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# FORECASTING

## PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

A comprehensive introduction to the latest forecasting methods using R. Learn to improve your forecast accuracy using dozens of real data examples.



3RD EDITION

 **OTexts**  
OPEN TEXTS FOR PRACTICE

## 7. Time series regression models

### 7.4 Some useful predictors

[OTexts.org/fpp3/](https://OTexts.org/fpp3/)

## Linear trend

$$x_t = t$$

- $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$
- Strong assumption that trend will continue.

# Nonlinear trend

## Piecewise linear trend with bend at $\tau$

$$x_{1,t} = t$$

$$x_{2,t} = \begin{cases} 0 & t < \tau \\ (t - \tau) & t \geq \tau \end{cases}$$

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## Quadratic or higher order trend

$$x_{1,t} = t, \quad x_{2,t} = t^2, \quad \dots$$

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**NOT RECOMMENDED!**

# Dummy variables

If a categorical variable takes only two values (e.g., 'Yes' or 'No'), then an equivalent numerical variable can be constructed taking value 1 if yes and 0 if no. This is called a **dummy variable**.

	A	B
1	Yes	1
2	Yes	1
3	No	0
4	Yes	1
5	No	0
6	No	0
7	Yes	1
8	Yes	1
9	No	0
10	No	0
11	No	0
12	No	0
13	Yes	1
14	No	0
...		

# Dummy variables

If there are more than two categories, then the variable can be coded using several dummy variables (one fewer than the total number of categories).

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Monday	1	0	0	0
2	Tuesday	0	1	0	0
3	Wednesday	0	0	1	0
4	Thursday	0	0	0	1
5	Friday	0	0	0	0
6	Monday	1	0	0	0
7	Tuesday	0	1	0	0
8	Wednesday	0	0	1	0
9	Thursday	0	0	0	1
10	Friday	0	0	0	0
11	Monday	1	0	0	0
12	Tuesday	0	1	0	0
13	Wednesday	0	0	1	0
14	Thursday	0	0	0	1
15	Friday	0	0	0	0

# Beware of the dummy variable trap!

- Using one dummy for each category gives too many dummy variables!
- The regression will then be singular and inestimable.
- Either omit the constant, or omit the dummy for one category.
- The coefficients of the dummies are relative to the omitted category.



# Uses of dummy variables

## Seasonal dummies

- For quarterly data: use 3 dummies
- For monthly data: use 11 dummies
- For daily data: use 6 dummies
- What to do with weekly data?

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## Outliers

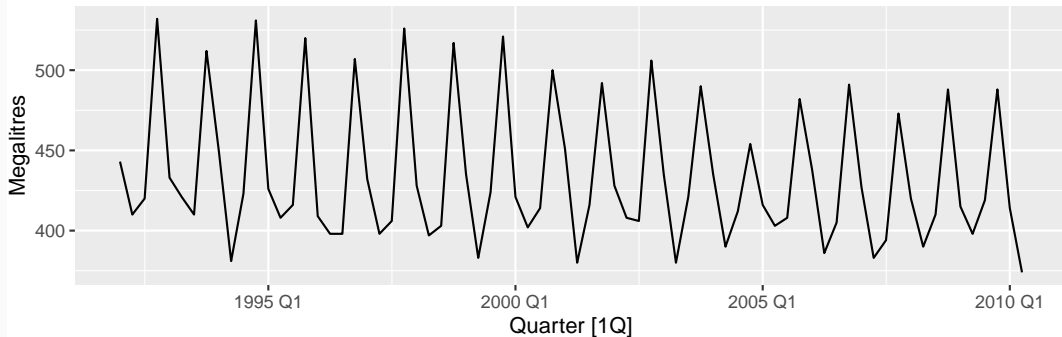
- If there is an outlier, you can use a dummy variable to remove its effect.

## Public holidays

- For daily data: if it is a public holiday,  $\text{dummy}=1$ , otherwise  $\text{dummy}=0$ .

