

Dynamic Models with Latent Variables

Jean-Michel Zakoian

CREST-ENSAE

The Kalman Filter

- 1 General form of the filter
- 2 The stationary case
- 3 Statistical inference

State-space models

General form:

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{y}_t = \mathbf{M}_t \boldsymbol{\alpha}_t + \mathbf{d}_t + \mathbf{u}_t & \text{Measurement equation} \\ \boldsymbol{\alpha}_t = \mathbf{T}_t \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t-1} + \mathbf{c}_t + \mathbf{R}_t \mathbf{v}_t, & \text{Transition equation} \end{cases}$$

where $\mathbf{y}_t \in \mathbb{R}^N$, $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_t \in \mathbb{R}^m$ (**state vector**), (\mathbf{u}_t) and (\mathbf{v}_t) are two sequences of independent variables, valued in \mathbb{R}^N and \mathbb{R}^K such that

$$E(\mathbf{u}_t) = \mathbf{0}_N, \quad E(\mathbf{v}_t) = \mathbf{0}_K, \quad \text{Var}(\mathbf{u}_t) = \mathbf{H}_t, \quad \text{Var}(\mathbf{v}_t) = \mathbf{Q}_t,$$

$\mathbf{M}_t, \mathbf{T}_t$ and \mathbf{R}_t are non-random $N \times m$, $m \times m$ and $m \times K$ matrices, $\mathbf{d}_t \in \mathbb{R}^N$, $\mathbf{c}_t \in \mathbb{R}^m$ are non-random vectors.

Aims of the Kalman filter

The Kalman filter (Kalman, 1960) is an algorithm used for

- (i) **predicting** the value of the state vector at time t , given observations $\mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_{t-1}$;
- (ii) **filtering**, that is, estimating $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_t$ given observations $\mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_t$;
- (iii) **smoothing**, that is, estimating $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_t$ given observations $\mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_T$; with $T > t$.

Assumptions

To implement this algorithm, additional normality and independence assumptions will be made:

- $(\mathbf{u}_t, \mathbf{v}_t)$ is an **independent Gaussian** sequence such that

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{u}_t \\ \mathbf{v}_t \end{pmatrix} \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{N} \left(\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{H}_t & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{Q}_t \end{pmatrix} \right),$$

- The initial distribution of the state vector is Gaussian and is independent from (\mathbf{u}_t) and (\mathbf{v}_t) :

$$\boldsymbol{\alpha}_0 \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{a}_0, \mathbf{P}_0), \quad \boldsymbol{\alpha}_0 \perp (\mathbf{u}_t), (\mathbf{v}_t).$$

- For all t , the matrix \mathbf{H}_t is positive definite.

- 1 General form of the filter
 - Prediction and updating formulas
 - Prediction at any horizon and smoothing
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Notations: conditional moments with respect to observations

For $t \geq 1$,

$$\begin{aligned}\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t|t} &= E(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_t | \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_t), \\ \mathbf{P}_{t|t} &= \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_t | \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_t).\end{aligned}$$

For $t > 1$,

$$\begin{aligned}\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t|t-1} &= E(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_t | \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_{t-1}), \\ \mathbf{P}_{t|t-1} &= \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_t | \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_{t-1}).\end{aligned}$$

Let

$$\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{1|0} = E(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_1), \quad \mathbf{P}_{1|0} = \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_1).$$

The aim is to compute recursively these sequences.

First step

Taking the conditional expectation with respect to $\mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_{t-1}$ in the transition equation yields:

$$\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t|t-1} = \mathbf{T}_t \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t-1|t-1} + \mathbf{c}_t$$

and by taking the conditional variance:

$$\mathbf{P}_{t|t-1} = \mathbf{T}_t \mathbf{P}_{t-1|t-1} \mathbf{T}_t' + \mathbf{R}_t \mathbf{Q}_t \mathbf{R}_t'.$$

These equations are called **prediction equations**.

