

# Package ‘FoCo2’

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**Type** Package

**Title** Coherent Forecast Combination for Linearly Constrained Multiple Time Series

**Version** 0.1.3

**Description** Methods and tools designed to improve the forecast accuracy for a linearly constrained multiple time series, while fulfilling the linear/aggregation relationships linking the components (Girolimetto and Di Fonzo, 2024 <[doi:10.48550/arXiv.2412.03429](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2412.03429)>). ‘FoCo2’ offers multi-task forecast combination and reconciliation approaches leveraging input from multiple forecasting models or experts and ensuring that the resulting forecasts satisfy specified linear constraints. In addition, linear inequality constraints (e.g., non-negativity of the forecasts) can be imposed, if needed.

**License** GPL-3

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Depends** R (>= 3.4), Matrix, FoReco

**Imports** stats, cli, methods, quadprog, osqp

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.3

**URL** <https://github.com/danigiuro/FoCo2>,  
<https://danigiuro.github.io/FoCo2/>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/danigiuro/FoCo2/issues>

**Suggests** testthat (>= 3.0.0)

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

**NeedsCompilation** no

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FoCo2-package	<i>FoCo2: Coherent Forecast Combination for Linearly Constrained Multiple Time Series</i>
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## Description

Methods and tools designed to improve the forecast accuracy for a linearly constrained multiple time series, while fulfilling the linear/aggregation relationships linking the components (Girolimetto and Di Fonzo, 2024 [doi:10.48550/arXiv.2412.03429](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2412.03429)). 'FoCo2' offers multi-task forecast combination and reconciliation approaches leveraging input from multiple forecasting models or experts and ensuring that the resulting forecasts satisfy specified linear constraints. In addition, linear inequality constraints (e.g., non-negativity of the forecasts) can be imposed, if needed.

## Author(s)

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- Tommaso Di Fonzo ([ORCID](#))

## See Also

Useful links:

- <https://github.com/danigirolimetto/FoCo2>
- <https://danigirolimetto.github.io/FoCo2/>
- Report bugs at <https://github.com/danigirolimetto/FoCo2/issues>

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cscov	<i>Cross-sectional covariance matrix approximation</i>
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**Description**

Extended version of the `FoReco::cscov` function, introducing two new approximations for the covariance matrix (both shrunk and sample versions). Specifically, `shrbe/sambe` assume no correlation between experts, while `shrbv/sambv` assume no correlation between variables.

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'shrbe'
cscov(comb = "shrbe", ..., n = NULL, p = NULL, matNA = NULL,
       res = NULL, mse = TRUE, shrink_fun = NULL)

## S3 method for class 'sambe'
cscov(comb = "sambe", ..., n = NULL, p = NULL, matNA = NULL,
       res = NULL, mse = TRUE)

## S3 method for class 'shrbv'
cscov(comb = "shrbv", ..., n = NULL, p = NULL, matNA = NULL,
       res = NULL, mse = TRUE, shrink_fun = NULL)

## S3 method for class 'sambv'
cscov(comb = "sambv", ..., n = NULL, p = NULL, matNA = NULL,
       res = NULL, mse = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

<code>comb</code>	A string specifying the reconciliation method. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <code>FoReco</code> approaches: "ols", "wls", "shr", "sam".</li> <li>• "shrbe"/"sambe" - shrunk/sample block-diagonal covariance by experts.</li> <li>• "shrbv"/"sambv" - shrunk/sample block-diagonal covariance by variables.</li> </ul>
<code>...</code>	Arguments passed on to <code>FoReco::cscov</code> .
<code>n</code>	Total number of variables, $n$ .
<code>p</code>	Total number of experts, $p$ .
<code>matNA</code>	A $(n \times p)$ matrix consisting of 0s and 1s, where each element indicates whether expert $j$ (column) has provided a forecast for variable $i$ (row). If expert $j$ has provided a forecast for variable $i$ , the corresponding element $(i, j)$ is 1; otherwise, it is 0.
<code>res</code>	A list of $p$ numeric $(N \times n)$ matrix containing the in-sample residuals. This input is used to compute some covariance matrices.
<code>mse</code>	If TRUE ( <i>default</i> ) the residuals used to compute the covariance matrix are not mean-corrected.
<code>shrink_fun</code>	Shrinkage function of the covariance matrix, <code>FoReco::shrink_estim</code> ( <i>default</i> ).

