

1. Consider a first-order autoregressive process:

- a. Determine $E(\varepsilon_t)$**
- b. Determine $Cov(\varepsilon_t, \varepsilon_{t+h})$**
- c. Determine $Corr(\varepsilon_t, \varepsilon_{t+h})$**
- d. Is ε_t a stationary process?**

a. Since $Z_t \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$:

$$E(\varepsilon_t) = E\left(\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \phi^j Z_{t-j}\right) \quad (1)$$

$$= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} [E(\phi^j Z_{t-j})] \quad (2)$$

$$= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} [\phi^j \times E(Z_{t-j})] \quad (3)$$

$$= E(Z_{t-j}) \times \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \phi^j \quad (4)$$

$$= 0 \times \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \phi^j \quad (5)$$

$$= 0 \quad (6)$$

b. Since $E(Z_t) = 0, Var(Z_t) = \sigma^2$,
 we have $E(Z_t^2) = Var(Z_t)^2 + E(Z_t)^2 = \sigma^2$,
 we also know that $|\phi| < 1$,

and Z_t are *i.i.d.*:

$$Cov(\varepsilon_t, \varepsilon_{t+h}) = E(\varepsilon_t \varepsilon_{t+h}) - E(\varepsilon_t)E(\varepsilon_{t+h}) \quad (7)$$

$$= E(\varepsilon_t \varepsilon_{t+h}) \quad (8)$$

$$= E\left[\left(\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \phi^j Z_{t-j}\right)\left(\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \phi^i Z_{t+h-i}\right)\right] \quad (9)$$

$$= E\left[\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \overbrace{(\phi^j Z_{t-j} \phi^i Z_{t+h-i})}^{t-j \neq t+h-i} + \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \overbrace{(\phi^{i-h+i} Z_{t+h-i}^2)}^{t-j=t+h-i}\right] \quad (10)$$

$$= E\left[\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \phi^j Z_{t-j}\right] E\left[\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \phi^i Z_{t+h-i}\right] + E\left[\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \phi^{i-h+i} Z_{t+h-i}^2\right] \quad (11)$$

$$= E(Z_{t-j}) \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \phi^j E(Z_{t+h-i}) \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \phi^i + E(Z_{t+h-i}^2) \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \phi^{i-h+i} \quad (12)$$

$$= 0 + \sigma^2 \left(\frac{\phi^{-h}}{1 - \phi^2} \right) \quad (13)$$

$$= \phi^{-h} (1 - \phi^2)^{-1} \sigma^2 \quad (14)$$

c.

$$Corr(\varepsilon_t, \varepsilon_{t+h}) = \frac{Cov(\varepsilon_t, \varepsilon_{t+h})}{\sqrt{Var(\varepsilon_t)Var(\varepsilon_{t+h})}} \quad (15)$$

$$Var(\varepsilon_t) = Cov(\varepsilon_t, \varepsilon_t) \quad (16)$$

$$= (1 - \phi^2)^{-1} \sigma^2 \quad (17)$$

$$Var(\varepsilon_{t+h}) = Cov(\varepsilon_{t+h}, \varepsilon_{t+h}) \quad (18)$$

$$= (1 - \phi^2)^{-1} \sigma^2 \quad (19)$$

$$\text{Thus, } Corr(\varepsilon_t, \varepsilon_{t+h}) = \frac{\phi^{-h} (1 - \phi^2)^{-1} \sigma^2}{(1 - \phi^2)^{-1} \sigma^2} \quad (20)$$

$$= \phi^{-h} \quad (21)$$

d. AR(1) is a weakly stationary process, since the mean and variance is the same for all t and the covariance between $\varepsilon_t, \varepsilon_{t+h}$ is the same for all t .