

Package ‘ModalForecast’

September 25, 2026

Title Parametric Modal ARIMA and Seasonal ARIMA Models using the SKD Family

Version 0.2.0

Description Implements parametric modal Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average (ARIMA) and seasonal ARIMA (SARIMA) models utilizing the Skewed Distribution (SKD) family, in which the conditional mode, rather than the conditional mean, follows the (seasonal) ARIMA recursion. Current distributions supported are the Skew-Normal, Skewed Student-t, and Skewed Laplace. The parameters are estimated by maximum likelihood using analytical gradients. Includes residual diagnostics, simulation envelopes, automatic order selection, joint and marginal modal forecasts, exact and parametric bootstrap prediction intervals, and classical asymptotic inference via the Fisher Information matrix. Methods are described in Galarza, C.E., Lachos, V.H., Cabral, C.R.B., & Castro, L.M. (2017) <doi:10.1002/sta4.140>.

URL <https://github.com/chedgala/ModalForecast>

BugReports <https://github.com/chedgala/ModalForecast/issues>

Depends R (>= 3.5.0)

License GPL-3

Encoding UTF-8

RoxygenNote 7.3.3

Imports stats, utils, graphics, forecast, ggplot2, gridExtra, scales, grid

Suggests rmarkdown, testthat (>= 3.0.0), knitr

Config/testthat/edition 3

NeedsCompilation no

Author Christian Galarza [aut, cre],
Sergio Luis Mercado Londoño [ctb],
V́ctor Hugo Lachos [ctb] (ORCID:
<<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7239-2459>>)

Maintainer Christian Galarza <chedgala@espol.edu.ec>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2026-09-25 07:10:07 UTC

Contents

auto.modal.arima	2
diagnostics	4
envelope	4
fit_modal_arima	5
forecast.modal_arima	8
predict.modal_arima	9
Index	10

auto.modal.arima	<i>Automatic selection of Parametric Modal ARIMA and SARIMA models</i>
------------------	--

Description

Automatic selection of Parametric Modal ARIMA and SARIMA models

Usage

```
auto.modal.arima(  
  y,  
  d = NA,  
  D = NA,  
  max.p = 5,  
  max.q = 5,  
  max.P = 1,  
  max.Q = 1,  
  seasonal = TRUE,  
  period = stats::frequency(y),  
  ic = c("aic", "bic"),  
  dist = c("normal", "t", "laplace"),  
  trace = FALSE  
)
```

Arguments

y	numeric vector or time series of observations
d	Integer, degree of differencing. If NA, it's determined automatically.
D	Integer, degree of seasonal differencing. If NA, it's determined automatically. Ignored for non-seasonal models.
max.p	Maximum AR order
max.q	Maximum MA order
max.P	Maximum seasonal AR order
max.Q	Maximum seasonal MA order

seasonal	Logical. If TRUE (default) and the seasonal period is greater than one, seasonal models are considered.
period	Seasonal period. Defaults to frequency(y).
ic	Information criterion to be used in model selection ("aic", "bic")
dist	Character string specifying the error distribution. "normal" (default) for Skew-Normal, "t" for Skewed Student-t, "laplace" for Skewed Laplace.
trace	Logical. If TRUE, prints each model and its criterion.

diagnostics

Diagnostic Plots for Modal ARIMA and SARIMA Models

Description

Provides visual and statistical diagnostics for the residuals of a fitted Modal (S)ARIMA model. Produces a panel with the differenced series and fitted modes, the ACF and PACF of the randomized quantile residuals (RQR), a normal QQ-plot, a histogram and Ljung-Box p-values. For seasonal models the ACF, PACF and Ljung-Box statistics cover at least two seasonal periods.

Usage

```
diagnostics(object, ...)

## S3 method for class 'modal_arima'
diagnostics(object, ...)
```

Arguments

object An object of class modal_arima.
 ... Additional arguments (unused).

Value

A list of ggplot objects (invisibly) and draws the panel.

Examples

```
# Non-seasonal
fit <- fit_modal_arima(log10(lynx), order = c(2, 0, 0))
diagnostics(fit)

# Seasonal airline model
fit_air <- fit_modal_arima(log(AirPassengers), order = c(0, 1, 1),
                           seasonal = list(order = c(0, 1, 1), period = 12))
diagnostics(fit_air)
```

envelope

Simulation Envelope Diagnostics for Modal ARIMA and SARIMA Models

Description

Constructs simulation envelopes for the distances $\rho_p(\epsilon_t/\sigma)$ of the modal residuals, based on their theoretical distribution under the SKD family (Galarza et al., 2017): twice the distance follows the half-normal, half-t or standard exponential distribution for the Skew-Normal, Skewed Student-t and Skewed Laplace members, respectively.

