

3. Time series decomposition

3.6 STL decomposition

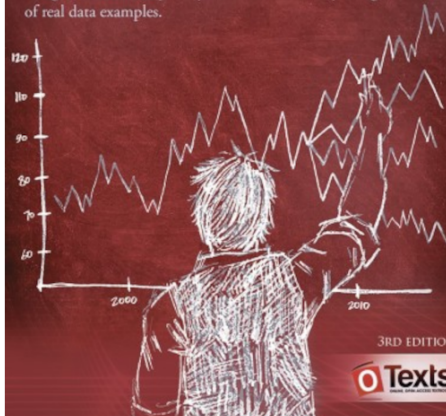
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FORECASTING

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

A comprehensive introduction to the latest forecasting methods using R. Learn to improve your forecast accuracy using dozens of real data examples.



3RD EDITION

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STL decomposition

- STL: “Seasonal and Trend decomposition using Loess”
- Very versatile and robust.
- Unlike X-12-ARIMA, STL will handle any type of seasonality.
- Seasonal component allowed to change over time, and rate of change controlled by user.
- Smoothness of trend-cycle also controlled by user.
- Robust to outliers
- Not trading day or calendar adjustments.
- Only additive.
- Take logs to get multiplicative decomposition.
- Use Box-Cox transformations to get other decompositions.

STL decomposition

```
us_retail_employment |>  
  model(STL(Employed ~ season(window = 9), robust = TRUE)) |>  
  components() |>  
  autoplot() +  
  labs(title = "STL decomposition: US retail employment")
```



STL decomposition

STL decomposition

```
us_retail_employment |>  
  model(STL(Employed ~ season(window = 5))) |>  
  components()
```

```
us_retail_employment |>  
  model(STL(  
    Employed ~ trend(window = 15) +  
      season(window = "periodic"),  
    robust = TRUE  
  )) |>  
  components()
```

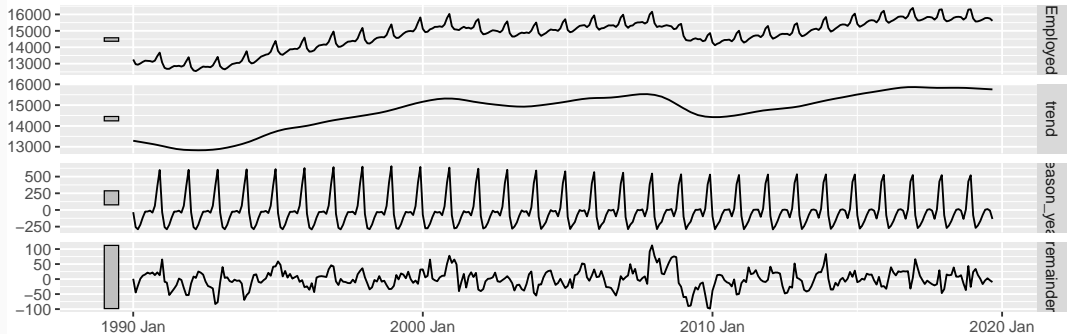
- `trend(window = ?)` controls wiggleness of trend component.
- `season(window = ?)` controls variation on seasonal component.
- `season(window = 'periodic')` is equivalent to an infinite window.

STL decomposition

```
us_retail_employment |>  
  model(STL(Employed)) |>  
  components() |>  
  autoplot()
```

STL decomposition

Employed = trend + season_year + remainder



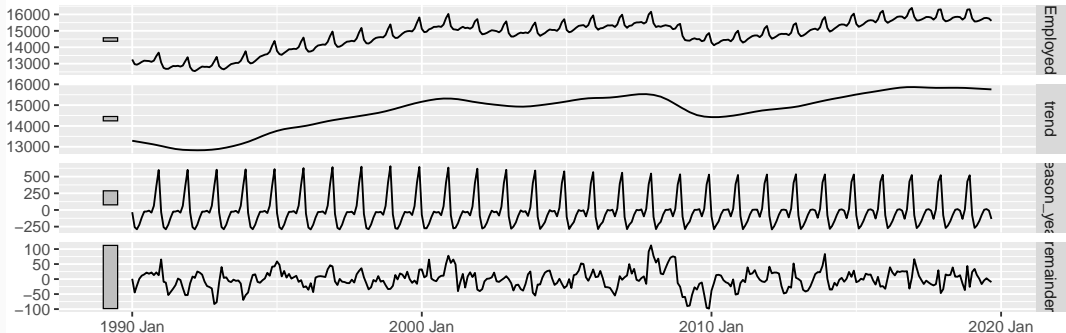
STL decomposition

- `STL()` chooses `season(window=13)` by default
- Can include transformations.

```
us_retail_employment |>  
  model(STL(Employed)) |>  
  components() |>  
  autoplot()
```

STL decomposition

$\text{Employed} = \text{trend} + \text{season_year} + \text{remainder}$



STL decomposition

- Algorithm that updates trend and seasonal components iteratively.
- Starts with $\hat{T}_t = 0$
- Uses a mixture of loess and moving averages to successively refine the trend and seasonal estimates.
- The trend window controls loess bandwidth applied to deasonalised values.
- The season window controls loess bandwidth applied to detrended subseries.
- Robustness weights based on remainder.
- Default season window = 13
- Default trend window = `nextodd(`
`ceiling((1.5*period)/(1-(1.5/s.window)))`