## Time series forecasting Introduction and exponential smoothing

Julien JACQUES

Universite Lumière Lyon 2

Time series with R

Descriptive statistics for time series

Exponential Smoothing

#### Times series

#### A time series is:

- a series of data points indexed in time order
- ▶ a sequence taken at successive equally spaced points in time.
- it is a sequence of discrete-time data

$$(x_t)_{1\leq t\leq n}=(x_1,\ldots,x_n)$$

where t is time (seconde, day, year...).

#### Times series

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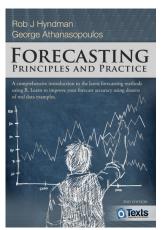
Our goal is to forecast the future of the time series

$$x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}, ...$$

#### Reference

Hyndman R.J. and Athanasopoulos G. Forecasting: Principles and Practice, OTexts, 2013.

https://robjhyndman.com/uwafiles/fpp-notes.pdf



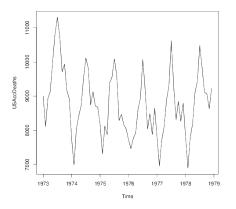


Figure 1: Number of accidental deaths in USA from 1973 to 1978

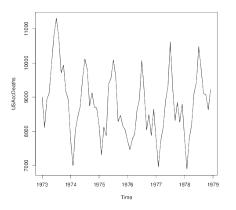


Figure 1: Number of accidental deaths in USA from 1973 to 1978

it seems to be a *periodicity*: we talk about **seasonal pattern**, which occurs when time series are affected by seasonal factor (day of the week, month of the year...). The frequency is fixed and knwon.

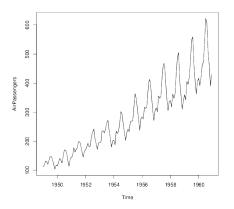


Figure 2: Monthly Airline Passenger Numbers 1949-1960

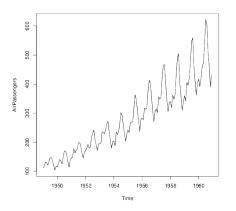


Figure 2: Monthly Airline Passenger Numbers 1949-1960

it seems to be a *seasonal* pattern but also a **trend pattern** (long-time increase or decrease, not necessarily linear)

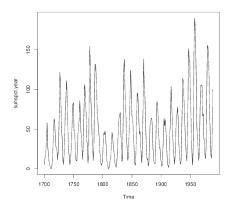


Figure 3: Annual number of sunspots observed on the surface of the sun from  $1700\ \text{to}\ 1980$ 

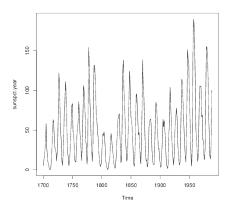


Figure 3: Annual number of sunspots observed on the surface of the sun from 1700 to 1980

it seems to be a *seasonal* pattern or maybe **cyclic pattern** (rises and falls that are not of fixed frequency)

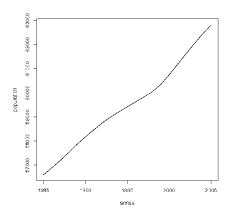


Figure 4: French population from 1985 to 2005

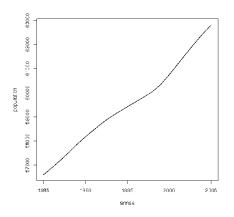


Figure 4: French population from 1985 to 2005

it seems to be a linear trend

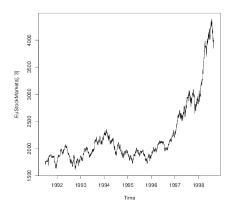


Figure 5: Daily closing values of the CAC40 from 1991 to 1998

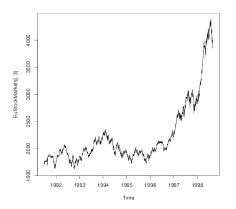


Figure 5: Daily closing values of the CAC40 from 1991 to 1998

it seems to be nothing regular. . .

