The GVAR Toolbox: Model Specification, Estimation, and Dynamic Analysis

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- You do not need expert knowledge of MATLAB to perform the GVAR analysis using this toolbox. The authors have written all the necessary codes for you.
- To start, open the **gvar.m** MATLAB script and specify the interface file name as in the image below.
- If you choose not to specify the interface file name in the script, you will later need to type it in the Command Window to be able to call it
- In this demo, we will be using the **gvarFullDemo.xls** interface file. No further modifications of the script are needed.



- Run the **gvar.m** script by clicking on the "**Run all sections**" button or typing "gvar" in the Command Window
- All the instructions for performing the GVAR analysis will appear in the Command Window
- Next, type the interface file name (without the .xls extension) that you would like to use (gvarFullDemo in this case) and press Enter, OR simply press Enter.
- Because we specified the interface file name in the previous step, you can also just press Enter without typing the name.



Getting Ready

Command Window 💿
2. At each pause, you will be called upon to supply settings and/or check intermediat results in the MAIN worksheet of the interface file that will open automatically e time. Once this file has opened, always refer back to the MatLab command window fo instructions and information.
 Additional guidance is also available by clicking on many of the headings and fiel names within the MAIN worksheet.
After every pause, once the required settings have been supplied and/or the inter- mediate results have been checked, you must save and close the interface file. In fact, it is recommended that you close excel completely, each time.
USING THE FULL DEMO INTERFACE FILE
If you are using the full demo interface file most of the required settings and
intermediate results are already provided. However, there are occassions where the
instructions referring SPECIFICALLY to the use of the full demo interface file.
If no such instructions are given, just save and close the interface file whenever
it opens in order to proceed.
gvarFullDemo

Getting Ready

- After typing the interface file name, the program will start running and a link between MATLAB and Excel will be established through which information will be shared
- The program will typically perform numerous pauses during the process of the specification of the country-specific models, their estimation and the analysis of the GVAR model.
- During these stages, the user is called upon to supply settings and/or check intermediate results in the interface file that will open automatically each time.
- After every pause, once the required settings have been supplied and/or the intermediate results have been checked, **you must save and close the interface file**.

• Pause and go to **gvarFullDemo.xls**. Select the weights to be used for constructing the foreign variables, and define the GVAR settings as instructed in the Command Window



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Selection of Weights

Country-specific variables							
Associated Name Short name weight matri							
у	wmatl						
Dp	wmatl						
eq	wmatl						
ер	wmat I						
r	wmatl						
lr	wmatl						
	_						
	y-specific variat Short name y Dp eq ep r Ir						

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Main Settings (See Excel interface for full settings)

	S	ettings								
Output folder	Output Full Demo		Plot graphs	1						
Run the program with pauses										
Estimation sample	79Q2 2013Q1		Initial obs F 1979Q2	inal obs 2013Q1						
Weight Matrix >> Construction of weights >> Type of weights	program-built fixed		Sample period of (trade) flov Minimum year Max 1994	vs data: mum year 2021						
	Fill the correspon	ding box of your choice:								
Fixed Weights			Time-Varying Weights							
>> for both estimation & solution of the GVAR	2009 2011	>> for estimation >> for solution	Window size in years Select a Year Average over the window							
Unit root tests										

- Once the preliminary settings are defined, press Enter. Make sure you have saved and closed the Excel interface and press Enter one more time.
- At the **Model Specification** stage, the program will pause and ask you to define the specification of the individual models.
- This should be done in the section "SPECIFICATION & ESTIMATION OF INDIVIDUAL MODELS" of the MAIN worksheet in the Excel interface.
- Follow the instructions in the Command Window to select the domestic and foreign variables to include in each country model, as well the relevant global variables.

```
📣 Command Window
                                                                                           (\overline{\mathbf{v}})
  1.4) Importing critical values for maximum eigenvalue and trace statistics
  PREPARING DATA
  2.1) Creating domestic variables for each country
 2.1b) Creating regions
  2.2) Weight matrix
 - Single weight matrix is employed
  - Building the weight matrix using the flows.xls file
 - Retrieving flows data
 - Fixed weight matrix will be computed, as selected
  - Building the weight matrix
  - Updating weight matrix taking into account possible regions
  - Writing to output.xls: (fixed) weight matrix
  COUNTRY MODELS
                                                       ............
 3.1) Model specification
 >>> Pause and go to gvarFullDemo.xls: Define the specification of the individual models,
fx
     and then press enter.
```



