

MONASH BUSINESS SCHOOL

2017 Beijing Workshop on Forecasting

Hierarchical Forecasting

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Outline

1 Hierarchical and grouped time series

2 Forecast reconciliation

3 Fast computational tricks

Labour market participation

Australia and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations

- 8 major groups
 - 43 sub-major groups
 - 97 minor groups
 - 359 unit groups
 - * 1023 occupations

Example: statistician

- 2 Professionals
 - 22 Business, Human Resource and Marketing Professionals
 - 224 Information and Organisation Professionals
 2241 Actuaries, Mathematicians and Statisticians
 224113 Statistician

Labour market participation

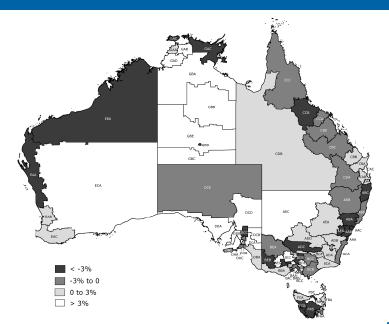
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Australian tourism demand



Australian tourism demand

Quarterly data on visitor night from 1998:Q1 – 2013:Q4

. Two.

- From: *National Visitor Survey*, based on annual interviews of 120,000 Australians aged 15+, collected by Tourism Research Australia.
- Split by 7 states, 27 zones and 76 regions (a geographical hierarchy)
- Also split by purpose of travel
 - Holiday
 - Visiting friends and relatives (VFR)
 - Business
 - Other
- 304 bottom-level series





3. PBS sales



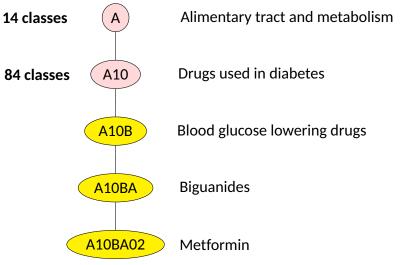
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ATC drug classification

- A Alimentary tract and metabolism
- B Blood and blood forming organs
- C Cardiovascular system
- D Dermatologicals
- G Genito-urinary system and sex hormones
- H Systemic hormonal preparations, excluding sex hormones and insulins
- J Anti-infectives for systemic use
- L Antineoplastic and immunomodulating agents
- M Musculo-skeletal system
- N Nervous system
- P Antiparasitic products, insecticides and repellents
- R Respiratory system
- S Sensory organs
- V Various

3. PBS sales

ATC drug classification





- Monthly UK sales data from 2000 2014
- Provided by a large spectacle manufacturer
- Split by brand (26), gender (3), price range (6), materials (4), and stores (600)
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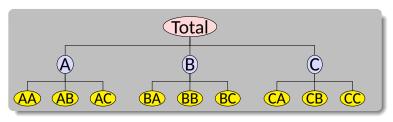


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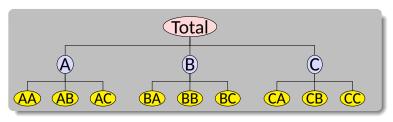
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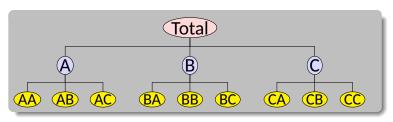
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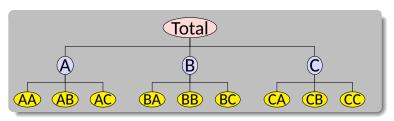
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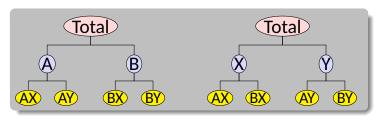
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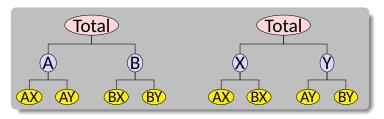
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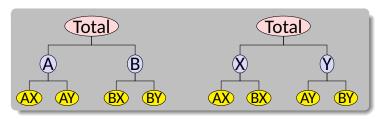
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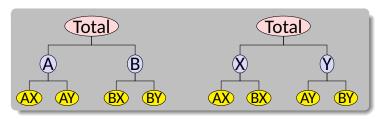
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- How to forecast time series at all nodes such that the forecasts add up in the same way as the original data?
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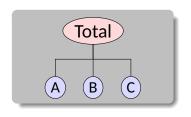
- Forecast all series at all levels of aggregation using an automatic forecasting algorithm (e.g., ets, auto.arima, ...)
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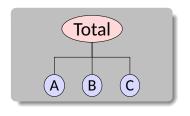
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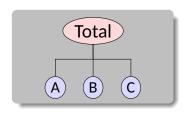
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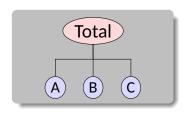
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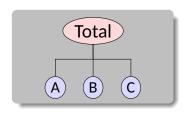
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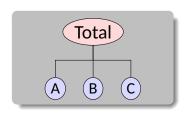
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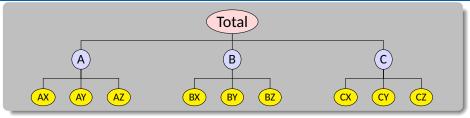
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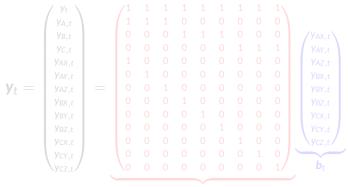


