

# Operations & Business Process Management

Prof. Apurva Jain  
MSIS 503

1. Identify Flow
2. Automate Workflow
  - 2.1 Characteristics for automation
  - 2.2 Value and Waste
  - 2.3 RPA

## Session 3

3. Forecast Demand
  - 3.1 Time Series

3.2 Trend and Seasonality

3.3 Forecasting Software

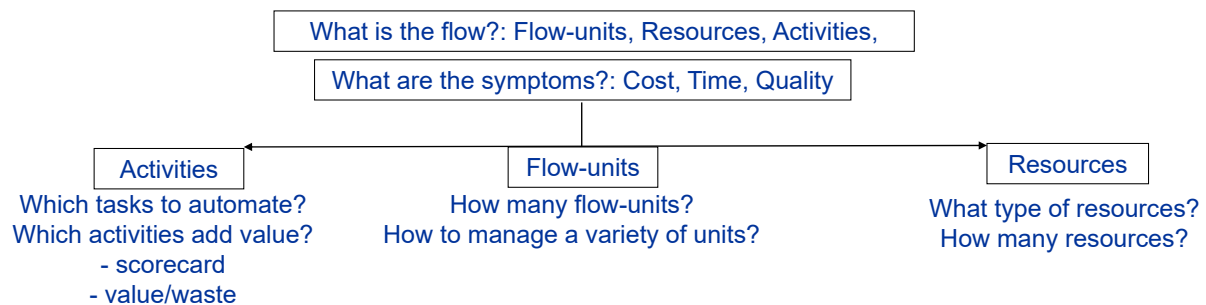
## Next

Quiz 1 is due

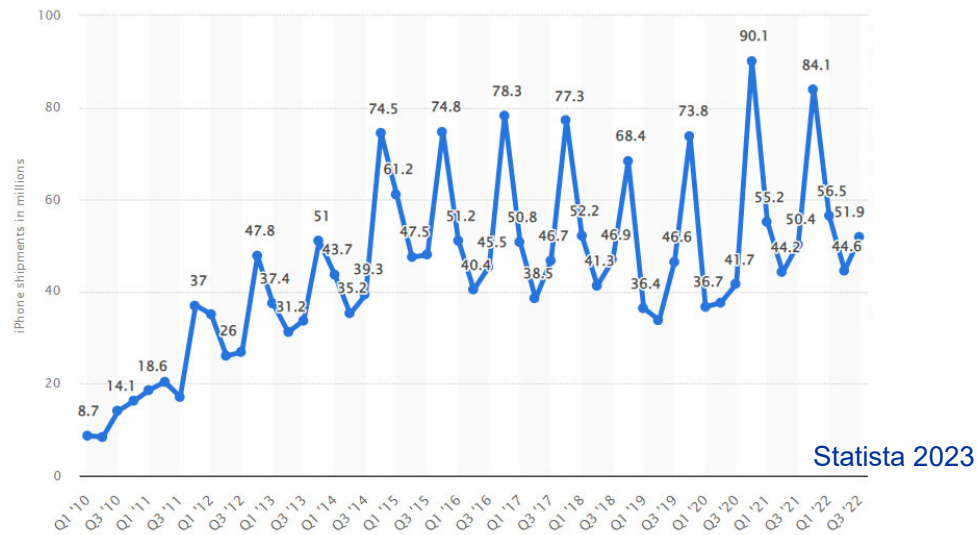
4. Balance Capacity

..

## Where are we...(flow of the class)



## How do we estimate future demand?: Forecasting

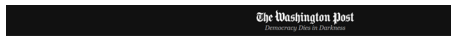


What is your best guess for Q4'22?

## How did you make your estimate?

Use Time-series method to project the historical pattern. Then use Causal methods to adjust the time-series forecast for the outside factors. Finally, use Judgment methods to incorporate shocks.

## How did the pandemic influence Apple supply chain?



TECHNOLOGY

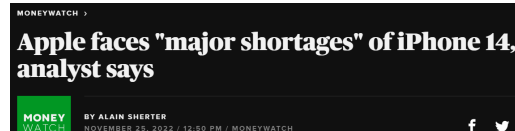
### Apple's iPhone sales fell as the coronavirus struck

Apple is a bellwether for consumer spending, and it's extremely dependent on Chinese manufacturing

<https://www.theguardian.com> › technology › apr › appl...

#### Apple sales rise to \$90bn amid Covid buying surge

Apr 28, 2021 — Its sales in China doubled year-on-year. Mac computer sales were a third higher than predicted and iPhone sales came in **around \$48bn** – roughly ...



MONEYWATCH

### Apple faces "major shortages" of iPhone 14, analyst says

MONEY  
WATCH

BY ALAIN SHERTER

NOVEMBER 25, 2022 / 12:55 PM / MONEYWATCH



### Apple faces up to \$8 billion revenue hit due to Covid-19 lockdowns in China

As Shanghai entered the second month of lockdown and more cities in China face pandemic restrictions, demand for Apple products in the country might slow further, reports Nikkei Asia

Topics

China | Apple | Lockdown

IANIS | San Francisco

Last Updated at April 30, 2022 14:08 IST

## Reporting from Q4 '22

CNBC.com

.. Apple's iPhone business ..came up short versus analyst expectations. Apple's September quarter had 8 days of iPhone 14 sales, and analysts are closely looking for details about if Apple customers are trading up for more expensive models or if the new devices are poised to sustain higher sales through Apple's fiscal 2023.

Cook indicated... that the company's high-end phones, the iPhone 14 Pro, were supply constrained.

applemagazine.com

The reason for the decreased shipping totals was not demand but rather production problems in China, caused by the COVID-19 breakout at the Zhengzhou factory that produces the vast majority of the Pro series volumes.

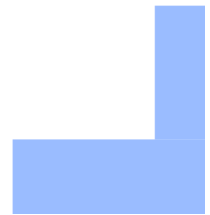
Counterpoint Research's Jeff Fieldhack said about Apple's performance: its share of iPhone shipments could have been even higher if not for the production issues at the Zhengzhou factory. As a result, some Pro series volumes were pushed to January."

