

# Package ‘stapler’

April 1, 2025

**Version** 0.8.0

**Title** Simultaneous Truth and Performance Level Estimation

**Description** An implementation of Simultaneous Truth and Performance Level Estimation (STAPLE) <[doi:10.1109/TMI.2004.828354](https://doi.org/10.1109/TMI.2004.828354)>. This method is used when there are multiple raters for an object, typically an image, and this method fuses these ratings into one rating. It uses an expectation-maximization method to estimate this rating and the individual specificity/sensitivity for each rater.

**License** GPL-3

**Imports** matrixStats, RNifti

**Suggests** knitr, rmarkdown, covr, testthat, spelling

**Encoding** UTF-8

**ByteCompile** true

**Type** Package

**Maintainer** John Muschelli <[muschellij2@gmail.com](mailto:muschellij2@gmail.com)>

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**URL** <https://github.com/muschellij2/stapler>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/muschellij2/stapler/issues>

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.2

**Language** en-US

**NeedsCompilation** no

**Author** John Muschelli [aut, cre]

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2025-04-01 16:40:02 UTC

## Contents

staple	2
staple_bin_img	3

staple_bin_mat . . . . .	5
staple_example_data . . . . .	6
staple_multi_mat . . . . .	7

**Index**

9

---

staple	<i>Generic STAPLE Algorithm</i>
--------	---------------------------------

---

**Description**

Tries to do the correct STAPLE algorithm (binary/multi-class) for the type of input (array/matrix/list of images/filenames of images)

**Usage**

```
staple(x, ..., set_orient = FALSE)

## Default S3 method:
staple(x, ..., set_orient = FALSE)

## S3 method for class 'list'
staple(x, ..., set_orient = FALSE)

## S3 method for class 'character'
staple(x, ..., set_orient = FALSE)

## S3 method for class 'array'
staple(x, ..., set_orient = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

- x a nxr matrix where there are n raters and r elements rated, a list of images, or a character vector. Note, `readNifti` is used for image filenames
- ... Options for STAPLE, see `staple_bin_mat` and `staple_multi_mat`
- set\_orient Should the orientation be set to the same if x is a set of images, including niftiImages.

**Examples**

```
n = 5
r = 1000
sens = c(0.8, 0.9, 0.8, 0.5, 0.8)
spec = c(0.9, 0.75, 0.99, 0.98, 0.92)
suppressWarnings(RNGversion("3.5.0"))
set.seed(20171120)
n_1 = 200
n_0 = r - n_1
```

```

truth = c(rep(0, n_0), rep(1, n_1))
pred_1 = rbinom(n = n, size = n_1, prob = sens)
pred_0 = rbinom(n = n, size = n_0, prob = spec)
pred_0 = sapply(pred_0, function(n) {
  sample(c(rep(0, n), rep(1, n_0 -n)))
})
pred_1 = sapply(pred_1, function(n) {
  sample(c(rep(1, n), rep(0, n_1 -n)))
})
pred = rbind(pred_0, pred_1)
true_sens = colMeans(pred[ truth == 1, ])
true_spec = colMeans(1-pred[ truth == 0, ])
x = t(pred)
staple_out = staple(x)
print(staple_out$sensitivity)
if (is.matrix(staple_out$sensitivity)) {
  staple_out$sensitivity = staple_out$sensitivity[, "1"]
}
testthat::expect_equal(staple_out$sensitivity,
c(0.781593858553476, 0.895868301462594,
0.760514086161722, 0.464483444340873,
0.765239314719065))
staple_out_prior = staple(x, prior = rep(0.5, r))

if (is.matrix(staple_out_prior$sensitivity)) {
  staple_out_prior$sensitivity = staple_out_prior$sensitivity[, "1"]
}
testthat::expect_equal(staple_out_prior$sensitivity,
c(0.683572080864211, 0.821556768891859,
0.619166852992802, 0.389409921992467, 0.67042085955546))

res_bin = staple_bin_mat(x, prior = rep(0.5, 1000))
testthat::expect_equal(staple_out_prior$sensitivity,
res_bin$sensitivity)
n = 5
r = 1000
x = lapply(seq(n), function(i) {
  x = rbinom(n = r, size = 1, prob = 0.5)
  array(x, dim = c(10,10, 10))
})
mat = sapply(x, c)
staple_out = staple_bin_img(x, set_orient = FALSE)
res_mat = staple(t(mat))
if (is.matrix(res_mat$sensitivity)) {
  res_mat$sensitivity = res_mat$sensitivity[, "1"]
}
testthat::expect_equal(staple_out$sensitivity, res_mat$sensitivity)

```

## Description

Run STAPLE on a set of nifti images

## Usage

```
staple_bin_img(x, set_orient = FALSE, verbose = TRUE, ...)
staple_multi_img(x, set_orient = FALSE, verbose = TRUE, ...)
```

## Arguments

x	Character vector of filenames or list of arrays/images
set_orient	Should the orientation be set to the same if the images are <code>niftiImages</code>
verbose	print diagnostic messages
...	Additional arguments to <code>staple_bin_mat</code>

## Value

A list similar to `staple_bin_mat`, but has a resulting image

## Examples

