

# Package ‘cobs’

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**Title** COBS -- Constrained B-splines (Sparse matrix based)

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**Depends** SparseM, quantreg (>= 4.65),splines,grDevices,graphics,stats,utils

**LazyData** yes

**Description** Qualitatively Constrained (Regression) Smoothing via  
Linear Programming and Sparse Matrices.

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cobs *CO*nstrained *B*-Splines *N*onparametric *R*egression *Q*uantiles

---

### Description

Computes constrained quantile curves using linear or quadratic splines. The median spline ( $L_1$  loss) is a robust (constrained) smoother.

### Usage

```
cobs(x, y, constraint = c("none", "increase", "decrease",
                        "convex", "concave", "periodic"),
     w = rep(1,n),
     knots, nknots = if(lambda == 0) 6 else 20,
     method = "quantile", degree = 2, tau = 0.5,
     lambda = 0, ic = c("AIC", "SIC", "BIC", "aic", "sic", "bic"),
     knots.add = FALSE, repeat.delete.add = FALSE, pointwise = NULL,
     keep.data = TRUE, keep.x.ps = TRUE,
     print.warn = TRUE, print.mesg = TRUE, trace = print.mesg,
     lambdaSet = exp(seq(log(lambda.lo), log(lambda.hi), length = lambda.length)),
     lambda.lo = f.lambda*1e-4, lambda.hi = f.lambda*1e3, lambda.length = 25,
     maxiter = 100,
     rq.tol = 1e-8, toler.kn = 1e-6, tol.0res = 1e-6, nk.start = 2,
     eps, n.sub, coef, lstart, factor)
```

### Arguments

x	vector of covariate; missing values are omitted.
y	vector of response variable. It must have the same length as x.
constraint	character (string) specifying the kind of constraint; must be one of the values in the default list above; may be abbreviated. More flexible constraints can be specified via the pointwise argument (below).
w	vector of weights the same length as x (y) assigned to both x and y; default to all weights being one.
knots	vector of locations of the knot mesh; if missing, nknots number of knots will be created using the specified method and automatic knot selection will be carried out for regression B-spline (lambda=0); if not missing and length(knots)==nknots, the provided knot mesh will be used in the fit and no automatic knot selection will be performed; otherwise, automatic knots selection will be performed on the provided knots.
nknots	maximum number of knots; defaults to 6 for regression B-splines, 20 for smoothing B-splines.
method	character string specifying the method for generating nknots number of knots when knots is not provided; either "quantile" (equally spaced in percentile levels) or "uniform" (equally spaced knots); defaults to "quantile".

degree	degree of the splines; 1 for linear spline (equivalent to $L_1$ -roughness) and 2 for quadratic spline (corresponding to $L_\infty$ roughness); defaults to 2.
tau	desired quantile level; defaults to 0.5 (median).
lambda	penalty parameter $\lambda$ $\lambda = 0$ : no penalty (regression B-spline); $\lambda > 0$ : smoothing B-spline with the given $\lambda$ ; $\lambda < 0$ : smoothing B-spline with $\lambda$ chosen by a Schwarz-type information criterion.
ic	string indicating the information criterion used in knot deletion and addition for the regression B-spline method, i.e., when <code>lambda == 0</code> ; "AIC" (Akaike-type, equivalently "aic") or "SIC" (Schwarz-type, equivalently "BIC", "sic" or "bic"). Defaults to "AIC". <i>Note that the default was "SIC" up to cobs version 1.1-6 (dec.2008).</i>
knots.add	logical indicating if an additional step of stepwise knot addition should be performed for regression B-splines.
repeat.delete.add	logical indicating if an additional step of stepwise knot deletion should be performed for regression B-splines.
pointwise	an optional three-column matrix with each row specifies one of the following constraints: ( 1, xi, yi): fitted value at xi will be $\geq$ yi; (-1, xi, yi): fitted value at xi will be $\leq$ yi; ( 0, xi, yi): fitted value at xi will be = yi; ( 2, xi, yi): derivative of the fitted function at xi will be yi.
keep.data	logical indicating if the x and y input vectors <b>after</b> removing NAs should be kept in the result.
keep.x.ps	logical indicating if the pseudo design matrix $\tilde{X}$ should be returned (as <i>sparse</i> matrix). That is needed for interval prediction, <code>predict.cobs(*, interval=..)</code> .
print.warn	flag for printing of interactive warning messages; true by default; set to FALSE if performing simulation.
print.mesg	logical flag or integer for printing of intermediate messages; true by default. Probably needs to be set to FALSE in simulations.
trace	integer $\geq 0$ indicating how much diagnostics the low-level code in <code>drqssbc2</code> should print; defaults to <code>print.mesg</code> .
lambdaSet	numeric vector of lambda values to use for grid search; in that case, defaults to a geometric sequence (a "grid in log scale") from <code>lambda.lo</code> to <code>lambda.hi</code> of length <code>lambda.length</code> .
lambda.lo, lambda.hi	lower and upper bound of the grid search for lambda (when <code>lambda &lt; 0</code> ). The defaults are meant to keep everything scale-equivariant and are hence using the factor $f = \sigma_x^d$ , i.e., <code>f.lambda &lt;- sd(x)^degree</code> . Note however that currently the underlying algorithms in package <b>quantreg</b> are <i>not</i> scale equivariant yet.

