

# Package ‘cif’

October 12, 2022

**Title** Cointegrated ICU Forecasting

**Description** Set of forecasting tools to predict ICU beds using a Vector Error Correction model with a single cointegrating vector. Method described in Berta, P. Lovaglio, P.G. Paruolo, P. Verzillo, S., 2020. ``Real Time Forecasting of Covid-19 Intensive Care Units demand'' Health, Econometrics and Data Group (HEDG) Working Papers 20/16, HEDG, Department of Economics, University of York, <<https://www.york.ac.uk/media/economics/documents/hedg/workingpapers/2020/2016.pdf>>.

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**crossing**                   *computes at which observation a vector y crosses ref for the first time*

## Description

Computes at which observation vector yfor crosses yref for the first time if it is not crossed, then 0 is returned

## Usage

```
crossing(yfor, ref = 0)
```

## Arguments

|      |                                      |
|------|--------------------------------------|
| yfor | yfor is either a vector and a matrix |
| ref  | ref is the reference value           |

## Value

whensign, a matrix with observation number at which there is crossing

## Author(s)

P. Berta, P. Paruolo, S. Verzillo, PG. Lovaglio

**References**

Berta et al. 2020

---

diffe

*appends NA at beginning of diff(y)*

---

**Description**

appends NA at beginning of diff(y) and creates column names accordingly when y is either a vector and a matrix

**Usage**

diffe(y)

**Arguments**

y                   either a vector and a matrix

**Value**

Dy contains the differences of y, with NA appended at the start

**Author(s)**

P. Paruolo

**References**

Berta et al. 2020

---

ec.companion

*computes companion matrix of the VAR*

---

**Description**

builds the companion matrix of the VAR

**Usage**

ec.companion(est, p = 2, nlag = 4)

**Arguments**

est               is the output of ec.EG1.R

p               (positive integer) is the dimension of the VAR

nlag              (positive integer) is the number of lags in the VAR

**Value**

`mA` companion matrix

**Author(s)**

P. Berta, P. Paruolo, S. Verzillo, PG. Lovaglio

**References**

Berta et al. 2020

---

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| ec.datadet1 | <i>prepares deterministics <math>D^{\wedge}(I)</math></i> |
|-------------|---|

---

**Description**

Prepares deterministic data

**Usage**

```
ec.datadet1(n, befpn, breaks)
```

**Arguments**

- n               is the number of obs in available data
- befpn           is a vector with (begtrim,endtrim,nforecast,npred,nhstar)
- breaks          is a vector of integers where the trend breaks should be

**Value**

`matdet1` a matrix with the following columns (`l_vec`, `t_vec`) and (`n+npred`) rows

**Author(s)**

P. Berta, P. Paruolo, S. Verzillo, PG. Lovaglio

**References**

Berta et al. 2020

---

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <code>ec.datadet2</code> | <i>prepares deterministics <math>D^{\wedge}(2)</math></i> |
|--------------------------|---|

---

### Description

Prepares deterministic dummies for de-meanned daily seasonal and difference point dummies

### Usage

```
ec.datadet2(det1, booseas = NA, pntdates = NA)
```

### Arguments

- det1            is the det term with constant and trend created by `ec.datadet1.R`
- booseas        is a boolean for daily seasonal dummies
- pntdates       is a vector of integers where the point dummies should be

### Value

`det2mat` a matrix with the following columns (`daily_seas`, `point_dummies`) and `n+npred` rows

### Author(s)

P. Berta, P. Paruolo, S. Verzillo, PG. Lovaglio

### References

Berta et al. 2020

---

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <code>ec.datalag</code> | <i>prepares <math>Dy_{-1} Dy_{-1} \dots Dy_{-nlag-1}</math> for estimation</i> |
|-------------------------|--|

---

### Description

Prepares data for estimation

### Usage

```
ec.datalag(y, nlag = 4)
```

### Arguments

- y                is the data matrix of variables in the VAR
- nlag            is the number of lags in the VAR (min = 2)