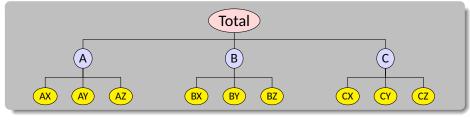
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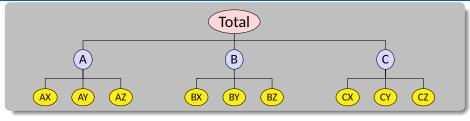
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 $\mathbf{y}_t = \mathbf{Sb}_t$

Grouped data













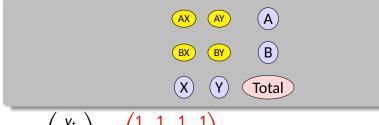




Total

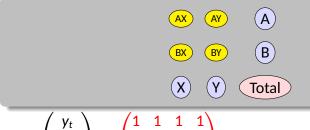
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Every collection of time series with aggregation constraints can be written as

$$\mathbf{y}_t = \mathbf{S}\mathbf{b}_t$$

where

- \mathbf{y}_t is a vector of all series at time t
- **b**_t is a vector of the most disaggregated series at time t
- **S** is a "summing matrix" containing the aggregation constraints.

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3 Fast computational tricks

- Forecasts should be "coherent", unbiased, minimum variance.
- Existing methods:
 - Bottom-upTop-down
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- Single forecasting model easy to build
- Provides reliable forecasts for aggregate levels.

- Loss of information, especially individual series dynamics.
- Distribution of forecast to lower levels can be difficult
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(In general, they will not "add up".)

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General properties: bias

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Assume: base forecasts $\hat{y}_n(h)$ are unbiased:

- Let $\hat{\boldsymbol{b}}_n(h)$ be bottom level base forecasts with $\beta_n(h) = \mathbb{E}[\hat{\boldsymbol{b}}_n(h)|y_1,\ldots,y_n]$.
- $= Then E[\hat{y}_n(h)] = S\theta_n(h).$
- We want the revised forecasts to be unbiased:
 - $E[y_n(n)] = 5P5\beta_n(n) = 5\beta_n(n).$

Reconciled forecast are unbiased if and only if SPS = -

True for bottom-up, but not top-down or middle-out.

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Hierarchical Forecasting Forecast reconciliation

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- Let $\hat{\boldsymbol{b}}_n(h)$ be bottom level base forecasts with $\beta_n(h) = \mathbb{E}[\hat{\boldsymbol{b}}_n(h)|\boldsymbol{y}_1,\ldots,\boldsymbol{y}_n]$.
- Then $E[\hat{\mathbf{y}}_n(h)] = \mathbf{S}\beta_n(h)$.
- We want the revised forecasts to be unbiased: $E[\tilde{\mathbf{y}}_n(h)] = \mathbf{SPS}\beta_n(h) = \mathbf{S}\beta_n(h)$.

Reconciled forecast are unbiased if and only if SPS = S

True for bottom-up, but not top-down or middle-out

Hierarchical Forecasting Forecast reconciliation

24

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Hierarchical Forecasting Forecast reconciliation 24

General properties: variance

$$\tilde{\mathbf{y}}_{n}(h) = \mathbf{SP}\hat{\mathbf{y}}_{n}(h)$$

Let error variance of h-step base forecasts $\hat{\mathbf{y}}_n(h)$ be

$$\Sigma_h = \mathsf{Var}[\mathbf{y}_{n+h} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}_n(h) \mid \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_n]$$

Then the error variance of the corresponding reconciled forecasts is

$$\mathsf{Var}[\mathbf{y}_{n+h} - \widetilde{\mathbf{y}}_n(h) \mid \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_n] = \mathsf{SP}\Sigma_h \mathsf{P}'\mathsf{S}'$$

This is a general result for all existing methods.