Thus the conditional moments of \mathbf{y}_t :

$$\mathbf{y}_{t|t-1} := E(\mathbf{y}_t | \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_{t-1}) = \mathbf{M}_t \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t|t-1} + \mathbf{d}_t$$

and

$$\mathbf{F}_{t|t-1} := \text{Var}(\mathbf{y}_t | \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_{t-1}) = \mathbf{M}_t \mathbf{P}_{t|t-1} \mathbf{M}_t' + \mathbf{H}_t.$$

We also have

$$\text{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_t, \mathbf{y}_t | \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_{t-1}) = \mathbf{P}_{t|t-1} \mathbf{M}_t'.$$

Conditional distributions of the components of a Gaussian vector

Let

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{X} \\ \mathbf{Y} \end{pmatrix} \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{N} \left(\begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\mu}_X \\ \boldsymbol{\mu}_Y \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{XX} & \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{XY} \\ \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{YX} & \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{YY} \end{pmatrix} \right).$$

Then the distribution of X conditional on $\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{y}$ is

$$\mathcal{N} \left(\boldsymbol{\mu}_X + \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{XY} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{YY}^{-1} (\mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_Y), \quad \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{XX} - \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{XY} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{YY}^{-1} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{YX} \right).$$

Conditional law of $(\mathbf{y}_t, \boldsymbol{\alpha}_t)$

We have

$$(\mathbf{y}_t, \boldsymbol{\alpha}_t, \mathbf{y}_{t-1}, \dots, \mathbf{y}_1) = F(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_0, \mathbf{u}_t, \dots, \mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{v}_t, \dots, \mathbf{v}_1)$$

where F is [linear](#).

The vector $(\mathbf{y}_t, \boldsymbol{\alpha}_t, \mathbf{y}_{t-1}, \dots, \mathbf{y}_1)$ is thus Gaussian.

The law of $(\mathbf{y}_t, \boldsymbol{\alpha}_t)$ conditional on $\mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_{t-1}$ is thus also Gaussian.

Second step: updating the prediction formulas

New observation at time t : \mathbf{y}_t

$\boldsymbol{\alpha}_t$ is Gaussian cond. on $\mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_{t-1}$ and \mathbf{y}_t

$$\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t|t} = \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t|t-1} + \mathbf{P}_{t|t-1} \mathbf{M}_t' \mathbf{F}_{t|t-1}^{-1} (\mathbf{y}_t - \mathbf{M}_t \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t|t-1} - \mathbf{d}_t)$$

and

$$\mathbf{P}_{t|t} = \mathbf{P}_{t|t-1} - \mathbf{P}_{t|t-1} \mathbf{M}_t' \mathbf{F}_{t|t-1}^{-1} \mathbf{M}_t \mathbf{P}_{t|t-1}.$$

These equations are called *updating equations*.

Remark: The normality assumption is only used in the second step

Initialization: At time 1, the conditional moments coincide with the unconditional ones:

$$\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{1|0} = \mathbf{T}_1 \mathbf{a}_0 + \mathbf{c}_1, \quad \mathbf{P}_{1|0} = \mathbf{T}_1 \mathbf{P}_0 \mathbf{T}_1' + \mathbf{R}_1 \mathbf{Q}_1 \mathbf{R}_1'.$$

The sequences $(\alpha_{t|t-1})$, $(P_{t|t-1})$, $(\alpha_{t|t})$, and $(P_{t|t})$ are computed recursively for $t = 1, \dots, n$

Initial values :

$$\alpha_{1|0} = T_1 a_0 + c_1, \quad P_{1|0} = T_1 P_0 T_1' + R_1 Q_1 R_1'$$

Prediction equations: using y_1, \dots, y_{t-1}

$$\alpha_{t|t-1} = T_t \alpha_{t-1|t-1} + c_t$$

$$P_{t|t-1} = T_t P_{t-1|t-1} T_t' + R_t Q_t R_t'$$

$$F_{t|t-1} = M_t P_{t|t-1} M_t' + H_t$$

Updating equations: using also y_t ,

$$\alpha_{t|t} = \alpha_{t|t-1} + P_{t|t-1} M_t' F_{t|t-1}^{-1} (y_t - M_t \alpha_{t|t-1} - d_t)$$

$$P_{t|t} = P_{t|t-1} - P_{t|t-1} M_t' F_{t|t-1}^{-1} M_t P_{t|t-1}$$

Direct computation of the sequences $(\alpha_{t|t-1})$ and $(P_{t|t-1})$

$$\begin{cases} \alpha_{t|t-1} &= T_t \alpha_{t-1|t-2} + c_t + K_t (y_{t-1} - M_{t-1} \alpha_{t-1|t-2} - d_{t-1}) \\ P_{t|t-1} &= T_t P_{t-1|t-2} T_t' - K_t F_{t-1|t-2} K_t' + R_t Q_t R_t' \end{cases}$$

where

$$F_{t-1|t-2} = M_{t-1} P_{t-1|t-2} M_{t-1}' + H_{t-1}$$

$$K_t = T_t P_{t-1|t-2} M_{t-1}' F_{t-1|t-2}^{-1}$$

K_t is called **gain matrix**.

