

Package ‘BigVAR’

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Type Package

Title Dimension Reduction Methods for Multivariate Time Series

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Description Estimates VAR and VARX models with Structured Penalties.

Depends R (>= 3.5.0), methods, lattice

Imports MASS, zoo, Rcpp, stats, utils, grDevices, graphics, abind

License GPL (>= 2)

LazyLoad yes

LinkingTo Rcpp, RcppArmadillo, RcppEigen

URL <https://github.com/wbnicholson/BigVAR>

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codetools, attempt, xts

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A

*Generator for Simulated Multivariate Time Series***Description**

Coefficient matrix for a stationary simulated multivariate time series

Details

Example generator matrix adapted from Table 3.2 of Gredenhoff and Karlsson (1997)

Author(s)

Will Nicholson

References

Gredenhoff, Mikael, and Sune Karlsson. "Lag-length selection in VAR-models using equal and unequal lag-length procedures." *Computational Statistics* 14.2 (1999): 171-187.

Description

BigVAR implements the HLAG and VARX-L frameworks which allow for the estimation of vector autoregressions and vector autoregressions with exogenous variables using structured convex penalties. This package originated as a 2014 Google "Summer of Code" Project. The development version of this package is hosted on github: <https://github.com/wbnicholson/BigVAR>.

Details

To use the facilities of this package, starting with an $T \times k + m$ multivariate time series (in which T denotes the length of the series, k the number of endogenous or "model") and run `constructModel` to create an object of class `BigVAR`. `cv.BigVAR` creates an object of class `BigVAR.results`, which chooses an optimal penalty parameter based on minimizing h -step ahead forecasts on a specified cross-validation period over a grid of values as well as comparisons against AIC, BIC, unconditional mean, and a random walk. There are plot functions for both `BigVAR` (`plot.BigVAR`) and `BigVAR.results` (`plot`) as well as a predict function for `BigVAR.results` (`predict`).

Author(s)

Will Nicholson <wbn8@cornell.edu>

References

Lutkepohl "New Introduction to Multivariate Time Series", Banbura, Marta, Domenico Giannone, and Lucrezia Reichlin. 'Large Bayesian vector auto regressions.' Journal of Applied Econometrics 25.1 (2010): 71-92. Breheny P, Huang J (2011). "Coordinate descent algorithms for nonconvex penalized regression, with applications to biological feature selection." Annals of Applied Statistics, 5(1), 232–253. Nicholson, William, I. Wilms, J. Bien, and D. S. Matteson. High dimensional forecasting via interpretable vector autoregression. Journal of Machine Learning Research, 21(166):1–52, 2020. William B. Nicholson, David S. Matteson, Jacob Bien, VARX-L: Structured regularization for large vector autoregressions with exogenous variables, International Journal of Forecasting, Volume 33, Issue 3, 2017, Pages 627-651, William B Nicholson, David S. Matteson, and Jacob Bien (2016), 'BigVAR: Tools for Modeling Sparse High-Dimensional Multivariate Time Series' arxiv:1702.07094

See Also

`constructModel`, `cv.BigVAR`, `BigVAR.results`, `plot`, `predict`

Examples

```
# Fit a Basic VAR-L(3,4) on simulated data
data(Y)
T1=floor(nrow(Y)/3)
T2=floor(2*nrow(Y)/3)
```

```

m1=constructModel(Y,p=4,struct="Basic",gran=c(50,10),verbose=FALSE,T1=T1,T2=T2,IC=FALSE)
plot(m1)
results=cv.BigVAR(m1)
plot(results)
predict(results,n.ahead=1)

```

BigVAR-class

BigVAR Object Class

Description

An object class to be used with `cv.BigVAR`

Details

To construct an object of class `BigVAR`, use the function [constructModel](#)

Slots

Data a $T \times k$ multivariate time series
model_data processed time series and lag matrix
lagmax Maximal lag order for modeled series
intercept Indicator as to whether an intercept should be included
Structure Penalty Structure
Relaxed Indicator for relaxed VAR
Granularity Granularity of penalty grid
horizon Desired Forecast Horizon
crossval Cross-Validation Procedure
Minnesota Minnesota Prior Indicator
verbose Indicator for Verbose output
dates dates extracted from an xts object
ic Indicator for including AIC and BIC benchmarks
VARX VARX Model Specifications
VARXI VARX Indicator
T1 Index of time series in which to start cross validation
T2 Index of times series in which to start forecast evaluation
ONESE Indicator for 'One Standard Error Heuristic'
ownlambdas Indicator for user-supplied lambdas
tf Indicator for transfer function
alpha Grid of candidate alpha values (applies only to Sparse VARX-L and Elastic Net models)

