Package 'semiIVreg'

November 19, 2024	
Title Semi-Instrumental Variable (semi-IV) Regression	
Version 1.0.0	
Description semi-Instrumental Variable (semi-IV) estimation for general models, from Bruneel-Zupanc (2024). The main semiivreg() function is designed to work as easily as lm() or ivreg(). It automatically provides estimation of the marginal treatment effects (MTE) as well as eventual ATE (if the treatment effects were, in fact, homogenous).	
Encoding UTF-8	
Suggests knitr, rmarkdown, roxygen2, ivreg	
Roxygen list(markdown = TRUE)	
RoxygenNote 7.3.2	
Imports data.table, ggplot2, gridExtra, MASS, stats, KernSmooth, locpol, sandwich, lmtest	
License MIT + file LICENSE	
Depends R (>= 2.10)	
LazyData true	
<pre>URL https://www.cbruneel.com/, https://cbruneelzupanc.github.io/semiIVreg/</pre>	
VignetteBuilder knitr	
Contents	
construct_data Kappa_fun mtr_est_poly mtr_plot_fun roydata roydata2 semiivreg simul_data supp_plot_fun	13
Index	1

2 Kappa_fun

construct_data

Data construction functions

Description

These functions are used to construct the data from a given formula. Handles change from factor into several dummies for example. They also create reference individuals at which to evaluate the MTE and MTR (if no default is provided). For the numerical variables, take the average of the variable; for the factors, take the first level.

Usage

```
construct_data(formula, data)
create_ref_indiv(formula, data)
transform_factor(formula, data)
```

Arguments

formula The formula of the model data The original dataset

Kappa_fun

Control functions transformations for selection probabilities

Description

These functions provides pre-specified transformations to control flexibly for the selection probabilities in the regression.

These correspond to $\kappa_d(p)$ and corresponding $k_d(u)$ in Bruneel-Zupanc (2024).

Special functions are used for homogenous treatment effect specifications because the code is different. July 2024: for now, only polynomial transformations are encoded.

Usage

```
Kappa_fun(p, pol_degree = 5)
kdu_transform_fun(u, d, pol_degree = 5)
Kappa_homogenous_fun(p, pol_degree = 5)
ku_transform_homogenous_fun(u, pol_degree = 5)
```

Arguments

P Vector of propensity scores to transform into a flexible function.

pol_degree Degree of the polynomial transformation.

d Which potential outcome to consider (only needed for $k_d(u)$ with heterogenous

treatment effects).

mtr_est_poly 3

Details

See Andresen (2018) or Bruneel-Zupanc (2024) for computation details linking $\kappa_d(p)$ and the corresponding corresponding $k_d(u)$.

```
\kappa_1(p) = E(U_1|U_D \le p) \text{ and } \kappa_0(p) = E(U_0|U_D > p) \text{ while } k_d(u) = E(U_d|U_D = u).
```

In the case of homogenous treatment effects: $k_0(u) = k_1(u)$. This provides some restriction on κ , hence the special functions.

Examples

```
v = seq(0.1, 0.9, by=0.1)
# Transformations for general Heterogenous TE functions:
Kappa_fun(p=v, pol_degree=6)
k1u = kdu_transform_fun(v, d=1, pol_degree=6)
# Transformations for Homogenous TE functions:
Kappa_homogenous_fun(p=v, pol_degree=6)
ku = ku_transform_homogenous_fun(v, pol_degree=6) # no d anymore, same for both d here;
```

mtr_est_poly

MTE and MTR sub-estimation functions

Description

These functions allow to estimate the mte and mtr, and their confidence intervals, based on coefficients estimated from the main model in the main function. More details can be found in Bruneel-Zupanc (2024).

Different formulas must be applied depending on whether the treatment is homogenous or heterogenous.

Usage

4 mtr_plot_fun

Arguments

Sequence of v at which to compute the prediction for kd(v). seq_u Method to compute the bandwidth (if bandwdith is NULL) bw_method

ref_indiv Newdata (reference individuals) at which to compute the predictions.

Vector of x values Vector of y values У bw Pre-specified bandwidth

Degree of the polynomial: recommended to set to drv + 1 degree

Derivative order of the function to be estimated. drv Vector of (stacked) coefficients for mtr0, mtr1. coeff

vcov Covariance matrix of these coefficients.

