

# Package ‘gammadlm’

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**Type** Package

**Title** Maximum Likelihood Estimation of the Gamma Distributed-Lag Model with Multiple Explanatory Variables

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**Description** Implementation of the hill climbing algorithm for maximum likelihood estimation of the Gamma distributed-lag model with multiple explanatory variables. A panel structure can be taken into account.

**Depends** R (>= 3.5.0)

**Imports** graphics, stats

**License** GPL-2

**NeedsCompilation** no

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gammadlm-package	<i>Maximum Likelihood Estimation of the Gamma Distributed-Lag Model with Multiple Explanatory Variables</i>
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## Description

Implementation of the hill climbing algorithm for maximum likelihood estimation of the Gamma distributed-lag model with multiple explanatory variables (Magrini, 2022 <doi:10.17713/ajs.v51i2.1244>). A panel structure can be taken into account.

## Details

Package: gammadlm  
 Type: Package  
 Version: 0.1.1  
 Date: 2022-02-05  
 License: GPL-2

Let  $Y$  be the response variable and  $X_1, \dots, X_J$  be  $J$  explanatory variables. Also, let  $y_t$  and  $x_{j,t}$  be, respectively, the value of  $Y$  and of  $X_j$  ( $j = 1, \dots, J$ ) observed at time  $t$ . Under the assumption that the time series of  $Y$  and of  $X_1, \dots, X_J$  are all weakly stationary (i.e., expected value and autocorrelation function independent of time), the Gamma distributed-lag model explaining  $Y$  from  $X_1, \dots, X_J$  is defined as:

$$y_t = \alpha + \sum_{j=1}^J \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \beta_{j,k}(\theta_j, \delta_j, \lambda_j, \eta_j) x_{j,t-k} + \varepsilon_t$$

$$\beta_{j,k}(\theta_j, \delta_j, \lambda_j, \eta_j) = \theta_j w_{j,k}(\delta_j, \lambda_j, \eta_j)$$

$$w_{j,k}(\delta_j, \lambda_j, \eta_j) = \frac{(k+1-\eta_j)^{\frac{\delta_j}{1-\delta_j}} \lambda_j^{k-\eta_j}}{\sum_{l=0}^{\infty} (l+1-\eta_j)^{\frac{\delta_j}{1-\delta_j}} \lambda_j^{l-\eta_j}}$$

where:

- $\alpha$  is the intercept;
- $\beta_{j,k}$  is the dynamic coefficient for  $X_j$  at time lag  $k$ , equal to the scale parameter  $\theta_j$  times the weight  $w_{j,k}$ . The set  $\{w_{j,k} : k = 0, 1, \dots, \infty\}$  includes the weights for  $X_j$  and is defined by the shape parameters  $0 \leq \delta_j < 1$  and  $0 \leq \lambda_j < 1$  and the offset  $\eta_j$  (typically set to 0). The set  $\{\beta_{j,k} : k = 0, 1, \dots, \infty\}$  is called *lag distribution* of  $X_j$ ;
- $\varepsilon_t$  is the random error at time  $t$ .

In case of a panel structure, one intercept is specified for each unit of observation, while the lag distributions are the same for all units:

$$y_{i,t} = \alpha_i + \sum_{j=1}^J \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \beta_{j,k}(\theta_j, \delta_j, \lambda_j, \eta_j) x_{i,j,t-k} + \varepsilon_{i,t}$$

where:

- $y_{i,t}$  and  $x_{i,j,t}$  are, respectively, the value of  $Y$  and of  $X_j$  ( $j = 1, \dots, J$ ) observed on unit  $i$  at time  $t$ ;
- $\alpha_i$  is the intercept for unit  $i$ ;
- $\varepsilon_{i,t}$  is the random error for unit  $i$  at time  $t$ .

The main functions of the package are:

- [unirootTest](#), to check stationarity;
- [preProcess](#), to apply the Box-Cox transformation and differencing in order to achieve stationarity;
- [gammadlm](#), to estimate the model through the hill climbing algorithm;
- [lagCoef](#), to see the estimated dynamic coefficients;
- [plot.gammadlm](#), to display the estimated lag distributions.

