Introduction to change point detection

Computer lab worksheet

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Instructions

- Answers are available to you at: if you feel you're spending too much time on any
 questions particularly Question 1, you can copy-paste the code to move onto questions
 2 4.
- Bonus questions: Q 1(e) is a bonus, as is Question 5. Feel free to skip these if you want.
- For any functions you're not sure how to use, use ?function_name in R to get help (or ask me!).
- In the time we have, I don't expect you to finish all questions. If you can, try to finish at least Q2.

Question 1: Creating a test statistic to estimate change points

- (a) Without using pre-existing change point detection libraries, write a function to calculate either:
 - the CUSUM statistic vector $\{T_{0,k,n}\}_{k=1}^{n-1}$ for a change point in the mean,
 - the MOSUM statistic vector $\{T_G(k)\}_{k=G}^{n-G}$ for a change point in the mean, for a given bandwidth G.

```
CUSUM.calc <- function(x){

n <- length(x)
I.plus <- I.minus <- I.prod <- rep(0, n - 1)
I.plus[1] <- sqrt(1 - 1/n) * x[1]
I.minus[1] <- 1/sqrt(n^2 - n) * sum(x[2:n])</pre>
```

```
for (k in 1:(n - 2)) {
    factor <- sqrt((n - k - 1) * k/(k + 1)/(n - k))
    I.plus[k + 1] <- I.plus[k] * factor + x[k + 1] * sqrt(1/(k + 1) - 1/n)
    I.minus[k + 1] <- I.minus[k]/factor - x[k + 1]/sqrt(n^2/(k + 1) - n)
}
x.CUSUM <- I.plus - I.minus
return(abs(x.CUSUM))
}</pre>
```

```
MOSUM.calc <- function(x, G){
    n <- length(x)

sums <- rep(NA, n)
    currentSum <- sum(x[1:G])

sums[1] <- currentSum
for (k in 2:(n-G)) {
    currentSum <- currentSum + x[k + G - 1]
    currentSum <- currentSum - x[k - 1]
    sums[k] <- currentSum
}

x.MOSUM <- c(rep(NA, G - 1), sums[(G + 1):n] - sums[1:(n - G)], NA)/sqrt(2*G)
return(abs(x.MOSUM))
}</pre>
```

(b) To set a threshold for declaring changes, we need to know the noise level σ . In reality, this is unknown; how could we estimate it?

Hint: the sample standard deviation would be positively biased by the change points. Medians are more robust than means: how can we transform the data to remove most of the effect of the change points, before using a median-like analogue of the standard deviation? If in doubt, Google is your friend.

Solution: We want a robust estimator of σ that is unaffected by change points. One option is using the median absolute deviation: the median of the absolute deviation from the median. To do this in the presence of change points, we can take the (scaled) first differences of change points, so that at a change point, the data looks like an outlier. Then, the MAD of this series gives a robust estimator.

This is one of many options. You could:

- use the standard deviation, but only using a small portion of data at the beginning.
- use other robust methods such as influence functions.
- use local estimators (see the mosum R package) like $\hat{\sigma}^2(k) = (\hat{\sigma}^2_{(k-G+1):(k)} + \hat{\sigma}^2_{(k+1):(k+G)})/2$, where $\hat{\sigma}^2_{s:e}$ denotes the sample variance calculated on the data from start s to end e.
- (c) Implement your chosen method of estimating σ , and add the functionality to your CUSUM or MOSUM function from part (a) so that the test statistic calculation is scaled by your estimate $\hat{\sigma}$.

```
sigma.est <- function(x){
    x.diff <- diff(x)/sqrt(2) #scaled so that var(x) = var(transformed x)
    sigma.hat <- mad(x.diff)
    return(sigma.hat)
}
#answer for the MOSUM method:

MOSUM.calc2 <- function(x, G){
    x.MOSUM <- MOSUM.calc(x, G)
    sigma.hat <- sigma.est(x)
    return(x.MOSUM/sigma.hat)
}

CUSUM.calc2 <- function(x){
    x.CUSUM <- CUSUM.calc(x)
    sigma.hat <- sigma.est(x)
    return(x.CUSUM/sigma.hat)
}</pre>
```

(d) What is the computational complexity of the code you wrote in part (a)? How fast could it be?

