

# Package ‘BigVAR’

October 15, 2014

**Type** Package

**Title** Dimension Reduction Methods for Multivariate Time Series

**Version** 1.0

**Date** 2014-06-19

**Author** Will Nicholson

**Maintainer** Will Nicholson <wb8@cornell.edu>

**Description** More about what it does (maybe more than one line)

**Depends** RcppArmadillo, Rcpp, zoo, expm, methods, lattice

**Imports** MASS, vars

**License** GPL (>=2)

**LazyLoad** yes

**LinkingTo** Rcpp, RcppArmadillo

## R topics documented:

A	2
BigVAR	2
BigVAR-class	3
BigVAR.results	4
constructModel	5
cv.BigVAR	6
MultVarSim	7
plot.BigVAR	8
plot.BigVAR.results	8
predict	9
show	10
show.BigVAR	10
SparsityPlot	11

SparsityPlot.BigVAR.results . . . . .	12
VarptoVar1 . . . . .	12
Y . . . . .	13
<b>Index</b>	<b>14</b>

---

A	<i>Generator for Simulated Multivariate Time Series</i>
---	---

---

**Description**

Generator for 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.

---

BigVAR	<i>Dimension Reduction Methods for Multivariate Time Series.</i>
--------	--

---

**Description**

BigVAR contains a series of functions that allow for the estimation of Penalized Vector Autoregressive models.

**Details**

To use the facilities of this package, starting with an  $k \times T$  multivariate time series 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, 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 <wnb8@cornell.edu>,

References

Lutkepohl "New Introduction to Multivariate Time Series", Nicholson et al (2014)

See Also

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

Examples

```
data(Y)
Y=Y[1:100,]
m1=constructModel(Y,p=4,struct="None",gran=c(50,10),
RVAR=FALSE,MN=FALSE,verbose=FALSE,h=1,cv="Rolling")
plot(m1)
results=cv.BigVAR(m1)
plot(results)
predict(results,n.ahead=1)
```

---

BigVAR-class	<i>BigVAR Object Class</i>
--------------	----------------------------

---

Description

An object class to be used with cv.BigVAR

Details

Construct an object of class BigVAR via the function "ConstructModel"

Slots

- Data a *T x k* 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 penalty for Sparse Group Lasso
- nseries Number of Series
- Minnesota Minnesota Prior Indicator
- verbose Indicator for Verbose output

See Also

[constructModel](#)

---

BigVAR.results

*BigVAR.results*


---

## Description

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

## Details

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 which 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  
`RWMSFE` Average Out of sample MSFE of Random Walk Forecast  
`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  
`betaPred` The final out of sample coefficient matrix of B, to be used for prediction  
`Zvals` The final lagged values of Y, to be used for prediction  
`Data` a  $T \times k$  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` penalty for Sparse Group Lasso  
`nseries` Number of Series  
`Minnesota` Minnesota Prior Indicator  
`verbose` verbose indicator

**Note**

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

**Author(s)**

Will Nicholson

---

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

---

**Description**

Construct an object of class BigVAR

**Usage**

```
constructModel(Y, p, struct, gran, RVAR, h, cv, MN, verbose)
```

**Arguments**

Y	T x K multivariate time series
p	Predetermined maximal lag order
struct	The choice of penalty structure (see details).
gran	vector containing how deep to construct the penalty grid (parameter 1) and how many gridpoints to use (parameter 2)
RVAR	True or False: whether to refit using the Relaxed-VAR procedure
h	Desired forecast horizon
cv	Cross-validation approach, either "Rolling" for rolling cross-validation or "LOO" for leave-one-out cross-validation.
MN	Minnesota Prior Indicator
verbose,	Verbose output while estimating

**Details**

The choices for "struct" are as follows

- "None" (Lasso Penalty)
- "Group" (Block Group Lasso)
- "Sparse" (Block Sparse Group Lasso)
- "Diag" (Own/Other Group Lasso)
- "SparseDiag" (Own/Other Sparse Group Lasso)

## Examples

```
library(BigVAR)
data(Y)
m1=constructModel(Y,p=4,struct="None",gran=c(50,10),
  RVAR=FALSE,MN=FALSE,verbose=FALSE,h=1,cv="Rolling")
```

---

cv.BigVAR

*Cross Validation for BigVAR*

---

## Description

Performs rolling or leave-one-out cross-validation on a BigVAR object

## Usage

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

## Arguments

object                      BigVAR object created from ConstructModel

## Details

Will perform cross validation to select penalty parameters over a training sample, then evaluate them over a test set. Compares against sample mean, random walk, and AIC benchmarks. The resulting object is of class BigVAR.results

## Value

An object of class BigVAR.results.