recursive Indicator as to whether recursive multi-step forecasts are used (applies only to multiple horizon VAR models)
constvec vector indicating variables to shrink toward a random walk instead of toward zero (valid only if Minnesota is TRUE)
tol optimization tolerance
window.size size of rolling window. If set to NULL an expanding window will be used.
separate_lambdas indicator to use separate penalty parameter for each time series (default FALSE)
loss Loss function to select penalty parameter (one of 'L1','L2','Huber').
delta delta parameter for Huber loss (default 2.5)
gamma gamma parameter for SCAD or MCP penalty (default 3)
rolling_oos True or False: indicator to update the penalty parameter over the evaluation period (default False)
linear indicator for linearly decrementing penalty grid (FALSE is log-linear).
refit_fraction fraction of least squares refit to incorporate (default is 1).

See Also

[constructModel](#)

BigVAR.est

BigVAR Estimation

Description

Fit a BigVAR object with a structured penalty (VARX-L or HLAG).

Usage

BigVAR.est(object)

Arguments

object BigVAR object created from ConstructModel

Details

Fits HLAG or VARX-L model on a BigVAR object. Does not perform cross-validation. This method allows the user to construct their own penalty parameter selection procedure.

Value

An array of $k \times kp \times n$ or $k \times kp + ms \times n$ coefficient matrices; one for each of the n values of lambda.

See Also

[constructModel](#), [BigVAR.results.cv.BigVAR](#)

Examples

```
data(Y)
Y=Y[1:100,]
#construct a Basic VAR-L
Model1=constructModel(Y,p=4,struct='Basic',gran=c(50,10))
BigVAR.est(Model1)
```

BigVAR.fit

Simple function to fit BigVAR model with fixed penalty parameter

Description

Simple function to fit BigVAR model with fixed penalty parameter

Usage

```
BigVAR.fit(
  Y,
  p,
  struct,
  lambda,
  alpha = NULL,
  VARX = list(),
  separate_lambdas = F,
  MN = F,
  C = as.double(NULL),
  intercept = TRUE,
  tf = F,
  tol = 1e-04,
  RVAR = F,
  refit_fraction = 1,
  beta = NULL,
  gamma = 3
)
```

Arguments

Y	$T \times k$ multivariate time series or $Y T \times (k + m)$ endogenous and exogenous series, respectively
p	Predetermined maximal lag order (for modeled series)
struct	The choice of penalty structure (see details).
lambda	vector or matrix of penalty parameters.

alpha	grid of candidate parameters for the alpha in the Sparse Lag and Sparse Own/Other VARX-L
VARX	List containing VARX model specifications.
separate_lambdas	indicator for separate penalty parameters for each time series (default FALSE)
MN	Minnesota Prior Indicator
C	vector of coefficients to shrink toward a random walk (if MN is TRUE)
intercept	True or False: option to fit an intercept
tf	transfer function indicator (i.e. VARX in which $p=0$ & $s>0$) (default false)
tol	optimization tolerance (default $1e-4$)
RVAR	True or False: option to refit based upon the support selected using the Relaxed-VAR procedure
refit_fraction	fraction of least squares refit to incorporate (default 1)
beta	optional $k \times (k \times p + m \times s + 1)$ coefficient matrix to use as a 'warm start' (default NULL)
gamma	additional parameter for SCAD/MCP penalty (default 3) @details The choices for 'struct' are as follows <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Basic' (Basic VARX-L) • 'BasicEN' (Basic Elastic Net VARX-L) • 'Lag' (Lag Group VARX-L) • 'SparseLag' (Lag Sparse Group VARX-L) • 'OwnOther' (Own/Other Group VARX-L) • 'SparseOO' (Own/Other Sparse Group VARX-L) • 'EFX' (Endogenous First VARX-L) • 'HLAGC' (Componentwise HLAG) • 'HLAGOO' (Own/Other HLAG) • 'HLAGELEM' (Elementwise HLAG) • 'Tapered' (Lag weighted Lasso VAR) • 'BGR' (Bayesian Ridge Regression (cf. Banbura et al)) • 'MCP' (Minimax Concave Penalty (cf. Breheny and Huang)) • 'SCAD' (Smoothly Clipped Absolute Deviation (cf. Breheny and Huang)) <p>VARX specifications consist of a list with entry k denoting the series that are to be modeled and entry s to denote the maximal lag order for exogenous series. The argument alpha is ignored unless the structure choice is 'SparseLag' or 'Lag.' By default 'alpha' is set to NULL and will be initialized as $1/(k+1)$ in <code>cv.BigVAR</code> and <code>BigVAR.est</code>. Any user supplied values must be between 0 and 1.</p>