Solution: By using sequential updates, both methods can be computed on O(n) computational compelxity.

(e) (Bonus) For simultaneous estimation of multiple change points with the MOSUM approach, we can calculate all $\hat{\theta}$ that satisfy:

$$T_G(\hat{\theta}) > D \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\theta} = \mathrm{argmax}_{k: \, |k - \hat{\theta}| \leq \eta G} T_G(k).$$

for some window fraction $\eta \in (0,1)$ and a threshold D. That is, $\hat{\theta}$ is declared a change point if it is a local maximiser of $T_G(k)$ over a sufficiently large interval of radius ηG , at which the threshold D is exceeded.

Extend the MOSUM function to return as output the change point estimators satisfying this criterion.

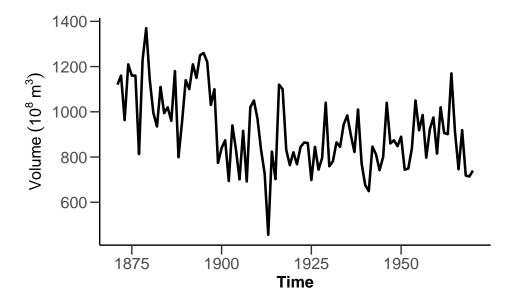
```
MOSUM.calc3 <- function(x, G, eta, D){
  x.MOSUM <- MOSUM.calc2(x, G)
  n <- length(x)</pre>
  cpt.ests <- numeric(0)</pre>
  window_length <- floor(eta*G)</pre>
  exceedings <- (x.MOSUM > D)
  \label{eq:localMaxima} $$ \  \  (c((diff.default(x.MOSUM) < 0), NA) & c(NA, diff.default(x.MOSUM) > 0))$
  candidates <- which(exceedings & localMaxima)</pre>
  for (j in seq len(length(candidates))){
    k_star <- candidates[j]</pre>
    m_star <- x.MOSUM[k_star]</pre>
    left_thresh <- max(G, k_star - window_length)</pre>
    right_thresh <- min(n-G, k_star + window_length)
    largest <- TRUE
    for (l in left_thresh:right_thresh) {
      if (x.MOSUM[1] > m_star) {
         largest <- FALSE</pre>
         break
```

```
}
}
if (largest) {
   cpt.ests <- c(cpt.ests, k_star)
}

return(cpt.ests)
}</pre>
```

Question 2: Nile annual river flow

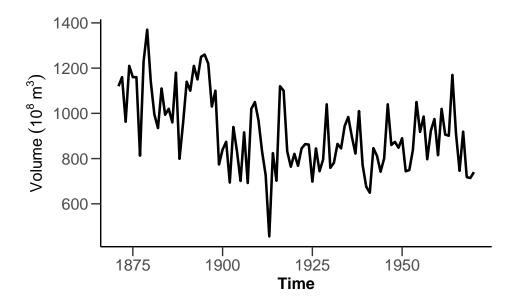
In this question you will use the code you've written so far to analyse data collected on the river Nile. Data in the file $nile_volume.txt$ records measurements of the annual volume (in units 10^8m^3) of discharge from the Nile River at Aswan for the years 1871 to 1970. The measurements are of meteorological importance as evidence of a possible abrupt change in the rainfall levels around the turn of the 20th century.



For whichever method (CUSUM or MOSUM) you did not code up in Q1, you can use toe code in the answers for this question.

(a) Load the data into R from the nile_volume.txt file, and plot it. By eye, where does it look like there could be a change in mean?

