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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.



## 9. ARIMA models

### 9.1 Stationarity and differencing

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

# Stationarity

## Definition

If  $\{y_t\}$  is a **stationary time series**, then for all  $s$ , the distribution of  $(y_t, \dots, y_{t+s})$  does not depend on  $t$ .

# Stationarity

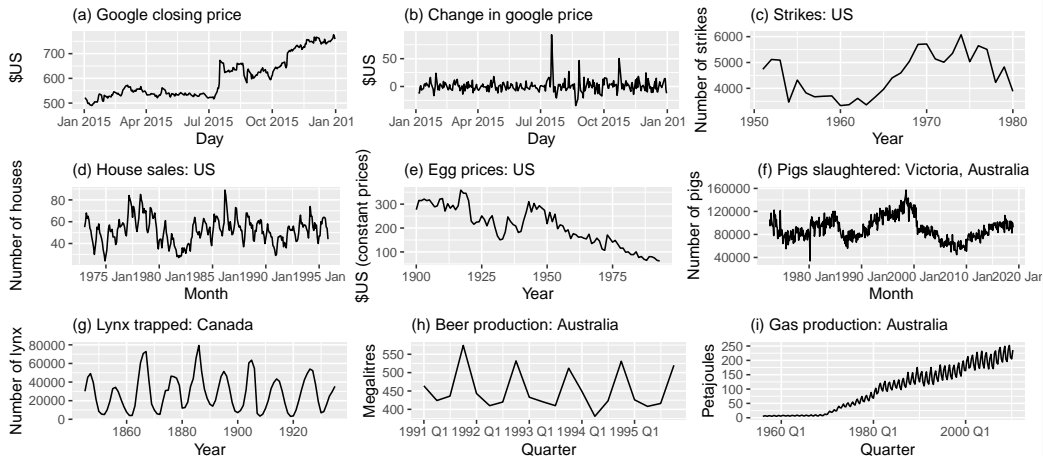
## Definition

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A **stationary series** is:

- roughly horizontal
- constant variance
- no patterns predictable in the long-term

# Stationary or not



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- Transformations help to **stabilize the variance**.
- For ARIMA modelling, we also need to **stabilize the mean**.

# Non-stationarity in the mean

## Identifying non-stationary series

- time plot.
- The ACF of stationary data drops to zero relatively quickly
- The ACF of non-stationary data decreases slowly.
- For non-stationary data, the value of  $r_1$  is often large and positive.

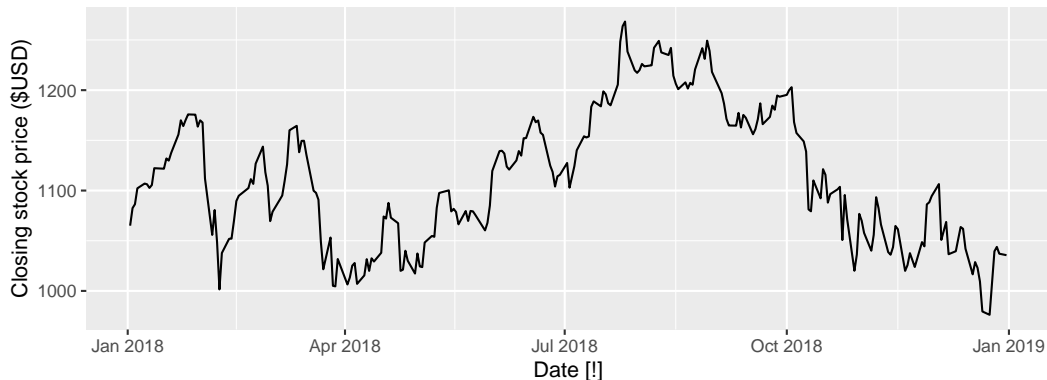
# Example: Google stock price

```
google_2018 <- gafa_stock |>  
  filter(Symbol == "GOOG", year(Date) == 2018)
```



