

# Package ‘BigVAR’

May 6, 2026

**Type** Package

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

**Version** 1.1.5

**Maintainer** Will Nicholson <wbn8@cornell.edu>

**Date** 2026-03-29

**Description** Estimates VAR and VARX models with Structured Penalties.

**Depends** R (>= 3.5.0), methods, lattice

**Imports** MASS, zoo, Rcpp, stats, utils, grDevices, graphics, abind

**License** GPL (>= 2)

**LazyLoad** yes

**LinkingTo** Rcpp, RcppArmadillo, RcppEigen

**URL** <https://github.com/wbnicholson/BigVAR>

**RoxygenNote** 7.1.2

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Suggests** knitr, rmarkdown, gridExtra, expm, MCS, quantmod (>= 0.4.28),  
codetools, attempt, xts

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**NeedsCompilation** yes

**Author** Will Nicholson [cre, aut],  
David Matteson [aut],  
Jacob Bien [aut]

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2026-03-30 05:40:14 UTC

## Contents

A	2
BigVAR	3
BigVAR-class	4

BigVAR.est	5
BigVAR.fit	6
BigVAR.intermediate	8
BigVAR.results	9
coef	11
constructModel	11
CPI	14
cv.BigVAR	15
FFR	16
GDP	16
M1	16
MultVarSim	17
plot	18
plot.BigVAR	18
predict	19
PredictVARX	20
show	20
show.BigVAR	21
SparsityPlot.BigVAR.results	22
VarptoVar1MC	22
VARXFit	23
VARXForecastEval	24
VARXLagCons	26
Y	27
Y1	27

## Index 28

A

*Generator for Simulated Multivariate Time Series*

### Description

Coefficient matrix for a stationary simulated multivariate time series

### Details

Example generator matrix adapted from Table 3.2 of Gredenhoff and Karlsson (1997)

### Author(s)

Will Nicholson

### References

Gredenhoff, Mikael, and Sune Karlsson. "Lag-length selection in VAR-models using equal and unequal lag-length procedures." *Computational Statistics* 14.2 (1999): 171-187.

## Description

BigVAR implements the HLAG and VARX-L frameworks which allow for the estimation of vector autoregressions and vector autoregressions with exogenous variables using structured convex penalties. This package originated as a 2014 Google "Summer of Code" Project. The development version of this package is hosted on github: <https://github.com/wbnicholson/BigVAR>.

## Details

To use the facilities of this package, starting with an  $T \times k + m$  multivariate time series (in which  $T$  denotes the length of the series,  $k$  the number of endogenous or "model") and run `constructModel` to create an object of class `BigVAR`. `cv.BigVAR` creates an object of class `BigVAR.results`, which chooses an optimal penalty parameter based on minimizing  $h$ -step ahead forecasts on a specified cross-validation period over a grid of values as well as comparisons against AIC, BIC, unconditional mean, and a random walk. There are plot functions for both `BigVAR` (`plot.BigVAR`) and `BigVAR.results` (`plot`) as well as a predict function for `BigVAR.results` (`predict`).

## Author(s)

Will Nicholson <[wbn8@cornell.edu](mailto:wbn8@cornell.edu)>

## References

Lutkepohl "New Introduction to Multivariate Time Series", Banbura, Marta, Domenico Giannone, and Lucrezia Reichlin. 'Large Bayesian vector auto regressions.' Journal of Applied Econometrics 25.1 (2010): 71-92. Breheny P, Huang J (2011). "Coordinate descent algorithms for nonconvex penalized regression, with applications to biological feature selection." Annals of Applied Statistics, 5(1), 232–253. Nicholson, William, I. Wilms, J. Bien, and D. S. Matteson. High dimensional forecasting via interpretable vector autoregression. Journal of Machine Learning Research, 21(166):1–52, 2020. William B. Nicholson, David S. Matteson, Jacob Bien, VARX-L: Structured regularization for large vector autoregressions with exogenous variables, International Journal of Forecasting, Volume 33, Issue 3, 2017, Pages 627-651, William B Nicholson, David S. Matteson, and Jacob Bien (2016), 'BigVAR: Tools for Modeling Sparse High-Dimensional Multivariate Time Series' arxiv:1702.07094

## See Also

`constructModel`, `cv.BigVAR`, `BigVAR.results`, `plot`, `predict`

## Examples

```
# Fit a Basic VAR-L(3,4) on simulated data
data(Y)
T1=floor(nrow(Y)/3)
T2=floor(2*nrow(Y)/3)
```

```

m1=constructModel(Y,p=4,struct="Basic",gran=c(50,10),verbose=FALSE,T1=T1,T2=T2,IC=FALSE)
plot(m1)
results=cv.BigVAR(m1)
plot(results)
predict(results,n.ahead=1)

```

---

BigVAR-class

*BigVAR Object Class*


---

### Description

An object class to be used with `cv.BigVAR`

### Details

To construct an object of class `BigVAR`, use the function [constructModel](#)

