

# Package: nivm (via r-universe)

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**Type** Package

**Title** Noninferiority Tests with Variable Margins

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**Description** Noninferiority tests for difference in failure rates at a prespecified control rate or prespecified time. For details, see Fay and Follmann, 2016 <[DOI:10.1177/1740774516654861](https://doi.org/10.1177/1740774516654861)>.

**License** GPL (>= 3)

**NeedsCompilation** no

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nivm-package

*Non-inferiority Tests with Variable Margins*

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**Description**

This package was developed to give the control quantile non-inferiority test described in Fay and Follmann (2015), and the function to calculate that test is [nicqTest](#). Some competitors to that test are some tests described in Rohmel and Kieser (2013): [brkTest](#), [fmecTest](#), and [fmecExact](#).

**Details**

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Type: Package  
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License: >=GPL3

**Author(s)**

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**References**

Fay, MP and Follmann DA (2016). Non-inferiority Tests for Anti-Infective Drugs using Control Group Quantiles. *Clinical Trials*. 13(6): 632-640.

Rohmel, J and Kieser, M (2013). Investigations on non-inferiority—the Food and Drug Administration draft guidance on treatments for nosocomial pneumonia as a case for exact tests for binomial proportions. *Statistics in Medicine*. 32: 2335-2348.

**See Also**

[nicqTest](#)

---

brkControl                      *Arguments for Algorithm Control for brkTest.*

---

**Description**

Function that gives a list.

**Usage**

```
brkControl(alpha = 0.025, alphastar = 0.001, ngrid = 1000)
```

**Arguments**

alpha	significance level for test
alphastar	a value that is much much less than the significance level. Used to speed up calculations since we group all values less than alphastar together and do not need to add them one-at-a-time.
ngrid	number of elements in the grid search over the control proportion.

**Value**

a list with values names the same as the arguments.

**See Also**

[brkTest](#)

---

brkTest                      *Barnard-Rohmel-Kieser Test*

---

**Description**

A variable margin difference in proportion test for non-inferiority. The test is based on Barnard's test.

**Usage**

```
brkTest(x1, n1, x2, n2, threshold = 0.2, delta = 0.1, control = brkControl())
```

**Arguments**

x1	number of events in the control group
n1	number of individuals in the control group
x2	number of events in the test group
n2	number of events in the test group
threshold	proportion in the control group associated with the threshold, above that threshold use a constant difference margin, below the threshold use a difference margin with a constant odds ratio. We use only continuous variable margins that meet at the threshold.
delta	difference in proportions at the threshold
control	list of parameters for algorithm control, see <a href="#">brkControl</a>

**Details**

This test is labeled T4 in Rohmel and Keiser (2013).

**Value**

a list of class brk, with elements:

statistic	the threshold, delta (difference margin at threshold), and odds ratio at threshold
data.name	gives x1,x2,n1,n2 as a character string
method	description of test
p.value	one-sided p-value
FullResults	a list with 4 matrices, each n1+1 by n2+1 representing the total sample space. R=a matrix with logical values with TRUE elements representing the rejection region, its 'sig.level' attribute gives the significance level of the test; PVALbounds=a matrix of p-value bounds, pb; PVALsymbols=a matrix of symbols that describe the pb, '<=' means 'p<=pb', '=' means 'p=pb' and '>' means 'p>pb'; PVALUES=a matrix giving the p-value expression, e.g., 'p<=.00321' or 'p>0.025'.

**Author(s)**

Michael P. Fay

**References**

Rohmel, J, and Kieser, M (2013). "Investigations on non-inferiority - - the Food and Drug Administration draft guidance on treatments for nosocomial pneumonia as a case for exact tests for binomial proportions" *Statistics in Medicine* 32:2335-2348.

**See Also**

See Also [nicqTest](#), ~~~

**Examples**

```
x<-brkTest(3,8,0,6)
x
x$FullResults$PVALUES
```

---

findPowerR	<i>Get power from brkTest).</i>
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---

**Description**

Power under an alternative F1 and F2 relationship, represented by a  $F2=g(F1)$ .