Note

The specifications 'Basic', 'Lag', 'SparseLag', 'SparseOO,' and 'OwnOther' can accommodate both VAR and VARX models. EFX only applies to VARX models. 'HLAGC,' 'HLAGOO,' 'HLAGELEM,' and 'Tapered' can only be used with VAR models. Our implementation of the SCAD and MCP penalties is heavily influenced by the implementation in `ncvreg`.

References

Banbura, Marta, Domenico Giannone, and Lucrezia Reichlin. 'Large Bayesian vector auto regressions.' *Journal of Applied Econometrics* 25.1 (2010): 71-92. Breheny P, Huang J (2011). "Coordinate descent algorithms for nonconvex penalized regression, with applications to biological feature selection." *Annals of Applied Statistics*, 5(1), 232–253. William B Nicholson, Jacob Bien, and David S Matteson. 'High Dimensional Forecasting via Interpretable Vector Autoregression.' arXiv preprint arXiv:1412.5250, 2016. William B. Nicholson, David S. Matteson, Jacob Bien, VARX-L: Structured regularization for large vector autoregressions with exogenous variables, *International Journal of Forecasting*, Volume 33, Issue 3, 2017, Pages 627-651, William B Nicholson, David S. Matteson, and Jacob Bien (2016), 'BigVAR: Tools for Modeling Sparse High-Dimensional Multivariate Time Series' arxiv:1702.07094

See Also

[cv.BigVAR](#), [BigVAR.est](#), [constructModel](#)

Examples

```
# VARX Example
# Fit a Basic VARX-L with k=2, m=1, s=2, p=4, lambda=1e-2
VARX <- list()
VARX$k <- 2 # indicates that the first two series are modeled
VARX$s <- 2 # sets 2 as the maximal lag order for exogenous series
data(Y)
BigVAR.fit(Y, p = 4, "Basic", lambda = 1e-2, VARX = VARX)
```

BigVAR.intermediate *BigVAR.intermediate* This class contains the in-sample results for *cv.BigVAR*

Description

It inherits the class BigVAR, and contains the results from rolling validation

Fields

ZFull List containing full lag matrix and time series
 InSampMSFE In-sample MSFE from optimal value of lambda
 LambdaGrid Grid of candidate lambda values
 index Index order of optimal lambda value
 OptimalLambda Value of lambda that minimizes MSFE
 Data a $T \times k$ or $T \times k + m$ multivariate time Series
 lagmax Maximal lag order
 Structure Penalty structure
 Relaxed Indicator for relaxed VAR

Granularity Granularity of penalty grid
 horizon Desired forecast horizon
 crossval Cross-Validation procedure
 alpha additional penalty parameter for Sparse Lag Group or Sparse Own/Other methods. Will contain either the heuristic choice of $1/(k + 1)$ or the value selected by cross validation if the argument dual is set to TRUE
 Minnesota Minnesota Prior Indicator
 verbose verbose indicator
 dual indicator as to whether dual cross validation was conducted
 contemp indicator if contemporaneous exogenous predictors are used

Note

One can also access any object of class BigVAR from BigVAR.intermediate

Author(s)

Will Nicholson

BigVAR.results

BigVAR.results This class contains the results from cv.BigVAR.

Description

It inherits the class BigVAR, but contains substantially more information.

