

(A) Inflation (black) and unemployment (red) for the USA, 1980-2024. (B) Cross-correlation function, ccf(inflation,unemployment). What is the best interpretation of this plot?

A: High inflation generally led high unemployment, with a lag of about 4 yr.

B: High inflation generally followed high unemployment, with a lag of about $4~\mathrm{yr}$.

C: Association is not causation, so we should not interpret a cross-correlation plot in terms of lead and lag relationships.