Application of Vector Autoregression (Var) On Modelling and Forecasting Average Monthly Rainfall and Temperature

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Abstract

Rainfall and temperature have become the two most natural factor that determines the standard of agricultural production. Sensitivity in climate variability over a long period of time need to be recorded, looking at difference in temporal and spatial scale. The need to understand the nature of the differences in the climate system and their impact on the society and environment is of great interest. This paper tends to apply Vector autoregressive on modelling and forecasting average monthly rainfall and temperature in Nigeria. A monthly data sourced from World Bank climate portal, from January 1986 to December 2021. Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) a test used to test for stationarity of the trends. Also, the criterion, Alkaike information criterion (AIC) is considered in the model lag selection and the VAR model favored VAR at lag 8. Ordinary least square has been used to estimate the VAR model parameter. Granger causality shows a bi-lateral causation from the temperature during rainfall and from rainfall during different temperature. "Impulse Response Functions" (IRF) and "Forecast Error Variance Decomposition"

(FEVD) were further carried out as a structural analysis between the two variables, it revealed that, rainfall and temperature are interrelated.

Keywords: Rainfall; Forecast Error Variance Decomposition, Temperature; Vector Autoregressive, Modelling, Impulse Response Functions.

1. INTRODUCTION

Rainfall and temperature have become the two most natural factor that determines the standard of agricultural production. The change in rainfall and temperature pattern are especially important to the economy of the country. Nigeria, as a country that mostly depend on agriculture, hence, information on rainfall and temperature probabilities is vital towards determining the best plants and species that are adaptive, the best time for planting or seeding are different. Climate and temperature changes are evident across the globe with extreme weather conditions; this climate change is linked to global warming of the atmosphere which is a growing concern since many decades.

Information about the future rainfall and temperature play important role in making informed decisions. Farmers and other agribusiness managers need forecast about future rainfall and temperature to make investment decisions. Hence, there is need to understand the rainfall and temperature pattern and forecast their future and examine how they relate in Nigeria.

Zhao, J., et al 2019 study on simulating and looking at the relationship between the runoff and some factors such as terraces, grazing fencing, grassing, afforestation, check dams' construction. The model of vector auto-regression was used, and the result has shown lagged precipitation with the implementation of measures of conservation of soil and water.

Adenomon et al., (2013) examined the dynamic relationship between rainfall and temperature time series data in Niger State. VAR model favored VAR at lag 8, which showed relationship between rainfall and temperature. The "Impulse Response Functions" (IRF) and the "Forecast Error Variance Decomposition" depicted that, modelling rainfall and temperature together 1 e a d t o t h e improvement of the forecast of rainfall and temperature. Adenomon and Oyejola (2014) forecast meteorological time series data with a reduced for Vector Autoregressive (VAR) Model and three univariate time series

techniques. The data for the study was characterized by a stationary time series data, with a bi-directional causality between the relative humidity and temperature. The outcome of the study reveals a strong correlation negatively between the relative humidity and temperature.

(Nwosu C. A., et al 2023) studying the impact of climate change on international trade in Nigeria, a non-recursive structural vector autoregressive (SVAR) model used for the research. IRF reveals that CO₂ emissions causes total trade to decline from the first year up till the third year, therefore, it can be concluded that climate change affect both total trade and total export in the country from annual data on Total Trade, Exchange-rate, Total Export, Real GDP, Carbon-dioxide emissions, and Population growth-rate. The result shows that CO₂ emissions negatively affects total trade.

Chukwudum and Nadarajah (2022) examined Bi-variate value of Rainfall and Temperature analysis in Nigeria. The bivariate extreme cases of monthly rainfall and temperature observed shows, that these variables exhibit inter-relationship such as dry-cold and wetcold associations. The study revealed that the compound extreme of dry-cold and wet-cold conditions depicted a zero to weak extreme dependence at changing levels of quantile.