Fields

InSampMSFE In-sample MSFE from optimal value of lambda
 LambdaGrid Grid of candidate lambda values
 index Rank of optimal lambda value
 OptimalLambda Value of lambda that minimizes MSFE
 OOSMSFE Average Out of sample MSFE of BigVAR model with optimal lambda
 seosfmsfe Standard error of out of sample MSFE of BigVAR model with optimal lambda
 MeanMSFE Average out of sample MSFE of unconditional mean forecast
 MeanSD Standard error of out of sample MSFE of unconditional mean forecast
 MeanPreds predictions from conditional mean model
 RWMSFE Average out of sample MSFE of random walk forecast
 RWPreds Predictions from random walk model
 RWSD Standard error of out of sample MSFE of random walk forecast
 AICMSFE Average out of sample MSFE of AIC forecast

AICSD Standard error of out of sample MSFE of AIC forecast
 AICPreds Predictions from AIC VAR/VARX model
 AICpvec Lag orders selected from AIC VAR model
 AICpvec Lag orders selected from AIC VARX model
 BICMSFE Average out of sample MSFE of BIC forecast
 BICSD Standard error of out of sample MSFE of BIC forecast
 BICPreds Predictions from BIC VAR/VARX model
 BICpvec Lag orders selected from BIC VAR model
 BICpvec Lag orders selected from BIC VARX model
 betaPred The final estimated $k \times kp + ms + 1$ coefficient matrix, to be used for prediction
 Zvals The final lagged values of Y , to be used for prediction
 fitted fitted values obtained from betaPred
 resids residuals obtained from betaPred
 Data a $T \times k$ or $T \times k + m$ multivariate time Series
 lagmax Maximal lag order
 Structure Penalty structure
 Relaxed Indicator for relaxed VAR
 Granularity Granularity of penalty grid
 horizon Desired forecast horizon
 crossval Cross-Validation procedure
 alpha additional penalty parameter for Sparse Lag Group or Sparse Own/Other methods. Will contain either the heuristic choice of $1/(k + 1)$ or the value selected by cross validation if the argument dual is set to TRUE
 VARXI VARX Indicator
 Minnesota Minnesota Prior Indicator
 verbose verbose indicator
 dual indicator as to whether dual cross validation was conducted
 contemp indicator if contemporaneous exogenous predictors are used
 lagmatrix matrix of lagged values used to compute residuals (of which Zvals is the final column)
 betaArray array of VAR/VARX coefficients from out of sample forecasts
 sparse_count average fraction of active coefficients in validation period
 lambda_evolve_path evolution of lambda over evaluation period

Note

One can also access any object of class BigVAR from BigVAR.results

Author(s)

Will Nicholson

coef	<i>Default coef method BigVAR-results, returns the last coefficient matrix from the evaluation period</i>
------	---

Description

Default coef method BigVAR-results, returns the last coefficient matrix from the evaluation period

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'BigVAR.results'
coef(object)
```

Arguments

object BigVAR.results object created from cv.BigVAR

Details

displays formatted coefficient matrix

constructModel	<i>Construct an object of class BigVAR</i>
----------------	--

Description

Construct an object of class BigVAR

Usage

```
constructModel(
  Y,
  p,
  struct,
  gran,
  h = 1,
  cv = "Rolling",
  verbose = TRUE,
  IC = TRUE,
  VARX = list(),
  T1 = floor(nrow(Y)/3),
  T2 = floor(2 * nrow(Y)/3),
  ONESE = FALSE,
  ownlambdas = FALSE,
  recursive = FALSE,
  dates = as.character(NULL),
```

