

Package ‘bayesQRsurvey’

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Title Bayesian Quantile Regression Models for Complex Survey Data
Analysis

Version 0.2.2

Description Provides Bayesian quantile regression models for complex survey data under informative sampling using survey-weighted estimators. Both single- and multiple-output models are supported. To accelerate computation, all algorithms are implemented in 'C++' using 'Rcpp', 'RcppArmadillo', and 'RcppEigen', and are called from 'R'. See Nascimento and Gonçalves (2024) <[doi:10.1093/jssam/smae015](https://doi.org/10.1093/jssam/smae015)> and Nascimento and Gonçalves (2025, in press) <<https://academic.oup.com/jssam>>.

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Anthro	<i>Children anthropometric data</i>
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Description

The dataset comprises 985 observations and 8 variables on children aged 0-60 months from the Central-West region of Brazil. The data are a cleaned subset of the 2006 Brazilian National Demographic Health Survey of Women and Children (NDHS), a complex survey in which sampling units were selected in two stages: primary sampling units (PSUs) were census tracts, and secondary sampling units (SSUs) were households. Tract selection within each stratum was designed to ensure a minimum number of blood samples, given the prevalence of vitamin A deficiency in children. Outlier weights (> 30 kg) and rows with missing values have been removed.

Usage

```
data("Anthro")
```

Format

The data frame has the following components:

- **wgt** : weight
- **hgt** : height
- **wgt_ind** : weight-for-age index
- **hgt_ind** : height-for-age index
- **ruc** : rural-urban classification (urban = 1 and rural = 2)
- **sex** : factor with levels 0 (girl) and 1 (boy)
- **age** : age in months
- **dweight** : sampling weights

Source

The 2006 Brazilian National Demographic Health Survey of Women and Children (NDHS) was published by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics.

Description

bqr.svy implements Bayesian methods for estimating quantile regression models for complex survey data analysis regarding single (univariate) outputs. To improve computational efficiency, the Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) algorithms are implemented in 'C++'.

Usage

```
bqr.svy(
  formula,
  weights = NULL,
  data = NULL,
  quantile = 0.5,
  method = c("ald", "score", "approximate"),
  prior = NULL,
  niter = 20000,
  burnin = 0,
  thin = 1,
  verbose = TRUE,
  estimate_sigma = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

formula	a symbolic description of the model to be fit.
weights	an optional numerical vector containing the survey weights. If NULL, equal weights are used.
data	an optional data frame containing the variables in the model.
quantile	numerical scalar or vector containing quantile(s) of interest (default=0.5).
method	one of "ald", "score" and "approximate" (default="ald").
prior	a bqr_prior object of class "prior". If omitted, a vague prior is assumed (see prior).
niter	number of MCMC draws.
burnin	number of initial MCMC draws to be discarded.(default = 0)
thin	thinning parameter, i.e., keep every keepth draw (default=1).
verbose	logical flag indicating whether to print progress messages (default=TRUE).
estimate_sigma	logical flag indicating whether to estimate the scale parameter when method = "ald" (default=FALSE and σ^2 is set to 1)

Details

The `bqr.svy` function can estimate three types of models, where the quantile regression coefficients are defined at the super-population level, and their estimators are built upon the survey weights.

- "ald" – The asymmetric Laplace distribution as working likelihood.
- "score" – A score based likelihood function.
- "approximate" – A pseudolikelihood function based on a Gaussian approximation.

Value

An object of class "bqr.svy", containing:

<code>beta</code>	Posterior mean estimates of regression coefficients.
<code>draws</code>	Posterior draws from the MCMC sampler.
<code>accept_rate</code>	Average acceptance rate (if available).
<code>warmup, thin</code>	MCMC control parameters used during sampling.
<code>quantile</code>	The quantile(s) fitted.
<code>prior</code>	Prior specification used.
<code>formula, terms, model</code>	Model specification details.
<code>runtime</code>	Elapsed runtime in seconds.
<code>method</code>	Estimation method
<code>estimate_sigma</code>	Logical flag indicating whether the scale parameter σ^2 was estimated (TRUE) or fixed at 1 (FALSE).

References

Nascimento, M. L. & Gonçalves, K. C. M. (2024). Bayesian Quantile Regression Models for Complex Survey Data Under Informative Sampling. *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*, 12(4), 1105–1130. [doi:10.1093/jssam/smae015](https://doi.org/10.1093/jssam/smae015)

Examples

