

Autocorrelation 1: Temporal Autocorrelation

Michael Noonan

March 1, 2021

Biol 520C: Statistical modelling for biological data



1. Housekeeping
2. Autocorrelation and the IID Assumption
3. Temporal Autocorrelation
4. Correcting Temporal Autocorrelation
5. Correcting Temporal Autocorrelation in R

Housekeeping



- Practical 06 is up on canvas, and due next Tuesday.

Autocorrelation and the IID Assumption

The IID Assumption

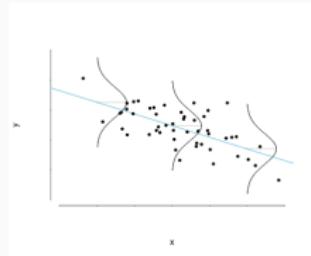
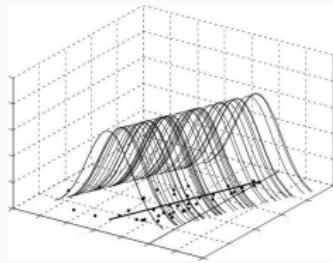


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The IID Assumption



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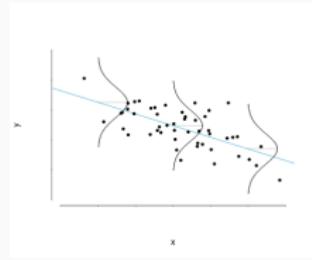
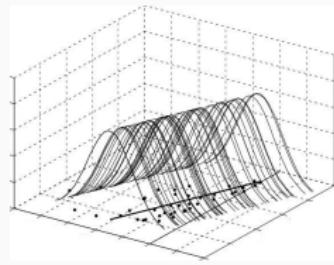


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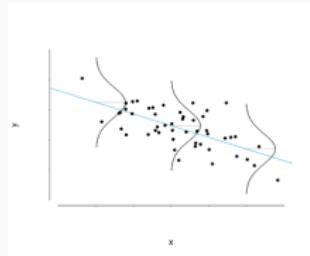
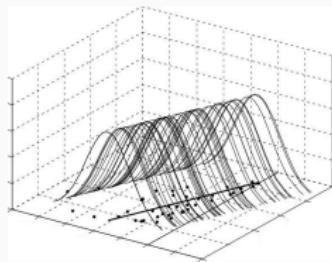
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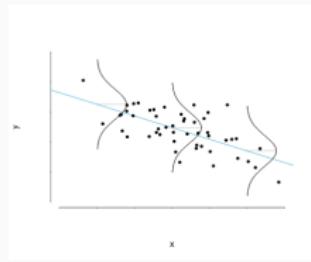
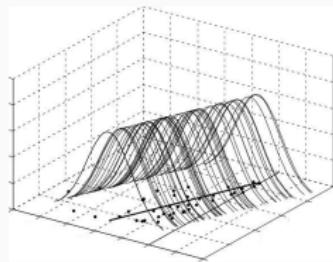
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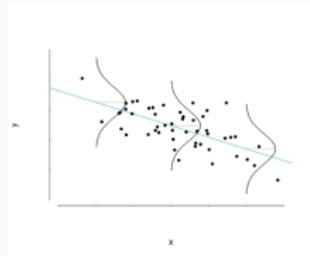
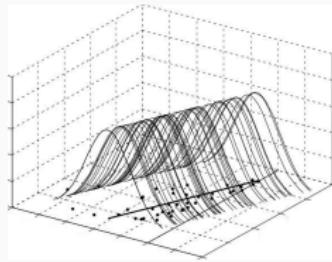
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Autocorrelation is important



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Dr. Sam Wang, Neuroscientist
—Princeton Election Consortium



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Nate Silver, Statistician
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"It is totally over. If Trump wins more than 240 electoral votes, I will eat a bug."



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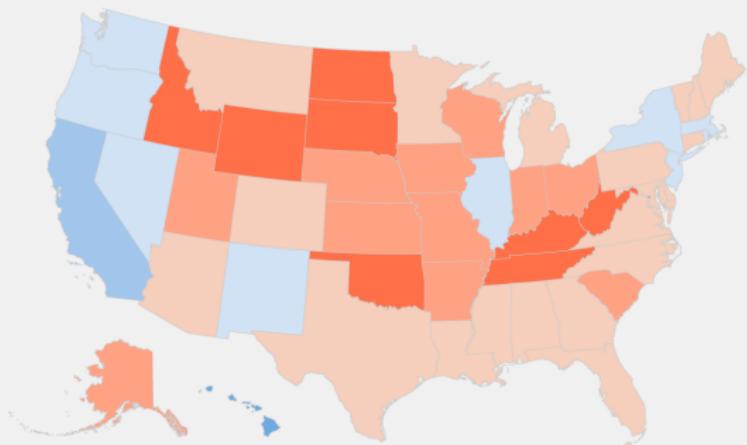
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"Trump Is Just A Normal Polling Error Behind Clinton"

Ignoring non-ind. \rightarrow overconfidence

Polls underestimated Trump in red states, Clinton in blue states

2016 election results vs. FiveThirtyEight's adjusted polling average by state

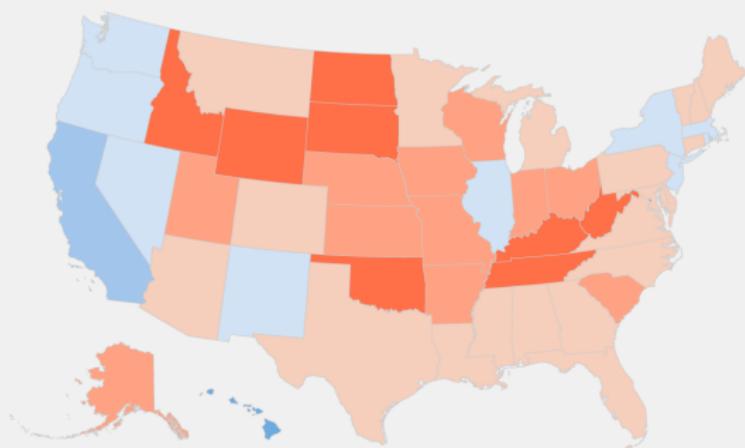


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REPUBLICAN VOTE MARGIN RELATIVE TO POLLS

-20 -15 -10 -5 0 +5 +10 +15



 FIVETHIRTYEIGHT

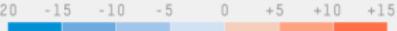
SOURCE: DAVID WASSERMAN

Are these polling errors
independently distributed?

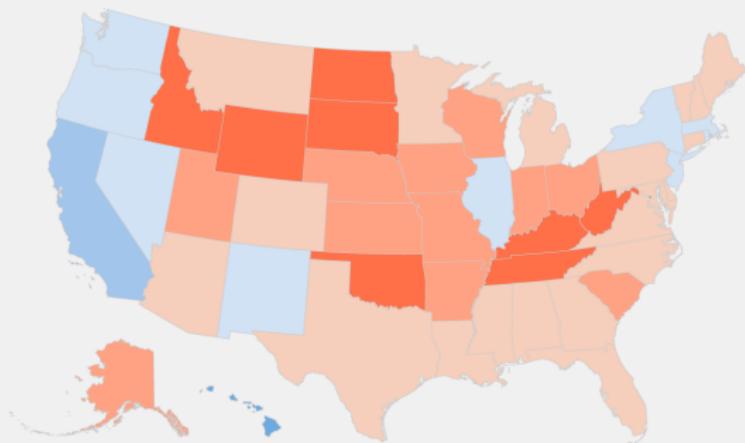
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RеспUBLICAN VOTE MARGIN RELATIVE TO POLLS



-20	-15	-10	-5	0	+5	+10	+15
Dark Blue	Medium Blue	Light Blue	White	Light Orange	Medium Orange	Dark Orange	Red



 FIVETHIRTYEIGHT

SOURCE: DAVID WASSERMAN

Are these polling errors
independently distributed?

This same statistical issue that
caused overly confident
predictions of Clinton's 2016
victory can result in
overconfidence in parameter
estimates and predictions in
regression models.

Autocorrelation impact



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Sample size, n is the denominator when calculating both SEs and CIs.

$$\text{SE} = \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$$

$$95\% \text{CI} = \bar{x} \pm 1.96 \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$$

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When data are autocorrelated $n_{\text{effective}} < n$, meaning SEs and CIs shrink faster than they should, resulting in a false sense of confidence.

Effect is usually strongest on SEs and CIs, but autocorrelation can also

impact the mean: $\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i \right) = \frac{x_1 + \cdots + x_n}{n}$

Sources of autocorrelation



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Anything that causes some data points to be more similar to each other than others can result in autocorrelation.



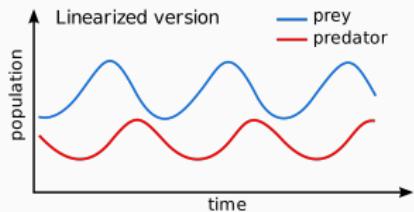
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- **Time:** Data that are close together in time are more related.



