stochvol: Efficient Bayesian Inference for Stochastic Volatility (SV) Models

Kastner, Gregor

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stochvol-package

Description

This package provides an efficient algorithm for fully Bayesian estimation of stochastic volatility (SV) models via Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) methods. Algorithmic details can be found in Kastner and Frühwirth-Schnatter (2014).

Details

Bayesian inference for stochastic volatility models using MCMC methods highly depends on actual parameter values in terms of sampling efficiency. While draws from the posterior utilizing the standard centered parameterization break down when the volatility of volatility parameter in the latent state equation is small, non-centered versions of the model show deficiencies for highly persistent latent variable series. The novel approach of ancillarity-sufficiency interweaving (Yu and Meng, 2011) has recently been shown to aid in overcoming these issues for a broad class of multilevel models. This package provides software for “combining best of different worlds” which allows for inference for parameter constellations that have previously been infeasible to estimate without the need to select a particular parameterization beforehand.

Note

This package is currently in active development. Your comments, suggestions and requests are warmly welcome!

Author(s)

Gregor Kastner <gregor.kastner@wu.ac.at>

References


Examples

```r
## Simulate a highly persistent SV process
sim <- svsim(500, mu = -10, phi = 0.99, sigma = 0.2)

## Obtain 4000 draws from the sampler (that's too little!)
draws <- svsample(sim$y, draws = 4000, burnin = 100, priormu = c(-10, 1),
                  priorphi = c(20, 1.2), priorsigma = 0.2)

## Predict 20 days ahead
fore <- predict(draws, 20)

## plot the results
plot(draws, forecast = fore)
```

arpredict

Dynamic prediction for the AR-SV model

Description

Simulates draws from the posterior predictive density of a fitted AR-SV model.

Usage

```r
arpredict(object, volpred)
```

Arguments

- `object` svdraws object as returned from `svsample`.
- `volpred` svpredict object as returned from `predict.svdraws`.

Value

Returns an object of class c("distpredict", "mcmc") containing simulations from the posterior predictive density of \(y_{n+1}, \ldots, y_{n+\text{steps}}\).

Note

You can use the usual coda methods for mcmc objects to print, plot, or summarize the predictions.

Author(s)

Gregor Kastner <gregor.kastner@wu.ac.at>

See Also

`predict.svdraws`. 
Examples

```r
## Not run:
data(exrates)
y <- exrates$USD

## Fit AR(1)-SV model to EUR-USD exchange rates
res <- svsample(y, designmatrix = "ar1")

## Use predict.svdraws to obtain predictive volatilities
ahead <- 100
predvol <- predict(res, steps = ahead)

## Use arpredict to obtain draws from the posterior predictive
preddraws <- arpredict(res, predvol)

## Calculate predictive quantiles
predquants <- apply(preddraws, 2, quantile, c(.1, .5, .9))

## Visualize
ts.plot(y, xlim = c(length(y) - ahead, length(y) + ahead),
ylim = range(predquants))
for (i in 1:3) {
  lines((length(y) + 1):(length(y) + ahead), predquants[i,],
    col = 3, lty = i)
}

## End(Not run)
```

---

**exrates**  
*Euro exchange rate data*

**Description**

The data set contains the daily bilateral prices of one Euro in 23 currencies from January 3, 2000, until April 4, 2012. Conversions to New Turkish Lira and Fourth Romanian Leu have been incorporated.

**Usage**

data(exrates)

**Source**


**See Also**

svsample
Extractors

Examples

```r
## Not run:
data(exrates)
dat <- logret(exrates$USD, demean = TRUE)  ## de-meaned log-returns
res <- svsample(dat)  ## run MCMC sampler
plot(res, forecast = 100)  ## display results

## End(Not run)
```

Extractors

**Common Extractors for 'svdraws' Objects**

**Description**

Some simple extractors returning the corresponding element of an `svdraws` object.

**Usage**

```r
para(x)
latent(x)
latent0(x)
priors(x)
thinning(x)
runtime(x)
```

**Arguments**

- `x` : `svdraws` object.

**Value**

The return value depends on the actual function:

- `para(x)` extracts the parameter draws and returns them as an `mcmc` object.
- `latent(x)` extracts the latent contemporaneous log-volatility draws and returns them as an `mcmc` object.
- `latent0(x)` extracts the latent initial log-volatility draws and returns as an `mcmc` object.
- `priors(x)` extracts the prior parameters used and returns them in a list.
- `thinning(x)` extracts the thinning parameters used and returns them in a list.
- `runtime(x)` extracts the runtime and returns it as a `proc_time` object.