Solution:

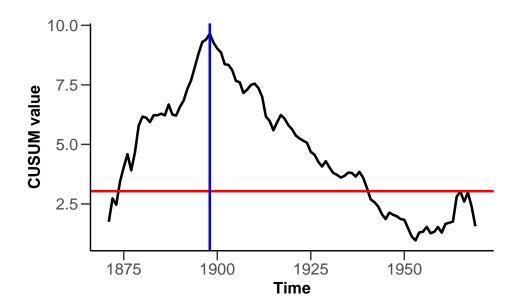


Around 1900 it looks like there could be a drop in the volume of river flow.

(b) Calculate the CUSUM statistic for the Nile volume data. Using the threshold $D = \sqrt{2\log(n)}$, perform a test to decide if there is a change point. If there is one, where is it?

```
nile.CUSUM <- CUSUM.calc2(nile.data$volume)
max(nile.CUSUM) > sqrt(2 * log(nrow(nile.data))) # check if above threshold
```

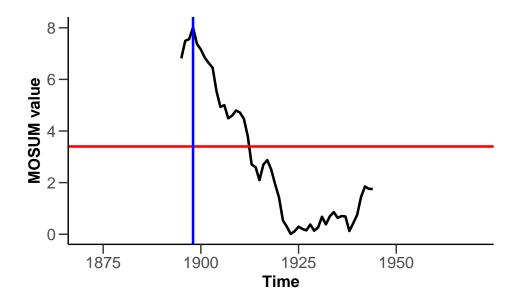
[1] TRUE



The change point is located at year 1898.

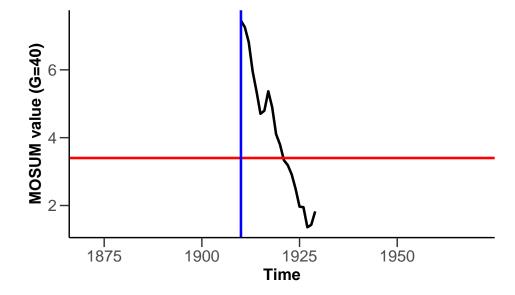
- (c) Calculate the MOSUM statistic for the Nile volume data using a bandwidth G=25. Using the threshold D=3.4, compute the change point estimators:
 - either by eye by plotting the MOSUM test statistic, or
 - using the code from Q1 (e) with $\eta = 0.4$.

Does this agree with your answer from part (b)?



The MOSUM change point is estimated at year 1898, which agrees with the CUSUM estimate.

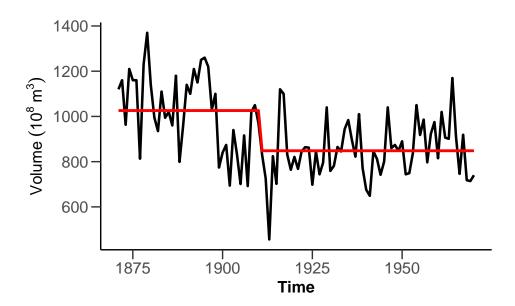
(d) Now use the MOSUM method with bandwidth G=40. How does your answer differ from part (c)?



The change point is now estimated as 1910. Without making any modifications to the way the the test statistic is calculated, the first time point we can find the change is at year 1910, which is later than the estimate from part (c). This highlights the need to pick a good bandwidth!

(e) The estimated mean signal \hat{f}_t can be calculated using sample means of the segments defined by the estimated change points. For the CUSUM method, add the estimated \hat{f}_t to your plot from part (a).

```
calc.mean.func <- function(x, change.loc){</pre>
  no.cpts <- length(change.loc)</pre>
  n <- length(x)</pre>
  change.loc <- c(change.loc,n)</pre>
  fitted.mean <- rep(0,n)
  if(no.cpts==0){
    fitted.mean[1:n] <- mean(x)
  else if(no.cpts==1){
    fitted.mean[1:change.loc[1]] <- mean(x[1:change.loc[1]])</pre>
    fitted.mean[(change.loc[1]+1):n] \leftarrow mean(x[(change.loc[1]+1):n])
  }
  else if(no.cpts>1){
    fitted.mean[1:change.loc[1]] <- mean(x[1:change.loc[1]])</pre>
    for (segs in 1:no.cpts){
      }
  }
  return(fitted.mean)
}
nile.mean <- calc.mean.func(nile.data$volume, change.loc = nile.cpt)</pre>
mean.df <- data.frame(year = nile.data$year, f_hat = nile.mean)</pre>
p1 <- ggplot(data = nile.data, aes(x=year,y=volume))+
  geom_line(data=nile.data,color="black",linewidth=0.9)+
  geom_line(data=mean.df,color="red",linewidth=1, aes(x=year,y=f_hat))+
  theme_classic()+
  labs(x="Time",y=expression(Volume~(10^8~m^3))) +
```