<code>lambda.length</code>	number of grid points in the grid search for optimal lambda.
<code>maxiter</code>	upper bound of the number of iterations; defaults to 100.
<code>rq.tol</code>	numeric convergence tolerance for the interior point algorithm called from <code>rq.fit.sfn()</code> or <code>rq.fit.sfn()</code> .
<code>toler.kn</code>	numeric tolerance for shifting the boundary knots outside; defaults to $10^{-6}$ .
<code>tol.0res</code>	tolerance for testing $ r_i  = 0$ , passed to <code>qbsks2</code> and <code>drqssbc2</code> .
<code>nk.start</code>	number of starting knots used in automatic knot selection. Defaults to the minimum of 2 knots.
<code>eps, n.sub, coef, lstart, factor</code>	unused arguments of the 1999/2002 version of <code>cobs()</code> , currently still allowed (with a <a href="#">warning</a> ) for back compatibility reasons.

### Details

`cobs()` computes the constraint quantile smoothing B-spline with penalty when lambda is not zero. If `lambda < 0`, an optimal lambda will be chosen using Schwarz type information criterion. If `lambda > 0`, the supplied lambda will be used. If `lambda = 0`, `cobs` computes the constraint quantile regression B-spline with no penalty using the provided knots or those selected by Akaike or Schwarz information criterion.

### Value

an object of class `cobs`, a list with components

<code>call</code>	the <code>cobs(...)</code> call used for creation.
<code>tau, degree</code>	same as input
<code>constraint</code>	as input (but no more abbreviated).
<code>pointwise</code>	as input.
<code>coef</code>	B-spline coefficients.
<code>knots</code>	the final set of knots used in the computation.
<code>ifl</code>	exit code $:= 1 + ierr$ and <code>ierr</code> is the error from <code>rq.fit.sfn</code> (package <b>quantreg</b> ); consequently, <code>ifl = 1</code> means “success”; all other values point to algorithmic problems or failures.
<code>icyc</code>	length 2: number of cycles taken to achieve convergence for final lambda, and total number of cycles for all lambdas.
<code>k</code>	the effective dimensionality of the final fit.
<code>k0</code>	(usually the same)
<code>x.ps</code>	the pseudo design matrix $X$ (as returned by <code>qbsks2</code> ).
<code>resid</code>	vector of residuals from the fit.
<code>fitted</code>	vector of fitted values from the fit.
<code>SSy</code>	the sum of squares around centered $y$ (e.g. for computation of $R^2$ .)
<code>lambda</code>	the penalty parameter used in the final fit.
<code>pp.lambda</code>	vector of all lambdas used for lambda search when <code>lambda &lt; 0</code> on input.
<code>pp.sic</code>	vector of Schwarz information criteria evaluated at <code>pp.lambda</code> ; note that it is not quite sure how good these are for determining an optimal lambda.

## References

- Ng, P. and Maechler, M. (2007) A Fast and Efficient Implementation of Qualitatively Constrained Quantile Smoothing Splines, *Statistical Modelling* **7**(4), 315-328.
- Koenker, R. and Ng, P. (2005) Inequality Constrained Quantile Regression, *Sankhya, The Indian Journal of Statistics* **67**, 418–440.
- He, X. and Ng, P. (1999) COBS: Qualitatively Constrained Smoothing via Linear Programming; *Computational Statistics* **14**, 315–337.
- Koenker, R. and Ng, P. (1996) A Remark on Bartels and Conn's Linearly Constrained L1 Algorithm, *ACM Transaction on Mathematical Software* **22**, 493–495.
- Ng, P. (1996) An Algorithm for Quantile Smoothing Splines, *Computational Statistics & Data Analysis* **22**, 99–118.
- Bartels, R. and Conn A. (1980) Linearly Constrained Discrete  $L_1$  Problems, *ACM Transaction on Mathematical Software* **6**, 594–608.
- A postscript version of the paper that describes the details of COBS can be downloaded from <http://www.cba.nau.edu/pin-ng/cobs.html>.

## See Also

[smooth.spline](#) for unconstrained smoothing splines; [bs](#) for unconstrained (regression) B-splines.

