

# Package ‘segmented’

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**Type** Package

**Title** Segmented relationships in regression models with breakpoints/changepoints estimation

**Version** 0.5-0.0

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**Description** Given a regression model, segmented `updates' the model by adding one or more segmented relationships. Several variables with multiple breakpoints are allowed.

**License** GPL

**Author** Vito M. R. Muggeo [aut, cre]

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segmented-package	<i>Segmented relationships in regression models with break-points/changepoints estimation</i>
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## Description

Estimation of Regression Models with piecewise linear relationships having a fixed number of break-points.

## Details

Package: segmented  
 Type: Package  
 Version: 0.5-0.0  
 Date: 2014-09-10  
 License: GPL

Package segmented is aimed to estimate linear and generalized linear models (and virtually any regression model) having one or more segmented relationships in the linear predictor. Estimates of the slopes and of the possibly multiple breakpoints are provided. The package includes testing/estimating functions and methods to print, summarize and plot the results.

The algorithm used by segmented is *not* grid-search. It is an iterative procedure (Muggeo, 2003) that needs starting values *only* for the breakpoint parameters and therefore it is quite efficient even with several breakpoints to be estimated. Moreover since version 0.2-9.0, segmented implements the bootstrap restarting (Wood, 2001) to make the algorithm less sensitive to starting values.

Since version 0.5-0.0 a default method segmented.dafault has been added. It may be employed to include segmented relationships in *general* regression models where specific methods do not exist. Examples include quantile and Cox regressions. See examples in [segmented.default](#).

A tentative approach to deal with unknown number of breakpoints is also provided, see option stop.if.error in [seg.control](#).

## Author(s)

Vito M.R. Muggeo <vito.muggeo@unipa.it>

## References

- Davies, R.B. (1987) Hypothesis testing when a nuisance parameter is present only under the alternative. *Biometrika* **74**, 33–43.
- Seber, G.A.F. and Wild, C.J. (1989) *Nonlinear Regression*. Wiley, New York.
- Bacon D.W., Watts D.G. (1971) Estimating the transition between two intersecting straight lines. *Biometrika* **58**: 525 – 534.
- Muggeo, V.M.R. (2003) Estimating regression models with unknown break-points. *Statistics in Medicine* **22**, 3055–3071.
- Muggeo, V.M.R. (2008) Segmented: an R package to fit regression models with broken-line relationships. *R News* **8/1**, 20–25.
- Muggeo, V.M.R., Adelfio, G. (2011) Efficient change point detection in genomic sequences of continuous measurements. *Bioinformatics* **27**, 161–166.
- Wood, S. N. (2001) Minimizing model fitting objectives that contain spurious local minima by bootstrap restarting. *Biometrics* **57**, 240–244.

---

 broken.line

*Fitted values for segmented relationships*


---

## Description

Given a segmented model (typically returned by a segmented method), broken.line computes the fitted values (and relevant standard errors) for each ‘segmented’ relationship.

## Usage

```
broken.line(ogg, term = NULL, link = TRUE, interc=TRUE, se.fit=TRUE)
```

## Arguments

ogg	A fitted object of class segmented (returned by any segmented method).
term	Three options. A list (whose name should be one of the segmented covariates) including values for which segmented predictions should be computed. A character meaning the name of any segmented covariate in the model. NULL if the model includes a single segmented covariate.
link	Should the predictions be computed on the scale of the link function? Default to TRUE.
interc	Should the model intercept be added? (provided it exists).
se.fit	If TRUE also standard errors for predictions are returned.

**Details**

If `term=NULL` or `term` is a valid segmented covariate name, predictions for each segmented variable are the relevant fitted values from the model. If `term` is a (correctly named) list with numerical values, predictions corresponding to such specified values are computed. If `link=FALSE` and `ogg` inherits from the class "glm", predictions and standard errors are returned on the response scale. The standard errors come from the Delta method. Argument `link` is ignored whether `ogg` does not inherit from the class "glm".

**Value**

A 2-component (if `se.fit=TRUE`) list representing predictions and standard errors for the segmented covariate values.

**Author(s)**

Vito M. R. Muggeo

**See Also**

[segmented](#), [predict.segmented](#), [plot.segmented](#)

**Examples**

```
set.seed(1234)
z<-runif(100)
y<-rpois(100,exp(2+1.8*pmax(z-.6,0)))
o<-glm(y~z, family=poisson)
o.seg<-segmented(o, seg.Z=~z, psi=.5)
## Not run: plot(z,y)
## Not run: points(z,broken.line(o.seg,link=FALSE)$fit,col=2,pch=20)
```

---

confint.segmented

*Confidence intervals for breakpoints*

---

**Description**

Computes confidence intervals for the breakpoints in a fitted 'segmented' model.

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'segmented'
confint(object, parm, level=0.95, rev.sgn=FALSE, var.diff=FALSE,
        digits=max(3, getOption("digits") - 3), ...)
```

**Arguments**

object	a fitted segmented object.
parm	the segmented variable of interest. If missing all the segmented variables are considered.
level	the confidence level required (default to 0.95).
rev.sgn	vector of logicals. The length should be equal to the length of parm; recycled otherwise. when TRUE it is assumed that the current parm is 'minus' the actual segmented variable, therefore the sign is reversed before printing. This is useful when a null-constraint has been set on the last slope.
var.diff	logical. If var.diff=TRUE and there is a single segmented variable, the standard error is based on sandwich-type formula of the covariance matrix. See Details in <a href="#">summary.segmented</a> .
digits	controls the number of digits to print when printing the output.
...	additional parameters

**Details**

Currently `confint.segmented` computes confidence limits for the breakpoints using the standard error coming from the Delta method for the ratio of two random variables. This value is an approximation (slightly) better than the one reported in the 'psi' component of the list returned by any segmented method. The resulting confidence intervals are based on the asymptotic Normal distribution of the breakpoint estimator which is reliable just for clear-cut kink relationships. See Details in [segmented](#).

**Value**

A list of matrices. Each matrix includes point estimate and confidence limits of the breakpoint(s) for each segmented variable in the model.

**Author(s)**

Vito M.R. Muggeo

**See Also**

[segmented](#) and [lines.segmented](#) to plot the estimated breakpoints with corresponding confidence intervals.

**Examples**

