# Package 'bettr'

October 24, 2025

Title A Better Way To Explore What Is Best

```
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Description bettr provides a set of interactive visualization methods to
      explore the results of a benchmarking study, where typically more than a
      single performance measures are computed. The user can weight the
      performance measures according to their preferences. Performance measures
      can also be grouped and aggregated according to additional annotations.
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```

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# **Description**

The bettr package provides a better way to explore what is best:) Details about how to use the package can be found in the vignette. The main entry point is the bettr() function, which opens an interactive application for exploring data consisting of multiple parallel rankings of a set of entities (e.g., computational methods ranked by their performance based on several different metrics).

# Author(s)

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# See Also

Useful links:

- https://github.com/federicomarini/bettr
- Report bugs at https://github.com/federicomarini/bettr/issues

assembleSE

Assemble all bettr input into a SummarizedExperiment object

# **Description**

Assemble all bettr input into a SummarizedExperiment object. This has the advantage of keeping all data together in a single object, and can be used as input to bettr or bettrGetReady, instead of providing the individual components.

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#### Usage

```
assembleSE(
  df,
  idCol = "Method",
  metrics = setdiff(colnames(df), idCol),
  initialWeights = NULL,
  initialTransforms = list(),
  metricInfo = NULL,
  metricColors = NULL,
  idInfo = NULL,
  idColors = NULL
)
```

#### **Arguments**

df

A data. frame in wide format. Should contain one column with the IDs of the entities to be compared, and one column for each metric to use for the comparison.

idCol

Character scalar, indicating the name of the column of df and/or idInfo that contains IDs of the entities to be compared (e.g., methods).

metrics

Character vector, indicating which of the columns of df that correspond to metrics of interest. Only metrics included here will be displayed.

initialWeights

Named numeric vector providing initial weights for each metric to use for aggregating them into a final score. Must contain one entry per metric included in metrics.

#### initialTransforms

Named list with initial values of transformation parameters for each metric. Each list entry should correspond to one metric, and take the form of a list with up to four elements, named:

```
* **flip**: Logical scalar; whether or not to flip the sign of the metric values. Defaults to `FALSE`.
```

```
* **offset**: Numeric scalar; offset to add to the (flipped) metric values. Defaults to `0`.
```

\* \*\*transform\*\*: Character scalar; one of 'None', 'z-score', '\[0,1\]', '\[-1,1\]', 'Rank', 'Rank+\[0,1\]' or 'z-score+\[0,1\]', indicating which transform to apply to

the metric values (after any flipping and/or adding the offset). Defaults to 'None'.

\* \*\*cuts\*\*: Numeric vector or `NULL`; the cut points that will be used to bin the metric values (after the other transformations).

Defaults to `NULL`.

Only values deviating from the defaults need to be explicitly specified, the others will be initialized to their default values.

metricInfo

data.frame with annotations for metrics. Must have a column named 'Metric' identifying the respective metrics.

metricColors

Named list with colors used for columns of metricInfo. Should follow the format required for ComplexHeatmap heatmap annotations. The list can include an entry named 'Metric', which contains a named vector with colors to use for metrics.

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idInfo data. frame with annotations for entities. Must have a column named according

to idCol identifying the respective entities.

idColors Named list with colors used for columns of idInfo. Should follow the format

required for ComplexHeatmap heatmap annotations. The list can include an entry named according to idCol, which contains a named vector with colors to

use for entities.

#### Value

A SummarizedExperiment object with rows corresponding to methods and columns corresponding to metrics.

### Author(s)

Charlotte Soneson

#### **Examples**