**Author(s)**

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**References**

A. Magrini (2022). A hill climbing algorithm for maximum likelihood estimation of the Gamma distributed-lag model with multiple explanatory variables. *Austrian Journal of Statistics*, 51(2): 40-46.

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btc	<i>Bitcoin and US stock indices data</i>
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**Description**

Daily close exchange rate of Bitcoin and of three composite indices of the US stock market from 17 September 2014 to 30 September 2020.

**Usage**

```
data(btc)
```

**Format**

A data.frame with a total of 1521 observations on the following 5 variables:

Date Day of observation.

DJA Exchange rate of Dow Jones Average index.

IXIC Exchange rate of Nasdaq Composite index.

GSPC Exchange rate of Standard&Poor 500 index.

BTC Exchange rate of Bitcoin.

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gammadlm	<i>Estimation of a Gamma distributed-lag model</i>
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**Description**

Maximum likelihood estimation of a Gamma distributed-lag model with multiple explanatory variables using the hill climbing algorithm. A panel structure can be taken into account.

**Usage**

```
gammadlm(y.name, x.names, z.names=NULL, unit=NULL, time=NULL, data,
  offset=rep(0,length(x.names)), add.intercept=TRUE, control=list(nstart=NULL,
  delta.lim=NULL, lambda.lim=NULL, peak.lim=NULL, length.lim=NULL), quiet=FALSE)
```

## Arguments

<code>y.name</code>	Character including the name of the response variable, that must be a quantitative variable. If a vector with length greater than 1 is provided, only the first element is considered.
<code>x.names</code>	Character vector of length 1 or greater including the names of the explanatory variables with lags, that must be quantitative variables. If the name of the response variable is indicated in <code>x.names</code> , then the autoregressive lag distribution will be estimated.
<code>z.names</code>	Character vector including the names of the explanatory variables without lags (optional). They may be either quantitative or qualitative variables. If NULL (the default), no explanatory variable without lags is included in the model.
<code>unit</code>	Character containing the name of the units of observation in case of a panel structure. If a vector with length greater than 1 is provided, only the first element is considered. If NULL (the default), a single unit of observation is assumed.
<code>time</code>	Character containing the name of the time variable, which must be in numeric or date format. If a vector with length greater than 1 is provided, only the first element is considered. If NULL (the default), data are assumed to be temporally ordered.
<code>data</code>	Object of class <code>data.frame</code> containing the variables in the model. Variables in <code>y.name</code> , <code>x.names</code> , <code>z.names</code> , <code>unit</code> and <code>time</code> cannot contain missing values.
<code>offset</code>	Numerical vector indicating, in order, the offset for each variable in <code>x.names</code> . Default is 0. If the name of the response variable is indicated in <code>x.names</code> and its offset is less than 1, then it will be set automatically to 1.
<code>add.intercept</code>	Logical value indicating whether the intercept should be included in the model. Default is TRUE. See 'Details'.
<code>control</code>	A list including control options for the hill climbing algorithm. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <code>nstart</code>: positive integer value indicating the number of restarts. If equal to 1 or NULL (the default), shape parameters are initialized for one explanatory variable at a time based on OLS-grid search.</li> <li>• <code>delta.lim</code>: a named list with one component for each variable in <code>x.names</code>, that must be either a numerical vector of length 2 indicating the minimum and the maximum value of <math>\delta</math>, or a numerical value indicating the exact value of <math>\delta</math>. If there is no component in <code>delta.lim</code> for a certain variable in <code>x.names</code>, then the theoretical range <math>[0,1)</math> is assumed for <math>\delta</math>.</li> <li>• <code>lambda.lim</code>: the same as <code>delta.lim</code>, but it is about <math>\lambda</math> parameters.</li> <li>• <code>peak.lim</code>: the same as <code>delta.lim</code>, but it is about the peak of the lag distributions.</li> <li>• <code>length.lim</code>: the same as <code>delta.lim</code>, but it is about the 99.9th percentile of the lag distributions.</li> </ul>
<code>quiet</code>	Logical value indicating whether prompt messages should be suppressed. Default is FALSE.

## Details

If the response variable is not differenced, the intercept captures the effect of time-invariant factors. Otherwise, the intercept represents the drift. To avoid the drift, argument `add.intercept` should be set to FALSE when differencing is applied to the response variable.