Remark: if H_{t-1} is "large", K_t will be "small".

Correlation between the noise sequences

The assumption that the noises are mutually uncorrelated can be relaxed:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{u}_t \\ \mathbf{v}_t \end{pmatrix} \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{N} \left(\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{H}_t & \mathbf{G}'_t \\ \mathbf{G}_t & \mathbf{Q}_t \end{pmatrix} \right).$$

Prediction equations:

$$\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t|t-1} = \mathbf{T}_t \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t-1|t-1} + \mathbf{c}_t, \quad \mathbf{P}_{t|t-1} = \mathbf{T}_t \mathbf{P}_{t-1|t-1} \mathbf{T}'_t + \mathbf{R}_t \mathbf{Q}_t \mathbf{R}'_t$$

$$\mathbf{F}_{t|t-1} = \mathbf{M}_t \mathbf{P}_{t|t-1} \mathbf{M}'_t + \mathbf{H}_t + \mathbf{M}_t \mathbf{R}_t \mathbf{G}_t + \mathbf{G}'_t \mathbf{R}'_t \mathbf{M}'_t$$

Updating equations:

$$\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t|t} = \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t|t-1} + (\mathbf{P}_{t|t-1} \mathbf{M}'_t + \mathbf{R}_t \mathbf{G}_t) \mathbf{F}_{t|t-1}^{-1} (\mathbf{y}_t - \mathbf{M}_t \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t|t-1} - \mathbf{d}_t)$$

$$\mathbf{P}_{t|t} = \mathbf{P}_{t|t-1} - (\mathbf{P}_{t|t-1} \mathbf{M}'_t + \mathbf{R}_t \mathbf{G}_t) \mathbf{F}_{t|t-1}^{-1} (\mathbf{M}_t \mathbf{P}_{t|t-1} + \mathbf{G}'_t \mathbf{R}'_t).$$

Can the normality assumption be relaxed?

For random vectors $\mathbf{X} \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^m)$ and $\mathbf{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, the **conditional expectation** $E(\mathbf{X} | \mathbf{Y})$ is characterized by

$$\|\mathbf{X} - E(\mathbf{X} | \mathbf{Y})\|_2^2 = \min_{\phi \in \Phi} \|\mathbf{X} - \phi(\mathbf{Y})\|_2^2$$

where Φ is the set of measurable functions $\phi: \mathbb{R}^n \mapsto \mathbb{R}^m$ such that $\phi(\mathbf{Y}) \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^m)$.

The **linear conditional expectation** $EL(\mathbf{X} | \mathbf{Y})$ is characterized by the same program but with ϕ linear:

$$\|\mathbf{X} - EL(\mathbf{X} | \mathbf{Y})\|_2^2 = \min_{\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{b}} \|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{b}\|_2^2.$$

For Gaussian vectors the two conditional expectations coincide.

Can the normality assumption be relaxed?

The linear conditional expectation only depends on the L^2 structure of (\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}) .

It follows that

$$EL(\mathbf{X} | \mathbf{Y}) = \boldsymbol{\mu}_X + \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{XX} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{YY}^{-1} (\mathbf{Y} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_Y).$$

Without the Gaussian assumption, the Kalman filter provides the **linear prediction**

$$EL(\mathbf{y}_t | \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_{t-1}) = \mathbf{M}_t \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t|t-1} + \mathbf{d}_t$$

and the variance of the prediction error:

$$\text{var}(\mathbf{y}_t - EL(\mathbf{y}_t | \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_{t-1})) = \mathbf{F}_{t|t-1} = \mathbf{M}_t \mathbf{P}_{t|t-1} \mathbf{M}_t' + \mathbf{H}_t.$$

Prediction

The Kalman filter can be used to predict at any horizon.

To simplify, let $\mathbf{c}_t = \mathbf{d}_t = 0$, $\mathbf{T}_t = \mathbf{T}$ et $\mathbf{M}_t = \mathbf{M}$ for all t :

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{y}_t &= \mathbf{M}\boldsymbol{\alpha}_t + \mathbf{u}_t, \\ \boldsymbol{\alpha}_t &= \mathbf{T}\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t-1} + \mathbf{R}_t\mathbf{v}_t. \end{cases}$$

For any $h \geq 0$,

$$\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+h} = \mathbf{T}^{h+1}\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t-1} + \sum_{i=0}^h \mathbf{T}^{h-i}\mathbf{R}_{t+i}\mathbf{v}_{t+i},$$

hence

$$\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+h|t-1} = E(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+h} | \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_{t-1}) = \mathbf{T}^{h+1}\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t-1|t-1}.$$

