

Time Series Analysis & Forecasting Using R

An aerial photograph of a city skyline during sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and light blue. In the foreground, there is a large green stadium with a curved roof. The city is filled with various buildings, including several tall skyscrapers. A highway with multiple lanes is visible on the right side of the image.

Time series regression models

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Outline

- 1 Learning objectives
- 2 The linear model with time series
- 3 Evaluating the regression model
- 4 Selecting predictors
- 5 Forecasting with regression
- 6 Correlation, causation and forecasting
- 7 Some useful predictors for linear models
- 8 Lab Session 9

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Learning objectives

- Describe linear associations between variables
- Explain regression model assumptions
- Construct a regression model
- Forecast using regression models
- Check residual diagnostics
- Forecast using regression models with dummy variables

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Regression models

- To **explain**
 - To **forecast**
-
- Simple linear regression model(SLR)
 - Multiple linear regression model (MLR)

SLR model in theory

Regression model allows for a linear relationship between the forecast variable y and a single predictor variable x .

$$y_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_t + \varepsilon_t.$$

- y_t is the variable we want to predict: the response variable
- Each x_t is numerical and is called a predictor
- β_0 and β_1 are regression coefficients

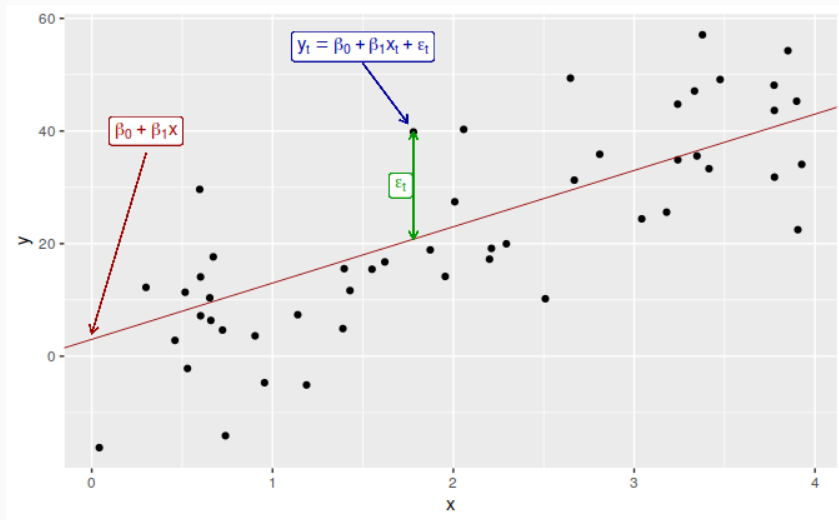
SLR model in practice

In practice, of course, we have a collection of observations but we do not know the values of the coefficients $\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\beta}_1$. These need to be estimated from the data.

$$y_t = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 x_t.$$

- y_t is the response variable
- Each x_t is a predictor
- $\hat{\beta}_0$ is the estimated intercept
- $\hat{\beta}_1$ is the estimated slope

What is the best fit



Estimation of the model

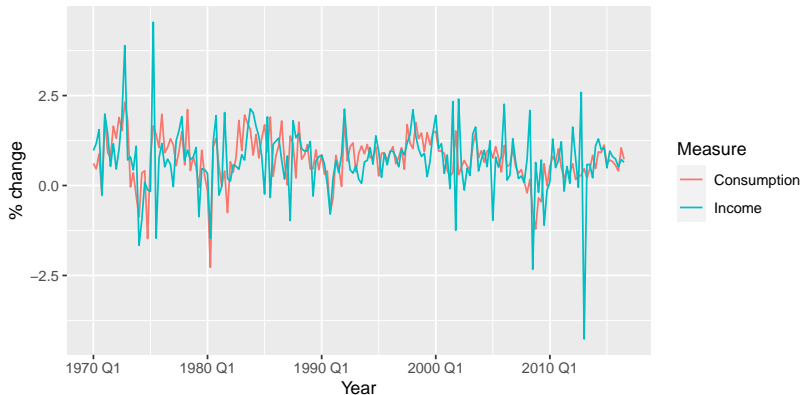
That is, we find the values of β_0 and β_1 which minimize

$$\sum_{i=1}^N e_i^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 x_i)^2.$$