2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

2.1 Model Specification

VAR is a statistical model used to analyze the inter-decencies and dynamic relationship between multiple time series variables.

statistically, VAR equations for the two variables as given below.

Rainfall equation

 $R_t = c_r + A_{\{rr,1\}} R_{\{t-1\}} + A_{\{rt,1\}} T_{\{t-1\}} + e_{\{rt\}}$

Temperature equation

 $T_t = c_t + A_{\{tr,1\}} R_{\{t-1\}} + A_{\{tt,1\}} T_{\{t-1\}} + e_{\{tt\}}$

VAR model can also be represented in matrix form as shown below

$$\begin{bmatrix} R_t \\ T_t \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} C_r \\ C_t \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} A_{rr,1} & A_{rt,1} \\ A_{tr,1} & A_{tt,1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} R_{t-1} \\ T_{t-1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \ell_{rt} \\ \ell_{tt} \end{bmatrix}$$

Where:

 R_t represent the rainfall variable at time t.

 T_t represent the temperature variable at time t.

 c_r and c_t are the constant terms in the respective equations

 $A_{\{rr,1\}}$ and $A_{\{rt,1\}}$ are the coefficients of the lagged rainfall (R) and lagged temperature (T) terms in the rainfall equation.

 $A_{\{tr,1\}}$ and $A_{\{tt,1\}}$ are the coefficients of the lagged rainfall (R) and lagged temperature (T) terms in the temperature equation.

 $e_{\{rt\}}$ and $e_{\{tt\}}$ are the error terms in the respective equations

2.2 Unit Root Test

"The Augmented Dickey-Fuller" (ADF) test is use to test for the unit root. Suppose we have a series y_t for testing unit root, then ADF model is given as

$$\Delta y_t = \mu + at + \delta y_{t-1} + \sum_{i=1}^n \beta \Delta y_{t-1} + e_t$$

Where:

 Δy_t is the first difference of $y_t i. e y_t - y_{t-1}$

t is the time or trend variable

 e_t is a white noise

n is the maximum lag length

 μ , δ and β are the parameter to be estimated

The stationarity test hypothesis is as follows:

 $H_0: \delta = 0$ "Unit Root" (non-stationarity)

 $H_a: \delta \neq 0$ "There is no Unit Root" (stationarity)

If we accept the null hypothesis, we assume that there is a unit root and difference the data before running a regression. If the null hypothesis is rejected, the data are stationary and can be used without differencing

(Dominick and Derrick, 2002)

2.3 Lag length Selection in Vector Autoregressive Models

The Akaike Information Criteria (AIC) is employed in obtaining the optimal lag length (p) for this study. The statistical form of AIC is as follows:

$$AIC_{(P)} = In \left| \sum_{(P)} \right| + \frac{InT}{T} pk^2$$

Where:

 Σ = "estimated covariance matrix"

T= "number of observations"

P = "optimal lag length of the VAR Model"

K = "Number of the autoregressive parameters estimated in a VAR(p) model"

2.4 Parameter Estimation

A VAR (p) model can be estimated by the "Least Square", or "Maximum Likelihood method" or "Bayesian method". However, Ordinary least square method of had been employed in this study. The Ordinary Least Square (OLS) Method is given as:

 $Y_{t=BZ+U}$

Where:

 Y_t = dependent variable in time t (Rainfall and Temperature)

B = the coefficients of the lagged values (A_1, A_2, \dots, A_P)

Z = the lagged values $(Y_{t-1}, \dots, Y_{t-p+1})$

U = random error (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_t)

2.5 Diagnostic Check

Model checking or diagnostic check or residual analysis, plays an important role in building models, to ensure an adequate fitted model and to suggest directions for further improvements if needed.

The following will be used to check the model.