All S3 methods for class `lm` are also available for class `gammadlm`. Notably:

- `plot` displays the estimated lag distributions;
- `summary` provides a summary of parameter estimation;
- `residuals` returns the residuals;
- `fitted.values` returns the fitted values;
- `predict` performs  $h$  step ahead forecast.

Furthermore, method `lagCoef` can be used to see the estimated dynamic coefficients.

## Value

An object of class `lm` and `gammadlm`, including all the components of an object of class `lm` plus the following components:

- `offset`: vector including the offset of the lag distributions;
- `add.intercept`: logical value indicating whether the model includes the intercept;
- `par`: matrix including the shape parameters for each variable in `x.names` (by column);
- `variables`: list including the names of the variables provided to arguments `y.name`, `x.names`, `z.names`, `unit` and `time`.
- `unit.id`: list including the row names of the observations for each unit. NULL if `unit` is NULL.
- `data`: `data.frame` including the data used for parameter estimation.
- `local.max`: list including all the models fitted at each restart.

## Note

Weak stationarity of all time series (expected value and autocorrelation function independent of time) is a basic assumption of the model. However, in order to get valid results, it is sufficient that no time series contains unit roots (Granger & Newbold, 1974). Before calling the function `gammadlm`, the user is strongly recommended to check the absence of unit roots in each time series through the function `unirootTest`, and to apply differencing through the function `preProcess` to the ones containing unit roots.

Function `gammadlm` automatically checks the absence of unit roots in the residuals and returns a warning in case of failure.

When the `summary` method is called on an object of class `gammadlm`, the order of auto-correlation of the residuals is estimated based on the Bayesian Information Criterion. If it is greater than 0, then the Heteroskedasticity and Autocorrelation Consistent (HAC, Newey & West, 1987) estimator of the covariance matrix of least squares estimates is applied to get robust standard errors. The same holds for the `confint` method.

## References

- C. W. J. Granger, and P. Newbold (1974). Spurious regressions in econometrics. *Journal of Econometrics*, 2(2): 111-120.
- A. Magrini (2022). A hill climbing algorithm for maximum likelihood estimation of the Gamma distributed-lag model with multiple explanatory variables. *Austrian Journal of Statistics*, 51(2): 40-46.
- W. K. Newey, K. D. West (1987). A simple, positive semi-definite, heteroskedasticity and autocorrelation consistent covariance matrix. *Econometrica*, 55(3): 703-708

## See Also

`unirootTest`; `lagCoef`; `plot.gammadlm`.

## Examples

```
data(btc)
mydata <- btc[which(btc$Date>="2020-04-01"),]
mydataLR <- preProcess(time="Date", data=mydata, box.cox=0, ndiff=1)

# estimation with pre-specified shape parameters (simple OLS)
dval <- list(DJA=0.85,IXIC=0.75,GSPC=0.55)
lval <- list(DJA=0.05, IXIC=0.35,GSPC=0.45)
m0 <- gammadm(y.name="BTC", x.names=c("DJA","IXIC","GSPC"), data=mydataLR,
  control=list(delta.lim=dval, lambda.lim=lval))
summary(m0) ## summary of estimation

# hill climbing algorithm without random restarts
# (initialization based on independent OLS-grid searches)
m1 <- gammadm(y.name="BTC", x.names=c("DJA","IXIC","GSPC"), data=mydataLR)
summary(m1)

# add constraints: peak>=1 and 3<=length<=15
pklim <- list(DJA=c(1,Inf),IXIC=c(1,Inf),GSPC=c(1,Inf))
lenlim <- list(DJA=c(3,15),IXIC=c(3,15),GSPC=c(3,15))
m2 <- gammadm(y.name="BTC", x.names=c("DJA","IXIC","GSPC"), data=mydataLR,
  control=list(peak.lim=pklim, length.lim=lenlim))
summary(m2)

## 50 random restarts without constraints: NOT RUN
#set.seed(100)
#m3 <- gammadm(y.name="BTC", x.names=c("DJA","IXIC","GSPC"), data=mydataLR,
#  control=list(nstart=50))
#summary(m3) ## better fit than m1
##
## 50 random restarts with constraints: NOT RUN
#set.seed(100)
#m4 <- gammadm(y.name="BTC", x.names=c("DJA","IXIC","GSPC"), data=mydataLR,
#  control=list(peak.lim=pklim, length.lim=lenlim, nstart=50))
#summary(m4) ## better fit than m2
```

---

gammaWeights

---

*Functionalities for the Gamma lag distribution*


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## Description

Obtain weights, quantiles and kernel projection for the desired Gamma lag distribution.