**Value**

A  $(m \times m)$  symmetric positive (semi-)definite matrix, with  $m = \sum_{j=1}^p n_j$ ,  $n_j \leq n$ .

**See Also**

Other Optimal combination: `csmtc()`, `csocc()`, `occmat()`

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 csmtc

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*Cross-sectional optimal multi-task forecast combination*


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**Description**

This function computes the optimal multi-task linear forecast combination, as described in Girolimetto and Di Fonzo (2024)

**Usage**

```
csmtc(base, comb = "ols", res = NULL, approach = "proj",
      nn = NULL, settings = NULL, bounds = NULL, agg_mat = NULL, ...)
```

**Arguments**

base	A list of $p$ numeric $(h \times n)$ matrix or multivariate time series (mts class) containing the base forecasts to be reconciled; $h$ is the forecast horizon, $n$ is the total number of time series ( $n = n_u + n_b$ ) and $p$ is the total number of experts.
comb	A string specifying the reconciliation method. For details, see <a href="#">cscov</a> .
res	A list of $p$ numeric $(N \times n)$ matrix containing the in-sample residuals. This input is used to compute some covariance matrices.
approach	A string specifying the approach used to compute the reconciled forecasts. Options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"proj" (<i>default</i>): zero-constrained projection approach.</li> <li>"osqp": OSQP solver (Stellato et al., 2020).</li> </ul>
nn	A string specifying the algorithm to compute non-negative forecasts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"osqp": OSQP solver (Stellato et al., 2020).</li> <li>"sntz": heuristic "set-negative-to-zero".</li> </ul>
settings	An object of class <code>osqpSettings</code> specifying settings for the <b>osqp</b> solver. For details, refer to the <a href="#">osqp documentation</a> (Stellato et al., 2020).
bounds	A matrix (see <code>set_bounds</code> in <b>FoReco</b> ) with 3 columns ( $i$ , <i>lower</i> , <i>upper</i> ), such that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Column 1 represents the cross-sectional series (<math>i = 1, \dots, n</math>).</li> <li>Column 2 indicates the <i>lower</i> bound.</li> <li>Column 3 indicates the <i>upper</i> bound.</li> </ul>
agg_mat	A $(n_u \times n_b)$ numeric matrix representing the cross-sectional aggregation matrix, mapping the $n_b$ bottom-level (free) variables into the $n_u$ upper (constrained) variables.
...	Arguments passed on to <a href="#">cscov</a> .

**Value**

A ( $h \times n$ ) numeric matrix of cross-sectional multi-task combined forecasts.

**References**

Girolimetto, D. and Di Fonzo, T. (2024), Coherent forecast combination for linearly constrained multiple time series, [doi:10.48550/arXiv.2412.03429](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2412.03429).

**See Also**

Other Optimal combination: [cscov\(\)](#), [csocc\(\)](#), [occmat\(\)](#)