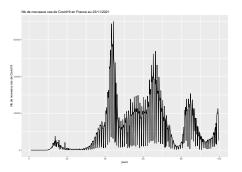
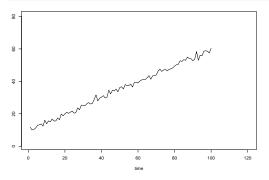


Figure 6: Covid19 number of new cases

Now, we will start with some simple forecasting method, that you already know!

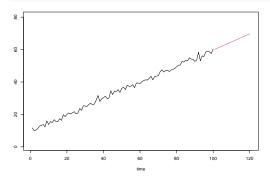
#### Load and plot the following series

```
data=read.table(file="http://eric.univ-lyon2.fr/jjacques/Download/DataSet/serie1.txt")
plot(data$V1,type='l',xlim=c(1,120),ylim=c(1,80),xlab='time',ylab='')
```



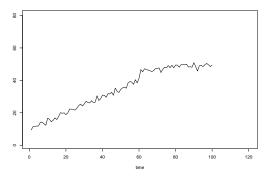
To do: Forecast this series for the next 20 times!

We can use linear regression

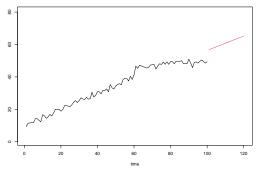


#### Load and plot the following series

```
data=read.table(file="http://eric.univ-lyon2.fr/jjacques/Download/DataSet/serie2.txt")
plot(data$V1,type='l',xlim=c(1,120),ylim=c(1,80),xlab='time',ylab='')
```



To do: Forecast this series for the next 20 times!



Linear regression is not efficient since each observations have the same weight: we should be able to weight the data according to their age...

Time series with R

#### Time series R

In R, the ts object is dedicated to time series:

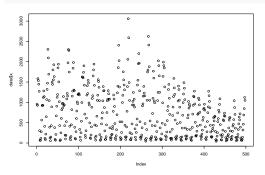
```
data("AirPassengers")
str(AirPassengers)
```

## Time-Series [1:144] from 1949 to 1961: 112 118 132 129

#### Creation of ts object

#### We load the data from any format (here csv for instance)

data=read.csv(file="http://eric.univ-lyon2.fr/jjacques/Download/DataSet/varicelle.csv")
plot(data\$x)

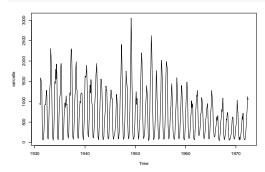


#### Creation of ts object

We indicate to R the specificity of the ts object:

- monthly data with annual seasonality: freq=12
- ▶ start in January 1931: start=c(1931,1)
- end in June 1972: end=c(1972,6)

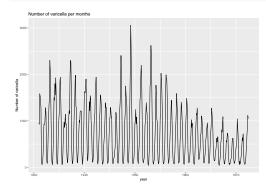
varicelle<-ts(data\$x,start=c(1931,1),end=c(1972,6),freq=12)
plot(varicelle)</pre>



#### Plot with forecast

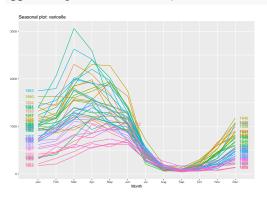
#### The forecast library proposes nice plots

```
library(forecast)
library(ggplot2)
autoplot(varicelle) +
   ggtitle('Number of varicella per months')+
   xlab('year')+
   ylab('Number of varicella')
```



#### Plot with forecast

It could be convenient to use seasonal plot
ggseasonplot(varicelle, year.labels= TRUE, year.labels.left=TRUE)

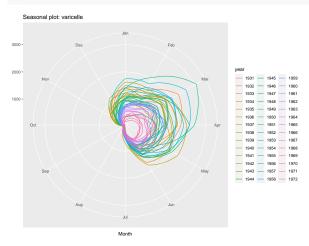


in particular for checking the size of the seasonality

#### Plot with forecast

or also with the polar option

ggseasonplot(varicelle,polar=TRUE)