Either "sieve" or "homogenous". est_method

names_var Names of the variables corresponding to the coefficients.

df Degrees of freedom for the p-values. Names of the covariates and semi-IVs var_cov_2nd

Value

Returns the raw (stacked regression) coefficients and covariance matrix corresponding to mtr0, mtr1 and mte function.

Returns the mtr0, mtr1 and mte estimates tables with their standard errors and p-values. Also exports the corresponding estimates and vcov matrices.

Returns mtr0, mtr1, and mte estimates with confidence intervals for the specified ref_indiv.

mtr_plot_fun

Marginal Treatment Effect (MTE) and Responses (MTR) plots

Description

Plot the MTR and MTE estimated curves with their confidence intervals.

Usage

```
mtr_plot_fun(dat_plot, common_supp)
mte_plot_fun(dat_plot, common_supp)
```

Arguments

dat_plot Data frame with the estimated MTE and MTR values and their confidence inter-

vals. Must contain specific variables: Phat, mtr0, mtr1, mtr0_lwr, mtr1_lwr,

mtr0_upr, mtr1_upr, mte, mte_lwr, mte_upr.

Vector of two values indicating the common support of the plot. Default is the common_supp

full support 0,1.

conf_band Indicates whether to plot the confidence intervals. Default is "TRUE".

colMTE, colD0, colD1

Color of the MTE, MTR0 and MTR1 curves.

roydata 5

Details

Attention: by default in semiivreg the confidence intervals are computed analytically, and include an error because the first stage propensity score. This is corrected in semiivreg_boot by bootstrapping the entire estimation to obtain the confidence intervals.

roydata

Generalized Roy Data with Heterogenous Treatment Effects

Description

A data frame of 100,000 observations drawn from a simulated Roy model with heterogenous treatment effects using simul_data().

Usage

```
data(roydata)
```

Format

The data contains the following information which would be observed in a standard dataset:

- y The observed outcome.
- d The treatment.
- w0, w1 The semi-IVs entering only D=0 and D=1.

Xbinary, Xcontinuous Two covariates, one binary and one continuous.

It also reports the typically unobserved potential outcomes and shocks:

- y0, y1 The unobserved potential outcomes.
- **P** The unobserved true treatment probability.

latent, V, Ud, U0, U1 The unobserved shocks V. Ud is the normalized V ranks. U0 and U1 are the outcome shocks. latent gives the latent utility term in the selection equation.

The data was generated using the following R code:

```
N=100000; set.seed(1234)
model_type = "heterogenous"
param_error = c(1, 1, 0.6, 0.5)
param_Z = c(0, 0, 0, 0, 1.5, 1.5, 0.9)
param_p = c(0, -0.7, 0.7, 0, 0, 0)
param_y0 = c(3.2, 0.8, 0, 0)
param_y1 = c(3.2+0.4, 0.5, 0, 0)
param_genX = c(0.4, 0, 2)

roydata = simul_data(N, model_type, param_y0, param_y1, param_p, param_Z, param_genX, param_error)
```

6 roydata2

roydata2

Generalized Roy Data with Homogenous Treatment Effects

Description

A data frame of 100,000 observations drawn from a simulated Roy model with homogenous treatment effects using simul_data().

Usage

```
data(roydata2)
```

Format

The data contains the following information which would be observed in a standard dataset:

- y The observed outcome.
- **d** The treatment.

w0, w1 The semi-IVs entering only D=0 and D=1.

Xbinary, Xcontinuous Two covariates, one binary and one continuous.

It also reports the typically unobserved potential outcomes and shocks:

- y0, y1 The unobserved potential outcomes.
- **P** The unobserved true treatment probability.

latent, V, Ud, U0, U1 The unobserved shocks V. Ud is the normalized V ranks. U0 and U1 are the outcome shocks. latent gives the latent utility term in the selection equation.

The data was generated using the following R code:

```
N = 100000; set.seed(1234)
model_type = "homogenous"
param_error = c(1, 1.5, -0.6)
param_Z = c(0, 0, 0, 0, 1.5, 1.5, 0.9)
param_p = c(0, -0.5, 0.5, 0, 0, 0)
param_y0 = c(3.2, 0.8, 0, 0)
param_y1 = c(3.2+0.4, 0.5, 0, 0)
param_genX = c(0.4, 0, 2)

roydata2 = simul_data(N, model_type, param_y0, param_y1, param_p, param_Z, param_genX, param_error)
```

semiivreg

Semi-IV Regression Function

Description

Semi-IV regression function from Bruneel-Zupanc (2024). Syntax inspired from ivreg. Returns MTE and MTR curves with confidence intervals. The estimation is almost *instantaneous* (a few seconds at most).