- Save and close the Excel interface, go to the MATLAB Command Window prompt and press Enter twice to proceed (*Do this after each modification of the Excel interface*).
- Note: At each pause, you could open the **output.xls** file in the **Output Full Demo** subfolder of the **Output** folder to see the outputs you have gotten so far. But make sure you close it before proceeding.
- The next 3 pauses are for checking the lag orders, the treatment of the deterministic components in the VECMX* models, and checking the rank orders, in that order.
- If you are not satisfied with the values the program found for the lag and rank orders, you can change them before proceeding. Make sure you also choose the appropriate option for the VECMX* deterministics.

▲Command Window – □ ×
3.5) Determining the lag orders of each country model
>>> Pause and go to gvarFullDemo.xls: Check the lag orders found (or inputted if no selection criter: was previously used), then press enter.
>>> Make sure you have saved and closed the gvarFullDemo.xls file. If so, press enter again.
The program is now running (do not press any key)
 Adding to output.xls: VARX* order selection results and residual serial correlation test results Adding to output.xls: VARX* lag orders 3.6) Determining the number of cointegrating relations for each country
>>> Pause and go to gvarFullDemo.xls: Select between case II (restricted intercept), case III (unrestricted intercept) and case IV (unrestricted intercept, restricted trend) for VECMX* estimation, then press enter.
>>> Make sure you have saved and closed the gvarFullDemo.xls file. If so, press enter again.
The program is now running (do not press any key)
>>> Warning: Full rank found for model of PERU - Adding to output.xls: Cointegration test statistics
>>> Pause and go to gvarFullDemo.xls: Check the ranks found, then press enter. f_{X}

Lag orders for domestic variables	Lag orders for foreign variables	deterministics in VECMX*	Rank orders	
2	1 I	4	2	
1	1	4	5	
2	1	4	2	
2	1	4	3	
1		4	2	
2	1	4	2	
2		4	2	
2	1	4	2	
2		4	3	
2	1	4	2	
)		4	4	
	1	4	2	
	1	4	3	
7		4	3	
2		4	2	
		4	4	
2		4	2	
2		4	3	
		4	2	
1		4	2	
1		4	2	
	1	4	3	
1		4	3	
4	1			
ļ	4	4		
2	L	4	2	
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 If you have chosen to impose and test for overidentifying restrictions on the coefficients of the cointegrating relations, the next pause will ask you to do so in the **overid_restr.xls** worksheet that opens automatically.



Follow the instructions in the Command Window to define the overidentifying restrictions.

• We are imposing overidentifying restrictions on Canada and the Eruo area only in this demo.

Α	В	C)	E	F	-	G	н	1	J	- E	(L	M	N	0	Р	
CV1																			
CV2																			
# unrestri	icted:																		
CANADA	Trend	У	Dp		eq	ep		r	lr 🛛	ys	Dps	eqs		rs	lrs	poil	pmat	pmetal	Π
CV1		0	0	-1		0	0	1	()	0	0	0	0		0 (0	0	0
CV2		0	0	0		0	0	0	1		0	0	0	0		1 (0	0	C
CV3		0	0	0		0	0	-1	1		0	0	0	0		0 (0	0	C
# unrestri	icted:																		7
CHINA	Trend	y	Dp		ер	r		ys	Dps	eqs	rs	Irs		poil	pmat	pmetal			
CV1																			
CV2																			
# unrestri	icted:																		
CHILE	Trend	v	Dp		eq	ep		r	ys	Dps	eqs	rs		Irs	poil	pmat	pmetal		
CV1																			
CV2																			
‡ unrestri	icted:																		
EURO	Trend	v	Dp		eq	ep		r	lr -	vs	Dps	eqs		rs	Irs	poil	pmat	pmetal	1
CV1		0	0	-1		0	0	1	()	0	0	0	0		0 (0	Ì
CV2		0	0	0		0	0	-1	1		0	0	0	0		0 0	0	0	0
# unrestri	icted:	_		_			_					_					_	_	
INDIA	Trend	v	Dp		ea	ep		r	vs	Dps	eas	rs		Irs	poil	pmat	pmetal		
CV1						- 1*			1-										
-v2																			
t unrestri	icted:																		
+ unresur	T T		0						0										

• At the next 2 pauses, you will check the regression specifications for the weak exogeneity test and the lag orders for the weak exogeneity regressions, in that order.