Empirical mean:

$$\bar{x}_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n x_t$$

mean(varicelle)

## [1] 732.4076

Empirical variance:

$$\hat{\sigma}_n(0) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n (x_t - \bar{x}_n)^2$$

var(varicelle)

## [1] 347785.4

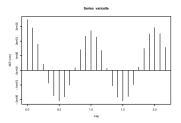
Empirical **auto-covariance** of order h (*covariance between lagged values*):

$$\hat{\sigma}_n(h) = \frac{1}{n-h} \sum_{t=1}^{n-h} (x_t - \bar{x}_n)(x_{t+h} - \bar{x}_n),$$

It measures the linear covariance between  $x_t$  and  $x_{t-h}$ 

```
tmp=acf(varicelle,type="cov",plot = FALSE)
tmp$acf[1:3,1,1]
```

```
## [1] 347087.0 291348.5 179126.1
plot(tmp)
```

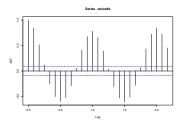


Empirical **auto-correlation** of order h:

$$\hat{
ho}_n(h) = rac{\hat{\sigma}_n(h)}{\hat{\sigma}_n(0)} \in [-1, 1]$$

```
tmp=acf(varicelle,type="cor",plot = FALSE)
tmp$acf[1:3,1,1]
```

## [1] 1.0000000 0.8394105 0.5160841 plot(tmp)



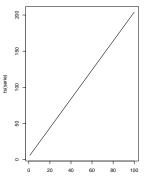
The plot is known as **correlogram**. Values into the blue lines  $(\pm 2/\sqrt{n})$  are not significantly different from zero.

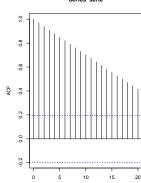
## Auto-correlation properties

▶ if the time serie  $(x_t)_{1 \le t \le n}$  is a pure linear trend  $x_t = at + b$ , then for all h:

$$\hat{\rho}_n(h) \xrightarrow[n \to \infty]{} 1$$

```
serie=2*(1:100)+4
par(mfrow=c(1,2))
plot(ts(serie))
acf(serie)
```



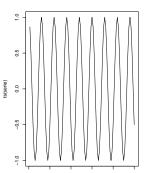


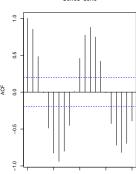
## Auto-correlation properties

▶ if the time serie  $(x_t)_{1 \le t \le n}$  is a pure seasonal pattern, for instance  $x_t = a \cos \frac{2t\pi}{T}$ , then for all h:

$$\hat{\rho}_n(h) \xrightarrow[n\to\infty]{} \cos\frac{2h\pi}{T}$$

```
serie=cos(2*pi/12*(1:100))
par(mfrow=c(1,2))
plot(ts(serie))
acf(serie)
```





Series serie

#### Auto-correlation properties

Thus, the presence of *trend* and *season pattern* are observable in the auto-correlation plots.

We can also use this plot to check the value of the periodicity. . .

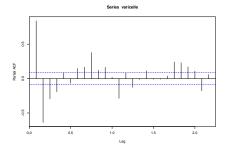
Empirical **partial auto-correlation** of order h measures the linear correlation between  $x_t$  and  $x_{t-h}$ , **but removing the effect of** 

```
x_{t-1}, \dots, x_{t-h+1}

tmp=pacf(varicelle,type="cor",plot = FALSE)

tmp$acf[1:3,1,1]
```

```
## [1] 0.8394105 -0.6382268 -0.2944475 plot(tmp)
```



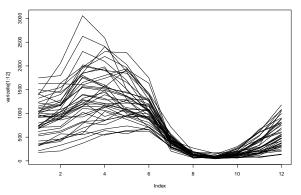
#### Exercice

File "http://eric.univ-lyon2.fr/jjacques/Download/DataSet/varicelle.csv" contains the mensual number of varicella from January 1931 to June 1972.

