

# Package: varlasso (via r-universe)

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**Type** Package

**Title** Vector Autoregressive State Space Models With Shrinkage

**Version** 0.0.1

**Maintainer** Eric Ward <eric.ward@noaa.gov>

**Description** The varlasso package uses Stan (mc-stan.org) to fit VAR state space models with optional shrinkage priors on B matrix elements (autoregression coefficients).

**License** GPL (>=3)

**Depends** R (>= 3.4.0)

**Imports** MASS, methods, Rcpp (>= 0.12.0), RcppParallel (>= 5.0.1), rstan (>= 2.18.1), rstantools (>= 2.1.1), loo (>= 2.0.0), rlang (>= 0.3.1)

**LinkingTo** BH (>= 1.66.0), Rcpp (>= 0.12.0), RcppEigen (>= 0.3.3.3.0), RcppParallel (>= 5.0.1), rstan (>= 2.18.1), StanHeaders (>= 2.18.0)

**Suggests** testthat, knitr, rmarkdown

**Encoding** UTF-8

**LazyData** true

**URL** <https://nwfsc-timeseries.github.io/varlasso/>,  
<https://github.com/nwfsc-timeseries/varlasso>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/nwfsc-timeseries/varlasso/issues>

**Roxygen** list(markdown = TRUE)

**RoxygenNote** 7.1.2

**SystemRequirements** GNU make

**Biarch** true

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**Config/pak/sysreqs** make

**Repository** <https://nmfs-opensci.r-universe.dev>

**RemoteUrl** <https://github.com/atsa-es/varlasso>

**RemoteRef** HEAD

**RemoteSha** f5d2835faa546798cdb3e41833db91b3ddd9480e

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varlasso-package	<i>The 'varlasso' package.</i>
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## Description

A DESCRIPTION OF THE PACKAGE

## References

Stan Development Team (2020). RStan: the R interface to Stan. R package version 2.21.2.  
<https://mc-stan.org>

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fit	<i>Fit a varlasso model to multivariate time series data</i>
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## Description

fit is the primary function for fitting models with varlasso.

## Usage

```
fit(
  data,
  shared_q = NULL,
  shared_r = NULL,
  fixed_r = NULL,
  est_trend = FALSE,
  varss = TRUE,
  b_diag = list(mu = 0.7, sd = 1),
  b_diag_min = 0,
  b_offdiag = list(mu = 0, sd = 1),
  off_diag_prior = c("normal", "student-t", "laplace", "hs", "normal_pp"),
  sigma_pro = list(mu = 0, sd = 1),
  sigma_obs = list(mu = 0, sd = 1),
  nu = NULL,
```

```

sigma_scale = list(df = 3, sd = 2),
hs = list(df = 1, df_global = 1, df_slab = 4, scale_global = 1, scale_slab = 2),
unique_reg = FALSE,
pars_to_monitor = NULL,
iter = 1000,
warmup = floor(iter/2),
thin = 1,
chains = 3,
save_log_lik = FALSE,
estimation = c("sampling", "optimizing", "vb"),
est_hessian = FALSE,
prior_only = FALSE,
...
)

```

### Arguments

<code>data</code>	The data, as a long format dataframe
<code>shared_q</code>	Optional vector with integers indicating which process variance parameters are shared; defaults to constant process variances shared across species.
<code>shared_r</code>	Optional vector with integers indicating which observation variance parameters are shared; defaults to shared observation variances across species.
<code>fixed_r</code>	Optional scalar or vector of values to be passed in for a model where observation error variances are not estimated. Defaults to NULL, and them being estimated. Cannot be set to zero.
<code>est_trend</code>	Whether or not to estimate a species-specific trend, defaults to FALSE
<code>varss</code>	Boolean, whether to fit a VARSS model (defaults to true) or VAR model
<code>b_diag</code>	A 2 element list specifying the mean and sd of a normal prior on the diagonal elements. These elements are $\mu$ (default= 0.7) and $sd$ (default = 1)
<code>b_diag_min</code>	The minimum value of the B diagonal, defaults to 0. Setting this lower, e.g. -1, allows for oscillations
<code>b_offdiag</code>	A 2 element list specifying the mean and sd of a normal prior on the off-diagonal elements. These elements are $\mu$ (default= 0) and $sd$ (default = 1)
<code>off_diag_prior</code>	Character string denoting which prior to use for off-diagonal elements. Can be "normal" (independent priors estimated for each) parameter, "normal_pp" (normal prior with partial pooling, where model is hierarchical with an estimated standard deviation), "student-t" (hierarchical student-t model used with estimated scale and df), "laplace" (double-exponential model used with estimated scale) or "hs" (regularized horseshoe prior used, following parameterization in rstanarm)
<code>sigma_pro</code>	A 2 element list specifying the mean and sd of a half Student-t prior on the process variance standard deviation. Elements of the list are $\mu$ (default= 0) and $sd$ (default = 1), and the prior df is fixed at 3
<code>sigma_obs</code>	A 2 element list specifying the mean and sd of a half Student-t prior on the process variance standard deviation. Elements of the list are $\mu$ (default= 0) and $sd$ (default = 1), and the prior df is fixed at 3