### Slots

**Data** a  $T \times k$  multivariate time series  
**model\_data** processed time series and lag matrix  
**lagmax** Maximal lag order for modeled series  
**intercept** Indicator as to whether an intercept should be included  
**Structure** Penalty Structure  
**Relaxed** Indicator for relaxed VAR  
**Granularity** Granularity of penalty grid  
**horizon** Desired Forecast Horizon  
**crossval** Cross-Validation Procedure  
**Minnesota** Minnesota Prior Indicator  
**verbose** Indicator for Verbose output  
**dates** dates extracted from an xts object  
**ic** Indicator for including AIC and BIC benchmarks  
**VARX** VARX Model Specifications  
**VARXI** VARX Indicator  
**T1** Index of time series in which to start cross validation  
**T2** Index of times series in which to start forecast evaluation  
**ONESE** Indicator for 'One Standard Error Heuristic'  
**ownlambdas** Indicator for user-supplied lambdas  
**tf** Indicator for transfer function  
**alpha** Grid of candidate alpha values (applies only to Sparse VARX-L and Elastic Net models)

**recursive** Indicator as to whether recursive multi-step forecasts are used (applies only to multiple horizon VAR models)  
**constvec** vector indicating variables to shrink toward a random walk instead of toward zero (valid only if Minnesota is TRUE)  
**tol** optimization tolerance  
**window.size** size of rolling window. If set to NULL an expanding window will be used.  
**separate\_lambdas** indicator to use separate penalty parameter for each time series (default FALSE)  
**loss** Loss function to select penalty parameter (one of 'L1','L2','Huber').  
**delta** delta parameter for Huber loss (default 2.5)  
**gamma** gamma parameter for SCAD or MCP penalty (default 3)  
**rolling\_oos** True or False: indicator to update the penalty parameter over the evaluation period (default False)  
**linear** indicator for linearly decrementing penalty grid (FALSE is log-linear).  
**refit\_fraction** fraction of least squares refit to incorporate (default is 1).

**See Also**

[constructModel](#)

---

BigVAR.est

*BigVAR Estimation*

---

**Description**

Fit a BigVAR object with a structured penalty (VARX-L or HLAG).

**Usage**

BigVAR.est(object)

**Arguments**

object            BigVAR object created from ConstructModel

**Details**

Fits HLAG or VARX-L model on a BigVAR object. Does not perform cross-validation. This method allows the user to construct their own penalty parameter selection procedure.

**Value**

An array of  $k \times kp \times n$  or  $k \times kp + ms \times n$  coefficient matrices; one for each of the n values of lambda.

**See Also**

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

**Examples**

```
data(Y)
Y=Y[1:100,]
#construct a Basic VAR-L
Model1=constructModel(Y,p=4,struct='Basic',gran=c(50,10))
BigVAR.est(Model1)
```

---

BigVAR.fit

*Simple function to fit BigVAR model with fixed penalty parameter*

---

**Description**

Simple function to fit BigVAR model with fixed penalty parameter

**Usage**

```
BigVAR.fit(
  Y,
  p,
  struct,
  lambda,
  alpha = NULL,
  VARX = list(),
  separate_lambdas = F,
  MN = F,
  C = as.double(NULL),
  intercept = TRUE,
  tf = F,
  tol = 1e-04,
  RVAR = F,
  refit_fraction = 1,
  beta = NULL,
  gamma = 3
)
```

**Arguments**

Y	$T \times k$ multivariate time series or $Y T \times (k + m)$ endogenous and exogenous series, respectively
p	Predetermined maximal lag order (for modeled series)
struct	The choice of penalty structure (see details).
lambda	vector or matrix of penalty parameters.

alpha	grid of candidate parameters for the alpha in the Sparse Lag and Sparse Own/Other VARX-L
VARX	List containing VARX model specifications.
separate_lambdas	indicator for separate penalty parameters for each time series (default FALSE)
MN	Minnesota Prior Indicator
C	vector of coefficients to shrink toward a random walk (if MN is TRUE)
intercept	True or False: option to fit an intercept
tf	transfer function indicator (i.e. VARX in which $p=0$ & $s>0$ ) (default false)
tol	optimization tolerance (default $1e-4$ )
RVAR	True or False: option to refit based upon the support selected using the Relaxed-VAR procedure
refit_fraction	fraction of least squares refit to incorporate (default 1)
beta	optional $k \times (k \times p + m \times s + 1)$ coefficient matrix to use as a 'warm start' (default NULL)
gamma	additional parameter for SCAD/MCP penalty (default 3) @details The choices for 'struct' are as follows <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Basic' (Basic VARX-L)</li> <li>• 'BasicEN' (Basic Elastic Net VARX-L)</li> <li>• 'Lag' (Lag Group VARX-L)</li> <li>• 'SparseLag' (Lag Sparse Group VARX-L)</li> <li>• 'OwnOther' (Own/Other Group VARX-L)</li> <li>• 'SparseOO' (Own/Other Sparse Group VARX-L)</li> <li>• 'EFX' (Endogenous First VARX-L)</li> <li>• 'HLAGC' (Componentwise HLAG)</li> <li>• 'HLAGOO' (Own/Other HLAG)</li> <li>• 'HLAGELEM' (Elementwise HLAG)</li> <li>• 'Tapered' (Lag weighted Lasso VAR)</li> <li>• 'BGR' (Bayesian Ridge Regression (cf. Banbura et al))</li> <li>• 'MCP' (Minimax Concave Penalty (cf. Breheny and Huang))</li> <li>• 'SCAD' (Smoothly Clipped Absolute Deviation (cf. Breheny and Huang))</li> </ul> <p>VARX specifications consist of a list with entry k denoting the series that are to be modeled and entry s to denote the maximal lag order for exogenous series. The argument alpha is ignored unless the structure choice is 'SparseLag' or 'Lag.' By default 'alpha' is set to NULL and will be initialized as <math>1/(k+1)</math> in <code>cv.BigVAR</code> and <code>BigVAR.est</code>. Any user supplied values must be between 0 and 1.</p>