Global shipments of smartphones decreased by 18% year over year in the fourth quarter of 2022 to reach 304 million units, which was the lowest number for a holiday quarter since 2013. Shipments fell to 1.2 billion units for the entire year, which was also the lowest level since 2013.

# Forecasting Methods:

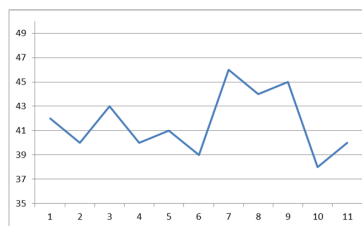
## Three methods for three contexts

1. Historical sales data is available, and the forecast is made by considering its pattern over time: Time Series Methods.
2. Historical sales data is available, and forecast is made by considering its relationship with set of outside variables : Causal Methods.
3. Historical sales data is not available, and forecast is made by surveying opinions: Qualitative or Judgment Methods.



## Time Series: A Simple Demand Model

Sales	
Period	Data
1	42
2	40
3	43
4	40
5	41
6	39
7	46
8	44
9	45
10	38
11	40



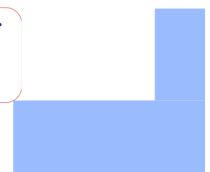
Let us assume a demand model:  
 $\text{Demand} = \text{Level} + \text{Random}$   
 "Level" is an unknown value.  
 We need a forecasting method to estimate a value for "Level" and then use this estimate to make a forecast.

Naïve method estimates "Level" as equal to the latest period's actual observed sales. For example: At the end of period 6, the Naïve forecast for period 7 is 39.

Can we do better?



Uh, give me a minute....  
 We sold 40 wheels last week.... Now, next week we should sell....



## Moving Average Method

Demand Model:  
Demand = Level + Random

<u>Period</u>	<u>Demand</u>	
1	42	3-period moving average
2	40	forecast for period 6, made
3	43	at the end of period 5
4	40	$= (43 + 40 + 41) / 3 = 41.33$
5	41	$= 41$

## Moving Average Method

Demand Model:  
Demand = Level + Random

<u>Period</u>	<u>Demand</u>	
1	42	If actual sales in period 6 = 39
2	40	3-period moving average
3	43	forecast for period 7, made
4	40	at the end of period 6
5	41	=
6	39	

## Moving Average Method

Demand Model:  
Demand = Level + Random

<u>Period</u>	<u>Demand</u>	
1	42	If actual sales in period 6 = 39
2	40	3-period moving average
3	43	forecast for period 7, made
4	40	at the end of period 6
5	41	= $(40 + 41 + 39) / 3 = 40$
6	39	



## Simple Exponential Smoothing Method

Demand Model:  
Demand = Level + Random

Period:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Actual:	$D_1$	$D_2$	$D_3$	$D_4$	$D_5$	$D_6$	$D_7$
Forecast:	$F_{0+1}$	$F_{1+1}$	$F_{2+1}$	$F_{3+1}$	$F_{4+1}$	$F_{5+1}$	$F_{6+1}$

$\downarrow$   
 $\begin{matrix} \text{*(1-}\alpha\text{)} \\ + \\ \text{*}\alpha \end{matrix}$   
 $\rightarrow$

### Exponential Smoothing with smoothing parameter $\alpha$ :

Estimate of Level for next period, "new level" =

$\alpha$  \* actual for this period +

$(1 - \alpha)$  \* estimate of level for this period "old level"

Where  $0 < \alpha < 1$

Because Demand Model is Demand = Level + Random,  
The forecast is simply equal to the estimate of "Level."



# Simple Exponential Smoothing Method

Demand in next period =  
Estimate of level at the end of this period + Error

Exponential Smoothing Updating parameters:  $\alpha$  (between 0 and 1)

New estimate of Level at the end of this period =  
 $\alpha^*$  (actual demand observation in this period)  
 $+ (1 - \alpha)$  (forecast for this period made in the previous period)  
 = Estimate of level at the end of the previous period  
 $+ \alpha^*$  (actual demand – forecast in this period)  
 = Estimate of level at the end of the previous period  
 $+ \alpha^*$  (error in this period)

This is so because forecast for this period made in the previous period =  
Estimate of level at the end of the previous period

Use training data to search for  $\alpha$  that minimize error measures like MAD or MSE.

# Exponential Smoothing Method

Exponential Smoothing forecast using parameter  $\alpha$  (alpha;  $0 < \alpha < 1$ )  
 $= \alpha * \text{actual observed data} + (1 - \alpha) * \text{forecast}$

<u>Period</u>	<u>Demand</u>	Suppose an “initial” forecast for period 5 was given as 40.
1	42	Actual observed data in
2	40	period 5 is 41. Exponential
3	43	smoothing forecast with
4	40	parameter $\alpha=0.2$ for period 6,
5	41	made at the end of period 5
		$= 0.2*41 + (1-0.2)*40$
		$= 40.2 = 40$

## Exponential Smoothing Method

Exponential Smoothing forecast using parameter  $\alpha$  (alpha;  $0 < \alpha < 1$ )  
 $= \alpha * \text{actual observed data} + (1 - \alpha) * \text{forecast}$

<u>Period</u>	<u>Demand</u>	From previous slide, forecast for period 6 =40. Actual observed data in period 6 is 39. Exponential smoothing forecast with parameter $\alpha=0.2$ for period 7, made at the end of period 6
1	42	
2	40	
3	43	
4	40	
5	41	=
6	39	

## Exponential Smoothing Method

Exponential Smoothing forecast using parameter  $\alpha$  (alpha;  $0 < \alpha < 1$ )  
 $= \alpha * \text{actual observed data} + (1 - \alpha) * \text{forecast}$

<u>Period</u>	<u>Demand</u>	From previous slide, forecast for period 6 =40. Actual observed data in period 6 is 39. Exponential smoothing forecast with parameter $\alpha=0.2$ for period 7, made at the end of period 6
1	42	
2	40	
3	43	
4	40	
5	41	$= 0.2*39 + (1-0.2)*40$
6	39	$= 39.8 = 40$



## Moving Average & Exponential Smoothing

Period	Data
1	42
2	40
3	43
4	40
5	41
6	39
7	46
8	44
9	45
10	38
11	40

Demand Model: Level + random

We recognize the existence of random component but focus only on estimating the systematic (that is, non-random) component.