- Load this data set and build a ts object.
- Plot the time series.
- Is there some trend, seasonal pattern or cyclic pattern?
- What is the mean mensual number of varicella?
- ▶ Plot the correlogram and interpret it.
- ▶ Plot the seasonal plot.
- Compute the annual numbers of varicella and plot them from 1931 to 1972.
- What can you say from this two latter graphs?

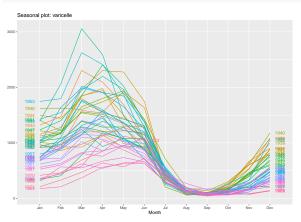
► Manual seasonal plot

```
plot(varicelle[1:12], type="l", ylim=c(min(varicelle), max(varior (i in 1:41) lines(varicelle[(1+12*i):(12*(i+1))])
```



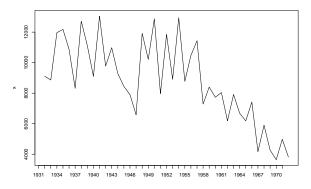
► Automatic seasonal plot

ggseasonplot(varicelle,year.labels= TRUE,year.labels.left=TRUE)



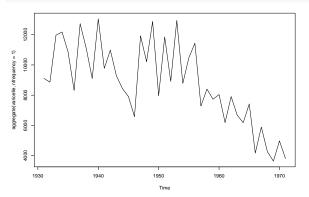
Annual evolution (manually)

```
x=rep(0,41)
for (i in 0:40) x[i+1]<-sum(varicelle[(1+12*i):(12*(i+1))])
plot(x,type='l',xaxt='n',xlab='')
axis(1,at = 0:40,labels = 1931:1971)</pre>
```



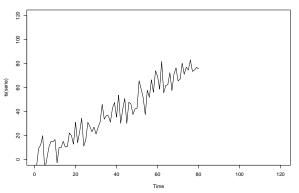
► Annual evolution (automatically)

plot(aggregate(varicelle, nfrequency=1))



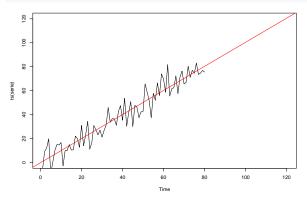
# Exponential Smoothing

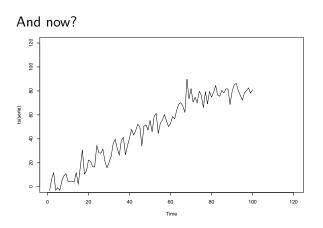
#### Have you an idea of forecasting model?



#### Maybe a linear regression?

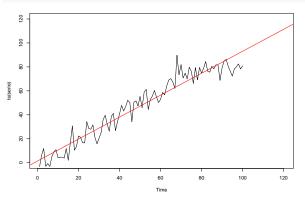
```
mod=lm(serie~temps)
plot(ts(serie),xlim=c(1,120),ylim=c(0,120))
abline(mod$coefficients,col="red")
```





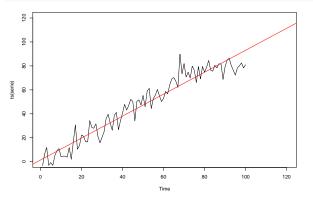
Linear regression again?

```
mod=lm(serie~temps)
plot(ts(serie),xlim=c(1,120),ylim=c(0,120))
abline(mod$coefficients,col="red")
```



Linear regression again?

```
mod=lm(serie~temps)
plot(ts(serie),xlim=c(1,120),ylim=c(0,120))
abline(mod$coefficients,col="red")
```



Linear regression is not efficient since each observations have the same weight: we should be able to weight the data according to their age. . .

