



## The Fractionally Cointegrated Vector Autoregression Model in R

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### Abstract

This article illustrates how to estimate the fractionally cointegrated vector autoregression model in R.

*Keywords:* cofractional process, cointegration rank, fractional autoregressive model, fractional cointegration, fractional unit root, VAR model, Matlab, R.

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## 1. Introduction: Cointegration and fractional integration in R

The introduction is in principle “as usual”. However, it should usually embed both the implemented *methods* and the *software* into the respective relevant literature. For the latter both competing and complementary software should be discussed (within the same software environment and beyond), bringing out relative (dis)advantages. All software mentioned should be properly \cite{}d. (See also Appendix ?? for more details on BIBTEX.)

The fractionally cointegrated vector autoregression model is an excellent model...

In R (R Core Team 2017), cointegration is performed by the `function1()` and `function2()` in the `pscl` package (Jackman 2015).

This R packages is based on the Matlab package `FCVARmodel.m` with documentation in Nielsen and Popiel (2016) and Nielsen and Morin (2014).

The next section describes the FCVAR model and the restricted models that can be estimated with this program. Section 3 describes the functioning of the main program, which is a

replication of one of the tables of results in [Jones, Nielsen, and Popiel \(2014\)](#). Section ?? describes another example program, which demonstrates some additional functionality of the software. Importantly, these are the only two files that would need to be changed to apply the program for other empirical analyses.

## 2. The fractionally cointegrated VAR model

The fractionally cointegrated vector autoregressive (FCVAR) model was proposed in [Johansen \(2008\)](#) and analyzed by, e.g., [Johansen and Nielsen \(2010, 2012\)](#). For a time series  $X_t$  of dimension  $p$ , the fractionally cointegrated VAR model is given in error correction form as

$$\Delta^d X_t = \alpha \beta' \Delta^{d-b} L_b X_t + \sum_{i=1}^k \Gamma_i \Delta^d L_b^i X_t + \varepsilon_t, \quad (1)$$

where  $\varepsilon_t$  is  $p$ -dimensional *i.i.d.*( $0, \Omega$ ),  $\Delta^d$  is the fractional difference operator, and  $L_b = 1 - \Delta^b$  is the fractional lag operator.<sup>1</sup> [Johansen and Nielsen \(2012\)](#) imposed two restrictions on the parameter space,  $d \geq b$  and  $d - b < 1/2$ , in their asymptotic analysis. However, these restrictions were relaxed in [Johansen and Nielsen \(2018a,b\)](#).

Model (1) includes the [Johansen \(1995\)](#) CVAR model as the special case  $d = b = 1$ ; see [Johansen and Nielsen \(2018b\)](#). Some of the parameters are well-known from the CVAR model and these have the usual interpretations also in the FCVAR model. The most important of these are the long-run parameters  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , which are  $p \times r$  matrices with  $0 \leq r \leq p$ . The rank  $r$  is termed the cointegration, or cofractional, rank. The columns of  $\beta$  constitute the  $r$  cointegration (cofractional) vectors such that  $\beta' X_t$  are the cointegrating combinations of the variables in the system, i.e. the long-run equilibrium relations. The parameters in  $\alpha$  are the adjustment or loading coefficients which represent the speed of adjustment towards equilibrium for each of the variables. The short-run dynamics of the variables are governed by the parameters  $\Gamma = (\Gamma_1, \dots, \Gamma_k)$  in the autoregressive augmentation.

The FCVAR model has two additional parameters compared with the CVAR model, namely the fractional parameters  $d$  and  $b$ . Here,  $d$  denotes the fractional integration order of the observable time series and  $b$  determines the degree of fractional cointegration, i.e. the reduction in fractional integration order of  $\beta' X_t$  compared to  $X_t$  itself. These parameters are estimated jointly with the remaining parameters. This model thus has the same main structure as in the standard CVAR model in that it allows for modeling of both cointegration and adjustment towards equilibrium, but is more general since it accommodates fractional integration and cointegration.

In the next four subsections we briefly describe the accommodation of deterministic terms as well as estimation and testing in the FCVAR model.

### 2.1. Deterministic terms

There are several ways to accommodate deterministic terms in the FCVAR model (1). The inclusion of the so-called restricted constant was considered in [Johansen and Nielsen \(2012\)](#),

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<sup>1</sup>Both the fractional difference and fractional lag operators are defined in terms of their binomial expansion in the lag operator,  $L$ . Note that the expansion of  $L_b$  has no term in  $L^0$  and thus only lagged disequilibrium errors appear in (1).

and the so-called unrestricted constant term was considered in [Dolatabadi, Nielsen, and Xu \(2016\)](#). A general formulation that encompasses both models is<sup>2</sup>

$$\Delta^d X_t = \alpha \Delta^{d-b} L_b(\beta' X_t + \rho') + \sum_{i=1}^k \Gamma_i \Delta^d L_b^i X_t + \xi + \varepsilon_t. \quad (2)$$

The parameter  $\rho$  is the so-called restricted constant term (since the constant term in the model is restricted to be of the form  $\alpha\rho'$ ), which is interpreted as the mean level of the long-run equilibria when these are stationary, i.e.  $E\beta' X_t + \rho' = 0$ . The parameter  $\xi$  is the unrestricted constant term, which gives rise to a deterministic trend in the levels of the variables. When  $d = 1$  this trend is linear. Thus, the model (2) contains both a restricted constant and an unrestricted constant. In the usual CVAR model, i.e. with  $d = b = 1$ , the former would be absorbed in the latter, but in the fractional model they can both be present and are interpreted differently. For the representation theory related to (2), and in particular for additional interpretation of the two types of constant terms, see [Dolatabadi et al. \(2016\)](#).

An alternative formulation of deterministic terms was suggested by [Johansen and Nielsen \(2016\)](#), albeit in a simpler model, with the aim of reducing the impact of pre-sample observations of the process. This model is

$$\Delta^d(X_t - \mu) = \alpha\beta' \Delta^{d-b} L_b(X_t - \mu) + \sum_{i=1}^k \Gamma_i \Delta^d L_b^i(X_t - \mu) + \varepsilon_t, \quad (3)$$

which can be derived easily from the unobserved components formulation

$$X_t = \mu + X_t^0, \quad \Delta^d X_t^0 = L_b \alpha \beta' X_t^0 + \sum_{i=1}^k \Gamma_i \Delta^d L_b^i X_t^0 + \varepsilon_t. \quad (4)$$

The formulation (3), or equivalently (4), includes the restricted constant, which may be obtained as  $\rho' = \beta'\mu$ . More generally, the level parameter  $\mu$  is meant to accommodate a non-zero starting point for the first observation on the process, i.e., for  $X_1$ . It has the added advantage of reducing the bias arising due to pre-sample behavior of  $X_t$ , at least in simple models, even when conditioning on no initial values (see below). For details, see [Johansen and Nielsen \(2016\)](#).