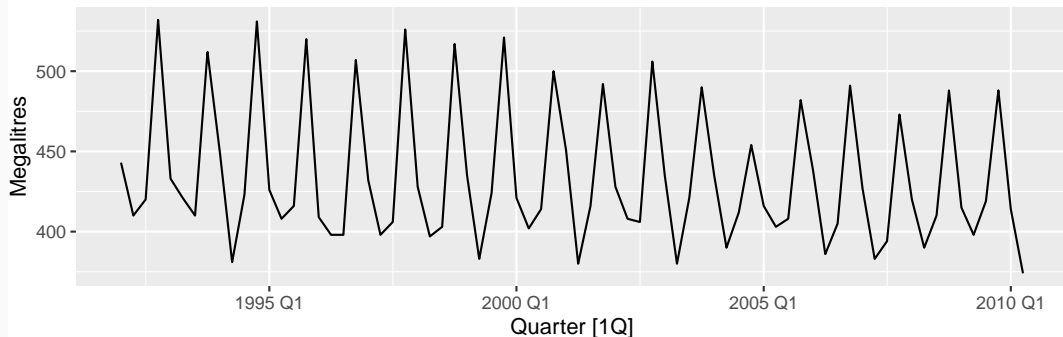
# Beer production revisited

Australian quarterly beer production



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## Regression model

$$y_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 t + \beta_2 d_{2,t} + \beta_3 d_{3,t} + \beta_4 d_{4,t} + \varepsilon_t$$

- $d_{i,t} = 1$  if  $t$  is quarter  $i$  and 0 otherwise.

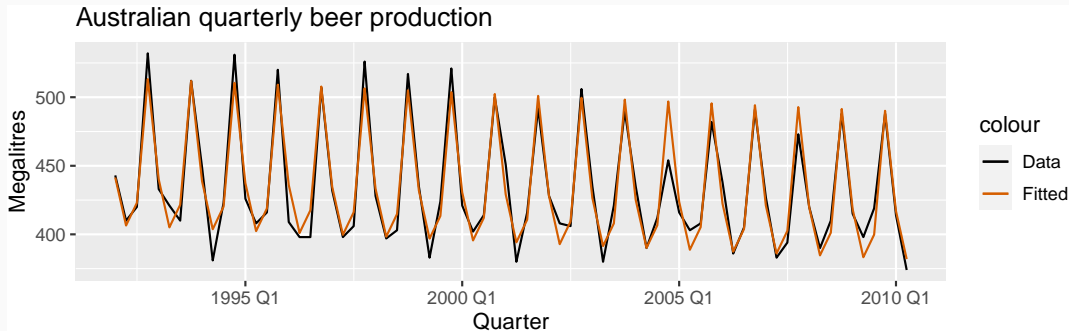
# Beer production revisited

```
fit_beer <- recent_production |> model(TSLM(Beer ~ trend() + season()))
report(fit_beer)
```

```
## Series: Beer
## Model: TSLM
##
## Residuals:
##      Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
## -42.9    -7.6    -0.5     8.0    21.8
##
## Coefficients:
##              Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept)   441.8004     3.7335  118.33 < 2e-16 ***
## trend()        -0.3403     0.0666   -5.11 2.7e-06 ***
## season()year2 -34.6597     3.9683   -8.73 9.1e-13 ***
## season()year3 -17.8216     4.0225   -4.43 3.4e-05 ***
## season()year4  72.7964     4.0230   18.09 < 2e-16 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 12.2 on 69 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared:  0.924,    Adjusted R-squared:  0.92
## F-statistic: 211 on 4 and 69 DF, p-value: <2e-16
```

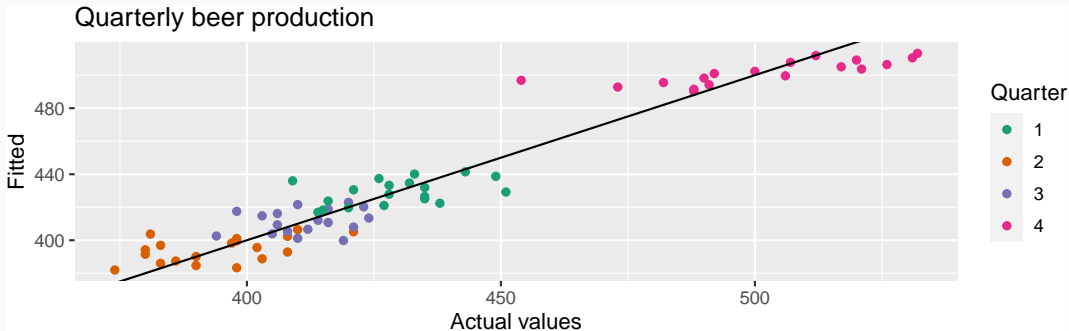
# Beer production revisited

```
augment(fit_beer) |>  
  ggplot(aes(x = Quarter)) +  
  geom_line(aes(y = Beer, colour = "Data")) +  
  geom_line(aes(y = .fitted, colour = "Fitted")) +  
  labs(y = "Megalitres", title = "Australian quarterly beer production") +  
  scale_colour_manual(values = c(Data = "black", Fitted = "#D55E00"))
```