# **Exponential Smoothing**

Exponential Smoothing is a collection of models (constant, linear, seasonal...) in which the importance of the observed data decreases with their age

Given a smoothing constant  $0 < \alpha < 1$ , forecast with **Simple Exponential Smoothing** is:

$$\hat{x}_{n,h} = \alpha \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} (1 - \alpha)^j x_{n-j}.$$

With this model, forecast is:

- **constant** (does not depend of horizon *h*),
- a ponderated mean of past observations,
- ▶ the closer is  $\alpha$  to 1, the faster the weight of past observations decreases.

Constant  $\alpha$  should be tuned on the data.

## Evaluating forecast accuracy

How  $\alpha$  can be chosen? More generaly, how to compare different forecasting models?

The data set  $x_1, \ldots, x_n$  is separated into **train and test subsets**:



- about 80% for the training data, to estimate model parameter
- the 20% most recents, to evaluate forecast accuracy

#### Evaluating forecast accuracy

The size of 20% for the test data can be adapted according to

- the forecasting horizon h we want to predict
- ▶ the size of the season pattern (select 1 or 2 season in the test dataset)

**Warning**: once the forecasting model is selected, it should be estimated again on the whole dataset  $x_1, \ldots, x_n$  before to forecast the future.

## Evaluating forecast accuracy

On the test data, several indicators can be computed:

► Root Mean Square Error:

RMSE = 
$$\sqrt{\frac{1}{n-m} \sum_{h=1}^{n-m} (\hat{x}_{m,h} - x_{m+h})^2}$$

where m is the size of training set.

Mean Absolute Percentage Error:

MAPE = 
$$\frac{100}{n-m} \sum_{h=1}^{m-m} \frac{|\hat{x}_{m,h} - x_{m+h}|}{x_{m+h}}$$

#### Tools to subset a time series

Extract all data from 1950

```
window(varicelle,start=1950)
```

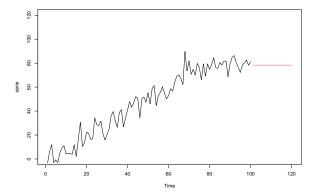
Extract the first or last observations

```
head(varicelle,12)
tail(varicelle,6)
```

The subset function allows more type of subsetting.

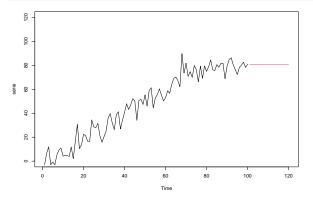
SES forecast with  $\alpha = 0.1$ 

```
serie=ts(serie)
LES=HoltWinters(serie,alpha=0.1,beta=FALSE,gamma=FALSE)
plot(serie,xlim=c(1,120),ylim=c(0,120))
p<-predict(LES,n.ahead=20)
lines(p,col=2)</pre>
```



SES forecast with  $\alpha = 0.9$ 

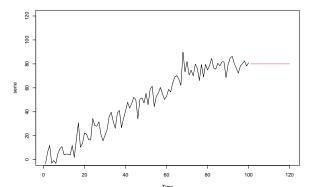
```
LES=HoltWinters(serie,alpha=0.9,beta=FALSE,gamma=FALSE)
plot(serie,xlim=c(1,120),ylim=c(0,120))
p<-predict(LES,n.ahead=20)
lines(p,col=2)</pre>
```



For an automatic and optimal choice of  $\alpha$ , let choose option alpha=NULL:

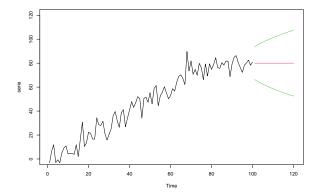
LES=HoltWinters(serie, alpha=NULL, beta=FALSE, gamma=FALSE) print(LES\$alpha)

```
## [1] 0.4007352
plot(serie,xlim=c(1,120),ylim=c(0,120))
p<-predict(LES,n.ahead=20)
lines(p,col=2)</pre>
```