## 2.2. Maximum likelihood estimation

It is assumed that a sample of length  $T+N$  is available on  $X_t$ , where  $N$  denotes the number of observations used for conditioning, for details see [Johansen and Nielsen \(2016\)](#). The models (1), (2), and (3) are estimated by conditional maximum likelihood, conditional on  $N$  initial values, by maximizing the function

$$\log L_T(\lambda) = -\frac{Tp}{2}(\log(2\pi) + 1) - \frac{T}{2} \log \det \left\{ T^{-1} \sum_{t=N+1}^{T+N} \varepsilon_t(\lambda) \varepsilon_t(\lambda)' \right\}, \quad (5)$$

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<sup>2</sup>In [Dolatabadi et al. \(2016\)](#) the constants are included as  $\rho'\pi_t(1)$  and  $\xi\pi_t(1)$ , where  $\pi_t(u)$  denotes coefficients in the binomial expansion of  $(1-z)^{-u}$ . This is mathematically convenient, but makes no difference in terms of the practical implementation.

where the residuals are defined as

$$\varepsilon_t(\lambda) = \Delta^d X_t - \alpha \Delta^{d-b} L_b(\beta' X_t + \rho') - \sum_{i=1}^k \Gamma_i \Delta^d L_b^i X_t - \xi, \quad \lambda = (d, b, \alpha, \beta, \Gamma, \rho, \xi), \quad (6)$$

for model (2), and hence also for submodels of model (2), such as (1), with the appropriate restrictions imposed on  $\rho$  and  $\xi$ . For model (3) the residuals are

$$\varepsilon_t(\lambda) = \Delta^d(X_t - \mu) - \alpha \beta' \Delta^{d-b} L_b(X_t - \mu) - \sum_{i=1}^k \Gamma_i \Delta^d L_b^i(X_t - \mu), \quad \lambda = (d, b, \alpha, \beta, \Gamma, \mu). \quad (7)$$

It is shown in [Johansen and Nielsen \(2012\)](#) and [Dolatabadi \*et al.\* \(2016\)](#) how, for fixed  $(d, b)$ , the estimation of model (2) reduces to regression and reduced rank regression as in [Johansen \(1995\)](#). In this way the parameters  $(\alpha, \beta, \Gamma, \rho, \xi)$  can be concentrated out of the likelihood function, and numerical optimization is only needed to optimize the profile likelihood function over the two fractional parameters,  $d$  and  $b$ . In model (3) we can similarly concentrate the parameters  $(\alpha, \beta, \Gamma)$  out of the likelihood function resulting in numerical optimization over  $(d, b, \mu)$ , making the estimation of model (3) slightly more involved numerically than that of model (2).

For model (2) with  $\xi = 0$ , [Johansen and Nielsen \(2012\)](#) shows that asymptotic theory is standard when  $b < 0.5$ , and for the case  $b > 0.5$  asymptotic theory is non-standard and involves fractional Brownian motion of type II. Specifically, when  $b > 0.5$ , [Johansen and Nielsen \(2012\)](#) shows that under i.i.d. errors with suitable moment conditions, the conditional maximum likelihood parameter estimates  $(\hat{d}, \hat{b}, \hat{\alpha}, \hat{\Gamma}_1, \dots, \hat{\Gamma}_k)$  are asymptotically Gaussian, while  $(\hat{\beta}, \hat{\rho})$  are locally asymptotically mixed normal. These results allow asymptotically standard (chi-squared) inference on all parameters of the model, including the cointegrating relations and orders of fractionality, using quasi-likelihood ratio tests. As in the CVAR model, see [Johansen \(1995\)](#), the same results hold for the same parameters in the full models (2) and (3), whereas the asymptotic distribution theory for the remaining parameters,  $\xi$  and  $\mu$ , is currently unknown.

### 2.3. Cointegration rank tests

Letting  $\Pi = \alpha\beta'$ , the likelihood ratio (LR) test statistic of the hypothesis  $\mathcal{H}_r : \text{rank}(\Pi) = r$  against  $\mathcal{H}_p : \text{rank}(\Pi) = p$  is of particular interest because it deals with an important empirical question. This statistic is often denoted the “trace” statistic. Let  $\theta = (d, b)$  for model (2) and  $\theta = (d, b, \mu)$  for model (3) denote the parameters for which the likelihood is numerically maximized. Then let  $L(\theta, r)$  be the profile likelihood function given rank  $r$ , where  $(\alpha, \beta, \Gamma)$ , and possibly  $(\rho, \xi)$  if appropriate, have been concentrated out by regression and reduced rank regression; see [Johansen and Nielsen \(2012\)](#) and [Dolatabadi \*et al.\* \(2016\)](#) for details.

The profile likelihood function is maximized both under the hypothesis  $\mathcal{H}_r$  and under  $\mathcal{H}_p$  and the LR test statistic is then  $\text{LR}_T(q) = 2 \log(L(\hat{\theta}_p, p)/L(\hat{\theta}_r, r))$ , where

$$L(\hat{\theta}_p, p) = \max_{\theta} L(\theta, p), \quad L(\hat{\theta}_r, r) = \max_{\theta} L(\theta, r),$$

and  $q = p - r$ . This problem is qualitatively different from that in [Johansen \(1995\)](#) since the asymptotic distribution of  $\text{LR}_T(q)$  depends qualitatively (and quantitatively) on the parameter  $b$ . In the case with  $0 < b < 1/2$  (sometimes known as “weak cointegration”),  $\text{LR}_T(q)$  has

a standard asymptotic distribution, see [Johansen and Nielsen \(2012, Theorem 11\(ii\)\)](#), namely

$$\text{LR}_T(q) \xrightarrow{D} \chi^2(q^2), \quad 0 < b < 1/2. \quad (8)$$

On the other hand, when  $1/2 < b \leq d$  (“strong cointegration”), asymptotic theory is non-standard and

$$\text{LR}_T(q) \xrightarrow{D} \text{Tr} \left\{ \int_0^1 \text{d}W(s) F(s)' \left( \int_0^1 F(s) F(s)' \text{d}s \right)^{-1} \int_0^1 F(s) \text{d}W(s)' \right\}, \quad b > 1/2, \quad (9)$$

where the vector process  $\text{d}W$  is the increment of ordinary (non-fractional) vector standard Brownian motion of dimension  $q = p - r$ . The vector process  $F$  depends on the deterministics in a similar way as in the CVAR model in [Johansen \(1995\)](#), although the fractional orders complicate matters. The following cases have been derived in the literature:

1. When no deterministic term is in the model,  $F(u) = W_b(u)$ , where  $W_b(u) = \Gamma(b)^{-1} \int_0^u (u-s)^{b-1} \text{d}W(s)$  is vector fractional Brownian motion of type II, see [Johansen and Nielsen \(2012, Theorem 11\(i\)\)](#).
2. When only the restricted constant term is included in model (2),  $F(u) = (W_b(u)', u^{-(d-b)})'$ , see [Johansen and Nielsen \(2012, Theorem 11\(iv\)\)](#) for the result with  $d = b$  and an earlier working paper version for the general result.
3. In model (3) the same result as in bullet 2. holds because  $\beta' \mu = \rho'$  is the restricted constant and  $\beta'_\perp \mu$  has no influence on the asymptotic distribution (in a similar way to  $X_0$  in a random walk).
4. When both the restricted and unrestricted constants are included in model (2) with  $d = 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} F_i(u) &= W_{b,i}(u) - \int_0^1 W_{b,i}(u) \text{d}u, \quad i = 1, \dots, q-1, \\ F_q(u) &= u^b - \int_0^1 u^b \text{d}u = u^b - 1/(b+1), \\ F_{q+1}(u) &= u^{b-1} - \int_0^1 u^{b-1} \text{d}u = u^{b-1} - 1/b, \end{aligned}$$

see [Dolatabadi et al. \(2016\)](#).

Importantly, the asymptotic distribution (9) of the test statistic  $\text{LR}_T(q)$  depends on both  $b$  and  $q = p - r$ . The dependence on the unknown (true value of the) scalar parameter  $b$  complicates empirical analysis compared to the CVAR model. Generally, the distribution (9) would need to be simulated on a case-by-case basis. However, for model (1) and for model (2) with  $d = b$  and  $\xi = 0$ , and hence also for model (3) with  $d = b$  in light of bullet 3. above, computer programs for computing asymptotic critical values and asymptotic  $P$  values for the LR cointegration rank tests based on numerical distribution functions, are made available by [MacKinnon and Nielsen \(2014\)](#). Their computer programs are incorporated in the present program for the relevant cases/models as discussed and illustrated below.

## 2.4. Restricted models

Note that a reduced rank restriction has already been imposed on models (1)–(3), where the coefficient matrix  $\Pi = \alpha\beta'$  has been restricted to rank  $r \leq p$ . Other restrictions on the model parameters can be considered as in [Johansen \(1995\)](#). The most interesting restrictions from an economic theory point of view would likely be restrictions on the adjustment parameters  $\alpha$  and cointegration vectors  $\beta$ .