Prediction

The variance of the prediction error at horizon $h+1$ is

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{P}_{t+h|t-1} &= \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+h} - \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+h|t-1}) \\ &= \mathbf{T}^{h+1} \mathbf{P}_{t-1|t-1} (\mathbf{T}^{h+1})' + \sum_{i=0}^h \mathbf{T}^{h-i} \mathbf{R}_{t+i} \mathbf{Q}_{t+i} (\mathbf{T}^{h-i} \mathbf{R}_{t+i})'.\end{aligned}$$

Moreover $\mathbf{y}_{t+h} = \mathbf{M}\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+h} + \mathbf{u}_{t+h}$, thus

$$\mathbf{y}_{t+h|t-1} = E(\mathbf{y}_{t+h} | \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_{t-1}) = \mathbf{M}\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+h|t-1} = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{T}^{h+1} \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t-1|t-1}.$$

The prediction error is $\mathbf{y}_{t+h} - \mathbf{y}_{t+h|t-1} = \mathbf{M}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+h} - \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+h|t-1}) + \mathbf{u}_{t+h}$ and its variance is

$$\text{Var}(\mathbf{y}_{t+h} - \mathbf{y}_{t+h|t-1}) = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{P}_{t+h|t-1}\mathbf{M}' + \mathbf{H}_{t+h}.$$

Smoothing

The updating formula provides the filtered value $\alpha_{t|t}$ of α_t .

For certain applications, it is important to "smooth" α_t using the posterior observations.

Let

$$\alpha_{t|n} = E(\alpha_t | \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_n), \quad \mathbf{P}_{t|n} = \text{Var}(\alpha_t | \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_n).$$

Steps for computing $\alpha_{t|n}$

- $E(\alpha_t, \alpha_{t+1} | y_1, \dots, y_t)$ [already known]

⇓ Using the normality

- $E(\alpha_t | y_1, \dots, y_t, \alpha_{t+1})$

⇓ Using a lemma

- $E(\alpha_t | y_1, \dots, y_t, y_{t+1}, \dots, y_n, \alpha_{t+1})$

⇓ By deconditioning

- $E(\alpha_t | y_1, \dots, y_n)$

Algorithm

The algorithm is initialized at $\alpha_{n|n}$ and is used in a descending recurrence:

$$\alpha_{t|n} = \alpha_{t|t} + \tilde{F}_t(\alpha_{t+1|n} - \alpha_{t+1|t}), \quad t < n$$

and

$$P_{t|n} = P_{t|t} + \tilde{F}_t(P_{t+1|n} - P_{t+1|t})\tilde{F}_t', \quad t < n$$

where

$$\tilde{F}_t = P_{t|t}T_{t+1}'P_{t+1|t}^{-1}, \quad t < n.$$

Proof (1)

- Using the normality

The law of α_t conditional to $\alpha_{t+1}, y_1, \dots, y_t$ is Gaussian with mean

$$E(\alpha_t | \alpha_{t+1}, y_1, \dots, y_t) = \alpha_{t|t} + \underbrace{P_{t|t} T'_{t+1} P_{t+1|t}^{-1}}_{\tilde{F}_t} (\alpha_{t+1} - \alpha_{t+1|t}),$$

because

$$\text{Cov}(\alpha_t, \alpha_{t+1} | y_1, \dots, y_t) = \text{Cov}(\alpha_t, T_{t+1} \alpha_t | y_1, \dots, y_t) = P_{t|t} T'_{t+1}.$$

Proof (2)

- To predict α_t , the knowledge of $\mathbf{y}_{t+1}, \dots, \mathbf{y}_n$ does not convey additional information with respect to $\alpha_{t+1}, \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_t$:

$$E(\alpha_t | \alpha_{t+1}, \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_n) = E(\alpha_t | \alpha_{t+1}, \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_t).$$

$$\mathbf{y}_{t+1} = f_1(\alpha_{t+1}, \mathbf{u}_{t+1}) \text{ and}$$

$$\mathbf{y}_{t+j} = f_j(\alpha_{t+1}, \mathbf{u}_{t+j}, \mathbf{v}_{t+j}, \dots, \mathbf{v}_{t+2}), \quad j \geq 2,$$

where the f_j are linear.