**Author(s)**

Gregor Kastner <gregor.kastner@wu.ac.at>
logret  Computes (de-meaned) log returns.

Description

Small utility function returning either \( \text{diff}(\log(x)) \) in case the argument demean is set to FALSE, or \( \text{diff}(\log(x)) - \text{mean}(\text{diff}(\log(x))) \) in case that demean is TRUE.

Usage

\[
\text{logret}(x, \text{demean} = \text{FALSE})
\]

Arguments

- \( x \) Real-valued vector.
- \( \text{demean} \) A single logical value indicating whether the returns should be de-meaned. Defaults to FALSE.

Value

A vector of length \( \text{length}(x) - 1 \), containing (de-meaned) returns.

Author(s)

Gregor Kastner <gregor.kastner@wu.ac.at>

paradensplot  Probability Density Function Plot for the Parameter Posteriors

Description

Displays a plot of the density estimate for the posterior distribution of the parameters \( \mu, \phi, \sigma \) (and potentially \( \nu \)), computed by the \texttt{density} function.

Usage

\[
\text{paradensplot}(x, \text{showobs} = \text{TRUE}, \text{showprior} = \text{TRUE}, \text{showxlab} = \text{TRUE}, \text{mar} = c(1.9, 1.9, 1.9, 0.5), \text{mgp} = c(2, 0.6, 0), \text{simobj} = \text{NULL}, ...)
\]
Arguments

- **x**: svdraws object.
- **showobs**: logical value, indicating whether the observations should be displayed along the x-axis. If many draws have been obtained, the default (TRUE) can render the plotting to be quite slow, and you might want to try setting showobs to FALSE.
- **showprior**: logical value, indicating whether the prior distribution should be displayed. The default value is TRUE.
- **showxlab**: logical value, indicating whether the x-axis should be labelled with the number of iterations and the bandwidth obtained from `density`. The default value is TRUE.
- **mar**: numerical vector of length 4, indicating the plot margins. See `par` for details. The default value is `c(1.9, 1.9, 1.9, 0.5)`, which is slightly smaller than the R-defaults.
- **mgp**: numerical vector of length 3, indicating the axis and label positions. See `par` for details. The default value is `c(2, 0.6, 0)` which is slightly smaller than the R-defaults.
- **simobj**: object of class `svsim` as returned by the SV simulation function `svsim`. If provided, “true” data generating values will be added to the plots.
- **...**: further arguments are passed on to the invoked `plot` function.

Details

`paradensplot` is modeled after `densplot` in the coda package, with some modifications for parameters that have (half-)bounded support.

Value

Called for its side effects. Returns argument `x` invisibly.

Note

You can call this function directly, but it is more commonly called by the `plot.svdraws` method.

Author(s)

Gregor Kastner <gregor.kastner@wu.ac.at>

See Also

`paratraceplot, volplot, plot.svdraws`
paratraceplot  

Trace Plot of MCMC Draws from the Parameter Posteriors

Description
Displays a plot of iterations vs. sampled values the parameters mu, phi, sigma (and potentially nu), with a separate plot per variable.

Usage
paratraceplot(x, mar = c(1.9, 1.9, 1.9, 0.5), mgp = c(2, 0.6, 0), simobj = NULL, ...)

Arguments

x svdraws object.
mar numerical vector of length 4, indicating the plot margins. See par for details. The default value is c(1.9, 1.9, 1.9, 0.5), which is slightly smaller than the R-defaults.
mgp numerical vector of length 3, indicating the axis and label positions. See par for details. The default value is c(2, 0.6, 0), which is slightly smaller than the R-defaults.
simobj object of class svsim as returned by the SV simulation function svsim. If provided, “true” data generating values will be added to the plots.
...
further arguments are passed on to the invoked matplot function.

Details
paratraceplot is modeled after traceplot in the coda package, with very minor modifications.

Value
Called for its side effects. Returns argument x invisibly.

Note
You can call this function directly, but it is more commonly called by the plot.svdraws method.

Author(s)
Gregor Kastner <gregor.kastner@wu.ac.at>

See Also
paradensplot, volplot, plot.svdraws
plot.svdraws

Graphical Summary of the Posterior Distribution

Description

plot.svdraws generates some plots visualizing the posterior distribution and can also be used to display predictive distributions of future volatilities.