```
set.seed(10)
x<-1:100
z<-runif(100)
y<-2+1.5*pmax(x-35,0)-1.5*pmax(x-70,0)+10*pmax(z-.5,0)+rnorm(100,0,2)
out.lm<-lm(y~x)
o<-segmented(out.lm,seg.Z=~x+z,psi=list(x=c(30,60),z=.4))
confint(o)
```

---

<code>davies.test</code>	<i>Testing for a change in the slope</i>
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---

### Description

Given a generalized linear model, the Davies' test can be employed to test for a non-constant regression parameter in the linear predictor.

### Usage

```
davies.test(obj, seg.Z, k = 10, alternative = c("two.sided", "less", "greater"),
            type=c("lrt","wald"), values=NULL, dispersion=NULL)
```

### Arguments

<code>obj</code>	a fitted model typically returned by <code>glm</code> or <code>lm</code> . Even an object returned by <code>segmented</code> can be set (e.g. if interest lies in testing for an additional breakpoint).
<code>seg.Z</code>	a formula with no response variable, such as <code>seg.Z=~x1</code> , indicating the (continuous) segmented variable being tested. Only a single variable may be tested and a warning is printed when <code>seg.Z</code> includes two or more terms.
<code>k</code>	number of points where the test should be evaluated. See Details.
<code>alternative</code>	a character string specifying the alternative hypothesis.
<code>type</code>	the test statistic to be used (only for GLM, default to <code>lrt</code> . Ignored if <code>obj</code> is a simple linear model.
<code>values</code>	optional. The evaluation points where the Davies approximation is computed. See Details for default values.
<code>dispersion</code>	the dispersion parameter for the family to be used to compute the test statistic. When <code>NULL</code> (the default), it is inferred from <code>obj</code> . Namely it is taken as 1 for the Binomial and Poisson families, and otherwise estimated by the residual Chi-squared statistic (calculated from cases with non-zero weights) divided by the residual degrees of freedom.

### Details

`davies.test` tests for a non-zero difference-in-slope parameter of a segmented relationship. Namely, the null hypothesis is  $H_0 : \beta = 0$ , where  $\beta$  is the difference-in-slopes, i.e. the coefficient of the segmented function  $\beta(x - \psi)_+$ . The hypothesis of interest  $\beta = 0$  means no breakpoint. Roughly speaking, the procedure computes  $k$  'naive' (i.e. assuming fixed and known the breakpoint) test statistics for the difference-in-slope, seeks the 'best' value and corresponding naive p-value (according to the alternative hypothesis), and then corrects the selected (minimum) p-value by means of the  $k$  values of the test statistic. If `obj` is a LM, the Davies (2002) test is implemented. This approach works even for small samples. If `obj` represents a GLM fit, relevant methods are described in Davies (1987), and the Wald or the Likelihood ratio test statistics can be used, see argument `type`. This is an asymptotic test. # The  $k$  evaluation points are  $k$  equally spaced values between the

minimum and the maximum (excluded) values of the variable reported in `seg.Z`. The `k` evaluation points are `k` equally spaced values between the second and the second-last values of the variable reported in `seg.Z`.

### Value

A list with class 'htest' containing the following components:

<code>method</code>	title (character)
<code>data.name</code>	the regression model and the segmented variable being tested
<code>statistic</code>	the point within the range of the covariate in <code>seg.Z</code> at which the maximum (or the minimum if <code>alternative="less"</code> ) occurs
<code>parameter</code>	number of evaluation points
<code>p.value</code>	the adjusted p-value
<code>process</code>	a two-column matrix including the evaluation points and corresponding values of the test statistic

### Warning

The Davies test is *not* aimed at obtaining the estimate of the breakpoint. The Davies test is based on `k` evaluation points, thus the value returned in the `statistic` component (and printed as "'best' at") is the best among the `k` points, and typically it will differ from the maximum likelihood estimate returned by `segmented`. Use [segmented](#) if you are interested in the point estimate.

To test for a breakpoint in linear models with small samples, it is suggested to use `davies.test()` with objects of class "lm". If `obj` is a "glm" object with gaussian family, `davies.test()` will use an approximate test resulting in smaller p-values when the sample is small. However if the sample size is large ( $n > 300$ ), the exact Davies (2002) upper bound cannot be computed (as it relies on `gamma()` function) and the *approximate* upper bound of Davies (1987) is returned.

### Note

Strictly speaking, the Davies test is not confined to the segmented regression; the procedure can be applied when a nuisance parameter vanishes under the null hypothesis. The test is slightly conservative, as the computed p-value is actually an upper bound.

Results should change slightly with respect to previous versions where the evaluation points were computed as `k` equally spaced values between the second and the second last observed values of the segmented variable.

### Author(s)

Vito M.R. Muggeo

### References

- Davies, R.B. (1987) Hypothesis testing when a nuisance parameter is present only under the alternative. *Biometrika* **74**, 33–43.
- Davies, R.B. (2002) Hypothesis testing when a nuisance parameter is present only under the alternative: linear model case. *Biometrika* **89**, 484–489.

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
set.seed(20)
z<-runif(100)
x<-rnorm(100,2)
y<-2+10*pmax(z-.5,0)+rnorm(100,0,3)

o<-lm(y~z+x)
davies.test(o,~z)
davies.test(o,~x)

o<-glm(y~z+x)
davies.test(o,~z) #it works but the p-value is too small..

## End(Not run)
```

---

down

---

*Down syndrome in babies*


---

**Description**

The down data frame has 30 rows and 3 columns. Variable cases means the number of babies with Down syndrome out of total number of births births for mothers with mean age age.

**Usage**

```
data(down)
```

**Format**

A data frame with 30 observations on the following 3 variables.

age the mothers' mean age.

births count of total births.

cases count of babies with Down syndrome.

**Source**

Davison, A.C. and Hinkley, D. V. (1997) *Bootstrap Methods and their Application*. Cambridge University Press.

**References**

Geyer, C. J. (1991) Constrained maximum likelihood exemplified by isotonic convex logistic regression. *Journal of the American Statistical Association* **86**, 717–724.

**Examples**

```
data(down)
```



---

`draw.history`*History for the breakpoint estimates*

---

**Description**

Displays breakpoint iteration values for segmented fits.

**Usage**

```
draw.history(obj, term, ...)
```

**Arguments**

<code>obj</code>	a segmented fit returned by any "segmented" method.
<code>term</code>	a character to mean the 'segmented' variable whose breakpoint values throughout iterations have to be displayed.
<code>...</code>	graphic parameters to be passed to <code>matplot()</code> .