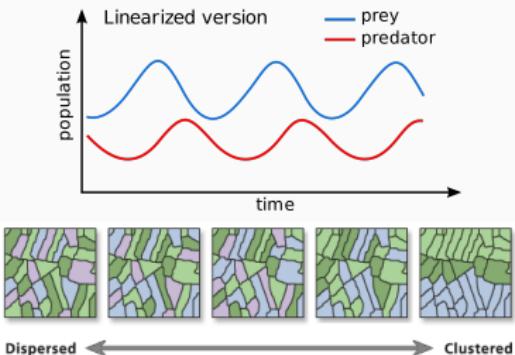
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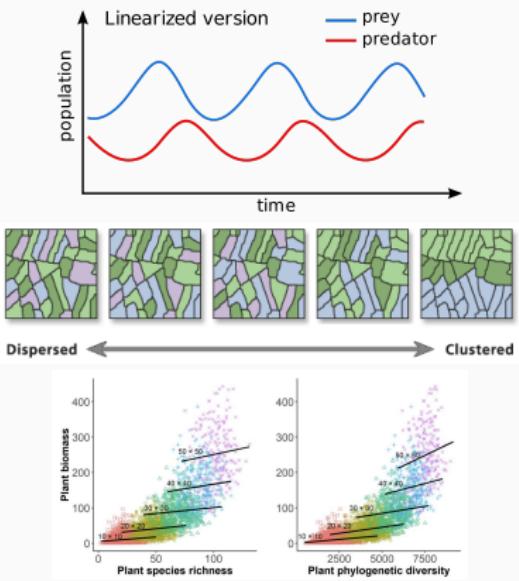
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- **Time:** Data that are close together in time are more related.
- **Space:** Data that are close together in space are more related.
- **Phylogeny:** Species that are closer together on an evolutionary timescale are more related.



Temporal Autocorrelation

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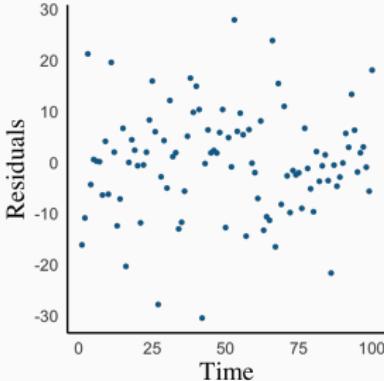
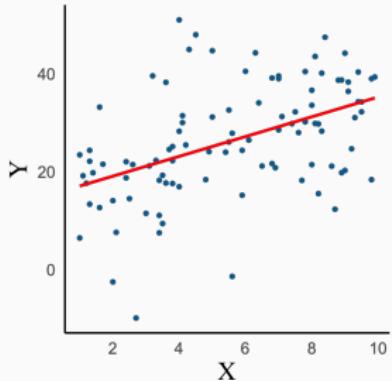
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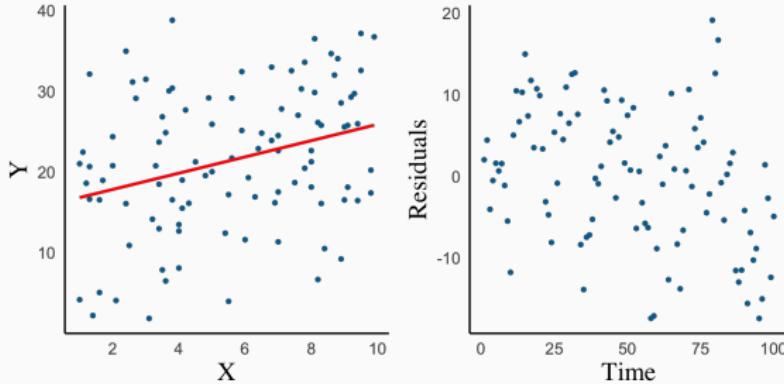
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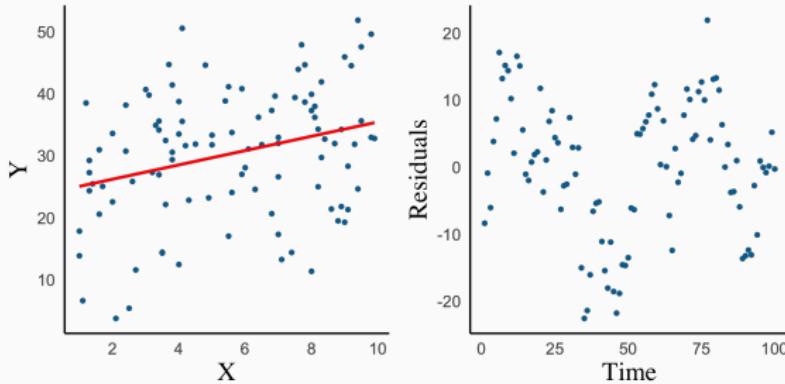
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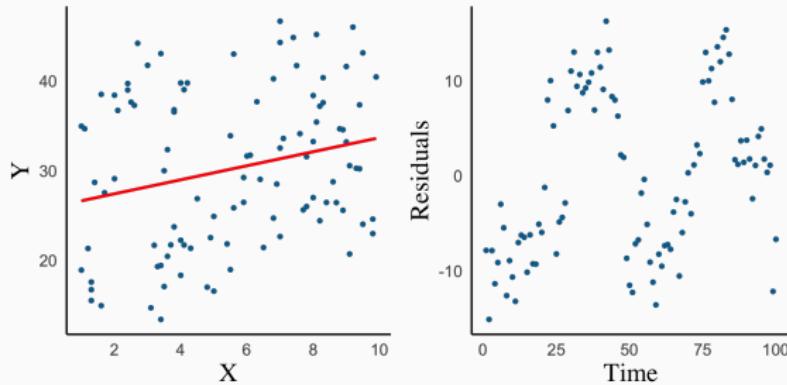
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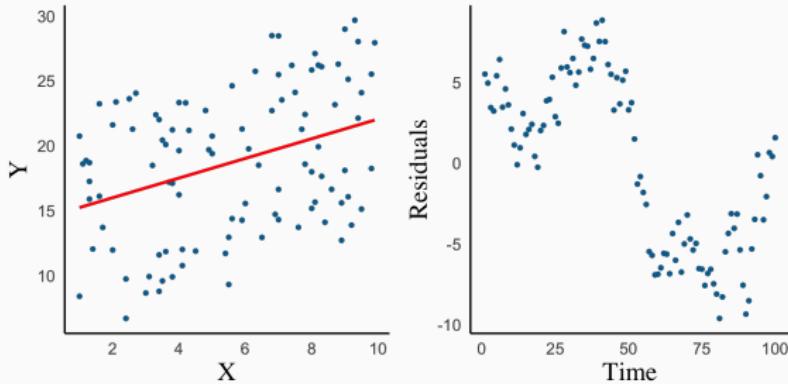
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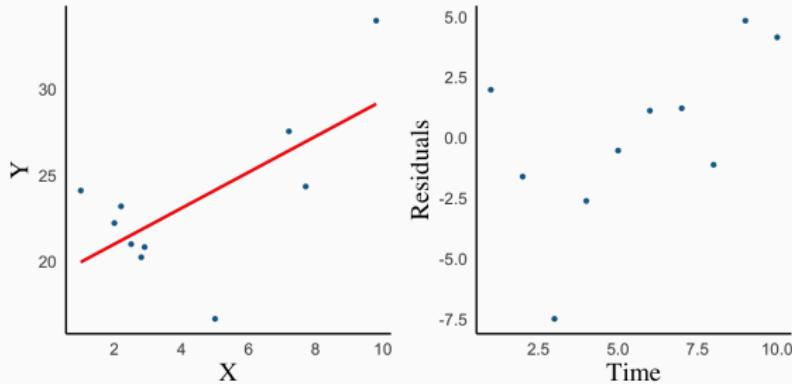
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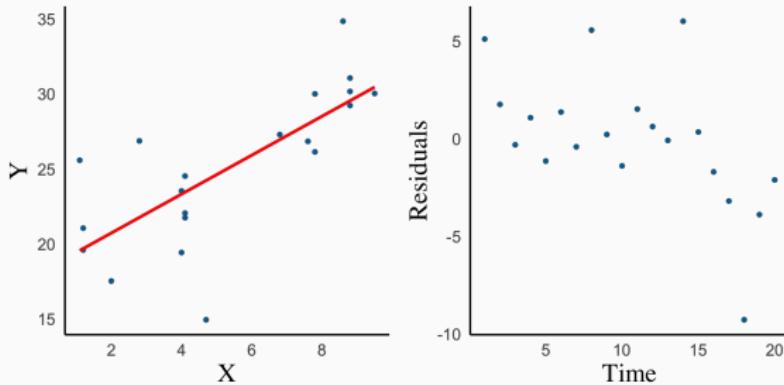
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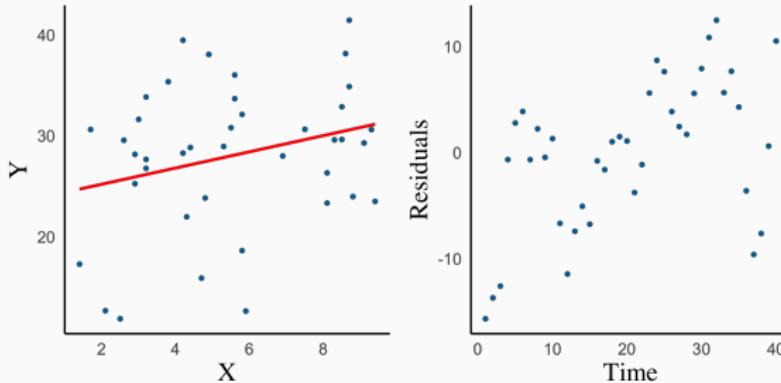
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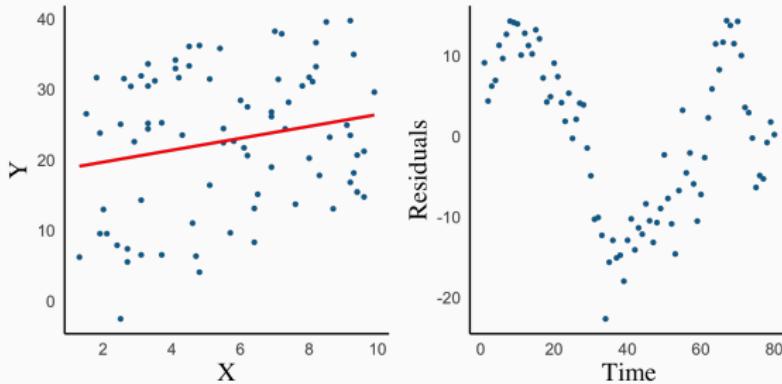
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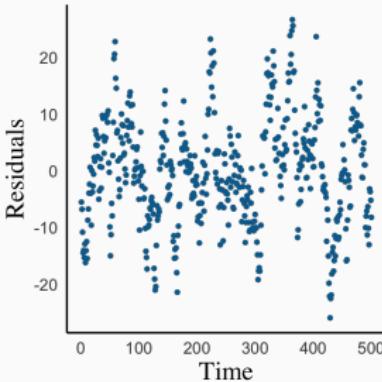
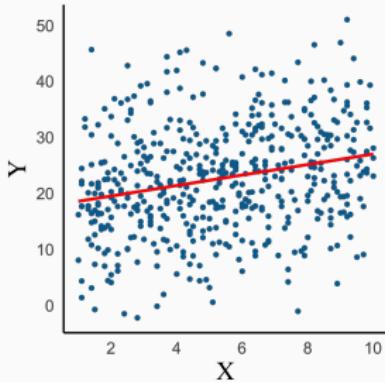
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Identifying Autocorrelation