### Note

The specifications 'Basic', 'Lag', 'SparseLag', 'SparseOO,' and 'OwnOther' can accommodate both VAR and VARX models. EFX only applies to VARX models. 'HLAGC,' 'HLAGOO,' 'HLAGELEM,' and 'Tapered' can only be used with VAR models. Our implementation of the SCAD and MCP penalties is heavily influenced by the implementation in `ncvreg`.

## References

Banbura, Marta, Domenico Giannone, and Lucrezia Reichlin. 'Large Bayesian vector auto regressions.' *Journal of Applied Econometrics* 25.1 (2010): 71-92. Breheny P, Huang J (2011). "Coordinate descent algorithms for nonconvex penalized regression, with applications to biological feature selection." *Annals of Applied Statistics*, 5(1), 232–253. William B Nicholson, Jacob Bien, and David S Matteson. 'High Dimensional Forecasting via Interpretable Vector Autoregression.' arXiv preprint arXiv:1412.5250, 2016. William B. Nicholson, David S. Matteson, Jacob Bien, VARX-L: Structured regularization for large vector autoregressions with exogenous variables, *International Journal of Forecasting*, Volume 33, Issue 3, 2017, Pages 627-651, William B Nicholson, David S. Matteson, and Jacob Bien (2016), 'BigVAR: Tools for Modeling Sparse High-Dimensional Multivariate Time Series' arxiv:1702.07094

## See Also

[cv.BigVAR](#), [BigVAR.est](#), [constructModel](#)

## Examples

```
# VARX Example
# Fit a Basic VARX-L with k=2, m=1, s=2, p=4, lambda=1e-2
VARX <- list()
VARX$k <- 2 # indicates that the first two series are modeled
VARX$s <- 2 # sets 2 as the maximal lag order for exogenous series
data(Y)
BigVAR.fit(Y, p = 4, "Basic", lambda = 1e-2, VARX = VARX)
```

---

BigVAR.intermediate    *BigVAR.intermediate* This class contains the in-sample results for *cv.BigVAR*

---

## Description

It inherits the class BigVAR, and contains the results from rolling validation

## Fields

ZFull List containing full lag matrix and time series  
 InSampMSFE In-sample MSFE from optimal value of lambda  
 LambdaGrid Grid of candidate lambda values  
 index Index order of optimal lambda value  
 OptimalLambda Value of lambda that minimizes MSFE  
 Data a  $T \times k$  or  $T \times k + m$  multivariate time Series  
 lagmax Maximal lag order  
 Structure Penalty structure  
 Relaxed Indicator for relaxed VAR

Granularity Granularity of penalty grid  
 horizon Desired forecast horizon  
 crossval Cross-Validation procedure  
 alpha additional penalty parameter for Sparse Lag Group or Sparse Own/Other methods. Will contain either the heuristic choice of  $1/(k + 1)$  or the value selected by cross validation if the argument dual is set to TRUE  
 Minnesota Minnesota Prior Indicator  
 verbose verbose indicator  
 dual indicator as to whether dual cross validation was conducted  
 contemp indicator if contemporaneous exogenous predictors are used

**Note**

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

**Author(s)**

Will Nicholson

---

BigVAR.results

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

---

**Description**

It inherits the class BigVAR, but contains substantially more information.