## Examples

```
x <- seq(-1,3,,150)
y <- (f.true <- pnorm(2*x)) + rnorm(150)/10
## specify pointwise constraints (boundary conditions)
con <- rbind(c( 1,min(x),0), # f(min(x)) >= 0
             c(-1,max(x),1), # f(max(x)) <= 1
             c(0, 0, 0.5))# f(0) = 0.5

## obtain the median REGRESSION B-spline using automatically selected knots
Rbs <- cobs(x,y, constraint= "increase", pointwise = con)
Rbs
plot(Rbs, lwd = 2.5)
lines(spline(x, f.true), col = "gray40")
lines(predict(cobs(x,y)), col = "blue")
mtext("cobs(x,y) # completely unconstrained", 3, col= "blue")

## compute the median SMOOTHING B-spline using automatically chosen lambda
Sbs <- cobs(x,y, constraint="increase", pointwise= con, lambda= -1)
summary(Sbs)
plot(Sbs) ## by default includes SIC ~ lambda

Sb1 <- cobs(x,y, constraint="increase", pointwise= con, lambda= -1,
            degree = 1)
summary(Sb1)
plot(Sb1)

plot(Sb1, which = 2) # only the data + smooth
rug(Sb1$knobs, col = 4, lwd = 1.6)# (too many knobs)
```

```
xx <- seq(min(x) - .2, max(x)+ .2, len = 201)
pxx <- predict(Sb1, xx, interval = "both")
lines(pxx, col = 2)
mtext(" + pointwise and simultaneous 95% - confidence intervals")
matlines(pxx[,1], pxx[,-(1:2)], col= rep(c("green3","blue"), c(2,2)), lty=2)
```

---

cobs-methods

*Methods for COBS Objects*


---

## Description

Print, summary and other methods for `cobs` objects.

## Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'cobs'
print(x, digits = getOption("digits"), ...)
## S3 method for class 'cobs'
summary(object, digits = getOption("digits"), ...)

## S3 method for class 'cobs'
coef(object, ...)
## S3 method for class 'cobs'
fitted(object, ...)
## S3 method for class 'cobs'
knots(Fn, ...)
## S3 method for class 'cobs'
residuals(object, ...)
```

## Arguments

`x`, `object`, `Fn` object of class `cobs`.  
`digits` number of digits to use for printing.  
`...` further arguments passed from and to methods.

## Details

These are methods for fitted COBS objects, as computed by `cobs`.

## Value

`print.cobs()` returns its argument invisibly. The `coef()`, `fitted()`, `knots()`, and `residuals()` methods return a numeric vector.

## Author(s)

Martin Maechler

**See Also**

[predict.cobs](#) for the `predict` method, [plot.cobs](#) for the `plot` method, and [cobs](#) for examples.

**Examples**

```
example(cobs)
Sbs # uses print.*

summary(Sbs)

coef(Sbs)
knots(Sbs)
```

---

conreg

*Convex / Concave Regression*


---

**Description**

Compute a univariate concave or convex regression, i.e., for given vectors,  $x, y, w$  in  $R^n$ , where  $x$  has to be strictly sorted ( $x_1 < x_2 < \dots < x_n$ ), compute an  $n$ -vector  $m$  minimizing the weighted sum of squares  $\sum_{i=1}^n w_i (y_i - m_i)^2$  under the constraints

$$(m_i - m_{i-1}) / (x_i - x_{i-1}) \geq (m_{i+1} - m_i) / (x_{i+1} - x_i),$$

for  $1 \leq i \leq n$  and  $m_0 := m_{n+1} := -\infty$ , for concavity. For convexity (`convex=TRUE`), replace  $\geq$  by  $\leq$  and  $-\infty$  by  $+\infty$ .

**Usage**

```
conreg(x, y = NULL, w = NULL, convex = FALSE,
       tol = 1e-07, maxit = c(200, 20), adjTol = TRUE, verbose = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

<code>x, y</code>	numeric vectors giving the values of the predictor and response variable. Alternatively a single “plotting” structure (two-column matrix / y-values only / list, etc) can be specified: see <a href="#">xy.coords</a> .
<code>w</code>	optional vector of weights of the same length as <code>x</code> ; defaults to all 1.
<code>convex</code>	logical indicating if convex or concave regression is desired.
<code>tol</code>	convergence tolerance; do not make this too small!
<code>maxit</code>	maximal number of (outer and inner) iterations of knot selection.
<code>adjTol</code>	logical indicating if the convergence test tolerance is to be adjusted (increased) in some cases.
<code>verbose</code>	logical indicating if knot placement iterations should be “reported”.

## Details

The algorithm is an active-set method, needing some numerical tolerance because of rounding errors in computation of finite difference ratios.

## Value

an object of class `conreg` which is basically a list with components

`x` sorted (and possibly aggregated) abscissa values `x`.  
`y` corresponding `y` values.  
`yf` corresponding fitted values.  
`iKnots` integer vector giving indices of the *knots*, i.e. locations where the fitted curve has kinks. Formally, these are exactly those indices where the constraint is fulfilled strictly, i.e., those  $i$  where

$$(m_i - m_{i-1}) / (x_i - x_{i-1}) > (m_{i+1} - m_i) / (x_{i+1} - x_i).$$

`call` the `call` to `conreg()` used.

.. ... FIXME ...

.. ... FIXME ...

