

# Package ‘bama’

January 24, 2023

**Title** High Dimensional Bayesian Mediation Analysis

**Version** 1.3.0

**URL** <https://github.com/umich-cphds/bama>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/umich-cphds/bama/issues>

**Description** Perform mediation analysis in the presence of high-dimensional mediators based on the potential outcome framework. Bayesian Mediation Analysis (BAMA), developed by Song et al (2019) <[doi:10.1111/biom.13189](https://doi.org/10.1111/biom.13189)> and Song et al (2020) <[arXiv:2009.11409](https://arxiv.org/abs/2009.11409)>, relies on two Bayesian sparse linear mixed models to simultaneously analyze a relatively large number of mediators for a continuous exposure and outcome assuming a small number of mediators are truly active. This sparsity assumption also allows the extension of univariate mediator analysis by casting the identification of active mediators as a variable selection problem and applying Bayesian methods with continuous shrinkage priors on the effects.

**License** GPL-3

**Encoding** UTF-8

**LazyData** true

**RoxygenNote** 7.2.1

**LinkingTo** Rcpp, RcppArmadillo, RcppDist, BH

**Imports** Rcpp, parallel

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**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**NeedsCompilation** yes

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bama	<i>Bayesian Mediation Analysis</i>
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### Description

bama is a Bayesian inference method that uses continuous shrinkage priors for high-dimensional Bayesian mediation analysis, developed by Song et al (2019, 2020). bama provides estimates for the regression coefficients as well as the posterior inclusion probability for ranking mediators.

### Usage

```
bama(
  Y,
  A,
  M,
  C1,
  C2,
  method,
  burnin,
  ndraws,
  weights = NULL,
  inits = NULL,
  control = list(k = 2, lm0 = 1e-04, lm1 = 1, lma1 = 1, l = 1, lambda0 = 0.04, lambda1 =
    0.2, lambda2 = 0.2, phi0 = 0.01, phi1 = 0.01, a0 = 0.01 * ncol(M), a1 = 0.05 *
    ncol(M), a2 = 0.05 * ncol(M), a3 = 0.89 * ncol(M)),
  seed = NULL
)
```

### Arguments

Y	Length n numeric outcome vector
A	Length n numeric exposure vector
M	n x p numeric matrix of mediators of Y and A
C1	n x nc1 numeric matrix of extra covariates to include in the outcome model
C2	n x nc2 numeric matrix of extra covariates to include in the mediator model

method	String indicating which method to use. Options are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "BSLMM" - mixture of two normal components; Song et al. 2019</li> <li>• "PTG" - product threshold Gaussian prior; Song et al. 2020</li> <li>• "GMM" - NOTE: GMM not currently supported. Instead, use method = 'PTG'. four-component Gaussian mixture prior; Song et al. 2020</li> </ul>
burnin	number of iterations to run the MCMC before sampling
ndraws	number of draws to take from MCMC (includes burnin draws)
weights	Length n numeric vector of weights
inits	list of initial values for the Gibbs sampler. Options are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• beta.m - Length p numeric vector of initial beta.m in the outcome model. See details for equation</li> <li>• alpha.a - Length p numeric vector of initial alpha.a in the mediator model. See details for equation</li> </ul>
control	list of Gibbs algorithm control options. These include prior and hyper-prior parameters. Options vary by method selection. If method = "BSLMM" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• k - Shape parameter prior for inverse gamma</li> <li>• lm0 - Scale parameter prior for inverse gamma for the small normal components</li> <li>• lm1 - Scale parameter prior for inverse gamma for the large normal components of beta_m</li> <li>• lma1 - Scale parameter prior for inverse gamma for the large normal component of alpha_a</li> <li>• l - Scale parameter prior for the other inverse gamma distributions</li> </ul> <p>If method = "PTG"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lambda0 - threshold parameter for product of alpha.a and beta.m effect</li> <li>• lambda1 - threshold parameter for beta.m effect</li> <li>• lambda2 - threshold parameter for alpha.a effect</li> <li>• ha - inverse gamma shape prior for sigma.sq.a</li> <li>• la - inverse gamma scale prior for sigma.sq.a</li> <li>• h1 - inverse gamma shape prior for sigma.sq.e</li> <li>• l1 - inverse gamma scale prior for sigma.sq.e</li> <li>• h2 - inverse gamma shape prior for sigma.sq.g</li> <li>• l2 - inverse gamma scale prior for sigma.sq.g</li> <li>• km - inverse gamma shape prior for tau.sq.b</li> <li>• lm - inverse gamma scale prior for tau.sq.b</li> <li>• kma - inverse gamma shape prior for tau.sq.a</li> <li>• lma - inverse gamma scale prior for tau.sq.a</li> </ul> <p>If method = "GMM". NOTE: GMM not currently supported. Instead, use method = 'PTG'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• phi0 - prior beta.m variance</li> <li>• phi1 - prior alpha.a variance</li> </ul>