**Fields**

InSampMSFE In-sample MSFE from optimal value of lambda  
 LambdaGrid Grid of candidate lambda values  
 index Rank of optimal lambda value  
 OptimalLambda Value of lambda that minimizes MSFE  
 OOSMSFE Average Out of sample MSFE of BigVAR model with optimal lambda  
 seosfmsfe Standard error of out of sample MSFE of BigVAR model with optimal lambda  
 MeanMSFE Average out of sample MSFE of unconditional mean forecast  
 MeanSD Standard error of out of sample MSFE of unconditional mean forecast  
 MeanPreds predictions from conditional mean model  
 RWMSFE Average out of sample MSFE of random walk forecast  
 RWPreds Predictions from random walk model  
 RWS Standard error of out of sample MSFE of random walk forecast  
 AICMSFE Average out of sample MSFE of AIC forecast

AICSD Standard error of out of sample MSFE of AIC forecast  
 AICPreds Predictions from AIC VAR/VARX model  
 AICpvec Lag orders selected from AIC VAR model  
 AICpvec Lag orders selected from AIC VARX model  
 BICMSFE Average out of sample MSFE of BIC forecast  
 BICSD Standard error of out of sample MSFE of BIC forecast  
 BICPreds Predictions from BIC VAR/VARX model  
 BICpvec Lag orders selected from BIC VAR model  
 BICpvec Lag orders selected from BIC VARX model  
 betaPred The final estimated  $k \times kp + ms + 1$  coefficient matrix, to be used for prediction  
 Zvals The final lagged values of  $Y$ , to be used for prediction  
 fitted fitted values obtained from betaPred  
 resids residuals obtained from betaPred  
 Data a  $T \times k$  or  $T \times k + m$  multivariate time Series  
 lagmax Maximal lag order  
 Structure Penalty structure  
 Relaxed Indicator for relaxed VAR  
 Granularity Granularity of penalty grid  
 horizon Desired forecast horizon  
 crossval Cross-Validation procedure  
 alpha additional penalty parameter for Sparse Lag Group or Sparse Own/Other methods. Will contain either the heuristic choice of  $1/(k + 1)$  or the value selected by cross validation if the argument `dual` is set to TRUE  
 VARXI VARX Indicator  
 Minnesota Minnesota Prior Indicator  
 verbose verbose indicator  
 dual indicator as to whether dual cross validation was conducted  
 contemp indicator if contemporaneous exogenous predictors are used  
 lagmatrix matrix of lagged values used to compute residuals (of which Zvals is the final column)  
 betaArray array of VAR/VARX coefficients from out of sample forecasts  
 sparse\_count average fraction of active coefficients in validation period  
 lambda\_evolve\_path evolution of lambda over evaluation period

**Note**

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

**Author(s)**

Will Nicholson

---

coef	<i>Default coef method BigVAR-results, returns the last coefficient matrix from the evaluation period</i>
------	---

---

**Description**

Default coef method BigVAR-results, returns the last coefficient matrix from the evaluation period

**Usage**

```
## S4 method for signature 'BigVAR.results'
coef(object)
```

**Arguments**

object            BigVAR.results object created from cv.BigVAR

**Details**

displays formatted coefficient matrix

---

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

---

**Description**

Construct an object of class BigVAR

**Usage**

```
constructModel(
  Y,
  p,
  struct,
  gran,
  h = 1,
  cv = "Rolling",
  verbose = TRUE,
  IC = TRUE,
  VARX = list(),
  T1 = floor(nrow(Y)/3),
  T2 = floor(2 * nrow(Y)/3),
  ONESE = FALSE,
  ownlambdas = FALSE,
  recursive = FALSE,
  dates = as.character(NULL),
```

```

window.size = 0,
separate_lambdas = FALSE,
linear = FALSE,
loss = "L2",
rolling_oos = FALSE,
model.controls = list()
)

```

### Arguments

<code>Y</code>	$T \times k$ multivariate time series or $Y T \times (k + m)$ endogenous and exogenous series, respectively.
<code>p</code>	Predetermined maximal lag order (for modeled series).
<code>struct</code>	The choice of penalty structure (see details).
<code>gran</code>	vector of penalty parameter specifications.
<code>h</code>	Desired forecast horizon.
<code>cv</code>	Cross-validation approach, either 'Rolling' for rolling cross-validation or 'LOO' for leave-one-out cross-validation. 'None' for use with BigVAR.fit.
<code>verbose</code>	Verbose output while estimating.
<code>IC</code>	True or False: whether to include AIC and BIC benchmarks.
<code>VARX</code>	List containing VARX model specifications.
<code>T1</code>	Index of time series in which to start cross validation.
<code>T2</code>	Index of times series in which to start forecast evaluation.
<code>ONESE</code>	True or False: whether to use the 'One Standard Error Heuristic.'
<code>ownlambdas</code>	True or False: Indicator for user-supplied penalty parameters.
<code>recursive</code>	True or False: Indicator as to whether iterative multi-step predictions are desired in the VAR context if the forecast horizon is greater than 1.
<code>dates</code>	optional vector of dates corresponding to $Y$ .
<code>window.size</code>	size of rolling window. If set to 0 an expanding window will be used.
<code>separate_lambdas</code>	indicator for separate penalty parameters for each time series (default FALSE).
<code>linear</code>	indicator for linearly decrementing penalty grid (FALSE is log-linear; default FALSE).
<code>loss</code>	Loss function to select penalty parameter (one of 'L1', 'L2', 'Huber')
<code>rolling_oos</code>	True or False: indicator to update the penalty parameter over the evaluation period (default False)
<code>model.controls</code>	named list of control parameters for BigVAR model estimation (see details).

