

# Package ‘changepointsVar’

May 8, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** Change-Points Detections for Changes in Variance

**Version** 0.1.2

**Description** Detection of change-points for variance of heteroscedastic Gaussian variables with piecewise constant variance function. Adelfio, G. (2012), Change-point detection for variance piecewise constant models, Communications in Statistics, Simulation and Computation, 41:4, 437-448, <[doi:10.1080/03610918.2011.592248](https://doi.org/10.1080/03610918.2011.592248)>.

**Depends** MASS, lars

**License** GPL-2

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changepointsVar-package

*Change-Points Detections for Changes in Variance*

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## Description

This algorithm allows breakpoint detections for changes in variation assuming that the variance function can be described by a piecewise constant function with segments delimited by unknown change-points. The approach is a generalization of the `cumSeg` procedure proposed by Muggeo and Adelfio (2011) assuming that testing for stepwise changes in variance of a sequence of Gaussian random variables may be transformed equivalently to the case of testing for changes in mean of the squared residuals (from an estimated linear model that accounts for the mean behavior of the observed signal) assuming a gamma GLM with a log-link function. A variation of `lars` procedure adapted to the GLM case is considered to discard the spurious change-points on the basis of a generalized version of the BIC. The proposed approach results in a very efficient algorithm even with  $n$  large and many change-points to be estimated. Adelfio, G. (2012), Change-point detection for variance piecewise constant models, *Communications in Statistics, Simulation and Computation*, 41:4, 437-448. Muggeo, V.M.R., Adelfio, G. (2011) Efficient change point detection for genomic sequences of continuous measurements, *Bioinformatics* 27, 161-166.

## Details

Package: jumpointsVar  
Type: Package  
Version: 0.1.2  
Date: 2025-07-25  
License: GPL-2

The function `jumpointsVar` allows to specify the variable in which to look for change-point in variance. The auxiliary function `plot.jumpointsVar` can be used to plot the brekpoints detected from the main algorithm.

## Author(s)

Giada Adelfio

Maintainer: Gianluca Sottile <gianluca.sottile@unipa.it>

## References

Adelfio, G. (2012), Change-point detection for variance piecewise constant models, *Communications in Statistics, Simulation and Computation*, 41:4, 437-448

Muggeo, V.M.R., Adelfio, G. (2011) Efficient change point detection for genomic sequences of continuous measurements, *Bioinformatics* 27, 161-166.

**Examples**

```
##---- see jumpointsVar documentation ----
```

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`fit.control`*Auxiliary function for controlling model fitting*

---

**Description**

Auxiliary function as user interface for model fitting. Typically only used when calling 'jumpointsVar'

**Usage**

```
fit.control(toll=0.001, it.max=10, last=TRUE, scale.res=FALSE,  
            maxit.glm=30, h=1, stop.if.error=FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

<code>toll</code>	positive convergence tolerance.
<code>it.max</code>	integer giving the maximal number of iterations.
<code>last</code>	Currently ignored.
<code>scale.res</code>	logical indicating if the residuals have to be scaled.
<code>maxit.glm</code>	Currently ignored.
<code>h</code>	Currently ignored.
<code>stop.if.error</code>	logical indicating if the algorithm should stop when one or more estimated changepoints do not assume admissible values. Default is FALSE which implies automatic changepoint selection.

**Value**

A list with the arguments as components to be used by 'jumpointsVar'.

**Author(s)**

Gianluca Sottile Maintainer: Gianluca Sottile <gianluca.sottile@unipa.it>

**See Also**

[jumpointsVar](#)

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jumpointsVar

*Change-point detection for variance piecewise constant models*


---

### Description

Detection of change-points for variance of heteroscedastic Gaussian variables with piecewise constant variance function.

### Usage