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$$\tilde{\mathbf{y}}_n(h) = \mathbf{SP}\hat{\mathbf{y}}_n(h)$$

Theorem: MinT Reconciliation

If **P** satisfies SPS = S, then $\min_{P} = \operatorname{trace}[SP\Sigma_{h}P'S']$ has solution $P = (S'\Sigma_{h}^{-1}S)^{-1}S'\Sigma_{h}^{-1}$.

$$\widetilde{\mathbf{y}}_{\mathsf{n}}(\mathsf{h}) = \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{S}'\Sigma_{\mathsf{h}}^{-1}\mathbf{S})^{-1}\mathbf{S}'\Sigma_{\mathsf{h}}^{-1}\widehat{\mathbf{y}}_{\mathsf{n}}(\mathsf{h})$$

Reconciled forecasts

Base forecasts

lacksquare Assume that $\Sigma_h=k_h\Sigma_1$ to simplify computations.

Hierarchical Forecasting

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Hierarchical Forecasting

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Hierarchical Forecasting Forecast reconciliation 26

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Reconciled forecasts

Base forecasts

Solution 1: OLS

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Reconciliation does not depend on data

works surprisingly we

Still need to estimate

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- Reconciliation does not depend on data
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- Still need to estimate covariance matrix to produce prediction intervals.

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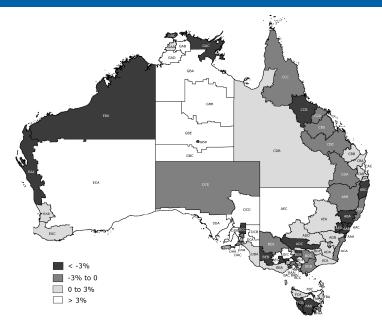
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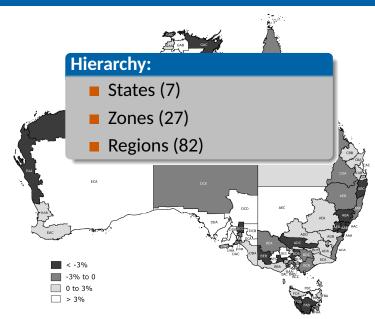
Australian tourism