```
\label{eq:continuous_section} \begin{split} \text{df} &<- \text{ data.frame}(\text{Method} = \text{c}(\text{"M1", "M2", "M3"),} \\ &\quad \text{metric1} = \text{c}(1, \ 2, \ 3), \\ &\quad \text{metric2} = \text{c}(3, \ 1, \ 2)) \\ \text{metricInfo} &<- \text{ data.frame}(\text{Metric} = \text{c}(\text{"metric1", "metric2", "metric3"),} \\ &\quad \text{Group} = \text{c}(\text{"G1", "G2", "G2")}) \\ \text{idInfo} &<- \text{ data.frame}(\text{Method} = \text{c}(\text{"M1", "M2", "M3"),} \\ &\quad \text{Type} = \text{c}(\text{"T1", "T1", "T2")}) \\ \text{bettrSE} &<- \text{ assembleSE}(\text{df} = \text{df, metricInfo} = \text{metricInfo, idInfo} = \text{idInfo}) \\ \end{split}
```

bettr

Launch bettr app to explore and aggregate performance metrics

# **Description**

Launch bettr app to explore and aggregate performance metrics

# Usage

```
bettr(
  df,
  idCol = "Method",
  metrics = setdiff(colnames(df), idCol),
  initialWeights = NULL,
  initialTransforms = list(),
  metricInfo = NULL,
  metricColors = NULL,
  idInfo = NULL,
  idColors = NULL,
  weightResolution = 0.05,
  bstheme = "darkly",
  appTitle = "bettr",
  bettrSE = NULL,
  addStopButton = TRUE,
  defaultWeight = 0.2
)
```

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#### **Arguments**

df A data. frame in wide format. Should contain one column with the IDs of the

entities to be compared, and one column for each metric to use for the compari-

idCol Character scalar, indicating the name of the column of df and/or idInfo that

contains IDs of the entities to be compared (e.g., methods).

metrics Character vector, indicating which of the columns of df that correspond to met-

rics of interest. Only metrics included here will be displayed.

initialWeights Named numeric vector providing initial weights for each metric to use for ag-

gregating them into a final score. Must contain one entry per metric included in

metrics.

initialTransforms

Named list with initial values of transformation parameters for each metric. Each list entry should correspond to one metric, and take the form of a list with up to four elements, named:

\* \*\*flip\*\*: Logical scalar; whether or not to flip the sign of the metric values. Defaults to `FALSE`.

\* \*\*offset\*\*: Numeric scalar; offset to add to the (flipped) metric values. Defaults to `0`.

\* \*\*transform\*\*: Character scalar; one of 'None', 'z-score', '\[0,1\]', '\[-1,1\]', 'Rank', 'Rank+\[0,1\]' or 'z-score+\[0,1\]', indicating which transform to apply to

the metric values (after any flipping and/or adding the offset). Defaults to 'None'.

\* \*\*cuts\*\*: Numeric vector or `NULL`; the cut points that will be used to bin the metric values (after the other transformations). Defaults to `NULL`.

Only values deviating from the defaults need to be explicitly specified, the others will be initialized to their default values.

data. frame with annotations for metrics. Must have a column named 'Metric'

identifying the respective metrics.

Named list with colors used for columns of metricInfo. Should follow the

format required for ComplexHeatmap heatmap annotations. The list can include an entry named 'Metric', which contains a named vector with colors to use for

metrics.

idInfo data. frame with annotations for entities. Must have a column named according

to idCol identifying the respective entities.

Named list with colors used for columns of idInfo. Should follow the format

required for ComplexHeatmap heatmap annotations. The list can include an entry named according to idCo1, which contains a named vector with colors to

use for entities.

weightResolution

Numeric scalar in (0,1), giving the resolution at which weights can be specified using the sliders in the interface.

bstheme Character scalar giving the bootswatch theme for the app (see https://bootswatch.com/).

Default 'darkly'.

Character scalar giving the title that will be used for the app. Defaults to 'bettr'. appTitle

metricInfo

metricColors

idColors

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bettrSE A SummarizedExperiment generated by assembleSE. If this is not NULL, df,

 $\label{lem:metrics} \mbox{metricS, initialWeights, initialTransforms, metricInfo, metricColors, idInfo and idColors arguments will be ignored and the information will be example of the colors of the colors arguments will be ignored and the information will be example of the colors of the color$ 

tracted from the SummarizedExperiment object.

addStopButton Logical scalar. If TRUE (default), will add a button to stop the app (by calling

shiny::stopApp).

defaultWeight Numeric scalar between 0 and 1, giving the default weight to assign to each

metric.

#### Value

A shiny application

### Author(s)

Charlotte Soneson

#### **Examples**

bettrGetReady

Prepare data for plotting with bettr

#### **Description**

Prepare input data for plotting with bettr. This function replicates the steps that are performed in the shiny app.

#### Usage

