WEEK 3 HOMEWORK

Question 7.1

Describe a situation or problem from your job, everyday life, current events, etc., for which exponential smoothing would be appropriate. What data would you need? Would you expect the value of α (the first smoothing parameter) to be closer to 0 or 1, and why?

Question 7.2

Using the 20 years of daily high temperature data for Atlanta (July through October) from Question 6.2 (file `temps.txt`), build and use an exponential smoothing model to help make a judgment of whether the unofficial end of summer has gotten later over the 20 years. (Part of the point of this assignment is for you to think about how you might use exponential smoothing to answer this question. Feel free to combine it with other models if you'd like to. There's certainly more than one reasonable approach.)

Note: in R, you can use either `HoltWinters` (simpler to use) or the `smooth` package's `es` function (harder to use, but more general). If you use `es`, the Holt-Winters model uses `model="AAM"` in the function call (the first and second constants are used "A"dditively, and the third (seasonality) is used "M"ultiplicatively; the documentation doesn't make that clear).

Question 8.1

Describe a situation or problem from your job, everyday life, current events, etc., for which a linear regression model would be appropriate. List some (up to 5) predictors that you might use.

Question 8.2

Using crime data from http://www.statsci.org/data/general/uscrime.txt (file `uscrime.txt`, description at http://www.statsci.org/data/general/uscrime.html), use regression (a useful R function is `lm` or `glm`) to predict the observed crime rate in a city with the following data:

M = 14.0
So = 0
Ed = 10.0
Po1 = 12.0
Po2 = 15.5
LF = 0.640
M.F = 94.0
Pop = 150
NW = 1.1
U1 = 0.120
U2 = 3.6
Wealth = 3200
Ineq = 20.1
Prob = 0.04

Time = 39.0

Show your model (factors used and their coefficients), the software output, and the quality of fit.

Note that because there are only 47 data points and 15 predictors, you'll probably notice some overfitting. We'll see ways of dealing with this sort of problem later in the course.