### Details

The choices for 'struct' are as follows

- 'Basic' (Basic VARX-L)

- 'BasicEN' (Elastic Net VARX-L)
- 'Lag' (Lag Group VARX-L)
- 'SparseLag' (Lag Sparse Group VARX-L)
- 'OwnOther' (Own/Other Group VARX-L)
- 'SparseOO' (Own/Other Sparse Group VARX-L)
- 'EFX' (Endogenous First VARX-L)
- 'HLAGC' (Componentwise HLAG)
- 'HLAGOO' (Own/Other HLAG)
- 'HLAGELEM' (Elementwise HLAG)
- 'Tapered' (Lag weighted Lasso VAR)
- 'BGR' (Bayesian Ridge Regression (cf. Banbura et al))
- 'MCP' (Minimax Concave Penalty (cf. Breheny and Huang))
- 'SCAD' (Smoothly Clipped Absolute Deviation Penalty (cf. Breheny and Huang))

The first number in the vector 'gran' specifies how deep to construct the penalty grid and the second specifies how many penalty parameters to use. If ownlambdas is set to TRUE, gran should contain the user-supplied penalty parameters.

VARX specifications consist of a named list with entry k denoting the series that are to be modeled and entry s to denote the maximal lag order for exogenous series.

As the capabilities of BigVAR have expanded, we have decided to consolidate parameters in the list model.controls. These parameters include:

- 'alpha:' grid of candidate parameters for the alpha in the Basic Elastic Net, Sparse Lag, Sparse Own/Other VARX-L.
- 'C:' vector of coefficients to shrink toward a random walk (if MN is TRUE).
- 'delta:' parameter for Huber loss (default 2.5)
- 'intercept:' option to fit an intercept, default TRUE
- 'loss:' Loss function to select penalty parameter (one of 'L1', 'L2', 'Huber')
- 'MN:' Minnesota Prior Indicator, default FALSE
- 'RVAR:' option to refit based upon the support selected using the Relaxed-VAR procedure (default FALSE).
- 'refit\_fraction:' If RVAR is TRUE, proportional tradeoff between least squares fit and penalized fit (default 1).
- 'tol:' optimization tolerance (default 1e-4)

The argument alpha is ignored unless the structure choice is 'SparseLag' or 'Lag.' By default 'alpha' is set to NULL and will be initialized as  $1/(k+1)$  in `cv.BigVAR` and `BigVAR.est`. Any user supplied values must be between 0 and 1.

#### Note

The specifications 'Basic', 'BasicEN', 'Lag', 'SparseLag', 'SparseOO', 'OwnOther', 'MCP', and 'SCAD' can accommodate both VAR and VARX models. EFX only applies to VARX models. 'HLAGC', 'HLAGOO', 'HLAGELEM', and 'Tapered' can only be used with VAR models. Our implementation of the SCAD and MCP penalties is heavily influenced by the package `ncvreg`.

## References

Banbura, Marta, Domenico Giannone, and Lucrezia Reichlin. 'Large Bayesian vector auto regressions.' *Journal of Applied Econometrics* 25.1 (2010): 71-92. Breheny P, Huang J (2011). "Coordinate descent algorithms for nonconvex penalized regression, with applications to biological feature selection." *Annals of Applied Statistics*, 5(1), 232–253. Nicholson, William, I. Wilms, J. Bien, and D. S. Matteson. High dimensional forecasting via interpretable vector autoregression. *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, 21(166):1–52, 2020. William B. Nicholson, David S. Matteson, Jacob Bien, VARX-L: Structured regularization for large vector autoregressions with exogenous variables, *International Journal of Forecasting*, Volume 33, Issue 3, 2017, Pages 627-651, William B Nicholson, David S. Matteson, and Jacob Bien (2016), 'BigVAR: Tools for Modeling Sparse High-Dimensional Multivariate Time Series' arxiv:1702.07094

## See Also

[cv.BigVAR,BigVAR.est](#)

## Examples

```
# VARX Example
# Create a Basic VARX-L with k=2, m=1, s=2, p=4
VARX=list()
VARX$k=2 # indicates that the first two series are modeled
VARX$s=2 # sets 2 as the maximal lag order for exogenous series
data(Y)
T1=floor(nrow(Y)/3)
T2=floor(2*nrow(Y)/3)
Model1=constructModel(Y,p=4,struct='Basic',gran=c(50,10),verbose=FALSE,VARX=VARX,T1=T1,T2=T2)
```

---

CPI

*US Consumer Price Index*

---

## Description

CPI Data

## Details

US Macroeconomic Time Series: CPI. Ranging from Q2 1959 to Q1 2025. Procured from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

## Author(s)

Will Nicholson

---

`cv.BigVAR`*Cross Validation for BigVAR*

---

## Description

Cross Validation for BigVAR

## Usage

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

## Arguments

`object` BigVAR object created from `ConstructModel`

## Details

The main function of the BigVAR package. Performs cross validation to select penalty parameters over a training sample (as the minimizer of in-sample MSFE), then evaluates them over a test set. Compares against sample mean, random walk, AIC, and BIC benchmarks. Creates an object of class `BigVAR.results`

## Value

An object of class `BigVAR.results`.