Note that there are several methods defined for `conreg` objects, see [predict.conreg](#). Notably `print` and `plot`; also [predict](#), [residuals](#), [fitted](#), [knots](#).

## Author(s)

Lutz Duembgen programmed the original Matlab code in July 2006; Martin Maechler ported it to R, tested, catch infinite loops, added more options, improved tolerance, etc; from April 27, 2007.

## See Also

[isoreg](#) for isotone (monotone) regression; CRAN packages [ftnonpar](#), [cobs](#), [logcondens](#).

## Examples

```
## Generated data :
N <- 100
f <- function(X) 4*X*(1 - X)

xx <- seq(0,1, length=501)# for plotting true f()
set.seed(1)
x <- sort(runif(N))
y <- f(x) + 0.2 * rnorm(N)
plot(x,y, cex = 0.6)
lines(xx, f(xx), col = "blue", lty=2)

rc <- conreg(x,y)
lines(rc, col = 2)
```

```

title("Concave Regression in R")

## Trivial cases work too:
r.1 <- conreg(1,7)
r.2 <- conreg(1:2,7:6)
r.3 <- conreg(1:3,c(4:5,1))
r.3. <- conreg(1:3,c(4:5,8))
stopifnot(resid(r.1) == 0,
           resid(r.2) == 0,
           resid(r.3) == 0,
           all.equal(fitted(r.3.),
                     c(11,17,23)/3, tol=1e-12))

```

---

conreg-methods

*Summary Methods for 'conreg' Objects*


---

## Description

Methods for [conreg](#) objects

## Usage

```

## S3 method for class 'conreg'
fitted(object, ...)
## S3 method for class 'conreg'
residuals(object, ...)
## S3 method for class 'conreg'
knots(Fn, ...)

## S3 method for class 'conreg'
lines(x, type = "l", col = 2, lwd = 1.5, show.knots = TRUE,
      add.iSpline = TRUE, force.iSpl = FALSE, ...)

## S3 method for class 'conreg'
plot(x, type = "l", col = 2, lwd = 1.5, show.knots = TRUE,
     add.iSpline = TRUE, force.iSpl = FALSE,
     xlab = "x", ylab = expression(s[c](x)),
     sub = "simple concave regression", col.sub = col, ...)

## S3 method for class 'conreg'
predict(object, x, deriv = 0, ...)

## S3 method for class 'conreg'
print(x, digits = max(3, getOption("digits") - 3), ...)

```

**Arguments**

object, Fn, x	an R object of class <code>conreg</code> , i.e., typically the result of <code>conreg(.)</code> . For <code>predict()</code> , x is a numeric vector of abscissa values at which to evaluate the concave/convex spline function.
type, col, lwd, xlab, ylab, sub, col.sub	plotting arguments as in <code>plot.default</code> .
show.knots	logical indicating the spline knots should be marked additionally.
add.iSpline	logical indicating if an <i>interpolation</i> spline should be considered for plotting. This is only used when it is itself concave/convex, <b>unless</b> <code>force.iSpl</code> is TRUE.
force.iSpl	logical indicating if an interpolating spline is drawn even when it is not convex/concave.
deriv	for <code>predict</code> , integer specifying the derivate to be computed; currently must be 0 or 1.
digits	number of significant digits for printing.
...	further arguments, potentially passed to methods.

**Author(s)**

Martin Maechler

**See Also**

[conreg](#), ...

**Examples**

```
example(conreg, echo = FALSE)
class(rc) # "conreg"
rc # calls the print method
knots(rc)
plot(rc)
xx <- seq(-0.1, 1.1, length=201) # slightly extrapolate
yx <- predict(rc, xx)
plot(xx, yx, type = "l",
      main="plot(xx, predict( conreg(.), xx))")
```

**Description**

Estimate the B-spline coefficients for a regression quantile *smoothing* spline with optional constraints, using Ng(1996)'s algorithm.