```

window.size = 0,
separate_lambdas = FALSE,
linear = FALSE,
loss = "L2",
rolling_oos = FALSE,
model.controls = list()
)

```

Arguments

<code>Y</code>	$T \times k$ multivariate time series or $Y T \times (k + m)$ endogenous and exogenous series, respectively.
<code>p</code>	Predetermined maximal lag order (for modeled series).
<code>struct</code>	The choice of penalty structure (see details).
<code>gran</code>	vector of penalty parameter specifications.
<code>h</code>	Desired forecast horizon.
<code>cv</code>	Cross-validation approach, either 'Rolling' for rolling cross-validation or 'LOO' for leave-one-out cross-validation. 'None' for use with BigVAR.fit.
<code>verbose</code>	Verbose output while estimating.
<code>IC</code>	True or False: whether to include AIC and BIC benchmarks.
<code>VARX</code>	List containing VARX model specifications.
<code>T1</code>	Index of time series in which to start cross validation.
<code>T2</code>	Index of times series in which to start forecast evaluation.
<code>ONESE</code>	True or False: whether to use the 'One Standard Error Heuristic.'
<code>ownlambdas</code>	True or False: Indicator for user-supplied penalty parameters.
<code>recursive</code>	True or False: Indicator as to whether iterative multi-step predictions are desired in the VAR context if the forecast horizon is greater than 1.
<code>dates</code>	optional vector of dates corresponding to Y .
<code>window.size</code>	size of rolling window. If set to 0 an expanding window will be used.
<code>separate_lambdas</code>	indicator for separate penalty parameters for each time series (default FALSE).
<code>linear</code>	indicator for linearly decrementing penalty grid (FALSE is log-linear; default FALSE).
<code>loss</code>	Loss function to select penalty parameter (one of 'L1', 'L2', 'Huber')
<code>rolling_oos</code>	True or False: indicator to update the penalty parameter over the evaluation period (default False)
<code>model.controls</code>	named list of control parameters for BigVAR model estimation (see details).

Details

The choices for 'struct' are as follows

- 'Basic' (Basic VARX-L)

- 'BasicEN' (Elastic Net VARX-L)
- 'Lag' (Lag Group VARX-L)
- 'SparseLag' (Lag Sparse Group VARX-L)
- 'OwnOther' (Own/Other Group VARX-L)
- 'SparseOO' (Own/Other Sparse Group VARX-L)
- 'EFX' (Endogenous First VARX-L)
- 'HLAGC' (Componentwise HLAG)
- 'HLAGOO' (Own/Other HLAG)
- 'HLAGELEM' (Elementwise HLAG)
- 'Tapered' (Lag weighted Lasso VAR)
- 'BGR' (Bayesian Ridge Regression (cf. Banbura et al))
- 'MCP' (Minimax Concave Penalty (cf. Breheny and Huang))
- 'SCAD' (Smoothly Clipped Absolute Deviation Penalty (cf. Breheny and Huang))

The first number in the vector 'gran' specifies how deep to construct the penalty grid and the second specifies how many penalty parameters to use. If ownlambdas is set to TRUE, gran should contain the user-supplied penalty parameters.

VARX specifications consist of a named list with entry k denoting the series that are to be modeled and entry s to denote the maximal lag order for exogenous series.

As the capabilities of BigVAR have expanded, we have decided to consolidate parameters in the list model.controls. These parameters include:

- 'alpha:' grid of candidate parameters for the alpha in the Basic Elastic Net, Sparse Lag, Sparse Own/Other VARX-L.
- 'C:' vector of coefficients to shrink toward a random walk (if MN is TRUE).
- 'delta:' parameter for Huber loss (default 2.5)
- 'intercept:' option to fit an intercept, default TRUE
- 'loss:' Loss function to select penalty parameter (one of 'L1', 'L2', 'Huber')
- 'MN:' Minnesota Prior Indicator, default FALSE
- 'RVAR:' option to refit based upon the support selected using the Relaxed-VAR procedure (default FALSE).
- 'refit_fraction:' If RVAR is TRUE, proportional tradeoff between least squares fit and penalized fit (default 1).
- 'tol:' optimization tolerance (default 1e-4)

The argument alpha is ignored unless the structure choice is 'SparseLag' or 'Lag.' By default 'alpha' is set to NULL and will be initialized as $1/(k+1)$ in `cv.BigVAR` and `BigVAR.est`. Any user supplied values must be between 0 and 1.

Note

The specifications 'Basic', 'BasicEN', 'Lag', 'SparseLag', 'SparseOO', 'OwnOther', 'MCP', and 'SCAD' can accommodate both VAR and VARX models. EFX only applies to VARX models. 'HLAGC', 'HLAGOO', 'HLAGELEM', and 'Tapered' can only be used with VAR models. Our implementation of the SCAD and MCP penalties is heavily influenced by the package `ncvreg`.

References

Banbura, Marta, Domenico Giannone, and Lucrezia Reichlin. 'Large Bayesian vector auto regressions.' *Journal of Applied Econometrics* 25.1 (2010): 71-92. Breheny P, Huang J (2011). "Coordinate descent algorithms for nonconvex penalized regression, with applications to biological feature selection." *Annals of Applied Statistics*, 5(1), 232–253. Nicholson, William, I. Wilms, J. Bien, and D. S. Matteson. High dimensional forecasting via interpretable vector autoregression. *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, 21(166):1–52, 2020. William B. Nicholson, David S. Matteson, Jacob Bien, VARX-L: Structured regularization for large vector autoregressions with exogenous variables, *International Journal of Forecasting*, Volume 33, Issue 3, 2017, Pages 627-651, William B Nicholson, David S. Matteson, and Jacob Bien (2016), 'BigVAR: Tools for Modeling Sparse High-Dimensional Multivariate Time Series' arxiv:1702.07094

See Also

[cv.BigVAR,BigVAR.est](#)

Examples