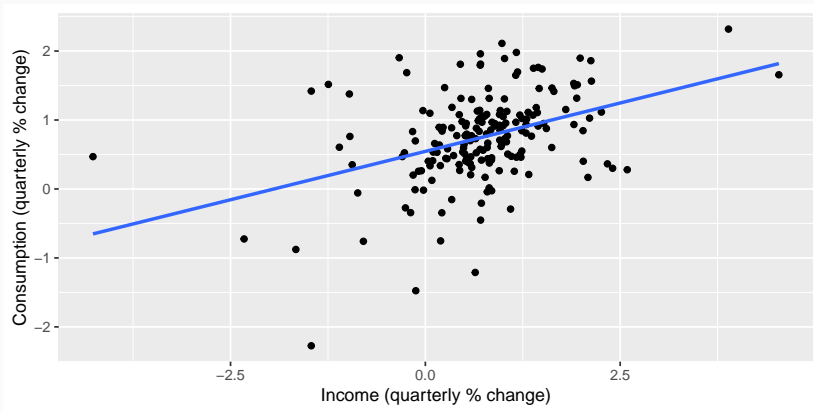
- This is called *least squares* estimation because it gives the least value of the sum of squared errors.
- Finding the best estimates of the coefficients is often called *fitting* the model to the data.
- We refer to the *estimated* coefficients using the notation $\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\beta}_1$.

Example: US consumption expenditure

```
us_change %>%  
  gather("Measure", "Change", Consumption, Income) %>%  
  autoplot(Change) +  
  ylab("% change") + xlab("Year")
```



Example: US consumption expenditure



Example: US consumption expenditure

```
fit_cons <- us_change %>%  
  model(lm = TSLM(Consumption ~ Income))  
report(fit_cons)
```

```
## Series: Consumption  
## Model: TSLM  
##  
## Residuals:  
##      Min      1Q  Median      3Q      Max  
## -2.4084 -0.3182  0.0256  0.2998  1.4516  
##  
## Coefficients:  
##              Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)  
## (Intercept)   0.5451     0.0557    9.79 < 2e-16 ***  
## Income        0.2806     0.0474    5.91 1.6e-08 ***  
## ---  
## Signif. codes:  
## 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1  
##  
## Residual standard error: 0.603 on 185 degrees of freedom  
## Multiple R-squared: 0.159,    Adjusted R-squared: 0.154
```

Multiple regression

- In multiple regression there is one variable to be forecast and several predictor variables.
- The basic concept is that we forecast the time series of interest y assuming that it has a linear relationship with other time series x_1, x_2, \dots, x_K
- We might forecast daily A&E attendance y using temperature x_1 and GP visits x_2 as predictors.

How many variable can we add?

You can add as many as you want but be aware of:

- Overfitting
- Multicollinearity

Multiple regression and forecasting

$$y_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{1,t} + \beta_2 x_{2,t} + \cdots + \beta_k x_{k,t} + \varepsilon_t.$$

- y_t is the variable we want to predict: the response variable
- Each $x_{j,t}$ is numerical and is called a predictor. They are usually assumed to be known for all past and future times.
- ε_t is a white noise error term

Estimation of the model

We find the values of $\hat{\beta}_0, \dots, \hat{\beta}_k$ which minimize

$$\sum_{i=1}^N e_i^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 x_{1,i} - \dots - \beta_k x_{k,i})^2.$$

- This is called *least squares* estimation because it gives the least value of the sum of squared errors
- Finding the best estimates of the coefficients is often called *fitting* the model to the data
- We refer to the *estimated* coefficients using the notation $\hat{\beta}_0, \dots, \hat{\beta}_k$.