**Usage**

```
drqssbc2(x, y, w = rep.int(1,n), pw, knots, degree, Tlambda,
         constraint, ptConstr, maxiter = 100, trace = 0,
         nrq = length(x), n11, neqc, niqc, nvar,
         tau = 0.5, select.lambda, give.pseudo.x = FALSE,
         rq.tol = 1e-8 * sc.y, tol.0res = 1e-6,
         print.warn = TRUE, rq.print.warn = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

x	numeric vector, sorted increasingly, the abscissa values
y	numeric, same length as x, the observations.
w	numeric vector of weights, same length as x, as in <a href="#">cobs</a> .
pw	penalty weights vector passed to <a href="#">l1.design2</a> or <a href="#">loo.design2</a> . <b>FIXME</b> : This is currently unused.
knots	numeric vector of knots for the splines.
degree	integer, must be 1 or 2.
Tlambda	vector of smoothing parameter values $\lambda$ ; if it is longer than one, an “optimal” value will be selected from these.
constraint	see <a href="#">cobs</a> (but cannot be abbreviated here).
ptConstr	<a href="#">list</a> of <b>pointwise</b> constraints; notably equal, smaller, greater and gradient are 3-column matrices specifying the respective constraints. May have 0 rows if there are no constraints of the corresponding kind.
maxiter	maximal number of iterations; defaults to 100.
trace	integer or logical indicating the tracing level of the <i>underlying</i> algorithms; not much implemented (due to lack of trace in <a href="#">quantreg</a> ...)
nrq	integer, = $n$ , the number of observations.
n11	integer, number of observations in the l1 norm that correspond to roughness measure (may be zero).
neqc	integer giving the number of equations.
niqc	integer giving the number of <b>inequality</b> constraints; of the same length as constraint.
nvar	integer giving the number of equations <i>and</i> constraints.
tau	desired quantile level; defaults to 0.5 (median).
select.lambda	logical indicating if an optimal lambda should be selected from the vector of Tlambda.
give.pseudo.x	logical indicating if the pseudo design matrix $\tilde{X}$ should be returned (as <i>sparse</i> matrix).
rq.tol	numeric convergence tolerance for the interior point algorithm called from <a href="#">rq.fit.sfn()</a> or <a href="#">rq.fit.sfn()</a> . Note that (for scale invariance) this has to be in units of y, which the default makes use of.
tol.0res	tolerance used to check for zero residuals, i.e., $ r_i  < tol * mean( r_i )$ .

<code>print.warn</code>	logical indicating if warnings should be printed, when the algorithm seems to have behaved somewhat unexpectedly.
<code>rq.print.warn</code>	logical indicating if warnings should be printed from inside the <code>rq.*</code> function calls, see below.

### Details

This is an auxiliary function for `cobs`, possibly interesting on its own. Depending on degree, either `l1.design2` or `loo.design2` are called for construction of the sparse design matrix.

Subsequently, either `rq.fit.sfnc` or `rq.fit.sfn` is called as the main “work horse”.

This documentation is currently sparse; read the source code!

### Value

a list with components

`comp1`            Description of ‘comp1’

`comp2`            Description of ‘comp2’

...

### Author(s)

Pin Ng; this help page: Martin Maechler.

### References

Ng, P. (1996) An Algorithm for Quantile Smoothing Splines, *Computational Statistics & Data Analysis* **22**, 99–118.

### See Also

The main function `cobs` and its auxiliary `qbsks2` which calls `drqssbc2()` repeatedly.

`l1.design2` and `loo.design2`; further `rq.fit.sfnc` and `rq.fit.sfn` from package **quantreg**.

### Examples

```
set.seed(1243)
x <- 1:32
fx <- (x-5)*(x-15)^2*(x-21)
y <- fx + round(rnorm(x,s = 0.25),2)
```

---

 DublinWind

*Daily Wind Speeds in Dublin*


---

### Description

The DublinWind data frame is basically the time series of daily average wind speeds from 1961 to 1978, measured in Dublin, Ireland. These are 6574 observations (18 full years among which four leap years).

### Usage

```
data(DublinWind)
```

### Format

This data frame contains the following columns:

**speed** numeric vector of average daily wind speed in knots

**day** an integer vector giving the day number of the year, i.e., one of 1:366.

### Details

The periodic pattern along the 18 years measured and the autocorrelation are to be taken into account for analysis, see the references. This is Example 3 of the COBS paper.

### Source

From shar file available from <http://www.cba.nau.edu/pin-ng/cobs.html>

Also available from [.....STATLIB.....](#)

### References

Haslett, J. and Raftery, A. (1989) Space-Time Modelling with Long-Memory Dependence: Assessing Ireland's Wind Power Resource. .... **38**, 1–21.

COBS: Qualitatively Constrained Smoothing via Linear Programming; *Computational Statistics* **14**, 315–337.

He, X. and Ng, P. (1999) COBS: Qualitatively Constrained Smoothing via Linear Programming; *Computational Statistics* **14**, 315–337.

### Examples

```
data(DublinWind)
str(DublinWind)
plot(speed ~ day, data = DublinWind)# not so nice; want time scale

## transform 'day' to correct "Date" object; and then plot
Dday <- seq(from = as.Date("1961-01-01"), by = 1,
```

```

        length = nrow(DublinWind))
plot(speed ~ Dday, data = DublinWind, type = "l",
      main = paste("DublinWind speed daily data, n=",
                  nrow(DublinWind)))

##--- ~ He & Ng "Example 3" %% much more is in ../tests/wind.R
co.o50 <-
  with(DublinWind, ## use nknots > (default) 6 :
    cobs(day, speed, knots.add = TRUE, constraint= "periodic", nknots = 10,
          tau = .5, method = "uniform"))
summary(co.o50)
lines(Dday, fitted(co.o50), col=2, lwd = 2)