4-period moving average forecast MA(4) for period 11, made at the end of period 10=

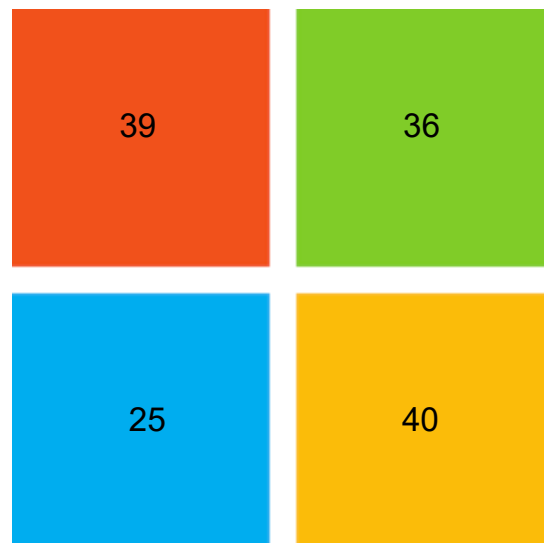
4-period moving average forecast MA(4) for period 12, made at the end of period 11=

Given that forecast for period 11 was 35, what is the exponential smoothing forecast with  $\alpha=0.2$ , ES(0.2) for period 12, made at the end of period 11=

What is ES(0.2) forecast for period 15, made at the End of period 11?



What is the ES(0.2) forecast for period 12 at the end of period 11?



## Moving Average & Exponential Smoothing

Period	Data
1	42
2	40
3	43
4	40
5	41
6	39
7	46
8	44
9	45
10	38
11	40

Demand Model: Level + random

We recognize the existence of random component but focus only on estimating the systematic (that is, non-random) component.

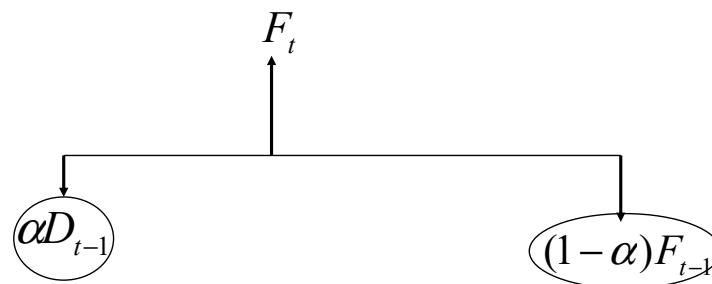
4-period moving average forecast MA(4) for period 11, made at the end of period 10=  
 $(46+44+45+38)/4 = 43.25 = 43$

4-period moving average forecast MA(4) for period 12, made at the end of period 11=  
 $(44+45+38+40)/4 = 41.75 = 42$

Given that forecast for period 11 was 35, what is the exponential smoothing forecast with  $\alpha=0.2$ , ES(0.2) for period 12, made at the end of period 11=  
 $=0.2*40 + (1-0.2)*35 = 36$

## Exponential Smoothing Parameter $\alpha$

*Idea*--The most recent observations might have the highest predictive value along with the most recent forecast. Let us balance them:



**Exponential Smoothing with smoothing parameter  $\alpha$ :**

Forecast for next period =

$\alpha$  \* actual for this period +  $(1 - \alpha)$  \* forecast for this period

$0 < \alpha < 1$

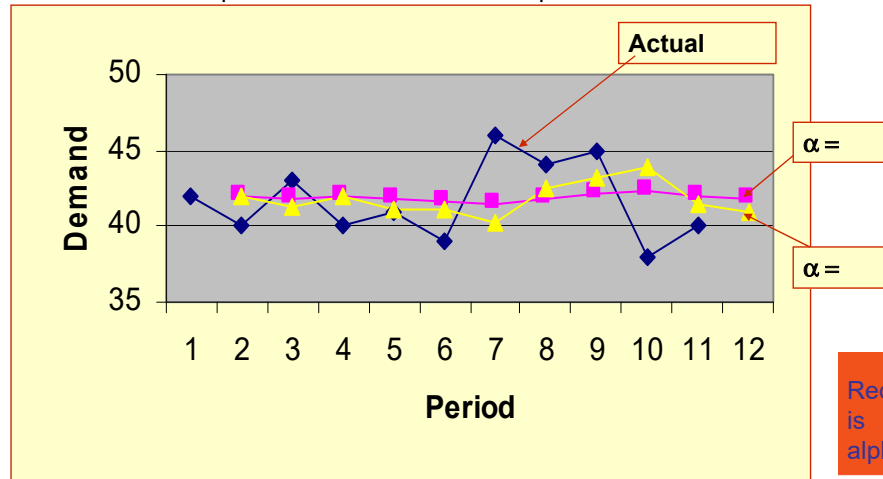
The role of smoothing parameter alpha is to determine the balance:

Weight on new data: alpha

Weight on forecast (based on previous data):  $(1-\alpha)$

# Exponential Smoothing Parameter $\alpha$

Which line is  $\alpha=0.1$ ? The other one is  $\alpha=0.4$

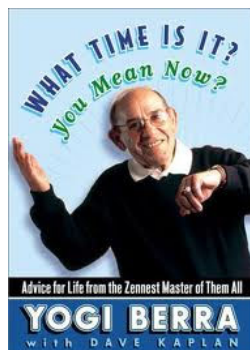


Red line  
is  
 $\alpha=0.1$

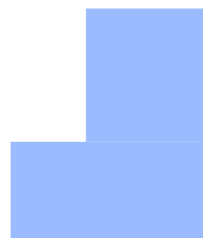


Yellow line  
is  
 $\alpha=0.4$

Any Questions / Comments / Sharing-of-Examples?



