

bmagraph coefdensity — Regression coefficient density plots after BMA regression

Description
Options
Also see

Quick start
Remarks and examples

Menu
Methods and formulas

Syntax
Reference

Description

`bmagraph coefdensity` provides posterior density plots for regression coefficients after the `bmaregress` command. This command is useful for exploratory analysis of regression coefficients. For a given predictor, `bmagraph coefdensity` shows the posterior probability of that predictor not being included in a model and, separately, the smooth density of its coefficient conditional on the predictor being included.

Quick start

Plot the analytical posterior density of the coefficient for predictor `x` after a Bayesian model averaging (BMA) regression model with a fixed `g`

```
bmagraph coefdensity {x}
```

Same as above, but plot the MCMC-sample posterior density instead of the analytical one; `bmacoef-sample` must be run first

```
bmaregress, saving(bmamodelmcmc)
bmacoefsample
bmagraph coefdensity {x}, mcmcsample
```

Plot posterior densities of coefficients for predictors `x1` and `x2`, and customize the look of the vertical probability-mass line at zero for the second graph

```
bmagraph coefdensity {x1 x2}, przeroline2opts(lcolor(green))
```

Same as above, but do not show the lines for probability mass at zero

```
bmagraph coefdensity {x1 x2}, noprzerolines
```

Customize the kernel function used and the line pattern for the graph for `{x1}`

```
bmagraph coefdensity {x1 x2}, denslopts(kernel(gaussian) lpattern(dot))
```

Plot densities for all coefficients on one graph in two rows

```
bmagraph coefdensity _all, combine(rows(2))
```

Plot the MCMC-sample posterior density of the coefficient for predictor `x` after a BMA regression model with a random `g`

```
bmaregress, saving(bmamodelmcmc2)
bmacoefsample
bmagraph coefdensity {x}
```

Equivalent to the above `bmagraph coefdensity`

```
bmagraph coefdensity {x}, mcmcsample
```

Menu

Statistics > Bayesian model averaging > Coefficient densities

Syntax

Density plot for one coefficient

```
bmagraph coefdensity {coef} [, singleopts]
```

Density plot for multiple coefficients

```
bmagraph coefdensity coefspect [, multiopts]
```

Density plot for all coefficients

```
bmagraph coefdensity _all [, multiopts]
```

coef is an unabbreviated name of the variable or a factor level used in the `bmaregress` model. *coefspect* may be a regression coefficient {*coef*}, a list of coefficients {*coef1*}, {*coef2*}, etc., or, equivalently, {*coef1 coef2 ...*}. _all refers to all regression coefficients.

singleopts

Description

Main

analytic

plot analytical posterior density; default for fixed *g*

mcmcsample

plot MCMC-sample posterior density; only choice for random *g*

name(*name*, ...)

specify name of graph

saving(*filename*, ...)

save graph in file

[no] przeroline

plot or hide vertical line for probability mass at zero

przerolineopt(*line_options*)

affect rendition of vertical line for probability mass at zero

Density options

densopts

density plot options

Y axis, X axis, Titles, Legend, Overall

twoway_options

any options other than `by()`, `name()`, and `saving()`
documented in [G-3] *twoway_options*

<i>multiopts</i>	Description
Main	
<code>analytic</code>	plot analytical posterior density; default for fixed g
<code>mcmcsample</code>	plot MCMC-sample posterior density; only choice for random g
<code>name(namespec, ...)</code>	specify names of graphs
<code>saving(filespec, ...)</code>	save graphs in files
<code>[no]przerolines</code>	plot or hide vertical lines for probability mass at zero
<code>przerolineopts(line_options)</code>	affect rendition of all vertical lines for probability mass at zero
<code>przeroline#opts(line_options)</code>	affect rendition of #th vertical line for probability mass at zero
<code>combine([grcombineopts])</code>	display plots on one graph
Density options	
<code>dens#opts(densopts)</code>	density options for #th plot
<code>densopts</code>	density options for all plots
Y axis, X axis, Titles, Legend, Overall	
<code>twoway_options</code>	any options other than <code>by()</code> , <code>name()</code> , and <code>saving()</code> documented in [G-3] twoway_options

Options

Main

`analytic` specifies that the density be computed analytically. This is the default for models with a fixed g and is not available for models with a random g . This option may not be specified together with option `mcmcsample`.