We have

$$\alpha_t = E(\alpha_t | \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_t, \alpha_{t+1}) + \mathbf{e}_t, \quad \mathbf{e}_t \perp (\mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_t, \alpha_{t+1}).$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{e}_t = g(\alpha_t, \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_t, \alpha_{t+1}) &\Rightarrow \mathbf{e}_t \perp \{(\mathbf{u}_{t+j})_{j \geq 1}, (\mathbf{v}_{t+j})_{j \geq 2}\} \\ &\Rightarrow \mathbf{e}_t \perp \mathbf{y}_{t+j} \quad \text{for } j \geq 1 \\ &\Rightarrow E(\mathbf{e}_t | \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_n, \alpha_{t+1}) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Proof (3)

- Thus

$$E(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_t \mid \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1}, \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_t, \mathbf{y}_{t+1}, \dots, \mathbf{y}_n) = \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t|t} + \tilde{F}_t(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1} - \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|t}).$$

By deconditioning with respect to $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1}$ we get

$$\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t|n} = \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t|t} + \tilde{F}_t(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|n} - \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|t}), \quad t < n.$$

Proof (4): variance of the smoothing error

$$\boldsymbol{\alpha}_t - \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t|n} = \boldsymbol{\alpha}_t - \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t|t} - \tilde{F}_t(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|n} - \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|t})$$

$$\Rightarrow \boldsymbol{\alpha}_t - \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t|n} + \tilde{F}_t \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|n} = \boldsymbol{\alpha}_t - \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t|t} + \tilde{F}_t \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|t}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_t - \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t|n}) + \tilde{F}_t \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|n}) \tilde{F}_t' = \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_t - \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t|t}) + \tilde{F}_t \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|t}) \tilde{F}_t'.$$

We have $\text{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|n}) = \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|n})$ hence

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|n} - \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1}) &= \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|n}) + \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1}) \\ &\quad - \text{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|n}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1}) - \text{Cov}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|n}) \\ &= \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1}) - \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|n}). \end{aligned}$$

Similarly $\text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|t} - \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1}) = \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1}) - \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|t})$. Then

$$\text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|n} - \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1}) - \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|t} - \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1}) = \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|t}) - \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|n}).$$

Proof (5): variance of the smoothing error

$$\text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|n} - \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1}) - \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|t} - \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1}) = \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|t}) - \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|n}).$$

Now

$$\mathbf{P}_{t+1|t} = \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1} - \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|t}) = \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1}) - \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t+1|t}),$$

$$\mathbf{P}_{t|n} = \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_t - \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t|n}) = \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_t) - \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t|n}),$$

$$\mathbf{P}_{t|t} = \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_t - \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t|t}) = \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_t) - \text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t|t}).$$

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Time-homogeneous model

Some simplifications appear in the stationary case. In particular, the updating of a variance matrix (and its inversion) can be avoided, at the price of a mild approximation.

Consider the model with fixed coefficients:

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{y}_t &= \mathbf{M}\boldsymbol{\alpha}_t + \mathbf{d} + \mathbf{u}_t \\ \boldsymbol{\alpha}_t &= \mathbf{T}\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t-1} + \mathbf{c} + \mathbf{R}\mathbf{v}_t, \end{cases} \quad \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{u}_t \\ \mathbf{v}_t \end{pmatrix} \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{N}\left(\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{H} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{Q} \end{pmatrix}\right).$$

Because the matrices $\mathbf{M}, \mathbf{T}, \mathbf{d}, \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{R}, \mathbf{H}$ do not change over time, the model is said to be **time-homogeneous**.

Stationarity of the time-homogeneous model

The state vector α_t satisfies a VAR(1) model.

This model admits a second-order stationary solution if the eigenvalues of the matrix T have modulus strictly less than 1:

$$\rho(T) < 1.$$

The first two moments of the stationary solution are given by

$$E\alpha_t = (I - T)^{-1}c, \quad \text{Var}(\alpha_t) = T\text{Var}(\alpha_t)T' + RQR',$$

Variance of α_t

Thus, using the vec operator and the Kronecker product*,

$$\text{vec}\{\text{Var}(\alpha_t)\} = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{T} \otimes \mathbf{T})^{-1} \text{vec}(\mathbf{RQR}').$$

If $\alpha_0 \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{a}_0, \mathbf{P}_0)$, with $\mathbf{a}_0 = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{T})^{-1}\mathbf{c}$ and $\text{vec}(\mathbf{P}_0) = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{T} \otimes \mathbf{T})^{-1} \text{vec}(\mathbf{RQR}')$, then

$$E\alpha_t = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{T})^{-1}\mathbf{c}, \quad \text{Var}(\alpha_t) = \mathbf{T}\text{Var}(\alpha_t)\mathbf{T}' + \mathbf{RQR}',$$

holds for any $t \geq 0$.

