for the base::optim function. In Julia mode : either IPNewton with or without Automatic Differentiation, Nelder-Mead or Brent optimization. Argument ndraw is mandatory. You need either to provide data, dsumstats AND simulatorQ OR obj.

## Usage

```
flimoptim(
  ndraw,
  data = NULL,
  dsumstats = NULL,
  simulatorQ = NULL,
  obj = NULL,
  nsim = 10,
  ninfer = 1,
  lower = 0,
  upper = 1,
  Theta0 = (lower + upper)/2,
  randomTheta0 = FALSE,
  mode = c("R", "Julia"),
  AD = TRUE,
  method = "",
  obj_threshold = Inf,
  number_tries = 1,
  maxit = 1000,
  time_limit = NaN,
  factr = 1e+07,
  pgtol = 0,
  xtol = 0,
  ftol = 0,
  gtol = 1e-08,
  reltol = sqrt(.Machine$double.eps),
  abstol = .Machine$double.eps,
  show_trace = FALSE,
  store_trace = FALSE,
  store_quantiles = FALSE,
  par_names = NULL,
  load_julia = FALSE
)
```

## Arguments

| | |
|---|---|
| ndraw | Integer. Number of random variables to draw for one simulation of the model. |
| data | 1D array containing the observations. |
| dsumstats | Summary statistics to measure distance between simulations and data. In R mode : R function of type dsumstats(simulations, data) where simulations : 2D array and data : 1D array. ncol(simulations) = length(data) mandatory. In Julia mode : a string containing the script of the Julia function dsumstats(simulations, data). The name "dsumstats" is mandatory. |
| simulatorQ | Simulator of the stochastic process with fixed quantiles (see README). or a string (in mode "Julia") containing the script of the Julia function simulatorQ(Theta, quantiles). In Julia mode, the name "simulatorQ" is mandatory. Theta is the parameter set for the simulations and quantiles are drawn in U(0,1). |
| obj | Objective function to minimize. Default : is directly computed from dsumstats and simulatorQ. Either an R function of type objective(Theta, quantiles) (in mode "R") or a string (in mode "Julia") containing the script of the Julia function julia_obj(Theta, quantiles). Warning : could be tricky if mode = "Julia" to call data. In Julia mode, the name "julia_obj" is mandatory. |
| nsim | Integer. Number of simulations to run for each step of the optimization algorithm. Computation time grows linearly with this number. Default to 10. |
| ninfer | Integer. Number of independent inferences to run. Default to 1. |
| lower | 1D array. Lower bounds for parameters. Same length as upper. With Nelder-Mead in Julia mode: only used for starting point. |
| upper | 1D array. Upper bounds for parameters. Same length as lower. With Nelder-Mead in Julia mode: only used for starting point. |
| Theta0 | 1D array. Initial values of the parameters. Default : mean(lower, upper). |
| randomTheta0 | Boolean. If True, Theta0 is randomly drawn between lower and upper bounds. |
| mode | String. "R" (default) or "Julia". See README. |
| AD | Boolean. Only in Julia mode, uses Automatic Differentiation with IPNewton method. Default to true. |
| method | String. In Julia mode, allows to choose the optimization method : "IPNewton", "Brent" or "NelderMead". Default : IPNewton. In R mode, allows to choose any of the optimization methods used by base::optim. Default is L-BFGS-B. Random methods do not work with flimo. Bounded methods are L-BFGS-B and Brent. |
| obj_threshold | Float. Threshold score. If final value of objective is bigger, relaunch the inference if number_tries is not reached. The purpose is to avoid local minima. Default to Inf (no threshold). |
| number_tries | Integer. Number of tries (inferences) for the objective value to reach a point lower than obj_threshold. Default to 1. |
| maxit | Integer. Max number of iterations during optimization. Default to 1000. |
| time_limit | Float. Time limit in second for each inference. Default to no limit. Not available for R mode and Brent method in Julia mode. |