Usage

```r
## S3 method for class 'svdraws'
plot(x, forecast = NULL, dates = NULL, show0 = FALSE, showobs = TRUE,
     showprior = TRUE, col = NULL, forecastlty = NULL, tcl = -0.4,
     mar = c(1.9, 1.9, 1.7, 0.5), mgp = c(2, 0.6, 0), simobj = NULL, ...)
```

Arguments

- `x` svdraws object.
- `forecast` nonnegative integer or object of class `svpredict`, as returned by `predict.svdraws`. If an integer greater than 0 is provided, `predict.svdraws` is invoked to obtain the forecast-step-ahead prediction. The default value is 0.
- `dates` vector of length `ncol(x$latent)`, providing optional dates for labelling the x-axis. The default value is `NULL`; in this case, the axis will be labelled with numbers.
- `show0` logical value, indicating whether the initial volatility `exp(h_0/2)` should be displayed. The default value is `FALSE`.
- `showobs` logical value, indicating whether the observations should be displayed along the x-axis. If many draws have been obtained, the default (TRUE) can render the plotting to be quite slow, and you might want to try setting `showobs` to `FALSE`.
- `showprior` logical value, indicating whether the prior distribution should be displayed. The default value is `TRUE`.
- `col` vector of color values (see `par`) used for plotting the quantiles. The default value `NULL` results in gray lines for all quantiles except the median, which is displayed in black.
- `forecastlty` vector of line type values (see `par`) used for plotting quantiles of predictive distributions. The default value `NULL` results in dashed lines.
- `tcl` The length of tick marks as a fraction of the height of a line of text. See `par` for details. The default value is `-0.4`, which results in slightly shorter tick marks than usual.
- `mar` numerical vector of length 4, indicating the plot margins. See `par` for details. The default value is `c(1.9, 1.9, 1.9, 0.5)`, which is slightly smaller than the R-defaults.
- `mgp` numerical vector of length 3, indicating the axis and label positions. See `par` for details. The default value is `c(2, 0.6, 0)`, which is slightly smaller than the R-defaults.
object of class `svsim` as returned by the `SV` simulation function `svsim`. If provided, the “true” data generating values will be added to the plots.

... further arguments are passed on to the invoked plotting functions.

Details

This function sets up the page layout and calls `volplot`, `paratraceplot` and `paradensplot`.

Value

Called for its side effects. Returns argument x invisibly.

Note

In case you want different quantiles to be plotted, use `updatesummary` on the `svdraws` object first. An example of doing so is given in the Examples section.

Author(s)

Gregor Kastner &lt;gregor.kastner@wu.ac.at&gt;

See Also

`updatesummary`, `volplot`, `paratraceplot`, `paradensplot`.

Examples

```r
## Simulate a short and highly persistent SV process
sim <- svsim(100, mu = -10, phi = 0.99, sigma = 0.2)

## Obtain 5000 draws from the sampler (that's not a lot)
draws <- svsample(sim$y, draws = 5000, burnin = 1000,
                   priormu = c(-10, 1), priorphi = c(20, 1.5), priorsigma = 0.2)

## Plot the latent volatilities and some forecasts
plot(draws, forecast = 10)

## Re-plot with different quantiles
newquants <- c(0.01, 0.05, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 0.95, 0.99)
draws <- updatesummary(draws, quantiles = newquants)

plot(draws, forecast = 20, showobs = FALSE, col = seq(along = newquants),
     forecastlty = 3, showprior = FALSE)
```
**predict.svdraws**

Prediction of Future Log-Volatilities

**Description**

Simulates draws from the predictive density of the latent log-volatility process.

**Usage**

```r
## S3 method for class 'svdraws'
predict(object, steps = 1, ...)
```

**Arguments**

- `object`: svdraws object.
- `steps`: single number, coercible to integer. Denotes the number of steps to forecast.
- `...`: currently ignored.

**Value**

Returns an object of class `c("svpredict", "mcmc")` containing simulations from the predictive density of \( h_{n+1}, \ldots, h_{n+\text{steps}} \).

**Note**

You can use the usual coda methods for mcmc objects to print, plot, or summarize the predictions, or use them within `volplot` or `plot.svdraws`.

**Author(s)**

Gregor Kastner <gregor.kastner@wu.ac.at>

**See Also**

`plot.svdraws`, `volplot`.

**Examples**

```r
## Simulate a short and highly persistent SV process
sim <- svsim(100, mu = -10, phi = 0.99, sigma = 0.2)

## Obtain 5000 draws from the sampler (that's not a lot)
draws <- svsample(sim$y, draws = 5000, burnin = 100,
                  priormu = c(-10, 1), priorphi = c(20, 1.5), priorsigma = 0.2)

## Predict 10 days ahead
fore <- predict(draws, 10)
```
svsample

Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) Sampling for the Stochastic Volatility (SV) Model

Description

svsample simulates from the joint posterior distribution of the SV parameters mu, phi, sigma (and potentially nu), along with the latent log-volatilities h_0, ..., h_n and returns the MCMC draws. If a design matrix is provided, simple Bayesian regression can also be conducted.