Question 3: Using the mosum and changepoint packages

(a) Load the changepoint and mosum R packages into your R workspace. Using the help files, get acquainted with the cpt.mean() and mosum() functions.

```
library(changepoint)
library(mosum)
```

(b) Setting the argument method = "AMOC" (at most one change), use the cpt.mean() function on the Nile data set. Do the results agree with your answer from question 1(a)?

Solution:

```
nile.cpts.cusum <- cpt.mean(nile.data$volume, method = "AMOC")
nile.data$year[nile.cpts.cusum@cpts]</pre>
```

[1] 1898 1970

Yes: same answer as before (cpt.mean() also returns the last time index).

(c) Use the cpt.mean() function to apply the PELT algorithm on the Nile data set. Is the answer the same as part (b)? Note: you will need to standardise the data first (subtract the mean and divide by the standard deviation).

Solution:

```
#need to standardise the data first!
nile.cpts.pelt <- cpt.mean((nile.data$volume - mean(nile.data$volume))/sd(nile.data$volume))
nile.data$year[nile.cpts.pelt@cpts]</pre>
```

[1] 1898 1970

Yes: same answer as before.

(d) By investigating the output returned by the cpt.mean() function, what was the value of the penalty function used?

Solution:

```
nile.cpts.pelt@pen.value
```

[1] 13.81551

(d) Using the bandwidth G = 25, use the mosum() function on the Nile data set. Do the results agree with your answer from question 1(b)?

Solution:

```
nile.cpts.mosum <- mosum(as.numeric(nile.data$volume), G = 25)
nile.data$year[nile.cpts.mosum$cpts]</pre>
```

[1] 1898

Yes: same answer as before.

(e) By investigating the output returned by the mosum() function, what are the estimated jump sizes and p-value(s) of the detected change points?

nile.cpts.mosum\$cpts.info

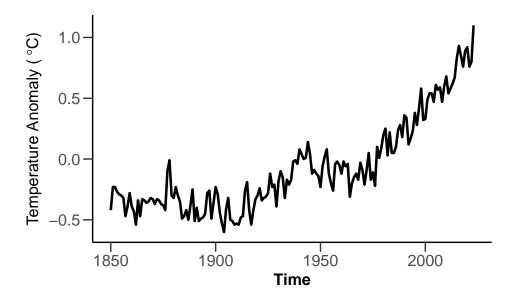
```
cpts G.left G.right p.value jump
1 28 25 25 0.00054662 1.86403
```

The p-value associated to the change is 0.000546620028168743 (this is calculated using the asymptotic null distribution of the test statistic). The jump size is 1.86402973639102.

Python users: you can use the ruptures function Pelt() and the mosum function mosum() for this question. See https://centre-borelli.github.io/ruptures-docs/ and https://pypi.org/project/mosum/ for help.

Question 4: Global yearly mean sea temperature anomalies

Global mean surface temperature series help enable the monitoring of global warming. The warming can be quantified by, for example, a change from a base period used as reference. The Hadley Centre/Climatic Research Unit (HadCRUT) surface temperature data set provides the annual global temperature anomalies from 1850-2023, where anomalies are calculated relative to the 1961–1990 period. The data are shown below, which can be seen to exhibit a gradual upward trend.