**Examples**

```
set.seed(123)
# (2 x 3) base forecasts matrix (simulated), expert 1
base1 <- matrix(rnorm(6, mean = c(20, 10, 10)), 2, byrow = TRUE)
# (10 x 3) in-sample residuals matrix (simulated), expert 1
res1 <- t(matrix(rnorm(n = 30), nrow = 3))

# (2 x 3) base forecasts matrix (simulated), expert 2
base2 <- matrix(rnorm(6, mean = c(20, 10, 10)), 2, byrow = TRUE)
# (10 x 3) in-sample residuals matrix (simulated), expert 2
res2 <- t(matrix(rnorm(n = 30), nrow = 3))

## BALANCED PANEL OF FORECASTS
# Base forecasts' and residuals' lists
brc <- list(base1, base2)
erc <- list(res1, res2)

# Aggregation matrix for Z = X + Y
A <- t(c(1,1))
rrc <- csocc(base = brc, agg_mat = A, comb = "shr", res = erc)

yc <- csmtc(base = brc, agg_mat = A, comb = "shr", res = erc)
M <- occmat(base = brc, agg_mat = A, comb = "shr", p = 2, res = erc)$M
M%*%t(yc)-t(rrc)

## UNBALANCED PANEL OF FORECASTS
base2[, 2] <- res2[, 2] <- NA

# Base forecasts' and residuals' lists
bgc <- list(base1, base2)
egc <- list(res1, res2)
matNA <- matrix(1, 3, 2)
matNA[2,2] <- 0

# Aggregation matrix for Z = X + Y
A <- t(c(1,1))
rgc <- csocc(base = bgc, agg_mat = A, comb = "shr", res = egc)

yc <- csmtc(base = bgc, agg_mat = A, comb = "shr", res = egc)
```

```
M <- occmat(base = bgc, agg_mat = A, comb = "shr", p = 2, res = egc, matNA = matNA)$M
M%*%t(yc)-t(rgc)
```

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csocc

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*Cross-sectional optimal coherent forecast combination*


---

## Description

This function implements the optimal linear coherent forecast combination for a linearly constrained (e.g., hierarchical/grouped) multiple time series combining forecasts from multiple sources (experts). The method minimizes forecast errors while ensuring that the resulting forecasts are coherent, meaning they satisfy the constraints across the time series. Using a linear constrained optimization approach, `csocc` combines forecasts from multiple experts, accounting for the relations between variables and constraints. In addition, linear inequality constraints (e.g. non-negative forecasts) can be imposed, if needed.

## Usage

```
csocc(base, agg_mat, cons_mat, comb = "ols", res = NULL,
      approach = "proj", nn = NULL, settings = NULL, bounds = NULL, ...)
```

## Arguments

base	A list of $p$ numeric ( $h \times n$ ) matrix or multivariate time series (mts class) containing the base forecasts to be reconciled; $h$ is the forecast horizon, $n$ is the total number of time series ( $n = n_u + n_b$ ) and $p$ is the total number of experts.
agg_mat	A ( $n_u \times n_b$ ) numeric matrix representing the cross-sectional aggregation matrix, mapping the $n_b$ bottom-level (free) variables into the $n_u$ upper (constrained) variables.
cons_mat	A ( $n_u \times n$ ) numeric matrix representing the cross-sectional zero constraints: each row represents a constraint equation, and each column represents a variable. The matrix can be of full rank, meaning the rows are linearly independent, but this is not a strict requirement, as the function allows for redundancy in the constraints.
comb	A string specifying the reconciliation method. For details, see <code>cscov</code> .
res	A list of $p$ numeric ( $N \times n$ ) matrix containing the in-sample residuals. This input is used to compute some covariance matrices.
approach	A string specifying the approach used to compute the reconciled forecasts. Options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "proj" (<i>default</i>): zero-constrained projection approach.</li> <li>• "strc": structural approach.</li> </ul>
nn	A string specifying the algorithm to compute non-negative forecasts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "osqp": OSQP solver (Stellato et al., 2020).</li> <li>• "sntz": heuristic "set-negative-to-zero" (Di Fonzo and Girolimetto, 2023).</li> </ul>

settings	An object of class <code>osqpSettings</code> specifying settings for the <b>osqp</b> solver. For details, refer to the <b>osqp documentation</b> (Stellato et al., 2020).
bounds	A matrix (see <code>set_bounds</code> in <b>FoReco</b> ) with 3 columns ( $i$ , <i>lower</i> , <i>upper</i> ), such that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Column 1 represents the cross-sectional series (<math>i = 1, \dots, n</math>).</li> <li>• Column 2 indicates the <i>lower</i> bound.</li> <li>• Column 3 indicates the <i>upper</i> bound.</li> </ul>
...	Arguments passed on to <code>cscov</code> .