Usage

svsample(y, draws = 10000, burnin = 1000, designmatrix = NA, priormu = c(0, 100), priorphi = c(5, 1.5), priorsigma = 1, priornu = NA, priorbeta = c(0, 10000), thinpara = 1, thinlatent = 1, thintime = 1, keeptau = FALSE, quiet = FALSE, startpara, startlatent, expert, ...)

Arguments

y numeric vector containing the data (usually log-returns), which must not contain zeros. Alternatively, y can be an svsim object. In this case, the returns will be extracted and a warning is thrown.

draws single number greater or equal to 1, indicating the number of draws after burn-in (see below). Will be automatically coerced to integer. The defaults value is 10000.

burnin single number greater or equal to 0, indicating the number of draws discarded as burn-in. Will be automatically coerced to integer. The default value is 1000.

designmatrix regression design matrix for modeling the mean. Must have length(y) rows. Alternatively, designmatrix may be a string of the form "arX", where X is a nonnegative integer. To fit a constant mean model, use designmatrix = "ar0" (which is equivalent to designmatrix = matrix(1, nrow = length(y))). To fit an AR(1) model, use designmatrix = "ar1", and so on. If some elements of designmatrix are NA, the mean is fixed to zero (pre-1.2.0 behavior of stochvol).

priormu numeric vector of length 2, indicating mean and standard deviation for the Gaussian prior distribution of the parameter mu, the level of the log-volatility. The default value is c(0, 100), which constitutes a practically uninformative prior for common exchange rate datasets, stock returns and the like.

priorphi numeric vector of length 2, indicating the shape parameters for the Beta prior distribution of the transformed parameter (phi+1)/2, where phi denotes the persistence of the log-volatility. The default value is c(5, 1.5), which constitutes a prior that puts some belief in a persistent log-volatility but also encompasses the region where phi is around 0.
priorsigma

single positive real number, which stands for the scaling of the transformed parameter \( \sigma^2 \), where \( \sigma \) denotes the volatility of log-volatility. More precisely, \( \sigma^2 \sim \text{priorsigma} \times \text{chisq}\(\text{df} = 1\)\). The default value is 1, which constitutes a reasonably vague prior for many common exchange rate datasets, stock returns and the like.

piorunu

numeric vector of length 2 (or \( \text{NA} \)), indicating the lower and upper bounds for the uniform prior distribution of the parameter \( \nu \), the degrees-of-freedom parameter of the conditional innovations t-distribution. The default value is \( \text{NA} \), fixing the degrees-of-freedom to infinity. This corresponds to conditional standard normal innovations, the pre-1.1.0 behavior of \text{stochvol}.

priorbeta

numeric vector of length 2, indicating the mean and standard deviation of the Gaussian prior for the regression parameters. The default value is \( c(0, 10000) \), which constitutes a very vague prior for many common datasets. Not used if \text{designmatrix} is \( \text{NA} \).

thinpara

single number greater or equal to 1, coercible to integer. Every thinpara-th parameter draw is kept and returned. The default value is 1, corresponding to no thinning of the parameter draws i.e. every draw is stored.

thinlatent

single number greater or equal to 1, coercible to integer. Every thinlatent-th latent variable draw is kept and returned. The default value is 1, corresponding to no thinning of the latent variable draws, i.e. every draw is kept.

thintime

single number greater or equal to 1, coercible to integer. If thintime is different from 1, only every thintime-th latent log-volatility is being monitored. If, e.g., \( \text{thintime} = 3 \), the latent log-volatilities \( h_1, h_4, h_7, \ldots \) will be kept. The default value is 1, meaning that all latent variables \( h_1, h_2, h_3, \ldots \) are stored.

keeptau

logical value indicating whether the 'variance inflation factors' should be stored (used for the sampler with conditional t innovations only). This may be useful to check at what point(s) in time the normal disturbance had to be 'upscaled' by a mixture factor and when the series behaved 'normally'.

quiet

logical value indicating whether the progress bar and other informative output during sampling should be omitted. The default value is FALSE, implying verbose output.