## the periodic "smooth" function - in one period
plot(predict(co.o50), type = "o", cex = 0.2, col=2,
      xlab = "day", ylim = c(0,20))
points(speed ~ day, data = DublinWind, pch = ".")

```

---

exHe

*Small Dataset Example of He*


---

## Description

The exHe data frame has 10 rows and 2 columns. It is an example for which `smooth.spline` cannot be used.

## Usage

```
data(exHe)
```

## Format

This data frame contains the following columns:

**x** only values 0, 1, and 2.

**y** 10 randomly generated values

## Details

Xuming He wrote about this **JUST FOR FUN**:

I was testing COBS using the following "data". For comparison, I tried `smooth.spline` in S+. I never got an answer back! No warning messages either. The point is that even the well-tested algorithm like `smooth.spline` could leave you puzzled.

To tell you the truth, the response values here were generated by white noise. An ideal fitted curve would be a flat line. See for yourself what COBS would do in this case.

## Source

Found at the bottom of <http://ux6.cso.uiuc.edu/~x-he/ftp.html>, signed by <x-he@uiuc.edu>.

**See Also**[cobs](#)**Examples**

```
data(exHe)
plot(exHe, main = "He's 10 point example and cobs() fits")
tm <- tapply(exHe$y, exHe$x, mean)
lines(unique(exHe$x), tm, lty = 2)

cH. <- with(exHe,
  cobs(x, y, degree=1, constraint = "increase"))
cH <- with(exHe,
  cobs(x, y, lambda=0.2, degree=1, constraint = "increase"))
plot(exHe)
lines(predict(cH.), type = "o", col="tomato3", pch = "i")# constant
lines(predict(cH), type = "o", col=2, pch = "i")

cHn <- cobs(exHe$x, exHe$y, degree=1, constraint = "none")
lines(predict(cHn), col= 3, type = "o", pch = "n")

cHd <- cobs(exHe$x, exHe$y, degree=1, constraint = "decrease")
lines(predict(cHd), col= 4, type = "o", pch = "d")
```

---

globtemp

*Annual Average Global Surface Temperature*

---

**Description**

Time Series of length 113 of annual average global surface temperature deviations from 1880 to 1992.

**Usage**

```
data(globtemp)
```

**Details**

This is Example 1 of the COBS paper, where the hypothesis of a monotonely increasing trend is considered; Koenker and Schorfheide (1994) consider modeling the autocorrelations.

**Source**

'temp.data' in file 'cobs.shar' available from <http://www.cba.nau.edu/pin-ng/cobs.html>.

## References

- He, X. and Ng, P. (1999) COBS: Qualitatively Constrained Smoothing via Linear Programming; *Computational Statistics* **14**, 315–337.
- Koenker, R. and Schorfheide F. (1994) Quantile Spline Models for Global Temperature Change; *Climate Change* **28**, 395–404.

## Examples

```

data(globtemp)
plot(globtemp, main = "Annual Global Temperature Deviations")
str(globtemp)
## forget about time-series, just use numeric vectors:
year <- as.vector(time(globtemp))
temp <- as.vector(globtemp)

##---- Code for Figure 1a of He and Ng (1999) -----

a50 <- cobs(year, temp, knots.add = TRUE, degree = 1, constraint = "increase")
summary(a50)
## As suggested in the warning message, we increase the number of knots to 9
a50 <- cobs(year, temp, nknots = 9, knots.add = TRUE, degree = 1,
            constraint = "increase")
summary(a50)
## Here, we use the same knots sequence chosen for the 50th percentile
a10 <- cobs(year, temp, nknots = length(a50$knots), knots = a50$knot,
            degree = 1, tau = 0.1, constraint = "increase")
summary(a10)
a90 <- cobs(year, temp, nknots = length(a50$knots), knots = a50$knot,
            degree = 1, tau = 0.9, constraint = "increase")
summary(a90)

which(hot.idx <- temp >= a90$fit)
which(cold.idx <- temp <= a10$fit)
normal.idx <- !hot.idx & !cold.idx

plot(year, temp, type = "n", ylab = "Temperature (C)", ylim = c(-.7,.6))
lines(predict(a50, year, interval = "both"), col = 2)
lines(predict(a10, year, interval = "both"), col = 3)
lines(predict(a90, year, interval = "both"), col = 3)
points(year, temp, pch = c(1,3)[2 - normal.idx])

## label the "hot" and "cold" days
text(year[hot.idx], temp[hot.idx] + .03, labels = year[hot.idx])
text(year[cold.idx], temp[cold.idx] - .03, labels = year[cold.idx])

```

**Description**

COBS ([cobs](#)) auxiliary function for constructing the pointwise constraint specification list from the pointwise 3-column matrix (as used as argument in [cobs](#)).

**Usage**

```
mk.pt.constr(pointwise)
```

**Arguments**

pointwise      numeric 3-column matrix, see pointwise in [cobs](#).

**Value**

A list with components

n.equal	number of equality constraints
n.greater	number of “greater” constraints
n.smaller	number of “smaller” constraints
n.gradient	number of gradient constraints

Unless the input pointwise was NULL, the result also has corresponding components:

equal	3-column matrix of equality constraints
greater	3-column matrix of “greater” constraints
smaller	3-column matrix of “smaller” constraints
gradient	3-column matrix of gradient constraints

**Author(s)**

Martin Maechler

**Examples**