## Details

If an expert does not provide a forecast for a given variable, the missing value can be represented as NA. For instance, consider a case where the number of experts is  $p = 4$ , with  $n = 3$  variables and  $h = 2$ . If the second and third experts do not provide forecasts for, respectively, the second and first variable, the corresponding matrix in the base list will be as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{base}[[1]] &= \begin{bmatrix} \hat{y}_{1,1}^1 & \hat{y}_{2,1}^1 & \hat{y}_{3,1}^1 \\ \hat{y}_{1,2}^1 & \hat{y}_{2,2}^1 & \hat{y}_{3,2}^1 \end{bmatrix}, & \text{base}[[2]] &= \begin{bmatrix} \hat{y}_{1,1}^2 & \text{NA} & \hat{y}_{3,1}^2 \\ \hat{y}_{1,2}^2 & \text{NA} & \hat{y}_{3,2}^2 \end{bmatrix}, \\ \text{base}[[3]] &= \begin{bmatrix} \text{NA} & \hat{y}_{2,1}^3 & \hat{y}_{3,1}^3 \\ \text{NA} & \hat{y}_{2,2}^3 & \hat{y}_{3,2}^3 \end{bmatrix}, & \text{base}[[4]] &= \begin{bmatrix} \hat{y}_{1,1}^4 & \hat{y}_{2,1}^4 & \hat{y}_{3,1}^4 \\ \hat{y}_{1,2}^4 & \hat{y}_{2,2}^4 & \hat{y}_{3,2}^4 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

## Value

A  $(h \times n)$  numeric matrix of cross-sectional combined and reconciled forecasts.

## References

- Di Fonzo, T. and Girolimetto, D. (2023), Spatio-temporal reconciliation of solar forecasts, *Solar Energy*, 251, 13–29. [doi:10.1016/j.solener.2023.01.003](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.solener.2023.01.003)
- Girolimetto, D. and Di Fonzo, T. (2024), Coherent forecast combination for linearly constrained multiple time series, [doi:10.48550/arXiv.2412.03429](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2412.03429).
- Stellato, B., Banjac, G., Goulart, P., Bemporad, A. and Boyd, S. (2020), OSQP: An Operator Splitting solver for Quadratic Programs, *Mathematical Programming Computation*, 12, 4, 637–672. [doi:10.1007/s12532020001792](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12532020001792)

## See Also

Other Optimal combination: `cscov()`, `csmtc()`, `occmat()`

## Examples

```
set.seed(123)
# (2 x 3) base forecasts matrix (simulated), expert 1
base1 <- matrix(rnorm(6, mean = c(20, 10, 10)), 2, byrow = TRUE)
# (10 x 3) in-sample residuals matrix (simulated), expert 1
res1 <- t(matrix(rnorm(n = 30), nrow = 3))

# (2 x 3) base forecasts matrix (simulated), expert 2
```

```

base2 <- matrix(rnorm(6, mean = c(20, 10, 10)), 2, byrow = TRUE)
# (10 x 3) in-sample residuals matrix (simulated), expert 2
res2 <- t(matrix(rnorm(n = 30), nrow = 3))

## BALANCED PANEL OF FORECASTS
# Base forecasts' and residuals' lists
brc <- list(base1, base2)
erc <- list(res1, res2)

# Aggregation matrix for Z = X + Y
A <- t(c(1,1))
rrc <- csocc(base = brc, agg_mat = A, comb = "wls", res = erc)

# Zero constraints matrix for Z - X - Y = 0
C <- t(c(1, -1, -1))
rrc <- csocc(base = brc, cons_mat = C, comb = "wls", res = erc) # same results

## UNBALANCED PANEL OF FORECASTS
base2[, 2] <- res2[, 2] <- NA

# Base forecasts' and residuals' lists
bgc <- list(base1, base2)
egc <- list(res1, res2)

# Aggregation matrix for Z = X + Y
A <- t(c(1,1))
rgc <- csocc(base = bgc, agg_mat = A, comb = "shrbe", res = egc)

```

---

csscr

---

*Cross-sectional sequential combination-reconciliation*


---

## Description

This function performs a two-step process designed to first combine forecasts from multiple models or experts and then apply reconciliation techniques to ensure coherence.