Useful predictors in linear regression

Linear trend

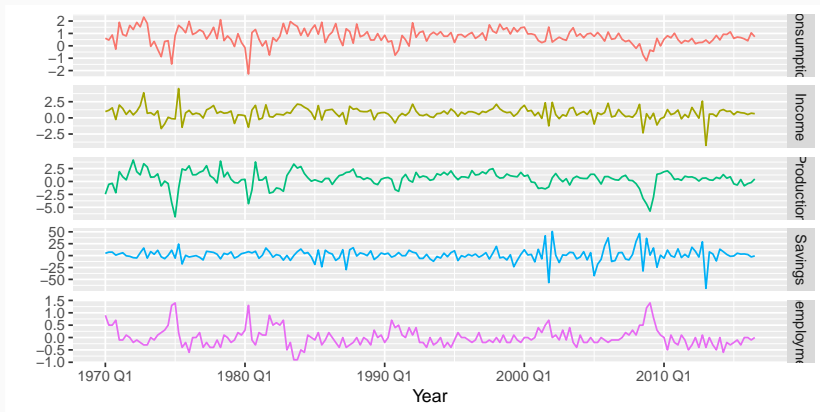
$$x_t = t$$

- $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$
- Strong assumption that trend will continue.
- use special function `trend()`

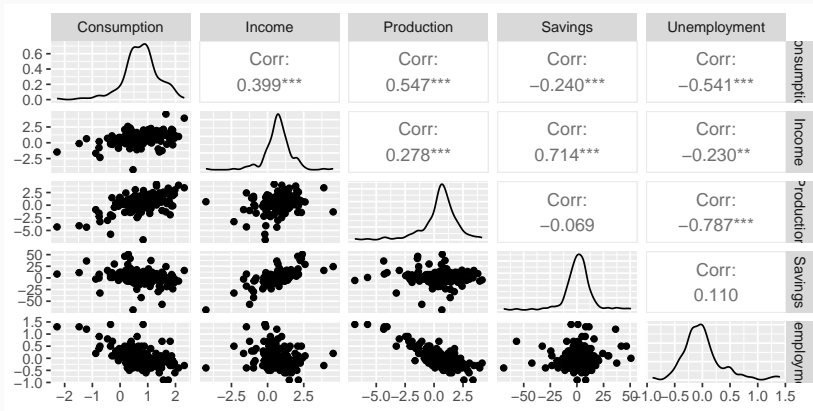
Seasonality

- Seasonality will be considered based on the interval of index
- use special function `season()`

Example: US consumption expenditure



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Example: US consumption expenditure

```
fit_consMR <- us_change %>%  
  model(lm = TSLM(Consumption ~ Income + Production + Unemployment + Savings))  
report(fit_consMR)
```

```
## Series: Consumption  
## Model: TSLM  
##  
## Residuals:  
##      Min      1Q  Median      3Q      Max  
## -0.8830 -0.1764 -0.0368  0.1525  1.2055  
##  
## Coefficients:  
##              Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)  
## (Intercept)   0.26729    0.03721   7.18 1.7e-11 ***  
## Income        0.71448    0.04219  16.93 < 2e-16 ***  
## Production    0.04589    0.02588   1.77  0.078 .  
## Unemployment -0.20477    0.10550  -1.94  0.054 .  
## Savings       -0.04527    0.00278 -16.29 < 2e-16 ***  
## ---  
## Signif. codes:  
## 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1  
##  
## Residual standard error: 0.329 on 182 degrees of freedom  
## Multiple R-squared: 0.754, Adjusted R-squared: 0.749  
## F-statistic: 139 on 4 and 182 DF, p-value: <2e-16
```

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Multiple regression and forecasting

For forecasting purposes, we require the following assumptions:

- ε_t are uncorrelated and zero mean
- ε_t are uncorrelated with each $x_{j,t}$.

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It is **useful** to also have $\varepsilon_t \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$ when producing prediction intervals or doing statistical tests.

Residual diagnostics

There are a series of plots that should be produced in order to check different aspects of the fitted model and the underlying assumptions.