| | |
|---|---|
| factr | Float. In R-mode : control parameter for L-BFGS-B method in stats::optim. Default to 1e7. |
| pgtol | Float. In R-mode : control parameter for L-BFGS-B method in stats::optim. Default to 0. |
| xtol | Float. In Julia mode with IPNewton method : xtol option in Optim.Options. Default to 0. |
| ftol | Float. In Julia mode with IPNewton method : ftol option in Optim.Options. |
| gtol | Float. In Julia mode with IPNewton method : gtol option in Optim.Options. Default to 1e-8. |
| reltol | Float. In Julia mode with Brent method : reltol of Optim.optimize. Default is sqrt(.Machine$double.eps), about 1e-8. |
| abstol | Float. In Julia mode with Brent method : abstol of Optim.optimize. Default is .Machine$double.eps, about 1e-16. |
| show_trace | Boolean. If true, shows standard trace. Default to false. |
| store_trace | Boolean. If true, stores standard trace as an array of strings. Default to false. Not available for R mode. |
| store_quantiles | Boolean. If true, stores every quantiles used for inference, to reproduce the results. Default to false. |
| par_names | vector of names for parameters. Default is "par1", ..., "parn". |
| load_julia | Boolean. If true, run julia_load. It can take few seconds. Default to False. |

## Value

Object of class flimo_result (list) (converted from Julia object in Julia mode) containing every information about convergence results.

## Examples

```
data <- rep(100, 5)

simulatorQ <- function(Theta, quantiles){
qpois(quantiles, lambda = Theta)
}
dsumstats <- function(simulations, data){
mean_simu <- mean(rowMeans(simulations))
mean_data <- mean(data)
(mean_simu-mean_data)^2
}

flimoptim(5, data, dsumstats, simulatorQ,
lower = 50,
upper = 150)
```

`flimoptim_Julia` *Internal flimoptim function in Julia mode*

## Description

Computes several parameter inferences with Julia optimizer and either IPNewton with or without Automatic Differentiation, Nelder-Mead or Brent method.

## Usage

```
flimoptim_Julia(
  ndraw,
  data = NULL,
  dsumstats = NULL,
  simulatorQ = NULL,
  julia_obj = NULL,
  nsim = 10,
  ninfer = 1,
  lower = 0,
  upper = 1,
  Theta0 = (lower + upper)/2,
  randomTheta0 = FALSE,
  AD = TRUE,
  method = "",
  obj_threshold = Inf,
  number_tries = 1,
  maxit = 1000,
  time_limit = NULL,
  xtol = 0,
  ftol = 0,
  gtol = 1e-08,
  reltol = sqrt(.Machine$double.eps),
  abstol = .Machine$double.eps,
  show_trace = FALSE,
  store_trace = FALSE,
  store_quantiles = FALSE,
  par_names = NULL,
  load_julia = FALSE
)
```

## Arguments

| | |
|---|---|
| `ndraw` | Integer. Number of random variables to draw for one simulation of the model. |
| `data` | 1D array containing the observations. |
| `dsumstats` | Summary statistics to measure distance between simulations and data. String containing the script of the Julia function dsumstats(simulations, data). The name "dsumstats" is mandatory. |