**Details**

For a given `term` in a segmented fit, `draw.history()` displays the different breakpoint values obtained during the estimating process, since the starting values up to the final ones. When bootstrap restarting is employed, `draw.history()` produces two plots, the values of objective function and the number of distinct solutions against the bootstrap replicates.

**Value**

None.

**Author(s)**

Vito M.R. Muggeo

**Examples**

```
data(stagnant)
os<-segmented(lm(y~x,data=stagnant),seg.Z=~x,psi=-.8)
draw.history(os) #diagnostics with boot restarting

os<-segmented(lm(y~x,data=stagnant),seg.Z=~x,psi=-.8, control=seg.control(n.boot=0))
draw.history(os) #diagnostics without boot restarting
```

---

intercept	<i>Intercept estimates from segmented relationships</i>
-----------	---

---

### Description

Computes the intercepts of each ‘segmented’ relationship in the fitted model.

### Usage

```
intercept(ogg, parm, gap = TRUE, rev.sgn = FALSE, var.diff=FALSE,
          digits = max(3, getOption("digits") - 3))
```

### Arguments

ogg	an object of class "segmented", returned by any segmented method.
parm	the segmented variable whose intercepts have to be computed. If missing all the segmented variables in the model are considered.
gap	logical. should the intercepts account for the (possible) gaps?
rev.sgn	vector of logicals. The length should be equal to the length of parm, but it is recycled otherwise. When TRUE it is assumed that the current parm is ‘minus’ the actual segmented variable, therefore the sign is reversed before printing. This is useful when a null-constraint has been set on the last slope.
var.diff	Currently ignored as only point estimates are computed.
digits	controls number of digits in output.

### Details

A broken-line relationship means that a regression equation exists in the intervals ‘ $\min(x)$  to  $\psi_1$ ’, ‘ $\psi_1$  to  $\psi_2$ ’, and so on. `intercept` computes point estimates of the intercepts of the different regression equations for each segmented relationship in the fitted model.

### Value

`intercept` returns a list of one-column matrices. Each matrix represents a segmented relationship.

### Author(s)

Vito M. R. Muggeo, <vito.muggeo@unipa.it>

### See Also

See also [slope](#) to compute the slopes of the different regression equations for each segmented relationship in the fitted model.

**Examples**

```
## see ?slope
## Not run:
intercept(out.seg)

## End(Not run)
```

---

lines.segmented	<i>Bars for interval estimate of the breakpoints</i>
-----------------	--

---

**Description**

Draws bars relevant to breakpoint estimates (point estimate and confidence limits) on the current device

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'segmented'
lines(x, term, bottom = TRUE, shift=TRUE, conf.level = 0.95, k = 50,
      pch = 18, rev.sgn = FALSE, ...)
```

**Arguments**

x	an object of class segmented.
term	the segmented variable of the breakpoints being drawn. It may be unspecified when there is a single segmented variable.
bottom	logical, indicating if the bars should be plotted at the bottom (TRUE) or at the top (FALSE).
shift	logical, indicating if the bars should be ‘shifted’ on the y-axis before plotting. Useful for multiple breakpoints with overlapped confidence intervals.
conf.level	the confidence level of the confidence intervals for the breakpoints.
k	a positive integer regulating the vertical position of the drawn bars. See Details.
pch	either an integer specifying a symbol or a single character to be used in plotting the point estimates of the breakpoints. See <a href="#">points</a> .
rev.sgn	should the signs of the breakpoint estimates be changed before plotting? see Details.
...	further arguments passed to <a href="#">segments</a> , for instance ‘col’ that can be a vector.

**Details**

lines.segmented simply draws on the current device the point estimates and relevant confidence limits of the estimated breakpoints from a "segmented" object. The y coordinate where the bars are drawn is computed as  $usr[3]+h$  if `bottom=TRUE` or  $usr[4]-h$  when `bottom=FALSE`, where  $h=(usr[4]-usr[3])/abs(k)$  and `usr` are the extremes of the user coordinates of the plotting region. Therefore for larger values of `k` the bars are plotted on the edges. The argument `rev.sgn` allows to change the sign of the breakpoints before plotting. This may be useful when a null-right-slope constraint is set.

**See Also**

[plot.segmented](#) to plot the fitted segmented lines, and [points.segmented](#) to add the fitted joint-points.

**Examples**

```
## See ?plot.segmented
```

---

plant	<i>Plan organ dataset</i>
-------	---------------------------

---

**Description**

The plant data frame has 103 rows and 3 columns.

**Usage**

```
data(plant)
```

**Format**

A data frame with 103 observations on the following 3 variables:

y measurements of the plant organ.

time times where measurements took place.

group three attributes of the plant organ, RKV, RKW, RWC.

**Details**

Three attributes of a plant organ measured over time where biological reasoning indicates likelihood of multiple breakpoints. The data are scaled to the maximum value for each attribute and all attributes are measured at each time.

**Source**

The data have been kindly provided by Dr Zongjian Yang at School of Land, Crop and Food Sciences, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia.

**Examples**

```
## Not run:  
data(plant)  
attach(plant)  
  
lattice::xyplot(y~time, groups=group, auto.key=list(space="right"))  
  
## End(Not run)
```

---

plot.segmented                      *Plot method for segmented objects*

---

### Description

Takes a fitted segmented object returned by segmented() and plots (or adds) the fitted broken-line for the selected segmented term.

### Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'segmented'
plot(x, term, add=FALSE, res=FALSE, conf.level=0, interc=TRUE, link=TRUE,
     res.col=1, rev.sgn=FALSE, const=0, shade=FALSE, rug=TRUE, show.gap=FALSE, ...)
```

### Arguments

x	a fitted segmented object.
term	the segmented variable having the piece-wise relationship to be plotted. If there is a single segmented variable in the fitted model x, term can be omitted.
add	when TRUE the fitted lines are added to the current device.
res	when TRUE the fitted lines are plotted along with corresponding partial residuals. See Details.
conf.level	If greater than zero, it means the confidence level at which the pointwise confidence intervals have to be plotted.
interc	If TRUE the computed segmented components include the model intercept (if it exists).
link	when TRUE (default), the fitted lines are plotted on the link scale, otherwise they are transformed on the response scale before plotting. Ignored for linear segmented fits.
res.col	when res=TRUE it means the color of the points representing the partial residuals.
rev.sgn	when TRUE it is assumed that current term is 'minus' the actual segmented variable, therefore the sign is reversed before plotting. This is useful when a null-constraint has been set on the last slope.
const	constant to add to each fitted segmented relationship (on the scale of the linear predictor) before plotting.
shade	if TRUE and conf.level>0 it produces shaded regions (in grey color) for the pointwise confidence intervals embracing the fitted segmented line.
rug	when TRUE (default) then the covariate values are displayed as a rug plot at the foot of the plot.