Hierarchical Forecasting Forecast reconciliation

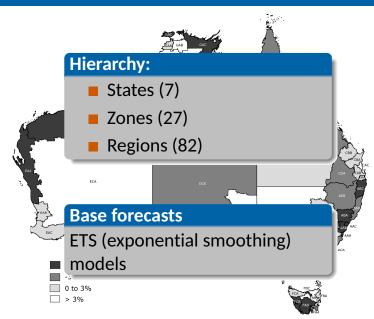
30

Australian tourism

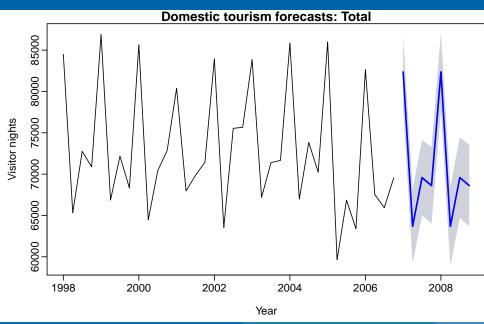


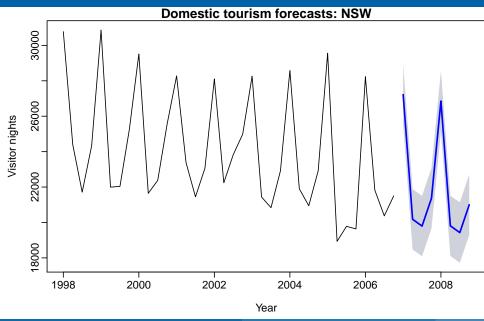
Hierarchical Forecasting

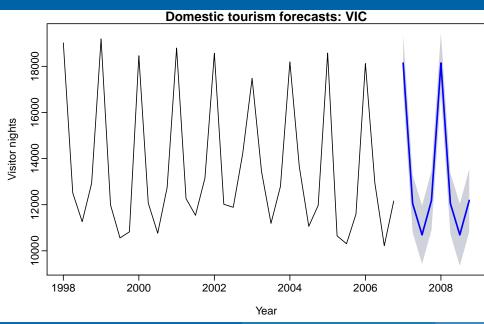
Australian tourism

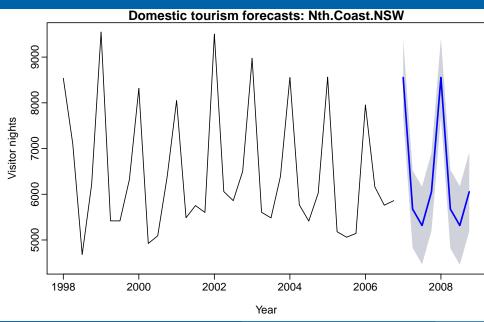


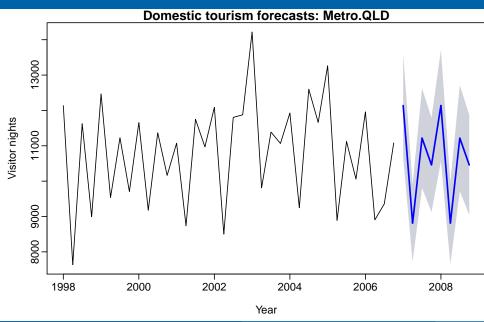
Hierarchical Forecasting

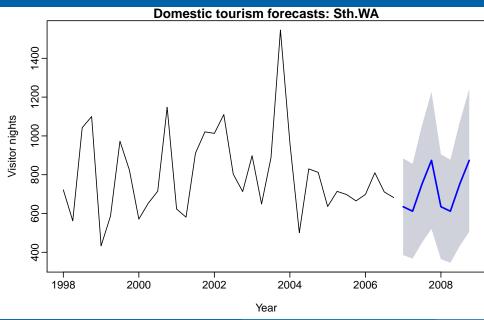


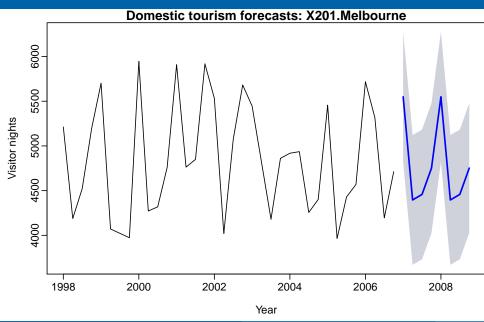


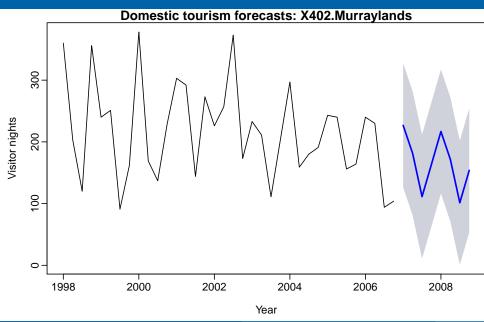




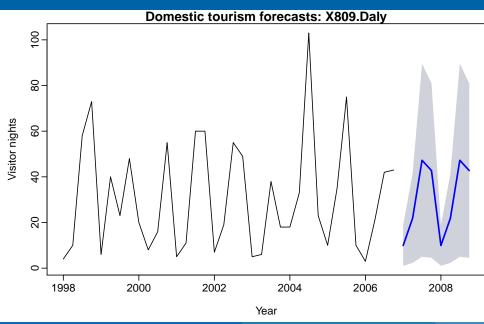








Base forecasts



Training sets

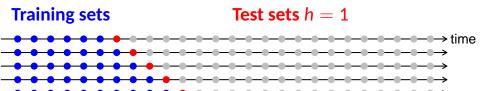
Test sets h = 1

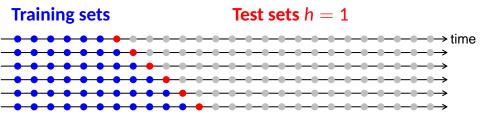


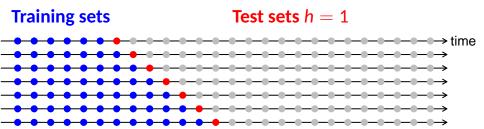
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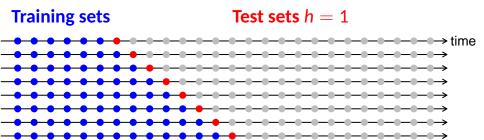
Test sets h = 1