# Beer production revisited

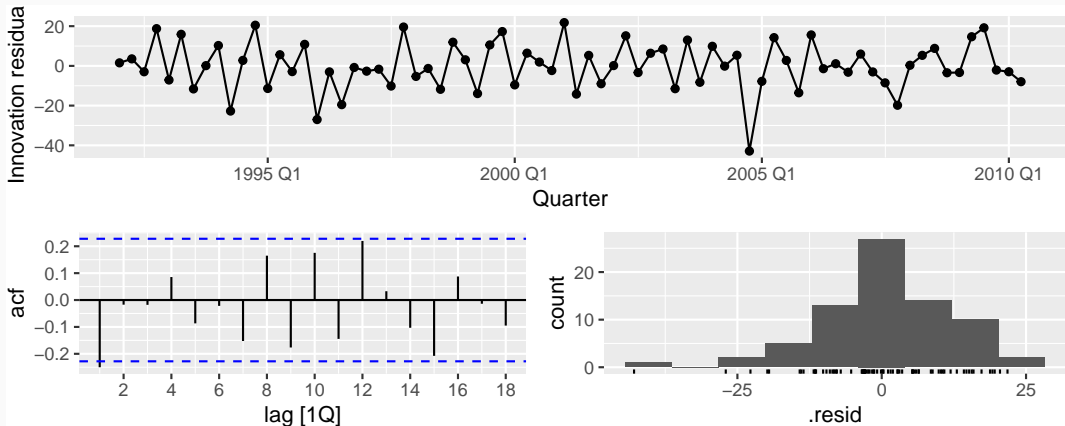
```
augment(fit_beer) |>  
  ggplot(aes(x = Beer, y = .fitted, colour = factor(quarter(Quarter)))) +  
  geom_point() +  
  labs(y = "Fitted", x = "Actual values", title = "Quarterly beer production") +  
  scale_colour_brewer(palette = "Dark2", name = "Quarter") +  
  geom_abline(intercept = 0, slope = 1)
```





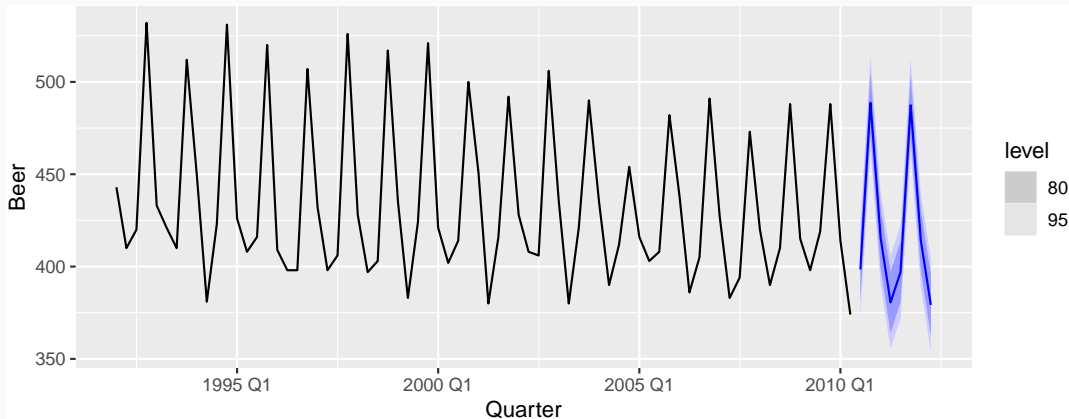
# Beer production revisited

```
fit_beer |> gg_tsresiduals()
```