`show.gap` when FALSE the (possible) gaps between the fitted lines at the estimated breakpoints are hidden. When bootstrap restarting has been employed (default in segmented), `show.gap` is meaningless as the gap coefficients are always set to zero in the fitted model.

... other graphics parameters to pass to plotting commands: 'col', 'lwd' and 'lty' (that can be vectors, see the example below) for the fitted piecewise lines; 'ylab', 'xlab', 'main', 'sub', 'xlim' and 'ylim' when a new plot is produced (i.e. when `add=FALSE`); 'pch' and 'cex' for the partial residuals (when `res=TRUE`).

### Details

Produces (or adds to the current device) the fitted segmented relationship between the response and the selected term. If the fitted model includes just a single 'segmented' variable, term may be omitted. Due to the parameterization of the segmented terms, sometimes the fitted lines may not appear to join at the estimated breakpoints. If this is the case, the apparent 'gap' would indicate some lack-of-fit. However, since version 0.2-9.0, the gap coefficients are set to zero by default (see argument `gap` in [seg.control](#)). The partial residuals are computed as 'fitted + residuals', where 'fitted' are the fitted values of the segmented relationship. Notice that for GLMs the residuals are the response residuals if `link=FALSE` and the working residuals weighted by the IWLS weights if `link=TRUE`.

### Value

None.

### Note

For models with offset, partial residuals on the response scale are not defined. Thus `plot.segmented` does not work when `link=FALSE`, `res=TRUE`, and the fitted model includes an offset.

### Author(s)

Vito M. R. Muggeo

### See Also

[lines.segmented](#) to add the estimated breakpoints on the current plot. [points.segmented](#) to add the joinpoints of the segmented relationship. [predict.segmented](#) to compute standard errors and confidence intervals for predictions from a "segmented" fit.

### Examples

```
set.seed(1234)
z<-runif(100)
y<-rpois(100,exp(2+1.8*pmax(z-.6,0)))
o<-glm(y~z,family=poisson)
o.seg<-segmented(o,seg.Z=~z,psi=list(z=.5))
par(mfrow=c(2,1))
plot(o.seg,conf.level=0.95,shade=TRUE)
plot(z,y)
```

```
## add the fitted lines using different colors and styles..
plot(o.seg,add=TRUE,link=FALSE,lwd=2,col=2:3, lty=c(1,3))
lines(o.seg,col=2,pch=19,bottom=FALSE,lwd=2)
```

---

points.segmented      *Points method for segmented objects*

---

## Description

Takes a fitted segmented object returned by segmented() and adds on the current plot the joinpoints of the fitted broken-line relationships.

## Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'segmented'
points(x, term, interc = TRUE, link = TRUE, ...)
```

## Arguments

x	an object of class segmented.
term	the segmented variable of interest. It may be unspecified when there is a single segmented variable.
interc	If TRUE the computed joinpoints include the model intercept (if it exists).
link	when TRUE (default), the fitted joinpoints are plotted on the link scale
...	other graphics parameters to pass on to points() function.

## Details

We call 'joinpoint' the plane point having as coordinates the breakpoint (on the x scale) and the fitted value of the segmented relationship at that breakpoint (on the y scale). points.segmented() simply adds the fitted joinpoints on the current plot. This could be useful to emphasize the changes of the piecewise linear relationship.

## See Also

[plot.segmented](#) to plot the fitted segmented lines.

## Examples

```
## Not run:
#continues from ?plot.segmented
points(o.seg,col=2)

## End(Not run)
```

---

predict.segmented      *Predict method for segmented model fits*

---

**Description**

Returns predictions and optionally associated quantities (standard errors or confidence intervals) from a fitted segmented model object.

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'segmented'  
predict(object, newdata, ...)
```

**Arguments**

object	a fitted segmented model coming from <code>segmented.lm</code> or <code>segmented.glm</code> .
newdata	An optional data frame in which to look for variables with which to predict. If omitted, the fitted values are used.
...	further arguments passed to <code>predict.lm</code> or <code>predict.glm</code> . Usually these are <code>se.fit</code> , or <code>interval</code> or <code>type</code> .

**Details**

Basically `predict.segmented` builds the right design matrix accounting for breakpoint and passes it to `predict.lm` or `predict.glm` depending on the actual model fit object.

**Value**

`predict.segmented` produces a vector of predictions with possibly associated standard errors or confidence intervals. See `predict.lm` or `predict.glm`.

**Note**

If `type="terms"`, `predict.segmented` returns predictions for each component of the segmented term. Namely if 'my.x' is the segmented variable, predictions for 'my.x', 'U1.my.x' and 'psi1.my.x' are returned. These are meaningless individually, however their sum provides the predictions for the segmented term.

**Author(s)**

Vito Muggeo

**See Also**

[plot.segmented](#), [broken.line](#), [predict.lm](#), [predict.glm](#)



**Examples**

```
n=10
x=seq(-3,3,l=n)
set.seed(1515)
y <- (x<0)*x/2 + 1 + rnorm(x,sd=0.15)
segm <- segmented(lm(y ~ x), ~ x, psi=0.5)
predict(segm,se.fit = TRUE)$se.fit

#wrong (smaller) st.errors (assuming known the breakpoint)
olm<-lm(y~x+pmax(x-segm$psi[,2],0))
predict(olm,se.fit = TRUE)$se.fit
```

---

print.segmented	<i>Print method for the segmented class</i>
-----------------	---

---

**Description**

Printing the most important features of a segmented model.

**Usage**

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

**Arguments**

x	object of class segmented
digits	number of digits to be printed
...	arguments passed to other functions

**Author(s)**

Vito M.R. Muggeo

**See Also**

[summary.segmented](#), [print.summary.segmented](#)

seg.control

*Auxiliary for controlling segmented model fitting***Description**

Auxiliary function as user interface for 'segmented' fitting. Typically only used when calling any 'segmented' method (`segmented.lm` or `segmented.glm`).