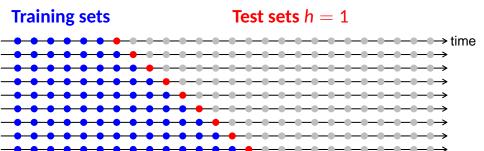
Training sets Test sets h = 1 time

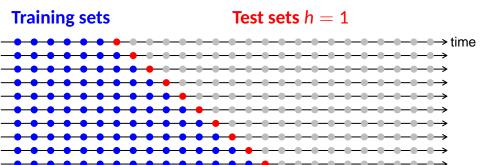




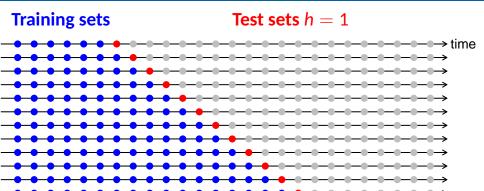


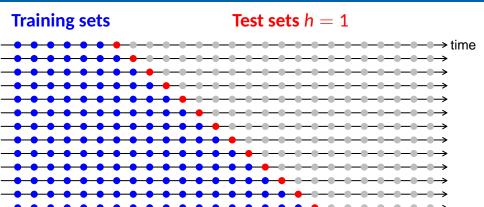


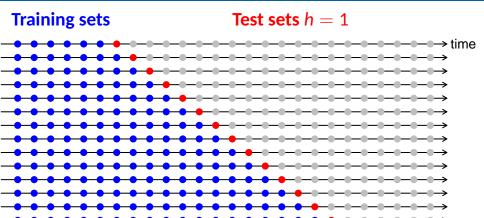


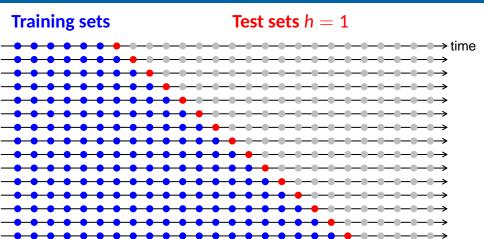


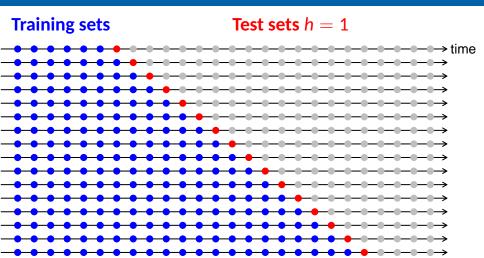


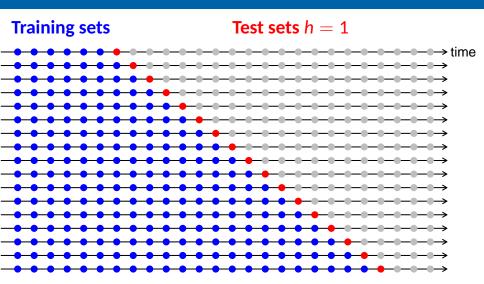


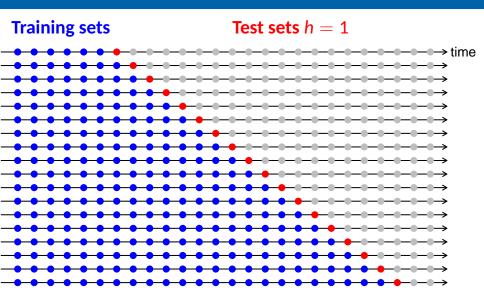


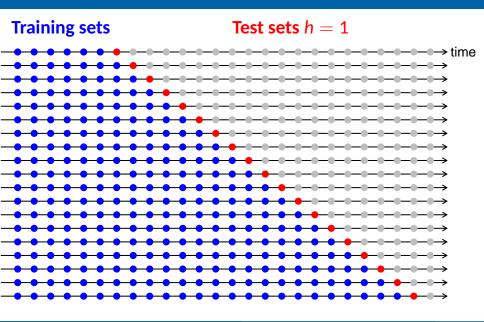


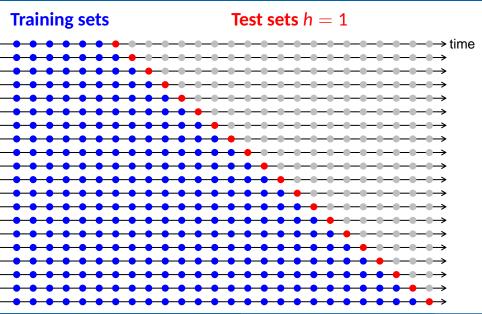


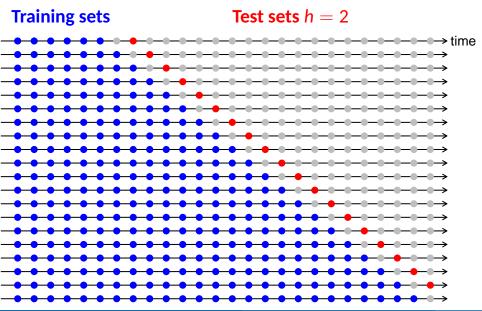


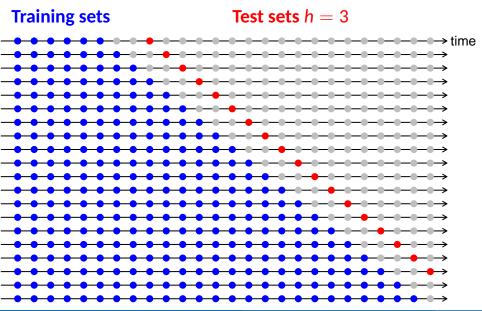


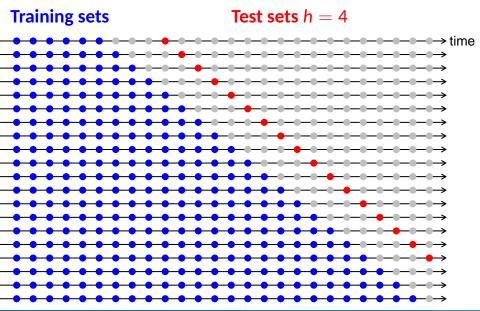


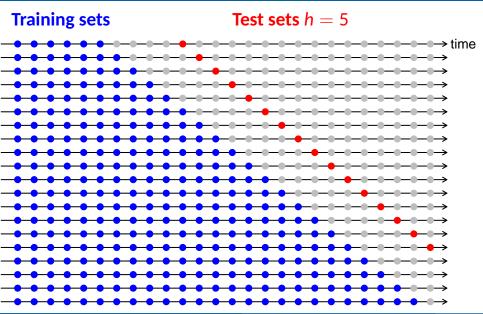


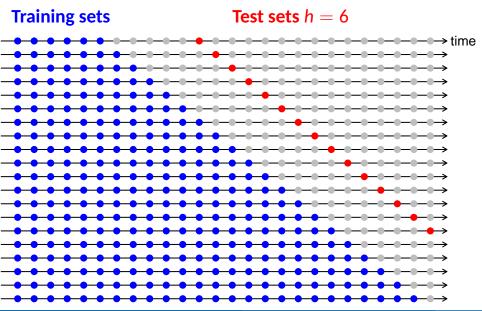












Hierarchy: states, zones, regions

Forecast horizon							
RMSE	h = 1	h = 2	h = 3	h = 4	h = 5	h = 6	Ave