```
bettrGetReady(
   df,
   idCol = "Method",
   metrics = setdiff(colnames(df), idCol),
   initialWeights = NULL,
   initialTransforms = list(),
```

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```
metricInfo = NULL,
metricColors = NULL.
idInfo = NULL,
idColors = NULL,
scoreMethod = "weighted mean",
idOrdering = "high-to-low",
showOnlyTopIds = FALSE,
nbrTopIds = 10L,
idTopNGrouping = NULL,
keepIds = NULL,
metricGrouping = NULL,
metricCollapseGroup = FALSE,
metricCollapseMethod = "mean",
defaultWeight = 0.2,
bettrSE = NULL
```

#### **Arguments**

df

A data. frame in wide format. Should contain one column with the IDs of the entities to be compared, and one column for each metric to use for the compari-

idCol

Character scalar, indicating the name of the column of df and/or idInfo that contains IDs of the entities to be compared (e.g., methods).

metrics

Character vector, indicating which of the columns of df that correspond to metrics of interest. Only metrics included here will be displayed.

initialWeights Named numeric vector providing initial weights for each metric to use for aggregating them into a final score. Must contain one entry per metric included in metrics.

initialTransforms

Named list with initial values of transformation parameters for each metric. Each list entry should correspond to one metric, and take the form of a list with up to four elements, named:

```
* **flip**: Logical scalar; whether or not to flip the sign of the
    metric values. Defaults to `FALSE`.
```

- \* \*\*offset\*\*: Numeric scalar; offset to add to the (flipped) metric values. Defaults to `0`.
- \* \*\*transform\*\*: Character scalar; one of 'None', 'z-score',  $'\[0,1\]', '\[-1,1\]', 'Rank', 'Rank+\[0,1\]' or 'z-score+\[0,1\]',$ indicating which transform to apply to the metric values (after any flipping and/or adding the offset). Defaults to 'None'.
- \* \*\*cuts\*\*: Numeric vector or `NULL`; the cut points that will be used to bin the metric values (after the other transformations). Defaults to `NULL`.

Only values deviating from the defaults need to be explicitly specified, the others will be initialized to their default values.

metricInfo

data.frame with annotations for metrics. Must have a column named 'Metric' identifying the respective metrics.

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metricColors Named list with colors used for columns of metricInfo. Should follow the format required for ComplexHeatmap heatmap annotations. The list can include an entry named 'Metric', which contains a named vector with colors to use for metrics. idInfo data. frame with annotations for entities. Must have a column named according to idCol identifying the respective entities. idColors Named list with colors used for columns of idInfo. Should follow the format required for ComplexHeatmap heatmap annotations. The list can include an entry named according to idCol, which contains a named vector with colors to use for entities. Character scalar specifying the scoring method, that is, how to aggregate scores scoreMethod across metrics. Should be one of "weighted mean", "weighted median", "weighted fraction highest" or "weighted fraction lowest". idOrdering Character scalar indicating whether methods should be ranked with highest aggregated scores on top ("high-to-low") or opposite ("low-to-high"). showOnlyTopIds Logical scalar indicating whether to only retain the top N methods (ranked by the aggregated score). nbrTopIds If showOnlyTopIds is TRUE, the number of top-ranked methods to retain. If showOnlyTopIds is TRUE, a character scalar providing the name of a column idTopNGrouping in idInfo that groups the methods. If specified, he top nbrTopIds within each group will be retained. keepIds Character vector indicating which methods (a subset of the values in df[[idCol]]) that should be considered. If NULL, all methods are considered. metricGrouping A character scalar providing the name of a column in metricInfo by which metrics should be grouped. If NULL, no grouping is performed.

