

Outline of the written project (in this order):

- **Title page and abstract.** You must prepare a title page with an appropriate title and abstract. The abstract should go on the title page. An abstract is a very high-level written summary of the entire project. Main points and findings only. Aim for about 200 words.
- **Introduction.** This part introduces the reader to the data set and to the area to which it pertains. For example, if you are analyzing giraffe population growth data from southern Kenya, you should describe why this is an important problem to investigate and give the reader a review of pertinent background information about giraffes in Kenya. Basically, introduce the reader to the problem and why it is meritorious of investigation. This should be written at a very basic level (i.e., no mathematics or notation). Remember your reader (i.e., me!) may not know anything about the area in which you are writing.
- **Model specification.** This is the “meat” of the paper. In this section, you want to describe, in clear detail, the data analysis used to specify your candidate models. Pretend like you are taking me by the hand and leading me through your thought process which leads to your model selections.
- **Fitting and Diagnostics.** This part of the project should describe the model fitting and diagnostics techniques you used, with the goal of identifying a “final” model for forecasting. Identify also what possible deficiencies your final model has. Remember, no model is perfect.
- **Forecasting.** This section should describe the techniques you used to forecast future observations.
- **Discussion.** Here you want to offer a summary of what you did in the project and draw your main conclusions. Also, it is a good idea to discuss here other issues related to the data analysis. For example, does your analysis have any shortcomings or lack of generalizability? What were the main problems you encountered? It is OK if your final model is not “picture-perfect.” Few are. Real life data analysis is often more difficult than textbook problems.
- **Bibliography.** Cite all references carefully.
- **Appendix.** Use appendix to provide your R code.