



Saturday Morning Statistics #19

April 9th, 2022



The 10 Commandments of Forecasting

- 1 Know what you are forecasting.
- 2 Understand the purpose of forecasting.
- 3 Acknowledge the cost of the forecast error.
- 4 Rationalize the forecast horizon.
- 5 Understand the choice of variables.
- 6 Rationalize the forecasting model used.
- 7 Know how to present the results.
- 8 Know how to decipher the forecast results.
- 9 Use recursive methods.
- 10 Understand that forecasting models evolve over time.

Forecast Evaluation

The root mean squared error is defined as

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=0}^T (Y_{t+1} - \hat{Y}_{t+1})^2}$$

and can be used to compare forecasts.

VAR Models

Assume the following system of linear equations for output, y , inflation, π , and the interest rate, i .

$$y_t = \alpha_y + \cdots + \beta_j y_{t-j} + \cdots + \gamma_j \pi_{t-j} + \cdots + \delta_j i_{t-j} + \mu_t^y$$

$$\pi_t = \alpha_\pi + \cdots + \theta_j y_{t-j} + \cdots + \phi_j \pi_{t-j} + \cdots + \lambda_j i_{t-j} + \mu_t^\pi$$

$$i_t = \alpha_i + \cdots + \psi_j y_{t-j} + \cdots + \kappa_j \pi_{t-j} + \cdots + \rho_j i_{t-j} + \mu_t^i$$

VAR Model in Matrix Form

Assume a system of linear equations for output, y , inflation, π , and the interest rate, i ,

$$\begin{aligned}y_t &= \alpha_y + \cdots + \beta_j y_{t-j} + \cdots + \gamma_j \pi_{t-j} + \cdots + \delta_j i_{t-j} + \mu_t^y \\ \pi_t &= \alpha_\pi + \cdots + \theta_j y_{t-j} + \cdots + \phi_j \pi_{t-j} + \cdots + \lambda_j i_{t-j} + \mu_t^\pi \\ i_t &= \alpha_i + \cdots + \psi_j y_{t-j} + \cdots + \kappa_j \pi_{t-j} + \cdots + \rho_j i_{t-j} + \mu_t^i,\end{aligned}$$

that can be written in matrix form as

$$\begin{pmatrix} y_t \\ \pi_t \\ i_t \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_y \\ \alpha_\pi \\ \alpha_i \end{pmatrix} + A_1 \begin{pmatrix} y_{t-1} \\ \pi_{t-1} \\ i_{t-1} \end{pmatrix} + \cdots + A_j \begin{pmatrix} y_{t-j} \\ \pi_{t-j} \\ i_{t-j} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \mu_t^y \\ \mu_t^\pi \\ \mu_t^i \end{pmatrix}.$$



Thank you for coming.

Insights of the Day

- Now is better than never.
- Record your predictions.
- Evaluate your predictions to make even better forecasts in the future!