## Usage

```
gammaWeights(k, par, offset=0, normalize=TRUE)
gammaQuantile(prob, par, offset=0)
gammaKernel(x, par, unit=NULL, offset=0, normalize=TRUE)
```

## Arguments

k	Numerical vector indicating the lags for which the weights should be computed.
prob	Numerical vector indicating the order of the quantiles to be computed.

x	Numerical vector representing temporally ordered data for which the kernel projection should be returned.
par	Numerical vector of length 2 representing the shape parameters of the Gamma lag distribution.
unit	Character containing the name of the units of observation in case of a panel structure. If a vector with length greater than 1 is provided, only the first element is considered. If NULL (the default), a single unit of observation is assumed.
offset	Numerical value representing the offset of the Gamma lag distribution. Default is 0.
normalize	Logical value indicating whether the weights should be normalized to have sum 1. Default is TRUE.

### Details

Function `gammaWeights` provides the weights, function `gammaQuantile` computes the quantiles, and function `gammaKernel` returns the kernel projection.

### Examples

```
## examples for a Gamma lag distribution with delta=0.6 and lambda=0.3

# weights
gammaWeights(0:12, par=c(0.6,0.3)) ## at lags from 0 to 12
gammaWeights(10, par=c(0.6,0.3))   ## at lag 10

# quantiles
gammaQuantile(0.5, par=c(0.6,0.3)) ## median
gammaQuantile(0.95, par=c(0.6,0.3)) ## 95th percentile
gammaQuantile(0.99, par=c(0.6,0.3)) ## 99th percentile

# kernel projection
set.seed(100); xval <- rnorm(10)
gammaKernel(xval, par=c(0.6,0.3))

# kernel projection under a panel structure
set.seed(100); xval <- rnorm(20)
gr <- c(rep(0,10),rep(1,10))
gammaKernel(xval, par=c(0.6,0.3), unit=gr)
```

---

lagCoef	<i>Estimated dynamic coefficients</i>
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---

### Description

See the estimated dynamic coefficients for each explanatory variable with lags.

### Usage

```
lagCoef(x, conf=0.95, cumulative=FALSE, max.lag=NULL, max.quantile=0.999)
```

**Arguments**

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>gammadlm</code> .
<code>conf</code>	Numerical value indicating the level of confidence intervals. If <code>NULL</code> , confidence intervals are not provided. Default is 0.95.
<code>cumulative</code>	Logical value indicating whether cumulative coefficients should be returned. Default is <code>FALSE</code> .
<code>max.lag</code>	Non-negative integer value indicating the lag up to which coefficients should be returned. If <code>NULL</code> (the default), it is set accordingly to argument <code>max.quantile</code> .
<code>max.quantile</code>	Numerical value indicating the order of the quantile lag up to which coefficients should be returned. Default is 0.999 (99.9th percentile).

**Value**

A list with one component for each explanatory variable with lags. Each component is an object of class `data.frame` containing estimation, asymptotic standard error and confidence interval for each lag up to `max.lag`.

**See Also**

[gammadlm](#); [plot.gammadlm](#).

**Examples**

```
data(btc)
mydata <- btc[which(btc$Date>="2020-04-01"),]
mydataLR <- preProcess(time="Date", data=mydata, box.cox=0, ndiff=1)

dval <- list(DJA=0.85,IXIC=0.75,GSPC=0.55)
lval <- list(DJA=0.05, IXIC=0.35,GSPC=0.45)
m0 <- gammadlm(y.name="BTC", x.names=c("DJA","IXIC","GSPC"), data=mydataLR,
  control=list(delta.lim=dval, lambda.lim=lval))

lagCoef(m0) ## coefficients shown up to the 99.9th percentile lag
lagCoef(m0, max.lag=11) ## coefficients shown up to lag 11
lagCoef(m0, cumulative=TRUE) ## cumulative coefficients
```

---

plot.gammadlm

*Graphics for the estimated lag distributions*

---

**Description**

Display the estimated lag distribution of each explanatory variable with lags.