**Usage**

```
seg.control(toll = 1e-04, it.max = 10, display = FALSE, stop.if.error = TRUE,
           K = 10, quant = FALSE, last = TRUE, maxit.glm = 25, h = 1,
           n.boot=20, size.boot=NULL, gap=FALSE, jt=FALSE, nonParam=TRUE,
           random=TRUE, powers=c(1,1), seed=NULL, fn.obj=NULL)
```

**Arguments**

toll	positive convergence tolerance.
it.max	integer giving the maximal number of iterations.
display	logical indicating if the value of the <i>working</i> objective function should be printed at each iteration. The <i>working</i> objective function is the objective function of the working model including the gap coefficients (and therefore it should not be compared with the value at convergence). If bootstrap restarting is employed, the value of the <i>real</i> objective function (without gap coefficients) after every bootstrap iteration is printed. This value should decrease throughout the iterations.
stop.if.error	logical indicating if non-admissible break-points should be removed during the estimating algorithm. Set it to FALSE if you want to perform a sort of 'automatic' breakpoint selection, provided that several starting values are provided for the breakpoints. See argument <code>psi</code> in <a href="#">segmented.lm</a> or <a href="#">segmented.glm</a> . The idea of removing 'non-admissible' break-points during the iterative process is discussed in Muggeo and Adelfio (2011) and it is not compatible with the bootstrap restart algorithm. This approach, indeed, should be considered as a preliminary and tentative approach to deal with an unknown number of break-points.
K	the number of quantiles (or equally-spaced values) to supply as starting values for the breakpoints when the <code>psi</code> argument of <code>segmented</code> is set to NA. K is ignored when <code>psi</code> is different from NA.
quant	logical, indicating how the starting values should be selected. If FALSE equally-spaced values are used, otherwise the quantiles. Ignored when <code>psi</code> is different from NA.
last	logical indicating if output should include only the last fitted model.
maxit.glm	integer giving the maximum number of inner IWLS iterations (see details).
h	positive factor (from zero to one) modifying the increments in breakpoint updates during the estimation process (see details).

n.boot	number of bootstrap samples used in the bootstrap restarting algorithm. If 0 the standard algorithm, i.e. without bootstrap restart, is used. Default to 20 that appears to be sufficient in most of problems. However when multiple breakpoints have to be estimated it is suggested to increase n.boot, e.g. n.boot=50.
size.boot	the size of the bootstrap samples. If NULL, it is taken equal to the actual sample size.
gap	logical, if FALSE the gap coefficients are <i>always</i> constrained to zero at the convergence.
jt	logical. If TRUE the values of the segmented variable(s) are jittered before fitting the model to the bootstrap resamples.
nonParam	if TRUE nonparametric bootstrap (i.e. case-resampling) is used, otherwise residual-based. Currently working only for LM fits. It is not clear what residuals should be used for GLMs.
random	if TRUE, when the algorithm fails to obtain a solution, random values are employed to obtain candidate values.
powers	The powers of the pseudo covariates employed by the algorithm. These are possibly altered during the iterative process to stabilize the estimation procedure. Usually of no interest for the user.
seed	The seed to be passed on to set.seed() when n.boot>0. Setting the seed can be useful to replicate the results when the bootstrap restart algorithm is employed. In fact a segmented fit includes seed representing the integer vector saved just before the bootstrap resampling. Re-use it if you want to replicate the bootstrap restarting algorithm with the <i>same</i> samples.
fn.obj	A character string to be used (optionally) only when segmented.default is used. It represents the function (with argument 'x') to be applied to the fit object to extract the objective function to be <i>minimized</i> . Thus for "lm" fits (although unnecessary) it should be fn.obj="sum(x\$residuals^2)", for "coxph" fits it should be fn.obj="-x\$loglik[2]". If NULL the 'minus log likelihood' extracted from the object, namely "-logLik(x)", is used. See <a href="#">segmented.default</a> .

## Details

Fitting a 'segmented' GLM model is attained via fitting iteratively standard GLMs. The number of (outer) iterations is governed by `it.max`, while the (maximum) number of (inner) iterations to fit the GLM at each fixed value of `psi` is fixed via `maxit.glm`. Usually three-four inner iterations may be sufficient.

When the starting value for the breakpoints is set to NA for any segmented variable specified in `seg.Z`, `K` values (quantiles or equally-spaced) are selected as starting values for the breakpoints. In this case, it may be useful to set also `stop.if.error=FALSE` to automate the procedure, see Muggeo and Adelfio (2011). The maximum number of iterations (`it.max`) should be also increased when the 'automatic' procedure is used.

If `last=TRUE`, the object resulting from `segmented.lm` (or `segmented.glm`) is a list of fitted GLM; the `i`-th model is the segmented model with the values of the breakpoints at the `i`-th iteration.

Sometimes to stabilize the procedure, it can be useful to set `h<1` to reduce the increments in the breakpoint updates. At each iteration the updated estimate is usually given by `psi.new=psi.old+incred`.

By setting  $h < 1$  (actually  $\min(\text{abs}(h), 1)$  is considered) causes the following updates of the breakpoint estimate:  $\text{psi.new} = \text{psi.old} + h * \text{increment}$ .

Since version 0.2-9.0 segmented implements the bootstrap restarting algorithm described in Wood (2001). The bootstrap restarting is expected to escape the local optima of the objective function when the segmented relationship is flat. Notice bootstrap restart runs `n.boot` iterations regardless of `toll` that only affects convergence within the inner loop.

### Value

A list with the arguments as components.

### Author(s)

Vito Muggeo

### References

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

Wood, S. N. (2001) Minimizing model fitting objectives that contain spurious local minima by bootstrap restarting. *Biometrics* **57**, 240–244.

### Examples

```
#decrease the maximum number inner iterations and display the
#evolution of the (outer) iterations
seg.control(display = TRUE, maxit.glm=4)
```

---

seg.lm.fit

*Fitter Functions for Segmented Linear Models*

---

### Description

`seg.lm.fit` is called by `segmented.lm` to fit segmented linear (gaussian) models. Likewise, `seg.glm.fit` is called by `segmented.glm` to fit generalized segmented linear models, and `seg.def.fit` is called by `segmented.default` to fit segmented relationships in general regression models (e.g., quantile regression and Cox regression). `seg.lm.fit.boot`, `seg.glm.fit.boot`, and `seg.def.fit.boot` are employed to perform bootstrap restart. These functions should usually not be used directly by the user.