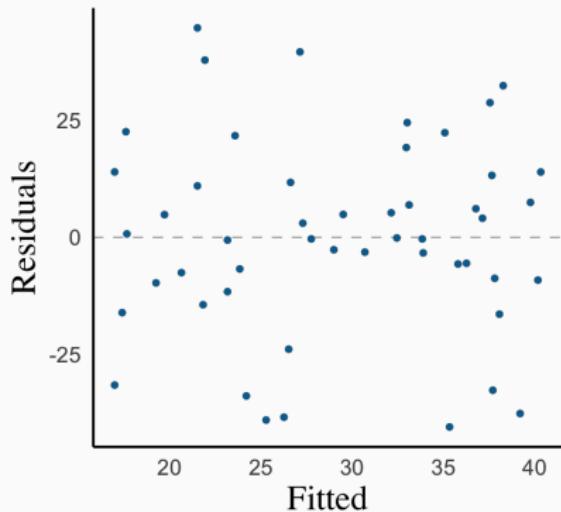


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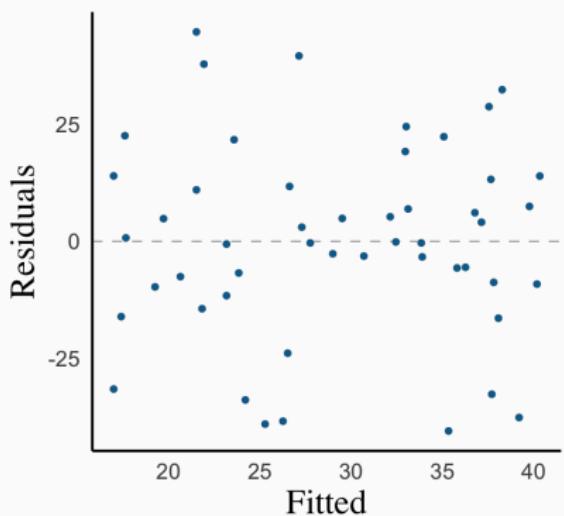
Autocorrelation can be difficult to see in a simple residuals vs. fitted plot (not designed for this purpose).



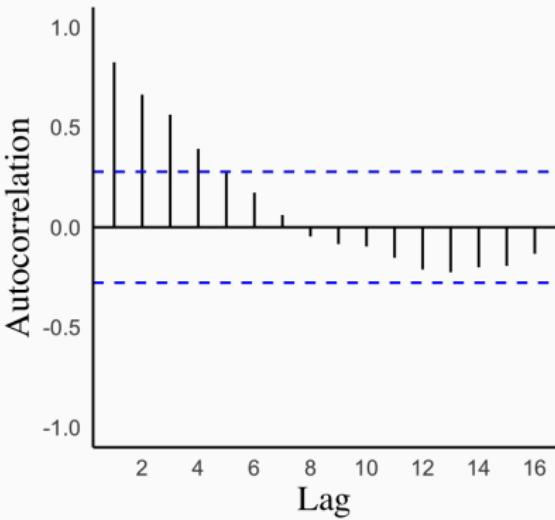
Identifying Autocorrelation



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Instead we typically plot autocorrelation functions (ACFs)

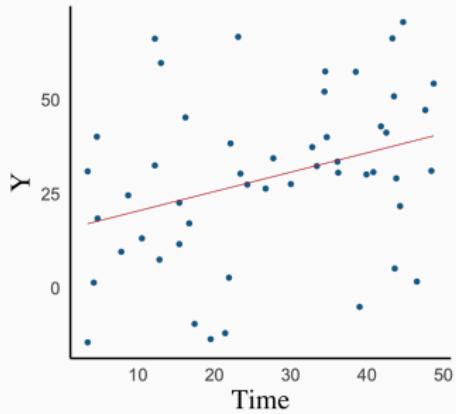


Autocorrelation Function

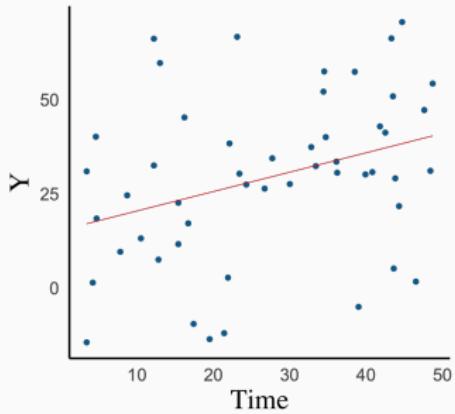


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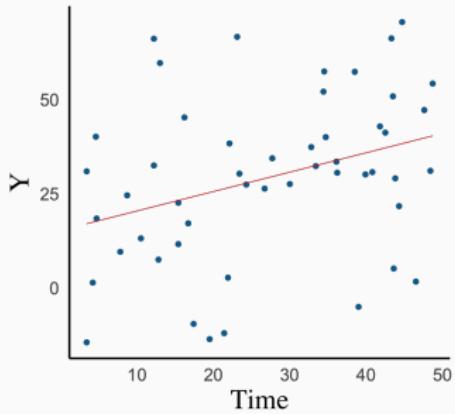


Autocorrelation Function



Resid _t	Resid _{t + 0}
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
...	...
i	i

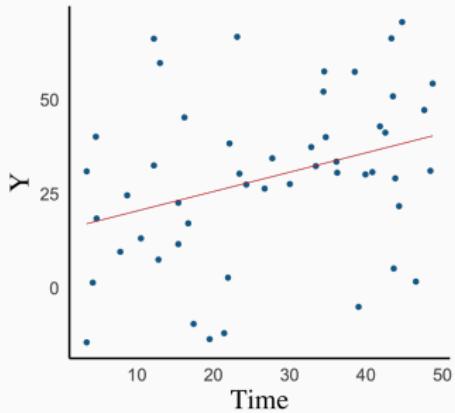
Autocorrelation Function



Resid_t	Resid_{t+0}
1	1
2	2
3	3
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5	5
...	...
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$$var_t = \frac{1}{n} \sum (\text{resid}_t \times \text{resid}_t)$$