**Usage**

```
findPowerR(R, g, psearch = (0:1000)/1000)
```

**Arguments**

R	matrix of rejection region, if x is the output from brk.test, then $R=x\$FullResults\$R$
g	function under which to calculate the power, $F2=g(F1)$ .
psearch	vector of values over which to calculate the power

---

fmectest	<i>Odds Ratio/Difference Non-inferiority tests</i>
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---

**Description**

Rohmel and Keier (2013) developed these non-inferiority tests with variable margins. One margin function, NiM3, has the variable margin measuring a constant difference in proportions (0.10 in paper) after a threshold (0.20 proportion in the control group), or tests for differences defined in terms of a constant odds ratio (1.71 in paper) at values less than the threshold. The fmectest with type='max' gives the maximum of two p-values, either a difference in proportions test (one-sided asymptotic method of Farrington and Manning, 1990) or an odds ratio test (one-sided Fisher's exact). This test is NiM3/T2 in Rohmel and Keier (2013). We also provide an exact version of this test with fmectestExact, denoted NiM3/T3 in Rohmel and Keier (2013). When type='switch' the tests are like T1 of Rohmel and Keier (2013).

**Usage**

```
fmectest(x1, n1, x2, n2, threshold = 0.2, delta = 0.1,
         alternative = c("less", "greater"),
         type = c("max", "switch"))
```

```
fmectestExact(x1, n1, x2, n2, threshold = 0.2, delta = 0.1,
              alternative = c("less", "greater"),
              type = c("max", "switch"), ngrid = 1000)
```

**Arguments**

x1	number of failures in control group
n1	number of individuals in control group
x2	number of failures in test group
n2	number of individuals in test group
threshold	threshold on proportion in control group: above it use constant difference margin, below it use difference margin with constant odds ratio
delta	difference margin at threshold
alternative	must be 'less'. the value 'greater' is not supported at this time.
type	either 'max' (maximum of Fisher's exact p-value or Farrington and Manning p-value) or 'switch' (Fisher's exact p-value below threshold and Farrington and Manning p-value above threshold).
ngrid	grid size for the search for the maximum p-value. Search over the control proportion values 0:ngrid/ngrid.

**Details**

For details see Rohmel and Keier (2013, Section 3). These functions only use NiM3.

**Value**

a list of class 'htest':

statistic	the threshold, delta (difference margin at threshold), and odds ratio at threshold
data.name	gives x1,x2,n1,n2 as a character string
method	description of test
p.value	one-sided p-value
null.value	delta, the difference margin at threshold
alternative	direction of alternative hypothesis

**Author(s)**

Michael P. Fay

**References**

Farrington, CP and Manning G (1990). "Test statistics and sample size formulae for comparative binomial trials with null hypothesis of non-zero risk difference or non-unit relative risk" *Statistics in Medicine* 9:1447-1454.

Rohmel, J, and Kieser, M (2013). "Investigations on non-inferiority - - the Food and Drug Administration draft guidance on treatments for nosocomial pneumonia as a case for exact tests for binomial proportions" *Statistics in Medicine* 32:2335-2348.

**See Also**

[nicqTest](#)

**Examples**

```
fmecTest(6,10,2,12,alternative="less",type="max")
fmecExact(6,10,2,12,alternative="less",type="max")
```

---

 nicqControl

---

*Function that returns a list of algorithm controls for nicq*


---

**Description**

Controls for numeric integration, etc. Mostly used in [getfx2](#) that is called by [nicqTest](#).

Defined as a function instead of a list, so sanity checks can be built in (but none have been included yet).

**Usage**

```
nicqControl(rdig = 5, slowint = FALSE, mint = 100,
  interr = 10^-3, epsilon=10^(-4), alpha = 0.025,
  tau.conf.level=0.95)
```

**Arguments**

rdig	number of digits for rounding, used to eliminate some computer errors. Used in <a href="#">getimaxpower</a> called by <a href="#">nicqTest</a> when ic="maxpower".
slowint	use slow integration for <a href="#">getfx2</a>
mint	number of summands in numeric integration for <a href="#">getfx2</a>
interr	tolerance for integration for <a href="#">getfx2</a>
epsilon	small value to give the range for the uniroot function that calculates the confidence intervals. It searches from -q+epsilon to 1-q-epsilon. Used in <a href="#">nicq.calc</a> called by <a href="#">nicqTest</a> .
alpha	significance level for calculation of <a href="#">getimaxpower</a> called by <a href="#">nicqTest</a> when ic="maxpower".
tau.conf.level	confidence level for tau, where $F1(\tau)=q$ . Uses <a href="#">bpcp</a> then <a href="#">quantile.kmciLR</a> .