**Usage**

```

seg.lm.fit(y, XREG, Z, PSI, w, offs, opz, return.all.sol=FALSE)

seg.lm.fit.boot(y, XREG, Z, PSI, w, offs, opz, n.boot=10,
  size.boot=NULL, jt=FALSE, nonParam=TRUE, random=FALSE)

seg.glm.fit(y, XREG, Z, PSI, w, offs, opz, return.all.sol=FALSE)

seg.glm.fit.boot(y, XREG, Z, PSI, w, offs, opz, n.boot=10,
  size.boot=NULL, jt=FALSE, nonParam=TRUE, random=FALSE)

seg.def.fit(obj, Z, PSI, mfExt, opz, return.all.sol=FALSE)

seg.def.fit.boot(obj, Z, PSI, mfExt, opz, n.boot=10, size.boot=NULL,
  jt=FALSE, nonParam=TRUE, random=FALSE)

```

**Arguments**

y	vector of observations of length n.
XREG	design matrix for standard linear terms.
Z	appropriate matrix including the segmented variables whose breakpoints have to be estimated.
PSI	appropriate matrix including the starting values of the breakpoints to be estimated.
w	possible weights vector.
offs	possible offset vector.
opz	a list including information useful for model fitting.
n.boot	the number of bootstrap samples employed in the bootstrap restart algorithm.
size.boot	the size of the bootstrap resamples. If NULL (default), it is taken equal to the sample size. values smaller than the sample size are expected to increase perturbation in the bootstrap resamples.
jt	logical. If TRUE the values of the segmented variable(s) are jittered before fitting the model to the bootstrap resamples.
nonParam	if TRUE nonparametric bootstrap (i.e. case-resampling) is used, otherwise residual-based.
random	if TRUE, when the algorithm fails to obtain a solution, random values are used as candidate values.
return.all.sol	if TRUE, when the algorithm fails to obtain a solution, the values visited by the algorithm with corresponding deviances are returned.
obj	the starting regression model where the segmented relationships have to be added.
mfExt	the model frame.

**Details**

The functions call iteratively `lm.wfit` (or `glm.fit`) with proper design matrix depending on XREG, Z and PSI. `seg.lm.fit.boot` (and `seg.glm.fit.boot`) implements the bootstrap restarting idea discussed in Wood (2001).

**Value**

A list of fit information.

**Note**

These functions should usually not be used directly by the user.

**Author(s)**

Vito Muggeo

**References**

Wood, S. N. (2001) Minimizing model fitting objectives that contain spurious local minima by bootstrap restarting. *Biometrics* **57**, 240–244.

**See Also**

[segmented.lm](#), [segmented.glm](#)

**Examples**

```
##See ?segmented
```

---

segmented

*Segmented relationships in regression models*

---

**Description**

Fits regression models with segmented relationships between the response and one or more explanatory variables. Break-point estimates are provided.

**Usage**

```
segmented(obj, seg.Z, psi, control = seg.control(),
          model = TRUE, ...)
```

```
## Default S3 method:
```

```
segmented(obj, seg.Z, psi, control = seg.control(),
          model = TRUE, ...)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'lm'
```

```
segmented(obj, seg.Z, psi, control = seg.control(),
          model = TRUE, ...)

## S3 method for class 'glm'
segmented(obj, seg.Z, psi, control = seg.control(),
          model = TRUE, ...)
```

## Arguments

<code>obj</code>	standard 'linear' model of class "lm" or "glm". Since version 0.5.0-0 any regression fit may be supplied.
<code>seg.Z</code>	a formula with no response variable, such as <code>seg.Z~x1+x2</code> , indicating the (continuous) explanatory variables having segmented relationships with the response. Currently, formulas involving functions, such as <code>seg.Z~log(x1)</code> or <code>seg.Z~sqrt(x1)</code> , or selection operators, such as <code>seg.Z~d[, "x1"]</code> or <code>seg.Z~d\$x1</code> , are <i>not</i> allowed.
<code>psi</code>	named list of vectors. The names have to match the variables of the <code>seg.Z</code> argument. Each vector includes starting values for the break-point(s) for the corresponding variable in <code>seg.Z</code> . If <code>seg.Z</code> includes only a variable, <code>psi</code> may be a numeric vector. A NA value means that 'K' quantiles (or equally spaced values) are used as starting values; K is fixed via the <a href="#">seg.control</a> auxiliary function.
<code>control</code>	a list of parameters for controlling the fitting process. See the documentation for <a href="#">seg.control</a> for details.
<code>model</code>	logical value indicating if the <code>model.frame</code> should be returned.
<code>...</code>	optional arguments.

## Details

Given a linear regression model (usually of class "lm" or "glm"), `segmented` tries to estimate a new model having broken-line relationships with the variables specified in `seg.Z`. A segmented (or broken-line) relationship is defined by the slope parameters and the break-points where the linear relation changes. The number of breakpoints of each segmented relationship is fixed via the `psi` argument, where initial values for the break-points must be specified. The model is estimated simultaneously yielding point estimates and relevant approximate standard errors of all the model parameters, including the break-points.

Since version 0.2-9.0 `segmented` implements the bootstrap restarting algorithm described in Wood (2001). The bootstrap restarting is expected to escape the local optima of the objective function when the segmented relationship is flat and the log likelihood can have multiple local optima.

Since version 0.5-0.0 the default method `segmented.default` has been added to estimate segmented relationships in general (besides "lm" and "glm" fits) regression models, such as Cox regression or quantile regression (for a single percentile). The objective function to be minimized is the (minus) value extracted by the `logLik` function or it may be passed on via the `fn.obj` argument in `seg.control`. See example below. While the default method is expected to work with any regression fit (where the usual `coef()`, `update()`, and `logLik()` returns appropriate results), it is not recommended for "lm" or "glm" fits (as `segmented.default` is slower than the specific methods `segmented.lm` and `segmented.glm`), although final results are the same. However the

object returned by `segmented.default` is *not* of class "segmented" as currently the segmented methods are not guaranteed to work for 'generic' (i.e., besides "lm" and "glm") regression fits. The user could try each "segmented" method on the returned object by calling it explicitly (e.g. via `confint.segmented()`).

