

# Package ‘FinCovRegularization’

May 7, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** Covariance Matrix Estimation and Regularization for Finance

**Version** 1.1.0

**Description** Estimation and regularization for covariance matrix of asset returns. For covariance matrix estimation, three major types of factor models are included: macroeconomic factor model, fundamental factor model and statistical factor model. For covariance matrix regularization, four regularized estimators are included: banding, tapering, hard-thresholding and soft-thresholding. The tuning parameters of these regularized estimators are selected via cross-validation.

**URL** <http://github.com/yanyachen/FinCovRegularization>

**BugReports** <http://github.com/yanyachen/FinCovRegularization/issues>

**Depends** R (>= 2.10)

**Imports** stats, graphics, quadprog

**License** GPL-2

**LazyData** true

**RoxygenNote** 5.0.1

**NeedsCompilation** no

**Author** YaChen Yan [aut, cre],  
FangZhu Lin [aut]

**Maintainer** YaChen Yan <yanyachen21@gmail.com>

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2016-04-25 15:32:07

## Contents

banding . . . . .	2
banding.cv . . . . .	3
F.norm2 . . . . .	4
FinCovRegularization . . . . .	4

FundamentalFactor.Cov . . . . .	5
GMVP . . . . .	5
hard.thresholding . . . . .	6
Ind.Cov . . . . .	7
m.excess.c10sp9003 . . . . .	7
MacroFactor.Cov . . . . .	8
O.norm2 . . . . .	8
RiskParity . . . . .	9
soft.thresholding . . . . .	9
StatFactor.Cov . . . . .	10
tapering . . . . .	11
tapering.cv . . . . .	11
threshold.cv . . . . .	13

<b>Index</b>	<b>15</b>
--------------	-----------

---

banding	<i>Banding Operator on Covariance Matrix</i>
---------	--

---

### Description

Apply banding operator on a covariance matrix with a banding parameter.

### Usage

```
banding(sigma, k = 0)
```

### Arguments

sigma	a p*p covariance matrix
k	banding parameter

### Value

a regularized covariance matrix after banding operation

### References

"High-Dimensional Covariance Estimation" by Mohsen Pourahmadi

### Examples

```
data(m.excess.c10sp9003)
cov.SAM <- cov(m.excess.c10sp9003)
banding(cov.SAM, 7)
```

---

`banding.cv`*Select Tuning Parameter for Banding Covariance Matrix by CV*

---

**Description**

Apply K-fold cross-validation for selecting tuning parameters for banding covariance matrix using grid search strategy

**Usage**

```
banding.cv(matrix, n.cv = 10, norm = "F", seed = 142857)
```

**Arguments**

<code>matrix</code>	a $N \times p$ matrix, $N$ indicates sample size and $p$ indicates the dimension
<code>n.cv</code>	times that cross-validation repeated, the default number is 10
<code>norm</code>	the norms used to measure the cross-validation errors, which can be the Frobenius norm "F" or the operator norm "O"
<code>seed</code>	random seed, the default value is 142857

**Details**

For cross-validation, this function split the sample randomly into two pieces of size  $n_1 = n - n/\log(n)$  and  $n_2 = n/\log(n)$ , and repeat this  $k$  times

**Value**

An object of class "CovCv" containing the cross-validation's result for covariance matrix regularization, including:

<code>regularization</code>	regularization method, which is "Banding"
<code>parameter.opt</code>	selected optimal parameter by cross-validation
<code>cv.error</code>	the corresponding cross-validation errors
<code>n.cv</code>	times that cross-validation repeated
<code>norm</code>	the norm used to measure the cross-validation error
<code>seed</code>	random seed

**References**

"High-Dimensional Covariance Estimation" by Mohsen Pourahmadi

**Examples**

```

data(m.excess.c10sp9003)
retcov.cv <- banding.cv(m.excess.c10sp9003, n.cv = 10,
                       norm = "F", seed = 142857)

summary(retcov.cv)
plot(retcov.cv)
# Low dimension