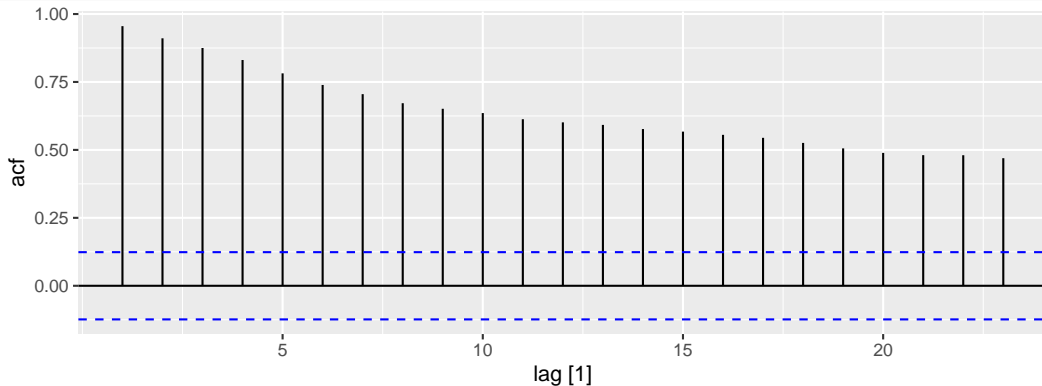
# Example: Google stock price

```
google_2018 |>  
  autoplot(Close) +  
  labs(y = "Closing stock price ($USD)")
```



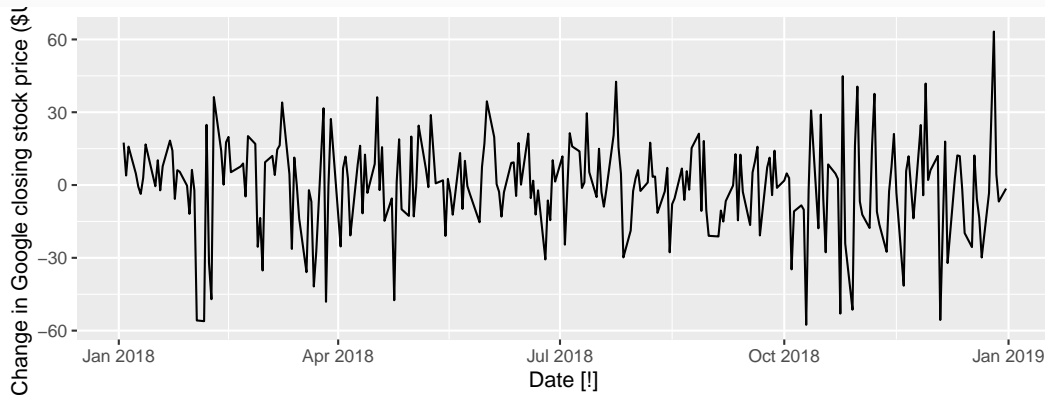
# Example: Google stock price

```
google_2018 |>  
  ACF(Close) |>  
  autoplot()
```



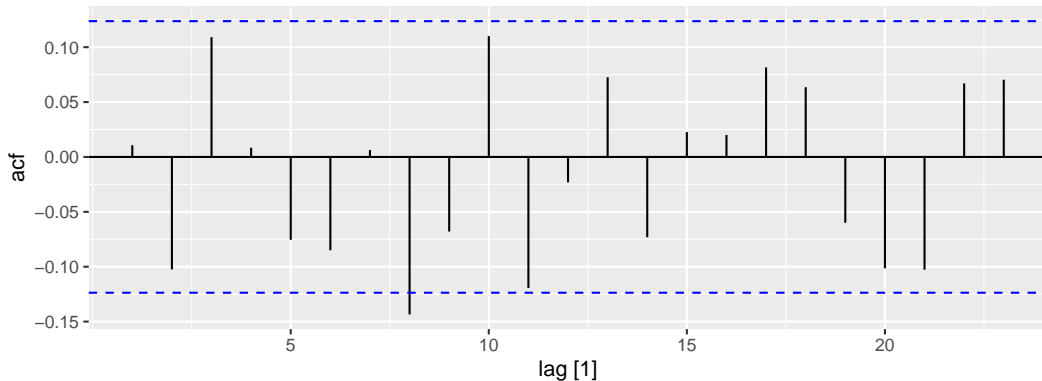
# Example: Google stock price

```
google_2018 |>  
  autoplot(difference(Close)) +  
  labs(y = "Change in Google closing stock price ($USD)")
```