### Value

The returned object depends on the last component returned by `seg.control`. If `last=TRUE`, the default, `segmented` returns an object of class "segmented" which inherits from the class "lm" or "glm" depending on the class of `obj`. Otherwise a list is returned, where the last component is the fitted model at the final iteration, see [seg.control](#).

An object of class "segmented" is a list containing the components of the original object `obj` with additionally the followings:

<code>psi</code>	estimated break-points and relevant (approximate) standard errors
<code>it</code>	number of iterations employed
<code>epsilon</code>	difference in the objective function when the algorithm stops
<code>model</code>	the model frame
<code>psi.history</code>	a list or a vector including the breakpoint estimates at each step
<code>seed</code>	the integer vector containing the seed just before the bootstrap resampling. Returned only if bootstrap restart is employed
<code>..</code>	Other components are not of direct interest of the user

### Warning

It is well-known that the log-likelihood function for the break-point may be not concave, especially for poor clear-cut kink-relationships. In these circumstances the initial guess for the break-point, i.e. the `psi` argument, must be provided with care. For instance visual inspection of a, possibly smoothed, scatter-plot is usually a good way to obtain some idea on breakpoint location. However bootstrap restarting, implemented since version 0.2-9.0, is relatively more robust to starting values specified in `psi`. Alternatively an automatic procedure may be implemented by specifying `psi=NA` and `stop.if.error=FALSE` in [seg.control](#). This automatic procedure, however, is expected to overestimate the number of breakpoints.

### Note

1. The algorithm will start if the `it.max` argument returned by `seg.control` is greater than zero. If `it.max=0` `segmented` will estimate a new linear model with break-point(s) fixed at the values reported in `psi`.
2. In the returned fit object, 'U.' is put before the name of the segmented variable to mean the difference-in-slopes coefficient.
3. Methods specific to the class "segmented" are
  - `print.segmented`
  - `summary.segmented`
  - `print.summary.segmented`



- plot.segmented
- lines.segmented
- confint.segmented
- vcov.segmented
- predict.segmented
- points.segmented

Others are inherited from the class "lm" or "glm" depending on the class of obj.

### Author(s)

Vito M. R. Muggeo, <vito.muggeo@unipa.it>

### References

Muggeo, V.M.R. (2003) Estimating regression models with unknown break-points. *Statistics in Medicine* **22**, 3055–3071.

Muggeo, V.M.R. (2008) Segmented: an R package to fit regression models with broken-line relationships. *R News* **8/1**, 20–25.

### See Also

[lm](#), [glm](#)

### Examples

```
set.seed(12)
xx<-1:100
zz<-runif(100)
yy<-2+1.5*pmax(xx-35,0)-1.5*pmax(xx-70,0)+15*pmax(zz-.5,0)+rnorm(100,0,2)
dati<-data.frame(x=xx,y=yy,z=zz)
out.lm<-lm(y~x,data=dati)
o<-segmented(out.lm,seg.Z=~x,psi=list(x=c(30,60)),
             control=seg.control(display=FALSE))
slope(o)

out.lm<-lm(y~z,data=dati)
o1<-update(o,seg.Z=~x+z,psi=list(x=c(30,60),z=.3))

#the default method leads to the same results (but it is slower)
#o1<-segmented.default(o,seg.Z=~x+z,psi=list(x=c(30,60),z=.3))
#o1<-segmented.default(o,seg.Z=~x+z,psi=list(x=c(30,60),z=.3),
#  control=seg.control(fn.obj="sum(x$residuals^2)"))

#automatic procedure to estimate breakpoints in the covariate x
# Notice: bootstrap restart is not allowed!
o<-segmented.lm(out.lm,seg.Z=~x+z,psi=list(x=NA,z=.3),
               control=seg.control(stop.if.error=FALSE,n.boot=0))
```

```

#assess the progress of the breakpoint estimates throughout the iterations
## Not run:
par(mfrow=c(2,1))
draw.history(o, "x")
draw.history(o, "z")

## End(Not run)
#try to increase the number of iterations and re-assess the
#convergence diagnostics

#An example using the default method:
# Cox regression with a segmented relationship
## Not run:
library(survival)
data(stanford2)

o<-coxph(Surv(time, status)~age, data=stanford2)
os<-segmented(o, ~age, psi=40) #estimate the breakpoint in the age effect
summary(os) #actually it means summary.coxph(os)
plot(os) #it does not work
plot.segmented(os) #call explicitly plot.segmented() to plot the fitted piecewise lines

## End(Not run)

```

---

slope

*Slope estimates from segmented relationships*


---

### Description

Computes the slopes of each ‘segmented’ relationship in the fitted model.

### Usage

```

slope(ogg, parm, conf.level = 0.95, rev.sgn=FALSE,
      var.diff=FALSE, APC=FALSE, digits = max(3, getOption("digits") - 3))

```

### Arguments

ogg	an object of class "segmented", returned by any segmented method.
parm	the segmented variable whose slopes have to be computed. If missing all the segmented variables are considered.
conf.level	the confidence level required.
rev.sgn	vector of logicals. The length should be equal to the length of parm, but it is recycled otherwise. When TRUE it is assumed that the current parm is ‘minus’ the actual segmented variable, therefore the sign is reversed before printing. This is useful when a null-constraint has been set on the last slope.

<code>var.diff</code>	logical. If <code>var.diff=TRUE</code> and there is a single segmented variable, the computed standard errors are based on a sandwich-type formula of the covariance matrix. See Details in <a href="#">summary.segmented</a> .
<code>APC</code>	logical. If <code>APC=TRUE</code> the ‘annual percent changes’, i.e. $100 \times (\exp(\beta) - 1)$ , are computed for each interval ( $\beta$ is the slope). Only point estimates and confidence intervals are returned.
<code>digits</code>	controls number of digits printed in output.

### Details

To fit broken-line relationships, `segmented` uses a parameterization whose coefficients are not the slopes. Therefore given an object "segmented", `slope` computes point estimates, standard errors, t-values and confidence intervals of the slopes of each segmented relationship in the fitted model.

### Value

`slope` returns a list of matrices. Each matrix represents a segmented relationship and its number of rows equal to the number of segments, while five columns summarize the results.