**Value**

a list with each argument as a named value

**See Also**

[nicqTest](#)

---

 nicqTest

*Non-inferiority control quantile test*


---

### Description

Tests for a difference in proportion of failures between test and control by the time the  $q$ th quantile of the control group has failed. Uses a variable margin function, and the time of the  $q$ th quantile of the control group is unknown.

If the cumulative distributions for the two groups are  $F_1$  (control) and  $F_2$  (test), then we are interested in the difference:  $\text{delta} = F_2(t_0) - F_1(t_0)$ , where  $F_1(t_0) = q$ . Note  $F_1, F_2$  are unknown and non-parametric, and  $t_0$  is unknown. In this case, using a constant delta does not give practical non-inferiority margins, therefore we use a variable margin function, so that we test (when alternative='less')  $H_0: F_2(t) \geq g(F_1(t))$  versus  $H_1: F_2(t) < g(F_1(t))$  for all  $t$ .

The test also works for other types of continuous responses besides time to failure (see details), but the help description uses time to failure for brevity.

### Usage

```
nicqTest(x,delta0,q,g=nimDiffOR,yc=NULL,nc=NULL,nt=NULL,
        ic="prop",
        z=NULL,status=NULL,ties=c("cons","approx"),
        alternative=c("less","greater"),
        conf.level=0.95,
        conf.int=TRUE,
        conf.sided=c("two.sided","one.sided"),
        gname=NULL,
        control=nicqControl())
```

### Arguments

- |                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>x</code>      | either a vector of failure times for the both groups (when <code>z</code> is given), a vector of failure times for the test group (when <code>yc</code> is given), or the number of failures in the test group that have occurred by the <code>ic</code> <sup>th</sup> failure in the control group (when <code>ic</code> is an integer, <code>nc</code> and <code>nt</code> are given). See details.                                                                           |
| <code>delta0</code> | difference, $F_2(t_0) - F_1(t_0)$ , on the boundary between the null and alternative hypotheses, where $t_0$ is defined so that $F_1(t_0) = q$ .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <code>q</code>      | probability associated with the quantile of interest in control group                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <code>g</code>      | non-inferiority margin function. Must have arguments <code>q</code> (representing the quantile of interest in the control group) and <code>delta</code> (representing the difference, $F_2(t_0) - F_1(t_0)$ , where $F_2$ and $F_1$ are the cumulative distributions of failures for the test ( $F_2$ ) and control ( $F_1$ ) at $t$ , where $F_1(t) = q$ ). Default values for <code>q</code> and <code>delta</code> are ignored. Default function is <code>nimDiffOR</code> . |
| <code>yc</code>     | vector of failure times in the control group. If given, <code>x</code> is the vector of failure times in the test group.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <code>nc</code>     | number of individuals in the control group. Not needed if <code>z</code> or <code>yc</code> is given.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

<code>nt</code>	number of individuals in the test group. Not needed if <code>z</code> or <code>yc</code> is given.
<code>ic</code>	used to find <code>i</code> . The test is based on the number of failures in the test group that have occurred by the <code>i</code> th failure in the control group. <code>ic="prop"</code> gives $i=\text{ceiling}(q*nc)$ , <code>ic="maxpower"</code> gives the <code>i</code> value that maximizes the power given $F1=F2$ and <code>g</code> , and <code>ic=a</code> positive integer gives $i=ic$ (with <code>ic</code> between 1 and <code>nc</code> inclusive).
<code>z</code>	a vector of group indicators, with either 1 (for control) or 2 (for test). If given, <code>x</code> is a vector of all failures in both groups.
<code>status</code>	a vector denoting right censoring (0) or not (1). Not needed if there is no censoring. Only used when <code>z</code> is given. If any censoring occurs at or before the <code>i</code> th failure (see <code>ic</code> argument) in the control group, then the test is undefined.
<code>ties</code>	how should ties be handled, "cons" use a conservative adjustment for ties, "approx" use an approximate adjustment. See details.
<code>alternative</code>	direction of alternative hypothesis.
<code>conf.level</code>	confidence level
<code>conf.int</code>	logical, do confidence intervals
<code>conf.sided</code>	character, either 'one.sided' or 'two.sided' (see warning)
<code>gname</code>	name for <code>g</code> function, if NULL uses name of inputted <code>g</code> function
<code>control</code>	a list of arguments for numeric calculation settings, see <a href="#">nicqControl</a> .