We formulate hypotheses as

$$R_\psi \psi = r_\psi, \quad (10)$$

$$R_\alpha \text{vec}(\alpha) = 0, \quad (11)$$

$$R_\beta \text{vec}(\beta^*) = r_\beta, \quad (12)$$

with  $\beta^* = (\beta', \rho')'$ , and use the switching algorithm in ([Boswijk and Doornik 2004](#), p. 455) to optimize the likelihood numerically subject to the restrictions. The switching algorithm can be improved by adding a line search, see [Doornik \(2018\)](#). This is done by setting the option `opt.LineSearch = 1`, which is the default setting.

The only limitation on the linear restrictions that can be imposed on  $(d, b, \alpha, \beta^*)$  in (10)–(12) is that only homogenous restrictions can be imposed on  $\text{vec}(\alpha)$  in (11). Otherwise, any combination of linear restrictions can be imposed on these parameters. For now, the remaining parameters cannot be restricted.

Note that, when the restricted constant term  $\rho$  is included in the model, restrictions on  $\beta$  and  $\rho$  must be written in the form given by (12). This is without loss of generality.

The restrictions in (10)–(12) above can be implemented individually or simultaneously in the Matlab program. The next section provides an example session illustrating the use of the program with a step-by-step description of a typical empirical analysis, including several restricted models in Section 3.6.

## 2.5. Forecasting from the FCVAR model

Because the FCVAR model is autoregressive, the best linear predictor takes a simple form and is relatively straightforward to calculate. Consider, for example, the model with level parameter in (3). We first note that

$$\Delta^d(X_{t+1} - \mu) = X_{t+1} - \mu - (X_{t+1} - \mu) + \Delta^d(X_{t+1} - \mu) = X_{t+1} - \mu - L_d(X_{t+1} - \mu)$$

and then rearrange (3) as

$$X_{t+1} = \mu + L_d(X_{t+1} - \mu) + \alpha\beta'\Delta^{d-b}L_b(X_{t+1} - \mu) + \sum_{i=1}^k \Gamma_i \Delta^d L_b^i(X_{t+1} - \mu) + \varepsilon_{t+1}. \quad (13)$$

Since  $L_b = 1 - \Delta^b$  is a lag operator, so that  $L_b^i X_{t+1}$  is known at time  $t$  for  $i \geq 1$ , this equation can be used as the basis to calculate forecasts from the model.

We let conditional expectation given the information set at time  $t$  be denoted  $E_t(\cdot)$ , and the best linear predictor forecast of any variable  $Z_{t+1}$  given information available at time  $t$  be denoted  $\hat{Z}_{t+1|t} = E_t(Z_{t+1})$ . Clearly, we then have that the forecast of the innovation for period  $t+1$  at time  $t$  is  $\hat{\varepsilon}_{t+1|t} = E_t(\varepsilon_{t+1}) = 0$ , and  $\hat{X}_{t+1|t}$  is then easily found from (13). Inserting also

coefficient estimates based on data available up to time  $t$ , denoted<sup>3</sup>  $(\hat{d}, \hat{b}, \hat{\mu}, \hat{\alpha}, \hat{\beta}, \hat{\Gamma}_1, \dots, \hat{\Gamma}_k)$ , we have that

$$\hat{X}_{t+1|t} = \hat{\mu} + L_{\hat{d}}(X_{t+1} - \hat{\mu}) + \hat{\alpha}\hat{\beta}'\Delta^{\hat{d}-\hat{b}}L_{\hat{b}}(X_{t+1} - \hat{\mu}) + \sum_{i=1}^k \hat{\Gamma}_i \Delta^{\hat{d}} L_{\hat{b}}^i(X_{t+1} - \hat{\mu}). \quad (14)$$

This defines the one-step ahead forecast of  $X_{t+1}$  given information at time  $t$ .

Multi-period ahead forecasts can be generated recursively. That is, to calculate the  $h$ -step ahead forecast, we first generalize (14) as

$$\hat{X}_{t+j|t} = \hat{\mu} + L_{\hat{d}}(\hat{X}_{t+j|t} - \hat{\mu}) + \hat{\alpha}\hat{\beta}'\Delta^{\hat{d}-\hat{b}}L_{\hat{b}}(\hat{X}_{t+j|t} - \hat{\mu}) + \sum_{i=1}^k \hat{\Gamma}_i \Delta^{\hat{d}} L_{\hat{b}}^i(\hat{X}_{t+j|t} - \hat{\mu}), \quad (15)$$

where  $\hat{X}_{s|t} = X_s$  for  $s \leq t$ . Then forecasts are calculated recursively from (15) for  $j = 1, 2, \dots, h$  to generate  $h$ -step ahead forecasts,  $\hat{X}_{t+h|t}$ .

Clearly, one-step ahead and  $h$ -step ahead forecasts for the model (2) with a restricted constant term, and possibly also an unrestricted constant term, instead of the level parameter can be calculated entirely analogously.

### 3. Main Program

Estimating the fractionally cointegrated vector autoregression model works like this...

#### Example session: replicationJNP2014.m

The main file is `fcvar_replication_JNP2014.R` and it serves as an example of what a typical session of estimation, testing, and forecasting can include. This code replicates “Table 4: FCVAR results for Model 1” from Jones *et al.* (2014) and follows the empirical procedure developed in that paper. This procedure includes the following steps:

1. Importing data
2. Choosing estimation options
3. Lag selection
4. Cointegration rank selection
5. Model estimation
6. Hypothesis testing

#### 3.1. Importing data

The first step is importing the data. Executing the code shown below, assigns the data from the file `data_JNP2014.csv` to a matrix called `data`.

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<sup>3</sup>To emphasize that these estimates are based on data available at time  $t$ , they could be denoted by a subscript  $t$ . However, to avoid cluttering the notation we omit this subscript and let it be understood in the sequel.

```

R> data <- read.csv('data_JNP2014.csv')
R> x1 <- data(, c(1, 3, 5)) # Better to use names of variables for clarity.
R> x2 <- data(, [2 3 5]) # And then remove the comments.
R> x3 <- data(, [1 2 3 5])
R> x4 <- data(, [1 3 4 5 6])
R> x5 <- data(, [2 3 4 5 6])
R> x6 <- data(, [1 2 3 4 5 6])

```

The columns contain the following variables: (1) aggregate support for the Liberal party, (2) aggregate support for the Conservative party, (3) Canadian 3-month T-bill rates, (4) US 3-month T-bill rates, (5) Canadian unemployment rate, and (6) US unemployment rate. Since each of the models in JNP (2014) contain different combinations of these variables, the relevant columns of `data` for each model are assigned to different matrices of variables named `x1` through `x6`.

### 3.2. Choosing options

Once the data is imported, the user sets the program options. The script contains two sets of options: variables set for function arguments in the script itself and model/estimation related options. The first of set of options is as follows.

```

p          <- ncol(x1)
kmax       <- 3
order      <- 12
printWNtest <- 1

```

The variable `kmax` determines the highest lag order for the sequential testing that is performed in the lag selection, whereas `p` is the dimension of the system. The `order` specifies the number of lags used for the white noise test in lag selection, while `printWNtest` indicates whether to print results of white noise tests post-estimation.

The next set of initialization commands assign values to the variables contained in object `opt` defined by the function `FCVARoptions`.