It's tough to make predictions, especially about the future. : Yogi Berra



# Measuring Forecast Performance

Calculation of Error:

- Error  $E_t$  or deviation = Forecast – Observed Value
- Absolute Error =  $E_t$  = without the +/- sign
- MAD = Mean Absolute Deviation
- MSE = Mean Squared Error
- MAPE = Mean Absolute Percentage Error

Smaller              MAD  
                         MSE              Better Forecasting method  
                         MAPE

We seek forecasting method parameters (such as Alpha) that minimize error performance (such as MAD).

Error ranges are also used to develop estimates of the Random term in the demand model (such as standard deviation).

## Dynamic Update & Forecast Errors

Most widely used time-series forecasting method is based on Exponential Smoothing: Exponential Smoothing forecast using parameter  $\alpha$  (alpha;  $0 < \alpha < 1$ )  
 $= \alpha * \text{actual observed data} + (1 - \alpha) * \text{forecast}$

	Time	ES Forecast		Absolute
	Series	alpha=0.15	Error	Error
January	52	Initial forecast 55		
February	50			
March	57			
April	50			
May			Avg->	
				<b>MAD</b>

Evaluation of Forecasts:

- Error  $E_t$  or deviation = Forecast – Observed Value
- Absolute Error =  $E_t$  = without the +/- sign
- MAD = Mean Absolute Deviation (Average of the absolute error column)

# Dynamic Update & Forecast Errors

Most widely used time-series forecasting method is based on Exponential Smoothing: Exponential Smoothing forecast using parameter  $\alpha$  (alpha;  $0 < \alpha < 1$ )  
 $= \alpha * \text{actual observed data} + (1 - \alpha) * \text{forecast}$

	Time	ES Forecast	ES Forecast		Absolute
	Series	alpha=0.15	alpha=0.15	Error	Error
January	52	Initial forecast 55	55	3	3
February	50	$0.15 * 52 + (1 - 0.15) * 55 =$	55	5	5
March	57	$0.15 * 50 + (1 - 0.15) * 55 =$	54	-3	3
April	50	$0.15 * 57 + (1 - 0.15) * 54 =$	54	4	4
May		$0.15 * 50 + (1 - 0.15) * 54 =$	53	Avg->	<b>3.75</b>
					<b>MAD</b>

Evaluation of Forecasts:

- Error  $E_t$  or deviation = Forecast – Observed Value
- Absolute Error =  $E_t$  = without the +/- sign
- MAD = Mean Absolute Deviation (Average of absolute error column)

Continued: We can change the alpha value and see  
 How does it change error metrics like MAD and MSE

	Time	ES Forecast			Absolute
	Series	alpha=			Error
		0.45	Error		
January	52	55	3		3
February	50	54	4		4
March	57	52	-5		5
April	50	54	4		4
May		52	Avg->		<b>4</b>
					<b>MAD</b>

## Practice: Exponential Smoothing & Errors

Use  $\alpha=0.2$

Month	Demand	Forecast	Error	Absolute  Error	Error <sup>2</sup>
April	105	-			
May	100	105	105-100=5	5	5*5=25
June	80	$0.2*100+0.8*105=104$			
July	110				
August	115				
September	105				
October	110				
November	125				
December	120				

Average of the Absolute error column gives MAD.  
Average of the Error<sup>2</sup> column gives MSE.



## Practice: Exponential Smoothing & Errors

Use  $\alpha=0.2$

Month	Demand	Forecast	Error	Absolute  Error	Error <sup>2</sup>
April	105	-			
May	100	105	105-100=5	5	5*5=25
June	80	$0.2*100+0.8*105=104$	24	24	576
July	110	99	-11	11	121
August	115	101	-14	14	196
September	105	104	-1	1	1
October	110	104	-6	6	36
November	125	105	-20	20	400
December	120	109	-11	11	121

Average of the Absolute error column gives MAD =  $(5+...+11)/8 = 11.5$ .  
Average of the Error<sup>2</sup> column gives MSE =  $(25+...+121)/8=184.5$



## Practice: Should we use $\alpha=0.3$ ?

		Alpha=				
		0.3				
Month	Demand	Forecast	Error	Abs Error	Error^2	
April	105					
May	100	105	5	5	25	
June	80	104	24	24	576	
July	110	97	-13	13	169	
August	115	101	-14	14	196	
September	105	105	0	0	0	
October	110	105	-5	5	25	
November	125	107	-18	18	324	
December	120	112	-8	8	64	
			MAD->	10.875	172.375	<-MSE



## Operations & Business Process Management

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2. Automate Workflow
  - 2.1 Characteristics for automation
  - 2.2 Value and Waste
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### Session 3

3. Forecast Demand
  - 3.1 Time Series
    - Moving Avg. Exp. Smoothing
    - Errors: MAD, MSE
  - 3.2 Trend and Seasonality
  - 3.3 Forecasting Software

### Next

Quiz 1 is due

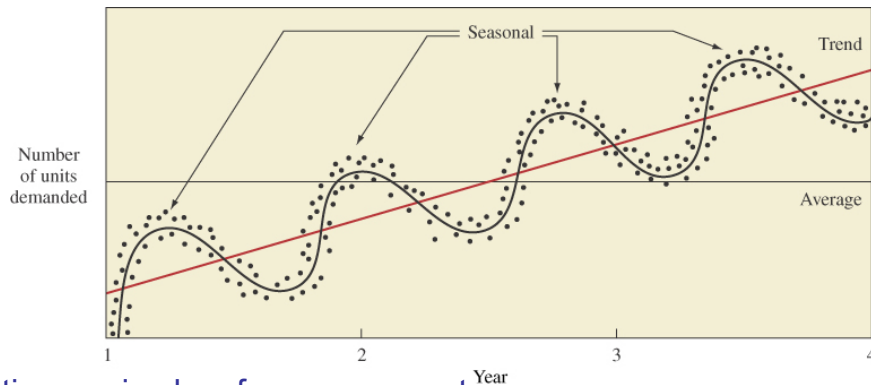
4. Balance Capacity

..