startpara

optional named list, containing the starting values for the parameter draws. If supplied, \text{startpara} must contain three elements named \( \mu \), \( \phi \), and \( \sigma \), where \( \mu \) is an arbitrary numerical value, \( \phi \) is a real number between \( -1 \) and \( 1 \), and \( \sigma \) is a positive real number. The default value is \text{list}(\mu = -10, \phi = 0.9, \sigma = 0.3)\).

startlatent

optional vector of length \text{length(x$y)}\), containing the starting values for the latent log-volatility draws. The default value is \text{rep}(-10, \text{length(x$y)})\).

expert

optional named list of expert parameters. For most applications, the default values probably work best. Interested users are referred to the literature provided in the References section. If \text{expert} is provided, it may contain the following named elements:

parameterization: Character string equal to "centered", "noncentered", "GIS_C", or "GIS_NC". Defaults to "GIS_C".

mhcontrol: Single numeric value controlling the proposal density of a Metropolis-Hastings (MH) update step when sampling \( \sigma \). If \text{mhcontrol} is smaller than
0, an independence proposal will be used, while values greater than zero control
the stepsize of a log-random-walk proposal. Defaults to -1.

gammaprior: Single logical value indicating whether a Gamma prior for \( \sigma^2 \)
should be used. If set to FALSE, an Inverse Gamma prior is employed. Defaults
to TRUE.

truncnormal: Single logical value indicating whether a truncated Gaussian
distribution should be used as proposal for draws of \( \phi \). If set to FALSE, a regular
Gaussian prior is employed and the draw is immediately discarded when values
outside the unit ball happen to be drawn. Defaults to FALSE.

mhsteps: Either 1, 2, or 3. Indicates the number of blocks used for drawing
from the posterior of the parameters. Defaults to 2.

proposalvar4sigmaphi: Single positive number indicating the conditional prior
variance of \( \sigma \cdot \phi \) in the ridge proposal density for sampling \((\mu, \phi)\).
Defaults to \( 10^8 \).

proposalvar4sigmatheta: Single positive number indicating the conditional
prior variance of \( \sigma \cdot \theta \) in the ridge proposal density for sampling \((\mu, \phi)\).
Defaults to \( 10^12 \).

... Any extra arguments will be forwarded to updatesummary, controlling the type
of statistics calculated for the posterior draws.

Details

For details concerning the algorithm please see the paper by Kastner and Frühwirth-Schnatter
(2014).

Value

The value returned is a list object of class svdraws holding

para \textbf{mcmc} object containing the \textit{parameter} draws from the posterior distribution.

latent \textbf{mcmc} object containing the \textit{latent instantaneous log-volatility} draws from the posterior
distribution.

latent0 \textbf{mcmc} object containing the \textit{latent initial log-volatility} draws from the posterior
distribution.

tau \textbf{mcmc} object containing the \textit{latent variance inflation factors} for the sampler with
conditional t-innovations \textit{(optional)}.

beta \textbf{mcmc} object containing the \textit{regression coefficient} draws from the posterior dis-
tribution \textit{(optional)}.

y the argument \textit{y}.

runtime \textbf{proc.time} object containing the run time of the sampler.

priors \textbf{list} containing the parameter values of the prior distribution, i.e. the arguments
\textbf{priormu}, \textbf{priorphi}, \textbf{priorsigma}, and potentially \textbf{piorid} and \textbf{priorbeta}.

thinning \textbf{list} containing the thinning parameters, i.e. the arguments \textbf{thinpara}, \textbf{thinlatent}
and \textbf{thintime}.

summary \textbf{list} containing a collection of summary statistics of the posterior draws for
\textit{para, latent, and latent0}.
To display the output, use `print`, `summary` and `plot`. The `print` method simply prints the posterior draws (which is very likely a lot of output); the `summary` method displays the summary statistics currently stored in the object; the `plot` method `plot.svdraws` gives a graphical overview of the posterior distribution by calling `volplot`, `traceplot` and `densplot` and displaying the results on a single page.

**Note**

If `y` contains zeros, you might want to consider de-meaning your returns or use `designmatrix = “ar0”`.

**Author(s)**

Gregor Kastner <gregor.kastner@wu.ac.at>

**References**


**See Also**

`svsim`, `updatesummary`, `predict.svdraws`, `plot.svdraws`.

