

BSTS Part 2 Script

Slide 1

Welcome traveler! I hope you are ready to embark on the second stage of your adventure. Be warned! these next two stages will be the most arduous part of your journey. But, they are vital if you seek to know the secrets of BSTS.

Before we begin to unravel the mysteries of *Bayesian* Structural Time Series, we must first understand Structural Time Series (-> Slide 2).

Slide 2

On this stage of the adventure, we will discuss Structural Time Series models. We do not enter the Bayesian context yet. Here, we consider structural models from the classical, or frequentist, perspective. Why you ask? Because Structural Time Series Models are the foundation upon which Bayesian Structural Time Series is built (as you hopefully guessed from the titles). In this video we will discuss several Structural Time Series models including:

(->) the Local Level Model (->) the Local Linear Trend Model (->) models with seasonality. And (->) models with regression components

We will start with the simplest model, then build upon this until we work our way up to the general form of a Structural Time Series model.

(-> Slide 3)

You may have also heard the term *state space model*. This is just another name for structural models that is a consequence of its roots in engineering.

(->) In structural time series modeling, we consider our data to come from some unobserved process called the *state space*.

(->) The data we observe is generated by this state space, but with added noise.

(->) We attempt to model the unobserved state space instead of directly modeling the data.

The simplest of these models is called the *local level model* (-> Slide 4)

Slide 4

Here, we use y_t to denote the data

(->) and μ_t to denote the unobserved state. The model looks like this

(->) μ_t is the level of the series at time t . One way to think of this is in comparison to linear regression: μ_t is sort of like the intercept in linear regression, but where it varies through time.

At any given time point, the level μ is the same as the previous time, plus a noise term, ξ_t . What we actually observe is y_t , which is the level at time t plus some more noise.

The parameters in this model are the variances of the error terms: σ_ϵ^2 and σ_ξ^2 . Given an initial value for μ_t , say μ_0 , the values of μ_t and y_t depend on the variances of the error terms.

A time series following this model might look something like this (-> Slide 5)

Slide 5

The local level model is the simplest structural time series model. As we will see shortly, more complex models are basically just extensions of the local level model. Because of this, it's important to make sure you understand the local level model before moving on to more complicated models.

The simplest way to extend the local level model is to include a trend component along with the level component. This is called the local linear trend model (-> Slide 6)

Slide 6

Here, we consider y_t and μ_t to be the same as in the local level model.

(->) We add an additional term, ν_t , that acts like a slope term. The model looks like this

(->) Note here that μ depends on the previous value of the slope, along with the previous value of μ . And, since we have an additional state component, ν_t , we have an additional noise term ζ_t . Again, the parameters here are the variances of the three error terms. The local linear trend model might look something like this (-> Slide 7)

Slide 7

The next thing we might want to add is a seasonal component (-> Slide 9)

Slide 8

Here, we consider μ_t to be the local linear trend model we just discussed.

(->) τ_t is the seasonal component

(->) We model τ_t using dummy variables for each season. The model looks like this

(->) Since we consider μ_t to be a local linear trend model, there are actually 4 parameters here. One for the measurement noise, that goes with y_t , one for the level, one for the trend, and one for the seasonal component τ_t . If we consider μ_t to be the local level model, then we would have just three parameters because there would be no trend term. Basically, we have a noise term and corresponding variance for each of our state components. This model might look something like this (-> Slide 10)

Slide 10

This is the sea surface temperature around Gibraltar; we will see this data again in our implementation videos using R.

We might also want to include a regression component in our model (-> Slide 11)

Slide 11

We consider μ_t to be a local linear trend as before.

(->) and τ_t is our seasonal component.

(->) The regression component is $\beta_t^T x_t$. The model looks like this

(->) We write in this way for simplicity. Since μ_t is a linear trend model, there are 2 more equations associated with it, that we saw earlier. Likewise for τ_t . If we wrote out all the equations though, it would look a bit daunting. Just remember that there is not just one equation associated with this model.

Note that we have allowed for β to vary in time. This is not necessary because we could consider β fixed and add it to the equation for y_t . If we do this, then the regression part is not part of the state component, as we have it written in this particular model.

So far we have discussed several structural time series models. Hopefully by now you have an idea of what they are and how we can use them to capture a variety of situations. Before we move on to the Bayesian aspects of structural time series though, we would like to present the general form of a structural time series model (-> Slide 12)

Slide 12

Generally, a structural time series has two equations. They are called the *observation equation*, (->) and the *transition equation*. In the local level model, these would be the equations for y_t and μ_t respectively.

Here, (->) y_t is the data, just like the previous models. But now we use (->) α_t to denote the state variable.

α_t can include a level, trend, seasonal, or regression component. We can include or exclude these components as we see fit. For example, if we want a local level model, then α_t is the same as what we called μ_t in the local level model equations. The general form of a state space model looks like this (->)

This might look a bit more complex than some of the previous models, but writing the model like this, with matrices, saves us from writing an equation for the level, *and* the trend, *and* the seasonal component, *and* any other components, which could be a lot of equations depending on how complex the model is.

Just like in the previous models, the parameters here are H_t and Q_t , which are the variances of the error terms ε_t and η_t

Now that we have a handle on structural time series models, we are ready to see how the Bayesian framework can be incorporated.

You may be weary from this part of the journey, but fret naught! There is only one more formidable stage before you enter the last part of your adventure and learn to harness the power of Bayesian structural time series for your future endeavors.