# Demand Model Components

31



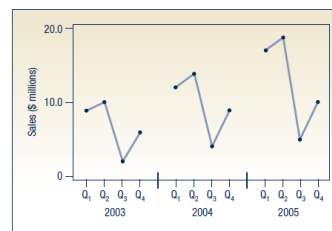
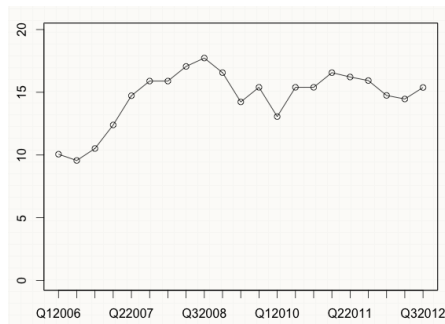
A time-series has four components:  
Level, Trend, Seasonality & Random.

A demand model defines various components of a time-series  
and proposes a way to put them together.



## Time Series Examples

32



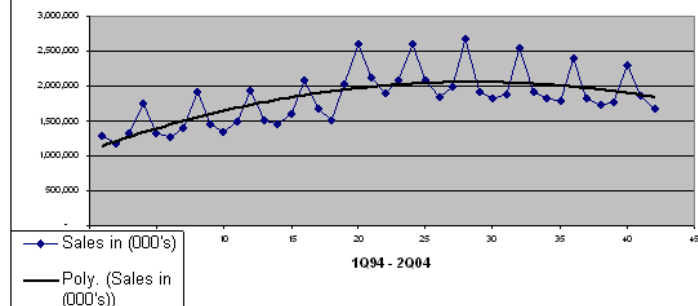
Sales of Baseball and Softball Equipment, Hercher Sporting Goods, 2003-2005 by Quarter

Dillard's Sales in ('000's)

$$y = -1200.4x^2 + 68484x + 1E+06$$

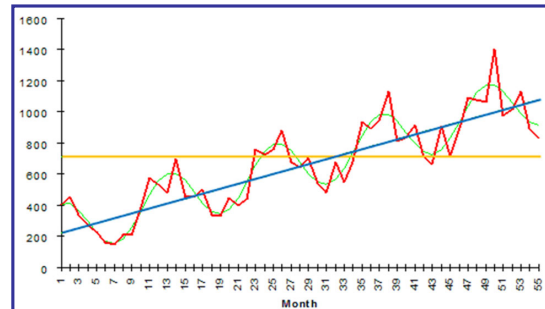
$$R^2 = 0.4725$$

Identify  
demand  
components





## Demand Model with Trend & Seasonality



Define components:

Level is height, Trend is step-size, Seasonal factors are multipliers

Demand model = (Level + look-ahead  $t$  \* Trend) \* Seasonal factor for the right season

Estimate component values:

*Initialize* values of Level, Trend, Seasonal Factors

With each new real data observation, *update* Level, Trend, Seasonal Factors,

Forecast:

At any point in time, use the latest Level, Trend, Seasonal Factors in the demand model

## ETS Models

### Triple Exponential Smoothing (Holt-Winters' seasonal Method)

Demand Model for  $t$  Periods Ahead=

$$\{(Level + t * Trend) * Seasonal Factor for t Period Ahead\} + Error$$

Exponential Smoothing Updating parameters:  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$  (all between 0 and 1)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{New estimate of Level} &= \alpha * (\text{New Observation} / \text{Corresponding Seasonal Factor}) \\ &+ (1 - \alpha) * (\text{Old Level} + \text{Old Trend}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{New estimate of Trend} = \beta * (\text{New Level} - \text{Old Level}) + (1 - \beta) * \text{Old Trend}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{New estimate of Seasonal Factor for the corresponding season} \\ &= \gamma * (\text{New Observation} / \text{New Level}) \\ &+ (1 - \gamma) * \text{Old Seasonal Factor for Corresponding Season} \end{aligned}$$

Use training data to search for  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$  that minimize error measures like MAD or MSE.

The model presented above is for the case of additive errors, additive trend, and multiplicative seasonality. Many other variations are possible. A good software system will automatically select the best variation.

# ARIMA Models

## SARIMAX (Seasonal Auto-Regressive Integrated Moving Average with eXternal variables)

Forecasting models hypothesize a relationship between predictor variables  $Y$  (future demand values) and explanatory variables like previous demand values, previous errors, and external variables. ARIMA models work with *differenced* versions of time series in order to achieve the stationarity required by the model. Parameter  $d$  captures the degree of differencing.

SARIMAX Model:

Predicted values of differenced  $Y = a$  constant

+ weighted sum of  $p$  latest values of differenced  $Y$

+ weighted sum of  $q$  latest values of errors

+ weighted sum of some values of differenced  $Y$  from the previous corresponding season

+ weighted sum of some values of errors from the previous corresponding season

+ weighted sum of some external variables.

These weights or coefficients can be estimated by using a Python package.

Different combinations of parameters  $p, d, q$  (additional parameters are used for seasonal models) lead to different models; a good software will recommend the best set of parameter values.

## Examples

### SARIMAX Result for Glossy stickers - US region

31<sub>6</sub>

Impact of discount on sales

SARIMAX Results

Dep. Variable:

Log\_Sold\_Units

No. Observations:

184

Model:

SARIMAX(0, 1, 1)x(1, 0, [], 52)

Log Likelihood

97.789

Date:

Sat, 18 May 2024

AIC

-187.578

Time:

23:33:16

BIC

-176.077

Sample:

0

HQIC

-182.905

- 184

Covariance Type:

opg

coef

std err

z

P>|z|

[0.025

0.975]

Discount

4.2120

0.504

8.352

0.000

3.224

5.200

ma.L1

-0.6061

0.082

-7.363

0.000

-0.767

-0.445

ar.S.L52

0.4415

0.050

8.917

0.000

0.344

0.539

sigma2

0.0131

0.001

9.150

0.000

0.010

0.016

Ljung-Box (L1) (Q):

0.25

Jarque-Bera (JB):

9.80

Prob(Q):