```
# Generate population data
set.seed(123)
N <- 10000
x1_p <- runif(N, -1, 1)
x2_p <- runif(N, -1, 1)
y_p <- 2 + 1.5 * x1_p - 0.8 * x2_p + rnorm(N)

# Generate sample data
n <- 500
z_aux <- rnorm(N, mean = 1 + y_p, sd = .5)
p_aux <- 1 / (1 + exp(2.5 - 0.5 * z_aux))
s_ind <- sample(1:N, n, replace = FALSE, prob = p_aux)
y_s <- y_p[s_ind]
x1_s <- x1_p[s_ind]
```

```

x2_s <- x2_p[s_ind]
w     <- 1 / p_aux[s_ind]
data  <- data.frame(y = y_s, x1 = x1_s, x2 = x2_s, w = w)

# Basic usage with default method ('ald') and priors (vague)
fit1 <- bqr.svy(y ~ x1 + x2, weights = w, data = data)

# Specify informative priors
prior <- prior(
  beta_x_mean = c(2, 1.5, -0.8),
  beta_x_cov  = diag(c(0.25, 0.25, 0.25)),
  sigma_shape = 1,
  sigma_rate  = 1
)
fit2 <- bqr.svy(y ~ x1 + x2, weights = w, data = data, prior = prior)

# Specify different methods
fit_score <- bqr.svy(y ~ x1 + x2, weights = w, data = data, method = "score")
fit_approx <- bqr.svy(y ~ x1 + x2, weights = w, data = data, method = "approximate")

```

mo.bqr.svy

Multiple-Output Bayesian quantile regression for complex survey data

Description

mo.bqr.svy implements a Bayesian approach to multiple-output quantile regression for complex survey data analysis. The method builds a quantile region based on a directional approach. To improve computational efficiency, an Expectation-Maximization (EM) algorithm is implemented instead of the usual Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC).

Usage

```

mo.bqr.svy(
  formula,
  weights = NULL,
  data = NULL,
  quantile = 0.5,
  prior = NULL,
  U = NULL,
  gamma_U = NULL,
  n_dir = NULL,
  epsilon = 1e-06,
  max_iter = 1000,
  verbose = FALSE,
  estimate_sigma = FALSE
)

```

Arguments

formula	a symbolic description of the model to be fit.
weights	an optional numerical vector containing the survey weights. If NULL, equal weights are used.
data	an optional data frame containing the variables in the model.
quantile	numerical scalar or vector containing quantile(s) of interest (default=0.5).
prior	a bqr_prior object of class "prior". If omitted, a vague prior is assumed (see prior).
U	an optional $d \times K$ -matrix of directions, where d indicates the response variable dimension and K indicates indicates the number of directions.
gamma_U	an optional list with length equal to K for which each element corresponds to $d \times (d - 1)$ -matrix of orthogonal basis for each row of U.
n_dir	numerical scalar corresponding to the number of directions (if U and gamma_U are not supplied).
epsilon	numerical scalar indicating the convergence tolerance for the EM algorithm (default = 1e-6).
max_iter	numerical scalar indicating maximum number of EM iterations (default = 1000).
verbose	logical flag indicating whether to print progress messages (default=FALSE).
estimate_sigma	logical flag indicating whether to estimate the scale parameter when method = "ald" (default=FALSE and σ^2 is set to 1)

Value

An object of class "mo.bqr.svy" containing:

call	The matched call
formula	The model formula
terms	The terms object
quantile	Vector of fitted quantiles
prior	List of priors used for each quantile
fit	List of fitted results for each quantile, each containing one sub-list per direction
coefficients	Coefficients organized by quantile
sigma	List of scale parameters by quantile and direction. If estimate_sigma = FALSE, all entries are fixed at 1. If estimate_sigma = TRUE, each entry contains the estimated value of σ (posterior mode from EM).
n_dir	Number of directions
U	Matrix of projection directions ($d \times K$)
Gamma_list	List of orthogonal complement bases, one per direction
n_obs	Number of observations
n_vars	Number of covariates
response_dim	Dimension of the response d
estimate_sigma	Logical flag indicating whether the scale parameter σ^2 was estimated (TRUE) or fixed at 1 (FALSE).

References

Nascimento, M. L. & Gonçalves, K. C. M. (2024). Bayesian Quantile Regression Models for Complex Survey Data Under Informative Sampling. *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*, 12(4), 1105–1130. doi:10.1093/jssam/smae015

Examples

