# Package: betaclust (via r-universe)

August 23, 2024

Type Package

**Title** A Family of Beta Mixture Models for Clustering Beta-Valued DNA Methylation Data

Version 1.0.3

Description A family of novel beta mixture models (BMMs) has been developed by Majumdar et al. (2022) <arXiv:2211.01938v1> to appositely model the beta-valued cytosine-guanine dinucleotide (CpG) sites, to objectively identify methylation state thresholds and to identify the differentially methylated CpG (DMC) sites using a model-based clustering approach. The family of beta mixture models employs different parameter constraints applicable to different study settings. The EM algorithm is used for parameter estimation, with a novel approximation during the M-step providing tractability and ensuring computational feasibility.

License GPL-3

**Depends** R (>= 3.5.0)

**Imports** foreach, doParallel, stats, utils, ggplot2, plotly, scales, pROC

**Encoding UTF-8** 

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LazyDataCompression xz

RoxygenNote 7.2.3

Suggests rmarkdown, knitr

VignetteBuilder knitr

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Repository https://koyelucd.r-universe.dev

RemoteUrl https://github.com/koyelucd/betaclust

RemoteRef HEAD

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# Description

Function to find the level of similarities between the  ${\cal R}$  cumulative distributions estimated in each of the  ${\cal K}$  clusters.

## Usage

```
AUC_WD_metric(alpha, delta, K, R)
```

# Arguments

alpha	The first shape parameter estimated for the beta mixture model.
delta	The second shape parameter estimated for the beta mixture model.
K	The number of clusters estimated.
R	The number of sample types in the dataset.

# **Details**

Function to find the level of similarities between the  ${\cal R}$  cumulative distributions estimated in each of the  ${\cal K}$  clusters.

# Value

The list with AUC and WD values.

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## See Also

betaclust

betaclust

The betaclust wrapper function

# Description

A family of model-based clustering techniques to identify methylation states in beta-valued DNA methylation data.

# Usage

```
betaclust(
  data,
  M = 3,
  N,
  R,
  model_names = "K..",
  model_selection = "BIC",
  parallel_process = FALSE,
  seed = NULL
)
```

## **Arguments**

	data	A dataframe of dimension $C \times NR$ containing methylation values for $C$ CpG sites from $R$ sample types collected from $N$ patients. Samples are grouped together in the dataframe such that the columns are ordered as Sample1_Patient1, Sample1_Patient2, Sample2_Patient1, Sample2_Patient2, etc.
	М	Number of methylation states to be identified in a DNA sample type.
	N	Number of patients in the study.
	R	Number of sample types collected from each patient for the study.
	model_names	Models to run from the set of models, K, KN. and K.R, default = K See details.
model_selection		ı
		Information criterion used for model selection. Options are AIC, BIC or ICL (default = BIC).

parallel\_process

The "TRUE" option results in parallel processing of the models for increased computational efficiency. The default option has been set as "FALSE" due to package testing limitations.

seed Seed to allow for reproducibility (default = NULL).

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#### **Details**

This is a wrapper function which can be used to fit all three models (K.., KN., K.R) within a single function.

The K.. and KN. models are used to analyse a single DNA sample type (R=1) and cluster the C CpG sites into the K clusters which represent the different methylation states in a DNA sample type. As each CpG site can belong to any of the M=3 methylation states (hypomethylation, hemimethylation and hypermethylation), the default value for K=M=3. The thresholds between methylation states are objectively inferred from the clustering solution.

The K.R model is used to analyse R independent sample types collected from N patients, where each sample contains C CpG sites, and cluster the dataset into  $K=M^R$  clusters to identify the differentially methylated CpG (DMC) sites between the R DNA sample types.