0.62

Prob(JB):

0.01

Heteroskedasticity (H):

0.76

Skew:

-0.49

Prob(H) (two-sided):

0.38

Kurtosis:

3.91

Low AIC value

Impact of  
discount  
on sales

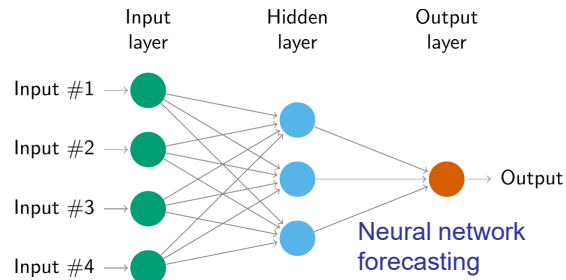
Low AIC value



# Machine Learning Models

Useful when

- Errors are correlated
- Multiple seasonal cycles are present
- Very large amount of data
- Unclear which external variables are important
- Relationships are non-linear



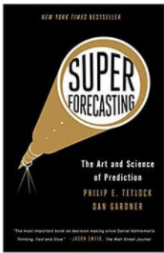
Examples of factors that are hard to estimate.  
Can machine learning help?



Lingerie



# Can we rely on experts' Judgment?



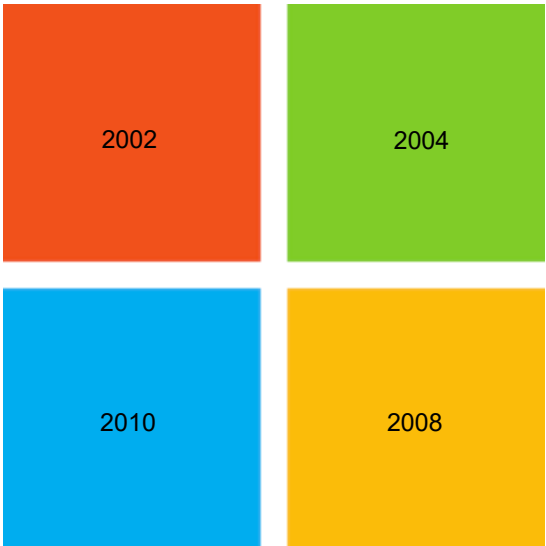
## Who are the Superforecasters?

Good Judgment's global network of Superforecasters has its roots in research funded by the US intelligence community. Reports that Superforecasters were 30% more accurate than intelligence analysts with access to classified information rocked the conventional wisdom.

<https://goodjudgment.com/>

## Vote

Speaking of forecasting, When did Bill Gates make this prediction: "Two years from now, the problem of SPAM will be solved." ?



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  - 2.1 Characteristics for automation
  - 2.2 Value and Waste
  - 2.3 RPA

## Session 3

3. Forecast Demand
  - 3.1 Time Series
    - Moving Avg. Exp. Smoothing
    - Errors: MAD, MSE
  - 3.2 Trend and Seasonality
    - Demand model
    - Triple ES, Advanced methods
  - 3.3 Forecasting Software

## Next

Quiz 1 is due

4. Balance Capacity

..

September 30, 2022 in [Forecasting Software Survey](#)

## Survey: Forecasting Software Trends in a Challenging World

By Oliver Schaer, Ivan Svetunkov, Alisa Yusupova, Robert Fildes

- Practice-driven Trends
- Algorithm-driven Trends
- Process-driven Trends
- IT-driven Trends

<https://www.informs.org/ORMS-Today/OR-MS-Today-Software-Surveys/Forecasting-Software-Survey>

Alpine  
Demand  
Planning  
Solution

Analytica

Autobox

Complete  
Advanced Time-  
Series

Enterprise  
Dynamics

ERS - Enterprise  
Resource  
Simulator

EViews

FC365  
Pharmaceutical  
Forecasting  
Platform

Forecast Pro

gretl

iData

Intuendi  
Demand  
Planning

iqast desktop &  
iqast server &  
iqast control  
tower

Netstock IBP

Prophecy

Quantics  
Forecast

RATS

RoadMap GPS

SAS Forecast  
Server

SAS Visual  
Forecasting

SigmaXL

Stella

Tangent  
Information  
Modeller

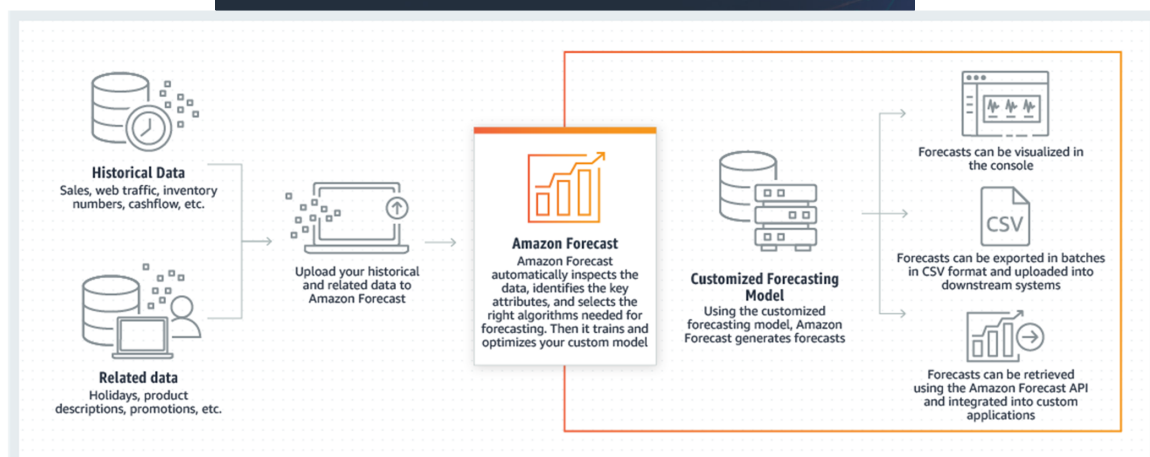
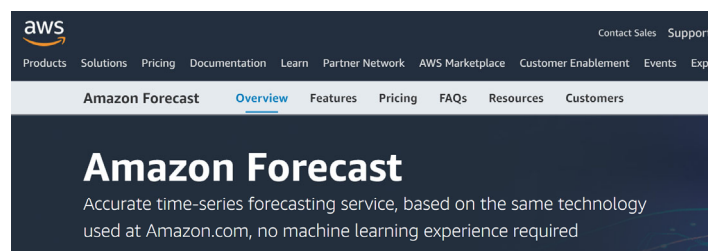
The Finished  
Goods Series  
(FGS)