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```
google_2018 |>  
  ACF(difference(Close)) |>  
  autoplot()
```



# Differencing

- Differencing helps to stabilize the mean.
- The differenced series is the change between each observation in the original series:  $y'_t = y_t - y_{t-1}$ .
- The differenced series will have only  $T - 1$  values since it is not possible to calculate a difference  $y'_1$  for the first observation.

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- $y_t''$  will have  $T - 2$  values.
- In practice, it is almost never necessary to go beyond second-order differences.



# Seasonal differencing

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- For quarterly data  $m = 4$ .
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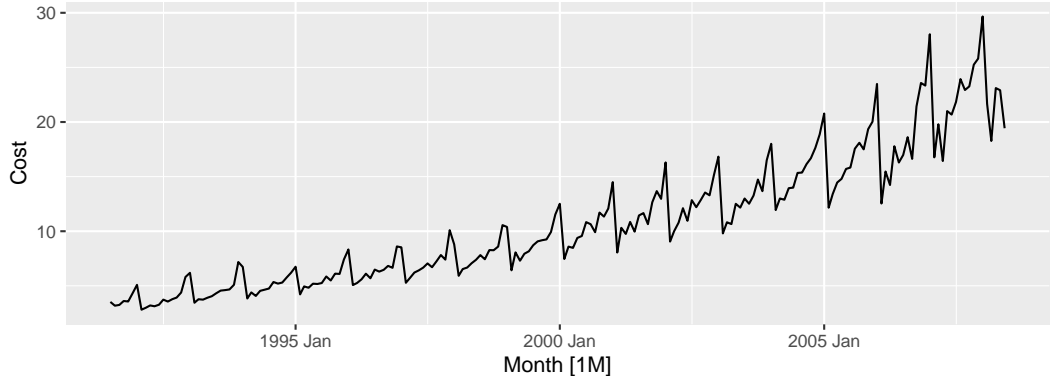
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- Seasonally differenced series will have  $T - m$  obs.

# Antidiabetic drug sales

```
a10 <- PBS |>  
  filter(ATC2 == "A10") |>  
  summarise(Cost = sum(Cost) / 1e6)
```

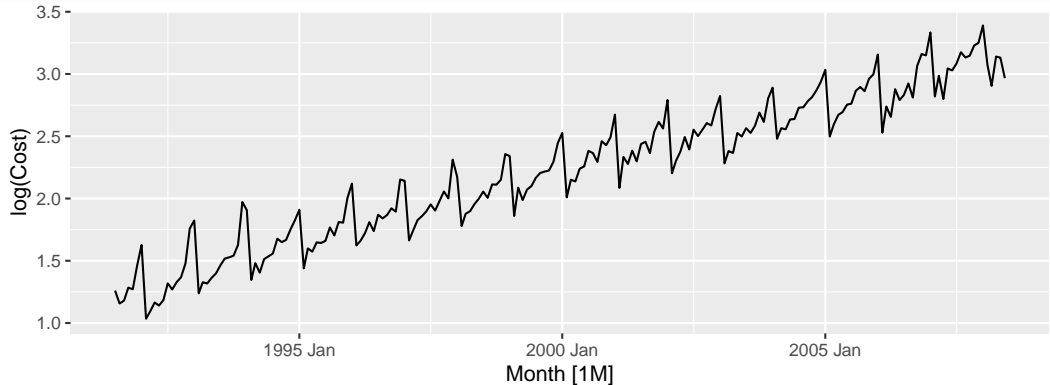
# Antidiabetic drug sales