I wonder if we should leave some of this to the package documentation. Maybe for this article, we should concentrate on the options that are necessary for the examples below. Besides, JSS style prefers code blocks do not have comments, i.e. state it in the text. We could say that “the rest of the options are described in the package documentation”.

```

opt <- FCVARoptions; % Define variable to store Estimation Options (object).
opt.dbMin      = [0.01 0.01]; % lower bound for d,b.
opt.dbMax      = [2.00 2.00]; % upper bound for d,b.
opt.unrConstant = 0; % include an unrestricted constant? 1 = yes, 0 = no.
opt.rConstant  = 0; % include a restricted constant? 1 = yes, 0 = no.
opt.levelParam  = 1; % include level parameter? 1 = yes, 0 = no.
opt.constrained = 0; % impose restriction dbMax >= d >= b >= dbMin ?
                  % 1 = yes, 0 = no.
opt.restrictDB = 1; % impose restriction d=b ? 1 = yes, 0 = no.

```



```

opt.db0          = [.8 .8]; % set starting values for optimization algorithm.
opt.N            = 0; % number of initial values to condition upon.
opt.print2screen = 1; % print output.
opt.printRoots   = 1; % print roots of characteristic polynomial.
opt.plotRoots    = 1; % plot roots of characteristic polynomial.
opt.gridSearch   = 1; % For more accurate estimation, perform the grid search.
                    % This will make estimation take longer.
opt.plotLike     = 0; % Plot the likelihood (if gridSearch = 1).
opt.progress     = 0; % Show grid search progress indicator waitbar.
opt.updateTime   = 5; % How often progress is updated (seconds).

% Linux example:
opt.progLoc = '/usr/bin/fdpval'; % location path with program name
                                % of fracdist program, if installed
                                % Note: use both single (outside) and double
                                % quotes (inside). This is especially important
                                % if path name has spaces.
DefaultOpt = opt; % Store the options for restoring them in between hypothesis tests.

```

The first line initializes the object `opt` and assigns all of the default options set in `EstOptions`. The user can see the full set of options by typing `FCVARoptions` (or `opt` after initialization) in the command line. The code block above shows how to easily change any of the default options. Defining the program options in this way allows the user to create and store several option objects with different attributes. This can be very convenient when, for example, performing the same hypothesis tests on different data sets.

The set of available options can be broken into several categories: numerical optimization, model deterministics and restrictions, output, grid search, and  $P$ -values for the rank test. We recommend that only advanced users make changes to the numerical optimization options. Adding deterministics requires setting the variable corresponding to the type of deterministic component to 1. For instance, in the present example, a model estimated with options `opt` will include the level parameter  $\mu$  but no restricted or unrestricted constant. Output variables refer to either printing or plotting various information post-estimation and usually take values 1 or 0 (on or off). For example, if the user is not interested in the estimates of  $\Gamma$ , they can be suppressed by setting `opt.printGamma` = 0.

The bounds on the parameter space for  $d$  and  $b$  are specified in `opt.dbMin` and `opt.dbMax`. In this example, these are both specified as 2-dimensional column vectors, in which case the first element specifies the bound on  $d$  and the second element the bound on  $b$ . Alternatively, one can set `opt.dbMin` and `opt.dbMax` as scalars, which imposes the same bounds on  $d$  and  $b$ .

An important feature in this package is the ability to pre-estimate by using a grid search. If the user selects this option, they can view progress by setting `opt.progress` to 1 (waitbar) or 2 (output in command line). The minimum frequency of these updates is set by `opt.updateTime`. The user also has the option (`opt.plotLike`) to view a plot of the likelihood over  $d$  and/or  $b$  after the grid search completes. The output of the grid search is a preliminary estimate of the fractional parameters. These are used as starting values in the subsequent numerical optimization, and the bounds on  $d$  and  $b$  are set to these starting values

plus/minus 0.1 but still within the original `dbMin` and `dbMax` settings.

As of v.1.4.0, the new option `opt.LocalMax` allows more control over the grid search. If `opt.LocalMax = 0`, the function `LikeGrid.m` returns the parameter values corresponding to the global maximum of the likelihood on the grid. If `opt.LocalMax = 1`, then `LikeGrid.m` returns the parameter values for the local maximum corresponding to the highest value of  $b$ . This is meant to alleviate the identification problem discussed in [Johansen and Nielsen \(2010, Section 2.3\)](#) and [Carlini and de Magistris \(2017\)](#). As of v.1.4.0, the default setting is `opt.LocalMax = 1`.

Another new option in v.1.4.0 is the addition of a line search to the switching algorithm for estimation of models with restrictions on  $\alpha$  and/or  $\beta$ . This is added via the option `opt.LineSearch = 1` and is the default. See [Doornik \(2018, Section 2.2\)](#) for details.

In order to automatically obtain  $P$ -values for cointegration rank tests when  $b > 0.5$ , the user needs to download and install the necessary program (see Section ??). The last option, `opt.progLoc`, identifies the location of that program.

After all options have been set, the last line stores them in `DefaultOpt` so that the user can recall them at any point in the estimation. This is particularly useful if the user wants to change only a few options in between estimations.

### 3.3. Lag-order selection

Once the options are set, the user moves to the next step, which involves choosing the appropriate lag order. The relevant information is obtained with a call to `FCVARlagSelect()` which performs estimation of models with lag-orders from 0 to `kmax`. The program performs lag selection on the full-rank unrestricted model.

Our output is wider than 80 characters. This might sometimes be a problem. In particular, in the JSS draft, 80 characters in the `CodeChunk` environment will fit well within the margins.

```
R> FCVARlagSelect(x1, kmax, p, order, opt)
```

Lag Selection Results															
Dimension of system:				3	Number of observations in sample:				316						
Order for WN tests:				12	Number of observations for estimation:				316						
Restricted constant:				No	Initial values:				0						
Unrestricted constant:				No	Level parameter:				Yes						
k	r	d	b	LogL	LR	pv	AIC	BIC	pmvQ	pQ1	pLM1	pQ2	pLM2	pQ3	p
3	3	0.676	0.676	456.42	7.31	0.605	-832.85	-682.62	0.94	0.72	0.46	0.49	0.89	0.51	0
2	3	0.581	0.581	452.77	20.59	0.015	-843.53*	-727.11	0.82	0.69	0.45	0.29	0.75	0.54	0
1	3	1.043	1.043	442.47	56.99	0.000	-840.94	-758.31*	0.34	0.75	0.52	0.15	0.58	0.34	0
0	3	1.036	1.036	413.97	0.00	0.000	-801.95	-753.12	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.37	0

Estimates of  $d$  and  $b$  are reported for each lag ( $k$ ) with rank ( $r$ ) set to the number of variables in the system. Note that in this example the restriction  $d = b$  has been imposed. The log-likelihood for each lag is shown in column `LogL`. The likelihood ratio test-statistic `LR` is for the null hypothesis  $\Gamma_k = 0$  with  $P$ -value reported in column `pv`. This is followed by AIC and BIC information criteria. The next set of columns provides  $P$ -values for white noise tests on the residuals. The first  $P$ -value, `pmvQ`, is for the multivariate Q-test followed by univariate Q-tests as well as LM tests on the  $p$  individual residuals; that is, `pQ1` and `pLM1` are the  $P$ -values for the residuals in the first equation, `pQ2` and `pLM2` are for the residuals in the second equation, and so on.

### 3.4. Cointegration rank testing

The user now chooses the lag-order based on the information provided above and can move to the next step, which is cointegration rank testing. In the next code block, the user first assigns the lag augmentation,  $k < -2$  in this case, and then calls the function `RankTests()`.

```
R> k <- 2
R> rankTestStats <- RankTests(x1, k, opt)
```

Likelihood Ratio Tests for Cointegrating Rank					
Dimension of system:	3	Number of observations in sample:	316		
Number of lags:	2	Number of observations for estimation:	316		
Restricted constant:	No	Initial values:	0		
Unrestricted constant:	No	Level parameter:	Yes		
Rank	d	b	Log-likelihood	LR statistic	P-value
0	0.643	0.643	440.040	25.454	0.04
1	0.569	0.569	451.174	3.186	0.82
2	0.576	0.576	452.707	0.120	0.94
3	0.581	0.581	452.767	----	---

The first block of output provides a summary of the model specification. The second block provides the test results relevant for selecting the appropriate rank. The table is meant to be read sequentially from lowest to highest rank, i.e. from top to bottom. Since we can reject the null of rank 0 against the alternative of rank 3 we move to the test of rank 1 against rank 3. This test fails to reject with a  $P$ -value of 0.820, so this is the appropriate choice in this case.