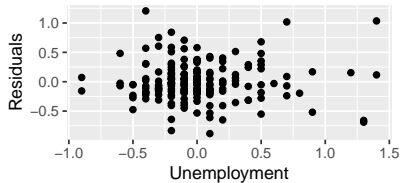
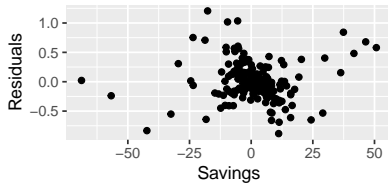
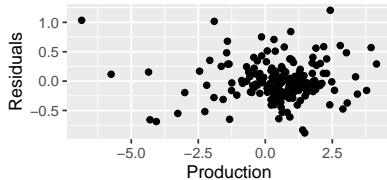
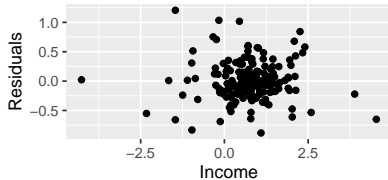
- 1 check if residuals are uncorrelated using ACF
- 2 Check if residuals are normally distributed

Residual scatterplots

Useful for spotting outliers and whether the linear model was appropriate.

- Scatterplot of residuals ε_t against each predictor $x_{j,t}$.
- Scatterplot residuals against the fitted values \hat{y}_t
- Expect to see scatterplots resembling a horizontal band with no values too far from the band and no patterns such as curvature or increasing spread.

Example: US consumption expenditure



Residual patterns

- If a plot of the residuals vs any predictor in the model shows a pattern, then the relationship is nonlinear.
- If a plot of the residuals vs any predictor **not** in the model shows a pattern, then the predictor should be added to the model.
- If a plot of the residuals vs fitted values shows a pattern, then there is heteroscedasticity in the errors. (Could try a transformation.)

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Comparing regression models

Computer output for regression will always give the R^2 value. This is a useful summary of the model.

- It is equal to the square of the correlation between y and \hat{y} .
- It is often called the “coefficient of determination”.
- It can also be calculated as follows: $R^2 = \frac{\sum(\hat{y}_t - \bar{y})^2}{\sum(y_t - \bar{y})^2}$
- It is the proportion of variance accounted for (explained) by the predictors.

Comparing regression models

However ...

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- Adding *any* variable tends to increase the value of R^2 , even if that variable is irrelevant.

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To overcome this problem, we can use *adjusted* R^2 :

$$\bar{R}^2 = 1 - (1 - R^2) \frac{T - 1}{T - k - 1}$$

where k = no. predictors and T = no. observations.

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Maximizing \bar{R}^2 is equivalent to minimizing $\hat{\sigma}^2$.

$$\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{T - k - 1} \sum_{t=1}^T \varepsilon_t^2$$

Cross-validation

- 1 Remove observation t from the data set, and fit the model using the remaining data. Then compute the error for the omitted observation
- 2 Repeat step 1 for $t = 1, \dots, T$
- 3 Compute the MSE from errors obtained in 1. We shall call this the CV

Akaike's Information Criterion

$$\text{AIC} = -2 \log(L) + 2(k + 2)$$

where L is the likelihood and k is the number of predictors in the model.

- This is a *penalized likelihood* approach.
- *Minimizing* the AIC gives the best model for prediction.
- AIC penalizes terms more heavily than \bar{R}^2 .
- Minimizing the AIC is asymptotically equivalent to minimizing MSE via leave-one-out cross-validation.

Corrected AIC

For small values of T , the AIC tends to select too many predictors, and so a bias-corrected version of the AIC has been developed.

$$\text{AIC}_C = \text{AIC} + \frac{2(k+2)(k+3)}{T-k-3}$$

As with the AIC, the AIC_C should be minimized.

Comparing regression models

```
glance(fit_consMR) %>%  
  select(r_squared, adj_r_squared, AIC, AICc, CV)
```

```
## # A tibble: 1 x 5  
##   r_squared adj_r_squared   AIC   AICc     CV  
##   <dbl>         <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>  
## 1     0.754         0.749 -409. -409.  0.116
```

Choosing regression variables

Best subsets regression

- Fit all possible regression models using one or more of the predictors.
- Choose the best model based on one of the measures of predictive ability (CV, AIC, AICc).