- (i) Residual plot
- (ii) Serial correlation

2.6 Forecasting

The one-step ahead forecasts are represented as below.

$$\hat{y}_{t+1} = \hat{A}_1 y_t + \hat{A}_2 y_{t-1} + \dots + \hat{A}_P y_{t-p+1}$$

And successively, we will find $\hat{y}_{t+2}, \hat{y}_{t+3}, \dots, \hat{y}_{t+h}$

Furthermore, let h be the forecast origin, $\ell > 0$ be the forecast horizon and F_h be the information available at h, the ℓ -step ahead minimum mean squared error (MSE) forecast of $z_{h+\ell}$ is given as

$$\hat{Z}_h(\ell) = \hat{\phi}_0 + \sum_{i=1}^p \hat{\phi}_i \ \hat{Z}_h \ (\ell - \mathbf{i})$$

2.7 Granger Causality Test

Granger causality test is a technique for determining whether one-time series is useful in forecasting another (Granger, 1969). A time series X_t is said to be Granger-cause Y_t if it can be shown, usually through a series of F-test on lagged value of X_t (and with lagged value of Y_t also known), that value of X_t provide statistically significant information about future value of Y_t (Gelper and Croux, 2007).

The G ranger causality test is based on the following regression.

$$X_t = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i Y_{t-i} + \sum_{j=1}^n \beta_j X_{t-i} + u_{1t}$$

$$Y_{t} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \lambda_{i} Y_{t-i} + \sum_{j=1}^{n} \delta_{j} X_{t-j} + u_{2t}$$

Where:

 X_t and Y_t represent and the rainfall and temperature variable at time t.

 X_{t-i} and Y_{t-i} are the lagged of Rainfall and temperature respectively

 α_i and β_j are the regression coefficient for rainfall model

 λ_i and δ_i are the regression coefficient for temperature model

 u_{1t} and u_{2t} represent the disturbance for the two variables. It is assumed that the disturbance u_{1t} and u_{2t} are uncorrelated.

2.8 IRF

"The Impulse Response Function" (IRF) is used to find out how each endogenous variable responds over time to a shock in its own value and in every other variable.

$$Y_t = \eta + \theta_0 \eta_t + \theta_1 \eta_{t-1} + \theta_2 \eta_{t-2}$$

Where:

 $\theta_0 = B^{-1}$ is a "lower triangular matrix."

 η_{it} are the "impulse response to orthogonal shocks "

From this equation we can observe changes in Y_t given a change in the residual.

$$\frac{\partial y_{i,t+s}}{\partial n_{i,t}} = \frac{\partial y_{i,t}}{\partial n_{i,t-s}} = \theta_{i,j}^{s} \text{ i, } j=1,2,\dots,n, s > 0$$

Where

 $\theta_{i,j}^{s}$ is the (i, j)th elements of θ_{s}

2.9 Forecast Error Variance Decompositions

"Forecast Error Variance Decomposition" (FEVDs) quantify the equation by showing how much of the forecast error variance is caused by the structural shock. it provides a way of accessing the impacts of changes in the variables on each other.

For any given shock (η_t), the "h-step forward forecast error vector" is given by

$$Y_{T+h} - Y_{T+h/T} = \sum_{s=0}^{h-1} \Theta_s \eta_{T+h-s}$$

Where $Y_{T+h/T}$ is "h-step forecasts based on information available at time T"

However, for a particular variable $Y_{i+h/T}$ this forecast error has the form.

$$Y_{i,T+h} - Y_{i,T+h/T} = \sum_{s=0}^{h-1} \theta_{i1}^{s} \eta_{1,T+h-s} + \ldots + \sum_{s=0}^{h-1} \theta_{in}^{s} \eta_{n,T+h-s}$$

Where $\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\eta j}^2 = var(\eta_{jt})$ is the function of $var(Y_{i,T+h} - Y_{i,T+h/T})$ cause by the shock η_j

Hence the forecast error variance decomposition is given as

$$FEVD_{I,J}(h) = \frac{\sigma_{\eta j}^2 \sum_{s=0}^{h-1} (\boldsymbol{\theta}_{ij}^s)}{\sigma_{\eta 1}^2 \sum_{s=0}^{h-1} (\boldsymbol{\theta}_{i1}^s) + \dots + \sigma_{\eta n}^2 \sum_{s=0}^{h-1} (\boldsymbol{\theta}_{in}^s)}, i, j = 1, \dots n$$

3. DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

3.1 Time Series plot



Fig 1: - Time Plot of Average Monthly Rainfall (AMRF)



Fig 2: Time Plot of Average Monthly Temperature (AMTEMP)

COMMENT: From both the plots both-variables (Rainfall and Temperature) appear to be stationary over time. A stationarity test is further conducted to back up this claim.