By default, return analytic standard errors not accounting for the fact that the propensity score is estimated in a first stage in semiivreg. Use semiivreg_boot to obtain 'correct' bootstrapped confidence intervals (takes a bit longer).

Usage

Arguments

formula

Formula of the regression, of the form outcome ~ treatment | semi-iv0 | semi-iv1 | commoncovariates.

The treatment variable should be binary (0, 1).

covariates with an effect that differs on D=1 and D=0 should be included in each semi-iv0 and semi-iv1.

with est_method = "locpoly": cannot restrict covariates to have common effects (not implemented), so commoncovariates will just be estimated as having generally a different effect on Y0 and Y1.

data

Dataframe containing the data.

propensity_formula

Formula for the 1st stage. If nothing specified, just runs a probit of d ~ semi-iv0 + semi-iv1 + covariates (removing the redundant variables).

propensity_data

Data used to compute the 1st stage; ignore by default set to NULL and = data. Mainly useful for internal bootstrap function is the first stage formula is different from the default one.

ref_indiv

Specify the reference individual (in terms of covariates) at which we will evaluate the function.

by default takes the average value for the numerical covariates, and the reference level for factors.

firststage_model

By default, the first stage is a probit model. Can specify another model (e.g., "logit").

est_method

Estimation method: default is "locpoly" for Robinson (1988) double residual regression for partially linear model. Other options include "sieve" to specify flexibly the control function as a polynomial with pol_degree_sieve, and "homogenous" which is a sieve where we also impose homogenous treatment effect.

se_type

Type of standard errors if sieve/homogenous estimation. By default = "HC1". Can otherwise me any of the possibilities of vcovHC in the sandwich package. Also possible to have se_type="nonrobust" for the non-robust (lm default).

bw0, bw1

Bandwidth of the first residual regressions of Wd and X on Phat. Need to be specified in the order of the covariates as specified in the model. Be very careful with factors. Default NULL and computed using the specified bw_method.

bw_y0, bw_y1

Bandwidth of the second regression of Y (net of the effects of the covariates) on Phat. Default NULL and computed using the specified bw_method.

bw_method

Method to compute the bandwidth of the local polynomial regressions. Default is simple "rule-of-thumb" method. Alternatives include "cv" for cross-validation and "plug-in" for plug-in bw (Fan and Gijbels, 1996). Note that the "cv" and "plug-in" are computed on a randomly drawn subsample of at most 5000 observations. For replicability, set a seed before running semiivreg. Plug-in bandwidth is computed only with a degree that is odd.

pol_degree_locpoly1

Degree of the local polynomial regression of the covariates on Phat. Default is 1 as recommended by Fan and Gijbels (1996) because we want to estimate the regular function.

pol_degree_locpoly2

Degree of the local polynomial regression of Y (net of the effects of the covariates) on Phat. Default is 2 as recommended by Fan and Gijbels (1996) because we want to estimate the derivative function.

pol_degree_sieve

Degree of the polynomial transformation for the control function.

conf_level

Confidence level for the confidence intervals.

common_supp_trim

Vector of two values indicating the set of propensity scores at which we will evaluate the function.

Default is the full support [0, 1]. But can be trimmed manually.

trimming_value Can either be a vector c(0.05, 0.95) indicating the quantile of the propensity score above which and below which we keep the observations for both D=0 and

> Can also be a single value, in which case symmetric trimming up and down. Inserting a trimming_value generates automatic_trim = TRUE automatically.

automatic_trim If TRUE, the estimation of the second stage is done on the common_support

plotting TRUE if wants to plot at the end of the function, FALSE otherwise.

Nboot Number of bootstrap samples.

CI_method "delta" for delta method, "curve" for bootstrap the MTE curves directly. With

est_method = "locpoly", only "curve" method is possible.

semiiv Object returns from a semiivreg estimation.

newdata New data for which to predict the MTE and MTR.

seq_v Sequence of v at which to predict the MTE and MTR. By default: NULL fits the

default interval of the original semiivreg (equally space grid of proba, with step

size of 0.001 on the common support).