Choosing regression variables

Backwards stepwise regression

- Start with a model containing all variables.
- Try subtracting one variable at a time. Keep the model if it has lower CV or AICc.
- Iterate until no further improvement.
- You can also do forward stepwise

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Ex-ante versus ex-post forecasts

- *Ex ante forecasts* are made using only information available in advance.
 - ▶ require forecasts of predictors
- *Ex post forecasts* are made using later information on the predictors.
 - ▶ useful for studying behaviour of forecasting models.
- trend, seasonal and calendar variables are all known in advance, so these don't need to be forecast.

Scenario based forecasting

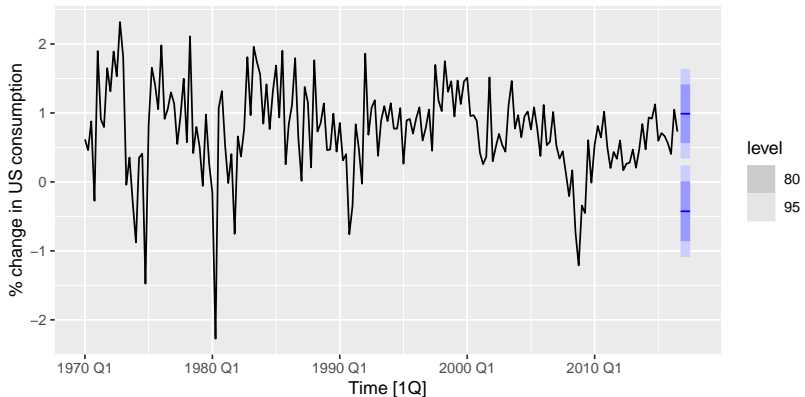
- Assumes possible scenarios for the predictor variables
- Prediction intervals for scenario based forecasts do not include the uncertainty associated with the future values of the predictor variables.

US Consumption

```
fit_consBest <- us_change %>%  
  model(  
    TSLM(Consumption ~ Income + Savings + Unemployment)  
  )  
  
down_future <- new_data(us_change, 4) %>%  
  mutate(Income = -1, Savings = -0.5, Unemployment = 0)  
fc_down <- forecast(fit_consBest, new_data = down_future)  
  
up_future <- new_data(us_change, 4) %>%  
  mutate(Income = 1, Savings = 0.5, Unemployment = 0)  
fc_up <- forecast(fit_consBest, new_data = up_future)
```

US Consumption

```
us_change %>% autoplot(Consumption) +  
  ylab("% change in US consumption") +  
  autolayer(fc_up, series = "increase") +  
  autolayer(fc_down, series = "decrease") +  
  guides(colour = guide_legend(title = "Scenario"))
```



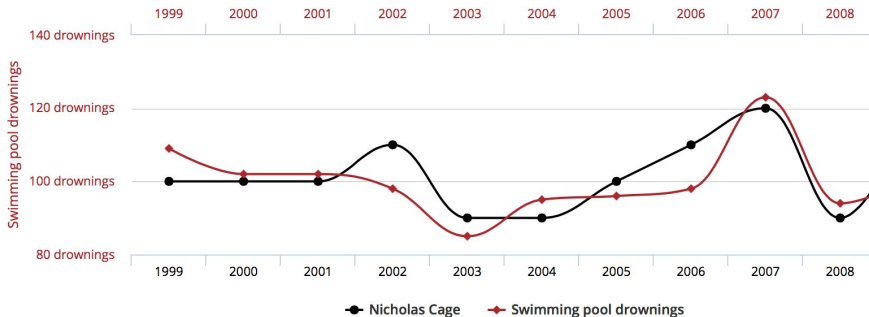
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Correlation does not imply causation

Number of people who drowned by falling into a pool
correlates with
Films Nicolas Cage appeared in

Correlation: 66.6% ($r=0.666004$)



Correlation is not causation

- When x is useful for predicting y , it is not necessarily causing y .
- e.g., predict number of drownings y using number of ice-creams sold x .
- Correlations are useful for forecasting, even when there is no causality.
- Better models usually involve causal relationships (e.g., temperature x and people z to predict drownings y).