**Value**

ymat contains the following columns Dy y\_1 Dy\_1 ... Dy\_nlag-1

**Author(s)**

P. Berta, P. Paruolo, S. Verzillo, P.G. Lovaglio

**References**

Berta et al. 2020

ec.EG1

*estimates the VECM with the 2-stage procedure of Engle & Granger*

**Description**

Estimates the EC with EG. Cointegration rank fixed at 1

**Usage**

```
ec.EG1(det1, det2, ymat, npl, befpn, ndet, drop1 = NA, drop2 = NA)
```

**Arguments**

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| det1  | deterministic matrix of constant(s) and trend(s)     |
| det2  | deterministic matrix of seasonals and point dummies  |
| ymat  | matrix of lags                                       |
| npl   | n, p, nlag   |
| befpn | begtrim, endtrim, nforecast, npred                   |
| ndet  | order of the model d(i,j)                            |
| drop1 | selection of det1 regressors in first stage to drop  |
| drop2 | selection of det1 regressors in second stage to drop |

**Value**

out a list with estimates

**Author(s)**

P. Berta, P. Paruolo, S. Verzillo, P.G. Lovaglio

**References**

Berta et al. 2020

---

**ec.gfd***plots forecasts of difference with confidence bars*

---

**Description**

plots forecasts of difference with confidence bars

**Usage**

```
ec.gfd(obj, whichseries = 1, nsigma = 3, xvec, yvec, cal, lar = 0.025, ...)
```

**Arguments**

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| obj         | output of ec.main                               |
| whichseries | series number                                   |
| nsigma      | how many standard deviations in confidence bars |
| xvec        | vector of dates to place on x axis              |
| yvec        | vector of exp(y) values to display on y axis    |
| cal         | calendar vector                                 |
| lar         | length of arrows in error bars                  |
| ...         | other plot parameters                           |

**Value**

does not return output, just creates a graph

**Author(s)**

P. Paruolo,

---

---

**ec.gfl***plots level forecasts with confidence bars*

---

**Description**

plots level forecasts with confidence bars

**Usage**

```
ec.gfl(obj, whichseries = 1, nsigma = 3, xvec, yvec, cal, lar = 0.025, ...)
```

**Arguments**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <code>obj</code>         | output of <code>ec.main</code>                  |
| <code>whichseries</code> | series number                                   |
| <code>nsigma</code>      | how many standard deviations in confidence bars |
| <code>xvec</code>        | vector of dates to place on x axis              |
| <code>yvec</code>        | vector of $\exp(y)$ values to display on y axis |
| <code>cal</code>         | calendar vector                                 |
| <code>lar</code>         | length of arrows in error bars                  |
| <code>...</code>         | other plot parameters                           |

**Value**

does not return output, just creates a graph

**Author(s)**

P. Paruolo

`ec.gfld`

*ec.gfld plots forecasts of levels and difference with confidence bars*

**Description**

plots forecasts of levels and difference with confidence bars

**Usage**

```
ec.gfld(
  obj,
  whichseries = 1,
  nsigma = 3,
  jointboo = TRUE,
  epsboo = TRUE,
  filename = "whatever",
  xvec,
  yvec,
  cal,
  lar = 0.025,
  ...
)
```

**Arguments**

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| obj         | output of ec.main                               |
| whichseries | series number                                   |
| nsigma      | how many standard deviations in confidence bars |
| jointboo    | boolean: TRUE if 1x2 graph, FALSE otherwise     |
| epsboo      | boolean: TRUE eps graph, FALSE pdf graph        |
| filename    | string, name of the file (no extension)         |
| xvec        | vector of dates to place on x axis              |
| yvec        | vector of exp(y) values to display on y axis    |
| cal         | calendar vector                                 |
| lar         | length of arrows in error bars                  |
| ...         | other plot parameters                           |

**Value**

does not return output, just creates a double graph

**Author(s)**

P. Paruolo

---

ec.ifp

*Computes Indices of Forecast Performance*

---

**Description**

indices of forecast performance

**Usage**

```
ec.ifp(afdlin, rwsigma, rwabsmean, kval = 1.959964)
```

**Arguments**

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| afdlin    | actual + forecast values + fcse                  |
| rwsigma   | standard deviation of Random Walk in sample      |
| rwabsmean | mean absolute deviation of Random Walk in sample |
| kval      | how many se to use, default kval = 1.959964      |

**Value**

list of indices of forecast performance 1: index for model forecast 0: index for Random Walk forecast

**Author(s)**

P. Berta, P. Paruolo, S. Verzillo, PG. Lovaglio

**References**

Berta et al. 2020

ec.main

*Forecast with Vector Error Correction Model*

**Description**

This function estimate VECM model. Selects begtrim and entrim period, define lag and run.