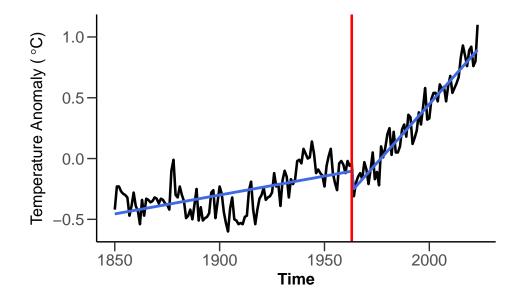


(a) Load the data into R from the temp_anomalies.txt file, and plot it. Using e.g. the lm() function, fit two linear trends to the data: one from 1850 to 1963, and one from 1964 to 2023, and add these lines to the plot, as well as a vertical line through year 1963.

Solution:

```
which(temp.data$year == 1963)
```

[1] 114



- (b) Using your own functions, and functions from the changepoint and mosum packages, fit 4 models to the data set;
 - 1. a constant mean model with no change points,
 - 2. a mean change point model,
 - 3. a linear trend model with no change points.
 - 4. a linear trend change point model.

Looking at the data, are there any other models that might be appropriate?

Hint: use the cpt.reg() function in changepoint for linear trend changes. If you are struggling, the EnvCpt R package has everything you need.

Python users: you can use the Pelt function and change the model parameter.

Solution:

It might be the case that the data has autocorrelation (nearby observations are correlated). If this is the case, we could consider models that account for this, such as an autoregressive (AR) model with change points in the mean/trend.

We can also do all model fits at once in EnvCpt package (note however the mean change now includes a possible change in variance too):

(c) Pick the "best" change point model from your candidates computed in part (b), and justify your choice. Add the estimated mean/trend function onto a plot of the data.

Hint: the Akiake information criterion (AIC) is given by AIC = $2k-2\log(\hat{L})$, where k is the number of parameters of the model, and \hat{L} is the maximised value of the likelihood function for the model. The smaller the AIC, the "better" the model. For normally distributed data, you can use dnorm() in R to compute the likelihood.

Solution:

```
m1.lik <- sum(dnorm(temp.data\sanomaly, mean = m1, sd = sd(temp.data\sanomaly),
                     log = TRUE)
m1.aic <- 2*2 - 2*m1.lik
mean.m2 <- calc.mean.func(temp.data$anomaly, m2@cpts[1:2])</pre>
m2.lik <- sum(dnorm(temp.data$anomaly, mean = mean.m2,</pre>
                     sd = sd(temp.data$anomaly - mean.m2), log = TRUE))
m2.aic <- 2*3 - 2*m2.lik
mean.m3 <- m3$fitted.values</pre>
m3.lik <- sum(dnorm(temp.data$anomaly, mean = mean.m3,
                     sd = sd(temp.data$anomaly - mean.m3), log = TRUE))
m3.aic <- 2*3 - 2*m3.lik
mean.m4 <- numeric(0)</pre>
cpts <-c(0, m4@cpts)
betas <- param.est(m4)$beta
for(i in 1:nseg(m4)){
  mean.m4 <- c(mean.m4, betas[i,]%*%t(data.set(m4)[(cpts[i]+1):cpts[i+1],-1]))
}
m4.lik <- sum(dnorm(temp.data$anomaly, mean = mean.m4,
                     sd = sd(temp.data$anomaly - mean.m4), log = TRUE))
m4.aic <- 2 * 9 - 2 * m4.lik
aic.values <- c(m1.aic, m2.aic, m3.aic, m4.aic)
aic.values
```