### 3.5. Unrestricted model estimation

With the rank and lag selected, the user can now move to the next code section. Here the user first specifies the choice for the rank based on the previously performed cointegrating rank tests (thus setting  $r = 1$  in this example). Next, the default options set in the initialization, see Section 3.2, are assigned to `opt1`, which is used as an argument in the call to the function

`FCVARestn()`. This function is the main part of the program since it performs the estimation of the parameters, obtains model residuals and standard errors, and calculates many other relevant components such as the number of free parameters and the roots of the characteristic polynomial. If `opt1$print2screen <- 1` then, in addition to storing all of these results in the list `m1`, the function outputs the estimation results to the command window. To see a list of variables stored in `m1`, the user can type `m1` in the command line.

The program output is shown below. It begins with a table summarizing relevant model specifications and then the coefficients and their standard errors. The roots of the characteristic polynomial are displayed at the bottom.

I think we should trim this output to 80 characters wide. There are no numbers in that range, only comments.

```
R> r <- 1
R> opt1 <- DefaultOpt
R> m1 <- FCVARestn(x1, k, r, opt1)
```

```
-----
                        Fractionally Cointegrated VAR: Estimation Results
-----
Dimension of system:      3      Number of observations in sample:      316
Number of lags:           2      Number of observations for estimation:  316
Restricted constant:      No      Initial values:                      0
Unrestricted constant:    No      Level parameter:                      Yes
Starting value for d:     0.800   Parameter space for d: (0.010 , 2.000)
Starting value for b:     0.800   Parameter space for b: (0.010 , 2.000)
-----
Cointegrating rank:      1      AIC:                                -848.348
Log-likelihood:          451.174  BIC:                                -746.943
log(det(Omega_hat)):     -11.369  Free parameters:                     27
-----
Fractional parameters:
-----
Coefficient                Estimate                Standard error
-----
d                          0.569                0.049
-----
Cointegrating equations (beta):
-----
Variable      CI equation 1
-----
Var1          1.000
Var2          0.111
Var3         -0.240
-----
```

Note: Identifying restriction imposed.

---

Adjustment matrix (alpha):

---

Variable	CI equation 1
Var 1	-0.180
SE 1	( 0.064 )
Var 2	0.167
SE 2	( 0.194 )
Var 3	0.037
SE 3	( 0.014 )

---

Note: Standard errors in parenthesis.

---

Long-run matrix (Pi):

---

Variable	Var 1	Var 2	Var 3
Var 1	-0.180	-0.020	0.043
Var 2	0.167	0.019	-0.040
Var 3	0.037	0.004	-0.009

---



---

Level parameter (mu):

---

Var 1	-0.345
SE 1	( 0.069 )
Var 2	11.481
SE 2	( 0.548 )
Var 3	-2.872
SE 3	( 0.033 )

---

Note: Standard errors in parenthesis (from numerical Hessian) but asymptotic distribution

---

Lag matrix 1 (Gamma\_1):

---

Variable	Var 1	Var 2	Var 3
Var 1	0.276	-0.032	-0.510
SE 1	( 0.160 )	( 0.026 )	( 0.513 )
Var 2	-0.148	1.126	-3.285
SE 2	( 0.378 )	( 0.196 )	( 1.975 )
Var 3	-0.052	0.008	0.711
SE 3	( 0.022 )	( 0.005 )	( 0.170 )

---

Note: Standard errors in parenthesis.

---

Lag matrix 2 (Gamma\_2):

---

Variable	Var 1	Var 2	Var 3
Var 1	0.566	0.106	0.609
SE 1	( 0.182 )	( 0.045 )	( 0.612 )
Var 2	0.493	-0.462	0.450
SE 2	( 0.562 )	( 0.198 )	( 2.627 )
Var 3	-0.039	-0.020	0.318
SE 3	( 0.032 )	( 0.008 )	( 0.143 )

---

Note: Standard errors in parenthesis.

---



---

Roots of the characteristic polynomial

---

Number	Real part	Imaginary part	Modulus
1	-2.893	0.000	2.893
2	-1.522	0.000	1.522
3	1.010	0.927	1.371
4	1.010	-0.927	1.371
5	1.108	0.000	1.108
6	1.000	0.000	1.000
7	1.000	-0.000	1.000
8	0.944	0.261	0.980
9	0.944	-0.261	0.980

---



---

Restrictions imposed on the following parameters:

- Psi. For details see "options\$R\_psi"

---

At the end of the output, a notice is printed to remind the user that restrictions were imposed on Psi, i.e. on  $(d, b)$ . In this case, this is the restriction  $d = b$  imposed via `opt$restrictDB <- 1`.

In addition to the coefficient estimates, we are also interested in testing the model residuals for serial correlation. After the unrestricted model has been estimated, this code section concludes with a call to `MVWntest()`, which performs a series of white noise tests on the residuals and prints the output in the command window. The results of the white noise tests are shown below. For each residual both the Q- and LM-test statistics and their  $P$ -values are reported, in addition to the multivariate Q-test and  $P$ -value in the first line of the table. From the output of this table we can conclude that there does not appear to be any problems

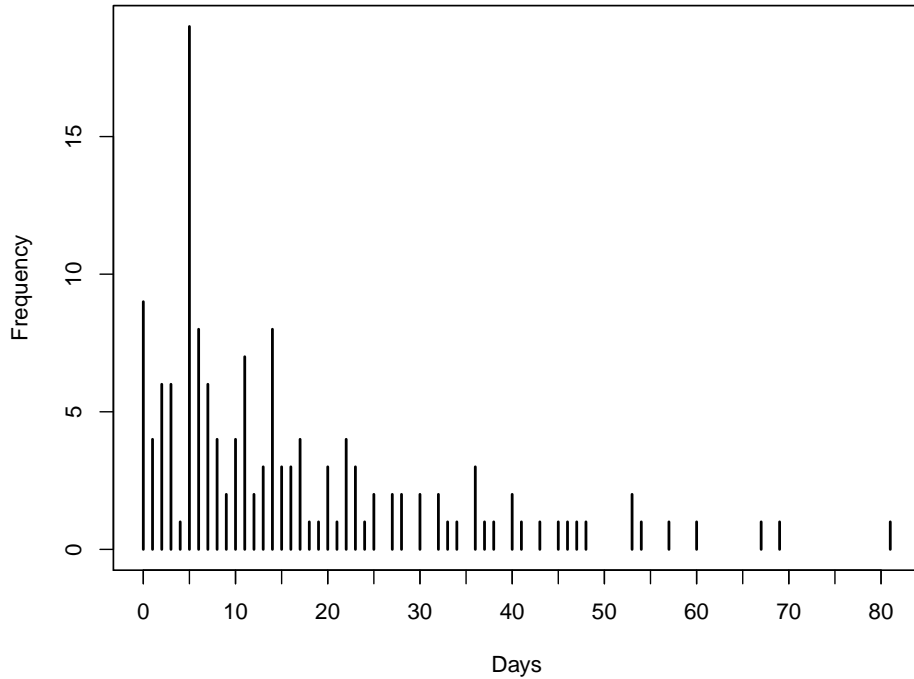


Figure 1: Frequency distribution for number of days absent from school.

with serial correlation in the residuals.

```
R> MVWNtest(m1$residuals, order, printWNtest)
```

White Noise Test Results (lag = 12)					
Variable	Q	P-val	LM	P-val	
Multivar	97.868	0.747	----	----	
Var1	9.301	0.677	11.238	0.509	
Var2	14.443	0.273	8.566	0.739	
Var3	10.596	0.564	12.269	0.424	

Because `opt$plotRoots <- 1` in the options, the roots of the characteristic polynomial is also plotted along with the unit circle and the transformed unit circle,  $\mathbb{C}_{\hat{\theta}}$ , see [Johansen \(2008\)](#). The plot is shown in Figure 2.