Autocorrelation Function

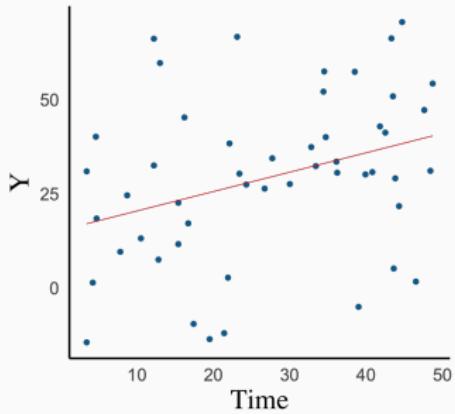


Resid _t	Resid _{t+0}
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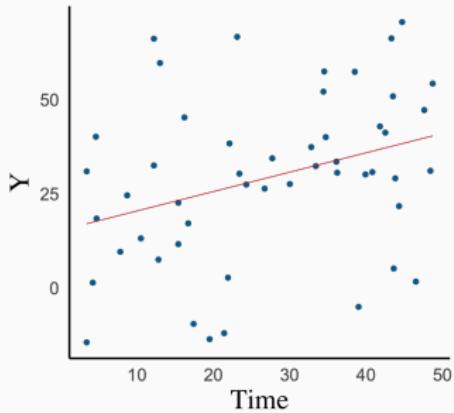
Resid_t	Resid_{t+0}
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$$\text{var}_t = \frac{1}{n} \sum (\text{resid}_t \times \text{resid}_t)$$

$$\text{var}_{t+0} = \frac{1}{n} \sum (\text{resid}_t \times \text{resid}_{t+0})$$

$$\text{ACF}_0 = \text{var}_{t+0} / \text{var}_t$$

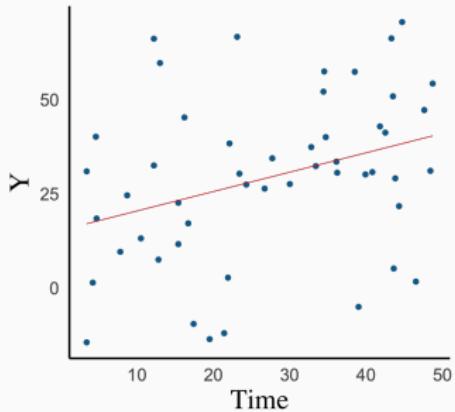
Autocorrelation Function



Resid _t	Resid _{t + 1}
1	2
2	3
3	4
4	5
5	6
...	...
i - 1	i

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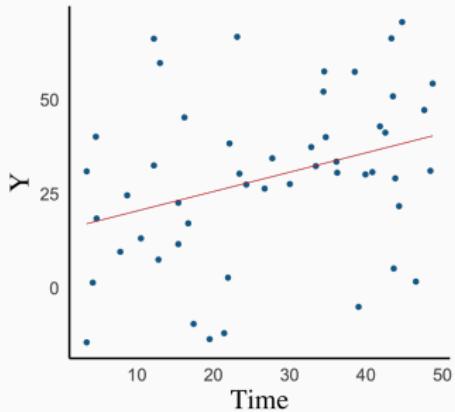


Resid_t	Resid_{t+1}
1	2
2	3
3	4
4	5
5	6
...	...
$i - 1$	i

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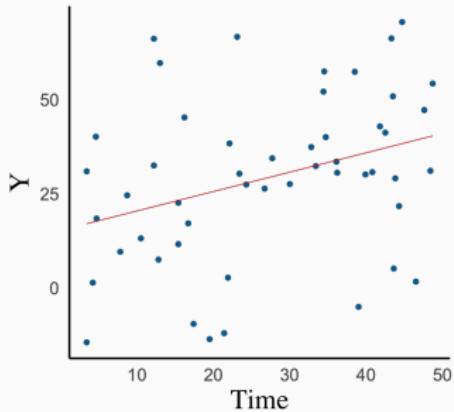
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$$\text{var}_{t+1} = \frac{1}{n} \sum (\text{resid}_t \times \text{resid}_{t+1})$$

$$\text{ACF}_1 = \text{var}_{t+1}/\text{var}_t$$

Autocorrelation Function



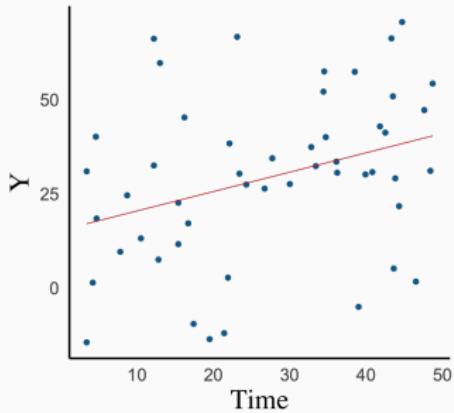
Resid_t	Resid_{t+2}
1	3
2	4
3	5
4	6
5	7
...	...
$i-2$	i

$$\text{var}_t = \frac{1}{n} \sum (\text{resid}_t \times \text{resid}_t)$$

$$\text{var}_{t+2} = \frac{1}{n} \sum (\text{resid}_t \times \text{resid}_{t+2})$$

$$\text{ACF}_2 = \text{var}_{t+2}/\text{var}_t$$

Autocorrelation Function



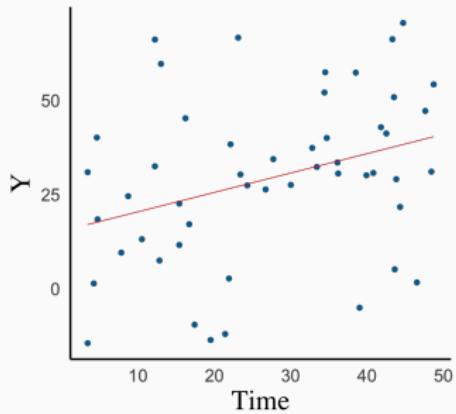
Resid_t	Resid_{t+3}
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4	7
5	8
...	...
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Autocorrelation Function



Resid_t	Resid_{t+i-1}
1	i

$$\text{var}_t = \frac{1}{n} \sum (\text{resid}_t \times \text{resid}_t)$$

$$\text{var}_{t+i-1} = \frac{1}{n} \sum (\text{resid}_t \times \text{resid}_{t+i-1})$$

$\text{ACF}_{i-1} = \text{var}_{t+i-1}/\text{var}_t$ Continue until you've run through the whole dataset.

Autocorrelation Function cont.

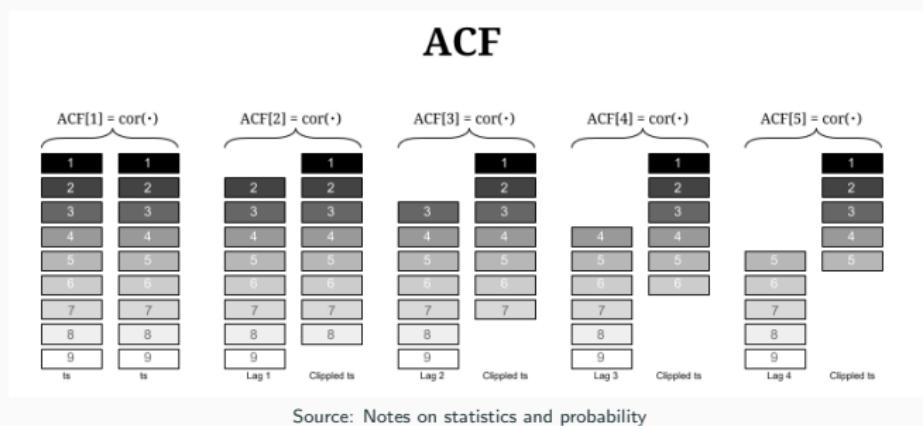


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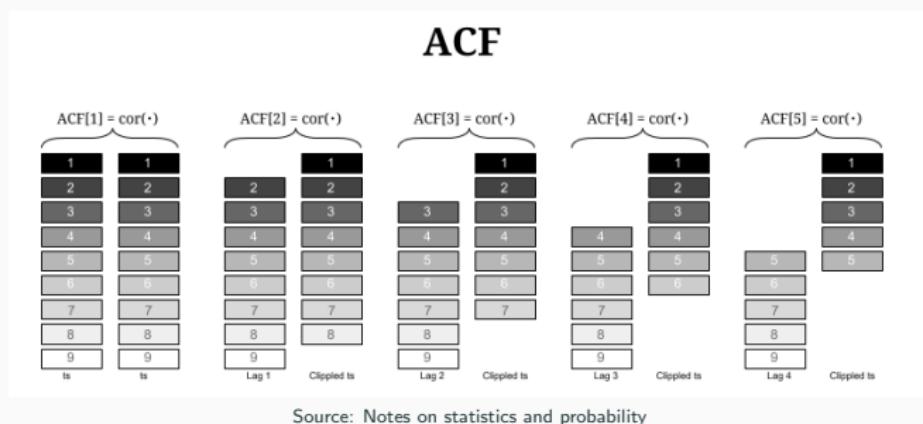
Autocorrelation Function cont.