- a0 - prior count of non-zero beta.m and alpha.a effects
- a1 - prior count of non-zero beta.m and zero alpha.a effects
- a2 - prior count of zero beta.m and non-zero alpha.a effects
- a3 - prior count of zero beta.m and zero alpha.a effects
- ha - inverse gamma shape prior for sigma.sq.a
- la - inverse gamma scale prior for sigma.sq.a
- h1 - inverse gamma shape prior for sigma.sq.e
- l1 - inverse gamma scale prior for sigma.sq.e
- h2 - inverse gamma shape prior for sigma.sq.g
- l2 - inverse gamma scale prior for sigma.sq.g

seed                    numeric seed for GIBBS sampler

### Details

bama uses two regression models for the two conditional relationships,  $Y|A, M, C$  and  $M|A, C$ . For the outcome model, bama uses

$$Y = M\beta_M + A * \beta_A + C * \beta_C + \epsilon_Y$$

For the mediator model, bama uses the model

$$M = A * \alpha_A + C * \alpha_C + \epsilon_M$$

For high dimensional tractability, bama employs continuous Bayesian shrinkage priors to select mediators and makes the two following assumptions: First, it assumes that all the potential mediators contribute small effects in mediating the exposure-outcome relationship. Second, it assumes that only a small proportion of mediators exhibit large effects ("active" mediators). bama uses a Metropolis-Hastings within Gibbs MCMC to generate posterior samples from the model.

NOTE: GMM not currently supported. Instead, use method = 'PTG'.

### Value

If method = "BSLMM", then bama returns a object of type "bama" with 12 elements:

**beta.m** ndraws x p matrix containing outcome model mediator coefficients.

**r1** ndraws x p matrix indicating whether or not each beta.m belongs to the larger normal component (1) or smaller normal component (0).

**alpha.a** ndraws x p matrix containing the mediator model exposure coefficients.

**r3** ndraws x p matrix indicating whether or not each alpha.a belongs to the larger normal component (1) or smaller normal component (0).

**beta.a** Vector of length ndraws containing the beta.a coefficient.

**pi.m** Vector of length ndraws containing the proportion of non zero beta.m coefficients.

**pi.a** Vector of length ndraws containing the proportion of non zero alpha.a coefficients.

**sigma.m0** Vector of length ndraws containing the standard deviation of the smaller normal component for mediator-outcome coefficients (beta.m).

**sigma.m1** Vector of length ndraws containing standard deviation of the larger normal component for mediator-outcome coefficients (beta.m).

**sigma.ma0** Vector of length ndraws containing standard deviation of the smaller normal component for exposure-mediator coefficients (alpha.a).

**sigma.ma1** Vector of length ndraws containing standard deviation of the larger normal component for exposure-mediator coefficients (alpha.a).

**call** The R call that generated the output.

NOTE: GMM not currently supported. Instead, use method = 'PTG' If method = "GMM", then bama returns a object of type "bama" with:

**beta.m** ndraws x p matrix containing outcome model mediator coefficients.

**alpha.a** ndraws x p matrix containing the mediator model exposure coefficients.

**betam\_member** ndraws x p matrix of 1's and 0's where item = 1 only if beta.m is non-zero.

**alphaa\_member** ndraws x p matrix of 1's and 0's where item = 1 only if alpha.a is non-zero.

**alpha.c** ndraws x (q2 + p) matrix containing alpha\_c coefficients. Since alpha.c is a matrix of dimension q2 x p, the draws are indexed as  $\alpha_c(w, j) = w * p + j$

**beta.c** ndraws x q1 matrix containing beta\_c coefficients. Since beta.c is a matrix of dimension q1 x p

**beta.a** Vector of length ndraws containing the beta.a coefficient.

**sigma.sq.a** Vector of length ndraws variance of beta.a effect

**sigma.sq.e** Vector of length ndraws variance of outcome model error

**sigma.sq.g** Vector of length ndraws variance of mediator model error

If method = "PTG", then bama returns a object of type "bama" with:

**beta.m** ndraws x p matrix containing outcome model mediator coefficients.

**alpha.a** ndraws x p matrix containing the mediator model exposure coefficients.

**alpha.c** ndraws x (q2 + p) matrix containing alpha\_c coefficients. Since alpha.c is a matrix of dimension q2 x p, the draws are indexed as  $\alpha_c(w, j) = w * p + j$