`mcmcsample` specifies that the density be estimated from a Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) sample of coefficients. This option uses an MCMC sample generated by the `bmacoefsample` command and may not be specified together with option `analytic`. This is the only choice for models with a random g ; that is, option `mcmcsample` is implied with a random g . With a fixed g , if an MCMC sample is not available, option `mcmcsample` is not allowed. You must use `bmacoefsample` to generate an MCMC sample to produce coefficient density graphs based on sample estimates.

`name(namespec[, replace])` specifies the name of the graph or multiple graphs. See [G-3] [name_option](#) for a single graph. If multiple graphs are produced, then the argument of `name()` is either a list of names or `stub`, in which case graphs are named `stub1`, `stub2`, and so on. With multiple graphs, if `name()` is not specified, `name(Graph_#, replace)` is assumed; thus, the produced graphs may be replaced by subsequent `bmargin` commands.

The `replace` suboption causes existing graphs with the specified name or names to be replaced.

`saving(filespec[, replace])` specifies the filename or filenames to use to save the graph or multiple graphs to disk. See [G-3] [saving_option](#) for a single graph. If multiple graphs are produced, then the argument of `saving()` is either a list of filenames or `stub`, in which case graphs are saved with filenames `stub1`, `stub2`, and so on.

The `replace` suboption specifies that the file (or files) may be replaced if it already exists.

`przerolines` and `noprzerolines` show or hide the vertical lines for probability mass at zero. By default, the lines are shown.

`przerolineopts(line_options)` and `przeroline#opts(line_options)` affect the rendition of the vertical lines for probability mass at zero; see [G-3] [line_options](#). `przerolineopts()` controls the look of all vertical lines but may be overridden for specific lines by using the respective options `przeroline#opts()`.

`combine[grcombineopts]` specifies the display of all plots of coefficients as subgraphs on one graph. By default, a separate graph is produced for each plot when multiple coefficients are specified.

`grcombineopts` is any of the options documented in [G-2] [graph combine](#).

Density options

`dens#opts(densopts)` specifies density options for the #th density plot.

`densopts` specify options for the (kernel) density plot; see the options documented in [G-2] [graph twoway kdensity](#), except options `horizontal` and `range(varname)`. When option `analytic` is assumed, the density functions are known; thus, the kernel density estimation is not needed. In that case, `densopts` include only `n()` and `cline_options`, described in [G-2] [graph twoway kdensity](#).

Y axis, X axis, Titles, Legend, Overall

`twoway_options` are any of the options documented in [G-3] [twoway_options](#), excluding `by()`, `name()`, or `saving()`. These include, for instance, options for titling the graph (see [G-3] [title_options](#)).

Remarks and examples

[stata.com](http://www.stata.com)

The `bmaregress` command computes and reports only the posterior means and standard deviations of the regression coefficients. But we can use `bmargin` `coefdensity` to plot the entire posterior densities for the regression coefficients.

A posterior density for a regression coefficient in a BMA linear regression is a mixture of a discrete and continuous components. A discrete component corresponds to the posterior probability of noninclusion, the probability that the corresponding predictor is not included in a model after observing the data, which is equivalent to the posterior probability that the coefficient is equal to zero. This component is represented by a red vertical line with a probability mass at zero equal to one minus the posterior inclusion probability (PIP). A continuous component corresponds to the continuous density conditional on the predictor being included or, equivalently, on the coefficient not being equal to zero.