Schematically, calculating the ACF looks like this:



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What happens to the sample size as the lag increases?

Visualising the ACF

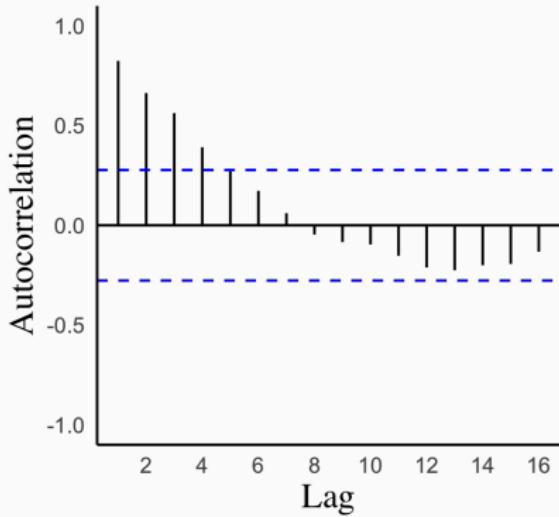


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Visualising the ACF



ACF is typically used as a visual diagnostic tool.

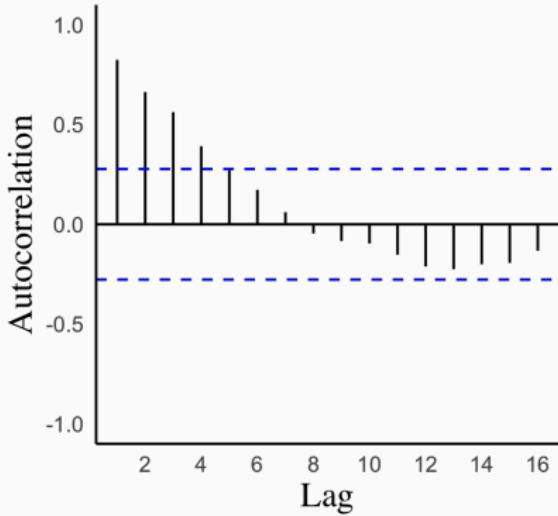


Visualising the ACF



ACF is typically used as a visual diagnostic tool.

Ranges from 1 to -1 and autocorrelation at lag 0 = 1.



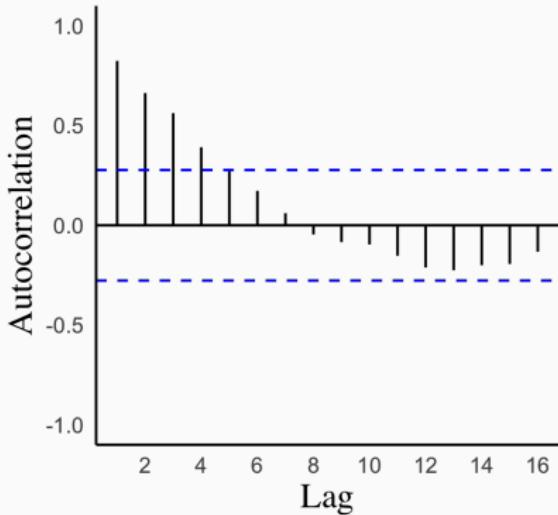
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Usually accompanied by dashed lines telling you where significance lies (95% CIs).



Visualising the ACF

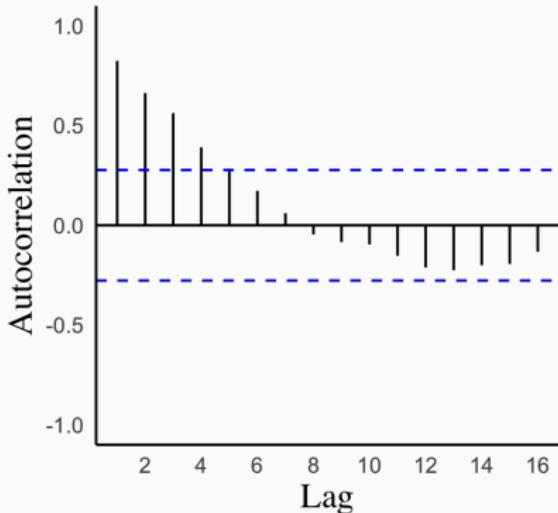


ACF is typically used as a visual diagnostic tool.

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You can do this in R via the `acf()` function.



Correcting Temporal Autocorrelation

Correcting Temporal Autocorrelation



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Correcting Temporal Autocorrelation



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So you find yourself with temporally autocorrelated data. What next?

Correcting Temporal Autocorrelation



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This lecture focuses only on tools for dealing with the lack of independence associated with temporal data.

If you're interested in analysing temporal trends you need to apply time series analysis, which we will not cover this in this course.

Temp. Autocorrelation and regression



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The models we've been working with so far:

$$y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \times x_i + \varepsilon_i \quad \varepsilon_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, V) \quad V = \sigma^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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Multiplying this out would give you an $n \times 1$ matrix equal to σ^2 .

$$V = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma^2 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma^2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \sigma^2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma^2 \\ \sigma^2 \\ \vdots \\ \sigma^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Variance-Covariance Matrix



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Correcting for autocorrelation ‘simply’ involves identifying the autocorrelation structure of the residuals and modifying the variance-covariance matrix.

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When the residuals are autocorrelated, the off-diagonals $\neq 0$.

$$V = \sigma^2 \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho & \cdots & \rho \\ \rho & 1 & \cdots & \rho \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \rho & \rho & \cdots & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{correlation matrix}}$$

Compound Symmetric Error Structure



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variance–covariance matrix

Often too simplistic for real autocorrelation structures, but can sometimes be useful.

AR-1 Error Structure



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AR-1 correlation is a useful correlation structure for ecological data.

ARMA Error Structure



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ARMA models are very flexible, but can be challenging to work with.

They can also be very slow to fit on large datasets.

Correcting Temporal Autocorrelation in R

The Hawaiian bird data

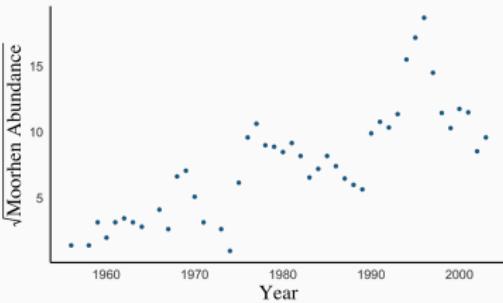


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We're going to work with a dataset from Reed *et al.* (2007) to examine the abundance of moorhen (*Gallinula galeata*) on the Hawaiian Island Kauai.

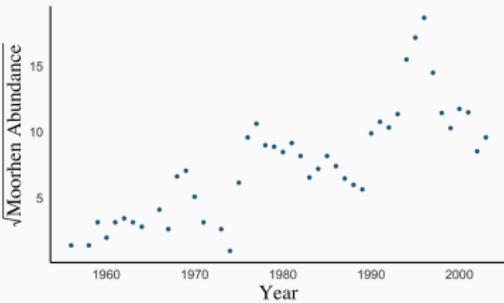


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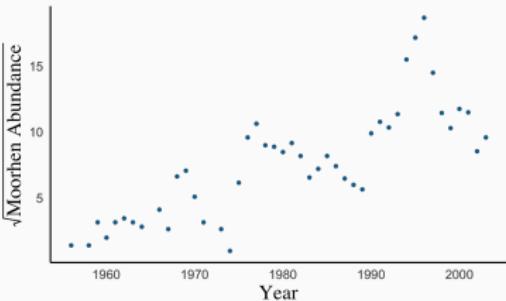


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Today's starting point is the linear regression model:

$$\sqrt{\text{Birds}_i} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Rainfall}_i + \beta_2 \text{Year}_i + \varepsilon_i$$

Note: The $\sqrt{\cdot}$ transformation was to clean up heteroskedasticity. We could have used the methods we learned last lecture, but we'll keep it simple today.