```
a10 |> autoplot(  
  Cost  
)
```



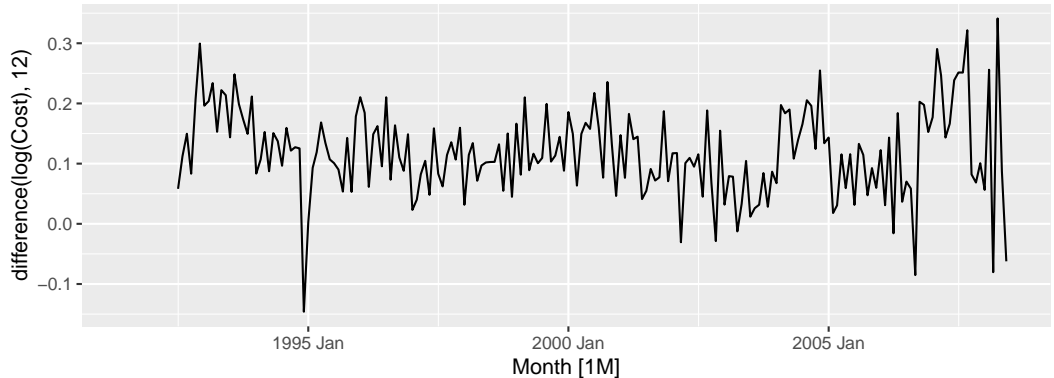
# Antidiabetic drug sales

```
a10 |> autoplot(  
  log(Cost)  
)
```



# Antidiabetic drug sales

```
a10 |> autoplot(  
  log(Cost) |> difference(12)  
)
```



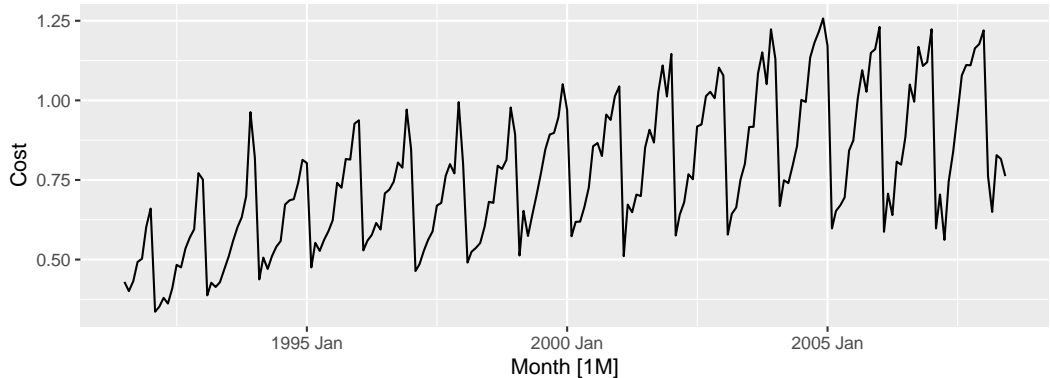
# Corticosteroid drug sales

```
h02 <- PBS |>  
  filter(ATC2 == "H02") |>  
  summarise(Cost = sum(Cost) / 1e6)
```



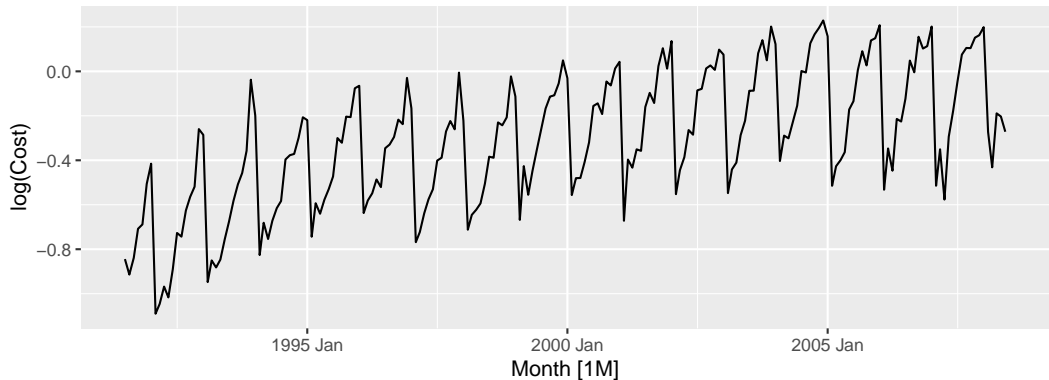
# Corticosteroid drug sales

