

**dfgls** — DF-GLS unit-root test[Description](#)[Quick start](#)[Menu](#)[Syntax](#)[Options](#)[Remarks and examples](#)[Stored results](#)[Methods and formulas](#)[Acknowledgments](#)[References](#)[Also see](#)

## Description

`dfgls` performs a modified Dickey–Fuller  $t$  test for a unit root in which the series has been transformed by a generalized least-squares regression.

## Quick start

Modified Dickey–Fuller unit-root test for `y1` using GLS-transformed series using `tsset` data

```
dfgls y1
```

As above, for series `y2` that has no linear time trend

```
dfgls y2, notrend
```

As above, but with at most 2 lags

```
dfgls y2, notrend maxlag(2)
```

## Menu

Statistics > Time series > Tests > DF-GLS test for a unit root

## Syntax

```
dfgls varname [if] [in] [, options]
```

<i>options</i>	Description
Main	
<code>maxlag(#)</code>	use # as the highest lag order for Dickey–Fuller GLS regressions
<code>notrend</code>	series is stationary around a mean instead of around a linear time trend
<code>ers</code>	present interpolated critical values from <a href="#">Elliott, Rothenberg, and Stock (1996)</a>

You must `tsset` your data before using `dfgls`; see [\[TS\] `tsset`](#).

*varname* may contain time-series operators; see [\[U\] 11.4.4 Time-series varlists](#).

`collect` is allowed; see [\[U\] 11.1.10 Prefix commands](#).

## Options

Main

`maxlag(#)` sets the value of  $k$ , the highest lag order for the first-differenced, detrended variable in the Dickey–Fuller regression. By default, `dfgls` sets  $k$  according to the method proposed by [Schwert \(1989\)](#); that is, `dfgls` sets  $k_{\max} = \text{floor}[12\{(T + 1)/100\}^{0.25}]$ .

`notrend` specifies that the alternative hypothesis be that the series is stationary around a mean instead of around a linear time trend. By default, a trend is included.

`ers` specifies that `dfgls` should present interpolated critical values from tables presented by [Elliott, Rothenberg, and Stock \(1996\)](#), which they obtained from simulations. See [Critical values](#) under *Methods and formulas* for details.

## Remarks and examples

[stata.com](http://www.stata.com)

`dfgls` tests for a unit root in a time series. It performs the modified Dickey–Fuller  $t$  test (known as the DF-GLS test) proposed by [Elliott, Rothenberg, and Stock \(1996\)](#). Essentially, the test is an augmented Dickey–Fuller test, similar to the test performed by Stata’s `dfuller` command, except that the time series is transformed via a generalized least squares (GLS) regression before performing the test. Elliott, Rothenberg, and Stock and later studies have shown that this test has significantly greater power than the previous versions of the augmented Dickey–Fuller test.

`dfgls` performs the DF-GLS test for the series of models that include 1 to  $k$  lags of the first-differenced, detrended variable, where  $k$  can be set by the user or by the method described in [Schwert \(1989\)](#). [Stock and Watson \(2019, 622–624\)](#) provide an excellent discussion of the approach.

As discussed in [\[TS\] `dfuller`](#), the augmented Dickey–Fuller test involves fitting a regression of the form

$$\Delta y_t = \alpha + \beta y_{t-1} + \delta t + \zeta_1 \Delta y_{t-1} + \zeta_2 \Delta y_{t-2} + \cdots + \zeta_k \Delta y_{t-k} + \epsilon_t$$

and then testing the null hypothesis  $H_0: \beta = 0$ . The DF-GLS test is performed analogously but on GLS-detrended data. The null hypothesis of the test is that  $y_t$  is a random walk, possibly with drift. There are two possible alternative hypotheses:  $y_t$  is stationary about a linear time trend or  $y_t$  is stationary with a possibly nonzero mean but with no linear time trend. The default is to use the former. To specify the latter alternative, use the `notrend` option.

## ► Example 1

Here we use the German macroeconomic dataset and test whether the natural log of investment exhibits a unit root. We use the default options with `dfgls`.

```
. use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r17/lutkepohl2
(Quarterly SA West German macro data, Bil DM, from Lutkepohl 1993 Table E.1)
. dfgls ln_inv
DF-GLS test for unit root                Number of obs = 80
Variable: ln_inv
Lag selection: Schwert criterion          Maximum lag   = 11
```

[lags]	DF-GLS tau	Critical value		
		1%	5%	10%
11	-2.925	-3.610	-2.763	-2.489
10	-2.671	-3.610	-2.798	-2.523
9	-2.766	-3.610	-2.832	-2.555
8	-3.259	-3.610	-2.865	-2.587
7	-3.536	-3.610	-2.898	-2.617
6	-3.115	-3.610	-2.929	-2.646
5	-3.054	-3.610	-2.958	-2.674
4	-3.016	-3.610	-2.986	-2.699
3	-2.071	-3.610	-3.012	-2.723
2	-1.675	-3.610	-3.035	-2.744
1	-1.752	-3.610	-3.055	-2.762

```
Opt lag (Ng-Perron seq t) = 7 with RMSE = .0388771
Min SIC = -6.169137 at lag 4 with RMSE = .0398949
Min MAIC = -6.136692 at lag 1 with RMSE = .0440319
```