```

---

F.norm2

*The Squared Frobenius Norm*


---

**Description**

Calculate the squared Frobenius norm of a matrix

**Usage**

```
F.norm2(matrix)
```

**Arguments**

matrix            a matrix

**Value**

a scalar of the squared Frobenius norm

**Examples**

```

data(m.excess.c10sp9003)
cov.SAM <- cov(m.excess.c10sp9003)
F.norm2(cov.SAM)

```

---

FinCovRegularization

*FinCovRegularization: Covariance Matrix Estimation and Regularization for Finance*


---

**Description**

Estimation and regularization for covariance matrix of asset returns. For covariance matrix estimation, three major types of factor models are included: macroeconomic factor model, fundamental factor model and statistical factor model. For covariance matrix regularization, four regularized estimators are included: banding, tapering, hard-thresholding and soft-thresholding. The tuning parameters of these regularized estimators are selected via cross-validation.

---

FundamentalFactor.Cov *Covariance Matrix Estimation by Fundamental Factor Model*


---

**Description**

Estimate covariance matrix by fitting a fundamental factor model using OLS or WLS regression

**Usage**

```
FundamentalFactor.Cov(assets, exposure, method = "WLS")
```

**Arguments**

assets	a N*p matrix of asset returns, N indicates sample size and p indicates the dimension of asset returns
exposure	a p*q matrix of exposure indicator for the fundamental factor model, p corresponds to the dimension of asset returns, q indicates the number of fundamental industries
method	a character, indicating regression method: "OLS" or "WLS"

**Value**

an estimated p\*p covariance matrix

**Examples**

```
data(m.excess.c10sp9003)
assets <- m.excess.c10sp9003[,1:10]
Indicator <- matrix(0,10,3)
dimnames(Indicator) <- list(colnames(assets),c("Drug", "Auto", "Oil"))
Indicator[c("ABT", "LLY", "MRK", "PFE"), "Drug"] <- 1
Indicator[c("F", "GM"), "Auto"] <- 1
Indicator[c("BP", "CVX", "RD", "XOM"), "Oil"] <- 1
FundamentalFactor.Cov(assets, exposure=Indicator, method="WLS")
```

---

GMVP

*Global Minimum Variance Portfolio*


---

**Description**

Computing a global minimum variance portfolio weights from the estimated covariance matrix of return series.

**Usage**

```
GMVP(cov.mat, short = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

cov.mat            an estimated  $p \times p$  covariance matrix  
short             logical flag, indicating whether shortsales on the risky assets are allowed

**Value**

a numerical vector containing the estimated portfolio weights

**Examples**

```
data(m.excess.c10sp9003)
assets <- m.excess.c10sp9003[,1:10]
GMVP(cov(assets), short=TRUE)
GMVP(cov(assets), short=FALSE)
```

---

hard.thresholding        *Hard-Thresholding Operator on Covariance Matrix*

---

**Description**

Apply hard-thresholding operator on a covariance matrix with a hard-thresholding parameter.

**Usage**

```
hard.thresholding(sigma, threshold = 0.5)
```

**Arguments**

sigma             a  $p \times p$  covariance matrix  
threshold         hard-thresholding parameter

**Value**

a regularized covariance matrix after hard-thresholding operation

**References**

"High-Dimensional Covariance Estimation" by Mohsen Pourahmadi

**Examples**

```
data(m.excess.c10sp9003)
cov.SAM <- cov(m.excess.c10sp9003)
hard.thresholding(cov.SAM, threshold = 0.001)
```

---

Ind.Cov	<i>Independence operator on Covariance Matrix</i>
---------	---

---

**Description**

Apply independence model on a covariance matrix.

**Usage**

```
Ind.Cov(sigma)
```

**Arguments**

sigma            a covariance matrix

**Value**

a regularized covariance matrix after applying independence model

**Examples**

```
data(m.excess.c10sp9003)
cov.SAM <- cov(m.excess.c10sp9003)
Ind.Cov(cov.SAM)
```

---

m.excess.c10sp9003	<i>10 stock and S&amp;P 500 excess returns</i>
--------------------	--

---

**Description**

A dataset containing monthly excess returns of 10 stocks and S&P 500 index return from January 1990 to December 2003

**Usage**