## See Also

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

## Examples

```
data(Y)
# Fit a Basic VARX-L with rolling cross validation
Model1=constructModel(Y,p=4,struct='Basic',gran=c(50,10), verbose=FALSE)
results=cv.BigVAR(Model1)
```

---

FFR	<i>US Federal Funds Rate</i>
-----	------------------------------

---

**Description**

FFR Data

**Details**

US Macroeconomic Time Series: FFR. Ranging from Q2 1959 to Q1 2025. Procured from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

**Author(s)**

Will Nicholson

---

GDP	<i>US Gross Domestic Product</i>
-----	----------------------------------

---

**Description**

GDP Data

**Details**

US Macroeconomic Time Series: GDP. Ranging from Q2 1959 to Q1 2025. Procured from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

**Author(s)**

Will Nicholson

---

M1	<i>US M1</i>
----	--------------

---

**Description**

M1 Data

**Details**

US Macroeconomic Time Series: M1. Ranging from Q2 1959 to Q1 2025. Procured from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

**Author(s)**

Will Nicholson

---

`MultVarSim`*Simulate a VAR*

---

**Description**

Simulate a VAR

**Usage**

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

**Arguments**

<code>k</code>	Number of Series
<code>A1</code>	Either a $k \times k$ coefficient matrix or a $kp \times kp$ matrix created using <a href="#">VarptoVar1MC</a> .
<code>p</code>	Maximum Lag Order
<code>Sigma</code>	Residual Covariance Matrix of dimension $k \times k$
<code>T</code>	Number of simulations

**Value**

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

**References**

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

**See Also**

[VarptoVar1MC](#)

**Examples**

```
k=3;p=6
B=matrix(0,nrow=k,ncol=p*k)
A1<- matrix(c(.4,-.02,.01,-.02,.3,.02,.01,.04,.3),ncol=3,nrow=3)
A2 <- matrix(c(.2,0,0,0,.3,0,0,0,.13),ncol=3,nrow=3)
B[,1:k]=A1
B[, (4*k+1):(5*k)]=A2
A <- VarptoVar1MC(B,p,k)
Y <-MultVarSim(k,A,p,.1*diag(k),100)
```

---

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

---

**Description**

Plot an object of class BigVAR.results

**Usage**

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

**Arguments**

x	BigVAR.results object created from cv.BigVAR
y	NULL
...	additional arguments

**Details**

Plots the in sample MSFE of all values of lambda with the optimal value highlighted.

---

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

---

**Description**

Plot a BigVAR object

**Usage**

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

**Arguments**

x	BigVAR object created from ConstructModel
y	NULL
...	additional plot arguments

**Details**

Uses plot.zoo to plot each individual series of Y on a single plot

**Value**

NA, side effect is graph

**See Also**

[constructModel](#)

---

predict	<i>Forecast using a BigVAR.results object</i>
---------	---

---

**Description**

Forecast using a BigVAR.results object

**Usage**

```
predict(object,...)
```

**Arguments**

object	BigVAR.results object from cv.BigVAR
...	additional arguments affecting the predictions produced (e.g. n.ahead, confint)

**Details**

Provides n.ahead step forecasts using the model produced by cv.BigVAR. If confint is set to TRUE, a 95 percent confidence interval will also be returned.

**See Also**

[cv.BigVAR](#)

**Examples**

```
data(Y)
Y=Y[1:100,]
Model1=constructModel(Y,p=4,struct='Basic',gran=c(50,10),verbose=FALSE)
results=cv.BigVAR(Model1)
predict(results,n.ahead=1)
```

---

**PredictVARX***One-step ahead predictions for VARX models*

---

**Description**

One-step ahead predictions for VARX models

**Usage**

```
PredictVARX(VARXRes)
```

**Arguments**

VARXRes            the results from [VARXFit](#)

**Value**

Returns a vector consisting of the out-of-sample forecasts for the provided [VARXFit](#) model.

**See Also**

[VARXFit](#)

**Examples**

```
data(Y)
# fit a VAR_3(3)
mod <- VARXFit(Y,3,NULL,NULL)
pred <-PredictVARX(mod)
```

---

**show***Default show method for an object of class BigVAR.results*

---

**Description**

Default show method for an object of class BigVAR.results

**Usage**

```
## S4 method for signature 'BigVAR.results'
show(object)
```

**Arguments**

object            BigVAR.results object created from cv.BigVAR

**Details**

prints forecast results and additional diagnostic information as well as comparisons with mean, random walk, and AIC, and BIC benchmarks

**See Also**

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

---

show.BigVAR

*Default show method for an object of class BigVAR*

---

**Description**

Default show method for an object of class BigVAR

**Usage**

```
## S4 method for signature 'BigVAR'  
show(object)
```

**Arguments**

object            BigVAR object created from ConstructModel

**Value**

Displays the following information about the BigVAR object:

- Prints the first 5 rows of Y
- Penalty Structure
- Relaxed Least Squares Indicator
- Maximum lag order
- VARX Specifications (if applicable)
- Start, end of cross validation period

**See Also**

[constructModel](#)

---

SparsityPlot.BigVAR.results  
*Sparsity Plot of a BigVAR.results object*

---

**Description**

Sparsity Plot of a BigVAR.results object

**Usage**

```
SparsityPlot.BigVAR.results(object)
```

**Arguments**

object            BigVAR.results object

**Details**

Uses levelplot from the lattice package to plot the magnitude of each coefficient in the last coefficient estimated by cv.BigVAR.