For a BMA linear regression with a fixed g , the posterior densities of regression coefficients are known and can be plotted at any prespecified x -axis points; see [Posterior distributions of regression coefficients in Methods and formulas](#) of [BMA] `bmaregress`. We refer to these densities as analytical posterior densities. Alternatively, if an MCMC sample of regression coefficients, as produced by `bmacoefsample`, is available, the posterior densities can be estimated from this sample by using kernel density estimation (see [R] `kdensity`) when you specify the `mcmcsample` option. We refer to these posterior densities as MCMC-sample posterior densities. With a random g , this is the only option because analytical posterior densities are not available. That is, with a random g , you must run the `bmacoefsample` first before you can run `bmargin` `coefdensity`.

▷ Example 1: Posterior density plots for BMA linear regression using enumeration

Recall the performance dataset (Chatterjee and Hadi 2012, sec. 3.3) analyzed in example 1 of [BMA] `bmaregress`, where the employees' satisfaction with their supervisors, `rating`, is modeled by six potential predictors.

We fit a BMA linear regression for the `rating` outcome using all six other variables as potential predictors. By default, the model space is fully explored using enumeration.

```
. use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r18/performance
(Data on employee satisfaction with supervisor)

. bmaregress rating complaints-advance
Enumerating models ...
Computing model probabilities ...

Bayesian model averaging                No. of obs      =    30
Linear regression                       No. of predictors =     6
Model enumeration                       Groups         =     6
                                           Always        =     0

Priors:
Models: Beta-binomial(1, 1)             No. of models   =    64
Cons.: Noninformative                  For CPMP >= .9 =    10
Coef.: Zellner's g                     Mean model size =  1.699
    g: Benchmark, g = 36                Shrinkage, g/(1+g) = 0.9730
    sigma2: Noninformative              Mean sigma2     = 52.302
```

rating	Mean	Std. dev.	Group	PIP
complaints	.7052859	.1224289	1	.99973
learning	.0603014	.1285281	3	.25249
advance	-.0167921	.073883	6	.13148
privileges	-.0074174	.0488635	2	.10998
raises	.0070789	.0670475	4	.10642
critical	.0009713	.0437848	5	.098534
Always				
_cons	14.8472	7.874219	0	1

Note: Coefficient posterior means and std. dev. estimated from 64 models.

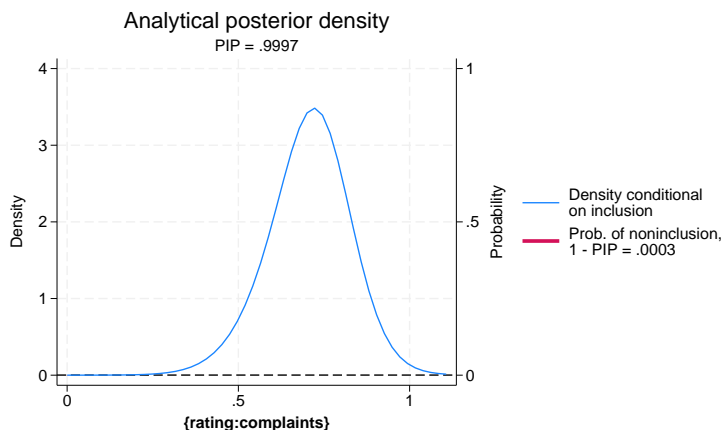
Note: Default priors are used for models and parameter *g*.

For a fixed *g*, as in our example, the posterior distributions for the regression coefficients can be computed analytically, so we can use `bmargin coefdensity` directly after `bmaregress`.

Let's look at the distributions of regression coefficients for `complaints` and `learning`. Similarly to other Stata Bayesian commands, we use the curly-braces notation to refer to model parameters—the regression coefficients.

Let us inspect the analytical marginal posterior density of the coefficient for `complaints`.