<code>nu</code>	Optional known parameter (df) for Student-t priors
<code>sigma_scale</code>	A 2 element list specifying the df and sd parameters for a half Student-t prior on the scale parameter. This is only used for the Laplace and Student-t priors; default values are 3 for df and 2 for sd
<code>hs</code>	A list containing the hyperparameters of the horseshoe prior. Default values are <code>df</code> (df of the Student-t prior for local shrinkage, defaults to 1), <code>df_global</code> (Student-t df of the global shrinkage, defaults to 1), <code>df_slab</code> (df of the Student-t prior on the slab regularization, defaults to 4), <code>scale_global</code> (Scale for Student-t prior on global shrinkage, defaults to 1), <code>scale_slab</code> (Scale of the Student-t prior on shrinkage parameter, defaults to 2).
<code>unique_reg</code>	Boolean, whether to estimate unique regularization parameters for the Student-t or Laplace models (defaults to false)
<code>pars_to_monitor</code>	Optional string vector of which parameters to monitor. By default this is NULL and only most important parameters are monitored (variances, B matrix, etc). This can be the word "all", in which case all parameters are saved (this may be good for <code>loo::loo_moment_match()</code> for example).
<code>iter</code>	Number of MCMC iterations, defaults to 1000
<code>warmup</code>	Warmup / burn in phase, defaults to 500
<code>thin</code>	MCMC thin, defaults to 1
<code>chains</code>	MCMC chains, defaults to 3
<code>save_log_lik</code>	Whether to save <code>log_lik</code> , defaults to FALSE for speed
<code>estimation</code>	Whether to do MCMC sampling ("sampling"; default), maximum posterior estimation ("optimizing") or Stan's variational algrotim ("vb")
<code>est_hessian</code>	Whether to estimate hessian matrix if doing MAP estimation, defaults to FALSE
<code>prior_only</code>	Whether to only generate samples from the prior distribution, defaults to FALSE
<code>...</code>	Extra arguments to pass to sampling

**Value**

an object of class 'stanfit'

**Examples**

```

iter <- 50
warmup <- 20
thin <- 1
chains <- 1

n_ts <- 4
n_time <- 70
n_burn <- 50
xx <- matrix(0, n_time, n_ts)
set.seed(123)
xx[1, ] <- rnorm(n_ts)

```

```

B <- matrix(rnorm(n = n_ts * n_ts, mean = 0, sd = 0.1), n_ts, n_ts)
diag(B) <- runif(n_ts, min = 0.7, max = 0.9)

for (i in 2:n_time) {
  xx[i, ] <- B %*% xx[i - 1, ] + rnorm(n_ts, mean = 0, sd = 0.04)
}
xx <- xx[-c(1:n_burn), ]

yy <- xx + rnorm(n = nrow(xx) * ncol(xx), mean = 0, sd = 0.02)
df <- data.frame(
  "time" = rep(1:nrow(yy), ncol(yy)),
  "species" = sort(rep(1:ncol(yy), nrow(yy))),
  "y" = c(yy)
)

# fit basic model with normal independent priors
m <- fit(data = df, chains = chains, iter = iter, warmup = warmup, thin = thin)
# fit same model with shrinkage using student-t priors
m_t <- fit(
  data = df, chains = chains, iter = iter, warmup = warmup, thin = thin,
  off_diag_prior = "student-t"
)
# fit same model using student-t priors and known df
m_t_known <- fit(
  data = df, chains = chains, iter = iter, warmup = warmup, thin = thin,
  off_diag_prior = "student-t", nu = 4
)
# fit same model using laplace priors
m_lp <- fit(
  data = df, chains = chains, iter = iter, warmup = warmup, thin = thin,
  off_diag_prior = "laplace"
)
# fit same model using horseshoe priors
m_hs <- fit(
  data = df, chains = chains, iter = iter, warmup = warmup, thin = thin,
  off_diag_prior = "hs"
)

# include example for just sampling from priors
m <- fit(
  data = df, chains = chains, iter = iter,
  warmup = warmup, thin = thin, prior_only = TRUE
)

```

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