📣 Command Window –		×
 The program is now running (do not press any key) 3.7) Estimating individual VECMX* models Adding to output.xls: VECMX* estimates Adding to output.xls: VECMX* statistics Adding to output.xls: VECMX* cointegrating vectors Adding to output.xls: VECMX* single-equation statistics Adding to output.xls: Descriptive statistics and normality test of VECMX* residuals Adding to output.xls: F-statistics for the test of serial correlation of the VECMX* residual 3.8) Testing weak exogeneity 	.5	۲
>>> Pause and go to gvarFullDemo.xls: Check the regression specifications for the weak exogene and then press enter. $\delta_{\rm X}$	ity t	est,
Command Window -		×

>>> Make sure you have saved and closed the gvarFullDemo.xls file. If so, press enter again.

The program is now running (do not press any key)

fx

>>> Pause and go to gvarFullDemo.xls: Check the lag orders found (or imposed if no selection criterion was previously used) for the weak exogeneity regressions, then press enter.

 In this demo, we will include the foreign variable eps i all country models

	Weak	exogene	eity test: F	oreign a	und global v	ariable spec	ification			Weak exogeneity test: La orders				
REAL GDP	INFLATI ON	REAL EQUITY PRICES	REAL EXCHAN GE RATE	NOMINA L S RATE	NOMINA L L RATE	OIL PRICE	RAW MATER AL PRICE	METAL PRICE	-	for domestic	for foreign			
5	Dps	eqs	eps	rs	Irs	poil	pmat	pmetal	-	variables	variables			
	1 1		1 1	1	1		1	1	1	2				
	1 1		1 1	1	1		1	1	1	1				
	1 1		1	1	1	[1	1	1	1				
	1 1		1 1] 1		(I	I]	1	1				
	1 1		1	1	1		1	1	1	1				
	1 1		I I	1		(I	I]	1					
	1 1		1 1	1	1	1	1	T	i)	I.				
	1 1		1 1	1	1		1	T.	ī]	1				
	1 1		1 1	1	1		1	1	1	1				
	1 1		1 1		1		1	1	Î.	1				
	1 1		1 1	1	1		1	1	1	1				
	1 1		1 1	1	1		1	1	i i	1				
	1 1		1	1	1		1	1	ï	1				
	1 1		1 1	1	1	1	1	1	I.	1				
	1 1		1 1	1	1	1	1	1	ī.	1				
	1 1		1 1	1	1		1	1	ĩ	1				
	1 1		1 1	1	1		1	1	ï	1				
	1 1		1 1	1	1	1	1	1	ī	1				
	1 1		1 1		1		1	1	I	1				
	1 1		1 1	1	1	[1	1	1	1				
	1 1		1 1	1	1	1	1	1	ï	1				
	1 1		1 1	1	1		1	1	ï	1				
	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				
	1 1		1	1	1	[1	1	1	1				
	1		1	1			1	1	1					
								<u>.</u>	9					

- If the dominant unit function has been enabled, the next pause will ask you to define the settings and specification of the dominant unit model in the **DOMINANT UNIT** worksheet of the Excel interface.
- Follow the instructions in the Command Window to define the settings for this demo.
- After defining the settings, there will be a few other pauses where you will check the values that the program found for the lag and rank orders of the dominant unit VEC model, as well as the lag orders of the augmented VEC or univariate model