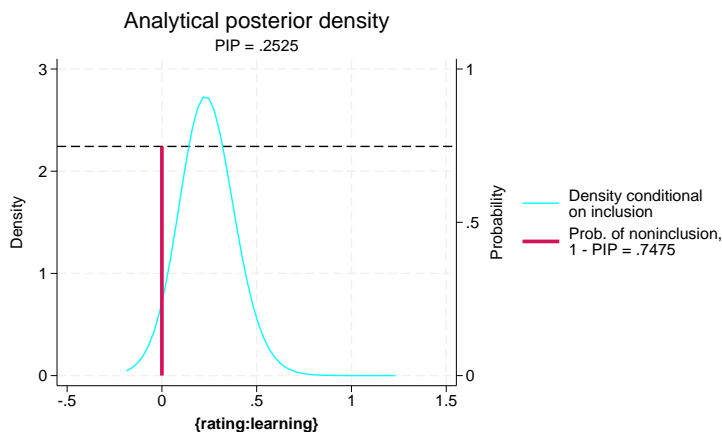
```
. bmagrph coefdensity {complaints}
```



For coefficient `{complaints}` (or using its full name `{rating:complaints}`), the probability of noninclusion is very low, 0.0003, so the red line that represents it is not even visible on the graph. Thus, the posterior density of `{complaints}` is essentially a continuous density, with a mean of roughly 0.7 and with a slightly heavier left tail. Most of the mass of the distribution is between roughly 0.025 and 1.1, away from 0.

Let's plot the analytical marginal posterior density for the `{learning}` coefficient and request a cyan color for the density line:

```
. bmagrph coefdensity {learning}, lcolor(cyan)
```



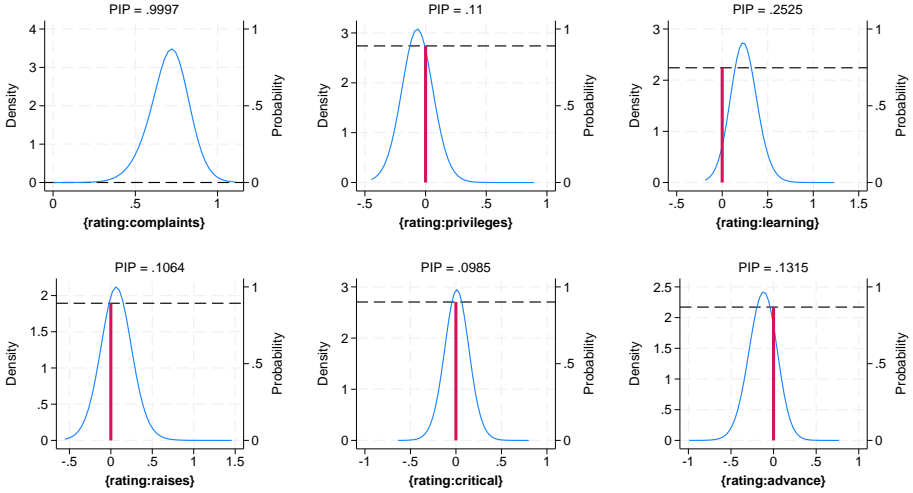
The probability of a noninclusion for `{learning}` is about 0.75, so we see the red vertical line with the horizontal reference line at roughly 0.75. The look of the vertical line can be controlled via the `przerolineopts()` option. Conditional on the inclusion, the continuous density has its mass between roughly -0.2 and 0.7 , which includes 0.

The posterior means and standard deviations reported by `bmaregress` are computed with respect to the above mixtures of distributions.

Instead of showing the density of each coefficient separately, we can plot the densities of all coefficients by specifying `_all` and request they be plotted on the same graph using the `combine()` option.

```
. bmarginr coefdensity _all, combine(rows(2))
```

Analytical posterior density



The `rows(2)` suboption of `combine()` specifies that plots be organized in two rows.