Autocorr. in the Hawaiian bird data



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Autocorr. in the Hawaiian bird data



```
library(nlme)

data <- read.csv("Hawaii.csv")

data$Birds <- sqrt(data$Moorhen.Kauai)

FIT <- gls(Birds ~ Rainfall + Year, na.action = na.omit,
           data = data)

Generalized least squares fit by REML
Model: Birds ~ Rainfall + Year
Data: data
      AIC      BIC    logLik
228.4798 235.4305 -110.2399

Coefficients:
              Value Std.Error t-value p-value
(Intercept) -477.6634   56.41907 -8.466346 0.0000
Rainfall       0.0009    0.04989   0.017245 0.9863
Year          0.2450    0.02847   8.604858 0.0000

Residual standard error: 2.608391
Degrees of freedom: 45 total; 42 residual
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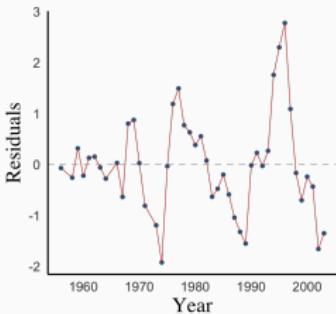
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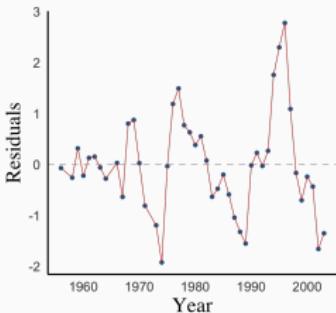
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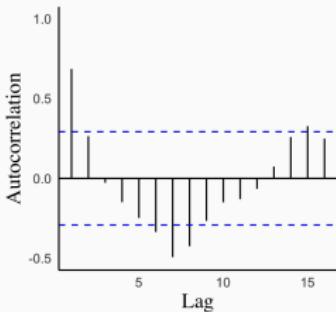
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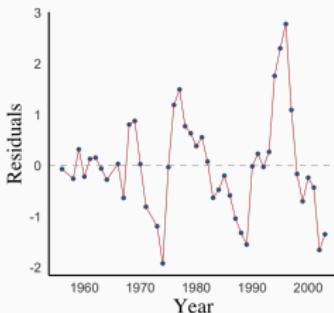
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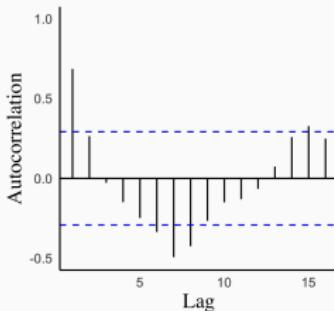
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These data are clearly autocorrelated and the results can't be trusted.

Bird data var-cov matrix



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Our model is:

$$\sqrt{Birds_i} = \beta_{\text{Intercept}} + \beta_1 \times \text{Rainfall}_i + \beta_2 \times \text{Year}_i + \varepsilon_i \quad \varepsilon_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, V)$$

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To account for the year over year autocorrelation in moorhen counts we can modify the covariances of variance-covariance matrix

$$V = \begin{bmatrix} var_{1958} & cov_{1958,1959} & \cdots & \cdots & cov_{1958,2003} \\ cov_{1959,1958} & var_{1959} & \cdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ cov_{1960,1958} & cov_{1960,1959} & var_{1960} & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ cov_{2003,1958} & \cdots & \cdots & cov_{2003,2002} & var_{2003} \end{bmatrix}$$

Compound Symmetric Errors in R



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...
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Formula: ~Year
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AIC(FIT, FIT_CompSymm)

      df      AIC
FIT        4 228.4798
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Compound Symmetric Errors in R



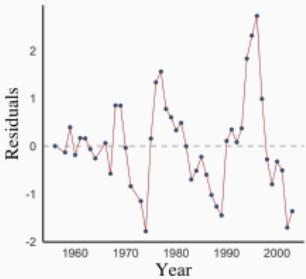
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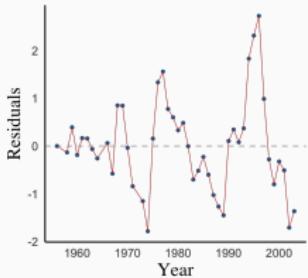
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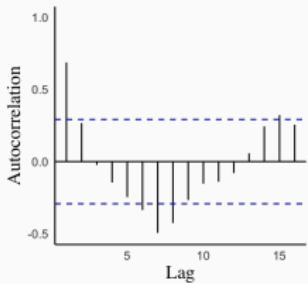
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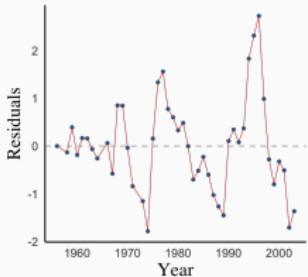
```
Rho
```

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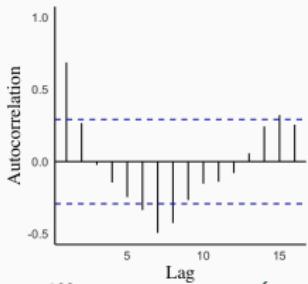
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	df	AIC
FIT	4	228.4798
FIT_CompSymm	5	230.4798



```
acf(residuals(FIT_CompSymm,  
              type = "normalized"))
```



AIC shows we made the fit worse, and the residuals are still autocorr. :(

AR-1 Errors in R



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AR-1 errors can be applied via the `corAR1()` function.

AR-1 Errors in R



AR-1 errors can be applied via the `corAR1()` function.

```
FIT_AR1 <- gls(Birds ~ Rainfall + Year,  
                 na.action = na.omit,  
                 correlation = corAR1(form = ~ Year),  
                 data = data)
```



AR-1 errors can be applied via the `corAR1()` function.

```
FIT_AR1 <- gls(Birds ~ Rainfall + Year,  
                 na.action = na.omit,  
                 correlation = corAR1(form = ~ Year),  
                 data = data)  
  
summary(FIT_AR1)  
...  
Correlation Structure: ARMA(1,0)  
Formula: ~Year  
Parameter estimate(s):  
    Phi1  
0.7734303  
...
```

AR-1 Errors in R



AR-1 errors can be applied via the `corAR1()` function.

```
FIT_AR1 <- gls(Birds ~ Rainfall + Year,
                 na.action = na.omit,
                 correlation = corAR1(form = ~ Year),
                 data = data)

summary(FIT_AR1)
...
Correlation Structure: ARMA(1,0)
  Formula: ~Year
Parameter estimate(s):
  Phi1
0.7734303
...
AIC(FIT, FIT_CompSymm, FIT_AR1)

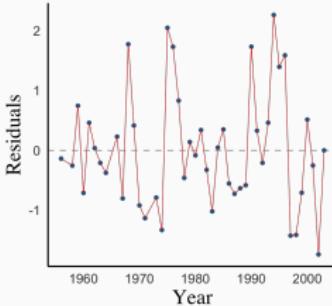
      df      AIC
FIT        4 228.4798
FIT_CompSymm 5 230.4798
FIT_AR1     5 199.1394
```

AR-1 Errors in R



AR-1 errors can be applied via the `corAR1()` function.

```
FIT_AR1 <- gls(Birds ~ Rainfall + Year,  
                 na.action = na.omit,  
                 correlation = corAR1(form = ~ Year),  
                 data = data)  
  
summary(FIT_AR1)  
...  
Correlation Structure: ARMA(1,0)  
  Formula: ~Year  
Parameter estimate(s):  
  Phi1  
0.7734303  
...  
  
AIC(FIT, FIT_CompSymm, FIT_AR1)  
  
      df      AIC  
FIT        4 228.4798  
FIT_CompSymm  5 230.4798  
FIT_AR1     5 199.1394
```



AR-1 Errors in R



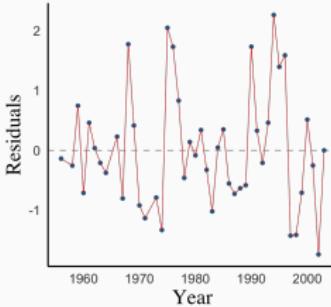
AR-1 errors can be applied via the `corAR1()` function.

```
FIT_AR1 <- gls(Birds ~ Rainfall + Year,  
                 na.action = na.omit,  
                 correlation = corAR1(form = ~ Year),  
                 data = data)
```

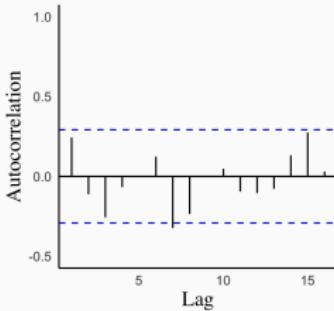
```
summary(FIT_AR1)  
...  
Correlation Structure: ARMA(1,0)  
Formula: ~Year  
Parameter estimate(s):  
    Phi1  
0.7734303  
...
```

```
AIC(FIT, FIT_CompSymm, FIT_AR1)
```

	df	AIC
FIT	4	228.4798
FIT_CompSymm	5	230.4798
FIT_AR1	5	199.1394



```
acf(residuals(FIT_AR1, type  
= "normalized"))
```



AR-1 Errors in R

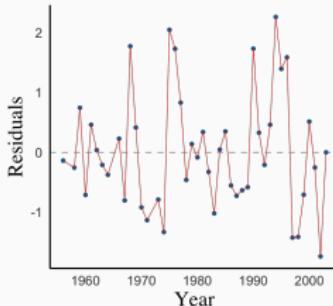


AR-1 errors can be applied via the `corAR1()` function.

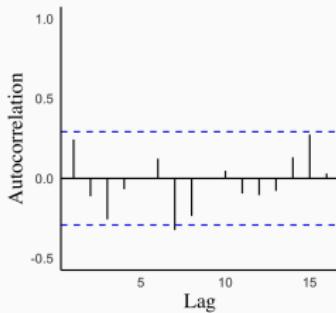
```
FIT_AR1 <- gls(Birds ~ Rainfall + Year,  
                 na.action = na.omit,  
                 correlation = corAR1(form = ~ Year),  
                 data = data)
```

```
summary(FIT_AR1)  
...  
Correlation Structure: ARMA(1,0)  
Formula: ~Year  
Parameter estimate(s):  
    Phi1  
0.7734303  
...  
  