Multicollinearity

In regression analysis, multicollinearity occurs when:

- Two predictors are highly correlated (i.e., the correlation between them is close to ± 1).
- A linear combination of some of the predictors is highly correlated with another predictor.
- A linear combination of one subset of predictors is highly correlated with a linear combination of another subset of predictors.

Modern regression models

- Suppose instead of 3 regressor we had 44.
 - ▶ For example, 44 predictors leads to 18 trillion possible models!
- Stepwise regression cannot solve this problem due to the number of variables.
- We need to use the family of Lasso models: lasso, ridge, elastic net
 - ▶ watch out for a series of blogs on this in coming weeks

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Dummy variables

If a categorical variable takes only two values (e.g., 'Yes' or 'No'), then an equivalent numerical variable can be constructed taking value 1 if yes and 0 if no. This is called a **dummy variable**.

	A	B
1	Yes	1
2	Yes	1
3	No	0
4	Yes	1
5	No	0
6	No	0
7	Yes	1
8	Yes	1
9	No	0
10	No	0
11	No	0
12	No	0
13	Yes	1
14	No	0

Dummy variables

If there are more than two categories, then the variable can be coded using several dummy variables (one fewer than the total number of categories).

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Monday	1	0	0	0
2	Tuesday	0	1	0	0
3	Wednesday	0	0	1	0
4	Thursday	0	0	0	1
5	Friday	0	0	0	0
6	Monday	1	0	0	0
7	Tuesday	0	1	0	0
8	Wednesday	0	0	1	0
9	Thursday	0	0	0	1
10	Friday	0	0	0	0
11	Monday	1	0	0	0
12	Tuesday	0	1	0	0
13	Wednesday	0	0	1	0
14	Thursday	0	0	0	1
15	Friday	0	0	0	0

Uses of dummy variables

Seasonal dummies

- For quarterly data: use 3 dummies
- For monthly data: use 11 dummies
- For daily data: use 6 dummies

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Outliers

- If there is an outlier, you can use a dummy variable to remove its effect.

Uses of dummy variables

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- For monthly data: use 11 dummies
- For daily data: use 6 dummies

Outliers

- If there is an outlier, you can use a dummy variable to remove its effect.

Public holidays

- For daily data: if it is a public holiday, $\text{dummy}=1$, otherwise $\text{dummy}=0$.

Intervention variables

Spikes

- Equivalent to a dummy variable for handling an outlier.

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Steps

- Variable takes value 0 before the intervention and 1 afterwards.

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Change of slope

- Variables take values 0 before the intervention and values $\{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ afterwards.
- this could be also handled using `trend()`

Include any special event using dummies

- Christmas Eve: if Christmas Eve, $v_t = 1$, $v_t = 0$ otherwise
- New year's Day: if New year's Day, $v_t = 1$, $v_t = 0$ otherwise.
- and more: Ramadan and Chinese new year, school holiday, etc

lag and lead variables

- Lagged values of a predictor:
 - ▶ Create new variables by shifting the existing variable backwards
- Lead values of a predictor:
 - ▶ Create new variables by shifting the existing variable forwards

Example: x is advertising which has a delayed effect

x_1 = advertising for previous month;

x_2 = advertising for two months previously;

⋮

Interactions

For example, sometimes the effect of a particular event might be different if it is on a weekend or a week day or its effect might be different in each shift:

- you need to introduce an interaction variable
- you can use a new dummy as : $v1*v2$

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Lab Session 9

Given the daily A&E time series, we want to develop a regression model that takes into account temperature, and daily seasonality:

- 1 Import the temperature data `temp` from the project directory
- 2 Join them to daily data set you have created before
- 3 Check the linear relationship between daily admission and temperature
- 4 Split the data into train and test
- 5 Train data using different regression models by addition different predictors
- 6 Produce forecast
- 7 Calculate point forecast accuracy