The null hypothesis of a unit root is not rejected for lags 1–3, it is rejected at the 10% level for lags 9–10, and it is rejected at the 5% level for lags 4–8 and 11. For comparison, we also test for a unit root in log of investment by using `dfuller` with two different lag specifications. We need to use the `trend` option with `dfuller` because it is not included by default.

```
. dfuller ln_inv, lag(4) trend
Augmented Dickey-Fuller test for unit root
Variable: ln_inv                      Number of obs = 87
                                      Number of lags = 4
```

H0: Random walk with or without drift

Test statistic	Dickey-Fuller critical value		
	1%	5%	10%
Z(t)	-4.069	-3.463	-3.158

MacKinnon approximate  $p$ -value for Z(t) = 0.0987.

```
. dfuller ln_inv, lag(7) trend
Augmented Dickey-Fuller test for unit root
Variable: ln_inv                      Number of obs = 84
                                      Number of lags = 7
```

H0: Random walk with or without drift

Test statistic	Dickey-Fuller critical value		
	1%	5%	10%
Z(t)	-4.075	-3.466	-3.160

MacKinnon approximate  $p$ -value for Z(t) = 0.0090.

The critical values and the test statistic produced by `dfuller` with 4 lags do not support rejecting the null hypothesis, although the MacKinnon approximate  $p$ -value is less than 0.1. With 7 lags, the critical values and the test statistic reject the null hypothesis at the 5% level, and the MacKinnon approximate  $p$ -value is less than 0.01.

That the `dfuller` results are not as strong as those produced by `dfgls` is not surprising because the DF-GLS test with a trend has been shown to be more powerful than the standard augmented Dickey-Fuller test.

◀

## Stored results

If `maxlag(0)` is specified, `dfgls` stores the following in `r()`:

Scalars

<code>r(N)</code>	number of observations
<code>r(rmse0)</code>	RMSE
<code>r(dft0)</code>	DF-GLS statistic
<code>r(cv_1)</code>	1% critical value
<code>r(cv_5)</code>	5% critical value
<code>r(cv_10)</code>	10% critical value

Otherwise, `dfgls` stores the following in `r()`:

Scalars

<code>r(maxlag)</code>	highest lag order $k$
<code>r(N)</code>	number of observations
<code>r(siclag)</code>	lag chosen by SIC
<code>r(maiclag)</code>	lag chosen by modified AIC
<code>r(optlag)</code>	lag chosen by sequential- $t$
<code>r(siclag)</code>	lag chosen by SIC

<code>r(maiclag)</code>	lag chosen by modified AIC
<code>r(optlag)</code>	lag chosen by sequential- $t$
<code>r(sicmin)</code>	minimum SIC
<code>r(maicmin)</code>	minimum MAIC
<code>r(optrmse)</code>	RMSE for sequential- $t$ method
<code>r(sicrmse)</code>	RMSE for SIC method
<code>r(maicrmse)</code>	RMSE for MAIC method

#### Matrices

<code>r(results)</code>	$k$ , MAIC, SIC, RMSE, and DF-GLS statistics
<code>r(cvalues)</code>	$k$ , DF-GLS statistics, and critical values

## Methods and formulas

`dfgls` tests for a unit root. There are two possible alternative hypotheses:  $y_t$  is stationary around a linear trend or  $y_t$  is stationary with no linear time trend. Under the first alternative hypothesis, the DF-GLS test is performed by first estimating the intercept and trend via GLS. The GLS estimation is performed by generating the new variables,  $\tilde{y}_t$ ,  $x_t$ , and  $z_t$ , where

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{y}_1 &= y_1 \\ \tilde{y}_t &= y_t - \alpha^* y_{t-1} & t = 2, \dots, T \\ x_1 &= 1 \\ x_t &= 1 - \alpha^* & t = 2, \dots, T \\ z_1 &= 1 \\ z_t &= t - \alpha^*(t-1)\end{aligned}$$

and  $\alpha^* = 1 - (13.5/T)$ . An OLS regression is then estimated for the equation

$$\tilde{y}_t = \delta_0 x_t + \delta_1 z_t + \epsilon_t$$

The OLS estimators  $\hat{\delta}_0$  and  $\hat{\delta}_1$  are then used to remove the trend from  $y_t$ ; that is, we generate

$$y^* = y_t - (\hat{\delta}_0 + \hat{\delta}_1 t)$$

Finally, we perform an augmented Dickey–Fuller test on the transformed variable by fitting the OLS regression

$$\Delta y_t^* = \alpha + \beta y_{t-1}^* + \sum_{j=1}^k \zeta_j \Delta y_{t-j}^* + \epsilon_t \quad (1)$$

and then test the null hypothesis  $H_0: \beta = 0$  by using tabulated critical values.