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'gammadlm'
plot(x, x.names=NULL, conf=0.95, max.lag=NULL, max.quantile=0.999,
  xlim=NULL, ylim=NULL, add.legend=TRUE, cex.legend=1, digits=4, grid.length=100,
  main=NULL, ylab=NULL, xlab=NULL, ...)
```



**Arguments**

<code>x</code>	Object of class <code>gammadlm</code> .
<code>x.names</code>	Character vector including the name of the variables for which the lag distribution should be displayed. Unknown variables will be ignored. If <code>NULL</code> (the default), the lag distribution of all the variables with lags will be displayed.
<code>conf</code>	Numerical value indicating the level of confidence bands. Default is 0.95. If <code>NULL</code> , confidence bands will not be displayed.
<code>max.lag</code>	Non-negative integer value indicating the lag up to which each lag distribution should be displayed. If <code>NULL</code> (the default), it is set accordingly to argument <code>max.quantile</code> .
<code>max.quantile</code>	Numerical value indicating the order of the quantile up to which each lag distribution should be displayed. Default is 0.999 (99.9th percentile).
<code>xlim</code>	Numerical vector of length 2 indicating the range of the x-axis, which is applied to all graphics (optional).
<code>ylim</code>	Numerical vector of length 2 indicating the range of the y-axis, which is applied to all graphics (optional).
<code>add.legend</code>	Logical value indicating whether a legend with numerical information should be added to the graphics. Default is <code>TRUE</code> .
<code>cex.legend</code>	Size of the legend. Default is 1.
<code>digits</code>	Integer non-negative value indicating the number of decimal places to be used in the legend. Default is 4. Ignored if <code>add.legend=FALSE</code> .
<code>grid.length</code>	Numerical value no less than 100 indicating the resolution of the interpolation. Default is 100.
<code>main</code>	Vector of characters including the title for each graphic. If <code>NULL</code> (the default), the name of the explanatory variables is used.
<code>ylab</code>	Text for y-axis, which is applied to all graphics (optional).
<code>xlab</code>	Text for x-axis, which is applied to all graphics (optional).
<code>...</code>	Further graphical parameters.

**See Also**

[gammadlm](#).

**Examples**

```
data(btc)
mydata <- btc[which(btc$Date>="2020-04-01"),]
mydataLR <- preprocess(time="Date", data=mydata, box.cox=0, ndiff=1)

dval <- list(DJA=0.85,IXIC=0.75,GSPC=0.55)
lval <- list(DJA=0.05, IXIC=0.35,GSPC=0.45)
m0 <- gammadlm(y.name="BTC", x.names=c("DJA","IXIC","GSPC"), data=mydataLR,
  control=list(delta.lim=dval, lambda.lim=lval))

plot(m0) ## all the lag distributions
plot(m0, x.names=c("DJA","IXIC")) ## just the ones of 'DJA' and 'IXIC'
```

preProcess

*Preprocessing of time series data***Description**

Application of the Box-Cox transformation and/or differencing to a multivariate time series, eventually structured as a panel.

**Usage**