## See Also

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

## Examples

```
data(Y)
Y=Y[1:100,]
m1=constructModel(Y,p=4,struct="None",gran=c(50,10),
  RVAR=FALSE,MN=FALSE,h=1,cv="Rolling",verbose=FALSE)
results=cv.BigVAR(m1)
```

MultVarSim

*Simulate a VAR***Description**

Simulate a VAR

**Usage**

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

**Arguments**

k	Number of Series
A1	Either a $k \times k$ coefficient matrix or a $kp \times kp$ matrix created using VarptoVar1.
p	Maximum Lag Order
Sigma	Residual Coariance Matrix of dimension $k \times k$
n	Number of simulations

**Value**

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

**References**

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

**See Also**

[VarptoVar1](#)

**Examples**

```
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)
Ai=list()
Ai[[1]]=A1
Ai[[4]]=A2
k=6;p=3
A <- VarptoVar1(Ai,k,p)
Y <-MultVarSim(k,A,p,.1*diag(k),100)
```

---

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

---

### Description

Plot a BigVAR object

### Usage

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

### Arguments

x	BigVAR object created from ConstructModel
y	needed to maintain compatibility with generic, otherwise ignored
...	additional 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](#)

---

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

---

### Description

Plot an object of class BigVAR.results

### Usage

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



**Arguments**

x	BigVAR.results object created from cv.BigVAR
y	Needed for compatibility with generic, otherwise ignored
...	additional arguments passed to generic

**Details**

Plots optimal lambda value

---

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

**Details**

Provides n.ahead step forecasts using the model produced by cv.BigVAR.

**See Also**

[cv.BigVAR](#)

**Examples**

```
data(Y)
Y=Y[1:100,]
m1=constructModel(Y,p=4,struct="None",gran=c(50,10),MN=FALSE,
RVAR=FALSE,h=1,cv="Rolling",verbose=FALSE)
results=cv.BigVAR(m1)
predict(results,n.ahead=1)
```

---

show	<i>Default show method for an object of class BigVAR.results</i>
------	--

---

**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 ConstructModel

**Details**

prints forecast information and comparisons with mean, random walk, and AIC benchmarks

**See Also**

[cv.BigVAR](#)

---

show.BigVAR	<i>Default show method for an object of class BigVAR</i>
-------------	--

---

**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**

- Data prints the first 10 rows of Y
- Structure prints desired structure'
- Forecast Horizon
- Relaxed Indicator
- Maximum lag order p

See Also

[constructModel](#)

---

SparsityPlot	<i>Sparsity Plot of a Coefficient Matrix</i>
--------------	--

---

Description

Sparsity Plot of a Coefficient Matrix

Usage

SparsityPlot(B, p, k, title = NULL)

Arguments

- B  $k \times kp$  coefficient matrix
- p Maximal Lag order
- k Number of series
- title (optional) Plot title

Details

Similar to SparsityPlot.BigVAR, but the input object does not need to be of class [BigVAR.results](#)

Value

NA, side effect is graph

See Also

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

Examples

```
data(Generator)
k=3;p=4
SparsityPlot(A[1:k,],p,k,title="Sparsity Plot of Example Generator Matrix")
```

---

SparsityPlot.BigVAR.results	<i>Sparsity Plot of a BigVAR.results object</i>
-----------------------------	---

---

**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

**Value**

NA, side effect is graph

**See Also**

[SparsityPlot](#)

---

VarptoVar1	<i>Converts a VAR of order p to a VAR of order 1</i>
------------	--

---

**Description**

Converts a VAR of order p to a VAR of order 1

**Usage**

VarptoVar1(Ai, p, k)

**Arguments**

Ai	A list containing p k x k coefficient matrices
p	Lag order
k	Number of Series

**Value**

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

**References**

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

**See Also**

[MultVarSim](#)

**Examples**

```
library(MASS)
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)
Ai=list()
Ai[[1]]=A1
Ai[[4]]=A2
A <- VarptoVar1(Ai,6,3)
```

**Description**

Simulated Multivariate Time Series

**Author(s)**

Will Nicholson

# Index

A, [2](#)

BigVAR, [2](#), [2](#)

BigVAR-class, [3](#)

BigVAR-package (BigVAR), [2](#)

BigVAR.results, [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [6](#), [11](#)

BigVAR.results-class (BigVAR.results), [4](#)

constructModel, [2](#), [3](#), [5](#), [6](#), [8](#), [11](#)

cv.BigVAR, [2](#), [3](#), [6](#), [9](#), [10](#)

cv.BigVAR, BigVAR-method (cv.BigVAR), [6](#)

MultVarSim, [7](#), [13](#)

plot, [2](#), [3](#)

plot, BigVAR, ANY-method (plot.BigVAR), [8](#)

plot, BigVAR.results, ANY-method  
(plot.BigVAR.results), [8](#)

plot.BigVAR, [2](#), [8](#)

plot.BigVAR.results, [8](#)

predict, [2](#), [3](#), [9](#)

predict, BigVAR.results-method  
(predict), [9](#)

show, [10](#)

show, BigVAR-method (show.BigVAR), [10](#)

show, BigVAR.results-method (show), [10](#)

show.BigVAR, [10](#)

SparsityPlot, [11](#), [12](#)

SparsityPlot.BigVAR.results, [11](#), [12](#)

SparsityPlot.BigVAR.results, BigVAR.results-method  
(SparsityPlot.BigVAR.results),  
[12](#)

VarptoVar1, [7](#), [12](#)

Y, [13](#)