```
# VARX Example
# Create a Basic VARX-L with k=2, m=1, s=2, p=4
VARX=list()
VARX$k=2 # indicates that the first two series are modeled
VARX$s=2 # sets 2 as the maximal lag order for exogenous series
data(Y)
T1=floor(nrow(Y)/3)
T2=floor(2*nrow(Y)/3)
Model1=constructModel(Y,p=4,struct='Basic',gran=c(50,10),verbose=FALSE,VARX=VARX,T1=T1,T2=T2)
```

CPI

US Consumer Price Index

Description

CPI Data

Details

US Macroeconomic Time Series: CPI. Ranging from Q2 1959 to Q1 2025. Procured from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

Author(s)

Will Nicholson

`cv.BigVAR`*Cross Validation for BigVAR*

Description

Cross Validation for BigVAR

Usage

```
cv.BigVAR(object)
```

Arguments

`object` BigVAR object created from ConstructModel

Details

The main function of the BigVAR package. Performs cross validation to select penalty parameters over a training sample (as the minimizer of in-sample MSFE), then evaluates them over a test set. Compares against sample mean, random walk, AIC, and BIC benchmarks. Creates an object of class `BigVAR.results`

Value

An object of class `BigVAR.results`.

See Also

[constructModel](#), [BigVAR.results](#), [BigVAR.est](#)

Examples

```
data(Y)
# Fit a Basic VARX-L with rolling cross validation
Model1=constructModel(Y,p=4,struct='Basic',gran=c(50,10), verbose=FALSE)
results=cv.BigVAR(Model1)
```

 MultVarSim

 Simulate a VAR

Description

Simulate a VAR

Usage

```
MultVarSim(k, A1, p, Sigma, T)
```

Arguments

k	Number of Series
A1	Either a $k \times k$ coefficient matrix or a $kp \times kp$ matrix created using VarptoVar1MC .
p	Maximum Lag Order
Sigma	Residual Covariance Matrix of dimension $k \times k$
T	Number of simulations

Value

Returns a $T \times k$ of realizations from a VAR.

References

Lutkepohl, 'A New Introduction to Multiple Time Series Analysis'

See Also

[VarptoVar1MC](#)

Examples

```
k=3;p=6
B=matrix(0,nrow=k,ncol=p*k)
A1<- matrix(c(.4,-.02,.01,-.02,.3,.02,.01,.04,.3),ncol=3,nrow=3)
A2 <- matrix(c(.2,0,0,0,.3,0,0,0,.13),ncol=3,nrow=3)
B[,1:k]=A1
B[, (4*k+1):(5*k)]=A2
A <- VarptoVar1MC(B,p,k)
Y <-MultVarSim(k,A,p,.1*diag(k),100)
```

plot	<i>Plot an object of class BigVAR.results</i>
------	---

Description

Plot an object of class BigVAR.results

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'BigVAR.results'
plot(x, y = NULL, ...)
```

Arguments

x	BigVAR.results object created from cv.BigVAR
y	NULL
...	additional arguments

Details

Plots the in sample MSFE of all values of lambda with the optimal value highlighted.

plot.BigVAR	<i>Plot a BigVAR object</i>
-------------	-----------------------------

Description

Plot a BigVAR object

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'BigVAR'
plot(x, y = NULL, ...)
```

Arguments

x	BigVAR object created from ConstructModel
y	NULL
...	additional plot arguments

Details

Uses plot.zoo to plot each individual series of Y on a single plot

Value

NA, side effect is graph

See Also

[constructModel](#)

predict	<i>Forecast using a BigVAR.results object</i>
---------	---

Description

Forecast using a BigVAR.results object

Usage

```
predict(object,...)
```

Arguments

object	BigVAR.results object from cv.BigVAR
...	additional arguments affecting the predictions produced (e.g. n.ahead, confint)

Details

Provides n.ahead step forecasts using the model produced by cv.BigVAR. If confint is set to TRUE, a 95 percent confidence interval will also be returned.

See Also

[cv.BigVAR](#)

Examples

```
data(Y)
Y=Y[1:100,]
Model1=constructModel(Y,p=4,struct='Basic',gran=c(50,10),verbose=FALSE)
results=cv.BigVAR(Model1)
predict(results,n.ahead=1)
```

PredictVARX*One-step ahead predictions for VARX models*

Description

One-step ahead predictions for VARX models

Usage