```
data(m.excess.c10sp9003)
```

**Format**

A matrix with 168 rows and 11 variables

MacroFactor.Cov      *Covariance Matrix Estimation by Macroeconomic Factor Model*

---

**Description**

Estimate covariance matrix by fitting a macroeconomic factor model using time series regression

**Usage**

```
MacroFactor.Cov(assets, factor)
```

**Arguments**

assets      a N\*p matrix of asset returns, N indicates sample size and p indicates the dimension of asset returns

factor      a numerical vector of length N, or a N\*q matrix of macroeconomic factor(s), q indicates the dimension of factors

**Value**

an estimated p\*p covariance matrix

**Examples**

```
data(m.excess.c10sp9003)
assets <- m.excess.c10sp9003[,1:10]
factor <- m.excess.c10sp9003[,11]
MacroFactor.Cov(assets, factor)
```

---

O.norm2      *The Squared Operator Norm*

---

**Description**

Calculate the squared Operator norm of a matrix

**Usage**

```
O.norm2(matrix)
```

**Arguments**

matrix      a matrix

**Value**

a scalar of the squared Operator norm

**Examples**

```
data(m.excess.c10sp9003)
cov.SAM <- cov(m.excess.c10sp9003)
O.norm2(cov.SAM)
```

---

RiskParity

*Risk Parity Portfolio*


---

**Description**

Computing a Risk Parity portfolio weights from the estimated covariance matrix of return series.

**Usage**

```
RiskParity(cov.mat)
```

**Arguments**

cov.mat            an estimated p\*p covariance matrix

**Value**

a numerical vector containing the estimated portfolio weights

**Examples**

```
data(m.excess.c10sp9003)
assets <- m.excess.c10sp9003[,1:10]
RiskParity(cov(assets))
```

---

soft.thresholding

*Soft-Thresholding Operator on Covariance Matrix*


---

**Description**

Apply soft-thresholding operator on a covariance matrix with a soft-thresholding parameter.

**Usage**

```
soft.thresholding(sigma, threshold = 0.5)
```

**Arguments**

sigma            a covariance matrix  
threshold        soft-thresholding parameter

**Value**

a regularized covariance matrix after soft-thresholding operation

**References**

"High-Dimensional Covariance Estimation" by Mohsen Pourahmadi

**Examples**

```
data(m.excess.c10sp9003)
cov.SAM <- cov(m.excess.c10sp9003)
soft.thresholding(cov.SAM, threshold = 0.001)
```

---

StatFactor.Cov

*Covariance Matrix Estimation by Statistical Factor Model*

---

**Description**

Estimate covariance matrix by fitting a statistical factor model using principle components analysis

**Usage**

```
StatFactor.Cov(assets, k = 0)
```

**Arguments**

assets	a matrix of asset returns
k	numbers of factors, if k = 0, automatically estimating by Kaiser method

**Value**

an estimated  $p \times p$  covariance matrix

**Examples**

```
data(m.excess.c10sp9003)
assets <- m.excess.c10sp9003[,1:10]
StatFactor.Cov(assets, 3)
```

---

tapering	<i>Tapering Operator on Covariance Matrix</i>
----------	---

---

**Description**

Apply tapering operator on a covariance matrix with tapering parameters.

**Usage**

```
tapering(sigma, l, h = 1/2)
```

**Arguments**

sigma	a p*p covariance matrix
l	tapering parameter
h	the ratio between taper l_h and parameter l

**Value**

a regularized covariance matrix after tapering operation

**References**

"High-Dimensional Covariance Estimation" by Mohsen Pourahmadi

**Examples**

```
data(m.excess.c10sp9003)
cov.SAM <- cov(m.excess.c10sp9003)
tapering(cov.SAM, l=7, h = 1/2)
```

---

tapering.cv	<i>Select Tuning Parameter for Tapering Covariance Matrix by CV</i>
-------------	---

---

**Description**

Apply K-fold cross-validation for selecting tuning parameters for tapering covariance matrix using grid search strategy

**Usage**