Example: A basic frequency distribution of the response variable is displayed in

Figure 2: Roots of characteristic polynomial



Furthermore, the estimation was performed with the grid search and the plot option selected, i.e. with `opt$gridSearch <- 1` and `opt$plotLike <- 1`, which produces a plot of the log-likelihood. The plot for this model is shown in Figure 3.



Figure 3: Plot of log-likelihood



The complete results for the unrestricted model are stored in the list `m1` and can be accessed anytime. For instance, if the user would like to perform a more careful analysis of the residuals they are stored in `m1$residuals`.

### 3.6. Hypothesis testing

We now move into the hypothesis testing section of the code where we can test several restricted models and perform inference. For restricted model estimation the grid search option is switched off because computation can be very slow, especially in the presence of the level parameter. However, if the user wishes to verify the accuracy of the results or if estimates are close to the upper or lower bound, the grid search option can resolve these issues and give the user additional insight about the behaviour of the likelihood.

All hypotheses are defined as shown in (10)–(12). The first hypothesis test is  $\mathcal{H}_d^1$  (for precise definitions of each hypothesis, please see [Jones \*et al.\* \(2014\)](#)), shown below.

```
R> DefaultOpt$gridSearch <- 0
R> opt1 <- DefaultOpt
R> opt1$R_psi <- c(1, 0)
```

```

R> opt1$r_psi <- 1
R> m1r1 <- FCVARestn(x1, k, r, opt1)
R> MVWNTtest(m1r1$residuals, order, printWNtest)
R> Hdb <- HypoTest(m1, m1r1)

```

Here we test the CVAR model (null hypothesis  $d = b = 1$ ) against the FCVAR model (alternative hypothesis  $d = b \neq 1$ ). Since `opt1$restrictDB <- 1` was selected in the choice of options, the restriction that  $d = b$  is already imposed. Thus, the user needs to only impose an additional restriction that either  $d$  or  $b$  is equal to one. In this example, the restriction that  $d = 1$  is imposed by setting `opt1.R_psi = [1 0]` and `opt1.r_psi = 1`, but the result would be the same if  $b = 1$  were imposed instead. The restricted model is then estimated and the results are stored in the Matlab structure `m1r1`. As before, the user can perform a series of white noise tests on the residuals by calling the `mv_wntest.m` function. The next step is to perform the actual test. With the results structures from the restricted and unrestricted models, the user can call the function `HypoTest.m` and perform an LR test. This function takes the two model result structures as inputs, automatically compares the number of free parameters to obtain the degrees of freedom, computes the LR test statistic, and displays the output. The results of this test are then stored in the list `Hdb` and can be accessed at any time.

Since the output of the estimated model and the white noise tests are similar to the previous example, we only show the output from the hypothesis test.

```

Unrestricted log-likelihood: 451.174
Restricted log-likelihood:   442.027
Test results (df = 1):
LR statistic:    18.295
P-value:        0.000

```

The log-likelihoods from both models are reported, along with the degrees of freedom, the LR test statistic, and its  $P$ -value. In this case the test clearly rejects the null hypothesis that the model is a CVAR. For more significant digits, or to access any of these values from the command window, the user can type `Hdb`.

The next hypothesis of interest is  $\mathcal{H}_\beta^1$ , which is a zero restriction on the first element of the cointegration vector.

```

R> opt1 <- DefaultOpt
R> opt1$R_Beta <- c(1, 0, 0)
R> m1r2 <- FCVARestn(x1, k, r, opt1)
R> MVWNTtest(m1r2$residuals, order, printWNtest)
R> Hbeta1 <- HypoTest(m1, m1r2)

```

Since the object `opt1` has the restriction  $d = b = 1$  stored, the first step is to reset the options to default. The restriction on  $\beta$  is then specified as in (12). There are two things to note here. First, the column length of  $R_\beta$  must equal  $p_1 r$ , where  $p_1 = p + 1$  if a restricted constant is present and  $p_1 = p$  otherwise; recall that  $p$  is the number of variables in the system and  $r$  is the number of cointegrating vectors. Second, zero restrictions are the default

and automatically imposed when  $r_\beta$  is empty. Therefore, the user only needs to specify  $r_\beta$  if it includes non-zero elements. Recall that for restrictions on  $\alpha$  only  $r_\alpha = 0$  is allowed so that there is no need to specify  $r_\alpha$ . As before, the restricted model is estimated with results stored in `m1r2`, the residuals are tested for white noise, and the model under the null is tested against the unrestricted model `m1` with results stored in `Hbeta1`.

Again, since the estimation output is similar to the first example, we only show the results of the hypothesis test here. With a  $P$ -value close to zero, this hypothesis is also strongly rejected.

```
Unrestricted log-likelihood: 451.174
Restricted log-likelihood: 444.395
Test results (df = 1):
LR statistic: 13.557
P-value: 0.000
```

Next, we move to tests on  $\alpha$ . In this case, we test restriction that political variable is long-run exogenous.

```
R> opt1 <- DefaultOpt
R> opt1$R_Alpha <- c(1, 0, 0)
R> m1r3 <- FCVARestn(x1, k, r, opt1)
R> MVWNTtest(m1r3$residuals, order, printWNtest)
R> Halpha1 = HypoTest(m1, m1r3)
```

Again we first reset `opt1` to the default options to clear previously imposed restrictions. Note that, if it were the case that we failed to reject  $\mathcal{H}_\beta^1$  and wanted to leave it imposed while adding a restriction on  $\alpha$ , we could either omit the first line `opt1 <- DefaultOpt`, or we could replace it with `opt1 <- m1r2$options`. The latter assignment is preferred in this case because it is explicit about which model options we are leaving imposed.

The hypothesis  $\mathcal{H}_\alpha^1$  is tested in the exact same way as before, only now we are changing the variable  $R_\alpha$  instead of  $R_\beta$ . The results are shown below and we can see that this hypothesis is also rejected.

```
Unrestricted log-likelihood: 451.174
Restricted log-likelihood: 446.086
Test results (df = 1):
LR statistic: 10.176
P-value: 0.001
```

We next move to the remaining long-run exogeneity tests,  $\mathcal{H}_\alpha^2$  and  $\mathcal{H}_\alpha^3$ , shown the examples below. The hypothesis  $\mathcal{H}_\alpha^2$  tests that the interest-rate is long-run exogenous.

```
R> opt1 <- DefaultOpt
R> opt1$R_Alpha <- c(0, 1, 0)
R> m1r4 <- FCVARestn(x1, k, r, opt1)
R> MVWNTtest(m1r4$residuals, order, printWNtest)
R> Halpha2 <- HypoTest(m1, m1r4)
```

```

Unrestricted log-likelihood: 451.174
Restricted log-likelihood:   450.857
Test results (df = 1):
LR statistic:                0.633
P-value:                     0.426

```

Next, we test the hypothesis  $\mathcal{H}_\alpha^3$  that unemployment is long-run exogenous.

```

R> opt1 <- DefaultOpt
R> opt1$R_Alpha <- c(0, 0, 1)
R> k <- 2; r <- 1
R> m1r5 <- FCVARestn(x1, k, r, opt1)
R> MVWNtest(m1r5$residuals, order, printWNtest)
R> Halpha3 <- HypoTest(m1, m1r5)

```

```

Unrestricted log-likelihood: 451.174
Restricted log-likelihood:   446.184
Test results (df = 1):
LR statistic:                9.979
P-value:                     0.002

```

The only hypothesis that we fail to reject is  $\mathcal{H}_\alpha^2$ , under which interest rates are long-run exogenous. Since this is the final restricted model, we provide the full estimation output. Note from the output that  $\alpha_2 = 0$  as imposed by the restriction.