```
n = 5
r = 1000
x = lapply(seq(n), function(i) {
  x = rbinom(n = r, size = 1, prob = 0.5)
  array(x, dim = c(10,10, 10))
})
staple_out = staple_bin_img(x, set_orient = FALSE)
res = staple(x)
testthat::expect_equal(staple_out$sensitivity,
                      res$sensitivity)

x = lapply(x, RNifti:::asNifti, internal = FALSE)
staple_img_out = staple_bin_img(x, set_orient = FALSE)
testthat::expect_equal(staple_out$sensitivity,
                      staple_img_out$sensitivity)
n = 5
r = 1000
x = lapply(seq(n), function(i) {
  x = rbinom(n = r, size = 5, prob = 0.5)
  array(x, dim = c(10,10, 10))
})
staple_out = staple_multi_img(x, set_orient = FALSE)
```

---

<code>staple_bin_mat</code>	<i>STAPLE on binary matrix</i>
-----------------------------	--------------------------------

---

### Description

STAPLE on binary matrix

### Usage

```
staple_bin_mat(
  x,
  sens_init = 0.99999,
  spec_init = 0.99999,
  max_iter = 10000,
  tol = .Machine$double.eps,
  prior = "mean",
  verbose = TRUE,
  trace = 10,
  drop_all_same = FALSE
)
```

### Arguments

<code>x</code>	a nxr matrix where there are n raters and r elements rated
<code>sens_init</code>	Initialize parameter for sensitivity (p)
<code>spec_init</code>	Initialize parameter for specificity (q)
<code>max_iter</code>	Maximum number of iterations to run
<code>tol</code>	Tolerance for convergence
<code>prior</code>	Either "mean" or a vector of prior probabilities,
<code>verbose</code>	print diagnostic messages
<code>trace</code>	Number for modulus to print out verbose iterations
<code>drop_all_same</code>	drop all records where they are all the same. DO NOT use in practice, only for validation of past results

### Value

List of output sensitivities, specificities, and vector of probabilities

### Examples

```
n = 5
r = 1000
sens = c(0.8, 0.9, 0.8, 0.5, 0.8)
spec = c(0.9, 0.75, 0.99, 0.98, 0.92)
suppressWarnings(RNGversion("3.5.0"))
```

```

set.seed(20171120)
n_1 = 200
n_0 = r - n_1
truth = c(rep(0, n_0), rep(1, n_1))
pred_1 = rbinom(n = n, size = n_1, prob = sens)
pred_0 = rbinom(n = n, size = n_0, prob = spec)
pred_0 = sapply(pred_0, function(n) {
  sample(c(rep(0, n), rep(1, n_0 -n)))
})
pred_1 = sapply(pred_1, function(n) {
  sample(c(rep(1, n), rep(0, n_1 -n)))
})
pred = rbind(pred_0, pred_1)
true_sens = colMeans(pred[ truth == 1, ])
true_spec = colMeans(1-pred[ truth == 0, ])
x = t(pred)
staple_out = staple_bin_mat(x)
testthat::expect_equal(staple_out$sensitivity,
c(0.781593858553476, 0.895868301462594,
0.760514086161722, 0.464483444340873,
0.765239314719065))
staple_out_prior = staple_bin_mat(x, prior = rep(0.5, r))
testthat::expect_equal(staple_out_prior$sensitivity,
c(0.683572080864211, 0.821556768891859,
0.619166852992802, 0.389409921992467, 0.67042085955546))

```

**staple\_example\_data**     *STAPLE Example Data*

## Description

STAPLE Example Data

## Usage

`staple_example_data()`

## Value

Character vector of filenames

## Examples

`staple_example_data()`

---

<b>staple_multi_mat</b>	<i>STAPLE on Multi-class matrix</i>
-------------------------	-------------------------------------

---

## Description

STAPLE on Multi-class matrix

## Usage

```
staple_multi_mat(
  x,
  sens_init = 0.99999,
  spec_init = 0.99999,
  max_iter = 10000,
  tol = .Machine$double.eps,
  prior = "mean",
  verbose = TRUE,
  trace = 25,
  ties.method = c("first", "random", "last"),
  drop_all_same = FALSE
)
```

## Arguments

x	a nxr matrix where there are n raters and r elements rated
sens_init	Initialize matrix for sensitivity (p)
spec_init	Initialize matrix for specificity (q)
max_iter	Maximum number of iterations to run
tol	Tolerance for convergence
prior	Either "mean" or a matrix of prior probabilities,
verbose	print diagnostic messages
trace	Number for modulus to print out verbose iterations
ties.method	Method passed to <a href="#">max.col</a> for hard segmentation
drop_all_same	drop all records where they are all the same. DO NOT use in practice, only for validation of past results

## Value

List of matrix output sensitivities, specificities, and matrix of probabilities

**Examples**

```
rm(list = ls())
x = matrix(rbinom(5000, size = 5, prob = 0.5), ncol = 1000)
sens_init = 0.99999
spec_init = 0.99999
max_iter = 10000
tol = .Machine$double.eps
prior = "mean"
verbose = TRUE
trace = 25
ties.method = "first"

res = staple_multi_mat(x)
xx = rbind(colMeans(x >= 2) > 0.5, colMeans(x >= 2) >= 0.5)
res = staple_multi_mat(xx, prior = rep(0.5, 1000))
res_bin = staple_bin_mat(xx, prior = rep(0.5, 1000))
testthat::expect_equal(res$sensitivity[, "1"], res_bin$sensitivity)
```

# Index

max.col, 7  
readNifti, 2  
staple, 2  
staple\_bin\_img, 3  
staple\_bin\_mat, 2, 4, 5  
staple\_example\_data, 6  
staple\_multi\_img (staple\_bin\_img), 3  
staple\_multi\_mat, 2, 7