### Note

The returned summary is based on limiting Gaussian distribution for the model parameters involved in the computations. Sometimes, even with large sample sizes such approximations are questionable (e.g., with small difference-in-slope parameters) and the results returned by `slope` might be unreliable. Therefore is responsibility of the user to gauge the applicability of such asymptotic approximations. Anyway, the t values may be not assumed for testing purposes and they should be used just as guidelines to assess the estimate uncertainty.

### Author(s)

Vito M. R. Muggeo, <vito.muggeo@unipa.it>

### References

Muggeo, V.M.R. (2003) Estimating regression models with unknown break-points. *Statistics in Medicine* **22**, 3055–3071.

### See Also

See also [davies.test](#) to test for a nonzero difference-in-slope parameter.

### Examples

```
set.seed(16)
x<-1:100
y<-2+1.5*pmax(x-35,0)-1.5*pmax(x-70,0)+rnorm(100,0,3)
out<-glm(y~1)
out.seg<-segmented(out,seg.Z=~x,psi=list(x=c(20,80)))
## the slopes of the three segments...
slope(out.seg)
```

```

rm(x,y,out,out.seg)
#
## an heteroscedastic example..
set.seed(123)
n<-100
x<-1:n/n
y<- -x+1.5*pmax(x-.5,0)+rnorm(n,0,1)*ifelse(x<=.5,.4,.1)
o<-lm(y~x)
oseg<-segmented(o,seg.Z=~x,psi=.6)
slope(oseg)
slope(oseg,var.diff=TRUE) #better CI

```

---

stagnant

*Stagnant band height data*


---

### Description

The stagnant data frame has 28 rows and 2 columns.

### Usage

```
data(stagnant)
```

### Format

A data frame with 28 observations on the following 2 variables.

x log of flow rate in g/cm sec.

y log of band height in cm

### Details

Bacon and Watts report that such data were obtained by R.A. Cook during his investigation of the behaviour of stagnant surface layer height in a controlled flow of water.

### Source

Bacon D.W., Watts D.G. (1971) Estimating the transition between two intersecting straight lines. *Biometrika* **58**: 525 – 534.

Originally from the PhD thesis by R.A. Cook

### Examples

```

data(stagnant)
## plot(stagnant)

```

---

summary.segmented      *Summarizing model fits for segmented regression*

---

## Description

summary method for class segmented.

## Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'segmented'
summary(object, short = FALSE, var.diff = FALSE, ...)

## S3 method for class 'summary.segmented'
print(x, short=x$short, var.diff=x$var.diff,
      digits = max(3, getOption("digits") - 3),
      signif.stars = getOption("show.signif.stars"),...)
```

## Arguments

object	Object of class "segmented".
short	logical indicating if the 'short' summary should be printed.
var.diff	logical indicating if different error variances should be computed in each interval of the segmented variable, see Details.
x	a summary.segmented object produced by summary.segmented().
digits	controls number of digits printed in output.
signif.stars	logical, should stars be printed on summary tables of coefficients?
...	further arguments.

## Details

If short=TRUE only coefficients of the segmented relationships are printed. If var.diff=TRUE and there is only one segmented variable, different error variances are computed in the intervals defined by the estimated breakpoints of the segmented variable. For the  $j$ th interval with  $n_j$  observations the error variance is estimated via  $RSS_j / (n_j - p)$ , where  $RSS_j$  is the residual sum of squares in interval  $j$ th, and  $p$  are the model parameters. Note var.diff=TRUE does *not* affect the parameter estimation which is performed via ordinary (and not weighted) least squares. However if var.diff=TRUE the variance-covariance matrix of the estimates is computed via the sandwich formula,

$$(X^T X)^{-1} X^T V X (X^T X)^{-1}$$

where  $V$  is the diagonal matrix including the different error variance estimates. Standard errors are the square root of the main diagonal of this matrix.

**Value**

A list (similar to one returned by `segmented.lm` or `segmented.glm`) with additional components:

<code>psi</code>	estimated break-points and relevant (approximate) standard errors
<code>Ttable</code>	estimates and standard errors of the model parameters. This is similar to the matrix coefficients returned by <code>summary.lm</code> or <code>summary.glm</code> , but without the rows corresponding to the breakpoints. Even the p-values relevant to the difference-in-slope parameters have been replaced by NA, since they are meaningless in this case, see <a href="#">davies.test</a> .
<code>gap</code>	estimated coefficients, standard errors and t-values for the ‘gap’ variables
<code>cov.var.diff</code>	if <code>var.diff=TRUE</code> , the covariance matrix accounting for heteroscedastic errors.
<code>sigma.new</code>	if <code>var.diff=TRUE</code> , the square root of the estimated error variances in each interval.
<code>df.new</code>	if <code>var.diff=TRUE</code> , the residual degrees of freedom in each interval.

**Author(s)**

Vito M.R. Muggeo

**See Also**

[print.segmented](#), [davies.test](#)

**Examples**

```
##continues example from segmented()
# summary(segmented.model,short=TRUE)

## an heteroscedastic example..
# set.seed(123)
# n<-100
# x<-1:n/n
# y<- -x+1.5*pmax(x-.5,0)+rnorm(n,0,1)*ifelse(x<=.5,.4,.1)
# o<-lm(y~x)
# oseg<-segmented(o,seg.Z=~x,psi=.6)
# summary(oseg,var.diff=TRUE)$sigma.new
```

---

vcov.segmented

*Variance-Covariance Matrix for a Fitted Segmented Model*

---

**Description**

Returns the variance-covariance matrix of the parameters (including breakpoints) of a fitted segmented model object.

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'segmented'  
vcov(object, var.diff = FALSE, ...)
```

**Arguments**

object	a fitted model object of class "segmented", returned by any segmented method.
var.diff	logical. If var.diff=TRUE and there is a single segmented variable, the covariance matrix is computed using a sandwich-type formula. See Details in <a href="#">summary.segmented</a> .
...	additional arguments.

**Details**

The returned covariance matrix is based on an approximation of the nonlinear segmented term. Therefore covariances corresponding to breakpoints are reliable only in large samples and/or clear cut segmented relationships.

**Value**

The full matrix of the estimated covariances between the parameter estimates, including the breakpoints.

**Note**

var.diff=TRUE works when there is a single segmented variable.

**Author(s)**

Vito M. R. Muggeo, <vito.muggeo@unipa.it>

**See Also**

[summary.segmented](#)

**Examples**

```
##continues example from summary.segmented()  
# vcov(oseg)  
# vcov(oseg,var.diff=TRUE)
```

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