Table:1 Descriptive Statistics								
			Std.	Varianc				
	Ν	Mean	Deviation	e	Skev	vness	Kur	tosis
	Statisti	Statisti			Statisti	Std.	Statisti	Std.
	С	с	Statistic	Statistic	с	Error	с	Error
Rainfall	432	95.303	87.09162	7584.95	.474	.117	-1.169	.234
		2		0				
Temperature	432	27.096	2.05798	4.235	.622	.117	.713	.234
		8						
Valid N	432							
(listwise)								

4. EMPIRICAL RESULTS

COMMENT: The descriptive statistics on rainfall and temperature are presented in table 1.

4.1 Stationarity Test

		t-Statistic	Prob.*
Augmented Dickey-Fuller test statistic		-16.59248	0.0000
	5% level	-2.868153 -2.570357	

Table 2: ADF Unit Root Test for stationarity for Rainfall variable

Table 3: ADF Unit Root Test for stationarity for Temperature variable

		t-Statistic	Prob.*
Augmented Dickey-Fu Test critical values:	ller test statistic 1% level 5% level 10% level	-7.743157 -3.445590 -2.868153 -2.570357	0.0000

COMMENTS: The ADF test for rainfall and temperature series are presented in able 2 and table 3. The test was carried out without trend.

4.1.1 The VAR Model and Lag Selection

Lag	LogL	LR	FPE	AIC	SC	HQ
0	-3396 825	NΔ	31458 92	16.03219	16.05129	16 03974
1	-3008.503	771.1487	5133.788	14.21935	14.27666	14.24199
2	-2796.131	419.7351	1921.217	13.23647	13.33198	13.27420
3	-2722.143	145.5326	1381.033	12.90634	13.04005	12.95917
4	-2695.110	52.91854	1238.860	12.79769	12.96961	12.86561
5	-2654.463	79.18415	1042.207	12.62483	12.83495	12.70785
6	-2629.010	49.34589	941.9163	12.52363	12.77196	12.62175
7	-2585.392	84.14934*	781.3794	12.33676	12.62329*	12.44997*
8	-2580.937	8.552592	779.7255*	12.33461*	12.65935	12.46291

Table 4: Lag length selection

COMMENTS: VAR models for a given lag was considered, and lag 8 is chosen by AIC criterion as the optimal lag for the analysis.

Variable	Rainfall	Temperature	
RAINFALL (-8)	-0.112834 (0.05015) [-2.25011]	0.000875 (0.00161) [0.54247]	
TEMPERATURE (-8)	1.646948 (1.52387) [1.08076]	1.646948 (1.52387) [1.08076]	
С	273.2897 (48.6741) [5.61469]	273.2897 (48.6741) [5.61469]	
С	(48.6741) [5.61469]	(48.6741) [5.61469]	

Table 5: VAR Model Estimation at lag 8

COMMENTS: Table 5 shows the output of the vector autoregression (VAR) model estimation at lag 8. From the result, rainfall is not significant enough to predict itself that is, it does not have a significance influence by itself with t-statistics of (-2.2501) while temperature strongly predict rainfall with t-statistics of (1.0807). hence it can be said that, the percentage increase on temperature account for 164% increase in rainfall on average. the pass realization of rainfall is associated with 0.008% increase in temperature on average, while the percentage increase on temperature account for 164% increase in itself on average.