#### Value

The function returns an object of the betaclust class which contains the following values:

- information\_criterion The information criterion used to select the optimal model.
- ic output The information criterion value calculated for each model.
- optimal model The model selected as optimal.
- function\_call The parameters passed as arguments to the function betaclust.
- K The number of clusters identified using the beta mixture models.
- C The number of CpG sites analysed using the beta mixture models.
- N The number of patients analysed using the beta mixture models.
- R The number of sample types analysed using the beta mixture models.
- optimal\_model\_results Information from the optimal model. Specifically,
  - cluster\_size The total number of CpG sites in each of the K clusters.
  - llk A vector containing the log-likelihood value at each step of the EM algorithm.
  - alpha This contains the first shape parameter for the beta mixture model.
  - delta This contains the second shape parameter for the beta mixture model.
  - tau The proportion of CpG sites in each cluster.
  - z A matrix of dimension C × K containing the posterior probability of each CpG site belonging to each of the K clusters.
  - classification The classification corresponding to z, i.e. map(z).
  - uncertainty The uncertainty of each CpG site's clustering.
  - thresholds Threshold points calculated under the K.. or the KN. model.
  - DM The AUC and WD metric for distribution similarity in each cluster.

#### References

Silva, R., Moran, B., Russell, N.M., Fahey, C., Vlajnic, T., Manecksha, R.P., Finn, S.P., Brennan, D.J., Gallagher, W.M., Perry, A.S.: Evaluating liquid biopsies for methylomic profiling of prostate cancer. Epigenetics 15(6-7), 715-727 (2020). doi:10.1080/15592294.2020.1712876.

Majumdar, K., Silva, R., Perry, A.S., Watson, R.W., Murphy, T.B., Gormley, I.C.: betaclust: a family of mixture models for beta valued DNA methylation data. arXiv [stat.ME] (2022). doi:10.48550/ARXIV.2211.01938.

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## See Also

```
beta_k
beta_kn
beta_kr
pca.methylation.data
plot.betaclust
summary.betaclust
threshold
```

## **Examples**

beta\_k

Fit the K.. model

# **Description**

Fit the K.. model from the betaclust family of beta mixture models for DNA methylation data. The K.. model analyses a single DNA sample type and identifies the thresholds between the different methylation states.

### **Usage**

```
beta_k(data, M = 3, parallel_process = FALSE, seed = NULL)
```

## **Arguments**

data

A dataframe of dimension  $C \times N$  containing methylation values for C CpG sites from R=1 sample type collected from N patients. Samples are grouped together in the dataframe such that the columns are ordered as Sample1\_Patient1, Sample1\_Patient2, etc.

Μ

Number of methylation states to be identified in a DNA sample type.

parallel\_process

The "TRUE" option results in parallel processing of the models for increased computational efficiency. The default option has been set as "FALSE" due to package testing limitations.

seed

Seed to allow for reproducibility (default = NULL).

beta\_k

## **Details**

The K.. model clusters each of the C CpG sites into one of K methylation states, based on data from N patients for one DNA sample type (i.e. R=1). As each CpG site can belong to any of the M=3 methylation states (hypomethylated, hemimethylated or hypermethylated), the default value of K=M=3. Under the K.. model the shape parameters of each cluster are constrained to be equal for each patient. The returned object from this function can be passed as an input parameter to the threshold function available in this package to calculate the thresholds between the methylation states.

#### Value

## A list containing:

- cluster\_size The total number of CpG sites in each of the K clusters.
- llk A vector containing the log-likelihood value at each step of the EM algorithm.
- alpha The first shape parameter for the beta mixture model.
- delta The second shape parameter for the beta mixture model.
- tau The estimated mixing proportion for each cluster.
- z A matrix of dimension  $C \times K$  containing the posterior probability of each CpG site belonging to each of the K clusters.
- classification The classification corresponding to z, i.e. map(z).
- uncertainty The uncertainty of each CpG site's clustering.

## See Also

```
beta_kn
betaclust
threshold
```

# **Examples**

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beta\_kn

Fit the KN. model

## **Description**

Fit the KN. model from the betaclust family of beta mixture models for DNA methylation data. The KN. model analyses a single DNA sample type and identifies the thresholds between the different methylation states.

## Usage

```
beta_kn(data, M = 3, parallel_process = FALSE, seed = NULL)
```

## **Arguments**

data

A dataframe of dimension  $C \times N$  containing methylation values for C CpG sites from R=1 sample type collected from N patients. Samples are grouped together in the dataframe such that the columns are ordered as Sample1\_Patient1, Sample1\_Patient2, etc.