**beta.c** ndraws x q1 matrix containing beta\_c coefficients. Since beta.c is a matrix of dimension q1 x p

**betam\_member** ndraws x p matrix of 1's and 0's where item = 1 only if beta.m is non-zero.

**alphaa\_member** ndraws x p matrix of 1's and 0's where item = 1 only if alpha.a is non-zero.

**beta.a** Vector of length ndraws containing the beta.a coefficient.

**sigma.sq.a** Vector of length ndraws variance of beta.a effect

**sigma.sq.e** Vector of length ndraws variance of outcome model error

**sigma.sq.g** Vector of length ndraws variance of mediator model error

## References

Song, Y, Zhou, X, Zhang, M, et al. Bayesian shrinkage estimation of high dimensional causal mediation effects in omics studies. *Biometrics*. 2019; 1-11. [doi:10.1111/biom.13189](https://doi.org/10.1111/biom.13189)

Song, Yanyi, Xiang Zhou, Jian Kang, Max T. Aung, Min Zhang, Wei Zhao, Belinda L. Needham et al. "Bayesian Sparse Mediation Analysis with Targeted Penalization of Natural Indirect Effects." arXiv preprint arXiv:2008.06366 (2020).

**Examples**

```

library(bama)

Y <- bama.data$y
A <- bama.data$a

# grab the mediators from the example data.frame
M <- as.matrix(bama.data[, paste0("m", 1:100)], nrow(bama.data))

# We just include the intercept term in this example as we have no covariates
C1 <- matrix(1, 1000, 1)
C2 <- matrix(1, 1000, 1)
beta.m <- rep(0, 100)
alpha.a <- rep(0, 100)

out <- bama(Y = Y, A = A, M = M, C1 = C1, C2 = C2, method = "BSLMM", seed = 1234,
            burnin = 100, ndraws = 110, weights = NULL, inits = NULL,
            control = list(k = 2, lm0 = 1e-04, lm1 = 1, lma1 = 1, l = 1))

# The package includes a function to summarise output from 'bama'
summary <- summary(out)
head(summary)

# Product Threshold Gaussian
ptgmod = bama(Y = Y, A = A, M = M, C1 = C1, C2 = C2, method = "PTG", seed = 1234,
             burnin = 100, ndraws = 110, weights = NULL, inits = NULL,
             control = list(lambda0 = 0.04, lambda1 = 0.2, lambda2 = 0.2))

mean(ptgmod$beta.a)
apply(ptgmod$beta.m, 2, mean)
apply(ptgmod$alpha.a, 2, mean)
apply(ptgmod$betam_member, 2, mean)
apply(ptgmod$alphaa_member, 2, mean)

```

---

bama.data

*Synthetic example data for bama*


---

**Description**

Synthetic example data for bama

**Usage**

```
bama.data
```

**Format**

A data.frame with 1000 observations on 102 variables:

**y** Numeric response variable.

**a** Numeric exposure variable.

**m[1-100 ]** Numeric mediator variables

---

fdr.bama

*Bayesian Mediation Analysis Controlling For False Discovery*

---

**Description**

fdr.bama uses the permutation test to estimate the null PIP distribution for each mediator and determines a threshold (based off of the fdr parameter) for significance.

**Usage**

```
fdr.bama(
  Y,
  A,
  M,
  C1,
  C2,
  beta.m,
  alpha.a,
  burnin,
  ndraws,
  weights = NULL,
  npermutations = 200,
  fdr = 0.1,
  k = 2,
  lm0 = 1e-04,
  lm1 = 1,
  lma1 = 1,
  l = 1,
  mc.cores = 1,
  type = "PSOCK"
)
```

**Arguments**

Y	Length n numeric outcome vector
A	Length n numeric exposure vector
M	n x p numeric matrix of mediators of Y and A
C1	n x nc1 numeric matrix of extra covariates to include in the outcome model