metricCollapseGroup

A logical scalar indicating whether metric values should be collapsed within each group defined by metricGrouping.

metricCollapseMethod

If metricCollapseGroup is TRUE, the way in which metric values are collapsed within a group. Should be one of "mean", "max" or "min".

defaultWeight Numeric scalar between 0 and 1, giving the default weight to assign to each

metric.

bettrSE A SummarizedExperiment generated by assembleSE. If this is not NULL, df,

metrics, initialWeights, initialTransforms, metricInfo, metricColors, idInfo and idColors arguments will be ignored and the information will be ex-

tracted from the SummarizedExperiment object.

### Value

A list of objects, which can be directly used as inputs for the bettr plotting functions. See the man page for the respective plotting function for more details.

# Author(s)

Charlotte Soneson

makeBarPolarPlot 9

#### **Examples**

makeBarPolarPlot

Create a bar/polar plot

# **Description**

Create a bar/polar plot. The input arguments for this functions are typically generated using bettrGetReady, which ensures that all required columns are available.

# Usage

```
makeBarPolarPlot(
  bettrList = NULL,
  plotdata,
  scoredata,
  idCol,
  metricCol = "Metric",
  valueCol = "ScaledValue",
  weightCol = "Weight",
  scoreCol = "Score",
  metricGroupCol = "metricGroup",
  metricColors,
  metricCollapseGroup = FALSE,
  metricGrouping = "---",
  methods = NULL,
  labelSize = 10,
  showComposition = FALSE,
  scaleFactorPolars = 1
```

# **Arguments**

bettrList

A list, the output object from prepData. If bettrList is provided, arguments plotdata, scoredata, idCol, metricCol, valueCol, weightCol, scoreCol, metricGroupCol, metricInfo, metricColors, idInfo, idColors, metricCollapseGroup, metricGrouping and methods will be ignored and the corresponding values

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will be extracted from bettrList. This is the recommended way of calling the plotting functions, as it ensures compatibility of all components. plotdata A data. frame with columns representing methods, metrics, scores, and weights. Typically obtained as prepData\$plotdata, where prepData is the output from bettrGetReady. A data. frame with columns representing methods, aggregated scores, and any scoredata other method annotations. Typically obtained as prepData\$scoredata, where prepData is the output from bettrGetReady. idCol Character scalar indicating which column of plotdata and scoredata contains the method IDs. metricCol Character scalar indicating which column of plotdata contains the metric IDs. Typically, "Metric". valueCol Character scalar indicating which column of plotdata contains the metric values. Typically, "ScaledValue". weightCol Character scalar indicating which column of plotdata contains the weight values. Typically, "Weight". scoreCol Character scalar indicating which column of scoredata contains the aggregated score values. Typically, "Score". Character scalar indicating which column of plotdata contains the information metricGroupCol about the metric group. Typically, "metricGroup". metricColors Named list with colors used for the metrics and any other metric annotations. Typically obtained as prepData\$metricColors, where prepData is the output from bettrGetReady. metricCollapseGroup Logical scalar indicating whether metrics should be collapsed by the group variable provided by metricGrouping. Typically obtained as prepData\$metricCollapseGroup, where prepData is the output from bettrGetReady. metricGrouping Character scalar indicating the column of metricInfo that was used to group metrics. Typically obtained as prepData\$metricGrouping, where prepData is the output from bettrGetReady. methods Character vector containing the methods for which to make polar plots. If NULL (default), all methods will be used. labelSize Numeric scalar providing the size of the labels in the plot. showComposition

Logical scalar indicating whether to show the composition of the score in the bar plots. This is only interpretable if the scores are obtained via a weighted mean approach.

scaleFactorPolars

Numeric scalar giving the scale factor determining the size of the polar plots.

### Value

A ggplot object.

#### Author(s)

Charlotte Soneson

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#### **Examples**

makeHeatmap

Create a summary heatmap

# **Description**

Create a summary heatmap. The input arguments for this functions are typically generated using bettrGetReady, which ensures that all required columns are available.