Usage

```
envelope(object, ...)

## S3 method for class 'modal_arima'
envelope(object, B = 100, refit = TRUE, ...)
```

Arguments

object	An object of class modal_arima.
...	Additional arguments (unused).
B	Number of Monte Carlo replications for envelope construction. Default is 100.
refit	Logical. If TRUE (default), re-estimate the model on each simulated series.

Details

With `refit = TRUE` (the default), each replication simulates a series from the fitted model, re-estimates the model and computes the distances of the re-estimated residuals, so the envelope accounts for parameter estimation. This matters most for the Skewed Laplace, whose maximum likelihood fit, like least absolute deviations, pulls several residuals to zero: without refitting, the smallest distances fall below the envelope even when the model is correct. With `refit = FALSE`, the envelope is built from simulated innovations at the estimated parameters, which is faster.

Value

A ggplot object (invisibly) and draws the envelope plot.

Examples

```
fit <- fit_modal_arima(log10(lynx), order = c(2, 0, 0))
envelope(fit, B = 10)

# Seasonal model; refit = FALSE is faster, refit = TRUE accounts for estimation
fit_air <- fit_modal_arima(log(AirPassengers), order = c(0, 1, 1),
                           seasonal = list(order = c(0, 1, 1), period = 12))
envelope(fit_air, B = 10, refit = FALSE)
```

fit_modal_arima	<i>Fit a Parametric Modal ARIMA or Seasonal ARIMA Model using the SKD Family</i>
-----------------	--

Description

Fits a Modal ARIMA or Modal SARIMA model, where the conditional mode follows an (optionally seasonal) ARIMA recursion and the innovations follow a member of the SKD (Skewed Distribution) family: Skew-Normal, Skewed Student-t or Skewed Laplace.

Usage

```
fit_modal_arima(
  y,
  order = c(1, 0, 0),
  seasonal = list(order = c(0, 0, 0), period = NA),
  dist = c("normal", "t", "laplace")
)
```

Arguments

y	numeric vector or time series of observations.
order	A specification of the non-seasonal part of the model: the three components (p, d, q) are the AR order, the degree of differencing, and the MA order.
seasonal	A specification of the seasonal part of the model, as in arima : a list with components order (the seasonal orders (P, D, Q)) and period (the seasonal period s ; defaults to frequency(y)). A numeric vector of length 3 is taken as the seasonal order. The default is a non-seasonal model.
dist	Character string specifying the error distribution from the SKD family. One of "normal" (default) for the Skew-Normal, "t" for the Skewed Student-t (adds degrees-of-freedom parameter nu), or "laplace" for the Skewed Laplace distribution.

Details

Let $w_t = (1 - B)^d(1 - B^s)^D y_t$. The model is

$$\phi(B)\Phi(B^s)w_t = c + \theta(B)\Theta(B^s)\epsilon_t,$$

where ϵ_t are independent $SKD(0, \sigma, \gamma)$ errors with mode zero, so that $\mu_t = w_t - \epsilon_t$ is the conditional mode of w_t . The non-seasonal Modal ARIMA model is the special case $P = D = Q = 0$.

All members share the parameterization of Galarza et al. (2017),

$$f(y \mid \mu, \sigma, \gamma) = \frac{4p(1-p)}{\sigma} g\{2\rho_p((y - \mu)/\sigma)\},$$

with $p = 1/(1 + \gamma^2)$ and $\rho_p(u) = u(p - I(u < 0))$, where g is the standard normal, Student-t or Laplace density. The mode μ is also the p -th quantile, and $\gamma > 1$ gives a heavier right tail.

Parameters are estimated by maximum likelihood with BFGS and analytical gradients, started from a conditional-sum-of-squares Gaussian (S)ARIMA fit. The Skewed Laplace log-likelihood is not differentiable when a residual is zero, so for `dist = "laplace"` the BFGS solution is refined with Nelder-Mead. Stationarity and invertibility of the regular and seasonal polynomials are enforced during optimization.

Value

An object of class `modal_arima` containing:

y The original time series.

order The non-seasonal order (p, d, q) .
seasonal List with the seasonal order (P, D, Q) and period.
coefficients Named vector of estimated parameters.
vcov Asymptotic covariance matrix of the coefficients, from the observed information (delta method for sigma, gamma and nu).
loglik The maximized log-likelihood.
nobs Number of observations used in the likelihood, $T - d - Ds$.
hessian The observed information on the optimization scale: the Hessian of the negative log-likelihood, or the outer product of the per-observation scores (OPG) for the Skewed Laplace, whose log-likelihood is not twice differentiable, and whenever the Hessian is not positive definite.
information Which estimator was used for hessian: "hessian" or "opg".
convergence Convergence code from optim.
dist The distribution used ("normal", "t", or "laplace").
fitted.values, residuals Fitted modes and modal residuals on the scale of y (NA for the first $d + Ds$ observations).