**Value**

NA, side effect is graph

**See Also**

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

**Examples**

```
data(Y)
Y <- Y[1:100,]
Model1 <- constructModel(Y,p=4,struct='Basic',gran=c(50,10),verbose=FALSE)
SparsityPlot.BigVAR.results(cv.BigVAR(Model1))
```

---

VarptoVar1MC            *Converts a VAR coefficient matrix of order p to multiple companion form*

---

**Description**

Converts a VAR coefficient matrix of order p to multiple companion form

**Usage**

```
VarptoVar1MC(B, p, k)
```

**Arguments**

B	a $k \times kp$ coefficient matrix
p	Lag order
k	Number of Series

**Value**

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

**References**

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

**See Also**

[MultVarSim](#)

**Examples**

```
k=3;p=6
B=matrix(0,nrow=k,ncol=p*k)
A1<- matrix(c(.4,-.02,.01,-.02,.3,.02,.01,.04,.3),ncol=3,nrow=3)
A2 <- matrix(c(.2,0,0,0,.3,0,0,0,.13),ncol=3,nrow=3)
B[,1:k]=A1
B[(4*k+1):(5*k)]=A2
A <- VarptoVar1MC(B,p,k)
```

---

VARXFit

*Fit a VAR or VARX model by least squares*


---

**Description**

Fit a VAR or VARX model by least squares

**Usage**

```
VARXFit(Y, p, IC, VARX = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

Y	a $t \times k$ multivariate time series
p	maximum lag order
IC	Information criterion indicator, if set to NULL, it will fit a least squares VAR(X) of orders p and s. Otherwise, if set to 'AIC' or 'BIC' it return the model with lag orders that minimize the given IC.
VARX	a list of VARX specifications (as in <a href="#">constructModel</a> (or NULL))

**Details**

This function uses a modified form of the least squares technique proposed by Neumaier and Schneider (2001). It fits a least squares VAR or VARX via a QR decomposition that does not require explicit matrix inversion. This results in improved computational performance as well as numerical stability over the conventional least squares approach.

**Value**

Returns a list with four entries:

'Bhat'	Estimated $k \times kp + ms$ coefficient matrix
'SigmaU'	Estimated $k \times k$ residual covariance matrix
'phat'	Selected lag order for VAR component
'shat'	Selected lag order for VARX component
'Y'	multivariate time series retained for prediction purposes
'Y'	number of endogenous (modeled) time series

**References**

Neumaier, Arnold, and Tapio Schneider. 'Estimation of parameters and eigenmodes of multivariate autoregressive models.' *ACM Transactions on Mathematical Software (TOMS)* 27.1 (2001): 27-57.

**See Also**

[constructModel, cv.BigVAR, BigVAR.fit](#)

**Examples**

```
data(Y)
# fit a VAR_3(3)
mod <- VARXFit(Y,3,NULL,NULL)
# fit a VAR_3 with p= 6 and lag selected according to AIC
modAIC <- VARXFit(Y,6,'AIC',NULL)
# Fit a VARX_{2,1} with p=6, s=4 and lags selected by BIC
modXBIC <- VARXFit(Y,6,'BIC',list(k=1,s=4))
```

---

VARXForecastEval

*Evaluate forecasts from a VAR or VARX with lag orders selected by AIC/BIC*

---

**Description**

Evaluate forecasts from a VAR or VARX with lag orders selected by AIC/BIC

**Usage**

```
VARXForecastEval(
  Y,
  X,
  p,
  s,
  T1,
  T2,
  IC,
  h,
  iterated = FALSE,
  loss = "L2",
  delta = 2.5
)
```

**Arguments**

Y	a $T \times k$ multivariate time series
X	a $T \times m$ multivariate time series of unmodeled exogenous variables
p	maximum lag order for endogenous series
s	maximum lag order for exogenous series
T1	start of forecast evaluation period.
T2	end of forecast evaluation period
IC	specifies whether to select lag order according to 'AIC' or 'BIC'
h	desired forecast horizon
iterated	indicator as to whether to use iterated or direct multistep forecasts (if applicable, VAR context only)
loss	loss function (default 'L2', one of 'L1', 'L2', 'Huber')
delta	delta for Huber loss function (default 2.5)

**Details**

This function evaluates the one-step ahead forecasts of a VAR or VARX fit by least squares over an evaluation period. At every point in time, lag orders for the endogenous and exogenous series are selected according to AIC or BIC. This function is run automatically when `cv.BigVAR` is called unless `ic` is set to FALSE in `constructModel`.

**Value**

Returns the one-step ahead MSFE as well as the forecasts over the evaluation period and lag order selected.

**References**

Neumaier, Arnold, and Tapio Schneider. 'Estimation of parameters and eigenmodes of multivariate autoregressive models.' *ACM Transactions on Mathematical Software (TOMS)* 27.1 (2001): 27-57.

**See Also**

[VARXFit](#), [constructModel](#), [cv.BigVAR](#)

**Examples**