## Usage

```
csscr(base, fc = "sa", comb = "ols", res = NULL, mse = TRUE, shrink = TRUE,
      nnw = FALSE, factorized = FALSE, ...)
```

## Arguments

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| base | A list of $p$ numeric ( $h \times n$ ) matrix or multivariate time series (mts class) containing the base forecasts to be reconciled; $h$ is the forecast horizon, $n$ is the total number of time series ( $n = n_u + n_b$ ) and $p$ is the total number of experts. |
| fc   | A string specifying the combination method: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "sa" - (<i>default</i>) simple average (equal weights).</li> </ul>   |

- "var" - (uses res) weights derived from the inverse of forecasts variances/MSE as proposed by Bates and Granger (1969).
- "cov" - (uses res) weights derived using the whole forecast error covariance matrix, as proposed by Newbold and Granger (1974).

comb	A string specifying the reconciliation method: "ols", "wls", "shr", "sam" (see <a href="#">FoReco</a> ). If comb = "none", no reconciliation is performed and the combined forecasts are directly returned.
res	A list of $p$ numeric ( $N \times n$ ) matrix containing the in-sample residuals. This input is used to compute some covariance matrices.
mse	If TRUE ( <i>default</i> ) the residuals used to compute the covariance matrix are not mean-corrected.
shrink	If TRUE ( <i>default</i> ), the covariance matrix for fc = "cov" is shrunk.
nnw	If TRUE for fc = "cov", the weights are constrained to be non-negative (Conflitti et al., 2015). The <i>default</i> is FALSE.
factorized	Value to be passed to the <code>quadprog::solve.QP</code> , only when nnw = TRUE.
...	Arguments passed on to <code>FoReco::csrec</code> (e.g., <code>agg_mat</code> or <code>cons_mat</code> ).

### Value

A ( $h \times n$ ) numeric matrix of cross-sectional combined and reconciled forecasts.

### References

- Bates, J. and Granger, C. W. (1969), The combination of forecasts, *Operations Research Quarterly*, 20, 451–468. [doi:10.1057/jors.1969.103](https://doi.org/10.1057/jors.1969.103).
- Conflitti, C., De Mol, C., and Giannone, D. (2015), Optimal combination of survey forecasts. *International Journal of Forecasting*, 31(4), 1096–1103. [doi:10.1016/j.ijforecast.2015.03.009](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijforecast.2015.03.009).
- Girolimetto, D. and Di Fonzo, T. (2024), Coherent forecast combination for linearly constrained multiple time series. [doi:10.48550/arXiv.2412.03429](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2412.03429).
- Newbold, P. and Granger, C. W. (1974), Experience with forecasting univariate time series and the combination of forecasts, *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, A*, 137, 131–146. [doi:10.2307/2344546](https://doi.org/10.2307/2344546)

### See Also

Sequential coherent combination: [cssrc\(\)](#)