▷ Example 2: Posterior density plots for BMA linear regression using sampling

We refit the same BMA model as in [example 1](#) but now use the `sampling` option to request the MCMC model composition (MC3) algorithm instead of the default model enumeration.

```
. bmaregress rating complaints-advance, sampling rseed(18)
Burn-in ...
Simulation ...
Computing model probabilities ...

Bayesian model averaging          No. of obs      =    30
Linear regression                 No. of predictors =     6
MC3 sampling                      Groups         =     6
                                   Always          =     0
                                   No. of models   =    32
                                   For CPMP >= .9 =    10
Mean model size                   = 1.699
Burn-in                           = 2,500
MCMC sample size                  = 10,000
Acceptance rate                   = 0.2417
Shrinkage, g/(1+g)               = 0.9730
Mean sigma2                       = 52.292

Priors:
Models: Beta-binomial(1, 1)
Cons.: Noninformative
Coef.: Zellner's g
      g: Benchmark, g = 36
      sigma2: Noninformative
Sampling correlation = 0.9990
```

rating	Mean	Std. dev.	Group	PIP
complaints	.705479	.1218881	1	1
learning	.0601919	.1282869	3	.25234
advance	-.0167514	.0737415	6	.13141
privileges	-.0074265	.048844	2	.10996
raises	.0069949	.0666406	4	.10629
critical	.0009699	.0437742	5	.098526
Always				
_cons	14.84478	7.871046	0	1

Note: Coefficient posterior means and std. dev. estimated from 32 models.

Note: Default priors are used for models and parameter g .

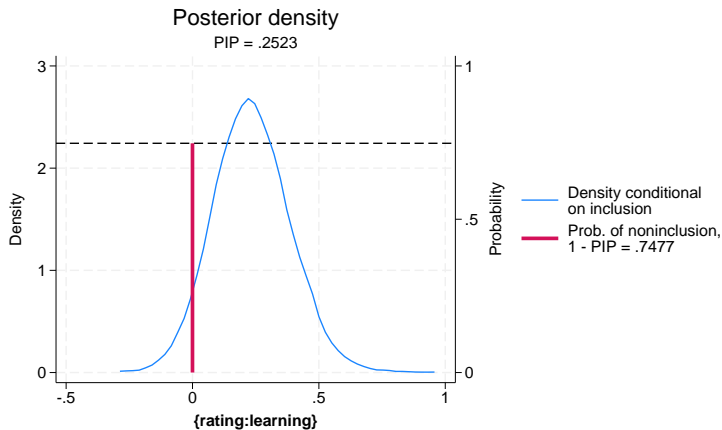
Although the MC3 sampling is used for the model-space exploration, we can still use `bmagraph coefdensity` directly after `bmaregress` to plot the analytical posterior densities of regression coefficients. This is because we are still assuming a fixed g parameter in our model.

Let's compare the analytical and MCMC-sample posterior densities. To obtain the sample estimates, we must first simulate an MCMC sample from the posterior distribution of regression coefficients by using `bmacoefsample`. To use `bmacoefsample`, we first need to save the simulation results produced by `bmaregress`.

```
. bmaregress, saving(bmaex2, replace)
note: file bmaex2.dta not found; file saved.
. bmacoefsample, rseed(18)
Simulation (10000): ...5000...10000 done
```

