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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

9. ARIMA models

9.1 Stationarity and differencing

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

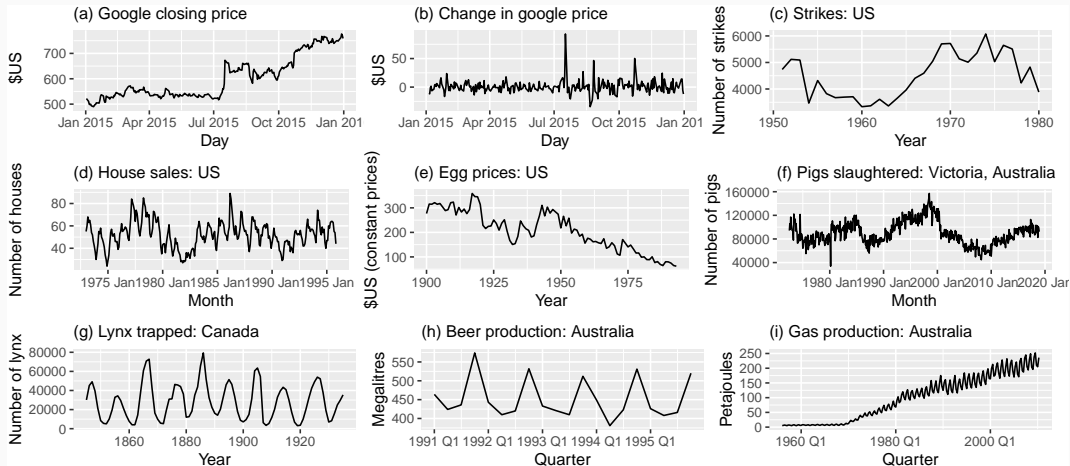
Definition

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 .

A **stationary series** is:

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

Stationary or not



Stationarity

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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

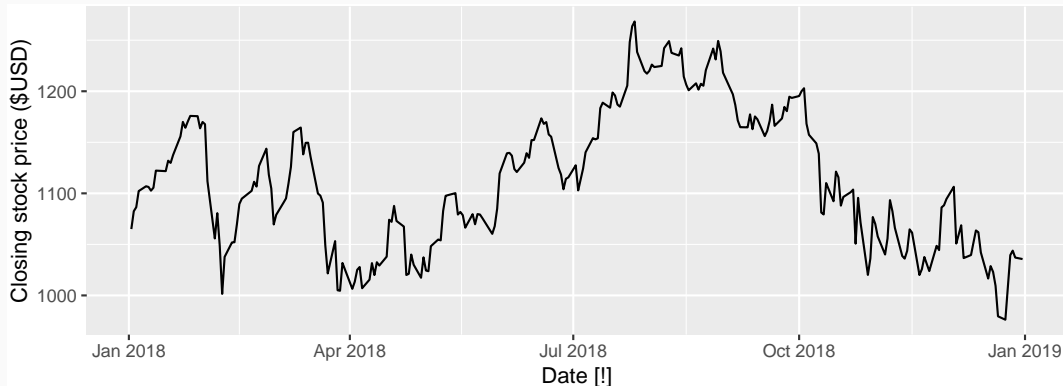
- time plot.
- The ACF of stationary data drops to zero relatively quickly
- The ACF of non-stationary data decreases slowly.
- For non-stationary data, the value of r_1 is often large and positive.