М

Number of methylation states to be identified in a DNA sample type.

parallel\_process

The "TRUE" option results in parallel processing of the models for increased computational efficiency. The default option has been set as "FALSE" due to package testing limitations.

seed

Seed to allow for reproducibility (default = NULL).

## Details

The KN. model clusters each of the C CpG sites into one of K methylation states, based on data from N patients for one DNA sample type (i.e. R=1). As each CpG site can belong to any of the M=3 methylation states (hypomethylated, hemimethylated or hypermethylated), the default value of K=M=3. The KN. model differs from the K.. model as it is less parsimonious, allowing cluster and patient-specific shape parameters. The returned object can be passed as an input parameter to the threshold function available in this package to calculate the thresholds between the methylation states.

#### Value

A list containing:

- cluster\_size The total number of CpG sites in each of the K clusters.
- llk A vector containing the log-likelihood value at each step of the EM algorithm.
- alpha The first shape parameter for the beta mixture model.
- delta The second shape parameter for the mixture model.
- tau The estimated mixing proportion for each cluster.

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z - A matrix of dimension C × K containing the posterior probability of each CpG site belonging to each of the K clusters.

- classification The classification corresponding to z, i.e. map(z).
- uncertainty The uncertainty of each CpG site's clustering.

## See Also

```
beta_k
betaclust
threshold
```

## **Examples**

beta\_kr

Fit the K.R Model

## **Description**

A beta mixture model for identifying differentially methylated CpG sites between R DNA sample types collected from N patients.

## Usage

```
beta_kr(data, M = 3, N, R, parallel_process = FALSE, seed = NULL)
```

## **Arguments**

seed

data	A dataframe of dimension $C \times NR$ containing methylation values for $C$ CpG sites from $R$ sample types collected from $N$ patients. Samples are grouped together in the dataframe such that the columns are ordered as Sample1_Patient1, Sample1_Patient2, Sample2_Patient1, Sample2_Patient2, etc.
М	Number of methylation states to be identified.
N	Number of patients in the study.
R Number of sample types collected from each patient for study.	
parallel_process	
	The "TRUE" option results in parallel processing of the models for increased computational efficiency. The default option has been set as "FALSE" due to package testing limitations.

Seed to allow for reproducibility (default = NULL).

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#### **Details**

The K.R model allows identification of the differentially methylated CpG sites between the R DNA sample types collected from each of N patients. As each CpG site in a DNA sample can belong to one of M methylation states, there can be  $K = M^R$  methylation state changes between R DNA sample types. The shape parameters vary for each DNA sample type but are constrained to be equal for each patient. An initial clustering using k-means is performed to identify K clusters. The resulting clustering solution is provided as starting values to the Expectation-Maximisation algorithm. A digamma approximation is used to obtain the maximised parameters in the M-step.

#### Value

A list containing:

- cluster\_size The total number of CpG sites in each of the K clusters.
- llk A vector containing the log-likelihood value at each step of the EM algorithm.
- alpha The first shape parameter for the beta mixture model.
- delta The second shape parameter for the beta mixture model.
- tau The estimated mixing proportion for each cluster.
- z A matrix of dimension C × K containing the posterior probability of each CpG site belonging to each of the K clusters.
- classification The classification corresponding to z, i.e. map(z).
- uncertainty The uncertainty of each CpG site's clustering.
- DM The AUC and WD metric for distribution similarity in each cluster.

## See Also

betaclust

# Examples

 ${\tt DMC\_identification}$ 

The DMC identification function

## Description

A function to identify the most differentially methylated clusters from K clusters.

DMC\_identification

## Usage

```
DMC_identification(
  object,
  data,
  CpG_site_list,
  threshold = 0.65,
  metric = "AUC"
)
```

## **Arguments**

object A betaclust object

data A dataframe of dimension  $C \times NR$  containing methylation values for C CpG

sites from R samples collected from N patients which was passed as an argu-

ment to the betaclust function.