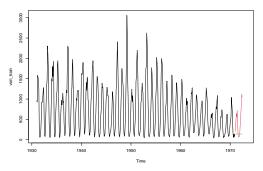
We can also add a forecasting interval.

```
LES=HoltWinters(serie,alpha=NULL,beta=FALSE,gamma=FALSE)
plot(serie,xlim=c(1,120),ylim=c(0,120))
p<-predict(LES,n.ahead=20,prediction.interval = TRUE)
lines(p[,1],col=2)
lines(p[,2],col=3);lines(p[,3],col=3);</pre>
```



## Varicella forecasting with SES

```
data=read.csv(file="http://eric.univ-lyon2.fr/jjacques/Download/DataSet/varicelle.csv")
vari_train<-ts(data$x[1:480]_start=c(1931,1),end=c(1970,12),freq=12)
vari_test<-ts(data$x[481:498]_start=c(1971,1),end=c(1972,6),freq=12)
plot(vari_train,xlim=c(1931,1973))
lines(vari_test,col=2)
SES=HoltWinters(vari_train,alpha=NULL,beta=FALSE,gamma=FALSE)
pl<-pre>predict(SES,n.ahead=18)
lines(p1,col=3)
```

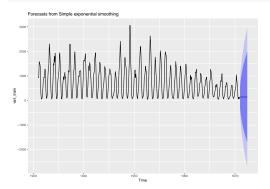


# Varicella forecasting with SES

SES is also available through the forecast package

```
SES=ses(vari_train,h=18)
round(accuracy(SES),2)
```

```
## ME RMSE MAE MPE MAPE MASE ACF1
## Training set -1.6 338.15 251.29 -24.53 61 1.04 0.51
autoplot(SES)
```



## Different models of exponential smoothing

- Simple Exponential Smoothing: forecasting with a constant
- Non seasonal Holt-Winters smoothing: forecasting with a linear trend
- Additive seasonal Holt-Winters: forecasting with a linear trend plus a seasonal pattern
- Multiplicative seasonal Holt-Winters: forecasting with a linear trend time a seasonal pattern

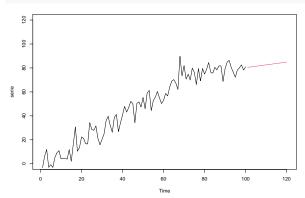
#### Non seasonal Holt-Winters smoothing

Forecasting is done with the linear trend

$$\hat{x}_{n,h} = \hat{a}_1 + \hat{a}_2 h.$$

This model has two smoothing constants  $(\alpha, \beta)$  acting on  $a_1$  and  $a_2$ .

```
LES=HoltWinters(serie,alpha=NULL,beta=NULL,gamma=FALSE)
plot(serie,xlim=c(1,120),ylim=c(0,120))
p<-predict(LES,n.ahead=20)
lines(p,col=2)</pre>
```

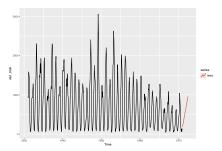


# Varicella forecasting with non seasonal HW smoothing

We can also use the forecast package

```
HOLT=holt(vari_train,h=18)
round(accuracy(HOLT),2)
```

```
## ME RMSE MAE MPE MAPE MASE ACF1
## Training set 0.22 330.42 259.65 54.15 89.34 1.08 0.01
autoplot(vari_train) + autolayer(HOLT, series='fitted', PI=FALSE)
```



the option PI=FALSE remove the prediction interval

## Damped non seasonal Holt-Winters smoothing

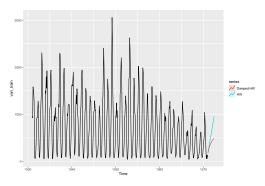
It is possible to add a damping parameter  $0<\phi<1$  in order to dampen the trend

$$\hat{x}_{n,h} = \hat{a}_1 + \hat{a}_2(\phi + \phi^2 + \ldots + \phi^h).$$

- $ightharpoonup \phi = 1$  lead to the usual non seasonal HW
- $\blacktriangleright$  using 0 <  $\phi$  < 1 dampens the trend so that it approaches a constant in the future