Fractionally Cointegrated VAR: Estimation Results					
Dimension of system:	3	Number of observations in sample:	316		
Number of lags:	2	Number of observations for estimation:	316		
Restricted constant:	No	Initial values:	0		
Unrestricted constant:	No	Level parameter:	Yes		
Starting value for d:	0.800	Parameter space for d: (0.010 , 2.000)			
Starting value for b:	0.800	Parameter space for b: (0.010 , 2.000)			
Cointegrating rank:	1	AIC:	-849.715		
Log-likelihood:	450.857	BIC:	-752.065		
log(det(Omega_hat)):	-11.367	Free parameters:	26		
Fractional parameters:					
Coefficient	Estimate		Standard error		
d	0.575		0.048		

Cointegrating equations (beta):

Variable	CI equation 1
Var1	0.994
Var2	0.105
Var3	-0.181

Adjustment matrix (alpha):

Variable	CI equation 1
Var 1	-0.189
SE 1	( 0.065 )
Var 2	0.000
SE 2	( 0.000 )
Var 3	0.039
SE 3	( 0.014 )

Note: Standard errors in parenthesis.

Long-run matrix (Pi):

Variable	Var 1	Var 2	Var 3
Var 1	-0.188	-0.020	0.034
Var 2	0.000	0.000	0.000
Var 3	0.039	0.004	-0.007

Level parameter (mu):

Var 1	-0.310
SE 1	( 0.067 )
Var 2	11.538
SE 2	( 0.553 )
Var 3	-2.873
SE 3	( 0.033 )

Note: Standard errors in parenthesis (from numerical Hessian) but asymptotic distribution

Lag matrix 1 (Gamma\_1):

Variable	Var 1	Var 2	Var 3
Var 1	0.269	-0.032	-0.512

SE 1	( 0.157 )	( 0.026 )	( 0.507 )
Var 2	-0.013	1.115	-3.001
SE 2	( 0.345 )	( 0.189 )	( 1.909 )
Var 3	-0.053	0.008	0.694
SE 3	( 0.022 )	( 0.005 )	( 0.164 )

-----  
 Note: Standard errors in parenthesis.  
 -----

Lag matrix 2 (Gamma\_2):

Variable	Var 1	Var 2	Var 3
Var 1	0.570	0.104	0.586
SE 1	( 0.184 )	( 0.044 )	( 0.606 )
Var 2	0.685	-0.371	0.223
SE 2	( 0.508 )	( 0.159 )	( 2.509 )
Var 3	-0.043	-0.020	0.330
SE 3	( 0.032 )	( 0.008 )	( 0.138 )

-----  
 Note: Standard errors in parenthesis.  
 -----

-----  
 Roots of the characteristic polynomial

Number	Real part	Imaginary part	Modulus
1	-2.710	0.000	2.710
2	-1.498	0.000	1.498
3	1.129	0.939	1.469
4	1.129	-0.939	1.469
5	1.098	0.000	1.098
6	1.000	0.000	1.000
7	1.000	0.000	1.000
8	0.934	0.281	0.976
9	0.934	-0.281	0.976

-----  
 Restrictions imposed on the following parameters:

- Psi. For details see "options.R\_psi"
  - Alpha. For details see "options.R\_Alpha"
- 

White Noise Test Results (lag = 12)

Variable	Q	P-val	LM	P-val
Multivar	97.665	0.752	----	----
Var1	9.084	0.696	11.267	0.506
Var2	14.931	0.245	9.338	0.674
Var3	10.729	0.552	12.241	0.426

Sometimes it is the case that the model output is not normalized with respect to the user's variable of interest, for example when restrictions are imposed on  $\alpha$  or  $\beta$ . For this reason, we also include a code section that normalizes the output, i.e. imposes an identity matrix in the first  $r \times r$  block of  $\beta$ . That is,  $\hat{\alpha}$  is post multiplied by  $G^{-1}$  so that  $\pi = \hat{\alpha}(G^{-1})G\hat{\beta}' = ab'$ <sup>4</sup>. Of course, this code section should only be executed if it does not interfere with any restrictions imposed on the model.

```
R> modelRstrct <- m1r4
R> G <- solve(modelRstrct$coeffs$betaHat(1:r, 1:r))
R> betaHatR <- modelRstrct$coeffs$betaHat %*% G
R> alphaHatR <- modelRstrct$coeffs$alphaHat %*% t(solve(G))
R> print(betaHatR)
R> print(alphaHatR)

betaHatR =
  1.0000
  0.1057
 -0.1824
alphaHatR =
 -0.1877
    0
  0.0386
```

As an example of when this feature can be useful, consider model  $\mathcal{H}_\alpha^2$ . In the output above, we notice that the cointegrating vector has not been normalized (because restrictions are imposed). The user assigns the model of interest to the variable `modelRstrct`, in this case `m1r4`, and executes the cell. The output is shown below.

## 4. Additional examples: MoreExamples.m

To show some additional functionality of the FCVAR software package, this section contains several other examples, which are based on Jones *et al.* (2014), but are not part of that paper.

### 4.1. Forecasting

Listing ?? performs recursive one-step ahead forecasts for each of the variables as well as the equilibrium relation.

<sup>4</sup>Let's revise this sentence to account for the changing definition of  $\hat{\alpha}$  and  $\hat{\beta}$

```

%% ----- FORECAST ----- %

% Forecast from the final restricted model.
NumPeriods = 12; % forecast horizon set to 12 months ahead.

% Assign the model whose coefficients will be used for forecasting.
modelF = m1r4;

xf = FCVARforecast(x1, modelF, NumPeriods);

% Series including forecast.
seriesF = [x1; xf];

% Equilibrium relation including forecasts.
equilF = seriesF*modelF.coeffs.betaHat;

% Determine the size of the vertical line to delimit data and forecast
% values.
T = size(x1,1);
yMaxS = max(max(seriesF));
yMinS = min(min(seriesF));
yMaxEq = max(max(equilF));
yMinEq = min(min(equilF));

% Plot the results.
figure
subplot(2,1,1);
plot(seriesF),
title('Series including forecast'), xlabel('t');
line([T T], [yMinS yMaxS], 'Color','k');
subplot(2,1,2);
plot(equilF),
title('Equilibrium relation including forecasts'), xlabel('t');
line([T T], [yMinEq yMaxEq], 'Color','k');

```

The user specifies the forecast horizon (`NumPeriods`) as well as the model (in this case, `modelF = m1r1`). These two inputs, along with the data, are used in the call to the function `FCVARforecast.m`. This function returns `xf`, a `NumPeriods` by  $p$  matrix of forecasted values of  $X$ . This code section also plots the original series and the equilibrium relation along with the forecasts. These plots are shown in Figure 4.