CpG\_site\_list The IlmnID of all the CpG sites analysed by betaclust function.

threshold The threshold value/s for selecting the most differentially methylated clusters,

default = 0.65

metric The metric (AUC or WD selected). default="AUC"

## **Details**

This function selects the most diffentially methylated clusters based on AUC and WD metric calculated and returns the CpG sites belonging to those clusters.

#### Value

The function returns a dataframe of CpG sites and methylation values identified to belong to the most differentially methylated clusters

#### See Also

```
beta_kr
pca.methylation.data
plot.betaclust
summary.betaclust
betaclust
```

## **Examples**

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```
dmc_df <-DMC_identification(data_output,pca.methylation.data[1:30,2:9],
pca.methylation.data[1:30,1],
  threshold = 0.65, metric = "AUC")</pre>
```

ecdf.betaclust

The empirical cumulative distribution function plot

# Description

An empirical cumulative distribution function (ECDF) plot for a betaclust object.

## Usage

```
ecdf.betaclust(x, R = 2, sample_name = NULL, title = NULL)
```

## **Arguments**

X	A dataframe containing methylation values of identified differentially methylated regions related to a gene. Samples are grouped together in the dataframe such that the columns are ordered as Sample1_Patient1, Sample1_Patient2, Sample2_Patient1, Sample2_Patient2, etc.
R	Number of tissue sample types from which DNA methylation data are collected (default $R=2$ ).
sample_name	The order in which the sample types are grouped in the dataframe. If no value is specified then default values of sample names, e.g. Sample 1, Sample 2, etc are used (default = NULL).
title	The title that the user wants to display on the graph. The default is "NULL".

## **Details**

This function plots the ECDF of the differentially methylated CpG sites identified using the K.R model for all patient samples. The plot visualises the methylation state changes between the different DNA samples for each patient.

## Value

The ECDF plot for the selected CpG sites for all patients and their DNA sample types.

```
betaclust
beta_kr
```

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em	aic
CIII_	arc

Akaike Information Criterion

# Description

Compute the AIC value for the optimal model.

# Usage

```
em_aic(llk, C, M, N, R, model_name = "K..")
```

# Arguments

11k	Log-likelihood value.
С	Number of CpG sites.
М	Number of methylation states identified in a DNA sample.
N	Number of patients.
R	Number of DNA sample types collected from each patient.
model_name	Fitted mixture model. Options are "K", "KN." and/or "K.R" (default = "K").

## **Details**

Computes the AIC for a specified model given the log-likelihood, the dimension of the data, and the model names.

# Value

The AIC value for the selected model.

```
em_bic
em_icl
```

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em_bic	Bayesian Information Criterion
--------	--------------------------------

# Description

Compute the BIC value for the optimal model.

# Usage

```
em_bic(llk, C, M, N, R, model_name = "K..")
```

# Arguments

11k	Log-likelihood value.
С	Number of CpG sites.
М	Number of methylation states identified in a DNA sample.
N	Number of patients.
R	Number of DNA sample types collected from each patient.
model_name	Fitted mixture model. Options are "K", "KN." and/or "K.R" (default = "K").

## **Details**

Computes the BIC for a specified model given the log-likelihood, the dimension of the data, and the model names.

# Value

The BIC value for the selected model.

```
em_aic
em_icl
```

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em i	c I

Integrated Complete-data Likelihood (ICL) Criterion

# Description

Compute the ICL value for the optimal model.

# Usage

```
em_icl(llk, C, M, N, R, model_name = "K..", z)
```

# Arguments

11k	Log-likelihood value.
С	Number of CpG sites.
М	Number of methylation states identified in a DNA sample.
N	Number of patients.
R	Number of DNA sample types collected from each patient.
model_name	Fitted mixture model. Options are "K", "KN." and/or "K.R" (default = "K").
Z	A matrix of posterior probabilities of cluster membership, stored as z in the object from beta_k, beta_kn and beta_kr functions.

# **Details**

Computes the ICL for a specified model given the log-likelihood, the dimension of the data, and the model names. This criterion penalises the BIC by including an entropy term favouring well separated clusters.

## Value

The ICL value for the selected model.

