

Note that the MARSS package will be under-going frequent updates throughout 2012 as we prep for an upcoming course using the package. Speed enhancements and more examples in the User Guide will be the focus of this work. Check back on the MARSS CRAN page often.

Information regarding version 3.0 versus 2.x

Version 3.x has substantial internal changes and enhanced features over 2.x. You can read about these in the NEWS link. However version 3.x is designed to be backwards compatible with version 2.9 and mostly with version 2.x with the following changes:

- Starting with 2.9, `control$kf.x0` is called `tinitx` and is part of the `model` argument.
- Starting with 3.0, `control$diffuse` is part of the `model` argument.

The results with 2.9 and 3.0 should be the same—except that we implemented a better convergence test by requiring that both `abstol` and the log-log tests be passed. 2.x had the problem that sometimes (not infrequently) the log-log test would erroneously report convergence. It wasn't a bug per se, but that the log-log test is unstable at low iteration numbers. The `abstol` test is not unstable at low iterations, so gets you past the initial part where the log-log test is not so good and then the log-log test kicks in when the `abstol` test loses sensitivity. You can recover the 2.9 behaviour by setting `control$abstol` to something big, like 1.

One unfortunate feature of 3.x is that it has a lot of code overhead associated with the enhanced features and that slows things down. You can set `control$trace=-1` to turn off all error-checking. The error-checking slows down 3.x considerably.

Although we have made substantial effort to test and track down bugs before releasing 3.0, it has not been tested in the 'wild' so should be thought of as a beta version. You can always use prior (stable) versions by downloading from the CRAN archive (linked on the MARSS CRAN page).

If you get an R error—not a MARSS error message—and think it is a bug, then please email eli.holmes@noaa.gov with sample code and data to replicate the bug.

If you get a MARSS error message, then try looking at the troubleshooting section in the User Guide or the `MARSSinfo()` message if that is

provided. Usually when you get a MARSS error message, it is due to a mis-specified or illegal MARSS model. We have a blog where we are trying to post questions we get and our answers. <http://marssmodels.blogspot.com/>

Finally if you want to cite MARSS, then use the Citation link on the CRAN webpage or type `citation("MARSS")` from the R command line.