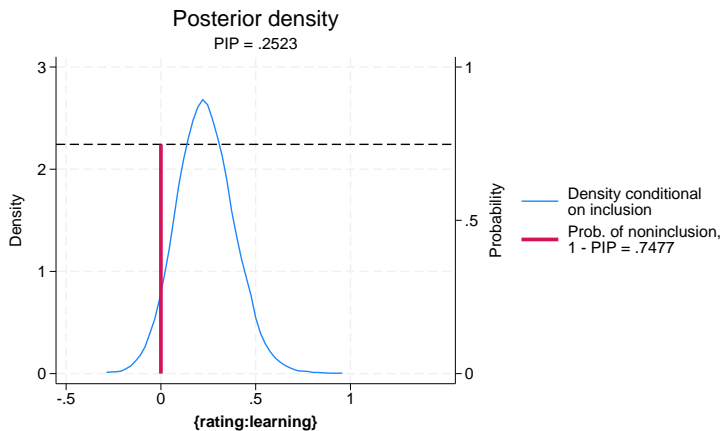

To request the density estimate based on the MCMC sample, we specify the `mcmc` option. We plot the MCMC-sample posterior density estimate for the `{learning}` coefficient.

```
. bmargin coefdensity {learning}, mcmc
```



To more easily compare the plot above with the one in [example 1](#), we rescale the x axis to have the same range.

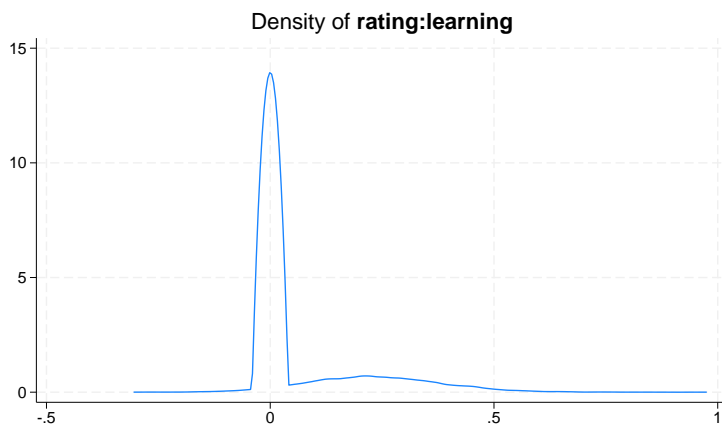
```
. bmargin coefdensity {learning}, mcmc xscale(range(-.5 1.5))
```



The plot is similar to that in [example 1](#).

The marginal density of the `learning` coefficient can also be estimated using the `bayesgraph kdensity` command (see [\[BAYES\] bayesgraph](#)). This command, however, incorporates the mass at zero and shows the distribution mixture as one smooth curve, which may not be of practical use in the context of BMA models.

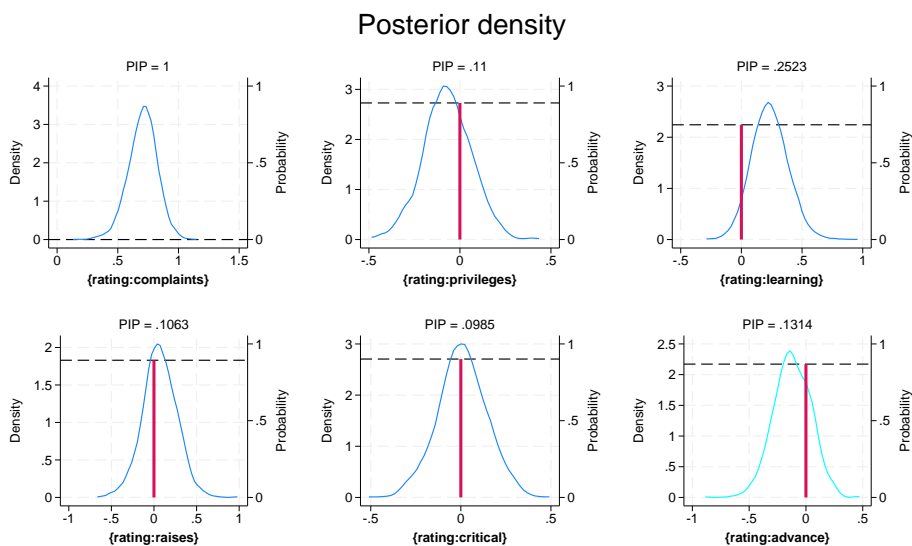
```
. bayesgraph kdensity {learning}
```



Notice how the density curve shrinks toward 0 given the relatively large probability mass ($1 - \text{PIP} = 0.7477$) at that point.