```
library(MASS)

# Generate population data
set.seed(123)
N <- 10000
data <- mvrnorm(N, rep(0, 3),
               matrix(c(4, 0, 2,
                       0, 1, 1.5,
                       2, 1.5, 9), 3, 3))
x_p <- as.matrix(data[, 1])
y_p <- data[, 2:3] + cbind(rep(0, N), x_p)

# Generate sample data
n <- 500
z_aux <- rnorm(N, mean = 1 + y_p, sd = 0.5)
p_aux <- 1 / (1 + exp(2.5 - 0.5 * z_aux))
s_ind <- sample(1:N, n, replace = FALSE, prob = p_aux)
y_s <- y_p[s_ind, ]
x_s <- x_p[s_ind, ]
w <- 1 / p_aux[s_ind]
data_s <- data.frame(y1 = y_s[, 1],
                    y2 = y_s[, 2],
                    x1 = x_s,
                    w = w)

# Basic usage with default priors when U and gamma_U are given
fit1 <- mo.bqr.svy(
  cbind(y1, y2) ~ x1,
  weights = w,
  data = data_s,
  quantile = c(0.1, 0.2),
  U = matrix(c(0, 1, 1/sqrt(2), 1/sqrt(2)), 2),
  gamma_U = list(c(1, 0), c(1/sqrt(2), -1/sqrt(2)))
)

# Basic usage with default priors when n_dir is given
fit2 <- mo.bqr.svy(
  cbind(y1, y2) ~ x1,
  weights = w,
  data = data_s,
  quantile = c(0.1, 0.2),
  n_dir = 2
)
```

plot.bqr.svy

Plot Method for Bayesian Weighted Quantile Regression

Description

Plot method for objects of class `bqr.svy` produced by `bqr.svy()`. It can display fitted quantile curves, coefficient–quantile profiles, MCMC trace plots, and posterior densities.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'bqr.svy'
plot(
  x,
  y = NULL,
  type = c("fit", "quantile", "trace", "density"),
  tau = NULL,
  which = NULL,
  add_points = TRUE,
  combine = TRUE,
  show_ci = FALSE,
  ci_probs = c(0.1, 0.9),
  at = NULL,
  grid_length = 200,
  points_alpha = 0.4,
  point_size = 2.5,
  line_size = 1.2,
  main = NULL,
  use_ggplot = TRUE,
  theme_style = c("minimal", "classic", "bw", "light"),
  color_palette = c("viridis", "plasma", "set2", "dark2"),
  add_h0 = FALSE,
  add_ols = FALSE,
  ols_fit = NULL,
  ols_weights = NULL,
  ...
)

## S3 method for class 'bwqr_fit'
plot(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'bwqr_fit_multi'
plot(x, ...)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	Object of class <code>bqr.svy</code> .
<code>y</code>	Ignored (S3 signature).

type	One of "fit", "quantile", "trace", "density".
tau	Quantile(s) to plot; must appear in x\$quantile. If NULL, all available are used.
which	Variable name(s) or coefficient index(es) to display. For type = "fit", the name of a numeric predictor to plot on the x-axis (if NULL, the first numeric predictor is used). For type = "quantile", a character vector of coefficient names or integer vector of indices; when more than one is given the plot uses facet_wrap to show all coefficients in a single figure. For type = "trace" and type = "density", a single coefficient name or index (default: first coefficient in the model).
add_points	(fit) Logical; overlay observed data points.
combine	(fit) Logical; if multiple tau: TRUE overlays curves in one panel; FALSE uses one panel per quantile.
show_ci	(fit) Logical; draw credible bands.
ci_probs	(fit) Length-2 numeric vector with lower/upper probabilities for credible bands.
at	(fit) Named list of fixed values for non-plotted covariates (see Details).
grid_length	(fit) Integer; number of points in the predictor grid.
points_alpha	(fit) Point transparency in $[\theta, 1]$.
point_size	(fit) Point size.
line_size	(fit/quantile) Line width for fitted/summary lines.
main	Optional main title.
use_ggplot	Logical; if TRUE, return a ggplot object.
theme_style	(ggplot) One of "minimal", "classic", "bw", "light".
color_palette	(ggplot) One of "viridis", "plasma", "set2", "dark2".
add_h0	(quantile) Logical; add a horizontal reference at $y = 0$.
add_ols	(quantile) Logical; add the OLS estimate (dotted line) for the selected coefficient.
ols_fit	(quantile) Optional precomputed lm object; if NULL, an lm() is fitted internally using x\$model and x\$terms.
ols_weights	(quantile) Optional numeric vector of weights when fitting OLS internally (length must match nrow(x\$model)).
...	Accepted for compatibility; ignored by internal plotting code.

Details

Supported plot types:

- type = "fit": Fitted quantile curves versus a single numeric predictor (selected via which). Optionally overlay observed points and credible bands. Other covariates can be held fixed via at.
- type = "quantile": A single coefficient as a function of the quantile τ . Optionally add a reference line at 0 and the corresponding OLS estimate.
- type = "trace": MCMC trace for one selected coefficient at a chosen τ .

- `type = "density"`: Posterior density for one selected coefficient at a chosen τ .

Notes:

- `tau` must be included in `x$quantile`. If `NULL`, all available quantiles in the object are used.
- For `type = "fit"`, which must name a numeric column in the original model. If `NULL`, the first numeric predictor (different from the response) is chosen automatically.
- For `type = "fit"`, `at` is a named list (`list(var = value, ...)`) used to fix other covariates while plotting versus the selected predictor. Provide valid levels for factors.
- When `use_ggplot = TRUE`, a `ggplot` object is returned and the appearance is controlled by `theme_style` and `color_palette`. Otherwise, base graphics are used and the function returns `invisible(NULL)`.

Value

`invisible(NULL)` for base R graphics, or a `ggplot` object if `use_ggplot = TRUE`.

Examples