<code>C2</code>	<code>n x nc2</code> numeric matrix of extra covariates to include in the mediator model
<code>beta.m</code>	Length <code>p</code> numeric vector of initial <code>beta.m</code> in the outcome model
<code>alpha.a</code>	Length <code>p</code> numeric vector of initial <code>alpha.a</code> in the mediator model
<code>burnin</code>	Number of iterations to run the MCMC before sampling
<code>ndraws</code>	Number of draws to take from MCMC after the burnin period
<code>weights</code>	Length <code>n</code> numeric vector of weights
<code>npermutations</code>	The number of permutations to generate while estimating the null pip distribution. Default is 200
<code>fdr</code>	False discovery rate. Default is 0.1
<code>k</code>	Shape parameter prior for inverse gamma. Default is 2.0
<code>lm0</code>	Scale parameter prior for inverse gamma for the small normal components. Default is 1e-4
<code>lm1</code>	Scale parameter prior for inverse gamma for the large normal component of <code>beta.m</code> . Default is 1.0
<code>lma1</code>	Scale parameter prior for inverse gamma for the large normal component of <code>alpha.a</code> . Default is 1.0
<code>l</code>	Scale parameter prior for the other inverse gamma distributions. Default is 1.0
<code>mc.cores</code>	The number of cores to use while running <code>fdr.bama</code> . <code>fdr.bama</code> uses the <code>parallel</code> package for parallelization, so see that for more information. Default is 1 core
<code>type</code>	Type of cluster to make when <code>mc.cores &gt; 1</code> . See <code>makeCluster</code> in the <code>parallel</code> package for more details. Default is "PSOCK"

### Value

`fdr.bama` returns a object of type "fdr.bama" with 5 elements:

**bama.out** Output from the bama run.

**pip.null** A `p x npermutations` matrices containing the estimated null PIP distribution for each mediator.

**threshold** The cutoff significance threshold for each PIP controlling for the false discovery rate.

**fdr** The false discovery rate used to calculate threshold.

**call** The R call that generated the output.

### Author(s)

Alexander Rix

### References

Song, Y, Zhou, X, Zhang, M, et al. Bayesian shrinkage estimation of high dimensional causal mediation effects in omics studies. *Biometrics*. 2019; 1-11. [doi:10.1111/biom.13189](https://doi.org/10.1111/biom.13189)



**Examples**

```
library(bama)

Y <- bama.data$y
A <- bama.data$a

# grab the mediators from the example data.frame
M <- as.matrix(bama.data[, paste0("m", 1:100)], nrow(bama.data))

# We just include the intercept term in this example as we have no covariates
C1 <- matrix(1, 1000, 1)
C2 <- matrix(1, 1000, 1)
beta.m <- rep(0, 100)
alpha.a <- rep(0, 100)

set.seed(12345)

out <- fdr.bama(Y, A, M, C1, C2, beta.m, alpha.a, burnin = 100,
               ndraws = 120, npermutations = 10)

# The package includes a function to summarise output from 'fdr.bama'
summary(out)
```

---

print.bama

*Printing bama objects*

---

**Description**

Print a bama object.

**Usage**

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

**Arguments**

x                    An object of class 'bama'.  
...                   Additional arguments to pass to print.data.frame or summary.bama

---

print.fdr.bama	<i>Printing bama objects</i>
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---

**Description**

Print a bama object.

**Usage**

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

**Arguments**

x	An object of class 'bama'.
...	Additional arguments to pass to print.data.frame or summary.bama

---

summary.bama	<i>Summarize objects of type "bama"</i>
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---

**Description**

summary.bama summarizes the 'beta.m' estimates from bama and generates an overall estimate, credible interval, and posterior inclusion probability.

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'bama'
summary(object, rank = F, ci = c(0.025, 0.975), ...)
```

**Arguments**

object	An object of class "bama".
rank	Whether or not to rank the output by posterior inclusion probability. Default is TRUE.
ci	The credible interval to calculate. ci should be a length 2 numeric vector specifying the upper and lower bounds of the CI. By default, ci = c(0.025, .975).
...	Additional optional arguments to summary

**Value**

A data.frame with 4 elements. The beta.m estimates, the estimates' *credible* interval (which by default is 95\ inclusion probability (pip) of each 'beta.m').

---

summary.fdr.bama	<i>Summarize objects of type "fdr.bama"</i>
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### Description

summary.fdr.bama summarizes the beta.m estimates from fdr.bama and for each mediator generates an overall estimate, credible interval, posterior inclusion probability (PIP), and PIP threshold for significance controlling for the specified false discovery rate (FDR).

### Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'fdr.bama'
summary(
  object,
  rank = F,
  ci = c(0.025, 0.975),
  fdr = object$fdr,
  filter = T,
  ...
)
```

### Arguments

object	An object of class "bama".
rank	Whether or not to rank the output by posterior inclusion probability. Default is TRUE.
ci	The credible interval to calculate. ci should be a length 2 numeric vector specifying the upper and lower bounds of the CI. By default, ci = c(0.025, .975).
fdr	False discovery rate. By default, it is set to whatever the fdr of object is. However, it can be changed to recalculate the PIP cutoff threshold.
filter	Whether or not to filter out mediators with PIP less than the PIP threshold.
...	Additional optional arguments to summary

### Value

A data.frame with 4 elements. The beta.m estimates, the estimates' *credible* interval (which by default is 95\ inclusion probability (pip) of each 'beta.m'.

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