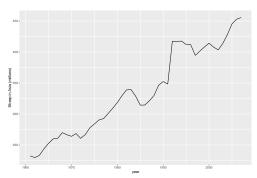
# Varicella forecasting with non seasonal HW smoothing

```
HOLT1=holt(vari_train,h=18)
HOLT2=holt(vari_train,damped=TRUE,phi=0.9,h=18)
autoplot(vari_train) +
  autolayer(HOLT1,series='HW',PI=FALSE) +
  autolayer(HOLT2,series='Damped HW',PI=FALSE)
```



We will compare SES, HW and damped HW for forecasting the sheep livestock population in Asia.

```
library(fpp)
data(livestock)
autoplot(livestock) +
   xlab("year") +
   ylab("Sheep in Asia (millions)")
```



To compare the method we can divide the time series into train / test subset, but we can also use time series cross validation implemented in tsCV:

```
e1 <- tsCV(livestock, ses, h=1)
e2 <- tsCV(livestock, holt, h=1)
e3 <- tsCV(livestock, holt, damped=TRUE, h=1)
To compare MSE:
mean(e1^2, na.rm=TRUE)
## [1] 178.2531
mean(e2^2, na.rm=TRUE)
## [1] 173.365
mean(e3^2, na.rm=TRUE)
```

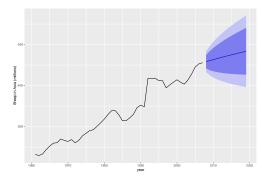
The best model seems to be the Damped HW

## [1] 162,6274

```
HWd=holt(livestock,damped=TRUE,h=12)
HWd[["model"]]
## Damped Holt's method
##
## Call:
##
    holt(y = livestock, h = 12, damped = TRUE)
##
##
     Smoothing parameters:
       alpha = 0.9999
##
##
      beta = 3e-04
##
      phi = 0.9798
##
##
     Initial states:
## 1 = 223.35
## b = 6.9046
##
##
     sigma: 12.8435
##
        AIC
               AICc
##
                         BIC
## 427.6370 429.7370 438.7379
```

#### Forecasting with the Damped HW

```
autoplot(livestock) +
  autolayer(HWd) +
  xlab("year") +
  ylab("Sheep in Asia (millions)")
```



#### Additive seasonal Holt-Winters

Now, we will add a seasonal pattern to the HW linear trend:

$$y_t = a_1 + a_2(t-n) + s_t,$$

where  $s_t$  is a seasonal pattern of period T.

Forecasting are:

$$\begin{split} \hat{x}_{n,h} &= \hat{a}_1 + \hat{a}_2 h + \hat{s}_{n+h-T} & 1 \leq h \leq T, \\ \hat{x}_{n,h} &= \hat{a}_1 + \hat{a}_2 h + \hat{s}_{n+h-2T} & T+1 \leq h \leq 2T, \end{split}$$

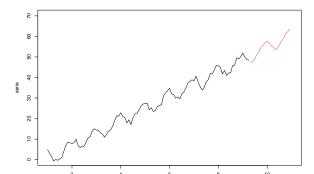
and so on for  $h \ge 2T$ .

This model has 3 smoothing constant  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  et  $\gamma$ : greater they are, lower are the importance of oldest observations. They act repectively on  $a_1$ ,  $a_2$  and  $s_t$ .

#### Additive seasonal Holt-Winters

In order to estimate the seasonal pattern, we should precise the corresponding period

```
serie=0.5*(1:100)+rnorm(100,0,1)+3*cos(pi/6*(1:100))
serie=ts(serie,start=c(1,1),end=c(9,4),frequency = 12)
LES=HoltWinters(serie,alpha=NULL,beta=NULL,gamma=NULL)
plot(serie,xlim=c(1,11),ylim=c(0,70))
p<-predict(LES,n.ahead=20)
lines(p,col=2)</pre>
```



#### Multiplicative seasonal Holt-Winters

The multiplicative seasonal Holt-Winters model is

$$y_t = [a_1 + a_2(t - n)] \times s_t,$$

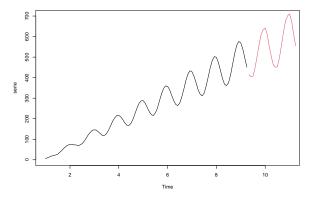
where  $s_t$  is a seasonal pattern of period T.

