

# Package ‘GEEmediate’

July 21, 2025

**Title** Mediation Analysis for Generalized Linear Models Using the Difference Method

**Description** Causal mediation analysis for a single exposure/treatment and a single mediator, both allowed to be either continuous or binary. The package implements the difference method and provides point and interval estimates as well as testing for the natural direct and indirect effects and the mediation proportion. Nevo, Xiao and Spiegelman (2017) <[doi:10.1515/ijb-2017-0006](https://doi.org/10.1515/ijb-2017-0006)>.

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**Depends** R (>= 3.3.0)

**Imports** gee

**License** GPL (>= 3)

**NeedsCompilation** no

**RoxygenNote** 7.2.0

**BugReports** <https://github.com/daniel258/GEEmediate/issues>

**Encoding** UTF-8

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GEEmediate

*Mediation Analysis for Generalized Linear Models Using the Difference Method***Description**

Estimation of natural direct and indirect effects for generalized linear models. The function utilizes a data-duplication algorithm to fit marginal and conditional GLMs in a way that allow for consistent variance estimation. The function produces point estimates, confidence intervals and p-values for the natural indirect effect and the mediation proportion

**Usage**

```
GEEmediate(
  formula,
  exposure,
  mediator,
  df,
  family = gaussian,
  corstr = "independence",
  conf.level = 0.95,
  surv = F,
  pres = "sep",
  niealternative = "two-sided",
  ...
)
```

**Arguments**

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| formula        | A formula expression as for other regression models, of the form response ~ predictors. See the documentation of <a href="#">lm</a> and <a href="#">formula</a> for details. predictors should include exposure/treatment and mediator. |
| exposure       | The exposure (string).  |
| mediator       | The mediator (string).  |
| df             | A name of a data frame where all variables mentioned in formula are stored.   |
| family         | A family object to be used in gee: a list of functions and expressions for defining link and variance functions see the gee documentation. Default is gaussian. See also <a href="#">gee</a> and <a href="#">glm</a> .                  |
| corstr         | A working correlation structure. See <a href="#">gee</a> and <a href="#">glm</a> .  |
| conf.level     | Confidence level for all confidence intervals (default 0.95)  |
| surv           | Is the outcome survival (not supported)   |
| pres           | Presentation of the coefficient tables. "tog" for a single table, "sep" for two separated tables.   |
| niealternative | Alternative hypothesis for testing that the nie=0. Either "two-sided" (default) or "one-sided" for alternative nie>0.   |
| ...            | Further arguments for the gee call.   |

**Value**

The output contains the following components:

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| call     | The call.   |
| GEE.fit  | Results of fitting the GEE for the duplicated data.                                     |
| nie      | The natural indirect effect estimate. NIE and NDE are reported on the coefficient scale |
| nie.pval | P-value for testing mediation using the NIE.  |
| nde      | The natural direct effect estimate.   |
| nie.ci   | Confidence interval in for the NIE in confidence level conf.level.                      |
| pm       | The mediation proportion estimate.  |
| pm.pval  | P-value for testing one-sided mediation using the mediation proportion.                 |
| pm.ci    | Confidence interval for the mediation proportion in confidence level conf.level.        |

**References**

Nevo, Liao and Spiegelman, *Estimation and inference for the mediation proportion*, International Journal of Biostatistics (2017+)

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
SimNormalData <- function(n,beta1.star = 1, p = 0.3, rho =0.4, inter = 0)
{
  beta2 <- (p/rho)*beta1.star
  beta1 <- (1-p)*beta1.star
  XM <- MASS::mvrnorm(n, mu = c(0,0), Sigma = matrix(c(1,rho,rho,1),2,2))
  X <- XM[,1]
  M <- XM[,2]
  beta <- c(inter, beta1, beta2)
  print(beta)
  Y <- cbind(rep(1,n),XM)%*%beta+rnorm(n,0,sd = 1)
  return(data.frame(X = X, M = M, Y = Y))
}
set.seed(314)
df <- SimNormalData(500)
GEEmediate(Y ~ X + M, exposure = "X", mediator = "M", df = df)

## End(Not run)
```

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