To perform the DF-GLS test under the second alternative hypothesis, we proceed as before but define  $\alpha^* = 1 - (7/T)$ , eliminate  $z$  from the GLS regression, compute  $y^* = y_t - \delta_0$ , fit the augmented Dickey–Fuller regression by using the newly transformed variable, and perform a test of the null hypothesis that  $\beta = 0$  by using the tabulated critical values.

`dfgls` reports the DF-GLS statistic and its critical values obtained from the regression in (1) for  $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, k_{\max}\}$ . By default, `dfgls` sets  $k_{\max} = \text{floor}[12\{(T+1)/100\}^{0.25}]$  as proposed by [Schwert \(1989\)](#), although you can override this choice with another value. The sample size available with  $k_{\max}$  lags is used in all the regressions. Because there are  $k_{\max}$  lags of the first-differenced series,  $k_{\max} + 1$  observations are lost, leaving  $T - k_{\max}$  observations. `dfgls` requires that the sample of  $T + 1$  observations on  $y_t = (y_0, y_1, \dots, y_T)$  have no gaps.

`dfgls` reports the results of three different methods for choosing which value of  $k$  to use. These are method 1, the Ng–Perron sequential  $t$ ; method 2, the minimum Schwarz information criterion (SIC); and method 3, the Ng–Perron modified Akaike information criterion (MAIC). Although the SIC has a long history in time-series modeling, the Ng–Perron sequential  $t$  was developed by Ng and Perron (1995), and the MAIC was developed by Ng and Perron (2000).

The SIC can be calculated using either the log likelihood or the sum-of-squared errors from a regression; `dfgls` uses the latter definition. Specifically, for each  $k$

$$\text{SIC} = \ln(\widehat{\text{rmse}}^2) + (k + 1) \frac{\ln(T - k_{\max})}{(T - k_{\max})}$$

where

$$\widehat{\text{rmse}} = \frac{1}{(T - k_{\max})} \sum_{t=k_{\max}+1}^T \hat{e}_t^2$$

`dfgls` reports the value of the smallest SIC and the  $k$  that produced it.

Ng and Perron (1995) derived a sequential- $t$  algorithm for choosing  $k$ :

- i. Set  $n = 0$  and run the regression in method 2 with all  $k_{\max} - n$  lags. If the coefficient on  $\beta_{k_{\max}}$  is significantly different from zero at level  $\alpha$ , choose  $k$  to  $k_{\max}$ . Otherwise, continue to ii.
- ii. If  $n < k_{\max}$ , set  $n = n + 1$  and continue to iii. Otherwise, set  $k = 0$  and stop.
- iii. Run the regression in method 2 with  $k_{\max} - n$  lags. If the coefficient on  $\beta_{k_{\max}-n}$  is significantly different from zero at level  $\alpha$ , choose  $k$  to  $k_{\max} - n$ . Otherwise, return to ii.

Per Ng and Perron (1995), `dfgls` uses  $\alpha = 10\%$ . `dfgls` reports the  $k$  selected by this sequential- $t$  algorithm and the  $\widehat{\text{rmse}}$  from the regression.

Method 3 is based on choosing  $k$  to minimize the MAIC. The MAIC is calculated as

$$\text{MAIC}(k) = \ln(\widehat{\text{rmse}}^2) + \frac{2\{\tau(k) + k\}}{T - k_{\max}}$$

where

$$\tau(k) = \frac{1}{\widehat{\text{rmse}}^2} \hat{\beta}_0^2 \sum_{t=k_{\max}+1}^T \tilde{y}_t^2$$

and  $\tilde{y}$  was defined previously.

## Critical values

By default, `dfgls` uses the 5% and 10% critical values computed from the response surface analysis of Cheung and Lai (1995). Because Cheung and Lai (1995) did not present results for the 1% case, the 1% critical values are always interpolated from the critical values presented by ERS.

ERS presented critical values, obtained from simulations, for the DF-GLS test with a linear trend and showed that the critical values for the mean-only DF-GLS test were the same as those for the ADF test. If `dfgls` is run with the `ers` option, `dfgls` will present interpolated critical values from these tables. The method of interpolation is standard. For the trend case, below 50 observations and above 200 there is no interpolation; the values for 50 and  $\infty$  are reported from the tables. For a value  $N$  that lies between two values in the table, say,  $N_1$  and  $N_2$ , with corresponding critical values  $\text{CV}_1$  and  $\text{CV}_2$ , the critical value

$$CV = CV_1 + \frac{N - N_1}{N_1} (CV_2 - CV_1)$$

is presented. The same method is used for the mean-only case, except that interpolation is possible for values between 50 and 500.

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## Also see

- [TS] **dfuller** — Augmented Dickey–Fuller unit-root test
- [TS] **pperron** — Phillips–Perron unit-root test
- [TS] **tsset** — Declare data to be time-series data
- [XT] **xtunitroot** — Panel-data unit-root tests