AIC(FIT, FIT_CompSymm, FIT_AR1)
```

	df	AIC
FIT	4	228.4798
FIT_CompSymm	5	230.4798
FIT_AR1	5	199.1394



```
acf(residuals(FIT_AR1, type  
= "normalized"))
```



AIC shows an improvement and the residuals are no longer autocorr.

ARMA Errors in R



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ARMA errors can be applied via the `corARMA()` function.

ARMA errors can be applied via the corARMA()
function.

```
FIT_ARMA1 <- gls(Birds ~ Rainfall + Year,  
                   na.action = na.omit,  
                   correlation = corARMA(form = ~ Year,  
                                         p = 2),  
                   data = data)
```

ARMA errors can be applied via the corARMA()
function.

```
FIT_ARMA1 <- gls(Birds ~ Rainfall + Year,
                   na.action = na.omit,
                   correlation = corARMA(form = ~ Year,
                                         p = 2),
                   data = data)

summary(FIT_ARMA1)
...
Correlation Structure: ARMA(2,0)
Formula: ~Year
Parameter estimate(s):
    Phi1      Phi2
0.9668205 -0.3220174
...
...
```

ARMA errors can be applied via the corARMA()
function.

```
FIT_ARMA1 <- gls(Birds ~ Rainfall + Year,
                   na.action = na.omit,
                   correlation = corARMA(form = ~ Year,
                                          p = 2),
                   data = data)

summary(FIT_ARMA1)
...
Correlation Structure: ARMA(2,0)
Formula: ~Year
Parameter estimate(s):
    Phi1        Phi2
0.9668205 -0.3220174
...
AIC(FIT, FIT_CompSymm, FIT_AR1, FIT_ARMA1)

      df      AIC
FIT      4 228.4798
FIT_CompSymm 5 230.4798
FIT_AR1     5 199.1394
FIT_ARMA1   6 196.8777
```

ARMA Errors in R



ARMA errors can be applied via the `corARMA()` function.

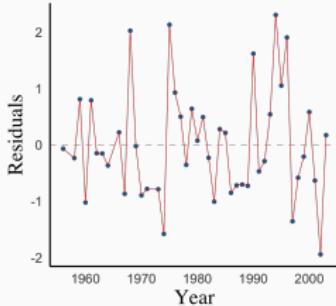
```
FIT_ARMA1 <- gls(Birds ~ Rainfall + Year,  
                   na.action = na.omit,  
                   correlation = corARMA(form = ~ Year,  
                                         p = 2),  
                   data = data)
```

```
summary(FIT_ARMA1)
```

```
...  
Correlation Structure: ARMA(2,0)  
Formula: ~Year  
Parameter estimate(s):  
Phi1          Phi2  
0.9668205 -0.3220174  
...
```

```
AIC(FIT, FIT_CompSymm, FIT_AR1, FIT_ARMA1)
```

	df	AIC
FIT	4	228.4798
FIT_CompSymm	5	230.4798
FIT_AR1	5	199.1394
FIT_ARMA1	6	196.8777



ARMA Errors in R

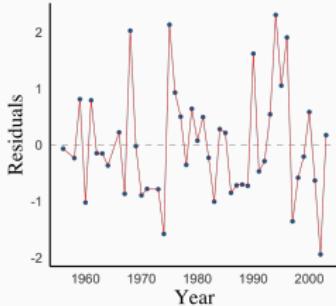


ARMA errors can be applied via the `corARMA()` function.

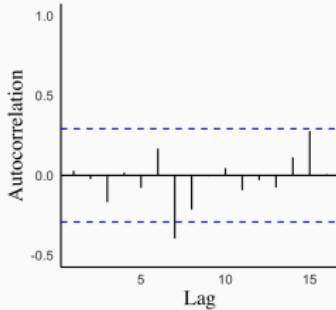
```
FIT_ARMA1 <- gls(Birds ~ Rainfall + Year,  
                   na.action = na.omit,  
                   correlation = corARMA(form = ~ Year,  
                                         p = 2),  
                   data = data)
```

```
summary(FIT_ARMA1)  
...  
Correlation Structure: ARMA(2,0)  
Formula: ~Year  
Parameter estimate(s):  
    Phi1        Phi2  
0.9668205 -0.3220174  
...  
AIC(FIT, FIT_CompSymm, FIT_AR1, FIT_ARMA1)
```

	df	AIC
FIT	4	228.4798
FIT_CompSymm	5	230.4798
FIT_AR1	5	199.1394
FIT_ARMA1	6	196.8777



```
acf(residuals(FIT_ARMA1,  
              type = "normalized"))
```



ARMA Errors in R

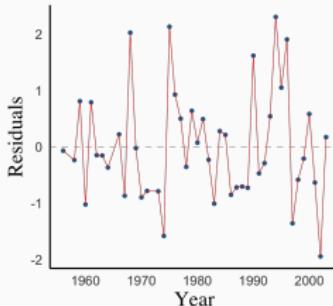


ARMA errors can be applied via the `corARMA()` function.

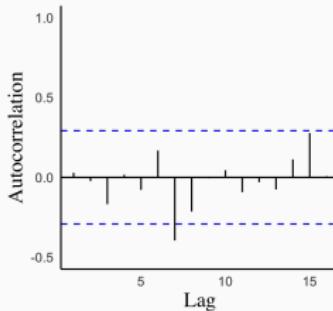
```
FIT_ARMA1 <- gls(Birds ~ Rainfall + Year,  
                   na.action = na.omit,  
                   correlation = corARMA(form = ~ Year,  
                                         p = 2),  
                   data = data)
```

```
summary(FIT_ARMA1)  
...  
Correlation Structure: ARMA(2,0)  
Formula: ~Year  
Parameter estimate(s):  
    Phi1        Phi2  
0.9668205 -0.3220174  
...  
AIC(FIT, FIT_CompSymm, FIT_AR1, FIT_ARMA1)
```

	df	AIC
FIT	4	228.4798
FIT_CompSymm	5	230.4798
FIT_AR1	5	199.1394
FIT_ARMA1	6	196.8777



```
acf(residuals(FIT_ARMA1,  
              type = "normalized"))
```



AIC shows a marginal improvement and the residuals are ok.

ARMA Errors in R cont.



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We could also try adding a moving average term via q.

```
FIT_ARMA2 <- gls(Birds ~ Rainfall + Year,
                    na.action = na.omit,
                    correlation = corARMA(c(0.3, -0.3, 0.3),
                                          form = ~ Year,
                                          p = 2,
                                          q = 1),
                    data = data)
```

ARMA Errors in R cont.



We could also try adding a moving average term via q.

```
FIT_ARMA2 <- gls(Birds ~ Rainfall + Year,
                    na.action = na.omit,
                    correlation = corARMA(c(0.3, -0.3, 0.3),
                                          form = ~ Year,
                                          p = 2,
                                          q = 1),
                    data = data)
summary(FIT_ARMA2)
...
Correlation Structure: ARMA(2,1)
Formula: ~Year
Parameter estimate(s):
    Phi1          Phi2        Theta1
0.89422729 -0.26715887  0.08293474
...
...
```

ARMA Errors in R cont.



We could also try adding a moving average term via q.

```
FIT_ARMA2 <- gls(Birds ~ Rainfall + Year,
                   na.action = na.omit,
                   correlation = corARMA(c(0.3, -0.3, 0.3),
                                         form = ~ Year,
                                         p = 2,
                                         q = 1),
                   data = data)
summary(FIT_ARMA2)
...
Correlation Structure: ARMA(2,1)
Formula: ~Year
Parameter estimate(s):
    Phi1          Phi2          Theta1
0.89422729 -0.26715887  0.08293474
...
AIC(FIT, FIT_CompSymm, FIT_AR1,
    FIT_ARMA1, FIT_ARMA2)

      df      AIC
FIT        4 228.4798
FIT_CompSymm  5 230.4798
FIT_AR1     5 199.1394
FIT_ARMA1   6 196.8777
FIT_ARMA2   7 198.8578
```

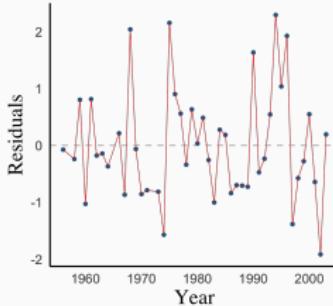
ARMA Errors in R cont.



We could also try adding a moving average term via q.