```
em_aic
em_bic
```

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legacy.data

MethylationEPIC manifest data.

## **Description**

A dataset containing a subset of the manifest data from the Illumina MethylationEPIC beadchip array. A subset of the complete dataset has been uploaded in the package for testing purpose. The complete dataset is available on GitHub.

## Usage

```
data(legacy.data)
```

#### **Format**

A data frame with 5,080 rows and 6 columns.

- IlmnID: The unique identifier from the Illumina CG database, i.e. the probe ID.
- Genome\_Build: The genome build referenced by the Infinium MethylationEPIC manifest.
- CHR: The chromosome containing the CpG (Genome\_Build = 37).
- MAPINFO: The chromosomal coordinates of the CpG sites.
- UCSC\_RefGene\_Name: The target gene name(s), from the UCSC database. Note: multiple listings of the same gene name indicate splice variants.
- UCSC\_CpG\_Islands\_Name: The chromosomal coordinates of the CpG Island from UCSC.

#### See Also

```
pca.methylation.data
```

# Description

A dataset containing pre-processed beta methylation values from R=2 sample types, collected from N=4 patients with prostate cancer.

## Usage

```
data(pca.methylation.data)
```

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#### **Format**

A data frame with 5,067 rows and 9 columns. The data contain no missing values.

- IlmnID: The unique identifier from the Illumina CG database, i.e. the probe ID.
- Benign\_Patient\_1: Methylation values from benign prostate tissue from patient 1.
- Benign\_Patient\_2: Methylation values from benign prostate tissue from patient 2.
- Benign\_Patient\_3: Methylation values from benign prostate tissue from patient 3.
- Benign\_Patient\_4: Methylation values from benign prostate tissue from patient 4.
- Tumour\_Patient\_1: Methylation values from tumor prostate tissue from patient 1.
- Tumour\_Patient\_2: Methylation values from tumor prostate tissue from patient 2.
- Tumour\_Patient\_3: Methylation values from tumor prostate tissue from patient 3.
- Tumour Patient 4: Methylation values from tumor prostate tissue from patient 4.

#### **Details**

The raw methylation array data was first quality controlled and preprocessed using the RnBeads package. The array data were then normalized and and probes located outside of CpG sites and on the sex chromosome were filtered out. The CpG sites with missing values were removed from the resulting dataset. A subset of the complete dataset has been uploaded in the package for testing purposes. The complete dataset is available on GitHub.

### References

Mueller F, Scherer M, Assenov Y, Lutsik P, Walter J, Lengauer T, Bock C (2019). "RnBeads 2.0: comprehensive analysis of DNA methylation data." Genome Biology, 20(55).

Assenov Y, Mueller F, Lutsik P, Walter J, Lengauer T, Bock C (2014). "Comprehensive Analysis of DNA Methylation Data with RnBeads." Nature Methods, 11(11), 1138–1140.

#### See Also

legacy.data

plot.betaclust

Plots for visualizing the betaclust class object

## Description

Visualise a betaclust clustering solution by plotting the fitted and kernel density estimates, the uncertainty and the information criterion.

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#### Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'betaclust'
plot(
    X,
    what = "fitted density",
    plot_type = "ggplot",
    data = NULL,
    sample_name = NULL,
    title = NULL,
    patient_number = 1,
    threshold = FALSE,
    scale_param = "free_y",
    ...
)
```

#### **Arguments**

x A betaclust object.

what The different plots that can be obtained are either "fitted density", "kernel den-

sity", "uncertainty" or "information criterion" (default = "fitted density").

plot\_type The plot type to be displayed are either "ggplot" or "plotly" (default = "ggplot").

data A dataframe of dimension  $C \times NR$  containing methylation values for C CpG

sites from R samples collected from N patients which was passed as an argument to the <code>betaclust</code> function. The data is not required as an input when generating "uncertainty" or "information criterion" plots and the default has been set as "NULL". The data needs to be passed as an argument to this function

when generating either "fitted density" or "kernel density" plots.

sample\_name The names of DNA sample types in the dataset analysed by the K.R model. If

no value is passed then default values of sample names, e.g. Sample 1, Sample

2, etc are used as legend text (default = NULL).

