

# Package ‘brar’

March 6, 2026

**Version** 0.1

**Date** 2026-03-03

**Author** Samuel Pawel [aut, cre] (ORCID:  
<<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2779-320X>>)

**Maintainer** Samuel Pawel <[samuel.pawel@uzh.ch](mailto:samuel.pawel@uzh.ch)>

**Title** Null Hypothesis Bayesian Response-Adaptive Randomization

**Description** Implements Bayesian response-adaptive randomization methods based on Bayesian hypothesis testing for multi-arm settings (Pawel and Held, 2025, <[doi:10.48550/arXiv.2510.01734](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2510.01734)>).

**License** GPL-3

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Imports** mvtnorm

**Suggests** roxygen2, tinytest

**NeedsCompilation** no

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.3

**URL** <https://github.com/SamCH93/brar>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/SamCH93/brar/issues>

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2026-03-06 18:00:08 UTC

## Contents

brar_binomial . . . . .	2
brar_normal . . . . .	3
<b>Index</b>	<b>5</b>

brar\_binomial

*Bayesian response-adaptive randomization for binomial outcomes***Description**

This function computes Bayes factors, posterior probabilities, and response-adaptive randomization probabilities for binomial outcomes.

**Usage**

```
brar_binomial(
  y,
  n,
  a0 = 1,
  b0 = 1,
  a = rep(1, length(y)),
  b = rep(1, length(y)),
  pH0 = 0.5,
  ...
)
```

**Arguments**

y	Vector with number of successes in each group. The first element corresponds to the control group, and the remaining elements correspond to the treatment groups
n	Vector with number of trials in each group. The first element corresponds to the control group, and the remaining elements correspond to the treatment groups
a0	Number of successes parameter of beta prior for common probability under the null hypothesis. Defaults to 1
b0	Number of failures parameter of beta prior for common probability under the null hypothesis. Defaults to 1
a	Vector of number of successes parameters of beta priors for probabilities in each group under the alternative hypothesis. The first element corresponds to the control group, and the remaining elements correspond to the treatment groups. Defaults to <code>rep(1, length(y))</code>
b	Vector of number of failures parameters of beta priors for probabilities in each group under the alternative hypothesis. The first element corresponds to the control group, and the remaining elements correspond to the treatment groups. Defaults to <code>rep(1, length(y))</code>
pH0	Prior probability of the null hypothesis (i.e., a common probability in the control and all treatment groups). Defaults to 0.5. Set to 0 to obtain Thompson sampling and 1 to obtain equal randomization
...	Other arguments passed to <code>stats::integrate</code>

**Value**

An object of type "brar", which is a list with the following elements: "data" (input data), "prior" (prior probability of the null hypothesis and prior probabilities of control/treatment superiority), "BF\_ij" (Bayes factor matrix), "posterior" (posterior probability of the null hypothesis and posterior probabilities of control/treatment superiority), and "prand" (response-adaptive randomization probabilities).

**Author(s)**

Samuel Pawel

**Examples**

```
## 1 control and 1 treatment group
y <- c(15, 12)
n <- c(20, 15)
brar_binomial(y = y, n = n, pH0 = 0.5)

## 1 control and 5 treatment groups
y <- c(10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10)
n <- c(15, 15, 20, 17, 13, 25)
brar_binomial(y = y, n = n, pH0 = 0.5)
```

---

brar_normal	<i>Bayesian response-adaptive randomization for approximately normal effect estimates</i>
-------------	---

---

**Description**

This function computes Bayes factors, posterior probabilities, and response-adaptive randomization probabilities for data summarized by approximately normal effect estimates.

**Usage**

```
brar_normal(estimate, sigma, pm = rep(0, length(estimate)), psigma, pH0 = 0.5)
```

**Arguments**

estimate	Vector of effect estimates (e.g., a vector of mean differences or log odds/hazard/rate ratios). Each estimate quantifies the effect of a treatment relative to control
sigma	Covariance matrix of the effect estimate vector. In case, there is only one effect estimate, this is the squared standard error of the effect estimate
pm	Mean vector of the normal prior assigned to the effects under the alternative. Defaults to <code>rep(0, length(estimate))</code>
psigma	Covariance matrix of the normal prior assigned to the effects under the alternative. In case, there is only one effect estimate, this is the prior variance

**pH0** Prior probability of the point null hypothesis (i.e., all treatment effects equal to 0). Defaults to 0.5. Set to 0 to obtain Thompson sampling and to 1 to obtain equal randomization

### Value

An object of type "brar", which is a list with the following elements: "data" (input data), "prior" (prior probability of the null hypothesis and prior probabilities of control/treatment superiority), "BF\_ij" (Bayes factor matrix), "posterior" (posterior probability of the null hypothesis and posterior probabilities of control/treatment superiority), and "prand" (response-adaptive randomization probabilities).

### Author(s)

Samuel Pawel

### Examples

```
## simulate normal data from four treatment groups
set.seed(42)
n <- 10
muc <- 0
datc <- data.frame(y = rnorm(n, muc), group = "Control")
mu <- c(1, -0.5, 0, 0.25)
K <- length(mu)
datt <- do.call("rbind", lapply(seq(1, K), function(k) {
  data.frame(y = rnorm(n, mu[k]), group = paste("Treatment", k))
}))
dat <- rbind(datc, datt)
fit <- lm(y ~ group, data = dat)
estimate <- fit$coef[-1]
sigma <- vcov(fit)[-1,-1]
pm <- rep(0, K)

## 0.5 correlated prior to distribute prior probability equally among treatments
rho <- 0.5
psigma <- matrix(rho, nrow = K, ncol = K)
diag(psigma) <- 1
brar_normal(estimate = estimate, sigma = sigma, pm = pm, psigma = psigma,
            pH0 = 0.5)

## brar for only first treatment group
est <- summary(fit)$coefficients[2,1]
se <- summary(fit)$coefficients[2,2]
brar_normal(est, sigma = se^2, pm = 0, psigma = 1, pH0 = 0.5)
```

# Index

brar\_binomial, 2  
brar\_normal, 3