The forecasts can be printed to screen by typing `xf` in the command window. For this example, the forecast yields the following output:

```

xf =

    -0.143651232445609    5.857045691984009   -2.636093400885282
    -0.084880236401301    5.959876423543075   -2.654427734412809

```



-0.025317647188555	6.110372247993035	-2.673504395263888
0.023637193159649	6.291703833118448	-2.692354312615941
0.065948385719753	6.495095415827381	-2.710793696483187
0.101480482760750	6.712274724017515	-2.728550463910498
0.131038772676406	6.937036380068601	-2.745463810349039
0.155108028894535	7.164423215402036	-2.761407736878001
0.174198620780072	7.390568568007144	-2.776296703046935
0.188773441631705	7.612444943293763	-2.790074682226306
0.199275426254352	7.827704702527144	-2.802710965769232
0.206124920473081	8.034550676278421	-2.814195673339702

Figure 4: Forecast of final model 12 steps ahead



## 4.2. Bootstrap hypothesis test

Listing ?? demonstrates the use of the wild bootstrap for hypothesis tests on the parameters, as developed by [Boswijk, Cavaliere, Rahbek, and Taylor \(2016\)](#) for the CVAR model. The user specifies two sets of options corresponding to two different nested models, and the function `FCVARboot.m` returns the results of the wild bootstrap. The wild bootstrap is programmed to

perform under parallel processing. If the user has the capability to use multiple processors, then computation time can be greatly reduced. If not, the function can still be performed, but the bootstrap iterations will appear out of order since the loop is coded using `parfor` instead of `for`.

```
%% ----- BOOTSTRAP HYPOTHESIS TEST ----- %

% Test restriction that political variables do not enter the
%   cointegrating relation(s).

% Turn off plots for bootstrapping.
DefaultOpt.plotRoots = 0;

% Define estimation options for unrestricted model (alternative)
optUNR = DefaultOpt;

% Define estimation options for restricted model (null)
optRES = DefaultOpt;
optRES.R_Beta = [1 0 0];

% Number of bootstrap samples to generate
B = 999;

% Call to open the distributed processing (comment out if unavailable)
% matlabpool ('open',4); % for versions 2013a and earlier.
% parpool; % for versions 2013b and later.

[LRbs, H, mBS, mUNR] = FCVARboot(x1, k, r, optRES, optUNR, B);

%% Compare the bootstrap distribution to chi-squared distribution

% Estimate kernel density
[F,XI]=ksdensity(LRbs);

% Plot bootstrap density with chi-squared density
figure; plot(XI,F, XI, chi2pdf(XI,H.df))

legend(['Bootstrap PDF with ', num2str(B), ' BS samples'],...
       ['Chi Squared with ', num2str(H.df), ' df'])
```

An example output

```
Bootstrap results:
Unrestricted log-likelihood: 451.174
Restricted log-likelihood:   444.395
Test results (df = 1):
```

```
LR statistic: 13.557
P-value:      0.000
P-value (BS): 0.014
```

The user might also be interested in comparing the bootstrap likelihood ratio test statistic distribution to the asymptotic one. The second part of Listing ?? performs this comparison by producing a plot of the two distributions, shown in Figure 5.

Figure 5: Density of bootstrap LR test statistic



### 4.3. Bootstrap rank test

Listing ?? shows how to perform a wild bootstrap rank test, following the methodology of [Cavaliere, Rahbek, and Taylor \(2010\)](#) for the CVAR model. This procedure works in much the same way as the bootstrap hypothesis test described in Section 4.2. The difference is that, instead of providing two sets of estimation options, the user specifies two different ranks for comparison.

```
%% ----- BOOTSTRAP RANK TEST ----- %
```

```
% Test rank 0 against rank 1
r1 = 0;
r2 = 1;

[LR_Rnk, H_Rnk, mBSr1, mBSr2] = FCVARbootRank(x1, k, DefaultOpt, r1, r2, B);

% Compare to P-value based on asymptotic distribution
fprintf('P-value: \t %1.3f\n', rankTestStats.pv(1));

% Close distributed processing (comment out if unavailable)
% matlabpool close;
```

The results are printed as

```
Bootstrap results:
Unrestricted log-likelihood: 451.174
Restricted log-likelihood: 440.040
Test results:
LR statistic: 22.268
P-value (BS): 0.033
P-value: 0.043
```

#### 4.4. Simulation

Finally, Listing ?? shows how to simulate an FCVAR model for a given set of parameters. The user provides data for starting values and a Matlab structure containing model parameters for simulation as well as the number of periods to simulate. The simulated data is generated using Gaussian errors.

```
%% ----- SIMULATION ----- %

% Simulate the final restricted model, the same one used for forecasting
% above.

% Number of periods to simulate
T_sim = 100;

% Simulate data
xSim = FCVARsim(x1, modelF, T_sim);

% Plot the results
figure;
plot(xSim)
legend('Support', 'Unemployment', 'Interest rate')
```

For the example above, the generated data is shown in Figure 6.

Figure 6: Simulated data



## 5. Extensions

### 5.1. The Matlab program

#### *Obtaining the Matlab program*

The Matlab program can be downloaded from the first author's website at Queen's University:

<http://www.econ.queensu.ca/faculty/mon/software/>

It is freely available for non-commercial, academic use. For a (nearly) complete change log, please see Appendix ?? of [Nielsen and Popiel \(2016\)](#).

#### *Using the Matlab program*

The use of this program requires a functioning installation of Matlab. Any recent version should work. Unzip the contents of the zip file into any directory which will be the working directory of the program.

The next section describes the FCVAR model and the restricted models that can be estimated with this program. Section ?? describes the functioning of the main program, which is a replication of one of the tables of results in Jones *et al.* (2014). Section 4 describes another example program, which demonstrates some additional functionality of the software. Importantly, these are the only two files that would need to be changed to apply the program for other empirical analyses. Section ?? describes how each of the major program files work (each in a separate subsection). The Appendix contains a version change log.

## 5.2. Extension for $P$ -values

Although the Matlab program can run standalone, one of the functions, `RankTests.m`, makes an external system call to a separately installed program, `fdpval`. This external program is the C++ implementation of a Fortran program used to obtain simulated  $P$ -values from MacKinnon and Nielsen (2014). If the user would like  $P$ -values for the cointegration rank tests to be automatically calculated, we recommend obtaining this companion program, which is made available by Jason Rhineland and can be downloaded from:

<https://github.com/jagerman/fracdist/releases>

It can be either installed or downloaded in a compressed folder. It is important to note where the program is stored or installed, because the Matlab program requires the program location as an input in the estimation options. For example, if the program is stored in the folder `/usr/bin/` on a Linux system, the location variable is defined as follows, `progLoc = '/usr/bin/fdpval'`. For details see Sections ?? and ??.

## 5.3. Badly behaved objective function

We also make use of the excellent `extrema.m` and `extrema2.m` functions, which are written by Carlos Adrián Vargas Aguilera and are freely available from the Mathworks website. For simplicity these are included in the Auxiliary subfolder.

These functions are used in `LikeGrid.m()`, which allows the user to pre-estimate to obtain starting values by using a grid search. There are four types of estimation that the grid search can perform. If  $d$  and  $b$  are completely unconstrained, the grid search is over two dimensions within the bounds specified by `opt.dbMin` and `opt.dbMax`. An example of the likelihood obtained in an unconstrained grid search is shown in Figure 7(a). Next, if  $d \geq b$  is imposed via `opt.constrained = 1` (imposed in Johansen and Nielsen (2012) but relaxed in Johansen and Nielsen (2018b)) the computation can be cut in half. An example of this likelihood is shown in Figure 7(b). If the restriction  $d = b$  is imposed, then the grid search is one-dimensional as shown in Figure 7(c). Finally, if a restriction is imposed on either  $d$  or  $b$  via  $R_\psi$  and  $r_\psi$  in (10), then the grid search is also one-dimensional. An example of this situation is shown in Figure 7(d). Note that the  $x$ -axis is over the parameter  $\phi$  and the fractional parameters are found from

$$\begin{bmatrix} d \\ b \end{bmatrix} = H\phi + h, \quad (16)$$

where  $H = (R'_\psi)_\perp$  and  $h = R'_\psi(R_\psi R'_\psi)^{-1}r_\psi$ . The bounds on  $\phi$  are derived from `opt.dbMin` and `opt.dbMax` in a similar way.

Figure 7: Grid search

(a) Unconstrained



(b)  $d \geq b$



## 6. Summary and discussion

Summary goes here.

## Computational details

The results in this paper were obtained using R 3.4.1 with the **MASS** 7.3.47 package. R itself and all packages used are available from the Comprehensive R Archive Network (CRAN) at <https://CRAN.R-project.org/>.

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## A. More technical details

Technical details go here.

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