Australia							
Base	1762.04	1770.29	1766.02	1818.82	1705.35	1721.17	1757.28
Bottom	1736.92	1742.69	1722.79	1752.74	1666.73	1687.43	1718.22
OLS	1747.60	1757.68	1751.77	1800.67	1686.00	1706.45	1741.69
WLS	1705.21	1715.87	1703.75	1729.56	1627.79	1661.24	1690.57
GLS	1704.64	1715.60	1705.31	1729.04	1626.36	1661.64	1690.43
States							
Base	399.77	404.16	401.92	407.26	395.38	401.17	401.61
Bottom	404.29	406.95	404.96	409.02	399.80	401.55	404.43
OLS	404.47	407.62	405.43	413.79	401.10	404.90	406.22
WLS	398.84	402.12	400.71	405.03	394.76	398.23	399.95
GLS	398.84	402.16	400.86	405.03	394.59	398.22	399.95
Regions							
Base	93.15	93.38	93.45	93.79	93.50	93.56	93.47
Bottom	93.15	93.38	93.45	93.79	93.50	93.56	93.47
OLS	93.28	93.53	93.64	94.17	93.78	93.88	93.71
WLS	93.02	93.32	93.38	93.72	93.39	93.53	93.39
GLS	92.98	93.27	93.34	93.66	93.34	93.46	93.34