```
FIT_ARMA2 <- gls(Birds ~ Rainfall + Year,
                   na.action = na.omit,
                   correlation = corARMA(c(0.3, -0.3, 0.3),
                                         form = ~ Year,
                                         p = 2,
                                         q = 1),
                   data = data)
summary(FIT_ARMA2)
...
Correlation Structure: ARMA(2,1)
Formula: ~Year
Parameter estimate(s):
    Phi1          Phi2          Theta1
 0.89422729 -0.26715887  0.08293474
...
AIC(FIT, FIT_CompSymm, FIT_AR1,
    FIT_ARMA1, FIT_ARMA2)

            df      AIC
FIT        4 228.4798
FIT_CompSymm 5 230.4798
FIT_AR1     5 199.1394
FIT_ARMA1   6 196.8777
FIT_ARMA2   7 198.8578
```



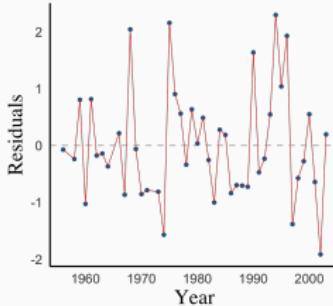
ARMA Errors in R cont.



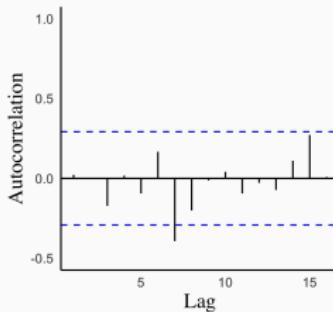
We could also try adding a moving average term via q.

```
FIT_ARMA2 <- gls(Birds ~ Rainfall + Year,
                   na.action = na.omit,
                   correlation = corARMA(c(0.3, -0.3, 0.3),
                                         form = ~ Year,
                                         p = 2,
                                         q = 1),
                   data = data)
summary(FIT_ARMA2)
...
Correlation Structure: ARMA(2,1)
Formula: ~Year
Parameter estimate(s):
    Phi1          Phi2        Theta1
 0.89422729 -0.26715887  0.08293474
...
AIC(FIT, FIT_CompSymm, FIT_AR1,
    FIT_ARMA1, FIT_ARMA2)

      df      AIC
FIT        4 228.4798
FIT_CompSymm 5 230.4798
FIT_AR1     5 199.1394
FIT_ARMA1   6 196.8777
FIT_ARMA2   7 198.8578
```



```
acf(residuals(FIT_ARMA2,
               type = "normalized"))
```



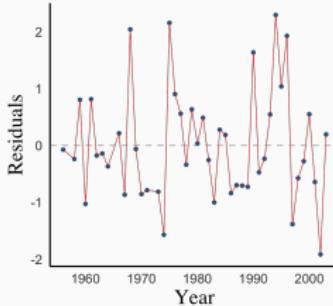
ARMA Errors in R cont.



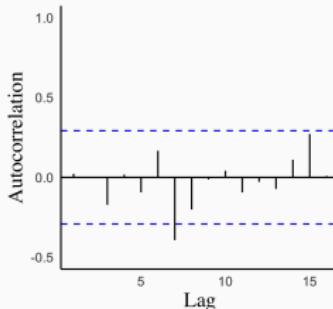
We could also try adding a moving average term via q.

```
FIT_ARMA2 <- gls(Birds ~ Rainfall + Year,
                   na.action = na.omit,
                   correlation = corARMA(c(0.3, -0.3, 0.3),
                                         form = ~ Year,
                                         p = 2,
                                         q = 1),
                   data = data)
summary(FIT_ARMA2)
...
Correlation Structure: ARMA(2,1)
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Parameter estimate(s):
    Phi1          Phi2          Theta1
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...
AIC(FIT, FIT_CompSymm, FIT_AR1,
    FIT_ARMA1, FIT_ARMA2)

      df      AIC
FIT        4 228.4798
FIT_CompSymm 5 230.4798
FIT_AR1     5 199.1394
FIT_ARMA1   6 196.8777
FIT_ARMA2   7 198.8578
```



```
acf(residuals(FIT_ARMA2,
               type = "normalized"))
```



AIC is slightly worse, but the residuals are ok.

Corrected model



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Corrected model



Original Model

Generalized least squares fit by REML

Model: Birds ~ Rainfall + Year

Data: data

AIC	BIC	logLik
228.4798	235.4305	-110.2399

Coefficients:

	Value	Std.Error	t-value	p-value
(Intercept)	-477.6634	56.41907	-8.466346	0.0000
Rainfall	0.0009	0.04989	0.017245	0.9863
Year	0.2450	0.02847	8.604858	0.0000

Correlation:

	(Intr)	Ranfll
Rainfall	-0.036	
Year	-1.000	0.020

Residual standard error: 2.608391

Degrees of freedom: 45 total; 42 residual

ARMA(2,0) Model

Generalized least squares fit by REML

Model: Birds ~ Rainfall + Year

Data: data

AIC	BIC	logLik
196.8777	207.3037	-92.43886

Coefficients:

	Value	Std.Error	t-value	p-value
(Intercept)	-471.8304	94.30829	-5.003064	0.0000
Rainfall	-0.0170	0.02771	-0.614301	0.5423
Year	0.2422	0.04764	5.083189	0.0000

Correlation:

	(Intr)	Ranfll
Rainfall	0.001	
Year	-1.000	-0.006

Residual standard error: 2.657647

Degrees of freedom: 45 total; 42 residual

Correlation Structure: ARMA(2,0)

Formula: ~Year

Parameter estimate(s):

Phi1	Phi2
0.9668205	-0.3220174

Overview of Variance Structures



We covered several ways to model temporally autocorrelated data:

Type	Covariance ρ	DF	R Function
IID	0	0	<code>corSymm()</code>
Compound Symmetric	$\rho = \frac{\theta}{\theta + \sigma^2}$	1	<code>corCompSymm()</code>
AR-1	$\rho^{ t-s }$	1	<code>corAR1()</code>
ARMA	variable	variable	<code>corARMA()</code>

Overview of Variance Structures



We covered several ways to model temporally autocorrelated data:

Type	Covariance ρ	DF	R Function
IID	0	0	<code>corSymm()</code>
Compound Symmetric	$\rho = \frac{\theta}{\theta + \sigma^2}$	1	<code>corCompSymm()</code>
AR-1	$\rho^{ t-s }$	1	<code>corAR1()</code>
ARMA	variable	variable	<code>corARMA()</code>

For the bird data, going from IID to AR-1 offered a big improvement, and then fine-tuning via more complicated ARMA structures resulted in only marginal improvements over AR-1.

Overview of Variance Structures



We covered several ways to model temporally autocorrelated data:

Type	Covariance ρ	DF	R Function
IID	0	0	<code>corSymm()</code>
Compound Symmetric	$\rho = \frac{\theta}{\theta + \sigma^2}$	1	<code>corCompSymm()</code>
AR-1	$\rho^{ t-s }$	1	<code>corAR1()</code>
ARMA	variable	variable	<code>corARMA()</code>

For the bird data, going from IID to AR-1 offered a big improvement, and then fine-tuning via more complicated ARMA structures resulted in only marginal improvements over AR-1. This is common in practice.

Overview of Variance Structures



We covered several ways to model temporally autocorrelated data:

Type	Covariance ρ	DF	R Function
IID	0	0	<code>corSymm()</code>
Compound Symmetric	$\rho = \frac{\theta}{\theta + \sigma^2}$	1	<code>corCompSymm()</code>
AR-1	$\rho^{ t-s }$	1	<code>corAR1()</code>
ARMA	variable	variable	<code>corARMA()</code>

For the bird data, going from IID to AR-1 offered a big improvement, and then fine-tuning via more complicated ARMA structures resulted in only marginal improvements over AR-1. This is common in practice.

Unless there are serious issues remaining in your residuals, the pragmatic solution is to stop when you have a reasonably appropriate model.

References

- Liang, M., Liu, X., Parker, I.M., Johnson, D., Zheng, Y., Luo, S., Gilbert, G.S. & Yu, S. (2019). Soil microbes drive phylogenetic diversity-productivity relationships in a subtropical forest. *Science advances*, 5, eaax5088.
- Reed, J., Elphick, C., Zuur, A., Ieno, E. & Smith, G. (2007). Time series analysis of hawaiian waterbirds. In: *Analysing ecological data*. Springer, pp. 615–631.
- Zuur et al. (2009) — Chapter 6