**Examples**

```r
## Simulate a short and highly persistent SV process
sim <- svsim(100, mu = -10, phi = 0.99, sigma = 0.2)

## Obtain 5000 draws from the sampler (that's not a lot)
draws <- svsample(sim$y, draws = 5000, burnin = 100,
                   priormu = c(-10, 1), priorphi = c(20, 1.5), priorsigma = 0.2)

## Check out the results
summary(draws)
plot(draws)

## Another example, this time with an AR(1) structure for the mean
## Not run:
data(exrates)
y <- exrates$USD

## Fit AR(1)-SV model to EUR-USD exchange rates
res <- svsample(y, designmatrix = "ar1")

## Use predict.svdraws to obtain predictive volatilities
ahead <- 100
predvol <- predict(res, steps = ahead)

## Use arpredict to obtain draws from the posterior predictive
preddraws <- arpredict(res, predvol)
```
## Calculate predictive quantiles
predquants <- apply(preddraws, 2, quantile, c(.1, .5, .9))

## Visualize
ts.plot(y, xlim = c(length(y) - ahead, length(y) + ahead),
        ylim = range(predquants))
for (i in 1:3) {
  lines((length(y) + 1):(length(y) + ahead), predquants[i, ],
        col = 3, lty = 1)
}

## End(Not run)

---

**svsample2**  
*Minimal overhead version of svsample.*

### Description

svsample2 is a minimal overhead version of *svsample* with slightly different default arguments and a simplified return value structure. It is intended to be used mainly for one-step updates where speed is an issue, e.g., as a plug-in into other MCMC samplers. Note that absolutely no input checking is performed, thus this function is to be used with proper care!

### Usage

```r
svsample2(y, draws = 1, burnin = 0, priormu = c(0, 100),
          priorphi = c(5, 1.5), priorsigma = 1, priornu = NA,
          thinpara = 1, thinlatent = 1, thintime = 1,
          keepetau = FALSE, quiet = TRUE, startpara, startlatent)
```

### Arguments

- **y**  
  numeric vector containing the data (usually log-returns), which must not contain zeroes.

- **draws**  
  single number greater or equal to 1, indicating the number of draws after burn-in (see below). Will be automatically coerced to integer. The defaults value is 1.

- **burnin**  
  single number greater or equal to 0, indicating the number of draws discarded as burn-in. Will be automatically coerced to integer. The default value is 0.

- **priormu**  
  numeric vector of length 2, indicating mean and standard deviation for the Gaussian prior distribution of the parameter mu, the level of the log-volatility. The default value is `c(0, 100)`, which constitutes a practically uninformative prior for common exchange rate datasets, stock returns and the like.

- **priorphi**  
  numeric vector of length 2, indicating the shape parameters for the Beta prior distribution of the transformed parameter `(phi+1)/2`, where `phi` denotes the persistence of the log-volatility. The default value is `c(5, 1.5)`, which constitutes a prior that puts some belief in a persistent log-volatility but also encompasses the region where `phi` is around 0.
priorsigma single positive real number, which stands for the scaling of the transformed parameter $\sigma^2$, where $\sigma$ denotes the volatility of log-volatility. More precisely, $\sigma^2 \sim \text{priorsigma} \times \text{chisq(df = 1)}$. The default value is 1, which constitutes a reasonably vague prior for many common exchange rate datasets, stock returns and the like.

priornu numeric vector of length 2 (or NA), indicating the lower and upper bounds for the uniform prior distribution of the parameter $\nu$, the degrees-of-freedom parameter of the conditional innovations $t$-distribution. The default value is NA, fixing the degrees-of-freedom to infinity. This corresponds to conditional standard normal innovations, the pre-1.1.0 behavior of stochvol.

thinpara single number greater or equal to 1, coercible to integer. Every thinpara parameter draw is kept and returned. The default value is 1, corresponding to no thinning of the parameter draws – every draw is stored.

thinlatent single number greater or equal to 1, coercible to integer. Every thinlatent latent variable draw is kept and returned. The default value is 1, corresponding to no thinning of the latent variable draws, i.e. every draw is kept.

thintime single number greater or equal to 1, coercible to integer. If thintime is different from 1, only every thintime-th latent log-volatility is being monitored. If, e.g., thintime = 3, the latent log-volatilities $h_1, h_4, h_7, \ldots$ will be kept. The default value is 1, meaning that all latent variables $h_1, h_2, h_3, \ldots$ are stored.

keeptau logical value indicating whether the 'variance inflation factors' should be stored (used for the sampler with conditional $t$ innovations only). This may be useful to check at what point(s) in time the normal disturbance had to be 'upscaled' by a mixture factor and when the series behaved 'normally'.

quiet logical value indicating whether the progress bar and other informative output during sampling should be omitted. The default value is TRUE, implying non-verbose output.

startpara compulsory named list, containing the starting values for the parameter draws. startpara must contain three elements named $\mu$, $\phi$, and $\sigma$, where $\mu$ is an arbitrary numerical value, $\phi$ is a real number between $-1$ and $1$, and $\sigma$ is a positive real number.

startlatent compulsory vector of length $\text{length}(x\$y)$, containing the starting values for the latent log-volatility draws.