# Market Guide for Retail Forecasting, Allocation and Replenishment Solutions

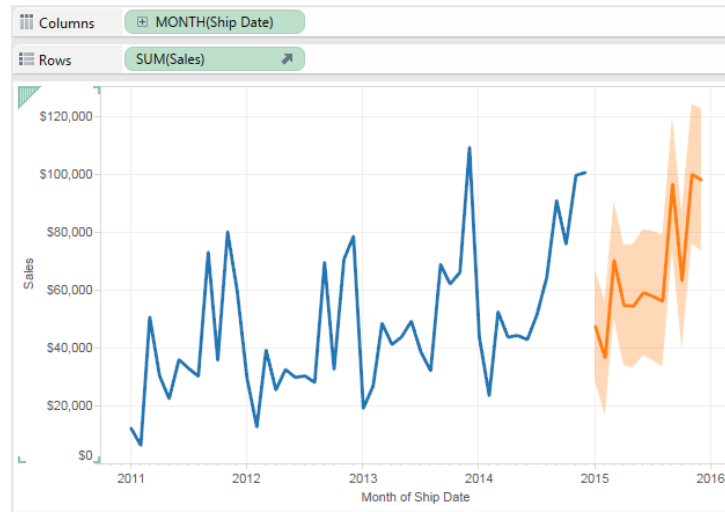
24 April 2024 - ID G00777432 - 19 min read

By Caleb Thomson, Gerhard Grimm, and 1 more

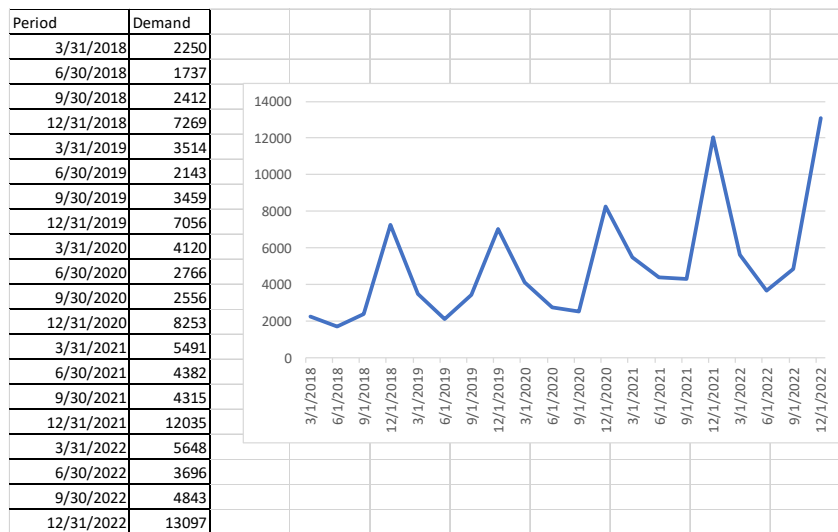
## Forecasting, Allocation and Replenishment Application Model



## Forecasting



## Data



## Implementation: Forecasting Plan

1. Specify the time-series data to gather: time-period and item unit. Plan how to deal with outliers, missing data and any other data-cleaning issues.
2. Specify the time-series method to be used and if any software is needed. How will we search for parameters? What error measure is appropriate? Estimation of variability.
3. Make a list of outside-the-time-series factors that can have an influence on forecast. Gather data to quantify these factors. Use regression or judgment to estimate adjustments to the time-series forecast.
4. Run it through the organizational forecasting process. Gather judgment forecasts from other departments like sales. Should other internal/external opinions be collected? Develop a process to combine these forecasts and track errors.

## Combining the Methods

Start with time series methods:

Extrapolate the pattern to make a forecast

Brainstorm any outside-the-data influences:

Adjust the forecast to account for other factors

Run it through the organizational forecasting process:

gut-check based on internal/external opinions





## Implementation Issues & Examples:

What should be the period-length?

What should be the unit of forecasting?



How far in future should we forecast?

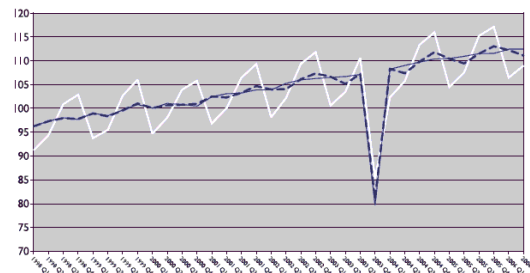


## Implementation Issues & Examples:

What does the time-series actually represent?



Clean-up the data.



## Improvement Ideas

- Make sure that a data-driven forecast is part of a regular planning process
- Focus on a few items, aggregate time-series data across items and time
- Use simple software first; complex algorithms are not necessarily better
- Adjust for prices and any other known external factors like demographic or competitive changes
- Automate the forecasting system
- Track and report Errors regularly to improve forecasting methods
- Combine with other forecasts (sales, product group); gain consensus
- Once the above is done, explore more sophisticated methods for items that have large errors

## Key points and takeaways

- Time-series forecasting is the most common and useful method in many contexts.
- Moving Average and Exponential Smoothing formulas and calculations. Dynamic forecasting using Exponential Smoothing.
- Error computations: MAD and MSE
- Triple ES method uses parameters to learn from history to estimate level, trend, and seasonal factors.
- Easily available software tools like Tableau allow for easy implementation of forecasting methods.

# Operations & Business Process Management

Prof. Apurva Jain  
MSIS 503

Forecasting is a universal problem. In most cases, projecting historical patterns is a great and easy way to start.