Value

A list with the following elements:

\$data Returns data of output estimation used to plot the MTE and MTR. In details:

\$RES Dataframe with the estimated MTE and MTR values (and their confidence intervals if est_method="sieve" or "homogenous") for a sequence of unobservable resistance to treatment in the identifiable common support.

\$data Original data used for the estimation where we added the propensity score estimated, named Phat, and where we made the transformation of the eventual factor variables as dummies.

\$ref_indiv Reference individual(s) at which we evaluate the MTE and MTR.

\$Xdat Set of covariates (this output is used for the bootstrap).

\$deltaX Returns the estimated effects of the covariates and semi-IVs (without intercept) for the specified reference individuals.

\$estimate Returns the estimation of:

\$est, or \$est0 and \$est1 If est_method = "locpoly", est0 and est1 returns the second stage estimates of the effect of the covariates and semi-IVs on their respective potential outcomes. Coming out of the double residual regression à la Robinson (1988),
running a no-intercept OLS of the residuals Y-E(YdIP) on the residuals of every semiIVs, Wd-E(WdIP), and covariates, X-E(XIP).

\$mtr0, \$mtr1 and \$mte If est_method = "sieve" or "homogenous", returns the functional
form estimated for both MTR and MTE.

 $k_v = k_v = k_v$

\$propensity First stage estimate of the propensity score.

 $\text{sest_kappa If est_method} = \text{"sieve" or "homogenous"}, this returns the estimated model for E(Y|D=d, X, Wd, P). From this, we extract Kappad(P) = E(Ud | D=d, P=p) from which we compute the kd(v) and mtrd(v, x, wd) functions.$

 α avg_MTE Average of the MTE over the identified common support. If full common support, it is an estimate of the ATE(x, w0, w1). If est_method="homogenous", the MTE is constant so it also gives the ATE(x, w0, w1).

\$bw Returns the bandwidth used (or estimated via bw_method) in the Robinson double residual regression.

bw0 and bw1 are the bandwidths of the first residual regressions of Yd, Wd and X on Phat. bw_y0 and bw_y1 are the bandwidths of the second regression of Y (net of the effects of the covariates) on Phat. These are the one that matters for the smoothness of the MTE and MTR estimates.

\$plot Returns separately the following plot objects: supp (support), mtr, mte.

\$supp Returns the common support of the propensity score Phat between the two treatment group.

\$call Returns the call of the function and the covariates and semi-IVs used.

The estimated model

semiivreg estimates the marginal treatment effect (MTE) and marginal treatment response (MTR) of a binary treatment variable using semi-IVs, W0 and W1. As with standard IVs (see Andresen, 2018), we estimate a semi-parametric partially linear model, as described in Bruneel-Zupanc (2024). For more details on the model and estimation procedure, see the vignette vignette("semiIVreg", package = "semiIVreg"), also available online here. For more details on the use of the semiivreg function, see also the vignettes vignette("semiIVreg_heterogenousTE", package = "semiIVreg") and vignette("semiIVreg_homogenousTE", package = "semiIVreg"). For more details about causal inference with semi-IVs in general, see Bruneel-Zupanc (2024).

Caution about the Estimated Standard errors

By default, est_method="locpoly" returns no standard errors.

If est_method="sieve" or est_method="homogenous", it returns **analytic standard errors**: but these are wrong because they do not account for the fact that the propensity score is estimated. In any case, we recommend to use semiivreg_boot to obtain 'correct' bootstrapped confidence intervals. Implemented separately because the bootstrap takes more time, while the baseline semiivreg function is almost instantaneous.

Author(s)

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References

Bruneel-Zupanc, C. (2024). Don't (fully) exclude me, it's not necessary! Identification with semi-IVs. arXiv preprint arXiv:2303.12667.

For empirical applications of the estimation of Marginal Treatment Effects with standard IVs, see for example:

Carneiro, P., Heckman, J. J., & Vytlacil, E. J. (2011). Estimating marginal returns to education. American Economic Review, 101(6), 2754-2781.

Brinch, C. N., Mogstad, M., & Wiswall, M. (2017). Beyond LATE with a discrete instrument. Journal of Political Economy, 125(4), 985-1039.

In particular, see Andresen, M. E. (2018). Exploring marginal treatment effects: Flexible estimation using Stata. The Stata Journal, 18(1), 118-158.

