ECON 5345 Homework 1 Report

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Question 1

a. Note that for any t, we have

$$C_t = C_{t-3} + e_{t-2} + e_{t-1} + e_t.$$

Substituting this into the

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta C_t &\equiv \frac{C_t + C_{t+1} + C_{t+2}}{3} - \frac{C_{t-3} + C_{t-2} + C_{t-1}}{3} \\ &= \frac{e_{t-2} + 2e_{t-1} + 3e_t + 2e_{t+1} + e_{t+2}}{3}.\end{aligned}$$

b. No. They are correlated. At $t+3$, we have

$$\Delta C_{t+3} = \frac{e_{t+1} + 2e_{t+2} + 3e_{t+3} + 2e_{t+4} + e_{t+5}}{3}.$$

It is clear that

$$\mathrm{Cov}(\Delta C_t, \Delta C_{t+3}) = \frac{2}{9}(\mathrm{Var}[e_{t+1}] + \mathrm{Var}[e_{t+2}]) > 0,$$

as long as $\mathrm{Var}[e_{t+1}] + \mathrm{Var}[e_{t+2}] > 0$.

c. No for the first part. Since e_{t-2} and e_{t-1} are known, ΔC_t is correlated with C_{t-2} and C_{t-1}.

Yes for the second part. Information known at $t-3$ only includes white noise no later then $t-3$, while ΔC_t is a linear combination of white noises after $t-3$. Given the serial uncorrelation property of white noise, they are not correlated.

d. The ACF and PACF of the change in measured consumption are shown in Figure 1. Codes in “hw1_q1d.R”.

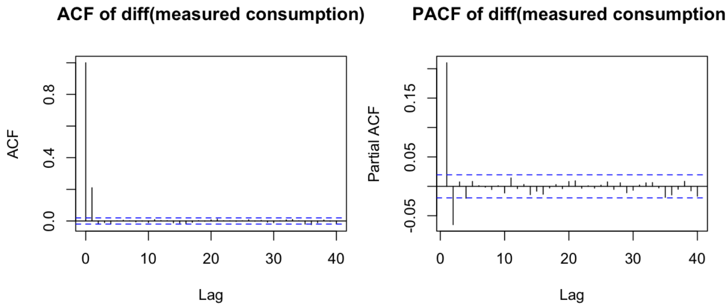
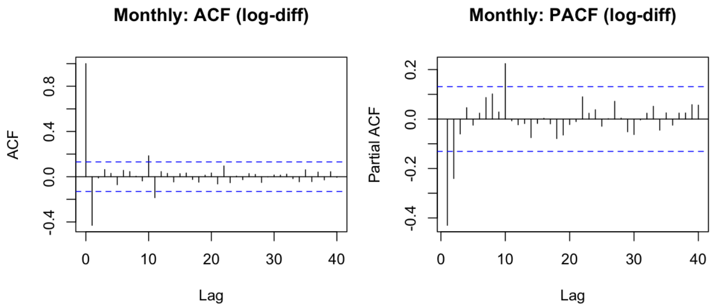
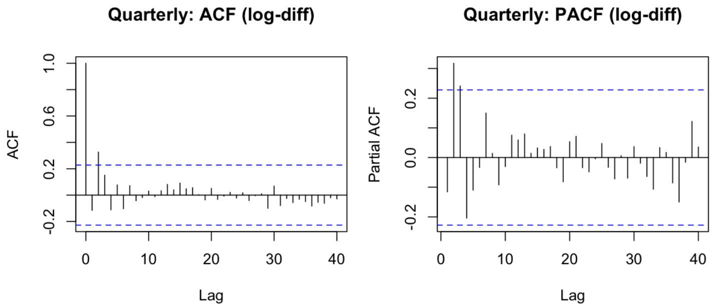


Figure 1: ACF and PACF of the change in measured consumption

e. The ACF and PACF of the change in measured consumption are shown in Figure 2a and Figure 2b. Codes in "hw1_q1e.R".



(a) Monthly data: Jan 2007–Sep 2025 (exclude months after Sep 2025 since quarterly data ends at 2025Q3).



(b) Quarterly data: 2007Q1–2025Q3.

Figure 2: ACF and PACF of the change in consumption (monthly and quarterly). Data source: FRED PCENDC96.

Monthly data shows negative autocorrelation at lag 1, while quaterly data shows positive autocorrelation at lag 1 and 2, even 3. This shows higher persistence in quarterly data, reflecting the fact that averaging over more months introduces more serial correlation, as shown in part (b).

Question 2

a. Since d is observable, the firm has the following optimization problem:

$$\max_p \Pi(p, d) = p^{-\frac{d+1}{d}}(p-1).$$

The FOC condition gives

$$-\frac{d+1}{d}p^{-\frac{d+1}{d}-1}(p-1) + p^{-\frac{d+1}{d}} = 0.$$

Multiplying both sides by $p^{\frac{d+1}{d}}$ and rearranging the terms, we get

$$p^*(d) = 1 + d.$$

Question 3