Hierarchical Forecasting Forecast reconciliation

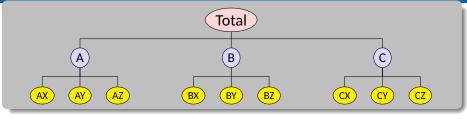
Outline

1 Hierarchical and grouped time series

2 Forecast reconciliation

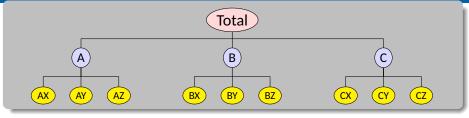
3 Fast computational tricks

Fast computation: hierarchical data



 $\mathbf{y_t} = \mathbf{5b_t}$

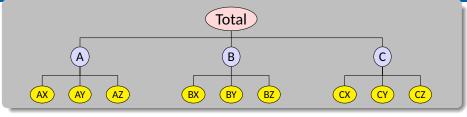
Fast computation: hierarchical data



YAX,t YAY,t YAZ,t YBX,t YBY,t YBZ,t YCX,t YCY,t YCZ,t

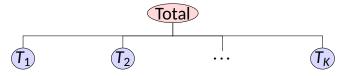
 $\mathbf{y_t} = \mathbf{Sb_t}$

Fast computation: hierarchical data



 $\mathbf{y_t} = \mathbf{5b_t}$

Think of the hierarchy as a tree of trees:



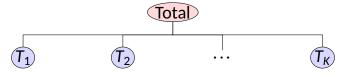
Then the summing matrix contains *k* smaller summing matrices:

$$\mathbf{S} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1}'_{n_1} & \mathbf{1}'_{n_2} & \cdots & \mathbf{1}'_{n_K} \\ \mathbf{S}_1 & \mathbf{0} & \cdots & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{S}_2 & \cdots & \mathbf{0} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \cdots & \mathbf{S}_K \end{bmatrix}$$

where $\mathbf{1}_n$ is an *n*-vector of ones and tree T_i has n_i terminal nodes.

Hierarchical Forecasting Fast computational tricks

Think of the hierarchy as a tree of trees:



Then the summing matrix contains *k* smaller summing matrices:

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where $\mathbf{1}_n$ is an *n*-vector of ones and tree T_i has n_i terminal nodes.

Hierarchical Forecasting Fast computational tricks

$$\mathbf{S}'\!\boldsymbol{\Lambda}\mathbf{S} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{S}'_1\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_1\mathbf{S}_1 & \mathbf{0} & \cdots & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{S}'_2\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_2\mathbf{S}_2 & \cdots & \mathbf{0} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \cdots & \mathbf{S}'_K\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_K\mathbf{S}_K \end{bmatrix} + \lambda_0\,\mathbf{J}_n$$

- lacksquare λ_0 is the top left element of Λ ;
- Λ_k is a block of Λ , corresponding to tree T_k ;
- **J**_n is a matrix of ones;
- \blacksquare $n = \sum_k n_k$.

Now apply the Sherman-Morrison formula ...

$$m{S'} m{\Lambda} m{S} = egin{bmatrix} m{S'_1} m{\Lambda_1} m{S_1} & m{0} & \cdots & m{0} \\ m{0} & m{S'_2} m{\Lambda_2} m{S_2} & \cdots & m{0} \\ dots & dots & \ddots & dots \\ m{0} & m{0} & \cdots & m{S'_K} m{\Lambda_K} m{S_K} \end{bmatrix} + \lambda_0 m{J_n}$$

- lacksquare λ_0 is the top left element of Λ ;
- \blacksquare Λ_k is a block of Λ , corresponding to tree T_k ;
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Now apply the Sherman-Morrison formula ...

$$(\mathbf{S}'\!\Lambda\mathbf{S})^{-1} = egin{bmatrix} (\mathbf{S}'_1\Lambda_1\mathbf{S}_1)^{-1} & \mathbf{0} & \cdots & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & (\mathbf{S}'_2\Lambda_2\mathbf{S}_2)^{-1} & \cdots & \mathbf{0} \\ dots & dots & \ddots & dots \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \cdots & (\mathbf{S}'_{\mathsf{K}}\Lambda_{\mathsf{K}}\mathbf{S}_{\mathsf{K}})^{-1} \end{bmatrix} - c\mathbf{S}_0$$