Example: Google stock price

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

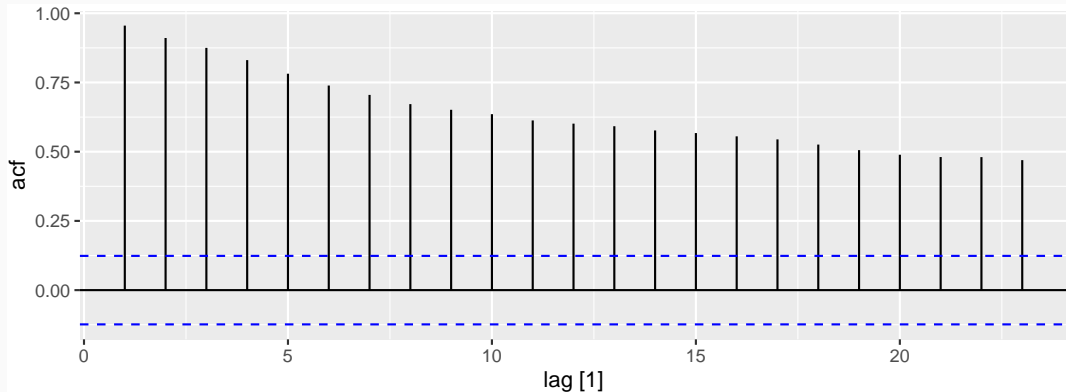

Example: Google stock price

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



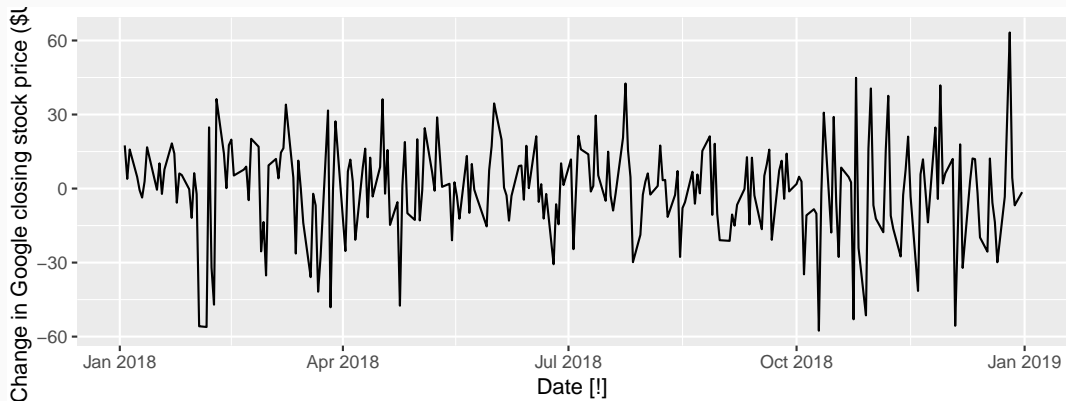
Example: Google stock price

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



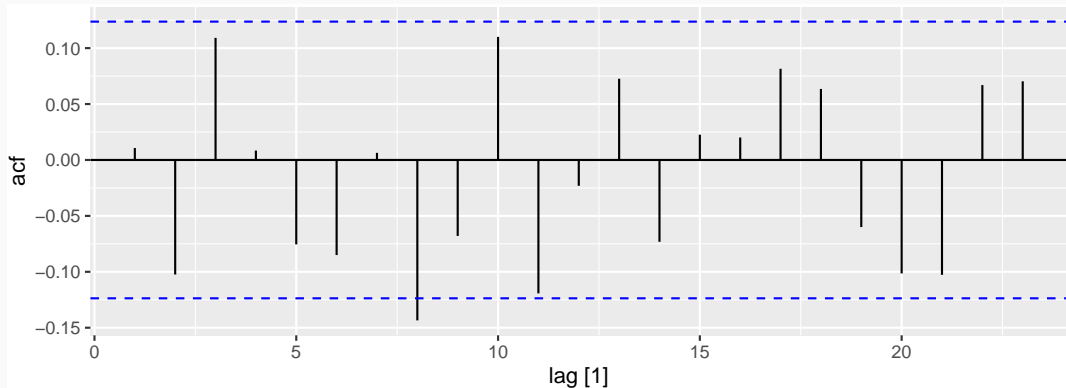
Example: Google stock price

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



Example: Google stock price

```
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.

Second-order differencing

Occasionally the differenced data will not appear stationary and it may be necessary to difference the data a second time:

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$$\begin{aligned}y_t'' &= y_t' - y_{t-1}' \\&= (y_t - y_{t-1}) - (y_{t-1} - y_{t-2}) \\&= y_t - 2y_{t-1} + y_{t-2}.\end{aligned}$$