Details

As opposed to the ordinary svsample, the default values differ for draws, burnin, and quiet. Note that currently neither expert nor ... arguments are provided.

Value

A list with three components:

para 3 times draws matrix containing the parameter draws. If priornu is not NA, this is a 4 times draws matrix.

latent $\text{length}(y)$ times draws matrix containing draws of the latent variables $h_1, \ldots, h_n$.

latent0 Vector of length draws containing the draw(s) of the initial latent variable $h_0$. 
**Warning**

Expert use only! For most applications, the use of `svsample` is recommended.

**Note**

Please refer to the package vignette for an example.

**Author(s)**

Gregor Kastner <gregor.kastner@wu.ac.at>

**See Also**

`svsample`

---

### svsim

*Simulating a Stochastic Volatility Process*

**Description**

`svsim` is used to produce realizations of a stochastic volatility (SV) process.

**Usage**

`svsim(len, mu = -10, phi = 0.98, sigma = 0.2, nu = Inf)`

**Arguments**

- **len**
  - length of the simulated time series.
- **mu**
  - level of the latent log-volatility AR(1) process. The defaults value is -10.
- **phi**
  - persistence of the latent log-volatility AR(1) process. The default value is 0.98.
- **sigma**
  - volatility of the latent log-volatility AR(1) process. The default value is 0.2.
- **nu**
  - degrees-of-freedom for the conditional innovations distribution. The default value is `Inf`, corresponding to standard normal conditional innovations.

**Details**

This function draws an initial log-volatility \(h_0\) from the stationary distribution of the AR(1) process and iteratively generates \(h_1, \ldots, h_n\). Finally, the “log-returns” are simulated from a normal distribution with mean 0 and standard deviation \(\exp(h/2)\).
Value

The output is a list object of class `svsim` containing

- `y`: a vector of length `len` containing the simulated data, usually interpreted as “log-returns”.
- `vol`: a vector of length `len` containing the simulated instantaneous volatilities `exp(h_t/2)`.
- `vol0`: the initial volatility `exp(h_0/2)`, drawn from the stationary distribution of the latent AR(1) process.
- `para`: a named list with three elements `mu`, `phi`, `sigma` (and potentially `nu`), containing the corresponding arguments.

To display the output use `print`, `summary` and `plot`. The `print` method simply prints the content of the object in a moderately formatted manner. The `summary` method provides some summary statistics (in %), and the `plot` method plots the the simulated 'log-returns' `y` along with the corresponding volatilities `vol`.

Author(s)

Gregor Kastner <gregor.kastner@wu.ac.at>

See Also

svsample

Examples

```r
## Simulate a highly persistent SV process of length 500
sim <- svsim(500, phi = 0.99, sigma = 0.1)

print(sim)
summary(sim)
plot(sim)
```

Description

Creates or updates a summary of an `svdraws` object.

Usage

`updatesummary(x, quantiles = c(0.05, 0.5, 0.95), esspara = TRUE, esslatent = FALSE)`
Arguments

x  svdraws object.
quantiles numeric vector of posterior quantiles to be computed. The default is c(0.05, 0.5, 0.95).
esspara logical value which indicates whether the effective sample size (ESS) should be calculated for the parameter draws. This is achieved by calling effectiveSize from the coda package. The default is TRUE.
esslatent logical value which indicates whether the effective sample size (ESS) should be calculated for the latent log-volatility draws. This is achieved by calling effectiveSize from the coda package. The default is FALSE, because this can be quite time-consuming when many latent variables are present.

Details

updatesummary will always calculate the posterior mean and the posterior standard deviation of the raw draws and some common transformations thereof. Moreover, the posterior quantiles, specified by the argument quantiles, are computed. If esspara and/or esslatent are TRUE, the corresponding effective sample size (ESS) will also be included.

Value

The value returned is an updated list object of class svdraws holding
para mcmc object containing the parameter draws from the posterior distribution.
latent mcmc object containing the latent instantaneous log-volatility draws from the posterior distribution.
latent0 mcmc object containing the latent initial log-volatility draws from the posterior distribution.
y argument y.
runtime "proc_time" object containing the run time of the sampler.
priors list containing the parameter values of the prior distribution, i.e. the arguments priormu, priorphi, priorsigma (and potentially nu).
thinning list containing the thinning parameters, i.e. the arguments thinpara, thinlatent and thintime.
summary list containing a collection of summary statistics of the posterior draws for para, latent, and latent0.