```
data(Y)

# Evaluate the performance of a VAR with lags selected by BIC.
p <- 4
T1 <- floor(nrow(Y))/3
T2 <- floor(2*nrow(Y))/3
# Matrix of zeros for X
X <- matrix(0, nrow=nrow(Y), ncol=ncol(Y))
BICMSFE <- VARXForecastEval(Y, X, p, 0, T1, T2, 'BIC', 1)
```

---

 VARXLagCons

---

*Construct a VAR or VARX lag matrix*


---

**Description**

Construct a VAR or VARX lag matrix

**Usage**

```
VARXLagCons(Y, X = NULL, p, s = 0, oos = FALSE, contemp = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

Y	a $T \times k$ matrix of endogenous (modeled) series
X	a $T \times m$ matrix of exogenous (unmodeled) series (default NULL)
p	Endogenous Lag order
s	exogenous lag order (default zero)
oos	indicator as to whether the data should be constructed for out of sample prediction (i.e. last available entries of Y as final lags default FALSE)
contemp	indicator as to whether to use contemporaneous exogenous predictors (for example, if exogenous series become available before exogenous default FALSE).

**Details**

This function is not required unless you wish to design your own cross validation routine.

**Value**

list with two entries:

'Z'	$kp + ms + 1 \times T - \max(p, s)$ VARX lag matrix
'Y'	adjusted $k \times T - \max(p, s)$ endogenous series

**References**

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

**See Also**

[MultVarSim](#)

**Examples**

```
data(Y)
# construct VAR lag matrix with p=4
ZZ<-VARXLagCons(Y,X=NULL,p=4,s=0)
```

---

Y *Simulated Multivariate Time Series*

---

**Description**

Realization of a simulated multivariate time series

**Details**

100 × 3 multivariate time series distributed according to the generator matrix [A](#).

**Author(s)**

Will Nicholson

---

Y1 *Example US quarterly macroeconomic data*

---

**Description**

Example multivariate macroeconomic time series

**Details**

US Macroeconomic Time Series: CPI, Federal Funds Rate, Gross Domestic Product, and M1. Ranging from Q2 1959 to Q1 2025. Procured from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

**Author(s)**

Will Nicholson

# Index

- A, [2](#), [27](#)
- BigVAR, [3](#), [3](#)
- BigVAR-class, [4](#)
- BigVAR.est, [5](#), [8](#), [14](#), [15](#)
- BigVAR.est, BigVAR-method (BigVAR.est), [5](#)
- BigVAR.fit, [6](#), [24](#)
- BigVAR.intermediate, [8](#)
- BigVAR.intermediate-class  
(BigVAR.intermediate), [8](#)
- BigVAR.results, [3](#), [6](#), [9](#), [15](#), [21](#), [22](#)
- BigVAR.results-class (BigVAR.results), [9](#)
- coef, [11](#)
- coef, BigVAR.results-method (coef), [11](#)
- coef-methods (coef), [11](#)
- constructModel, [3–6](#), [8](#), [11](#), [15](#), [19](#), [21](#), [23–26](#)
- CPI, [14](#)
- cv.BigVAR, [3](#), [6](#), [8](#), [14](#), [15](#), [19](#), [21](#), [22](#), [24–26](#)
- cv.BigVAR, BigVAR-method (cv.BigVAR), [15](#)
- FFR, [16](#)
- GDP, [16](#)
- M1, [16](#)
- MultVarSim, [17](#), [23](#), [27](#)
- plot, [3](#), [18](#)
- plot, BigVAR-method (plot.BigVAR), [18](#)
- plot, BigVAR.results-method (plot), [18](#)
- plot-methods (plot), [18](#)
- plot.BigVAR, [3](#), [18](#)
- predict, [3](#), [19](#)
- predict, BigVAR.results-method  
(predict), [19](#)
- PredictVARX, [20](#)
- show, [20](#)
- show, BigVAR-method (show.BigVAR), [21](#)
- show, BigVAR.results-method (show), [20](#)
- show.BigVAR, [21](#)
- SparsityPlot.BigVAR.results, [22](#)
- SparsityPlot.BigVAR.results, BigVAR.results-method  
(SparsityPlot.BigVAR.results),  
[22](#)
- VarptoVar1MC, [17](#), [22](#)
- VARXFit, [20](#), [23](#), [26](#)
- VARXForecastEval, [24](#)
- VARXLagCons, [26](#)
- Y, [27](#)
- Y1, [27](#)