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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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where m = number of seasons.

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- For quarterly data $m = 4$.
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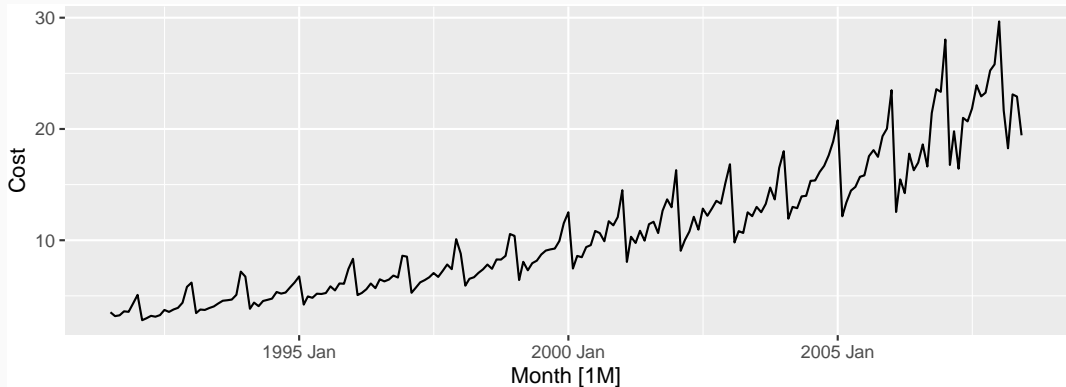
- For monthly data $m = 12$.
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- Seasonally differenced series will have $T - m$ obs.

Antidiabetic drug sales

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

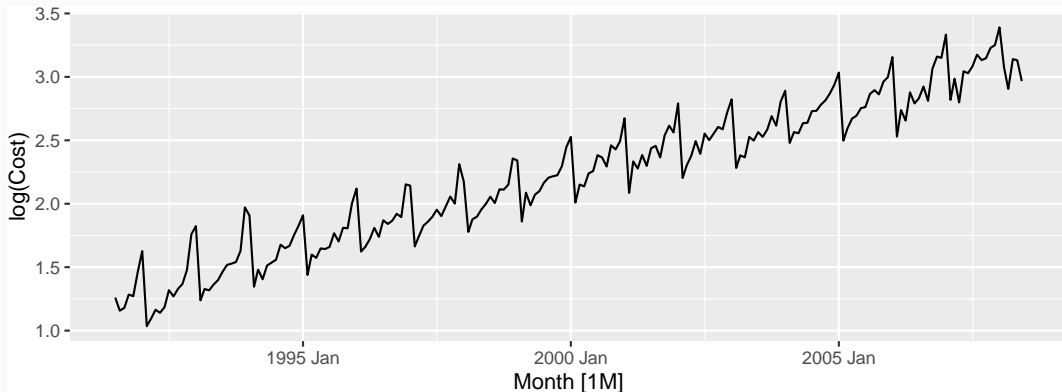
Antidiabetic drug sales

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



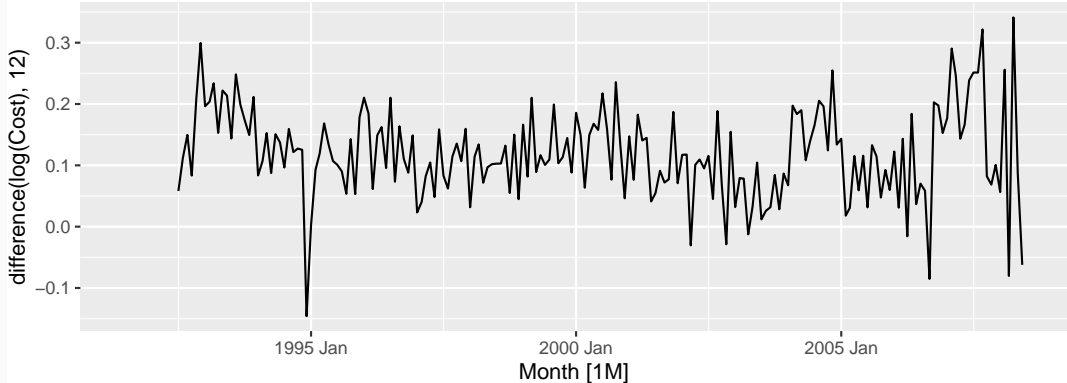
Antidiabetic drug sales

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



Antidiabetic drug sales