**Usage**

```
ec.main(
  y,
  ndet = c(2, 1),
  nlag,
  befpn,
  breaks = NA,
  booseas = NA,
  pntdates = NA,
  drop1 = NA,
  drop2 = NA,
  cal,
  kval = 1.959964
)
```

**Arguments**

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| y        | matrix with time across rows and variables in columns   |
| ndet     | vector of lenght 3, (i,j,q): i for EG1-st stage, j for EG-2nd stage, q number of breaks i,j=0 no deterministics i,j=1 constant i,j=2 constant and trend |
| nlag     | number of lags in the VAR   |
| befpn    | begtrim, endtrim, nforecast, npred  |
| breaks   | vector with observation numbers for T1,T2,...   |
| booseas  | boolean =T if seasonal dummies, =F otherwise  |
| pntdates | vector with observation numbers for point dummies   |
| drop1    | selection of det1 regressors in first stage to drop   |
| drop2    | selection of det1 regressors in second stage to drop  |
| cal      | calendar for the y matrix   |
| kval     | how many se to use, default kval=1.959964   |

**Value**

results Output contains the a set of estimates and forecasting results.

**Author(s)**

P. Berta, P. Paruolo, S. Verzillo, PG. Lovaglio

**References**

Berta et al. 2020

---

ec.plotfor                    *plots forecasts*

---

**Description**

plot actual and forecast intervals

**Usage**

```
ec.plotfor(  
  y,  
  x = NA,  
  lcolact = NA,  
  lcolfor = NA,  
  ltypefor = NA,  
  polycol = NA,  
  myylim = NA,  
  ...  
)
```

**Arguments**

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| y        | actual values and forecasts (point forecast, lower bound, upper bound)  |
| x        | time calendar   |
| lcolact  | color actual (scalar)   |
| lcolfor  | color forecasts   |
| ltypefor | type forecasts  |
| polycol  | color polygons if one wishes to have different lcolfor,ltypefor,polycol by week<br>> make linecol, linetype, polycol vectors, indexed by week |
| myylim   | vector with min and max for y axis  |
| ...      | other plot parameters   |

**Value**

does not return output, just creates a graph

**Author(s)**

P. Paruolo

**References**

Berta et al. 2020

---

**ec.plotroots**

*Companion matrix of the VAR*

---

**Description**

plots roots and the unit circle

**Usage**

```
ec.plotroots(roots)
```

**Arguments**

**roots** are the roots of the companion matrix, see *ec.companion.R*

**Value**

does not return output, just creates a graph

**Author(s)**

P. Berta, P. Paruolo, S. Verzillo, PG. Lovaglio

**References**

Berta et al. 2020

---

ec.predict*produces predictions for the VECM via its VAR companion form*

---

## Description

Predicts both in-sample (1 step ahead) and out-of-sample (1 step ahead and dynamic forecasts)

## Usage

```
ec.predict(est, det1, det2, ymat, npl, befpn, ndet, cal, kval = 1.959964)
```

## Arguments

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| est   | output from estimation by ec.EG1.R                  |
| det1  | deterministic matrix of constant(s) and trend(s)    |
| det2  | deterministic matrix of seasonals and point dummies |
| ymat  | matrix of lags                                      |
| npl   | n, p, nlag  |
| befpn | begtrim, endtrim, nforecast, npred, nhstar          |
| ndet  | order of the model d(i,j)                           |
| cal   | calendar, should match the number of rows in ymat   |
| kval  | how many se to use, default kval= 1.959964          |

## Value

list with contains: afl (actual and 1 step ahead fitted levels) afd (actual and 1 step ahead fitted differences) fit (1 step ahead fit) dynpred (dynamic predictions) mAt mB (companion matrix and selection of it) Sigmah (Sigmah for dyn forecasts) forstartdate (starting date for dyn forecast) outcal (dates for the prediction) h1star (h1star) cspred (table with change in sign of pred for Dx\_1) indexfa (indices of forecast accuracy)