### Details

The data may be entered in 3 different formats, and the first argument `x` changes depending on which format. When `z` is given then `x` is the vector of failure times from both groups and `z` gives the group membership of each of those failures. If there is right censoring this may be given using `status`, and the `nicq` function will make sure that the censoring happens late enough so that the test can still be calculated. When `yc` is given then `x` is a vector of failure times in the test group and `yc` are the failure times in the control group. When `ic` is an integer, then `x` represents the number of failure times that have occurred in the test group at or before the time of the `ic`th failure in the control group. In this last format only `nc` (number in control group) and `nt` (number in the test group) must be given.

The confidence interval is calculated on the difference,  $F2(t_0)-F1(t_0)$ , where  $t_0$  is unknown and defined so that  $F1(t_0)=q$ , with `q` given.

The responses can be any numeric values, as long as the difference,  $F2(t_0)-F1(t_0)$ , is of interest.

For more details see Fay and Follmann (2015).

The confidence intervals for the `q`th quantile of the control is calculated using the `bpcp` function followed by the `quantile.kmciLR` from the `bpcp` R package.

### Value

An `nicq` object which inherits from `hctest` class (the print method for is slightly different). A list with elements:

<code>statistic</code>	number of failure in test group at or before the <code>q</code> th quantile of the control group
<code>parameter</code>	vector with elements: <code>q</code> (quantile of interest in control group), <code>i</code> (rank of <code>q</code> th quantile), <code>n1</code> (number in control group), <code>n2</code> (number in test group)

p.value	one-sided p.value
conf.int	confidence interval on $F_2(t_0) - F_1(t_0)$ , may be one- or two-sided, see attributes
estimate	vector of estimates. Values are: $x_2/n_2 =$ proportion of failures in test group by $i$ , $i/n_1 =$ proportion failures in control group by $i$ , $'x_2/n_2 - i/n_1'$ =difference, $\tau = q$ th quantile of control (same at $t_0$ ), lower CL=lower confidence limit for $\tau$ , upper CL, $\text{conf.level} = \text{conf.level}$ for CI on $\tau$
null.value	null value for the difference
alternative	either 'less' or 'greater'. two.sided is not allowed
method	description of test

**warning**

Since 'two.sided' alternatives are not allowed, the p-values may not match the confidence intervals in the usual way if  $\text{conf.sided} = \text{'two.sided'}$  (the default). Consider the example below, with  $\text{alternative} = \text{'less'}$  and  $\text{delta} = 0.10$ . The p-value is 0.04, so we might expect that the upper limit of the 95 percent confidence limit would be less than 0.10, but this is not so because  $\text{conf.sided} = \text{'two.sided'}$  and we are using the two-sided confidence interval and  $p$  is greater than  $0.05/2 = 0.025$ .

**Author(s)**

Michael P. Fay (mfay@niaid.nih.gov)

**References**

Fay, MP and Follmann DA (2016). Non-inferiority Tests for Anti-Infective Drugs using Control Group Quantiles. *Clinical Trials*. 13(6): 632-640.

**Examples**

```
## if you know that q=0.20 and there are no ties then ic=q*nc=40
nicqTest(66,g=nimDiffOR,delta=0.1,q=.2,nc=200,nt=300,ic=40,conf.int=FALSE)
## examples with confidence intervals may be slower: see
## demo(nicqTest.examples)
```

---

nimDiffOR

*Variable margin functions*

---

**Description**

For testing the alternative  $F_2(t) < g(F_1(t))$ . We give several built-in choices for the function  $g$ . All functions must be defined in terms of  $\delta$  and  $q$ , where  $F_1(t_0) = q$  and  $t_0$  is defined implicitly, and  $\delta = F_2(t_0) - g(F_1(t_0))$ .

**Usage**

```

nimDiffOR(p, delta = 0.1, q = 0.2)
nimOR(p, delta=0.1, q=0.2)
nimDiff(p,delta=.1, q=NULL)

```

**Arguments**

p	a vector of F1(t) values, where F1(t) is the proportion of control that failed by t.
q	the probability associated with the control quantile of interest, not used for calculations in nimDiff but needs to be in the call.
delta	the difference: F2(t0) - g(F1(t0))

**Details**

The functions are defined in terms of delta and q so that the function can change as a function of delta and we can use the function to get confidence intervals for delta (defined in terms of q, since  $q=F1(t_0)$  which defines  $t_0$ ).