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

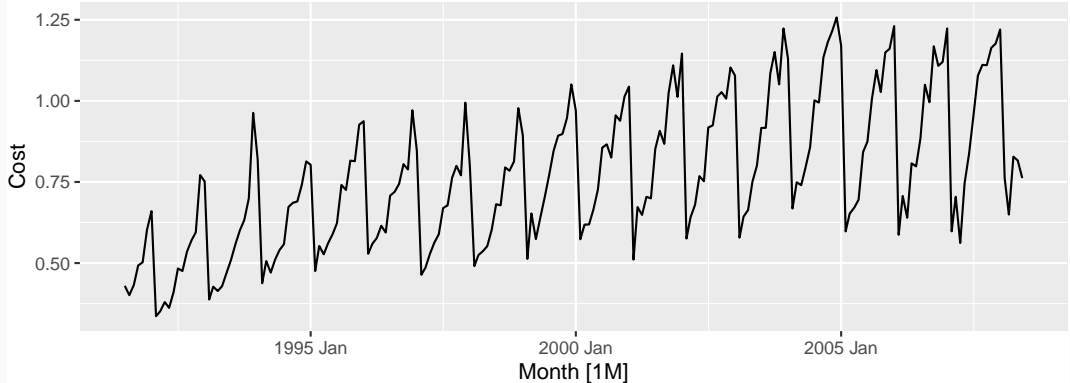


Corticosteroid drug sales

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

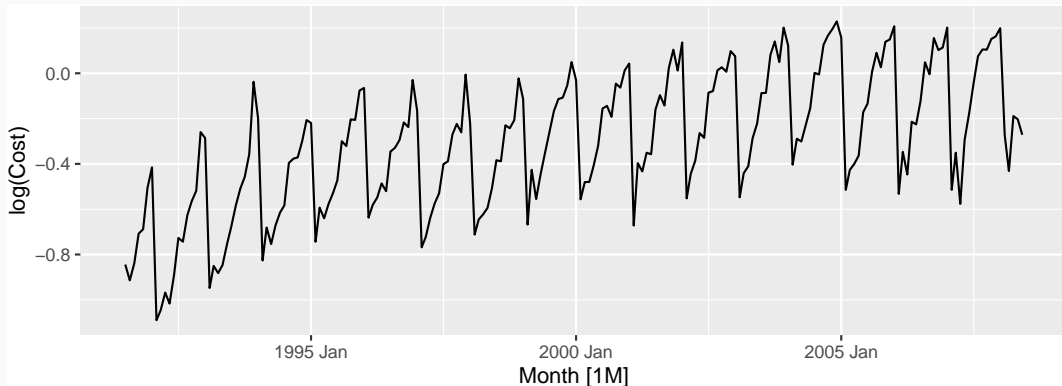

Corticosteroid drug sales

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



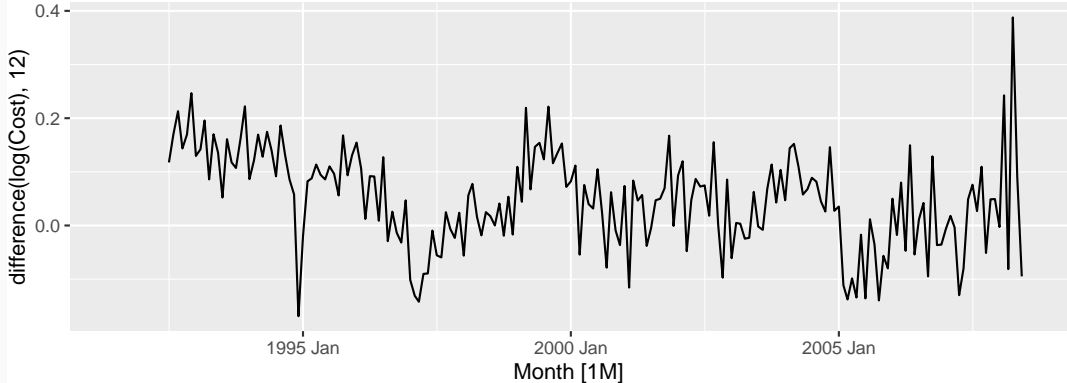
Corticosteroid drug sales

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



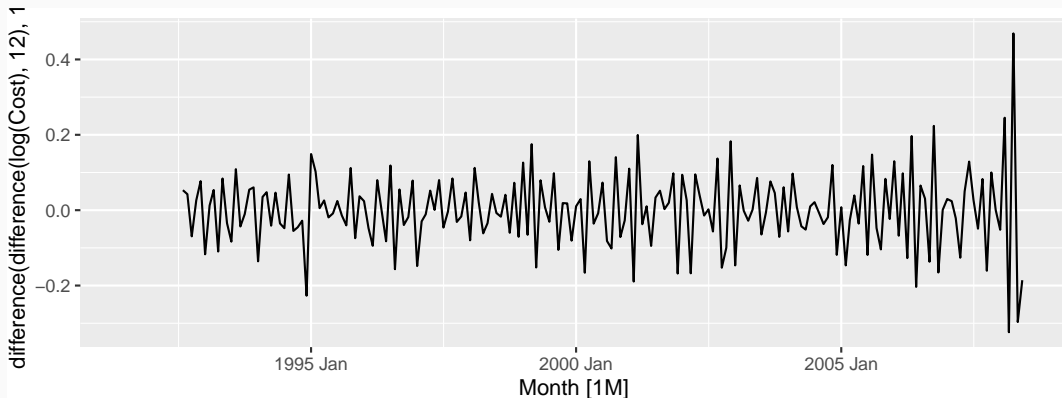
Corticosteroid drug sales

```
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 makes no difference which is done first—the result will be the same.
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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;
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But taking lag 3 differences for yearly data, for example, results in a model which cannot be sensibly interpreted.