Forecasting are:

$$\hat{x}_{n,h} = [\hat{a}_1 + \hat{a}_2 h] \hat{s}_{n+h-T} \quad 1 \le h \le T,$$
  
 $\hat{x}_{n,h} = [\hat{a}_1 + \hat{a}_2 h] \hat{s}_{n+h-2T} \quad T+1 \le h \le 2T,$ 

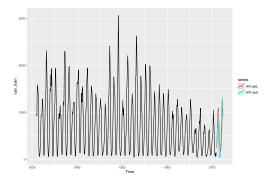
and so on for  $h \ge 2T$ .

#### Multiplicative seasonal Holt-Winters



# Varicella forecasting with seasonal HW smoothing

```
fit1=hw(vari_train, seasonal='additive', h=18)
fit2=hw(vari_train, seasonal='multiplicative', h=18)
autoplot(vari_train) +
  autolayer(fit1, series='HW add.', PI=FALSE) +
  autolayer(fit2, series='HW mult.', PI=FALSE)
```



# Varicella forecasting with seasonal HW smoothing

```
We can compute the RMSE of both model
print(sqrt(mean((fit1$mean-vari_test)^2)))
## [1] 238.2674
print(sqrt(mean((fit2$mean-vari_test)^2)))
```

The multiplicative seasonal Holt-Winters seems to be the best.

## [1] 214.7901

## Varicella forecasting with seasonal HW smoothing

We can also compare with damped version of the seasonal HW, but the results are not better:

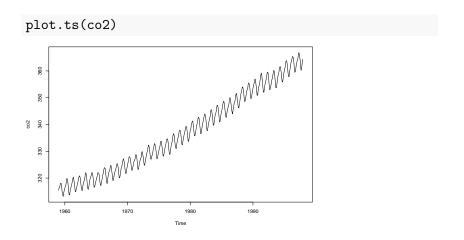
```
fit3=hw(vari train, seasonal='additive', damped=TRUE, h=18)
fit4=hw(vari_train, seasonal='multiplicative', damped=TRUE, h=18)
print(sqrt(mean((fit1$mean-vari_test)^2)))
## [1] 238.2674
print(sqrt(mean((fit2$mean-vari_test)^2)))
## [1] 214.7901
print(sqrt(mean((fit3$mean-vari_test)^2)))
## [1] 279.7424
print(sqrt(mean((fit4$mean-vari_test)^2)))
## [1] 375.6358
```

#### Exercice: forecasting of co2 concentration

File co2 contains CO2 concentrations near Mauna Loa volcano (Hawaï) from 1959 to 1997.

- 1. plot the data
- 2. which exponential smoothing model could be appropriate?
- 3. In order to validate your choice, evaluate your forecast on data between 1990 and 1997 using as training set data from 1959 to 1989.
- 4. If your forecast seems correct, let use this model to forecast co2 concentration from 1997 to 2007. If not, try other exponential smoothing models.

# Exercice: forecasting of co2 concentration



## Exponential smoothing: conclusion

Exponential smoothing is an effective forecasting method, which takes into account:

- a linear trend in the series
- a seasonal pattern

These components of the series are **deterministic** (i.e. not stochastic).

In the sequel, we will see models for the **stochastic** part of the time series.

#### San Francisco precipitation forecast

San Fransisco precipitation from 1932 to 1966 are available here: http://eric.univ-lyon2.fr/jjacques/Download/DataSet/sanfran.dat

- ▶ Data until 1963 will be used as training set, in order to forecast precipitations for 1964, 1965 and 1966.
- ► Test several exponential smoothing models, and plot on the same graph the forecast and actual values.
- ▶ Which model seems to be graphically the best? And for RMSE?
- Interpret the value of the smoothing (and eventually damping) parameters.