```
preProcess(var.names=NULL, unit=NULL, time=NULL, data, box.cox=1, ndiff=0,
           imputation=TRUE, em.control=list(nlags=NULL, tol=1e-4, maxit=1000, quiet=FALSE))
```

**Arguments**

var.names	Character vector including the name of the variables to be differenced. If NULL (the default), all the quantitative variables in the dataset provided to argument data will be differenced, with the exception of the variable indicated in time.
unit	Character containing the name of the units of observation in case of a panel structure. If a vector with length greater than 1 is provided, only the first element is considered. If NULL (the default), a single unit of observation is assumed.
time	Character containing the name of the time variable, which must be in numeric or date format. If a vector with length greater than 1 is provided, only the first element is considered. If NULL (the default), data are assumed to be temporally ordered.
data	Object of class data.frame containing the variables in var.names, unit and time.
box.cox	Named vector with non-negative real values indicating the parameters of the Box-Cox transformation (Box & Cox, 1964) for variables in x.names. If box.cox is of length one and has no names, the same parameter is used for all variables in x.names. If a variable in x.names has no name in box.cox, value 1 is assumed, meaning no transformation. Value 0 of the parameter equates to the logarithmic transformation. Default value of box.cox is 1, meaning no transformation for all variables in x.names.
ndiff	Named vector with non-negative integer values indicating the number of differences for variables in x.names. If ndiff is of length one and has no names, the same number of differences is used for all variables in x.names. If a variable in x.names has no name in ndiff, value 0 is assumed, meaning no differencing. Default value of ndiff is 0, meaning no differencing for all variables in x.names.
imputation	Logical value indicating whether imputation of missing values should be performed (see 'Details'). Default is TRUE.
em.control	List including control options for the EM algorithm (see 'Details') with the following components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• nlags: Non-negative integer value indicating the number of lags to consider. If NULL (the default), it is taken as <math>\text{trunc}((n-1)^{(1/3)})</math>, where n is the sample size, otherwise it is right-truncated at <math>\text{trunc}(n*2/3)</math>.</li> <li>• tol: Positive number indicating the tolerance. Default is 0.001.</li> </ul>

- `maxit`: Positive integer indicating the number of iterations. Default is 1000.
- `quiet`: Logical value indicating whether prompt messages should be suppressed. Default is FALSE.

Ignored if `imputation` is FALSE.

## Details

Imputation of missing values is performed after the Box-Cox transformation (Box & Cox, 1964) and differencing. A vector autoregressive model is assumed where the expectation of missing values is computed through the Expectation-Maximization (EM, Dempster et al., 1977) algorithm.

## Value

The object provided to argument `data` where variables in `var.names` have been transformed and/or differenced, and the following attributes are added:

- `box.cox`: named vector indicating the parameter of the Box-Cox transformation for each variable in `x.names`;
- `ndiff`: named vector indicating the number of differences for each variable in `x.names`.

## Note

The first order difference of logarithmic values (`box.cox=0` and `ndiff=1`) provides the log returns, which approximate the proportional changes with respect to the previous time point.

If a variable contains negative values, the Box-Cox transformation will be not applied and a warning is returned.

If the number of differencing exceeds  $n-5$ , where  $n$  is the sample size, differencing will be not applied and a warning is returned.

## References

G. E. P. Box, and D. R. Cox (1964). An analysis of transformations. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series B (Methodological)*, 26(2): 211-252.

A. P. Dempster, N. M. Laird, and D. B. Rubin (1977). Maximum likelihood from incomplete data via the EM algorithm. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series B (Methodological)*, 39(1): 1-38.

## See Also

[unirootTest](#).

## Examples

```
data(btc)
mydata <- btc[which(btc$Date>="2020-04-01"),]

# first order differencing ('box.cox'=1 by default)
mydataD <- preProcess(var.names=c("BTC","DJA","IXIC","GSPC"), time="Date",
  data=mydata, ndiff=1)
summary(mydataD)
plot(ts(mydataD[,c("BTC","DJA","IXIC","GSPC")]), main="")

# setting box.cox=0 and ndiff=1 produces the log returns
mydataLR <- preProcess(var.names=c("BTC","DJA","IXIC","GSPC"), time="Date",
```

```

data=mydata, box.cox=0, ndiff=1)
summary(mydataLR)
plot(ts(mydataLR[,c("BTC", "DJA", "IXIC", "GSPC")]), main="")

# same result by omitting 'var.names'
mydataLR2 <- preProcess(time="Date", data=mydata, box.cox=0, ndiff=1)
summary(mydataLR2)
plot(ts(mydataLR2[,c("BTC", "DJA", "IXIC", "GSPC")]), main="")

```

---

unirootTest

*Unit root tests*


---

## Description

Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) and Kwiatkowski-Phillips-Schmidt-Shin (KPSS) tests for a multivariate time series, eventually structured as a panel.

## Usage

