

Iterative Approach to Model Building. The development of a model of this kind to describe the dependence structure in an observed time series is usually best achieved by a three-stage iterative procedure based on identification, estimation, and diagnostic checking.

- 1. By identification we mean the use of the data, and of any information on how the series was generated, to suggest a subclass of parsimonious models worthy to be entertained.
- 2. By estimation we mean efficient use of the data to make inferences about the parameters conditional on the adequacy of the model entertained.
- **3.** By diagnostic checking we mean checking the fitted model in its relation to the data with intent to reveal model inadequacies and so to achieve model improvement.

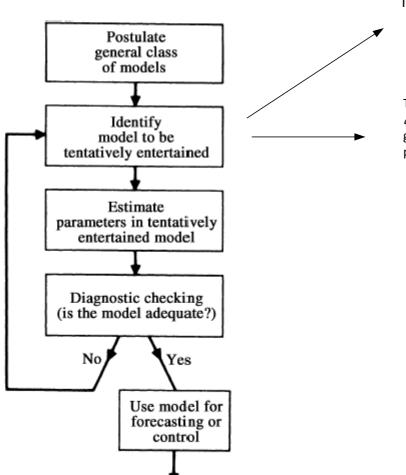


FIGURE 1.7 Stages in the iterative approach to model building.

Tecnicas de identificación: The specific aim here is to obtain some idea of the values of p, d, and q needed in the general linear ARIMAmodel and to obtain initial estimates for the parameters. The tentative

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model specified provides a starting point

Autocorrelacion

the autocorrelation function will not die out

quickly and will fall off slowly and very nearly linearly. A similar argument may be applied if more than one of the roots approaches Therefore, a tendency for the autocorrelation

function not to die out quickly is taken as an indication that a root close to unity may exist.

Integrated (differencing)

For the reasons given, it is assumed that the degree of differencing d, necessary to achieve stationarity, has been reached when the autocorrelation function of $wt = \nabla dzt$ dies out fairly quickly. In practice, dis normally 0, 1, or 2, and it is usually sufficient to inspect the first 20 or so estimated autocorrelations of the original series, and of its first and second differences, if necessary.

Prepare your data by using transformations (e.g. square roots or logarithms) to stabilize the variance and differencing to remove remaining seasonality or other trends. Identify any processes that appear to be a good fit for your data.
Find which model coefficients provide the best fit for your data. This step is computationally complex and usually performed by a computer. Akaike's Information Criterion (AIC) is one option: if you compare two models, the one with the lower AIC is usually the "better" model.
Test the models' assumptions to see how well the model holds up to closer scrutiny. If your chosen model is inadequate, repeat steps 2 and 3 to find a potentially better model.
Compute forecasts on your chosen model with computer software.