4.2 VAR Residual Diagnostic

Table 6: Test for Residual Serial Correlation

Null hypothesis: No serial correlation at lag h						
Lag	LRE* stat	df	Prob.	Rao F-stat	df	Prob.
1	11.33965	4	0.0230	2.851849	(4, 784.0)	0.0230
2	27.30420	4	0.0000	6.937302	(4, 784.0)	0.0000
3	9.836400	4	0.0433	2.471419	(4, 784.0)	0.0433
4	19.84368	4	0.0005	5.017753	(4, 784.0)	0.0005
5	3.845297	4	0.4273	0.962455	(4, 784.0)	0.4273
6	7.431009	4	0.1148	1.864195	(4, 784.0)	0.1148
7	11.89595	4	0.0181	2.992818	(4, 784.0)	0.0181
8	2.231919	4	0.6932	0.558062	(4, 784.0)	0.6932

COMMENTS: From Table 6, at 5% significance level, it clearly shows that, using 8 lag is appropriate since the p-value is greater than alpha at lag 8, it means there is no serial correlation at lag 8 and is long enough to capture monthly data dynamics.

Component	Skewness	Chi-sq	df	Prob.*
1 2	-0.235785 0.784786	0.259440 2.874149	1 1	0.6105 0.0900
Joint		3.133589	2	0.2087
Component	Kurtosis	Chi-sq	df	Prob.
1 2	2.551644 3.851243	0.234527 0.845383	1 1	0.6282 0.3579
Joint		1.079910	2	0.5828
Component	Jarque-Bera	df	Prob.	
1 2	0.493967 3.719532	2 2	0.7812 0.1557	
Joint	4.213499	4	0.3779	

Table 7: "VAR Residual Normality Test"

COMMENTS: From table 7, the residual of both rainfall and temperature are normally distributed. The joint normality test for the whole variable also show that the residual is normally distributed at lag 8.

4.2.1 The "Granger" causality test

Dependent variable: RAINFALL						
Excluded	Chi-sq	df	Prob.			
TEMPERATURE	94.30607	8	0.0000			
All	94.30607	8	0.0000			
Dependent variable: TEMPERATURE						
Excluded	Chi-sq	df	Prob.			
RAINFALL	136.3028	8	0.0000			
All	136.3028	8	0.0000			

Table 8: Granger Causality Test

COMMENTS: The Granger causality test shows a bi-lateral relationship between Rainfall and Temperature as seen in the table 8.

4.2.2 Stability Condition of VAR model

Figure 3: "Stability Condition of VAR" Model (unit root circle)



Inverse Roots of AR Characteristic Polynomial

COMMENTS: This is the AR root graph that shows the unit circle. It clearly shows that all the root lies inside the circle. This shows that, the VAR model satisfies stability condition. However, for more clarity, the AR root table is shown below.

Root	Modulus
0 864973 + 0 499199i	0 998688
0.864973 - 0.499199i	0.998688
0.492246 + 0.851357i	0.983420
0.492246 - 0.851357i	0.983420
-0.005936 + 0.954351i	0.954370
-0.005936 - 0.954351i	0.954370
0.924122	0.924122
-0.480396 - 0.756436i	0.896089
-0.480396 + 0.756436i	0.896089
0.316485 - 0.810057i	0.869687
0.316485 + 0.810057i	0.869687
-0.716140 - 0.440578i	0.840812
-0.716140 + 0.440578i	0.840812
-0.810772 + 0.173892i	0.829211
-0.810772 - 0.173892i	0.829211
0.742787 - 0.361101i	0.825909
0.742787 + 0.361101i	0.825909
-0.181460 - 0.777259i	0.798160
-0.181460 + 0.777259i	0.798160
0.632523 - 0.146318i	0.649226
0.632523 + 0.146318i	0.649226
-0.496846	0.496846
-0.354862 + 0.325168i	0.481312
-0.354862 - 0.325168i	0.481312

 Table 9: Eigenvalue stability condition

COMMENTS: Table 9, show the results that revealed that all the inverse roots of the characteristic AR polynomial have modulus less than 1. Meaning that, the estimate VAR is stable, and both the variables are stationary.

