

# Package 'DescriptiveRepresentationCalculator'

July 21, 2025

**Title** Characterizing Observed and Expected Representation

**Version** 1.1.0

**Description** A system for analyzing descriptive representation, especially for comparing the composition of a political body to the population it represents. Users can compute the expected degree of representation for a body under a random sampling model, the expected degree of representation variability, as well as representation scores from observed political bodies. The package is based on Gerring, Jerzak, and Oncel (2024) <[doi:10.1017/S0003055423000680](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055423000680)>.

**URL** <https://github.com/cjerzak/DescriptiveRepresentationCalculator-software/>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/cjerzak/DescriptiveRepresentationCalculator-software/issues>

**Depends** R (>= 3.3.3)

**License** GPL-3

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Imports** stats

**Suggests** knitr

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.2

**NeedsCompilation** no

**Author** Connor Jerzak [aut, cre] (ORCID:  
<<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1914-8905>>),  
John Gerring [aut] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9858-2050>>),  
Erzen Oncel [aut] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9372-1090>>)

**Maintainer** Connor Jerzak <[connor.jerzak@gmail.com](mailto:connor.jerzak@gmail.com)>

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2025-01-14 22:40:06 UTC

Contents

ExpectedRepresentation . . . . .	2
ObservedRepresentation . . . . .	3
SDRepresentation . . . . .	4
<b>Index</b>	<b>6</b>

---

ExpectedRepresentation	<i>Compute the expected degree of representation for any group in a political body</i>
------------------------	--

---

Description

Finds the degree of expected representation for any group in a political body under a random sampling model as described in Gerring, Jerzak and Oncel (2024).

Usage

ExpectedRepresentation(PopShares, BodyN, a = -0.5, b = 1)

Arguments

PopShares	A numeric vector containing the group-level population proportions.
BodyN	A positive integer denoting the size of the political body in question.
a, b	The a and b parameters control the affine transformation for how the representation measure is summarized. That is, a and b control how the expected L1 deviation of the population shares from the body shares is re-weighted. The expected L1 deviation is the average value of the absolute deviation of the population from body shares under a random sampling model. This expected L1 deviation is multiplied by a; b is as an additive re-scaling term: $a \cdot E[L1] + b$ . By default, $a = -0.5$ and $b = 1$ so that the expected Rose Index of Proportionality is returned.

Value

The expected degree of representation (a scalar).

References

- John Gerring, Connor T. Jerzak, Erzen Oncel. (2024), The Composition of Descriptive Representation, *American Political Science Review*, 118(2): 784-801. [doi:10.1017/S0003055423000680](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055423000680)

See Also

- [ObservedRepresentation](#) for calculating representation scores from observed data.
- [SDRepresentation](#) for calculating representation unexplained under the random sampling model.

**Examples**

```
ExpectedRep <- ExpectedRepresentation(PopShares = c(1/4, 2/4, 1/4),
                                     BodyN = 50)

print( ExpectedRep )
```

---

ObservedRepresentation

*Compute the observed degree of representation for any group in a political body*

---

**Description**

Finds the degree of observed representation for any group in a political body.

**Usage**

```
ObservedRepresentation(BodyMemberCharacteristics, PopShares, BodyShares, a = -0.5, b = 1)
```

**Arguments**

BodyMemberCharacteristics	A vector specifying the characteristics for members of a political body.
PopShares	A numeric vector specifying population shares of identities specified in the body-member characteristics input. The names of the entries in PopShares should correspond to identities in that body-member characteristics input (see Example).
BodyShares	(optional) A numeric vector with same structure as PopShares specifying group population shares of a given body. If specified, used by default instead of BodyMemberCharacteristics.
a, b	Parameters controlling the affine transformation for how the representation measure is summarized. That is, a and b control how the L1 deviation of the population shares from the body shares is re-weighted. This expected L1 deviation is multiplied by a; b is as an additive re-scaling term: $a \times L1 + b$ . By default, $a = -0.5$ and $b = 1$ so that the Rose Index of Proportionality is returned.

**Value**

The observed degree of representation (a scalar). By default, this quantity is the Rose Index of Proportionality.

**See Also**

- [ExpectedRepresentation](#) for calculating expected representation scores under random sampling.
- [SDRepresentation](#) for calculating representation unexplained under the random sampling model.

Examples

```
ObsRep <- ObservedRepresentation(
  BodyMemberCharacteristics = c("A","A","C","A","C","A"),
  PopShares = c("A"=1/4,"B"=2/4, "C"=1/4))

print( ObsRep )
```

---

SDRepresentation	<i>Compute the amount of representation left unexplained by a random sampling model.</i>
------------------	--

---

Description

Finds the residual standard deviation when using the expected representation for any group in a political body to predict observed representation as described in Gerring, Jerzak and Oncel (2024).

Usage

```
SDRepresentation(PopShares, BodyN, a = -0.5, b = 1, nMonte = 10000)
```

Arguments

PopShares	A numeric vector containing the group-level population proportions.
BodyN	A positive integer denoting the size of the political body in question.
a, b	Parameters controlling the affine transformation for how the representation measure is summarized. That is, a and b control how the expected L1 deviation of the population shares from the body shares is re-weighted. The expected L1 deviation is the average value of the absolute deviation of the population from body shares under a random sampling model. This expected L1 deviation is multiplied by a; b is as an additive re-scaling term: $a \cdot E[L1] + b$ . By default, $a = -0.5$ and $b = 1$ so that the expected Rose Index of Proportionality is used in the calculation.
nMonte	A positive integer denoting number of Monte Carlo iterations used to approximate the variance of representation under a random sampling model.

Value

A scalar summary of the amount of representation not explained by a random sampling model. More precisely, this function returns the the residual standard deviation when using the expected degree of representation to predict observed representation under a random sampling model.

References

- John Gerring, Connor T. Jerzak, Erzen Oncel. (2024), The Composition of Descriptive Representation, *American Political Science Review*, 118(2): 784-801. doi:[10.1017/S0003055423000680](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055423000680)



# Index

ExpectedRepresentation, [2](#), [3](#), [5](#)

ObservedRepresentation, [2](#), [3](#), [5](#)

SDRepresentation, [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)