### Examples

```
set.seed(123)
# (2 x 3) base forecasts matrix (simulated), expert 1
base1 <- matrix(rnorm(6, mean = c(20, 10, 10)), 2, byrow = TRUE)
# (10 x 3) in-sample residuals matrix (simulated), expert 1
res1 <- t(matrix(rnorm(n = 30), nrow = 3))

# (2 x 3) base forecasts matrix (simulated), expert 2
base2 <- matrix(rnorm(6, mean = c(20, 10, 10)), 2, byrow = TRUE)
```

```

# (10 x 3) in-sample residuals matrix (simulated), expert 2
res2 <- t(matrix(rnorm(n = 30), nrow = 3))

# Base forecasts' and residuals' lists
base <- list(base1, base2)
res <- list(res1, res2)

# Aggregation matrix for  $Z = X + Y$ 
A <- t(c(1,1))
reco <- cssrc(base = base, agg_mat = A, comb = "wls", res = res, fc = "sa")

# Zero constraints matrix for  $Z - X - Y = 0$ 
C <- t(c(1, -1, -1))
reco <- cssrc(base = base, cons_mat = C, comb = "wls", res = res, fc = "sa") # same results

# Incoherent combined forecasts
fc_comb <- cssrc(base = base, comb = "none", fc = "sa")
round(C %*% t(fc_comb), 3) # Incoherent forecasts

```

---

cssrc

*Cross-sectional sequential reconciliation-combination*


---

## Description

This function applies a sequential method that first reconciles the base forecasts from each expert to satisfy the linear constraints, and then combines the reconciled forecasts obtained so far. `cssrc` may be applied only in 'balanced' cases (e.g.,  $n_j = n \forall j$ , see Girolimetto and Di Fonzo, 2024)

## Usage

```
cssrc(base, fc = "sa", comb = "ols", res = NULL, mse = TRUE, shrink = TRUE,
      nnw = FALSE, factorized = FALSE, ...)
```

## Arguments

base	A list of $p$ numeric ( $h \times n$ ) matrix or multivariate time series (mts class) containing the base forecasts to be reconciled; $h$ is the forecast horizon, $n$ is the total number of time series ( $n = n_u + n_b$ ) and $p$ is the total number of experts.
fc	A string specifying the combination method: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"sa" - (<i>default</i>) simple average (equal weights).</li> <li>"var" - (uses res) weights derived from the inverse of forecasts variances/MSE as proposed by Bates and Granger (1969).</li> <li>"cov" - (uses res) weights derived using the whole forecast error covariance matrix, as proposed by Newbold and Granger (1974).</li> </ul>
comb	A string specifying the reconciliation method: "ols", "wls", "shr", "sam" (see <a href="#">FoReco</a> ).

res	A list of $p$ numeric ( $N \times n$ ) matrix containing the in-sample residuals. This input is used to compute some covariance matrices.
mse	If TRUE ( <i>default</i> ) the residuals used to compute the covariance matrix are not mean-corrected.
shrink	If TRUE ( <i>default</i> ), the covariance matrix for <code>fc = "cov"</code> is shrunk.
nnw	If TRUE for <code>fc = "cov"</code> , the weights are constrained to be non-negative (Conflitti et al., 2015). The <i>default</i> is FALSE.
factorized	Value to be passed to the <code>quadprog::solve.QP</code> , only when <code>nnw = TRUE</code> .
...	Arguments passed on to <code>FoReco::csrec</code> (e.g., <code>agg_mat</code> or <code>cons_mat</code> ).

### Value

A ( $h \times n$ ) numeric matrix of cross-sectional combined and reconciled forecasts.

### References

- Bates, J. and Granger, C. W. (1969), The combination of forecasts, *Operations Research Quarterly*, 20, 451–468. doi:[10.1057/jors.1969.103](https://doi.org/10.1057/jors.1969.103).
- Conflitti, C., De Mol, C., and Giannone, D. (2015), Optimal combination of survey forecasts. *International Journal of Forecasting*, 31(4), 1096–1103. doi:[10.1016/j.ijforecast.2015.03.009](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijforecast.2015.03.009).
- Girolimetto, D. and Di Fonzo, T. (2024), Coherent forecast combination for linearly constrained multiple time series. doi:[10.48550/arXiv.2412.03429](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2412.03429).
- Newbold, P. and Granger, C. W. (1974), Experience with forecasting univariate time series and the combination of forecasts, *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, A*, 137, 131–146. doi:[10.2307/2344546](https://doi.org/10.2307/2344546)