```
## from ?cobs:
x <- seq(-1,3,,150)
con <- rbind(c( 1,min(x),0), # f(min(x)) >= 0
            c(-1,max(x),1), # f(max(x)) <= 1
            c(0, 0, 0.5))# f(0) = 0.5
r <- mk.pt.constr(con)
str(r)
```

plot.cobs

*Plot Method for COBS Objects***Description**

The `plot` method for `cobs` objects. If there was lambda selection, it provides two plots by default.

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'cobs'
plot(x, which = if(x$select.lambda) 1:2 else 2,
     show.k = TRUE,
     col = par("col"), l.col = c("red","pink"), k.col = gray(c(0.6, 0.8)),
     lwd = 2, cex = 0.4, ylim = NULL,
     xlab = deparse(x$call[[2]]),
     ylab = deparse(x$call[[3]]),
     main = paste(deparse(x$call, width.cut = 100), collapse="\n"),
     subtit= c("choosing lambda", "data & spline curve") , ...)
```

**Arguments**

<code>x</code>	object of class <code>cobs</code> .
<code>which</code>	integer vector specifying <i>which</i> plots should be drawn;
<code>show.k</code>	logical indicating if the “effective dimensionality” $k$ should also be shown. Only applicable when <code>which</code> contains 1.
<code>col</code> , <code>l.col</code> , <code>k.col</code>	colors for plotting; <code>k.col</code> only applies when <code>show.k</code> is true in the first plot ( <code>which == 1</code> ) where <code>l.col[2]</code> and <code>k.col[2]</code> are only used as well, for denoting “doubtful” points; <code>col</code> is only used for the 2nd plot ( <code>which == 2</code> ).
<code>lwd</code> , <code>cex</code>	line width and point size for the 2nd plot (i.e. <code>which == 2</code> ).
<code>ylim</code>	y-axis limits, see <a href="#">axis</a> , with a smart default.
<code>xlab</code> , <code>ylab</code> , <code>main</code>	axis annotation; see also <a href="#">axis</a> .
<code>subtit</code>	a vector of length 2, specifying a sub title for each plot (according to <code>which</code> ).
<code>...</code>	further arguments passed and to internal <code>plot</code> methods.

**Details**

`plot(.)` produces two side-by-side plots in case there was a search for the optimal lambda (`which = 1:2`), and only the (second) data plus spline curve plot otherwise (`which = 2`).

**Author(s)**

Martin Maechler

**See Also**

There are several other methods for COBS objects, see, e.g. [summary.cobs](#) or [predict.cobs.cobs](#) for examples.

**Examples**

```
example(cobs)

plot(Sbs)
plot(fitted(Sbs), resid(Sbs),
     main = "Tukey-Anscombe plot for cobs()",
     sub = deparse(Sbs$call))
```

---

predict.cobs	<i>Predict method for COBS Fits</i>
--------------	-------------------------------------

---

**Description**

Compute predicted values and simultaneous or pointwise confidence bounds for [cobs](#) objects.

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'cobs'
predict(object,
        z, minz = knots[1], maxz = knots[nknots], nz = 100,
        interval = c("none", "confidence", "simultaneous", "both"),
        level = 0.95, ...)
```

**Arguments**

object	object of class <code>cobs</code> .
z	vector of grid points at which the fitted values are evaluated; defaults to an equally spaced grid with <code>nz</code> grid points between <code>minz</code> and <code>maxz</code> . Note that now <code>z</code> may lie outside of the knots interval which was not allowed originally.
minz	numeric needed if <code>z</code> is not specified; defaults to <code>min(x)</code> or the first knot if knots are given.
maxz	analogous to <code>minz</code> ; defaults to <code>max(x)</code> or the last knot if knots are given.
nz	number of grid points in <code>z</code> if that is not given; defaults to 100.
interval	type of interval calculation, see below
level	confidence level
...	further arguments passed to and from methods.

**Value**

a matrix of predictions and bounds if interval is set (not "none"). The columns are named `z`, `fit`, further `cb.lo` and `cb.up` for the simultaneous confidence band, and `ci.lo` and `ci.up` the pointwise confidence intervals according to specified level.

If `z` has been specified, it is unchanged in the result.

**Author(s)**

Martin Maechler, based on He and Ng's code in `cobs()`.

**See Also**

`cobs` the model fitting function.

**Examples**