*For any matrices A and B , $A \otimes B = (a_{ij}B)$. We have $\text{vec}(ABC) = (C' \otimes A)\text{vec}(B)$ whenever ABC is well defined.

Convergence of the sequence ($\mathbf{P}_{t|t-1}$)

The updating of the conditional variance of α_t writes

$$\mathbf{P}_{t|t-1} = \mathbf{T}\{\mathbf{P}_{t-1|t-2} - \mathbf{P}_{t-1|t-2}\mathbf{M}'\mathbf{F}_{t-1|t-2}^{-1}\mathbf{M}\mathbf{P}_{t-1|t-2}\}\mathbf{T}' + \mathbf{R}\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{R}'$$

where

$$\mathbf{F}_{t-1|t-2} = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{P}_{t-1|t-2}\mathbf{M}' + \mathbf{H}.$$

If this sequence converges, $\mathbf{P}^* = \lim \mathbf{P}_{t|t-1}$ must satisfy the algebraic Ricatti equation

$$\mathbf{P}^* = \mathbf{T}\{\mathbf{P}^* - \mathbf{P}^*\mathbf{M}'(\mathbf{M}\mathbf{P}^*\mathbf{M}' + \mathbf{H})^{-1}\mathbf{M}\mathbf{P}^*\}\mathbf{T}' + \mathbf{R}\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{R}'. \quad (1)$$

Proposition

If $\rho(\mathbf{T}) < 1$ and if at least \mathbf{H} or \mathbf{Q} is positive definite, the sequence $(\mathbf{P}_{t|t-1})_{t \geq 1}$ initialized at any semi-positive definite matrix $\mathbf{P}_{1|0}$, converges to a unique matrix \mathbf{P}^ unique (independent of $\mathbf{P}_{1|0}$), satisfying (1).*

Consequences

- The rate of convergence of $(\mathbf{P}_{t|t-1})$ is shown to be exponential (see Harvey (1989) and references, Section 3.3.3).
- The sequences $(\mathbf{F}_{t|t-1})$ and (\mathbf{K}_t) also converge, with limits

$$\mathbf{F}^* = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{P}^*\mathbf{M}' + \mathbf{H}, \quad \mathbf{K}^* = \mathbf{T}\mathbf{P}^*\mathbf{M}'\mathbf{F}^{*-1}.$$

- If $\mathbf{P}_{t|t-1}$ is sufficiently close to \mathbf{P}^* , the updating formula can be approximated by

$$\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t|t-1} = \mathbf{T}\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t-1|t-2} + \mathbf{K}^*(y_{t-1} - \mathbf{M}\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t-1|t-2} - \mathbf{d}) + \mathbf{c}.$$

This avoids the inversion of $\mathbf{F}_{t|t-1}$ at every step of the algorithm.

- Criteria for stopping the computations of $\mathbf{P}_{t|t-1}$: for instance

$$|\det \mathbf{P}_{t+1|t} - \det \mathbf{P}_{t|t-1}| < \tau$$

where $\tau > 0$ is a small number.

- 1 General form of the filter
- 2 The stationary case
- 3 Statistical inference
 - ML estimation
 - Example

Parametric model

The model is now parameterized by a vector $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ belonging to some parameter set $\Theta \in \mathbb{R}^d$. For $\mathbf{y}_t \in \mathbb{R}^N$,

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{y}_t &= \mathbf{M}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \boldsymbol{\alpha}_t + \mathbf{d}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) + \mathbf{u}_t \\ \boldsymbol{\alpha}_t &= \mathbf{T}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t-1} + \mathbf{c}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) + \mathbf{R}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \mathbf{v}_t, \end{cases},$$

with

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{u}_t \\ \mathbf{v}_t \end{pmatrix} \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{N} \left(\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{H}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{Q}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \end{pmatrix} \right).$$

Given observations $\mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_n$, and for some given functions $\mathbf{M}, \mathbf{d}, \mathbf{T}, \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{H}, \mathbf{Q}$, the problem is to estimate $\boldsymbol{\theta}$.

