

# Package ‘EmpiricalBrownsMethod’

May 15, 2025

**Title** Uses Brown's method to combine p-values from dependent tests

**Version** 1.37.0

**Author** William Poole

**Maintainer** David Gibbs <dgibbs@systemsbiology.org>

**Description** Combining P-values from multiple statistical tests is common in bioinformatics. However, this procedure is non-trivial for dependent P-values. This package implements an empirical adaptation of Brown's Method (an extension of Fisher's Method) for combining dependent P-values which is appropriate for highly correlated data sets found in high-throughput biological experiments.

**Depends** R (>= 3.2.0)

**Suggests** BiocStyle, testthat, knitr, rmarkdown

**License** MIT + file LICENSE

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**URL** <https://github.com/IlyaLab/CombiningDependentPvaluesUsingEBM.git>

**LazyData** true

**Encoding** UTF-8

**biocViews** StatisticalMethod, GeneExpression, Pathways

**git\_url** <https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/EmpiricalBrownsMethod>

**git\_branch** devel

**git\_last\_commit** cf50c85

**git\_last\_commit\_date** 2025-04-15

**Repository** Bioconductor 3.22

**Date/Publication** 2025-05-15

## Contents

ebmTestData . . . . .	2
empiricalBrownsMethod . . . . .	2
kostsMethod . . . . .	3

<b>Index</b>	<b>5</b>
--------------	----------

---

`ebmTestData`*Data used in tests and examples.*

---

**Description**

This data is used in the unit tests and usage examples. There are four items:

`allPvals`, `dat`, `pathways`, and `randData`. `allPvals` is a data.frame of p-values for the spearman correlation between CHD4 and each of the 45 genes.

`dat` is the gene expression data corresponding to genes in `allPvals`.

`pathways` is a data.frame listing gene membership for 3 biochemical pathways.

`randData` is a gaussian generated data set, emphasizing dependence among variables. Independent Var [line 1] are 25 samples from a unit normal distribution. Dependent Var 1-10 [line 2-11] are each 25 samples drawn from a 10 dimensional normal distribution centered at the origin with off diagonal terms  $a=0.25$ . The P values from a pearson correlation between the independent var and each dependent var are combined.

**Usage**

```
data(ebmTestData)
```

**Format**

Rdata object

**Value**

data objects in the environment

**Source**

GEO and generated.

---

`empiricalBrownsMethod` *The Empirical Browns Method For Combining P-values*

---

**Description**

Combining P-values from multiple statistical tests is common in bioinformatics. However, this procedure is non-trivial for dependent P-values. This package provides an empirical adaptation of Brown's Method (an extension of Fisher's Method) for combining dependent P-values which is appropriate for highly correlated data sets, like those found in high-throughput biological experiments.

**Usage**

```
empiricalBrownsMethod(data_matrix, p_values, extra_info)
```

**Arguments**

<code>data_matrix</code>	An $m \times n$ numeric matrix with $m$ variables in rows and $n$ samples in columns.
<code>p_values</code>	A numeric vector of p-values with length $m$ .
<code>extra_info</code>	boolean, TRUE additionally returns the p-value from Fisher's method, the scale factor $c$ , and the new degrees of freedom from Brown's Method

**Value**

The output is a list containing `list(P_Brown=p_brown, P_Fisher=p_fisher, Scale_Factor_C=c, DF_Brown=df_brown)`

<code>P_test</code>	p-value for Brown's method
<code>P_Fisher</code>	p-value for Fisher's method
<code>Scale_Factor</code>	the scale factor $c$
<code>DF</code>	the degrees of freedom used in Brown's method

**Examples**

```
## restore the saved values to the current environment
data(ebmTestData)
glypGenes <- pathways$gene[pathways$pathway == "GLYPICAN 3 NETWORK"]
glypPvals <- allPvals$pvalue.with.CHD4[match(glypGenes, allPvals$gene)];
glypDat <- dat[match(glypGenes, dat$V1), 2:ncol(dat)];
empiricalBrownsMethod(data_matrix=glypDat, p_values=glypPvals, extra_info=TRUE);
```

---

kostsMethod

*The Kost Method For Combining P-values*


---

**Description**

Combining P-values from multiple statistical tests is common in bioinformatics. However, this procedure is non-trivial for dependent P-values. This package provides an implementation of Kost's Method for combining dependent P-values which is appropriate for highly correlated data sets, like those found in high-throughput biological experiments.

**Usage**

```
kostsMethod(data_matrix, p_values, extra_info)
```

**Arguments**

<code>data_matrix</code>	An $m \times n$ numeric matrix with $m$ variables in rows and $n$ samples in columns.
<code>p_values</code>	A numeric vector of p-values with length $m$ .
<code>extra_info</code>	boolean, TRUE additionally returns the p-value from Fisher's method, the scale factor $c$ , and the new degrees of freedom from Brown's Method

**Value**

The output is a list containing list(P\_test=p\_brown, P\_Fisher=p\_fisher, Scale\_Factor\_C=c, DF=df)

P_test	p-value for Kost's method
P_Fisher	p-value for Fisher's method
Scale_Factor	the scale factor c
DF	the degrees of freedom

**Examples**

```
## restore the saved values to the current environment
data(ebmTestData)
glypGenes <- pathways$gene[pathways$pathway == "GLYPICAN 3 NETWORK"]
glypPvals <- allPvals$pvalue.with.CHD4[match(glypGenes, allPvals$gene)]
glypDat <- as.matrix(dat[match(glypGenes, dat$V1), 2:ncol(dat)])
kostsMethod(data_matrix=glypDat, p_values=glypPvals, extra_info=TRUE);
```

# Index

- \* **datasets**

- ebmTestData, [2](#)

- \* **multivariate**

- empiricalBrownsMethod, [2](#)

- kostsMethod, [3](#)

allPvals (ebmTestData), [2](#)

dat (ebmTestData), [2](#)

ebmTestData, [2](#)

empiricalBrownsMethod, [2](#)

kostsMethod, [3](#)

pathways (ebmTestData), [2](#)

randData (ebmTestData), [2](#)