```
PredictVARX(VARXRes)
```

Arguments

VARXRes the results from [VARXFit](#)

Value

Returns a vector consisting of the out-of-sample forecasts for the provided [VARXFit](#) model.

See Also

[VARXFit](#)

Examples

```
data(Y)
# fit a VAR_3(3)
mod <- VARXFit(Y,3,NULL,NULL)
pred <-PredictVARX(mod)
```

show*Default show method for an object of class BigVAR.results*

Description

Default show method for an object of class BigVAR.results

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'BigVAR.results'
show(object)
```

Arguments

object BigVAR.results object created from cv.BigVAR

Details

prints forecast results and additional diagnostic information as well as comparisons with mean, random walk, and AIC, and BIC benchmarks

See Also

[cv.BigVAR,BigVAR.results](#)

show.BigVAR

Default show method for an object of class BigVAR

Description

Default show method for an object of class BigVAR

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'BigVAR'  
show(object)
```

Arguments

object BigVAR object created from ConstructModel

Value

Displays the following information about the BigVAR object:

- Prints the first 5 rows of Y
- Penalty Structure
- Relaxed Least Squares Indicator
- Maximum lag order
- VARX Specifications (if applicable)
- Start, end of cross validation period

See Also

[constructModel](#)

SparsityPlot.BigVAR.results
Sparsity Plot of a BigVAR.results object

Description

Sparsity Plot of a BigVAR.results object

Usage

```
SparsityPlot.BigVAR.results(object)
```

Arguments

object BigVAR.results object

Details

Uses levelplot from the lattice package to plot the magnitude of each coefficient in the last coefficient estimated by cv.BigVAR.

Value

NA, side effect is graph

See Also

[cv.BigVAR](#), [BigVAR.results](#)

Examples

```
data(Y)
Y <- Y[1:100,]
Model1 <- constructModel(Y,p=4,struct='Basic',gran=c(50,10),verbose=FALSE)
SparsityPlot.BigVAR.results(cv.BigVAR(Model1))
```

VarptoVar1MC *Converts a VAR coefficient matrix of order p to multiple companion form*

Description

Converts a VAR coefficient matrix of order p to multiple companion form

Usage

```
VarptoVar1MC(B, p, k)
```

Arguments

B	a $k \times kp$ coefficient matrix
p	Lag order
k	Number of Series

Value

Returns a $kp \times kp$ coefficient matrix representing all coefficient matrices contained in Ai as a VAR(1).

References

See page 15 of Lutkepohl, 'A New Introduction to Multiple Time Series Analysis'

See Also

[MultVarSim](#)

Examples

```
k=3;p=6
B=matrix(0,nrow=k,ncol=p*k)
A1<- matrix(c(.4,-.02,.01,-.02,.3,.02,.01,.04,.3),ncol=3,nrow=3)
A2 <- matrix(c(.2,0,0,0,.3,0,0,0,.13),ncol=3,nrow=3)
B[,1:k]=A1
B[, (4*k+1):(5*k)]=A2
A <- VarptoVar1MC(B,p,k)
```

VARXFit

Fit a VAR or VARX model by least squares

Description

Fit a VAR or VARX model by least squares

Usage

```
VARXFit(Y, p, IC, VARX = NULL)
```

Arguments

Y	a $t \times k$ multivariate time series
p	maximum lag order
IC	Information criterion indicator, if set to NULL, it will fit a least squares VAR(X) of orders p and s. Otherwise, if set to 'AIC' or 'BIC' it return the model with lag orders that minimize the given IC.
VARX	a list of VARX specifications (as in constructModel (or NULL))

Details

This function uses a modified form of the least squares technique proposed by Neumaier and Schneider (2001). It fits a least squares VAR or VARX via a QR decomposition that does not require explicit matrix inversion. This results in improved computational performance as well as numerical stability over the conventional least squares approach.

Value

Returns a list with four entries:

'Bhat'	Estimated $k \times kp + ms$ coefficient matrix
'SigmaU'	Estimated $k \times k$ residual covariance matrix
'phat'	Selected lag order for VAR component
'shat'	Selected lag order for VARX component
'Y'	multivariate time series retained for prediction purposes
'Y'	number of endogenous (modeled) time series

References

Neumaier, Arnold, and Tapio Schneider. 'Estimation of parameters and eigenmodes of multivariate autoregressive models.' *ACM Transactions on Mathematical Software (TOMS)* 27.1 (2001): 27-57.

See Also

[constructModel, cv.BigVAR,BigVAR.fit](#)

Examples