Likelihood

Conditionally to initial values $\boldsymbol{\epsilon}_1(\boldsymbol{\theta})$ and $\mathbf{F}_1(\boldsymbol{\theta})$, the Gaussian likelihood $L_n(\boldsymbol{\theta})$ writes

$$\begin{aligned} L_n(\boldsymbol{\theta}) &= L_n(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_n) \\ &= \prod_{t=1}^n \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^N |\mathbf{F}_t(\boldsymbol{\theta})|}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_t'(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \mathbf{F}_{t|t-1}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_t(\boldsymbol{\theta})\right), \end{aligned}$$

where, for $t > 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_t(\boldsymbol{\theta}) &= \mathbf{y}_t - E_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{y}_t | \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_{t-1}) = \mathbf{y}_t - \mathbf{y}_{t|t-1}(\boldsymbol{\theta}), \\ \mathbf{F}_{t|t-1}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) &= \text{Var}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{y}_t | \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_{t-1}). \end{aligned}$$

ML estimator

A **maximum likelihood estimator** (MLE) of $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ is defined as any measurable solution $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_n$ of

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_n = \arg \max_{\boldsymbol{\theta} \in \Theta} L_n(\boldsymbol{\theta}).$$

Maximizing the likelihood is equivalent to minimizing

$$\mathbf{l}_n(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = n^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^n \ell_t,$$

where

$$\ell_t = \ell_t(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \boldsymbol{\epsilon}'_t(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \mathbf{F}_{t|t-1}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_t(\boldsymbol{\theta}) + \log |\mathbf{F}_{t|t-1}(\boldsymbol{\theta})|.$$

Using the Kalman filter

The Kalman filter allows to compute $\epsilon_t(\theta)$ and $F_{t|t-1}(\theta)$, for any θ .

Numerical optimization procedures may be called for to solve the program.

The theoretical properties of the MLE (consistency and asymptotic normality) require additional assumptions on the model.

MA(1) model

Let

$$y_t = \mu + \epsilon_t + b\epsilon_{t-1}$$

where (ϵ_t) is a white noise with variance σ^2 .

State-space representation

$$\begin{cases} y_t &= \mu + M\alpha_t \\ \alpha_t &= T\alpha_{t-1} + (\epsilon_t, 0)' \end{cases}$$

where

$$M = (1, b), \quad \alpha_t = \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon_t \\ \epsilon_{t-1} \end{pmatrix}, \quad T = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Thus

$$d_t = \mu, \quad u_t = 0, \quad c_t = (0, 0)', \quad v_t = (\epsilon_t, 0)', \quad H_t = 0, \quad Q_t = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

MA(1) model

- $E_{t-1}(y_t) = \mu + b\epsilon_{t-1|t-1}$.
- $\text{Var}_{t-1}(y_t) = \sigma^2 + b^2 p_{t-1}$ where $p_{t-1} = \text{Var}(\epsilon_{t-1|t-1})$.
- Law of $\begin{pmatrix} y_t \\ \epsilon_t \end{pmatrix}$ given y_{t-1}, \dots, y_1 :

$$\mathcal{N}\left(\begin{pmatrix} \mu + b\epsilon_{t-1|t-1} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \sigma^2 + b^2 p_{t-1} & \sigma^2 \\ \sigma^2 & \sigma^2 \end{pmatrix}\right).$$

Thus

$$\begin{cases} \epsilon_{t|t} &= \frac{\sigma^2}{\sigma^2 + b^2 p_{t-1}} (y_t - b\epsilon_{t-1|t-1} - \mu), & t \geq 1, \\ p_t &= \sigma^2 - \frac{\sigma^4}{\sigma^2 + b^2 p_{t-1}} = \frac{\sigma^2 b^2 p_{t-1}}{\sigma^2 + b^2 p_{t-1}}, & t \geq 1, \end{cases}$$

with initial values $\epsilon_{0|0} = 0$ and $p_0 = \sigma^2$.

MA(1) model

Solving

$$p_t = \sigma^2 - \frac{\sigma^4}{\sigma^2 + b^2 p_{t-1}} = \frac{\sigma^2 b^2 p_{t-1}}{\sigma^2 + b^2 p_{t-1}}, \quad t \geq 1,$$

yields

$$p_t = \frac{\sigma^2}{1 + \frac{1}{b^2} + \dots \frac{1}{b^{2t}}}.$$

Remark: Naive prediction of ϵ_t given y_1, \dots, y_t :

$$\hat{\epsilon}_t = y_t - \mu - b\hat{\epsilon}_{t-1}, \quad t \geq 1,$$

with $\hat{\epsilon}_0 = 0$, instead of

$$\epsilon_{t|t} = \frac{\sigma^2}{\sigma^2 + b^2 p_{t-1}} (y_t - b\epsilon_{t-1|t-1} - \mu).$$

The naive prediction neglects the variability of the previous prediction.