[1] 159.38100 -168.53453 -55.83466 -309.96109

You can also just directly use AIC() and BIC() functions in R to compare models fitted using the EnvCpt package (note the slight difference in values compared to above, as simultaneous variance changes are also allowed in EnvCpt):

```
AIC(temp.cpt.models)
```

```
        mean
        meancpt
        meanar1
        meanar2
        meanar1cpt
        meanar2cpt

        159.37812
        -254.80551
        NA
        NA
        NA
        NA
        NA

        trend
        trendcpt
        trendar1
        trendar2 trendar1cpt
        trendar2cpt

        -55.83755
        -300.72621
        NA
        NA
        NA
        NA
```

which.min(AIC(temp.cpt.models))

trendcpt 8

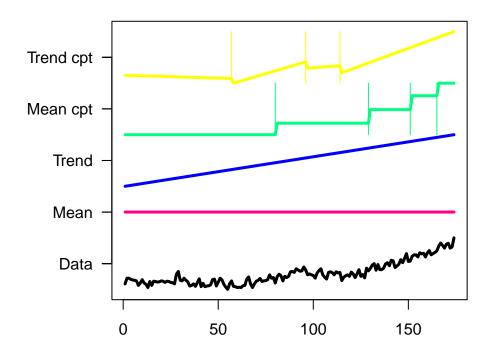
BIC(temp.cpt.models)

meanar2cpt	meanar1cpt	meanar2	meanar1	meancpt	mean
NA	NA	NA	NA	-210.57873	165.69623
trendar2cpt	trendar1cpt	trendar2	trendar1	trendcpt	trend
NA	NA	NA	NA	-253.34038	-46.36038

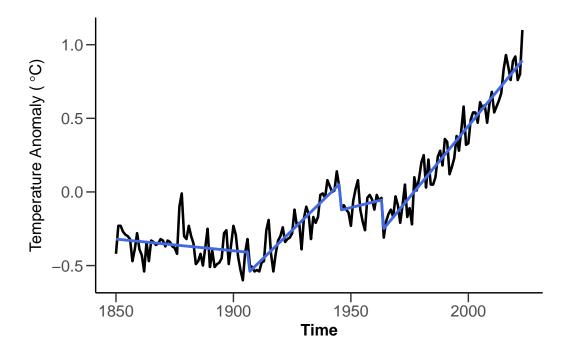
which.min(BIC(temp.cpt.models))

trendcpt

plot(temp.cpt.models, type = 'fit')



```
est.data <- data.frame(year = temp.data$year, anomaly = mean.m4)
trend.plot <- ggplot(data = temp.data, aes(x=year,y=anomaly))+
    geom_line(data = temp.data, color = "black", linewidth = 0.9) +
    geom_line(data = est.data, color = "royalblue", linewidth = 1) +
    theme_classic() +
    labs(x = "Time",y = expression('Temperature Anomaly ('*~degree*C*')')) +
    theme(axis.text = element_text(size=12), axis.ticks.length=unit(.25, "cm"),
        axis.title = element_text(size=12), title =
        element_text(size=18,face="bold"))
trend.plot</pre>
```



Question 5 (Bonus): Multivariate data

(a) Suppose we want to find mean change points in a time series $\{X_t\}_{t=1}^n$, where $X_t = (X_{1t}, \dots, X_{pt})^\mathsf{T}$ is a p-dimensional vector. One approach is to calculate a test statistic for each variable, and then combine the results across variables to give a single test statistic. For example, for the i-th variable of $\{X_t\}_{t=1}^n$, denoted $\{X_{it}\}_{t=1}^n$, the MOSUM test statistic is given by

$$T_G(k,i) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2G}} \left(\sum_{t=k+1}^{k+G} X_{it} - \sum_{t=k-G+1}^{k} X_{it} \right).$$

Then, the MOSUM statistic $T_{G}(k)$ for a change point in $\{X_t\}_{t=1}^n$ can be computed by aggregating the $\{T_G(k,i)\}_{i=1}^p$ using some aggregating function f, so that

$$T_G(k) = f(T_G(k, 1), \dots, T_G(k, p)).$$

What possibilities could we use for the aggregating function f?