| | |
|---|---|
| simulatorQ | Simulator of the stochastic process with fixed quantiles (see README). simulatorQ(Theta, quantiles). The name "simulatorQ" is mandatory. Theta is the parameter set for the simulations and quantiles are drawn in U(0,1). |
| julia_obj | Objective function to minimize. Default : is directly computed from dsumstats and simulatorQ. String containing the script of the Julia function julia_obj(Theta, quantiles). Warning : can be tricky to call data. The name "julia_obj" is mandatory. |
| nsim | Integer. Number of simulations to run for each step of the optimization algorithm. Computation time grows linearly with this number. Default to 10. |
| ninfer | Integer. Number of independent inferences to run. Default to 1. |
| lower | 1D array. Lower bounds for parameters. Same length as upper. |
| upper | 1D array. Upper bounds for parameters. Same length as lower. |
| Theta0 | 1D array. Initial values of the parameters. Default : mean(lower, upper). |
| randomTheta0 | Boolean. If True, Theta0 is randomly drawn between lower and upper bounds. |
| AD | Boolean. Only in Julia mod, uses Automatic Differentiation with IPNewton method. Default to true. |
| method | String. Allows to choose the optimization method : "Brent", "IPNewton" or "NelderMead". Default : IPNewton. |
| obj_threshold | Float. Threshold score. If Final value of objective is bigger, relaunch the inference if number_tries is not reached. The purpose is to avoid local minima. Default to Inf (no threshold). |
| number_tries | Integer. Number of tries (inferences) for the objective value to reach a point lower than obj_threshold. Default to 1. |
| maxit | Integer. Max number of iterations during optimization. Default to 1000. |
| time_limit | Float. Time limit in second for each inference. Default to no limit. Not available for Brent method. |
| xtol | Float. With IPNewton method : xtol option in Optim.Options. Default to 0. |
| ftol | Float. With IPNewton method : ftol option in Optim.Options. Default to 0. |
| gtol | Float. With IPNewton method : gtol option in Optim.Options. Default to 1e-8. |
| reltol | Float. With Brent method : reltol of Optim.optimize. Default is sqrt(.Machine$double.eps), about 1e-8. |
| abstol | Float. With Brent method : abstol of Optim.optimize. Default is .Machine$double.eps, about 1e-16. |
| show_trace | Boolean. If true, shows standard trace. Default to false. |
| store_trace | Boolean. If true, stores standard trace as an array of strings. Default to false. Not available for R mod. |
| store_quantiles | Boolean. If true, stores every quantiles used for inference, to reproduce the results. Default to false. |
| par_names | vector of names for parameters. Default is "par1", ..., "parn". |
| load_julia | Boolean. If true, run julia_load. It can take few seconds. Default to False. |

## Value

Object of class flimo_result (list) converted from Julia object containing every information about convergence results.

---

`flimoptim_R` *Internal flimoptim function in R mode*

---

## Description

Computes several parameter inferences with R optimizer.

## Usage

```
flimoptim_R(
  ndraw,
  data = NULL,
  dsumstats = NULL,
  simulatorQ = NULL,
  obj = NULL,
  nsim = 10,
  ninfer = 1,
  lower = 0,
  upper = 1,
  Theta0 = (lower + upper)/2,
  randomTheta0 = FALSE,
  obj_threshold = Inf,
  method = "L-BFGS-B",
  number_tries = 1,
  maxit = 1000,
  factr = 1e+07,
  pgtol = 0,
  show_trace = FALSE,
  store_quantiles = FALSE,
  par_names = NULL
)
```

## Arguments

| | |
|---|---|
| `ndraw` | Integer. Number of random variables to draw for one simulation of the model. |
| `data` | 1D array containing the observations. |
| `dsumstats` | Summary statistics to measure distance between simulations and data. R function of type dsumstats(simulations, data) where simulations : 2D array and data : 1D array. ncol(simulations) = length(data) mandatory. |
| `simulatorQ` | Simulator of the stochastic process with fixed quantiles (see README). Theta is the parameter set for the simulations and quantiles are drawn in U(0,1). |