To display the output, use print, summary and plot. The print method simply prints the posterior draws (which is very likely a lot of output); the summary method displays the summary statistics currently stored in the object; the plot method gives a graphical overview of the posterior distribution by calling volplot, traceplot and densplot and displaying the results on a single page.

Note

updatesummary does not actually overwrite the object’s current summary, but in fact creates a new object with an updated summary. Thus, don’t forget to overwrite the old object if this is want you intend to do. See the examples below for more details.
Author(s)
Gregor Kastner <gregor.kastner@wu.ac.at>

See Also
svsample

Examples

## Here is a baby-example to illustrate the idea.
## Simulate an SV time series of length 51 with default parameters:
sim <- svsim(51)

## Draw from the posterior (but save only every fifth point in time):
res <- svsample(sim$y, draws = 7000, thintime = 5, priorphi = c(10, 1.5))

## Check out the results:
summary(res)
plot(res)

## Look at other quantiles and calculate ESS of latents:
newquants <- c(0.01, 0.05, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 0.95, 0.99)
res <- updatesummary(res, quantiles = newquants, esslatent = TRUE)

## See the difference?
summary(res)
plot(res)

volplot

Plotting Quantiles of the Latent Volatilities

Description
Displays quantiles of the posterior distribution of the volatilities over time as well as predictive
distributions of future volatilities.

Usage
volplot(x, forecast = 0, dates = NULL, show0 = FALSE, col = NULL,
forecastlv = NULL, tcl = -0.4, mar = c(1.9, 1.9, 1.9, 0.5),
mgp = c(2, 0.6, 0), simobj = NULL, ...)

Arguments

x svdraws object.
forecast nonnegative integer or object of class svpredict, as returned by predict.svdrraw.
If an integer greater than 0 is provided, predict.svdrraw is invoked to obtain
the forecast-step-ahead prediction. The default value is 0.
dates vector of length \( \text{ncol}(x \$ \text{latent}) \), providing optional dates for labeling the x-axis. The default value is NULL; in this case, the axis will be labeled with numbers.

show0 logical value, indicating whether the initial volatility \( \exp(h_0/2) \) should be displayed. The default value is FALSE.

col vector of color values (see \texttt{par}) used for plotting the quantiles. The default value NULL results in gray lines for all quantiles except the median, which is displayed in black.

forecastlty vector of line type values (see \texttt{par}) used for plotting quantiles of predictive distributions. The default value NULL results in dashed lines.

tcl The length of tick marks as a fraction of the height of a line of text. See \texttt{par} for details. The default value is -0.4, which results in slightly shorter tick marks than usual.

mar numerical vector of length 4, indicating the plot margins. See \texttt{par} for details. The default value is \( c(1.9, 1.9, 1.9, 0.5) \), which is slightly smaller than the R-defaults.

mgp numerical vector of length 3, indicating the axis and label positions. See \texttt{par} for details. The default value is \( c(2, 0.6, 0) \), which is slightly smaller than the R-defaults.

simobj object of class \texttt{svsim} as returned by the SV simulation function \texttt{svsim}. If provided, “true” data generating values will be added to the plot(s).

... further arguments are passed on to the invoked \texttt{ts.plot} function.

Value

Called for its side effects. Returns argument \( x \) invisibly.

Note

In case you want different quantiles to be plotted, use \texttt{updatesummary} on the \texttt{svdraws} object first. An example of doing so is given below.

Author(s)

Gregor Kastner <gregor.kastner@wu.ac.at>

See Also

\texttt{updatesummary, paratraceplot, paradensplot, plot.svdraws}.

Examples

```r
## Simulate a short and highly persistent SV process
sim <- svsim(100, mu = -10, phi = 0.99, sigma = 0.2)

## Obtain 5000 draws from the sampler (that's not a lot)
draws <- svsample(sim$s_y, draws = 5000, burnin = 100,
  priormu = c(-10, 1), priorphi = c(20, 1.5),
```

\[
\text{priorsigma} = 0.2
\]

```r
## Plot the latent volatilities and some forecasts
volplot(draws, forecast = 10)

## Re-plot with different quantiles
newquants <- c(0.01, 0.05, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 0.95, 0.99)
draws <- update_summary(draws, quantiles=newquants)

volplot(draws, forecast = 10)
```
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