# Beer production revisited

```
fit_beer |>  
  forecast() |>  
  autoplot(recent_production)
```



# Fourier series

Periodic seasonality can be handled using pairs of Fourier terms:

$$s_k(t) = \sin\left(\frac{2\pi kt}{m}\right) \quad c_k(t) = \cos\left(\frac{2\pi kt}{m}\right)$$

$$y_t = a + bt + \sum_{k=1}^K [\alpha_k s_k(t) + \beta_k c_k(t)] + \varepsilon_t$$

- Every periodic function can be approximated by sums of sin and cos terms for large enough  $K$ .
- Choose  $K$  by minimizing AICc.
- Called “harmonic regression”

```
TSLM(y ~ trend() + fourier(K))
```

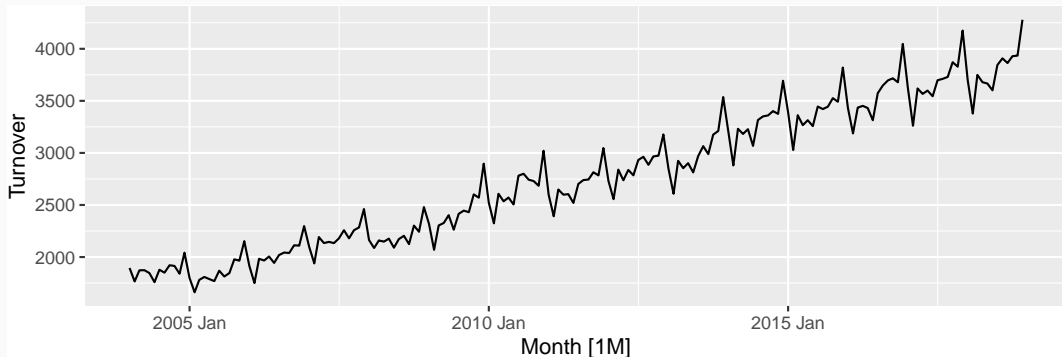
# Harmonic regression: beer production

```
fourier_beer <- recent_production |> model(TSLM(Beer ~ trend() + fourier(K = 2)))  
report(fourier_beer)
```

```
## Series: Beer  
## Model: TSLM  
##  
## Residuals:  
##      Min      1Q  Median      3Q      Max  
## -42.9   -7.6   -0.5     8.0    21.8  
##  
## Coefficients:  
##              Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)  
## (Intercept)    446.8792     2.8732  155.53 < 2e-16 ***  
## trend()         -0.3403     0.0666   -5.11 2.7e-06 ***  
## fourier(K = 2)C1_4  8.9108     2.0112    4.43 3.4e-05 ***  
## fourier(K = 2)S1_4 -53.7281     2.0112  -26.71 < 2e-16 ***  
## fourier(K = 2)C2_4 -13.9896     1.4226   -9.83 9.3e-15 ***  
## ---  
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1  
##  
## Residual standard error: 12.2 on 69 degrees of freedom  
## Multiple R-squared:  0.924,    Adjusted R-squared:  0.92  
## F-statistic: 211 on 4 and 69 DF, p-value: <2e-16
```

# Harmonic regression: eating-out expenditure

```
aus_cafe <- aus_retail |>  
  filter(Industry == "Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services",  
         year(Month) %in% 2004:2018) |>  
  summarise(Turnover = sum(Turnover))  
aus_cafe |> autoplot(Turnover)
```