```
jumpointsVar(y, x, y.res=FALSE, k=min(30, round(length(y)/10)), print.level=0,
             plot.it=FALSE, psi=NULL, round=TRUE, control=fit.control(),
             selection=sel.control())
```

### Arguments

y	the response variable.
x	the 'segmented' variable; if missing simple indices 1,2,... are assumed.
y.res	logical: if FALSE, y is the observed sequence with piecewise constant variance function; if TRUE, y is the vector of the squared residuals from a fitted linear model that accounts for the mean behavior of the observed signal with changes in variation; see Details
k	the starting number of changepoints. It should be quite larger than the supposed number of (true) changepoints. This argument is ignored if starting values of the changepoints are specified via psi.
print.level	the default value is 0 indicating nothing is printed; 1 allows to print some informations during the algorithm; 2 the same as for 1 plus lars information.
plot.it	logical indicating if the curve of the criterion choosen has to be displayed.
psi	numeric vector to indicate the starting values for the changepoints. When psi=NULL (default), k quantiles are assumed
round	logical: if the change-point values should be rounded
control	a list returned by fit.control
selection	a list returned by sel.control

### Details

This algorithm allows breakpoint detections for changes in variation assuming that the variance function can be described by a piecewise constant function with segments delimited by unknown change-points.

The approach is a generalization of the cumSeg procedure proposed by Muggeo and Adelfio (2011) assuming that testing for stepwise changes in variance of a sequence of Gaussian random variables may be transformed equivalently to the case of testing for changes in mean of the squared residuals (from an estimated linear model that accounts for the mean behavior of the observed signal) assuming a gamma GLM with a log-link function.

A variation of [lars](#) procedure adapted to the GLM case is considered to discard the spurious change-points on the basis of a generalized version of the BIC.

The proposed approach results in a very efficient algorithm even with  $n$  large and many change-points to be estimated.

### Value

An object of class `jumpointsVar`. It's a list including several components:

<code>psi</code>	the estimated changepoints
<code>est.means</code>	the estimated means
<code>n.psi</code>	the estimated number of changepoints
<code>psi0</code>	the initial estimated changepoints (before applying the selection criterion)
<code>est.means0</code>	the initial estimated means (before applying the selection criterion)
<code>criterion</code>	the curve of the selected criterion
<code>fitted.values</code>	the fitted values
<code>input</code>	the input parameters
<code>call</code>	the call function

### Author(s)

Giada Adelfio

Maintainer: Gianluca Sottile <gianluca.sottile@unipa.it>

### References

Adelfio, G. (2012), Change-point detection for variance piecewise constant models, *Communications in Statistics, Simulation and Computation*, 41:4, 437-448

Muggeo, V.M.R., Adelfio, G. (2011) Efficient change point detection for genomic sequences of continuous measurements, *Bioinformatics* 27, 161-166.

### See Also

[plot.jumpointsVar](#)

### Examples

```
set.seed(2)
n = 500
x = 1:n/n
mu = 10+6*sin(3*pi*x)
# if there are two change-points
sigma = c(rep(0.5,.2*n), rep(8,.4*n), rep(3,.4*n))
y = mu + rnorm(n, 0, sigma)
reg = lm(y ~ mu)
h = influence(reg)$hat
r2 = resid(reg)^2/(1-h) + 1
```

```

o = jumpointsVar(y=r2, y.res=TRUE, k=30)
o
plot(o)

# if there are no change-points
sigma = 0.5*x
y = mu + rnorm(n, 0, sigma)
reg = lm(y ~ mu)
h = influence(reg)$hat
r2 = resid(reg)^2/(1-h)+1
o = jumpointsVar(y=r2, y.res=TRUE, k=30)
plot(o)

# if the mean behavior of the observed signal is unknown
sigma = c(rep(0.5,.2*n), rep(8,.4*n), rep(3,.4*n))
y = 10 + rnorm(n, 0, sigma)
o = jumpointsVar(y=y, y.res=FALSE, k=30)
plot(o)

```

---

plot.jumpointsVar      *Plot method for changes in variance*

---

### Description

Plots signal with changes in variance and corresponding changepoints

### Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'jumpointsVar'
plot(x, ...)
```

### Arguments

x                    object returned by jumpointsVar  
...                    additional arguments.

### Details

This function takes a fitted object returned by jumpointsVar and plots the resulting fit with change-points.

### Value

The function simply plot the fit returned by 'jumpointsVar'

### Author(s)

Giada Adelfio  
Maintainer: Gianluca Sottile <gianluca.sottile@unipa.it>

**References**

Adelfio, G. (2012), Change-point detection for variance piecewise constant models, *Communications in Statistics, Simulation and Computation*, 41:4, 437-448

Muggeo, V.M.R., Adelfio, G. (2011) Efficient change point detection for genomic sequences of continuous measurements, *Bioinformatics* 27, 161-166.

**See Also**

[jumpointsVar](#)

**Examples**

```
##---- see jumpointsVar documentation ----
```

---

```
sel.control
```

*Auxiliary function for controlling model selection*

---

**Description**

Auxiliary function as user interface for model selection. Typically only used when calling 'jumpointsVar'

**Usage**

```
sel.control(type=c("bic", "rss"), S=1, Cn="2*log(log(n))",
            alg=c("lasso", "stepwise"), edf.psi=TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

type	the criterion to be used to perform model selection.
S	if type="rss" the optimal model is selected when the residual sum of squares decreases by the threshold S.
Cn	if type="bic" a character string (as a function of 'n') to specify to generalized BIC. If Cn=1 the standard BIC is used.
alg	which procedure should be used to perform model selection? The value of alg is passed to the argument 'type' of lars.
edf.psi	logical indicating if the number of changepoints should be computed in the model df.

**Details**

This function specifies how to perform model selection, namely how many change points should be selected.

**Value**

A list with the arguments as components to be used by 'jumpointsVar' and in turn by 'lars'.

**Author(s)**

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**See Also**

[jumpointsVar](#), [lars](#)

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