title The title that the user wants to display. If no title is to be displayed the default

is "NULL".

patient\_number The column number representing the patient in the patient-wise ordered dataset

selected for visualizing the clustering solution of the K.. or KN. model (default

= 1).

threshold The "TRUE" option displays the threshold points in the graph for the K.. and

the KN. model (default = "FALSE").

scale\_param The position scales can be fixed or allowed to vary between different panels gen-

erated for the density estimate plots for visualizing the K.R clustering solution. Options are "fixed", "free\_y", "free\_x" or "free" (default = "free\_y"). The option "fixed" results in the x and y scales being fixed across all panels, "free" varies the x and y scales across the panels, "free\_x" fixes the y scale and lets the x scale vary across all panels and "free\_y" fixes the x scale and lets the y scale

vary across all panels.

... Other graphics parameters.

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#### **Details**

The fitted density estimates can be visualized under the optimal clustering solution by specifying what = "fitted density" and kernel density estimates under the optimal clustering solution by specifying what = "kernel density".

The threshold inferred can be visualized by specifying threshold = TRUE. The KN. model calculates different pairs of threshold points for each patient as the shape parameters are allowed to vary for each patient. So the patient for whom the threshold needs to be displayed can be specified by inputting the column number representing the patient in the patient-wise ordered dataset in the parameter patient\_number.

Interactive plots can also be produced using plot\_type = "plotly". The uncertainty in the clustering solution can be plotted using what = "uncertainty". The information criterion values for all fitted models can be plotted using what = "information criterion".

#### Value

This function displays the following plots as requested by the user:

- fitted density estimates Plot showing the fitted density estimates of the clustering solution under the optimal model selected.
- kernel density estimates Plot showing the kernel density estimates of the clustering solution under the optimal model selected.
- uncertainty A boxplot showing the uncertainties in the optimal clustering solution.
- information criterion Plot showing the information criterion values for all models fitted to support the selection of the optimal model.

#### See Also

betaclust

## **Examples**

summary.betaclust 19

summary.betaclust

Summarizing the beta mixture model fits

#### **Description**

Summary method for a betaclust object containing the results under the optimal model selected.

## Usage

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

## Arguments

object A betaclust object.

... Further arguments passed to or from other methods.

#### Value

An object of class summary. betaclust which contains the following list:

- C The number of CpG sites analysed using the beta mixture models.
- N The number of patients analysed using the beta mixture models.
- R The number of sample types analysed using the beta mixture models.
- K The number of methylation states in R DNA samples.
- modelName The optimal model selected.
- loglik The log-likelihood value for the selected optimal model.
- information\_criterion The information criterion used to select the optimal model.
- ic\_output This stores the information criterion value calculated for each model.
- classification The total number of CpG sites in each cluster.
- prop\_data The estimated mixing proportion for each cluster.

## See Also

### betaclust

## **Examples**

20 threshold

threshold	Thresholds under the K and the KN. models
ciii conora	Thresholds thicker the III. that the III i models

## **Description**

An objective method to calculate the threshold points for the clustering solution of the K.. and the KN. models.

## Usage

```
threshold(object, data, model_name)
```

#### **Arguments**

object A beta\_k or beta\_kn object.

data A dataframe of dimension  $C \times NR$  containing methylation values for C CpG

sites from R sample types collected from N patients which was passed as an

argument to the betaclust function.

model\_name The name of the model for which the thresholds need to be calculated.

#### **Details**

As the K.. model constrains the shape parameters to be equal for all patients, a single pair of threshold points are calculated for all patients. The KN. model allows patient-specific shape parameters which results in a pair of threshold points for each patient based on the shape parameters for that patient. The first threshold point means that any CpG site with beta value less than this value is likely to be hypomethylated. The second threshold point means that any CpG site with beta value greater than this is highly likely to be hypermethylated. A CpG site with beta value lying between the two threshold points is likely to be hemimethylated.

## Value

thresholds - The threshold points calculated for the selected model. A vector containing two threshold points are returned for the K.. model whereas a matrix containing two threshold points for each patient is returned for the KN. model.

## See Also

beta\_k
beta\_kn
betaclust

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