Asymptotic behaviour of (p_t) and $(\epsilon_{t|t})$

When $|b| < 1$: we have

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} p_t = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} E(\epsilon_t - \epsilon_{t|t})^2 = 0.$$

It follows that

$$\epsilon_t - \epsilon_{t|t} \rightarrow 0$$

in L^2 when $t \rightarrow \infty$.

The Kalman filter thus allows to **approximate** ϵ_t for t large enough.

Asymptotic behaviour of (p_t) and $(\epsilon_{t|t})$

When $|b| > 1$: we have $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} p_t = \sigma^2(1 - \frac{1}{b^2})$. Thus, in the L^2 sense

$$\epsilon_{t|t} - \frac{1}{b^2}(y_t - b\epsilon_{t-1|t-1} - \mu) \rightarrow 0.$$

Interpretation: If, for all t , $\epsilon_{t|t} - \frac{1}{b^2}(y_t - b\epsilon_{t-1|t-1} - \mu) = 0$ we would get,

$$y_{t+1|t} - \mu = \frac{1}{b} \{ (y_t - \mu) - (y_{t|t-1} - \mu) \} = \sum_{i=0}^t \frac{(-1)^i}{b^i} (y_{t-i} - \mu).$$

The Kalman filter thus provides an approximation, for large t , of the prediction formula obtained with the **canonical representation** of the MA(1):

$$y_t = \mu + u_t + \frac{1}{b} u_{t-1},$$

where (u_t) is the linear innovation of (y_t) (with $\text{Var}(u_t) = b^2 \sigma^2$).

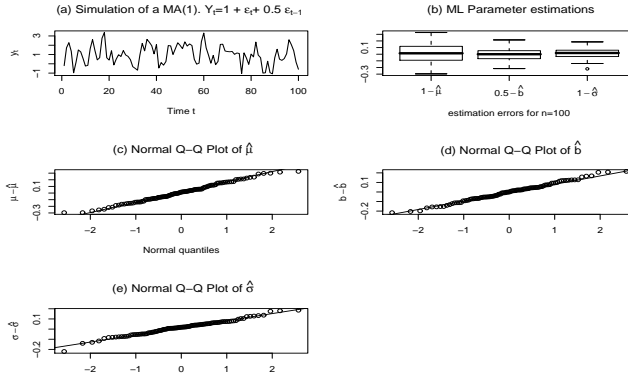
Estimation of the MA(1) model

Let $\theta = (\mu, b, \sigma^2)'$. The ML estimator is obtained by minimizing with respect to θ ,

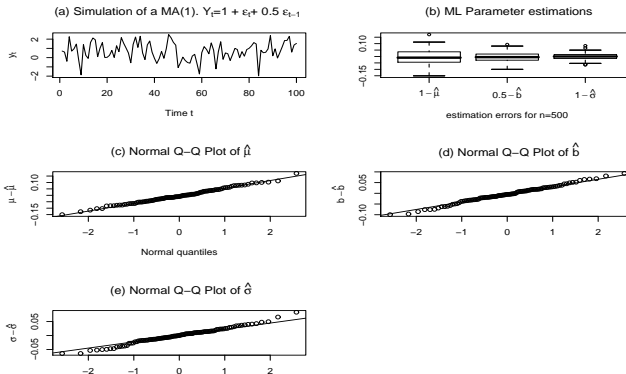
$$\mathbf{l}_n(\theta) = n^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^n \frac{(y_t - \mu - b\epsilon_{t-1|t-1})^2}{\sigma^2 + b^2 p_{t-1}} + \log|\sigma^2 + b^2 p_{t-1}|,$$

where p_{t-1} and $\epsilon_{t-1|t-1}$ are computed using the Kalman filter.

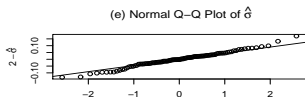
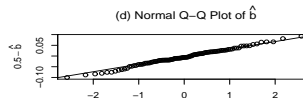
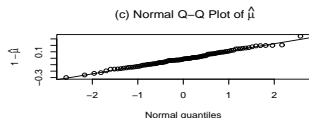
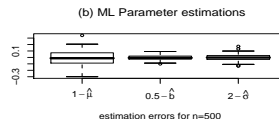
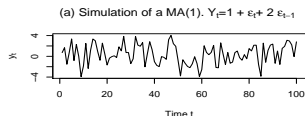
Simulations of length 100 of a MA(1) and ML estimation



Simulations of length 500 of a MA(1) and ML estimation



Simulations of length 500 of a non canonical MA(1) and ML estimation



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