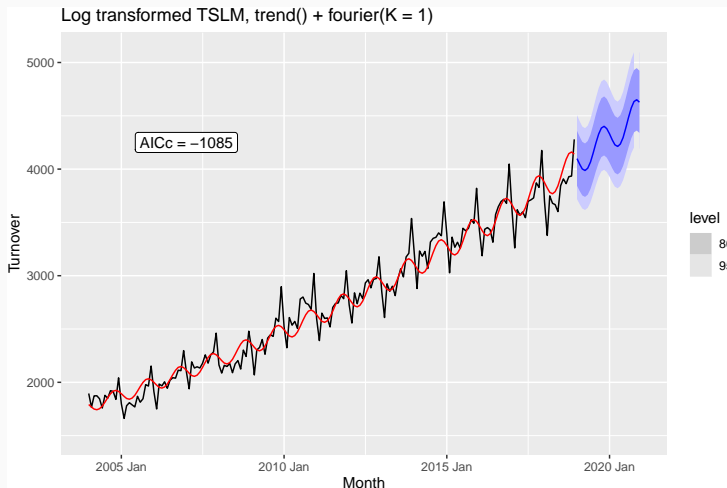


# Harmonic regression: eating-out expenditure

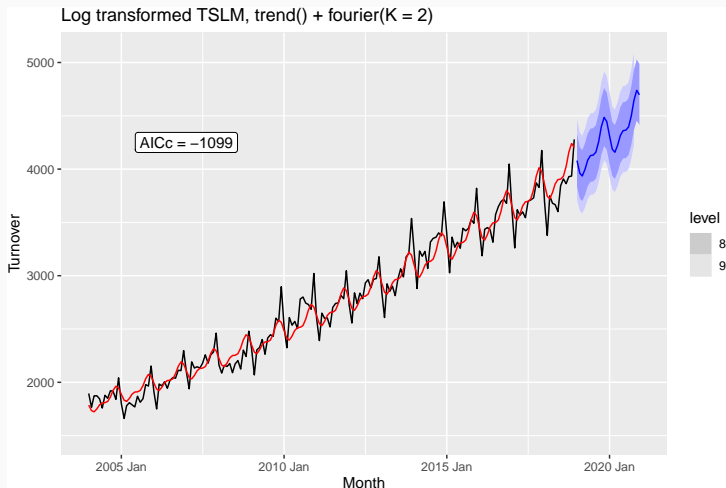
```
fit <- aus_cafe |>
  model(
    K1 = TSLM(log(Turnover) ~ trend() + fourier(K = 1)),
    K2 = TSLM(log(Turnover) ~ trend() + fourier(K = 2)),
    K3 = TSLM(log(Turnover) ~ trend() + fourier(K = 3)),
    K4 = TSLM(log(Turnover) ~ trend() + fourier(K = 4)),
    K5 = TSLM(log(Turnover) ~ trend() + fourier(K = 5)),
    K6 = TSLM(log(Turnover) ~ trend() + fourier(K = 6))
  )
glance(fit) |> select(.model, r_squared, adj_r_squared, AICc)
```