For double residual estimation of partially Linear models, see Robinson, P. M. (1988). Root-N-consistent semiparametric regression. Econometrica: Journal of the Econometric Society, 931-954.

For local polynomial regressions choice of degree: Fan, J., & Gijbels, I. (1996). Local polynomial modelling and its applications.

simul_data 11

Examples

```
# Load data:
data(roydata)

# Run the semi-IV regression
semiiv = semiivreg(y~d|w0|w1, data=roydata)
semiiv = semiivreg(y~d|w0|w1|Xbinary + Xcontinuous, data=roydata) # with covariates
semiiv = semiivreg(y~d|w0+Xbinary|w1+Xbinary|Xcontinuous, data=roydata)
# Xbinary has different effect on Y0 and Y1, Xcontinuous has the same.
semiiv = semiivreg(y~d|w0|w1, data=roydata, propensity_formula = d~w0+w1+w0:w1)
# if want to specify another first stage
semiiv$plot$mtr # if want to plot mtr_plot
```

simul_data

Simulate data from the Generalized Roy Model with semi-IVs

Description

This function simulates data from the Generalized Roy Model with semi-IVs, following the simulation specified in Bruneel-Zupanc (2024).

For more details about the exact specification, see the vignettes here or by running vignette("simul_data", package = "semiIVreg").

Usage

Arguments

N	Number of observations
${\sf model_type}$	Type of model: "heterogenous" or "homogenous"
param_y0	Parameters for $Y0 = (delta0, beta0X1, beta0X2)$ i.e., intercept, effects on $w0$, X_1 , X_2 on $Y0$.
param_y1	Parameters for Y1: (delta1, beta1, beta1X1, beta1X2). i.e., intercept, effects w1, X1, X2 on Y1.
param_p	Parameters for the selection: (alpha, alpha0, alpha1, alpha2, alphaX1, alphaX2) i.e., intercept and effects of w0, w1, w0w1, Xbinary, Xcontinuous on the latent utility.
param_Z	Parameters for the simulation of the semi-IVs: mean of W0 when X1=0, of W1 when X1=0, of W0 when X1=1, of W1 when X1=1; then variance of W0, W1, and covariance of W0 and W1.
param_genX	Parameters for the covariates: p_X1, mu_X2, sigma_X2.
param_error	Parameters for the error terms: depends on model_type: if heterogenous: variance of U0, U1, covariance of U0 and U1, variance of the cost (which has mean 0). if homogenous: variance of U, variance of V, covariance of U and V.

12 simul_data

Details

This function simulates data from the Generalized Roy Model with semi-IVs, following the simulation specified in Bruneel-Zupanc (2024).

For more details about the exact specification, see the vignette here or by running vignette ("simul_data", package = "semilvreg"). One can use it to simulate general model with heterogenous treatment effects, but also restricted ones with homogenous treatment effects.

simul_data was used to simulate the dataset available with this package, data(roydata) to obtain the simulated model with heterogenous treatment effect, and data(roydata2) to obtain the simulated model with homogenous treatment effect.

Value

A data frame with the following columns:

- y The observed outcome.
- d The treatment.

w0, w1 The semi-IVs entering only D=0 and D=1.

Xbinary, Xcontinuous Two covariates, one binary and one continuous.

y0, y1 The unobserved potential outcomes.

P The unobserved true treatment probability.

latent, V, Ud, U0, U1 The unobserved shocks V. Ud is the normalized V ranks. U0 and U1 are the outcome shocks. latent gives the latent utility term in the selection equation.

References

Bruneel-Zupanc, C. (2023). Don't (fully) exclude me, it's not necessary! Identification with semi-IVs. arXiv preprint arXiv:2303.12667.

Andresen, M. E. (2018). Exploring marginal treatment effects: Flexible estimation using Stata. The Stata Journal, 18(1), 118-158.

Heckman, J. J., Urzua, S., & Vytlacil, E. (2006). Understanding instrumental variables in models with essential heterogeneity. The Review of Economics and Statistics, 88(3), 389-432.

Heckman, J. J., & Vytlacil, E. J. (2007). Econometric evaluation of social programs, part II: Using the marginal treatment effect to organize alternative econometric estimators to evaluate social programs, and to forecast their effects in new environments. Handbook of econometrics, 6, 4875-5143.