Tracking errors closely shows us how to improve the demand forecasting model.

1. Identify Flow
2. Automate Workflow
  - 2.1 Characteristics for automation
  - 2.2 Value and Waste
  - 2.3 RPA
- Session 3**
3. Forecast Demand
  - 3.1 Time Series
    - Moving Avg. Exp. Smoothing
    - Errors: MAD, MSE
  - 3.2 Trend and Seasonality
    - Demand model
    - Triple ES, Advanced methods
  - 3.3 Forecasting Software
    - Tableau
    - Implementation examples

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..

## A Moment of Reflection

For most business demand forecasting applications, we can take the approach suggested here: start with time-series, adjust for outside-the-data causes, use judgment.

But there are many business and non-business applications where we may need to go beyond the above approach:

A completely new product

Length of govt. shutdown

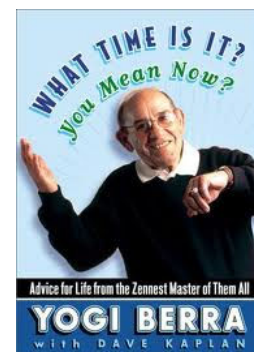
Very long-term forecasts (797?)

Traffic in Seattle squeeze

Big projects completion dates (Big Bertha)

Brexit? Climate change?

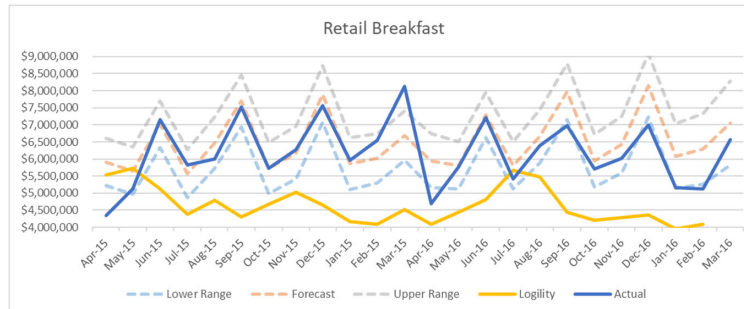
Please share ideas about how we may make these forecasts or share a problem that you find interesting.



It's tough to make predictions, especially about the future. : Yogi Berra

## Examples from recent projects

Control Forecast – Fiscal Year 20xx-yy



**FOSTER**  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS  
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

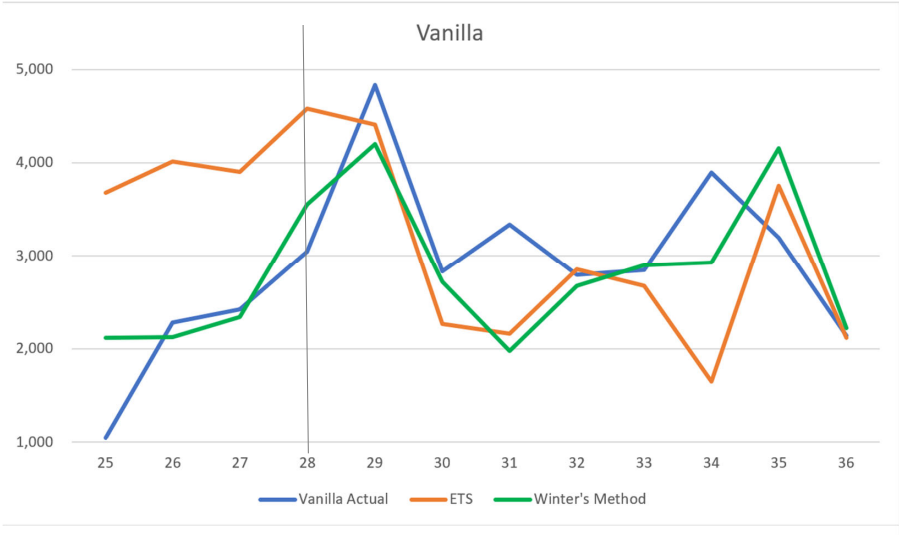
Examples

## Actual vs Estimated: Forecast Analysis

DTG-Actual vs Estimate Total Unit Sales

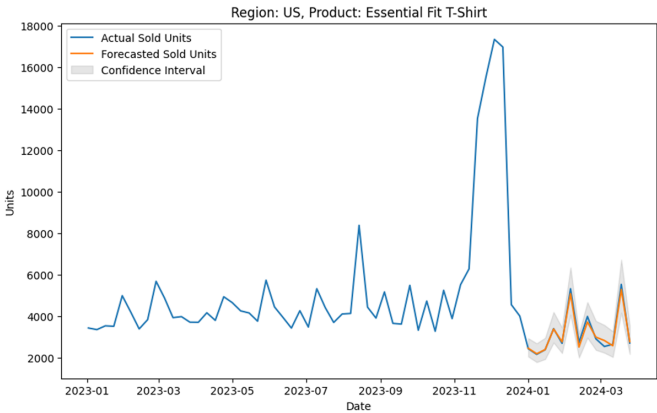


# Examples Statistical Model Comparisons



# Examples

## Example - Low Difference



Week	Actual	Forecast	Difference	% of Diff
2024-01-01	2438	2460.91	22.91	0.94%
2024-01-08	2167	2196.10	29.10	1.34%
2024-01-15	2391	2395.22	4.22	0.18%
2024-01-22	3405	3388.13	16.86	0.50%
2024-01-29	2698	2771.92	73.92	2.74%
2024-02-05	5329	5091.13	237.86	4.46%
2024-02-12	2739	2517.31	221.68	8.09%
2024-02-19	3994	3726.85	267.14	6.69%
2024-02-26	2913	2997.20	84.20	2.89%
2024-03-04	2546	2833.55	287.55	11.29%
2024-03-11	2651	2582.31	68.68	2.59%
2024-03-18	5539	5293.67	245.32	4.43%
2024-03-25	2714	2779.85	65.85	2.43%
Mean absolute percentage error (MAPE)				3.74%