Functions should handle vectors of F1(t) values, and the output is a vector of the same length. The results should be between 0 and 1.

The function nimDiffOR gives the minimum of the difference (defined by delta) or the odds ratio (defined in terms of q and delta) when  $\text{delta}>0$ , and the maximum when  $\text{delta}<0$ .

For plots of the functions see Fay and Follmann (2015).

**Value**

a vector of values  $g(F1(t))$ .

**References**

Fay, MP and Follmann DA (2016). Non-inferiority Tests for Anti-Infective Drugs using Control Group Quantiles. (to appear in Clinical Trials).

**See Also**

[nicqTest](#)

**Examples**

```

## notice that the second values, F1(t)=0.20=q,
## all equal
## q+delta=0.30
nimDiff(c(1:9)/10)
nimOR(c(1:9)/10)
nimDiffOR(c(1:9)/10)
## for delta<0, take max of difference and odds ratio
nimDiffOR(c(1:9)/10,delta=-.1)

```

powerNicqTest

*Power or Sample Size for Non-inferiority Control Quantile Test***Description**

Function gives power (if n1=NULL) or sample size (if power=NULL). Assumes no ties.

**Usage**

```
powerNicqTest(n1 = NULL, n2 = NULL, power = NULL,
  sig.level = 0.025, n2.over.n1 = 1, q = 0.2,
  delta0 = 0.1, alternative = c("less", "greater"),
  gnull = nimDiffOR, galt = function(x){x},
  minn=5, maxn = 10^5, ...)
```

**Arguments**

n1	sample size of control group, calculated if NULL
n2	sample size of test group. If n1=NULL, n2 is ignored and calculated based on power and n2.over.n1. If power=NULL, then n2=ceiling(n2.over.n1*n1).
power	power under galt, calculated if NULL
sig.level	significance level
n2.over.n1	ratio of sample sizes
q	probability associated with control quantile of interest
delta0	difference in proportions at control quantile of interest
alternative	alternative hypothesis direction, 'less' means $F_2(t)$ less than $g_{null}(F_1(t))$ for some t.
gnull	variable margin function under null hypothesis (more formally, at the boundary between the null and alternative hypotheses for the pre-specified hypotheses)
galt	variable margin function for which we calculate the power
minn	minimum value for sample size for n1, input into <a href="#">uniroot.integer</a> .
maxn	maximum value for sample size for n1, input into <a href="#">uniroot.integer</a> .
...	extra arguments passed to <a href="#">uniroot.integer</a> .

**Details**

The function either calculates the power (if n1=NULL) or calculates n1 and n2 (if power=NULL). In the latter case, we use [uniroot.integer](#) to find the smallest n1 that gives power at least as large as the given power [with n2 defined as ceiling(n2.over.n1\*n1)].

**Value**

a power.htest object. A list with elements:

n1	sample size for control group
n2	sample size for test group
delta0	$F_2(\tau) - F_1(\tau)$ , with $\tau$ defined by $F_1(\tau) = q$
q	probability associated with $\tau$
sig.level	significance level
power	power under $g_0$
method	character description of method

**See Also**

[nicqTest](#)

**Examples**

```
# to calculate power, leave power=NULL and supply n1 and n2
powerNicqTest(n1=200,n2=300)
# or supply n1 and n2.over.n1
powerNicqTest(n1=200,n2.over.n1=3/2)
## to calculate n1 and n2, supply power
## find minimum n1 that have power greater than 0.80
## takes 13 iterations to find n1=346
## so do not run it here
#powerNicqTest(power=.80,print.steps=TRUE)
```

---

print.brk

*Print Method for brk or nicq Object.*

---

**Description**

For brk did not use print.htest because the p-values are just bounds for some values (e.g., p greater than 0.025). So I needed to print the results differently.

For nicq, uses print.htest except for \$estimates has some special printing instructions since there may be some extra confidence intervals on the control quantile of interest.

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'brk'
print(x, digits = getOption("digits"), prefix = "\t", ...)

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

**Arguments**

x	the brk object
digits	number of significant digits for printing
prefix	prefix below some values
...	for passing arguments. In nicq passed to print.htest.

**Value**

Does not print out FullResults list because it is generally too large.

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