```
data(Y)
# fit a VAR_3(3)
mod <- VARXFit(Y,3,NULL,NULL)
# fit a VAR_3 with p= 6 and lag selected according to AIC
modAIC <- VARXFit(Y,6,'AIC',NULL)
# Fit a VARX_{2,1} with p=6, s=4 and lags selected by BIC
modXBIC <- VARXFit(Y,6,'BIC',list(k=1,s=4))
```

VARXForecastEval

Evaluate forecasts from a VAR or VARX with lag orders selected by AIC/BIC

Description

Evaluate forecasts from a VAR or VARX with lag orders selected by AIC/BIC

Usage

```
VARXForecastEval(
  Y,
  X,
  p,
  s,
  T1,
  T2,
  IC,
  h,
  iterated = FALSE,
  loss = "L2",
  delta = 2.5
)
```

Arguments

Y	a $T \times k$ multivariate time series
X	a $T \times m$ multivariate time series of unmodeled exogenous variables
p	maximum lag order for endogenous series
s	maximum lag order for exogenous series
T1	start of forecast evaluation period.
T2	end of forecast evaluation period
IC	specifies whether to select lag order according to 'AIC' or 'BIC'
h	desired forecast horizon
iterated	indicator as to whether to use iterated or direct multistep forecasts (if applicable, VAR context only)
loss	loss function (default 'L2', one of 'L1', 'L2', 'Huber')
delta	delta for Huber loss function (default 2.5)

Details

This function evaluates the one-step ahead forecasts of a VAR or VARX fit by least squares over an evaluation period. At every point in time, lag orders for the endogenous and exogenous series are selected according to AIC or BIC. This function is run automatically when `cv.BigVAR` is called unless `ic` is set to FALSE in `constructModel`.

Value

Returns the one-step ahead MSFE as well as the forecasts over the evaluation period and lag order selected.

References

Neumaier, Arnold, and Tapio Schneider. 'Estimation of parameters and eigenmodes of multivariate autoregressive models.' *ACM Transactions on Mathematical Software (TOMS)* 27.1 (2001): 27-57.

See Also

[VARXFit](#), [constructModel](#), [cv.BigVAR](#)

Examples

```
data(Y)

# Evaluate the performance of a VAR with lags selected by BIC.
p <- 4
T1 <- floor(nrow(Y))/3
T2 <- floor(2*nrow(Y))/3
# Matrix of zeros for X
X <- matrix(0,nrow=nrow(Y),ncol=ncol(Y))
BICMSFE <- VARXForecastEval(Y,X,p,0,T1,T2,'BIC',1)
```

 VARXLagCons

Construct a VAR or VARX lag matrix

Description

Construct a VAR or VARX lag matrix

Usage

```
VARXLagCons(Y, X = NULL, p, s = 0, oos = FALSE, contemp = FALSE)
```

Arguments

Y	a $T \times k$ matrix of endogenous (modeled) series
X	a $T \times m$ matrix of exogenous (unmodeled) series (default NULL)
p	Endogenous Lag order
s	exogenous lag order (default zero)
oos	indicator as to whether the data should be constructed for out of sample prediction (i.e. last available entries of Y as final lags default FALSE)
contemp	indicator as to whether to use contemporaneous exogenous predictors (for example, if exogenous series become available before exogenous default FALSE).

Details

This function is not required unless you wish to design your own cross validation routine.

Value

list with two entries:

'Z'	$kp + ms + 1 \times T - \max(p, s)$ VARX lag matrix
'Y'	adjusted $k \times T - \max(p, s)$ endogenous series

References

See page 15 of Lutkepohl, 'A New Introduction to Multiple Time Series Analysis

See Also

[MultVarSim](#)

Examples

```
data(Y)
# construct VAR lag matrix with p=4
ZZ<-VARXLagCons(Y,X=NULL,p=4,s=0)
```

Y *Simulated Multivariate Time Series*

Description

Realization of a simulated multivariate time series

Details

100 × 3 multivariate time series distributed according to the generator matrix [A](#).

Author(s)

Will Nicholson

Y1 *Example US quarterly macroeconomic data*

Description

Example multivariate macroeconomic time series

Details

US Macroeconomic Time Series: CPI, Federal Funds Rate, Gross Domestic Product, and M1. Ranging from Q2 1959 to Q1 2025. Procured from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

Author(s)

Will Nicholson

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