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📣 Command Window	-		×
 Adding to output.xls: Lag order selection results for the weak exogeneit and residual serial correlation test results Adding to output.xls: Weak exogeneity test results 3.9) Contemporaneous effects of foreign variables on their domestic counter Adding to output.xls: Contemporaneous coefficients 3.10) Average pairwise cross-section correlations: Variables and residuals Adding to output.xls: Average pairwise cross-section correlations 3.11) Structural stability tests Adding to output.xls: Structural stability test statistics 3.12) Specification and estimation of the dominant unit model 	y regr rparts	ression ;	15
<pre>>>> Pause and go to gvarFullDemo.xls: Define the settings and the specific dominant unit model. This includes information required in the columns the settings (if applicable), in particular: - the maximum/actual lag order for the global variables - the specification of the feedback variables - the maximum/actual lag order for the feedback variables - the weights to construct the feedback variables - specifying which weights from the drop down lists (column AH) to be used for computing the feedback variables that will be included in the dominant unit model, then press enter.</pre>	ation adjac	of the	5 2

DOMINANT UNIT MODEL

	Model type		
	VEC model		
	Lag order selection	aic	
	Maximum VAR order in case of aic/sbc. Actual VAR order otherwise.	2	VAR order selected by aic/sbc
	Lag order for serial correlation test	4	
	Treatment of deterministics in VECM	Case 4	
	Rank order		
	Augmented VEC or univariate model		
	Univariate model	levels	Trend included in univariate model in
	Lag order selection	aic	levels
	lag order for terial correlation test		
	Lag order for serial correlation test	<u> </u>	
、 、			
		wmat 1 wmat 2	winats weights_aggr y Dp eq
			・日・・四・・日・・ 日

Augmented VEC or univariate model

Global variables(s) included in the

dominant unit mode		otherw				
OIL PRICE	poil					
RAW MATERIAL PRICE	pmat					
METAL PRICE	pmetal					
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
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Fixed weights used for the contruction of the feedbac	k variables
---	-------------

Countries	wmatl	wmat2	
ARGENTINA	0.01	0.04	
AUSTRALIA	0.02	0.04	
BRAZIL	0.04	0.04	
CANADA	0.02	0.04	
CHINA	0.17	0.04	
CHILE	0.01	0.04	
EURO	0.17	0.04	
INDIA	0.07	0.04	
INDONESIA	0.02	0.04	
JAPAN	0.07	0.04	
KOREA	0.02	0.04	
MALAYSIA	0.01	0.04	
MEXICO	0.03	0.04	
NORWAY	0.00	0.04	
NEW ZEALAND	0.00	0.04	
PERU	0.00	0.04	
PHILIPPINES	0.01	0.04	
SOUTH AFRICA	0.01	0.04	
SAUDI ARABIA	0.01	0.04	
SINGAPORE	0.00	0.04	
SWEDEN	0.01	0.04	
SWITZERLAND	0.01	0.04	
THAILAND	0.01	0.04	
TURKEY	0.02	0.04	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.04	0.04	
USA	0.24	0.04	

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• When you are done specifying the dominant unit model, the program will be ready to solve your GVAR model.



Additional Features: GVAR Forecasts

- If you have chosen to generate ex-ante forecasts of the GVAR model, the program will then compute these over the specified horizon
- Follow the instructions in the Command Window to define the settings for this demo.



Additional Features: GVAR Forecasts

• Here we will be imposing restrictions on the conditional forecasts of the short and long-term interest rates of the US over the period 2013Q2-2014Q1.

	Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	н	1
1	Country	Variable	2013Q2	2013Q3	2013Q4	2014Q1			
117	thai	eq							
118	thai	ер							
119	thai	r							
120	turk	y							
121	turk	Dp							
122	turk	ер							
123	turk	r							
124	uk	у							
125	uk	Dp							
126	uk	eq							
127	uk	ер							
128	uk	r							
129	uk	Ir							
130	usa	У							
131	usa	Dp							
132	usa	eq							
133	usa	r	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01			
134	usa	lr	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02			
135	du_model	poil							
136	du_model	pmat							
137	du_model	pmetal							
138									
139									
	$\langle \rangle$	She	et1 rest	rictions	+				

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• If you have also choosen to perform the Trend/Cycle decomposition of the GVAR model, the next pause will ask you to define the corresponding trend restrictions