4.3 Impulse Response Functions

Fig 5: The IRF for rainfall and Temperature time series data



Response to Cholesky One S.D. (d.f. adjusted) Innovations ± 2 analytic asymptotic S.E.s

COMMENTS: The main diagonal graph shows the effect of a shock of a variable to itself (shock of Rainfall on Rainfall and a shock of Temperature on Temperature). However, we are more interested in seeing the cross graph (the response of rainfall to a shock on temperature and response of temperature to a shock on rainfall).

From fig.5b, when temperature increase in one standard deviation shock, the rainfall starts decreasing after the first period, reaching a maximum percentage variation of -8 at around the third month then starts increasing again (temperature has a gradual negative effect on rainfall)

From fig.5c, when rainfall increase in one standard deviation shock, the temperature starts increasing after the first period, reaching a maximum percentage variation of -0.3 at around the third month then starts decreasing again (rainfall has a gradual positive effect on temperature)

4.4 Variance Decompositions

Variance Decomposition of RAINFALL:						
	0.2.					
1	28.96819	100.0000	0.000000			
2	32.41759	96.65226	3.347740			
3	33.15157	92.70452	7.295483			
4	33.79118	92.67023	7.329767			
5	34.81667	91.39605	8.603952			
6	36.03215	89.33310	10.66690			
7	38.36998	84.98928	15.01072			
8	39.29468	85.65689	14.34311			
9	40.27286	83.91813	16.08187			
10	40.81545	82.03043	17.96957			
Variance De	ecomposition of T	EMPERATURE	:			
Period	S.E.	RAINFALL	TEMPERATURE			
1	0.931367	0.982573	99.01743			
2	1.414317	0.428333	99.57167			
3	1.540729	3.219746	96.78025			
4	1.551545	4.488420	95.51158			
5	1.558957	5.245486	94.75451			
6	1.564531	5.885737	94.11426			
7	1.567793	5.861614	94.13839			
8	1.589011	8.022012	91.97799			
9	1.622040	11.60211	88.39789			
10	1.662728	12.70659	87.29341			

Table 10: "Variance Decomposition"

COMMENTS: Temperature have no contemporaneous effect on rainfall at the first period, however, the temperature explains 3% of the variation in rainfall at the second period. The result simply shows that as the periods increases over time, change in rainfall have to do with the temperature.

Rainfall has a contemporaneous effect of 0.9% on temperature at the first period, however, the result also shows that as the periods increases over time, change in rainfall have to do with the temperature.



Fig 6: Decomposition of Variance from VAR

COMMENTS: The Variance decomposition in Fig 6a and Fig 6d have the same manner of appearance, same goes to Fig 6b and Fig 6c. This shows that, some percentage of variance in rainfall is explained by innovation in rainfall, and some were explained by innovation in temperature. Also, some percentage of variance in temperature is explained by innovation in temperature, and some were explained by innovation in rainfall.

Variance Decomposition using Cholesky (d.f. adjusted) Factors

5. CONCLUSION

Two climate variables were examined in this study: rainfall and temperature. Bi-lateral causality dictated among these variables under Granger causality, and it shows that the variables are interrelated. From the model, rainfall does not have a significance influence by itself with t-statistics of (-2.2501) while temperature strongly predict rainfall with t-statistics of (1.0807). Impulse Response function and forecast error variance decomposition was utilized, it shows that, when temperature increase in one standard deviation shock, the rainfall starts decreasing on a short run, and increase on a long run, on the other hand, when rainfall increase in one standard deviation shock, the temperature

starts increasing after a short run, and decrease on a log run. temperature explains 3% of the variation in rainfall after a short run and keep on increasing at the long run, Rainfall explain 0.9% of the variation temperature after a short run and keep increasing after a long run.

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