## Author(s)

P. Berta, P. Paruolo, S. Verzillo, PG. Lovaglio

## References

Berta et al. 2020

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| ec.searchbreaks | <i>search for breaks dates for given q (=1,2,3,4)</i> |
|-----------------|---|

### Description

Search for location of break points in 1st-stage of Engle-Granger

### Usage

```
ec.searchbreaks(qse, ymat, npl, befpn, ndet, gfillmin = 10, fixed = NA)
```

### Arguments

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| qse      | q: number of (additional) breaks, s: start date for search, e: end date for search |
| ymat     | matrix of lags   |
| npl      | n, p, nlag   |
| befpn    | begtrim, endtrim, nforecast, npred   |
| ndet     | order of the model d(i,j)  |
| gfillmin | gfill value  |
| fixed    | vector of breaks to be taken as fixed (not between s=start and e=end)              |

### Value

out list with break dates and values of regression average sum of squares

### Author(s)

P. Paruolo

### References

Berta et al. 2020

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| iculomb | <i>Data from Italian Civil Protection</i> |
|---------|---|

### Description

Data from Italian Civil Protection

### Usage

```
data(iculomb)
```

**Format**

A dataset including 324 obs and 24 columns.

**Source**

<https://github.com/pcm-dpc/COVID-19/>

**References**

Italian Civil Protection

**Examples**

```
data(iculomb)
```

---

lagn

*lag j of matrix or vector y*

---

**Description**

lagn(y,j,fill=NA) produces lag j of matrix or vector y, with fill in missing j cells REM: alternative to "lead-lag" dplyr which applies to vector y

**Usage**

```
lagn(y, j, fill = NA)
```

**Arguments**

|      |  |
|------|--|
| y    | column vector or matrix  |
| j    | number of lags   |
| fill | value to be used to fill the missing values at the beginning, default = NA |

**Value**

y lagged j cells, with fill in the missing j positions

**Author(s)**

P. Berta, P. Paruolo, S. Verzillo, PG. Lovaglio

**References**

Berta et al. 2020

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| listsize | <i>listsize number of terms in the search for 1,2,3,4 number of breaks</i> |
|----------|--|

**Description**

computes length-4 vector with number of terms in the search for 1,2,3,4 number of breaks

**Usage**

```
listsize(myT, gfill, start)
```

**Arguments**

|       |                       |
|-------|-----------------------|
| myT   | sample size           |
| gfill | number of gap periods |
| start | beginning             |

**Value**

a vector of 4 elements, with the number of candidate models for 1,2,3,4 breaks

**Author(s)**

P. Paruolo

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| mls | <i>Multivariate Least-Squares regression</i> |
|-----|--|

**Description**

Multivariate Least-Squares regression  $y = x \beta + u$

**Usage**

```
mls(y, x, df_flag = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| y       | left hand side data matrix (one or more columns)               |
| x       | right hand side data matrix (one or more columns)              |
| df_flag | flag = TRUE for degrees of freedom correction for the variance |

**Value**

out regression coefficients and related statistics

**Author(s)**

P. Berta, P. Paruolo, S. Verzillo, PG. Lovaglio

**References**

Berta et al. 2020

---

summary.cif                    *summary function for cif*

---

**Description**

Summary function for presize

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'cif'  
summary(object, ..., digits = 4)
```

**Arguments**

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| object | is the name of the cif object created by cif   |
| ...    | other parameters   |
| digits | integer indicating the number of decimal places (round) or significant digits (signif) to be used. |

**Value**

returns summary output from model estimation and forecasting

**Author(s)**

P. Berta, P. Paruolo, S. Verzillo, PG. Lovaglio

**References**

Berta et al. 2020

---

**Wald.mls**

---

*Wald test for Multivariate Least-Squares regression*

---

### Description

Wald test for multivariate Least-Squares regression

### Usage

```
Wald.mls(mlsresults)
```

### Arguments

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| mlsresults | output of mls, mlsresults<-mls(y, x, df_flag) |
|------------|---|

### Value

wald table of Wald tests on significance of single regressors and pvalues based on chi square distribution

### Author(s)

P. Paruolo

### References

Berta et al. 2020

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