```
unirootTest(var.names=NULL, unit=NULL, time=NULL, data, box.cox=1, ndiff=0, max.lag=NULL)
```

## Arguments

<code>var.names</code>	Character vector including the name of the variables to be differenced. If <code>NULL</code> (the default), all the quantitative variables in the dataset provided to argument <code>data</code> will be differenced, with the exception of the variable indicated in <code>time</code> .
<code>unit</code>	Character containing the name of the units of observation in case of a panel structure. If a vector with length greater than 1 is provided, only the first element is considered. If <code>NULL</code> (the default), a single unit of observation is assumed.
<code>time</code>	Character containing the name of the time variable, which must be in numeric or date format. If a vector with length greater than 1 is provided, only the first element is considered. If <code>NULL</code> (the default), data are assumed to be temporally ordered.
<code>data</code>	Object of class <code>data.frame</code> containing the variables in <code>var.names</code> , <code>unit</code> and <code>time</code> .
<code>box.cox</code>	Named vector with non-negative real values indicating the parameter of the Box-Cox transformation for variables in <code>x.names</code> . If <code>box.cox</code> is of length one and has no names, the same parameter is used for all variables in <code>x.names</code> . If a variable in <code>x.names</code> has no name in <code>box.cox</code> , value 1 is assumed, meaning no transformation. Value 0 of the parameter equates to the logarithmic transformation. Default value of <code>box.cox</code> is 1, meaning no transformation for all variables in <code>x.names</code> .
<code>ndiff</code>	Named vector with non-negative integer values indicating the number of differences for variables in <code>x.names</code> . If <code>ndiff</code> is of length one and has no names, the same number of differences is used for all variables in <code>x.names</code> . If a variable in <code>x.names</code> has no name in <code>ndiff</code> , value 0 is assumed, meaning no differencing. Default value of <code>ndiff</code> is 0, meaning no differencing for all variables in <code>x.names</code> .
<code>max.lag</code>	Non-negative integer value representing the maximum lag length at which to perform the tests (see 'Details'). If <code>NULL</code> (the default), it is taken as the squared root of the length of the time series.

## Details

The variables subjected to the tests must be quantitative. Missing values internal to the time series are imputed through linear interpolation, otherwise they are deleted out.

The lag length at which to perform the tests is selected through AIC-based backward elimination starting from the lag length specified in argument `max.lag`.

The null hypothesis of the ADF test is the presence of unit roots, while the null hypothesis of the KPSS test is the absence of unit roots. Therefore, p-value higher than 0.05 for the ADF test or p-value lower than 0.05 for the KPSS test suggest the presence of unit roots and the need of further differencing.

In case of a panel structure, p-values are combined according to the method by Demetrescu *et al.* (2006).

## Value

One list for each variable in `var.names`, each with three components:

- `statistic`: test statistic for each test;
- `lag.selected`: lag length selected for each test;
- `p.value`: p-value of each test, which is a single value if `unit` is `NULL`, otherwise one value for each unit of observation plus another one indicating the combined p-value;
- `box.cox`: parameter of the Box-Cox transformation for each variable subjected to the tests;
- `ndiff`: order of differencing for each variable subjected to the tests.

## Note

The first order difference of logarithmic values (`box.cox=0` and `ndiff=1`) provides the log returns, which approximate the proportional changes with respect to the previous time point.

If a variable contains negative values, the Box-Cox transformation will be not applied and a warning is returned.

If the number of differencing exceeds  $n-5$ , where  $n$  is the sample size, differencing will be not applied and a warning is returned.

## References

- M. Demetrescu, U. Hassler, and A. Tarcolea (2006). Combining significance of correlated statistics with application to panel data. *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, 68(5), 647-663.
- D. A. Dickey, and W. A. Fuller (1981). Likelihood ratio statistics for autoregressive time series with a unit root. *Econometrica*, 49(4): 1057-1072.
- D. Kwiatkowski, P. C. B. Phillips, P. Schmidt, and Y. Shin (1992). Testing the null hypothesis of stationarity against the alternative of a unit root. *Journal of Econometrics*, 54(1-3): 159-178.

## See Also

[preProcess](#).

**Examples**

```
data(btc)
mydata <- btc[which(btc$Date>="2020-04-01"),]

# tests on time series in level ('box.cox'=1 by default):
#   there are some unit roots
unirootTest(var.names=c("BTC","DJA","IXIC","GSPC"), time="Date",
  data=mydata)

# tests on time series in log return: ok
unirootTest(var.names=c("BTC","DJA","IXIC","GSPC"), time="Date",
  data=mydata, box.cox=0, ndiff=1)
```

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