```
data(mtcars)
fit <- bqr.svy(mpg ~ wt + hp + cyl, data = mtcars,
              quantile = c(0.5, 0.75), method = "ald",
              niter = 20000, burnin = 10000, thin = 5)

plot(fit, type = "fit", which = "wt", show_ci = TRUE)
plot(fit, type = "quantile", which = "wt", add_h0 = TRUE, add_ols = TRUE)
plot(fit, type = "quantile", which = c("(Intercept)", "wt", "hp", "cyl"),
     add_h0 = TRUE, add_ols = TRUE)
plot(fit, type = "trace", which = "wt", tau = 0.5)
plot(fit, type = "density", which = "wt", tau = 0.5)
```

plotQuantileRegion *Plot Bivariate Quantile Regions for Multiple-Output Models*

Description

Draws bivariate quantile regions from a fitted `mo.bqr.svy` object. The function projects data onto a grid, determines which points lie inside each quantile region, and visualises the result using **ggplot2**.

Usage

```
plotQuantileRegion(
  model,
  response,
  datafile,
  ngridpoints = 200,
```

```

xValue = 1,
paintedArea = TRUE,
range_y = NULL,
main = NULL,
point_alpha = 0.3,
point_size = 1.2,
line_size = 0.8,
verbose = FALSE
)

```

Arguments

model	An object of class "mo.bqr.svy" produced by <code>mo.bqr.svy</code> .
response	Character vector of length 2 giving the names of the response columns in datafile.
datafile	A data frame containing at least the two columns named in response.
ngridpoints	Integer; number of grid points per axis (default = 200).
xValue	Numeric vector of covariate values at which to evaluate the regression. For an intercept-only model use <code>xValue = 1</code> .
paintedArea	Logical; if TRUE (default) the regions are drawn as filled ribbons (see Details).
range_y	An optional 2×2 matrix whose rows give the <code>[min, max]</code> range for the first and second response, respectively. If NULL, the ranges are computed from the data with a 15 percent margin.
main	Optional character string for the plot title.
point_alpha	Numeric in <code>[0, 1]</code> ; transparency for the observed-data point cloud (default = 0.3).
point_size	Numeric; size of the data points (default = 1.2).
line_size	Numeric; line width for contour outlines (default = 0.8).
verbose	Logical; if TRUE, print per-quantile progress messages (default = FALSE).

Details

Two display modes are available:

- `paintedArea = TRUE` (default): Filled ribbons with contour outlines, using a sequential "Blues" palette. An in-plot text legend shows the quantile level and approximate coverage.
- `paintedArea = FALSE`: Contour-only lines coloured by quantile, with a standard ggplot2 legend at the bottom.

