SSA-predictor (Simple Signa Accuracy): this is a generalization of the classic mean-square error (MSE) forecast paradigm

* It can replicate classic one-step ahead, multi-step ahead forecasting;
* It can address signal extraction: backcasting, nowcasting, forecasting of `signals’ (cycles, trends, …)
* It generalizes the classic MSE forecast approach by providing explicit control on smoothness and (to some extent) timeliness issues
  + Smoothness: controlling the rate of false alarms (for example fewer noisy alarms than a selected benchmark)
  + Timeliness: advancement/lead or retardation/lag of filter output relative to a target/benchmark

The R-package contains tutorials on the cited applications. In particular, SSA is applied to Hodrick-Prescott, Baxter-King and Hamilton filters for extracting a cyclical component from data.

* Take control of the zero-crossings of the cycle (less noisy alarms)
* Take control of the lag or retardation of one-sided causal concurrent real-time nowcasts

There should be three folders in this package:

* Data
* R: functions for computing the SSA criterion
* SSA Tutorials: sample R-code on various topics (introductory examples, forecasting, signal extraction with HP, BK and HF filters)

There’s also an R-project file called SSA\_package

* Open the R-project SSA\_package (in Rstudio)
  + Doing so sets the paths to the folders
* Once the project is opened (in Rstudio): load any of the tutorials from the folder `SSA Tutorials’
  + Depending on the tutorial one has to add additional packages (so called libraries) such as xts, mFilter or packages for loading/updating the data:
  + When all packages/libraries are loaded one can work through the tutorials
  + Start with lowest numbers (of tutorials)

Experience