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 4
##   .model r_squared adj_r_squared AICc
##   <chr>    <dbl>         <dbl>  <dbl>
## 1 K1      0.962         0.962 -1085.
## 2 K2      0.966         0.965 -1099.
## 3 K3      0.976         0.975 -1160.
## 4 K4      0.980         0.979 -1183.
## 5 K5      0.985         0.984 -1234.
## 6 K6      0.985         0.984 -1232.
```

# Harmonic regression: eating-out expenditure

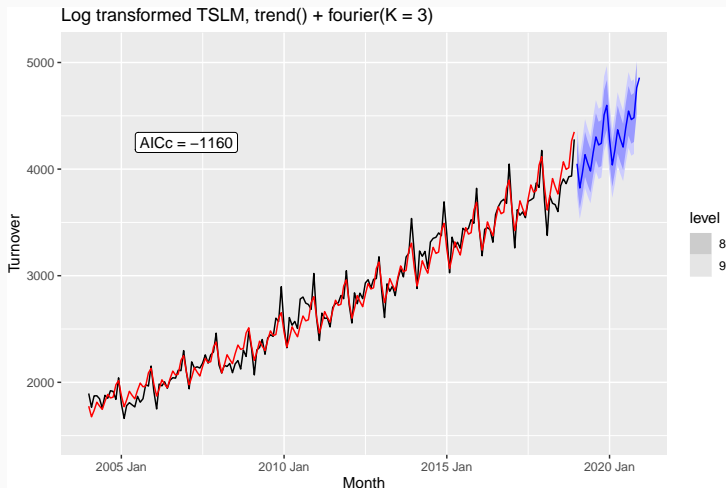


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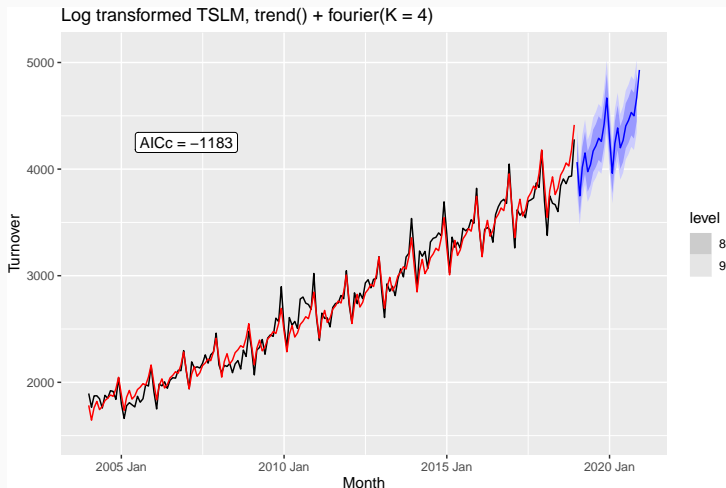




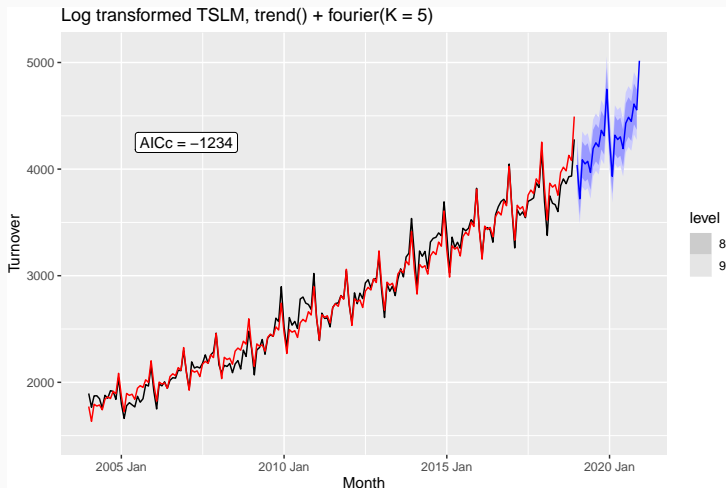
# Harmonic regression: eating-out expenditure



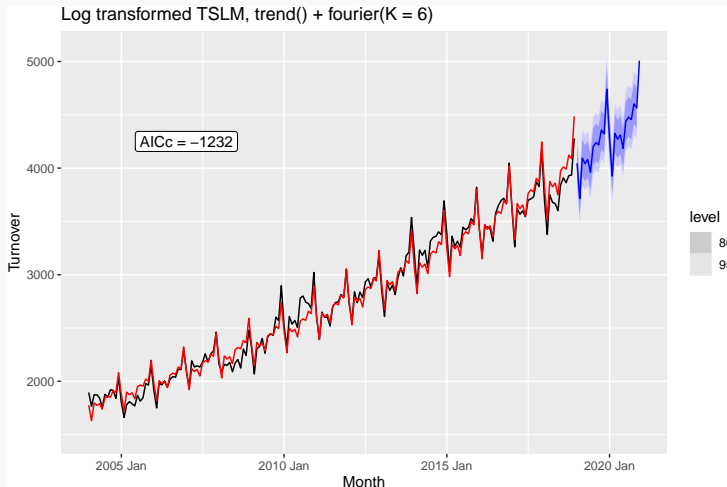
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# Intervention variables

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## Change of slope

- Variables take values 0 before the intervention and values  $\{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$  afterwards.

## For monthly data

- Christmas: always in December so part of monthly seasonal effect
- Easter: use a dummy variable  $v_t = 1$  if any part of Easter is in that month,  $v_t = 0$  otherwise.
- Ramadan and Chinese new year similar.



# Distributed lags

Lagged values of a predictor.

Example:  $x$  is advertising which has a delayed effect

$x_1$  = advertising for previous month;

$x_2$  = advertising for two months previously;

$\vdots$

$x_m$  = advertising for  $m$  months previously.