Solution:

We could use any appropriate norm, such as the ${\cal L}_1$ or ${\cal L}_2$ norm:

- $\begin{array}{ll} \bullet & f(x_1,\ldots,x_p) = (\sum_{i=1}^p x_i^2)^{1/2} \text{ (the L_2 norm)} \\ \bullet & f(x_1,\ldots,x_p) = \max_{i=1,\ldots,p} |x_i| \text{ (the L_∞ norm)} \end{array}$
- (b) Using your aggregating function f, write a function to compute the MOSUM or CUSUM statistic for a change in the mean vector of a multivariate time series.

Solution:

```
multi.MOSUM <- function(x, G, agg = c("L1", "L2")[1]){

matrix.MOSUM <- abs(apply(x, 2, MOSUM.calc2, G = G))

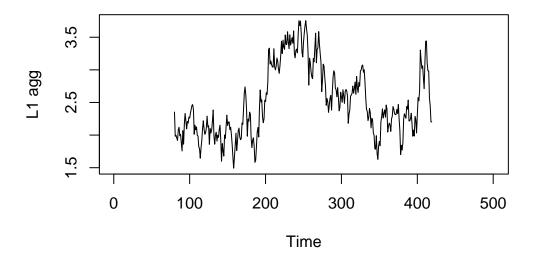
if(agg == "L2"){
    x.MOSUM <- sqrt(rowSums(matrix.MOSUM^2))
}else{
    x.MOSUM <- apply(matrix.MOSUM, 1, max)
}

return(x.MOSUM)
}</pre>
```

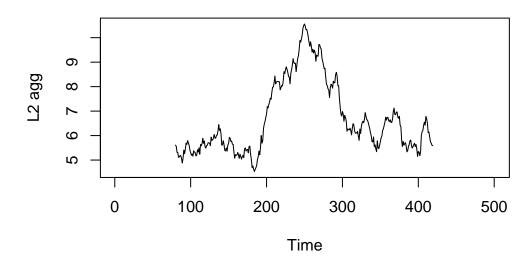
(c) Simulate a data set of length n=500 and dimension p=40 as follows. Generate $\{X_t\}_{t=1}^{250}$ from the standard p-dimensional normal distribution, and generate $\{X_t\}_{t=251}^{500}$ from the p-dimensional normal distribution with identity covariance matrix, and mean vector given by $\mu = 1.4 \times (1/\sqrt{p}, \dots, 1/\sqrt{p})^{\mathsf{T}}$. Use the method from part (b), with G=80, to compute the test statistic for a change in mean. Is the change point easy to see?

```
set.seed(1)
x <- matrix(rnorm(40*500), nrow = 500, ncol = 40)
x[251:500,] <- x[251:500,] + 1.4/sqrt(40)</pre>
```

```
plot.ts(multi.MOSUM(x, G = 80, agg = "L1"), ylab = "L1 agg")
```



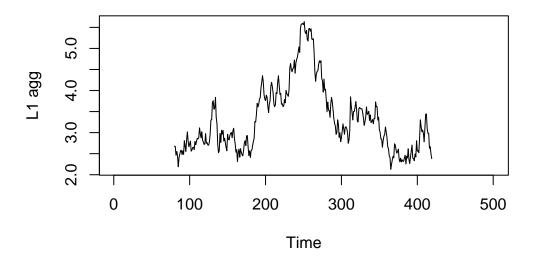
plot.ts(multi.MOSUM(x, G = 80, agg = "L2"), ylab = "L2 agg")



(d) Re-do part (c), but generate $\{X_t\}_{t=251}^{500}$ from the p=200-dimensional normal distribution with identity covariance matrix, and mean vector given μ with first 2 entries equal to 0.8, and last p-2 entries equal to 0. Is the change point easy to see?

```
set.seed(1)
x <- matrix(rnorm(200*500), nrow = 500, ncol = 200)</pre>
```

```
x[251:500,1:2] <- x[251:500,1:2] + 0.8
plot.ts(multi.MOSUM(x, G = 80, agg = "L1"), ylab = "L1 agg")</pre>
```



plot.ts(multi.MOSUM(x, G = 80, agg = "L2"), ylab = "L2 agg")