Trend/Cycle decomposition

	File Hon	ne Inser	t Draw	Page Layou	t Formu	ılas Data	Review	View	Automate	Help	Acrobat
ES)	▼ : ×	$\sqrt{f_x}$								
	А	В	С	D	E	F	G	н	1	J	К
1	Insert Trer	nd Restrict	ions for the	Trend/Cycle	e Decomp	osition of t	ne GVAR				
2											
3	Country	Variable	Trend Res	trictions							
4	ARGENTIN	у									
5	ARGENTIN	Dp	1								
6	ARGENTIN	eq									
7	ARGENTIN	ер									
8	ARGENTIN	r	1								
9	AUSTRALIA	y									
10	AUSTRALIA	Dp	1								
1	AUSTRALIA	eq									
12	AUSTRALIA	ер									
13	AUSTRALIA	r	1								
14	AUSTRALIA	lr	1								
15	BRAZIL	у									
16	BRAZIL	Dp	1								
17	BRAZIL	ер									
8	BRAZIL	r	1								
19	CANADA	у									
20	CANADA	Dp	1								
21	CANADA	eq									
22	CANADA	ер									
23	CANADA	r	1								
24	CANADA	lr	1								
			TC	i i i i							

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Dynamic Analysis

When you are done estimating the model, the program will ask you whether you want to perform dynamic analysis. Type "y" for Yes or "n" for No. This is the final step of the GVAR program.

Command Window -		
Do you want to go on with the dynamic analysis of the GVAR? If yes, type y, otherwise	type	n: (
Dynamic analysis of the GWA incluies: computation of the persistence profiles, impul- response analysis, forecast error variance decomposition, and computation of the criti- values for the structural sabality tests and the logist test for overidentlying restrictions on the cointegrating vectors. The last two assuming that the correspondin functions, as well as the boottage, are enabled.	se loal ng	
У		
5) INPULSE RESPONSE ANALYSIS 5.1) Settings, shock selection and (optional) region definition for regional GIRFs and	i GFE'	/Ds
>>> Pause and go to gvarFullDemo.xls. Define:		
 The settings for the dynamic analysis The country and associated variable ordering, if structural GIRFs (SGIRFs) or orthogonalised IRFs (OHRS) and corresponding TEVDs are to be carried out The shocks to be performed The region composition, if yow wish to carry out regional shocks and/or obtain the region composition, if yow in the carry out regional shocks and/or obtain 		
Once the above are defined, press enter.	_	

• Follow the instructions for defining the settings and selecting the shocks as in the images below

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DYNAMIC ANALYSIS

	settings	Country	Variable ordering
		du_model	poil
			pmat
Forecast horizon	40		pmetal
		usa	lr .
			eq
Run the bootstrap	I Replications 100		Dp
			χ
Bootstrap approach	inverse		r
		euro	lr
			eq
Covariance Matrix			Dp
			у
Sample covariance matrix			r
			ер
Block diagonal covariance matrix	0		
		india	eq
	0		Dp
Block diagonal covariance matrix with exception country			у
			r
		_	ср
Shrinkage	•	china	Dp
	for point and for bootstrap		У
	bootstrap estimates data generation		r
Perform shrinkage on the correlation matrix			ep
Shrinkage parameter	0.375463228	safrc	lr
			eq
			Dp
			У
Type of impulse response functions	GIRFs		r

Selected country and variable ordering for structural analysis

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Selected o	country and variable or structural analysis		RE	AL INFLATI	REAL EQUITY PRICES	REAL EXCHAN GE RATE	NOMINA L S RATE	NOMINA	OIL PRICE	RAW MATERIAL PRICE	PRICE			
Country	Variable ordering	Models	<u>×</u>	Dp	9	49		¥.	pol	pmat	pmetal	 Name	Short name	Countries included
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Select shocks

Regions

Bootstrapping the Structural Stability Tests

• The final set of pauses refers to selecting the covariance matrix for computing the bootstrap critical values of the structrual stability tests, provided this function was previously enabled

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End of the dynamic analysis		
5.6) Bootstrap critical values for structural stability tests		
>>> Pause and go to gvarFullDemo.xls: Select the required bootstrap a matrix to be used for generating the bootstrap data and whether the corresponding correlation matrix, and then press enter.	pproach, the covarianc to perform shrinkage o	re >n
(If these are already defined and you do not wish to change them, the interface file and press enter).	simply close	
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Next session:

Understanding and Interpreting Results from GVAR Models