# Usage

```
makeHeatmap(
  bettrList = NULL,
  plotdata,
  scoredata,
  idCol,
  metricCol = "Metric",
  valueCol = "ScaledValue",
  weightCol = "Weight",
  scoreCol = "Score",
  metricGroupCol = "metricGroup",
  metricInfo,
  metricColors,
  idInfo,
  idColors,
  metricCollapseGroup = FALSE,
  metricGrouping = "---",
  labelSize = 10,
  showRowNames = TRUE,
  plotType = "Heatmap",
  rownamewidth_cm = 6,
  colnameheight_cm = 6
)
```

# **Arguments**

bettrList

A list, the output object from prepData. If bettrList is provided, arguments plotdata, scoredata, idCol, metricCol, valueCol, weightCol, scoreCol, metricGroupCol, metricInfo, metricColors, idInfo, idColors, metricCollapseGroup,

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metricGrouping and methods will be ignored and the corresponding values will be extracted from bettrList. This is the recommended way of calling the plotting functions, as it ensures compatibility of all components. plotdata A data. frame with columns representing methods, metrics, scores, and weights. Typically obtained as prepData\$plotdata, where prepData is the output from bettrGetReady. A data. frame with columns representing methods, aggregated scores, and any scoredata other method annotations. Typically obtained as prepData\$scoredata, where prepData is the output from bettrGetReady. idCol Character scalar indicating which column of plotdata and scoredata contains the method IDs. Character scalar indicating which column of plotdata contains the metric IDs. metricCol Typically, "Metric". valueCol Character scalar indicating which column of plotdata contains the metric values. Typically, "ScaledValue". Character scalar indicating which column of plotdata contains the weight valweightCol ues. Typically, "Weight". Character scalar indicating which column of scoredata contains the aggregated scoreCol score values. Typically, "Score". Character scalar indicating which column of plotdata contains the information metricGroupCol about the metric group. Typically, "metricGroup". metricInfo data.frame with annotations for metrics. Typically obtained as prepData\$metricInfo, where prepData is the output from bettrGetReady. metricColors Named list with colors used for the metrics and any other metric annotations. Typically obtained as prepData\$metricColors, where prepData is the output from bettrGetReady. idInfo data. frame with annotations for entities. Typically obtained as prepData\$idInfo, where prepData is the output from bettrGetReady. idColors Named list with colors used for methods and any other method annotations. Typically obtained as prepData\$idColors, where prepData is the output from bettrGetReady. metricCollapseGroup Logical scalar indicating whether metrics should be collapsed by the group variable provided by metricGrouping. Typically obtained as prepData\$metricCollapseGroup, where prepData is the output from bettrGetReady. metricGrouping Character scalar indicating the column of metricInfo that was used to group

metrics. Typically obtained as prepData\$metricGrouping, where prepData is

the output from bettrGetReady.

labelSize Numeric scalar providing the size of the labels in the plot.

showRowNames Logical scalar indicating whether to show row (method) names in the heatmap.

plotType Either "Heatmap" or "Dot plot" indicating the type of plot to construct.

 $rown a mewidth\_cm, colname height\_cm$ 

Numeric scalars defining the width of row names and height of column names, in cm.

#### Value

A HeatmapList object.

makeParCoordPlot 13

#### Author(s)

Charlotte Soneson

#### **Examples**

makeParCoordPlot

Create a parallel coordinates plot

# **Description**

Create a parallel coordinates plot. The input arguments for this functions are typically generated using bettrGetReady, which ensures that all required columns are available.