Note

GitHub repository: <https://github.com/chedgala/ModalForecast>

References

Galarza, C. E., Lachos, V. H., Cabral, C. R. B., and Castro, L. M. (2017). Robust quantile regression using a generalized class of skewed distributions. *Stat*, 6(1), 113-130.

See Also

[auto.modal.arma](#), [forecast.modal_arma](#)

Examples

```

library(forecast)

# Non-seasonal: Lynx data
y <- log10(lynx)
fit_n <- fit_modal_arma(y, order = c(2, 0, 0), dist = "normal")
fit_t <- fit_modal_arma(y, order = c(2, 0, 0), dist = "t")
fit_l <- fit_modal_arma(y, order = c(2, 0, 0), dist = "laplace")
c(Normal = AIC(fit_n), Student = AIC(fit_t), Laplace = AIC(fit_l))
summary(fit_n)

# Seasonal: the airline model for monthly air passengers
fit_air <- fit_modal_arma(log(AirPassengers), order = c(0, 1, 1),
                          seasonal = list(order = c(0, 1, 1), period = 12))
summary(fit_air)
fc <- forecast(fit_air, h = 24)
autoplot(fc)

```

forecast.modal_arma *Forecasting with Modal (S)ARIMA Models*

Description

Produces modal point forecasts and prediction intervals for a fitted modal_arma object, with or without a seasonal component.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'modal_arma'
forecast(
  object,
  h = 10,
  level = c(80, 95),
  interval = c("asymptotic", "bootstrap"),
  npaths = 1000,
  point = c("joint", "marginal"),
  ...
)
```

Arguments

object	A modal_arma object.
h	The forecast horizon.
level	Confidence level for prediction intervals.
interval	Method for computing prediction intervals ("asymptotic" or "bootstrap").
npaths	Number of simulated paths for bootstrap intervals. Defaults to 1000.
point	Modal point forecast: "joint" (most probable trajectory, default) or "marginal" (conditional mode at each horizon).
...	Additional arguments.

Details

Because the mode is not a linear operator, two modal point forecasts are available. `point = "joint"` (the default) returns the joint modal trajectory: the most probable future path, obtained by iterating the model with future innovations set to zero. `point = "marginal"` returns, for each horizon h , the conditional mode of y_{T+h} itself. The two coincide at $h = 1$ and for symmetric errors ($\gamma = 1$); for skewed errors and $h \geq 2$ the marginal mode equals the joint path plus the mode δ_h of the forecast error $\sum_{j=0}^{h-1} \psi_j \epsilon_{T+h-j}$, which can be substantial for integrated series.

With `interval = "asymptotic"`, the prediction intervals use the exact distribution of the forecast error at the estimated parameters, computed by numerical convolution of the SKD densities. With `interval = "bootstrap"`, they use empirical quantiles of `npaths` simulated future paths.

Value

An object of class forecast. Besides the usual components, it contains mode_path (the joint modal trajectory) and mode_shift (the correction δ_n from the joint path to the marginal mode).

Examples

```
library(forecast)

# Non-seasonal
fit <- fit_modal_arima(log10(lynx), order = c(2, 0, 0))
pred <- forecast(fit, h = 5, level = c(80, 95))
autoplot(pred)
accuracy(pred)

# Seasonal airline model: joint trajectory versus marginal mode
fit_air <- fit_modal_arima(log(AirPassengers), order = c(0, 1, 1),
                           seasonal = list(order = c(0, 1, 1), period = 12))
fc_joint <- forecast(fit_air, h = 24)
fc_marg <- forecast(fit_air, h = 24, point = "marginal")
round(cbind(joint = fc_joint$mean, marginal = fc_marg$mean)[c(1, 12, 24), ], 4)
fc_boot <- forecast(fit_air, h = 12, interval = "bootstrap", npaths = 200)
```

predict.modal_arima *Modal Trajectory Prediction for Modal (S)ARIMA Models*

Description

Returns the joint modal trajectory of the future values: the recursion is iterated with future innovations set to their mode, zero. For the one-step horizon this is the conditional mode of y_{T+1} ; for longer horizons it is the most probable path, see [forecast.modal_arima](#).

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'modal_arima'
predict(object, n.ahead = 10, ...)
```

Arguments

object	A modal_arima object.
n.ahead	The forecast horizon.
...	Additional arguments (unused).

Value

A numeric vector with the modal trajectory on the scale of y.

Index

`arima`, [6](#)

`auto.modal.arima`, [2](#), [7](#)

`diagnostics`, [4](#)

`envelope`, [4](#)

`fit_modal_arima`, [3](#), [5](#)

`forecast.modal_arima`, [7](#), [8](#), [9](#)

`predict.modal_arima`, [9](#)