### See Also

Sequential coherent combination: `csscr()`

### Examples

```
set.seed(123)
# (2 x 3) base forecasts matrix (simulated), expert 1
base1 <- matrix(rnorm(6, mean = c(20, 10, 10)), 2, byrow = TRUE)
# (10 x 3) in-sample residuals matrix (simulated), expert 1
res1 <- t(matrix(rnorm(n = 30), nrow = 3))

# (2 x 3) base forecasts matrix (simulated), expert 2
base2 <- matrix(rnorm(6, mean = c(20, 10, 10)), 2, byrow = TRUE)
# (10 x 3) in-sample residuals matrix (simulated), expert 2
res2 <- t(matrix(rnorm(n = 30), nrow = 3))

# Base forecasts' and residuals' lists
base <- list(base1, base2)
res <- list(res1, res2)

# Aggregation matrix for Z = X + Y
```

```

A <- t(c(1,1))
reco <- cssrc(base = base, agg_mat = A, comb = "wls", res = res, fc = "sa")

# Zero constraints matrix for Z - X - Y = 0
C <- t(c(1, -1, -1))
reco <- cssrc(base = base, cons_mat = C, comb = "wls", res = res, fc = "sa") # same results

# WARNING!
reco_v <- cssrc(base = base, agg_mat = A, comb = "wls", res = res, fc = "var")
round(C %% t(reco_v), 3) # Incoherent forecasts

```

---

 occmat

---

*Matrices for the optimal coherent forecast combination*


---

## Description

This function computes the matrices required for the optimal coherent forecast combination [csocc](#), as described in Girolimetto and Di Fonzo (2024). These matrices serve as the foundation for building forecasts that effectively combines the individual information from multiple experts while ensuring coherence across the variables.

## Usage

```

occmat(agg_mat, cons_mat, p = NULL, matNA = NULL,
       comb = "ols", res = NULL, approach = "proj", ...)

```

## Arguments

agg_mat	A ( $n_u \times n_b$ ) numeric matrix representing the cross-sectional aggregation matrix, mapping the $n_b$ bottom-level (free) variables into the $n_u$ upper (constrained) variables.
cons_mat	A ( $n_u \times n$ ) numeric matrix representing the cross-sectional zero constraints: each row represents a constraint equation, and each column represents a variable. The matrix can be of full rank, meaning the rows are linearly independent, but this is not a strict requirement, as the function allows for redundancy in the constraints.
p	Total number of experts, $p$ .
matNA	A ( $n \times p$ ) matrix consisting of 0s and 1s, where each element indicates whether expert $j$ (column) has provided a forecast for variable $i$ (row). If expert $j$ has provided a forecast for variable $i$ , the corresponding element $(i, j)$ is 1; otherwise, it is 0.
comb	A string specifying the reconciliation method. For details, see <a href="#">cscov</a> .
res	A list of $p$ numeric ( $N \times n$ ) matrix containing the in-sample residuals. This input is used to compute some covariance matrices.
approach	A string specifying the approach used to compute the reconciled forecasts. Options include:

- "proj" (*default*): zero-constrained projection approach.
  - "strc": structural approach.
- ... Arguments passed on to `cscov`.

### Value

A list of matrices:

M	Projection matrix.
Omega	Matrix of the combination weights of the optimal linear multi-task forecast combination.
W	Forecast error covariance matrix of the base forecasts.
Wc	Forecast error covariance matrix of the combined forecasts.
Wtilde	Forecast error covariance matrix of the reconciled combined forecasts.
K	Matrix that replicates a vector (see Girolimetto and Di Fonzo, 2024).

### References

Girolimetto, D. and Di Fonzo, T. (2024), Coherent forecast combination for linearly constrained multiple time series, [doi:10.48550/arXiv.2412.03429](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2412.03429).

### See Also

Other Optimal combination: `cscov()`, `csmtc()`, `csocc()`

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