The quantile regions are built from the directional approach described in Nascimento & Gonçalves (2025). For each quantile τ , the function evaluates every grid point against the half-space constraints defined by the fitted directions and orthogonal bases.

Value

Invisibly, a list with components:

plot	A ggplot object.
data	A data frame with columns <code>y1</code> , <code>min</code> , <code>max</code> and <code>tau</code> , one block per quantile level.

See Also

[mo.bqr.svy, prior](#)

Examples

```
# Load the Anthro dataset (children anthropometric data, already cleaned)
data(Anthro, package = "bayesQRsurvey")

# --- Directions ---
n_dir <- 12
angles <- (0:(n_dir - 1)) * 2 * pi / n_dir
U_mat <- rbind(cos(angles), sin(angles))
gamma_list <- lapply(seq_len(n_dir), function(k)
  matrix(c(-sin(angles[k]), cos(angles[k])), ncol = 1))

# --- Fit ---
fit <- mo.bqr.svy(
  cbind(wgt, hgt) ~ 1,
  data = Anthro,
  quantile = c(0.05, 0.10, 0.25),
  U = U_mat,
  gamma_U = gamma_list,
  max_iter = 2000,
  verbose = FALSE
)

# --- Plot quantile regions (filled ribbons) ---
plotQuantileRegion(fit, response = c("wgt", "hgt"), datafile = Anthro)

# Contour-only style
plotQuantileRegion(fit, response = c("wgt", "hgt"), datafile = Anthro,
  paintedArea = FALSE)
```

print.bayesQRsurvey *Print methods for bayesQRsurvey model objects*

Description

print.bayesQRsurvey is an S3 method that prints the content of an S3 object of class bqr.svy or mo.bqr.svy to the console.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'bqr.svy'
print(x, digits = 3, ...)

## S3 method for class 'mo.bqr.svy'
print(x, ...)
```

Arguments

`x` An object of class "bqr.svy" or "mo.bqr.svy", returned by `bqr.svy` or `mo.bqr.svy`.
`digits` Integer specifying the number of decimal places to print. Defaults to 3.
`...` Additional arguments that are passed to the generic `print()` function.

Examples

```
set.seed(123)
N <- 10000
x1_p <- runif(N, -1, 1)
x2_p <- runif(N, -1, 1)
y_p <- 2 + 1.5 * x1_p - 0.8 * x2_p + rnorm(N)

# Generate sample data
n <- 500
z_aux <- rnorm(N, mean = 1 + y_p, sd = .5)
p_aux <- 1 / (1 + exp(2.5 - 0.5 * z_aux))
s_ind <- sample(1:N, n, replace = FALSE, prob = p_aux)
y_s <- y_p[s_ind]
x1_s <- x1_p[s_ind]
x2_s <- x2_p[s_ind]
w <- 1 / p_aux[s_ind]
data <- data.frame(y = y_s, x1 = x1_s, x2 = x2_s, w = w)

# Fit a model
fit1 <- bqr.svy(y ~ x1 + x2, weights = w, data = data,
               niter = 2000, burnin = 500, thin = 2)

print(fit1)
```

prior *Create prior for Bayesian quantile regression models for complex survey data*

Description

`prior` creates prior distributions for both single (`bqr.svy`) and multiple-output (`mo.bqr.svy`) Bayesian quantile regression models for complex survey data.