```
tapering.cv(matrix, h = 1/2, n.cv = 10, norm = "F", seed = 142857)
```

**Arguments**

matrix	a $N \times p$ matrix, $N$ indicates sample size and $p$ indicates the dimension
h	the ratio between taper $l_h$ and parameter $l$
n.cv	times that cross-validation repeated, the default number is 10
norm	the norms used to measure the cross-validation errors, which can be the Frobenius norm "F" or the operator norm "O"
seed	random seed, the default value is 142857

**Details**

For cross-validation, this function split the sample randomly into two pieces of size  $n_1 = n - n/\log(n)$  and  $n_2 = n/\log(n)$ , and repeat this  $k$  times

**Value**

An object of class "CovCv" containing the cross-validation's result for covariance matrix regularization, including:

regularization	regularization method, which is "Tapering"
parameter.opt	selected optimal parameter by cross-validation
cv.error	the corresponding cross-validation errors
n.cv	times that cross-validation repeated
norm	the norm used to measure the cross-validation error
seed	random seed

**References**

"High-Dimensional Covariance Estimation" by Mohsen Pourahmadi

**Examples**

```
data(m.excess.c10sp9003)
retcov.cv <- tapering.cv(m.excess.c10sp9003, n.cv = 10,
                        norm = "F", seed = 142857)
summary(retcov.cv)
plot(retcov.cv)
# Low dimension
```

---

 threshold.cv

*Select Tuning Parameter for Thresholding Covariance Matrix by CV*


---

**Description**

Apply K-fold cross-validation for selecting tuning parameters for thresholding covariance matrix using grid search strategy

**Usage**

```
threshold.cv(matrix, method = "hard", thresh.len = 20, n.cv = 10,
             norm = "F", seed = 142857)
```

**Arguments**

matrix	a N*p matrix, N indicates sample size and p indicates the dimension
method	thresholding method, "hard" or "soft"
thresh.len	the number of thresholding values tested in cross-validation, the thresholding values will be a sequence of thresh.len equally spaced values from minimum threshold constant to largest covariance in sample covariance matrix
n.cv	times that cross-validation repeated, the default number is 10
norm	the norms used to measure the cross-validation errors, which can be the Frobenius norm "F" or the operator norm "O"
seed	random seed, the default value is 142857

**Details**

For cross-validation, this function split the sample randomly into two pieces of size  $n_1 = n - n/\log(n)$  and  $n_2 = n/\log(n)$ , and repeat this k times

**Value**

An object of class "CovCv" containing the cross-validation's result for covariance matrix regularization, including:

regularization	regularization method, which is "Hard Thresholding" or "Soft Thresholding"
parameter.opt	selected optimal parameter by cross-validation
cv.error	the corresponding cross-validation errors
n.cv	times that cross-validation repeated
norm	the norm used to measure the cross-validation error
seed	random seed
threshold.grid	thresholding values tested in cross-validation

**References**

"High-Dimensional Covariance Estimation" by Mohsen Pourahmadi

**Examples**

```
data(m.excess.c10sp9003)
retcov.cv <- threshold.cv(m.excess.c10sp9003, method = "hard",
                          thresh.len = 20, n.cv = 10, norm = "F", seed = 142857)
summary(retcov.cv)
plot(retcov.cv)
# Low dimension
```

# Index

## \* datasets

- m.excess.c10sp9003, 7
- banding, 2
- banding.cv, 3
- F.norm2, 4
- FinCovRegularization, 4
- FinCovRegularization-package  
(FinCovRegularization), 4
- FundamentalFactor.Cov, 5
- GMVP, 5
- hard.thresholding, 6
- Ind.Cov, 7
- m.excess.c10sp9003, 7
- MacroFactor.Cov, 8
- O.norm2, 8
- RiskParity, 9
- soft.thresholding, 9
- StatFactor.Cov, 10
- tapering, 11
- tapering.cv, 11
- threshold.cv, 13