| | |
|---|---|
| obj | Objective function to minimize. Default : is directly computed from dsumstats and simulatorQ. R function of type objective(Theta, quantiles) |
| nsim | Integer. Number of simulations to run for each step of the optimization algorithm. Computation time grows linearly with this number. Default to 10. |
| ninfer | Integer. Number of independent inferences to run. Default to 1. |
| lower | 1D array. Lower bounds for parameters. Same length as upper. |
| upper | 1D array. Upper bounds for parameters. Same length as lower. |
| Theta0 | 1D array. Initial values of the parameters. Default : mean(lower, upper). |
| randomTheta0 | Boolean. If True, Theta0 is randomly drawn between lower and upper bounds. |
| obj_threshold | Float. Threshold score. If Final value of objective is bigger, relaunch the inference if number_tries is not reached. The purpose is to avoid local minima. Default to Inf (no threshold). |
| method | String. Either "L-BFGS-B" (default) or any other method used by the base function optim. Stochastic methods do not work with flimo. If you want to provide bounds, you need to use L-BFGS-B or Brent. |
| number_tries | Integer. Number of tries (inferences) for the objective value to reach a point lower than obj_threshold. Default to 1. |
| maxit | Integer. Max number of iterations during optimization. Default to 1000. |
| factr | Float. Control parameter for L-BFGS-B method in stats::optim. Default to 1e7. |
| pgtol | Float. Control parameter for L-BFGS-B method in stats::optim. Default to 0. |
| show_trace | Boolean. If true, shows standard trace. Default to false. |
| store_quantiles | Boolean. If true, stores every quantiles used for inference, to reproduce the results. |
| par_names | vector of names for parameters. Default is "par1", ..., "parn". |

## Value

Object of class flimo_result (list) containing every information about convergence results.

---

`julia_load` *Load Julia*

---

## Description

Load needed Julia packages. Run to use Jflimo.

## Usage

```
julia_load()
```

## Value

Boolean. True if load is done correctly

## julia_setup *Check Julia setup*

### Description

Checks installation of Julia and install the needed packages. May take little time to run.Only run the first time you use Jflimo.

### Usage

```
julia_setup()
```

### Value

Boolean. True if correct setup, False else.

## plot.flimo_result *Plot main flimo results*

### Description

Shows the plots for most important inference results. Default only shows normalized boxplots for each inferred parameter.

### Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'flimo_result'
plot(
  x,
  y,
  ...,
  hist = FALSE,
  bins = 1 + as.integer(nrow(x$minimizer)^(1/3)),
  par_minimum = FALSE,
  pairwise_par = FALSE,
  boxplot = TRUE,
  par_names = NULL
)
```

### Arguments

| | |
|---|---|
| x | Object of class flimo_result. |
| y | unused generic argument. |
| ... | optional args for generic method |

| | |
|---|---|
| hist | Boolean. If True, plots the histogram of each inferred parameter. Default to false. |
| bins | Integer. Number of bins if hist is True. |
| par_minimum | Boolean. If True, plots each inferred parameter by reached minimum. Default to false. |
| pairwise_par | Boolean. If True, plots each pairs of inferred parameters.Default to false. |
| boxplot | Boolean. If True, plots the boxplots of each inferred parameter scaled by their mean. Default to true. |
| par_names | Vector of names for parameters. Default is "par1", ..., "parn". |

## Value

Nothing. Prints the asked ggplot objects.

---

`plot_objective` *Plot the objective to be minimized using flimo*

---

## Description

Plot of the objective function with one parameter moving (objective = f(theta_index)). You need either to provide data, dsumstats AND simulatorQ OR obj.

## Usage