Usage

```
prior(
  beta_x_mean = NULL,
  beta_x_cov = NULL,
  sigma_shape = 0.001,
  sigma_rate = 0.001,
  beta_y_mean = NULL,
```

```

    beta_y_cov = NULL
  )

```

Arguments

beta_x_mean	vector of prior means for the regression coefficients. (default = NULL).
beta_x_cov	prior covariance matrix for the regression coefficients. (default = NULL).
sigma_shape	shape parameter for inverse Gamma prior for σ^2 . (default = 0.001).
sigma_rate	rate parameter for inverse Gamma prior for σ^2 . (default = 0.001).
beta_y_mean	prior means for the coefficients related to the variables that emerge from the product between the orthogonal basis and the outputs (default = NULL).
beta_y_cov	prior covariance matrix for the coefficients related to the variables that emerge from the product between the orthogonal basis and the outputs. (default = NULL).

Details

The function `prior` builds prior distributions for the three methods implemented in the function `bqr.svy` and for the multiple-output quantile regression implemented in the function `mo.bqr.svy`. Every nonspecified prior parameter will get the default value.

- `method = "ald"` in function `bqr.svy` allow the specification of hyperparameters `beta_x_mean`, `beta_x_cov`, `sigma_shape`, and `sigma_rate`.
- `method = "score"` in function `bqr.svy` allow the specification of hyperparameters `beta_x_mean` and `beta_x_cov`.
- `method = "approximate"` in function `bqr.svy` allow the specification of hyperparameters `beta_x_mean` and `beta_x_cov`.
- In function `mo.bqr.svy`, the specification of hyperparameters `beta_x_mean`, `beta_x_cov`, `sigma_shape`, `sigma_rate`, `beta_y_mean`, and `beta_y_cov` are allowed.

Value

An object of class "prior".

See Also

[bqr.svy](#), [mo.bqr.svy](#), [summary](#)

Examples

```

# Simulate data
set.seed(123)
n <- 200
x1 <- rnorm(n, 0, 1)
x2 <- runif(n, -1, 1)
w <- runif(n, 0.5, 2) # survey weights

```

```

y1 <- 2 + 1.5*x1 - 0.8*x2 + rnorm(n, 0, 1)
y2 <- 1 + 0.5*x1 - 0.2*x2 + rnorm(n, 0, 1)

data <- data.frame(y1 = y1, y2 = y2, x1 = x1, x2 = x2, w = w)

# Define a general informative prior
prior_general <- prior(
  beta_x_mean = c(2, 1.5, -0.8),
  beta_x_cov = diag(c(0.25, 0.25, 0.25)),
  sigma_shape = 3,
  sigma_rate = 2,
  beta_y_mean = 1,
  beta_y_cov = 0.25
)

# Estimate the model parameters with informative prior
fit_ald <- bqr.svy(y1 ~ x1 + x2, weights = w, data = data,
  prior = prior_general, method = "ald")

fit_scr <- bqr.svy(y1 ~ x1 + x2, weights = w, data = data,
  prior = prior_general, method = "score")

fit_apx <- bqr.svy(y1 ~ x1 + x2, weights = w, data = data,
  prior = prior_general, method = "approximate")

# Multiple-output method
fit_mo <- mo.bqr.svy(cbind(y1, y2) ~ x1 + x2, weights = w,
  data = data, prior = prior_general, n_dir = 10)

plot(fit_ald, type = "trace", which = "x1", tau = 0.5)
plot(fit_ald, type = "trace", which = "x2", tau = 0.5)

print(fit_mo)

```

summary.bayesQRsurvey *Summary methods for bayesQRsurvey*

Description

summary.bayesQRsurvey is an S3 method that summarizes the output of the bqr.svy or mo.bqr.svy function. For the bqr.svy the posterior mean, posterior credible interval and convergence diagnostics are calculated. For the mo.bqr.svy the iterations for convergence, the MAP and the direction are calculated.

Usage

```

## S3 method for class 'bqr.svy'
summary(object, probs = c(0.025, 0.975), digits = 3, ...)

```

```
## S3 method for class 'mo.bqr.svy'  
summary(object, digits = 4, ...)
```

Arguments

object	An object of class <code>mo.bqr.svy</code> .
probs	Two-element numeric vector with credible interval probabilities. Default <code>c(0.025, 0.975)</code> .
digits	Integer; number of decimals used by printing helpers. Default 4.
...	Unused.

Value

An object of class `summary.bqr.svy` with one block per τ .
An object of class `summary.mo.bqr.svy`.

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