For comparison with the density plots in [example 1](#), we will plot MCMC-sample densities for all coefficients in our model. To demonstrate, we also use `dens6opts(lcolor(cyan))` to specify a cyan color for the density on the sixth plot corresponding to `{rating:advance}`.

```
. bmargin coefdensity _all, mcmc sample combine(rows(2)) dens6opts(lcolor(cyan))
```



If adequate exploration of the model space by `bmargin` occurred and a sufficiently large MCMC sample is generated by `bmargin sample`, the analytical and MCMC-sample posterior densities are expected to be similar. This is the case in our examples (after we adjust for the scales of the x axes).

With a random g , the analytical posterior densities are not available, and the MCMC sampling is needed to approximate these distributions. In that case, the `bmargin sample` command must be run first to obtain posterior samples of regression coefficients, as we showed above. `bmargin coefdensity`

can then be used to plot an MCMC-sample posterior density, except we do not need to specify the `mcmcsample` option—it is implied with a random g .

◀

Methods and formulas

Continuing with the notation in *Methods and formulas* of [BMA] **bmaregress**, we consider a predictor X_k for $1 \leq k \leq p$. Let β_k be the regression coefficient associated with predictor X_k .

The posterior distribution of β_k has a mixed structure, which consists of a continuous portion (a mixture of location-scale t -distributions) and a discrete portion (point mass at 0),

$$p(\beta_k|\mathbf{y}) = (1 - \text{PIP}_k) \delta_0 + \text{PIP}_k \mathbf{f}_k$$

where δ_0 denotes the point mass at 0 and \mathbf{f}_k is defined by (10) in *Posterior distributions of regression coefficients* in *Methods and formulas* of [BMA] **bmaregress** for models with a fixed g (option `analytic`). When the `mcmcsample` option is assumed, either by default for models with a random g or if specified for models with a fixed g , \mathbf{f}_k is computed using the `kdensity` (see [R] **kdensity**) command based on the coefficient sample generated by `bmacoefsample`.

The vertical line for the probability mass at 0 corresponds to $1 - \text{PIP}_k$, where PIP_k is the PIP of X_k computed as

$$\text{PIP}_k = \sum_{j \in J} I(X_k \in M_j) P(M_j|\mathbf{y})$$

and J indexes a subspace of the model space visited by `bmaregress`. Also see *Posterior inclusion probability* in *Methods and formulas* of [BMA] **bmaregress**.

In the above formula, for models with a fixed g parameter, $P(M_j|\mathbf{y})$ is either $P_a(M_j|\mathbf{y})$ (option `analytic`) or $P_f(M_j|\mathbf{y})$ (option `mcmcsample`). For models with a random g parameter, $P(M_j|\mathbf{y})$ is $P_f(M_j|\mathbf{y})$. These quantities are defined, respectively, by (7) and (8) in *Posterior model probability* in *Methods and formulas* of [BMA] **bmaregress**.

Reference

Chatterjee, S., and A. S. Hadi. 2012. *Regression Analysis by Example*. 5th ed. New York: Wiley.

Also see

[BMA] **bmarginh** — Graphical summary for models and predictors after BMA regression

[BMA] **bmaregress** — Bayesian model averaging for linear regression

[BMA] **BMA postestimation** — Postestimation tools for Bayesian model averaging

[BMA] **Glossary**

Stata, Stata Press, and Mata are registered trademarks of StataCorp LLC. Stata and Stata Press are registered trademarks with the World Intellectual Property Organization of the United Nations. StataNow and NetCourseNow are trademarks of StataCorp LLC. Other brand and product names are registered trademarks or trademarks of their respective companies. Copyright © 1985–2023 StataCorp LLC, College Station, TX, USA. All rights reserved.



For suggested citations, see the FAQ on [citing Stata documentation](#).