```
example(cobs) # continuing :
(pRbs <- predict(Rbs))
#str(pSbs <- predict(Sbs, xx, interval = "both"))
str(pSbs <- predict(Sbs, xx, interval = "none"))

plot(x,y, xlim = range(xx), ylim = range(y, pSbs[,2], finite = TRUE),
     main = "COBS Median smoothing spline, automatical lambda")
lines(pSbs, col = "red")
lines(spline(x,f.true), col = "gray40")
#matlines(pSbs[,1], pSbs[-(1:2)],
#         col= rep(c("green","blue"),c(2,2)), lty=2)
```

---

qbsks2

*Quantile B-Spline with Fixed Knots*


---

**Description**

Compute B-spline coefficients for regression quantile B-spline with stepwise knots selection and quantile B-spline with fixed knots **regression spline**, using Ng (1996)'s algorithm.

**Usage**

```
qbsks2(x,y,w,pw, knots,nknots, degree,Tlambda, constraint, ptConstr,
       maxiter, trace, nrq,nl1, neqc, tau, select.lambda,
       ks, do.select, knots.add, repeat.delete.add, ic, print.mesg,
       give.pseudo.x = TRUE,
       rq.tol = 1e-8, tol.kn = 1e-6, tol.0res = 1e-6, print.warn, nk.start)
```

**Arguments**

x	numeric vector, sorted increasingly, the abscissa values
y	numeric, same length as x, the observations.
w	numeric vector of weights, same length as x, as in <a href="#">cobs</a> .
pw	penalty weights vector ... ..
knots	numeric vector of knots of which nknots will be used.
nknots	number of knots to be used.
degree	integer specifying polynomial degree; must be 1 or 2.
Tlambda	(vector of) smoothing parameter(s) $\lambda$ , see <a href="#">drqssbc2</a> .
constraint	string (or empty) specifying the global constraints; see <a href="#">cobs</a> .
ptConstr	<a href="#">list</a> of <b>pointwise</b> constraints.
maxiter	non-negative integer: maximal number of iterations, passed to <a href="#">drqssbc2</a> .
trace	integer or logical indicating the tracing level of the <i>underlying</i> algorithms; not implemented (due to lack of trace in <code>quantreg</code> ...)
nrq,nl1,neqc	integers specifying dimensionalities, directly passed to <a href="#">drqssbc2</a> , see there.
tau	desired quantile level (in interval (0, 1)).
select.lambda	passed to <a href="#">drqssbc2</a> , see there.
ks	number used as offset in SIC/AIC/BIC.
do.select	logical indicating if knots shall be selected (instead of used as specified).
knots.add, repeat.delete.add	logicals, see <a href="#">cobs</a> .
ic	information criterion to use, see <a href="#">cobs</a> .
print.mesg	an integer indicating how <code>qbsks2()</code> should print message about its current stages.
give.pseudo.x	logical indicating if the pseudo design matrix $\tilde{X}$ should be returned (as <i>sparse</i> matrix).
rq.tol	numeric convergence tolerance for the interior point algorithm called from <a href="#">rq.fit.sfn()</a> or <a href="#">rq.fit.sfn()</a> .
tol.kn	“tolerance” for shifting the outer knots.
tol.0res	tolerance passed to <a href="#">drqssbc2</a> .
print.warn	flag indicating if and how much warnings and information is to be printed; currently just passed to <a href="#">drqssbc2</a> .
nk.start	number of starting knots used in automatic knot selection.

**Details**

This is an auxiliary function for `cobs(*, lambda = 0)`, possibly interesting on its own. This documentation is currently sparse; read the source code!

**Value**

a list with components

coef	..
fidel	..
k	dimensionality of model fit.
ifl	integer “flag”; the return code.
icyc	integer of length 2, see <a href="#">cobs</a> .
knots	the vector of inner knots.
nknots	the number of inner knots.
nvar	the number of “variables”, i.e. unknowns including constraints.
lambda	the penalty factor, chosen or given.
pseudo.x	the pseudo design matrix $X$ , as returned from <a href="#">drqssbc2</a> .

**Author(s)**

Pin Ng; this help page: Martin Maechler.

**References**

Ng, P. (1996) An Algorithm for Quantile Smoothing Splines, *Computational Statistics & Data Analysis* **22**, 99–118.

See also the *references* in [cobs](#).

**See Also**

the main function [cobs](#); further [drqssbc2](#) which is called from `qbsks2()`.

---

USArmyRoofs

*Roof Quality in US Army Bases*

---

**Description**

The USArmyRoofs data frame has 153 observations of roof sections of US Army bases and 2 columns, age and fci. This is Example 2 of He & Ng (1999).

**Usage**

```
data(USArmyRoofs)
```

**Format**

This data frame contains the following columns:

**age** numeric vector giving the roof’s age in years.

**fci** numeric, giving the FCI, the flash condition index, i.e., the percentage of flashing which is in good condition.

### Source

From shar file available from <http://www.cba.nau.edu/pin-ng/cobs.html>

### References

He, X. and Ng, P. (1999) COBS: Qualitatively Constrained Smoothing via Linear Programming; *Computational Statistics* **14**, 315–337.

### Examples

```
data(USArmyRoofs)
plot(fci ~ age, data = USArmyRoofs, main = "US Army Roofs data")
```

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