```
h02 |> autoplot(  
  Cost  
)
```



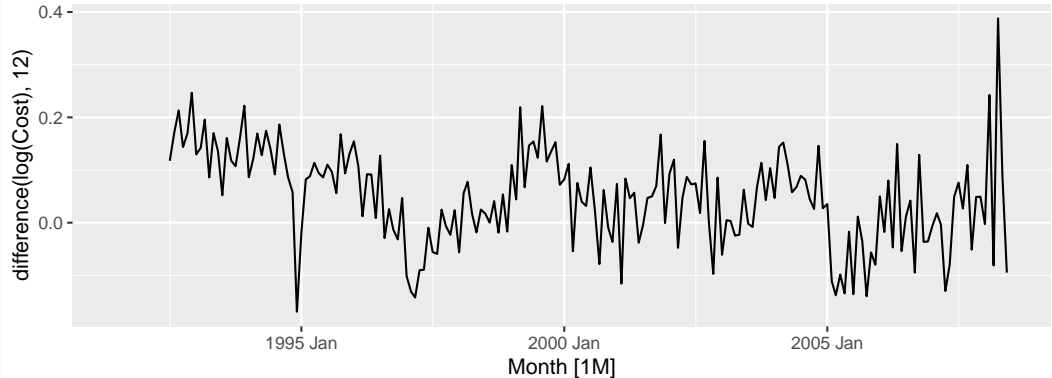
# Corticosteroid drug sales

```
h02 |> autoplot(  
  log(Cost)  
)
```



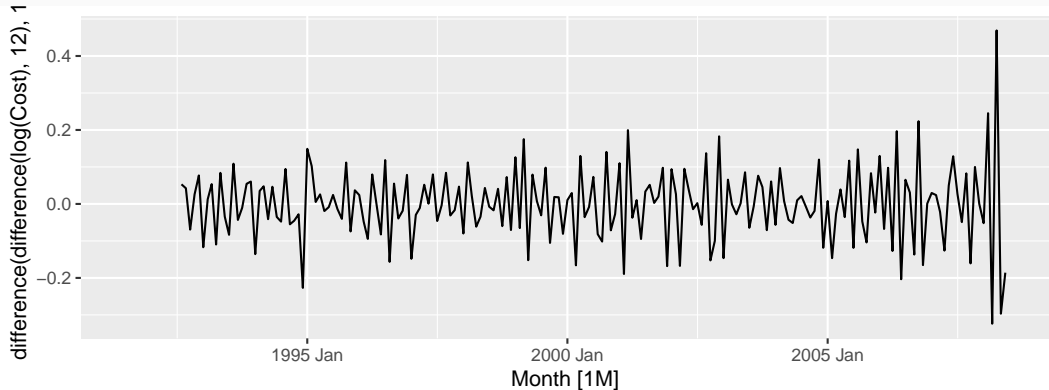
# Corticosteroid drug sales

```
h02 |> autoplot(  
  log(Cost) |> difference(12)  
)
```



# Corticosteroid drug sales

```
h02 |> autoplot(  
  log(Cost) |> difference(12) |> difference(1)  
)
```



# Corticosteroid drug sales

- Seasonally differenced series is closer to being stationary.
- Remaining non-stationarity can be removed with further first difference.

If  $y'_t = y_t - y_{t-12}$  denotes seasonally differenced series, then twice-differenced series is

$$\begin{aligned}y_t^* &= y'_t - y'_{t-1} \\&= (y_t - y_{t-12}) - (y_{t-1} - y_{t-13}) \\&= y_t - y_{t-1} - y_{t-12} + y_{t-13} .\end{aligned}$$

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It is important that if differencing is used, the differences are interpretable.



# Interpretation of differencing

- first differences are the change between one observation and the next;
- seasonal differences are the change between one year to the next.

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- seasonal differences are the change between one year to the next.

But taking lag 3 differences for yearly data, for example, results in a model which cannot be sensibly interpreted.