```
plot_objective(
  ndraw,
  data = NULL,
  dsumstats = NULL,
  simulatorQ = NULL,
  obj = NULL,
  quantiles = NULL,
  index = NULL,
  other_param = NULL,
  nsim = 10,
  lower = 0,
  upper = 1,
  dim2 = TRUE,
  visualize_min = TRUE,
  plot_legend = TRUE,
  npoints = 300,
  add_to_plot = NULL
)
```

## Arguments

| | |
|---|---|
| ndraw | Integer.Number of random variables to draw for one simulation of the model. |
| data | 1D array containing the observations. |
| dsumstats | Function computing the distance between simulations and data of form dsumstats(simulations, data) where simulations : 2D array and data : 1D array. ncol(simulations) = length(data) mandatory. |
| simulatorQ | Function of type simulatorQ(Theta, quantiles) where Theta is the parameter set for the simulations and quantiles are drawn in U(0,1). |
| obj | objective function of type objective(Theta, quantiles). Default : directly computed with "dsumstats" and "simulatorQ". |
| quantiles | 2D array containing values drawn in U(0,1). Row number = number of simulations. Default: simulated within the function. Column number = number of random variables to draw in one simulation. |
| index | Integer. Index of the moving parameter. |
| other_param | Other parameters of the model. If NULL : assume 1D-model. If numeric : 2D-model, one curve. If 1D-array and dim2 is True (default) : 2D-model, one curve by value in other_param. If 1D-array and dim2 is False or 2D-array : (n>2)D-model, one curve by row in other_param. If your model has n>2 dimensions, you should define other_param as a matrix even if you have only one parameter set to test (with as.matrix(t(vect_param)) where vect_param is a 1D-array). |
| nsim | Integer. Number of simulations to run for each step of the optimization algorithm. Computation time grows linearly with this number. Default to 10. |
| lower | Numeric. Lower value of the plot. |
| upper | Numeric. Upper value of the plot. |
| dim2 | Boolean. True if model is 2-dimensional. |
| visualize_min | Boolean. If True, show explicitly the minimum point. |
| plot_legend | Boolean. If True (default), plots the legend. |
| npoints | Integer. Number of points evaluated. Default = 300. |
| add_to_plot | ggplot object. If not NULL, will add all curves/points on previous plot instead of creating a new one. Does not change title/labels/limits defined in previous plot. |

## Value

ggplot object representing the objective function to be minimized.

## Examples

```
data <- rep(100, 5)

dsumstats <- function(simulations, data){
mean_simu <- mean(rowMeans(simulations))
mean_data <- mean(data)
(mean_simu-mean_data)^2
```

```
}

simulatorQ <- function(Theta, quantiles){
qpois(quantiles, lambda = Theta)
}

plot_objective(5, data, dsumstats, simulatorQ,
lower = 0, upper = 200)
```

---

`print.flimo_result` *Print flimo results*

---

## Description

Prints most important information about inference results.

## Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'flimo_result'
print(x, ...)
```

## Arguments

| | |
|---|---|
| `x` | Object of class flimo_result from any mod/method algorithm of the flimo package. |
| `...` | optional args for generic method |

## Value

String containing most important information about argument of class flimo_result.

---

`sampleQ` *Sample function with fixed quantiles*

---

## Description

Replace the sample function in the context of fixed quantiles. Warning : first argument has less features.

## Usage

```
sampleQ(x, size, quantiles, replace = FALSE, prob = NULL)
```

### Arguments

| | |
|---|---|
| x | a vector of one or more elements from which to choose. |
| size | a non-negative integer giving the number of items to choose. |
| quantiles | 1D array containing values drawn in U(0,1). Length has to be equal to size. |
| replace | should sampling be with replacement ? |
| prob | a vector of probability weights for obtaining the elements of the vector being sampled. |

### Value

a vector of length size with elements drawn from x.

### Examples

```
set.seed(1)
quantiles <- runif(40)
sampleQ(1:10, 10, quantiles[1:10])
sampleQ(1:10, 10, quantiles[11:20])
sampleQ(11:20, 10, quantiles[1:10])
sampleQ(1:10, 20, quantiles[21:40], replace = TRUE)
```

---

## summary.flimo_result *Summary of flimo results*

---

### Description

Most important information about inference results.

### Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'flimo_result'
summary(object, ...)
```

### Arguments

| | |
|---|---|
| object | Object of class flimo_result from any mode/method algorithm of the Jflimo package. |
| ... | optional args for generic method summary |

### Value

List containing most important information about argument of class flimo_result.

# Index