# Usage

```
makeParCoordPlot(
  bettrList = NULL,
  plotdata,
  idCol,
  metricCol = "Metric",
  valueCol = "ScaledValue",
  metricGroupCol = "metricGroup",
  metricColors,
  idColors,
  methods = NULL,
  metricGrouping = "---",
  highlightMethod = NULL,
  labelSize = 10
)
```

#### **Arguments**

 ${\tt bettrList}$ 

A list, the output object from prepData. If bettrList is provided, arguments plotdata, scoredata, idCol, metricCol, valueCol, weightCol, scoreCol, metricGroupCol, metricInfo, metricColors, idInfo, idColors, metricCollapseGroup, metricGrouping and methods will be ignored and the corresponding values will be extracted from bettrList. This is the recommended way of calling the plotting functions, as it ensures compatibility of all components.

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plotdata	A data. frame with columns representing methods, metrics, scores, and weights. Typically obtained as prepData\$plotdata, where prepData is the output from bettrGetReady.						
idCol	Character scalar indicating which column of plotdata and scoredata contains the method IDs.						
metricCol	Character scalar indicating which column of plotdata contains the metric IDs. Typically, "Metric".						
valueCol	Character scalar indicating which column of plotdata contains the metric values. Typically, "ScaledValue".						
metricGroupCol	Character scalar indicating which column of plotdata contains the information about the metric group. Typically, "metricGroup".						
metricColors	Named list with colors used for the metrics and any other metric annotations. Typically obtained as prepData\$metricColors, where prepData is the output from bettrGetReady.						
idColors	Named list with colors used for methods and any other method annotations. Typically obtained as prepData\$idColors, where prepData is the output from bettrGetReady.						
methods	Character vector containing the methods to include. If NULL (default), all methods will be used.						
metricGrouping	Character scalar indicating the column of metricInfo that was used to group metrics. Typically obtained as prepData\$metricGrouping, where prepData is the output from bettrGetReady.						
highlightMethod							
	Character scalar indicating a method that should be highlighted in the plot.						
labelSize	Numeric scalar providing the size of the labels in the plot.						

# Value

A ggplot object.

# Author(s)

Charlotte Soneson

# **Examples**

makePolarPlot 15

r plot	
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# Description

Create a polar plot. The input arguments for this functions are typically generated using bettrGetReady, which ensures that all required columns are available.

# Usage

```
makePolarPlot(
  bettrList = NULL,
  plotdata,
  idCol,
  metricCol = "Metric",
  valueCol = "ScaledValue",
  metricGroupCol = "metricGroup",
  metricColors,
  metricCollapseGroup = FALSE,
  metricGrouping = "---",
  labelSize = 10
)
```

# **Arguments**

bettrList	A list, the output object from prepData. If bettrList is provided, arguments plotdata, scoredata, idCol, metricCol, valueCol, weightCol, scoreCol, metricGroupCol, metricInfo, metricColors, idInfo, idColors, metricCollapseGroup, metricGrouping and methods will be ignored and the corresponding values will be extracted from bettrList. This is the recommended way of calling the plotting functions, as it ensures compatibility of all components.
plotdata	A data. frame with columns representing methods, metrics, scores, and weights. Typically obtained as prepData\$plotdata, where prepData is the output from bettrGetReady.
idCol	Character scalar indicating which column of plotdata and scoredata contains the method IDs.
metricCol	Character scalar indicating which column of plotdata contains the metric IDs. Typically, "Metric".
valueCol	Character scalar indicating which column of plotdata contains the metric values. Typically, "ScaledValue".
metricGroupCol	Character scalar indicating which column of plotdata contains the information about the metric group. Typically, "metricGroup".

 $from \ bettr {\tt GetReady}.$   ${\tt metric Collapse Group}$ 

metricColors

Logical scalar indicating whether metrics should be collapsed by the group variable provided by metricGrouping. Typically obtained as prepData\$metricCollapseGroup, where prepData is the output from bettrGetReady.

Named list with colors used for the metrics and any other metric annotations. Typically obtained as prepData\$metricColors, where prepData is the output

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metricGrouping Character scalar indicating the column of metricInfo that was used to group metrics. Typically obtained as prepData\$metricGrouping, where prepData is the output from bettrGetReady.

labelSize Numeric scalar providing the size of the labels in the plot.

#### Value

A ggplot object.

#### Author(s)

Charlotte Soneson

# **Examples**

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