Examples

```
N = 10000; set.seed(12345)
# Example 1: Heterogenous Treatment Effects.
model_type = "heterogenous"
param_error = c(1, 1, 0.6, 0.5) # var_u0, var_u1, cov_u0u1, var_cost
param_Z = c(0, 0, 0, 0, 1.5, 1.5, 0.9)
# meanW0 Xbinary0, meanW1 Xbinary0, meanW0 Xbinary1, meanW1 Xbinary1, varW0, varW1, covW0W1
param_p = c(0, -0.7, 0.7, 0, 0, 0) # constant, W0, W1, W0xW1, Xbinary, Xcontinuous
param_y0 = c(3.2, 0.8, 0, 0) # intercept, W0, Xbinary, Xcontinuous;
param_y1 = c(3.2+0.4, 0.5, 0, 0) # the +0.4 = ATE; W1, Xbinary, Xcontinuous;
param_genX = c(0.4, 0, 2)
data = simul_data(N, model_type, param_y0, param_y1, param_p, param_Z, param_genX, param_error)
```

supp_plot_fun 13

```
# Example 2: Homogenous Treatment Effects (constant MTE)
model_type = "homogenous"
param_error = c(1, 1.5, -0.6) # var_u, var_v, cov_uv
param_Z = c(0, 0, 0, 0, 1.5, 1.5, 0.9)
param_p = c(0, -0.5, 0.5, 0, 0, 0) # the constant <=> mean_V
param_y0 = c(3.2, 0.8, 0, 0)
param_y1 = c(3.2+0.4, 0.5, 0, 0)
param_genX = c(0.4, 0, 2)

data1 = simul_data(N, model_type, param_y0, param_y1, param_p, param_Z, param_genX, param_error)

# Set the effects of w1 or w0 on its outcome to zero if want a valid IV, e.g.,
# param_y1 = c(3.2+0.4, 0, 0, 0) # w1 is a valid IV
# or: param_y0 = c(3.2, 0, 0, 0) # w0 is a valid IV
```

supp_plot_fun

Propensity score support plot

Description

Returns the support plot by treatment status of the propensity score Phat included in a dataset.

Usage

```
supp_plot_fun(data, common_supp)
```

Arguments

data Dataframe containing the treatment status, under a factor variable Treatment

and the propensity score under the name Phat.

common_supp Vector of two values indicating the common support of the plot. Default is the

full support 0,1.

colMTE, colD0, colD1

Color of the MTE, MTR0 and MTR1 curves.

Examples

```
# Plot the true common support (with true - unobserved - propensity score)
# Using simulated data.
data(roydata); data=roydata;

# Syntax adjustment to use the function
data$Treatment = factor(data$d)
data$Phat = data$P # P is unobserved, we only know it because simulation here

#common_supp can be determined by looking at the plot - it's not necessary, just a graphical option
supp_P0 = c(min(data$Phat[which(data$d == 0)]), max(data$Phat[which(data$d == 0)]))
supp_P1 = c(min(data$Phat[which(data$d == 1)]), max(data$Phat[which(data$d == 1)]))
common_supp = c(max(supp_P0[1], supp_P1[1]), min(supp_P0[2], supp_P1[2]))

supp_plot = supp_plot_fun(data, common_supp); supp_plot
```

Index

```
* datasets
     roydata, 5
     roydata2,6
0, 1, 4, 13
\verb|construct_data|, 2
create_ref_indiv (construct_data), 2
Kappa_fun, 2
Kappa_homogenous_fun (Kappa_fun), 2
kdu_transform_fun (Kappa_fun), 2
{\tt ku\_transform\_homogenous\_fun}
         (Kappa_fun), 2
lpoly_regress (mtr_est_poly), 3
mte_plot_fun (mtr_plot_fun), 4
mtr_coeff (mtr_est_poly), 3
\mathsf{mtr}_{-}\mathsf{est}\,(\mathsf{mtr}_{-}\mathsf{est}_{-}\mathsf{poly}),\,3
mtr_est_poly, 3
mtr_fun_poly (mtr_est_poly), 3
mtr_plot_fun, 4
mtr_predict_sieve (mtr_est_poly), 3
roydata, 5
roydata2, 6
semiiv_predict (semiivreg), 7
semiivreg, 7
semiivreg_boot (semiivreg), 7
simul_data, 11
simul_data(), 5, 6
\verb"supp_plot_fun", 13
transform_factor (construct_data), 2
```