■ S_0 can be partitioned into K^2 blocks, with the (k, ℓ) block (of dimension $n_k \times n_\ell$) being

$$(\textbf{\textit{S}}_k'\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_k\textbf{\textit{S}}_k)^{-1}\textbf{\textit{J}}_{n_k,n_\ell}(\textbf{\textit{S}}_\ell'\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_\ell\textbf{\textit{S}}_\ell)^{-1}$$

- **J**_{n_k,n_ℓ} is a $n_k \times n_\ell$ matrix of ones.
- $lacksquare c^{-1} = \lambda_0^{-1} + \sum_k \mathbf{1}'_{n_k} (\mathbf{S}'_k \Lambda_k \mathbf{S}_k)^{-1} \mathbf{1}_{n_k}.$
- Each $S'_k \Lambda_k S_k$ can be inverted similarly.
- **S'** Λy can also be computed recursively.

$$(\mathbf{S}'\!\Lambda\mathbf{S})^{-1} = egin{bmatrix} (\mathbf{S}'_1\Lambda_1\mathbf{S}_1)^{-1} & \mathbf{0} & \cdots & \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{0} & (\mathbf{S}'_2\Lambda_2\mathbf{S}_2)^{-1} & \cdots & \mathbf{0} \ dots & dots & \ddots & dots \ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \cdots & (\mathbf{S}'_K\Lambda_K\mathbf{S}_K)^{-1} \end{bmatrix} - c\mathbf{S}_0$$

S₀ can be partitioned into K^2 blocks, with the (k, ℓ) block (of dimension $n_k \times n_\ell$) being

> The recursive calculations can be done in such a way that we never store any of

the large matrices involved.
$$c^{-1} = r_0 + \sum_{k} \frac{1}{n_k} (\frac{1}{n_k} \frac{1}{n_k} \frac{1$$

- Each $S'_k \Lambda_k S_k$ can be inverted similarly.
- $S'\Lambda y$ can also be computed recursively.



```
0
 YA.t
Y<sub>B</sub>,t
Yc.t
Yx.t
YY.t
y_{Z,t}
YAX.t
YAY.t
YAZ.t
Y<sub>BX</sub>,t
YBY.t
YBZ.t
                                                                               0
Ycx.t
                                                                               0
YCY,t
Ycz,t
```

```
y_{AX,t}
y_{AY,t}
YAZ.t
y_{BX,t}
YBY.t
y_{BZ,t}
y_{CX,t}
y_{CY,t}
Ycz,t
  b
```

 $\mathbf{y}_{t} = \mathbf{Sb}_{t}$

$$\mathbf{S} = egin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1}_m' \otimes \mathbf{1}_n' \ \mathbf{1}_m' \otimes \mathbf{I}_n \ \mathbf{I}_m \otimes \mathbf{1}_n' \ \mathbf{I}_m \otimes \mathbf{I}_n \end{bmatrix}$$

m = number of rows n = number of columns

S'
$$\Lambda$$
S $=\lambda_{00}$ J $_{mn}+(\Lambda_{R}\otimes J_{n})+(J_{m}\otimes \Lambda_{C})+\Lambda_{U}$

- Λ_R , Λ_C and Λ_U are diagonal matrices corresponding to rows, columns and unaggregated series;
- λ_{00} corresponds to aggregate

$$egin{aligned} \mathbf{S} = egin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1}_m' \otimes \mathbf{1}_n' \ \mathbf{1}_m' \otimes \mathbf{I}_n' \ \mathbf{I}_m \otimes \mathbf{1}_n' \ \mathbf{I}_m \otimes \mathbf{I}_n \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

m = number of rows n = number of columns

$$extstyle extstyle S' \Lambda extstyle S = \lambda_{00} extstyle extstyle J_{mn} + (\Lambda_{R} \otimes extstyle J_{n}) + (extstyle J_{m} \otimes \Lambda_{C}) + \Lambda_{U}$$

- Λ_R , Λ_C and Λ_U are diagonal matrices corresponding to rows, columns and unaggregated series;
- lacksquare λ_{00} corresponds to aggregate.

$$(\mathbf{S}\mathbf{\Lambda}\mathbf{S})^{-1} = \mathbf{A} - rac{\mathbf{A}\mathbf{1}_{mn}\mathbf{1}_{mn}'\mathbf{A}}{1/\lambda_{00} + \mathbf{1}_{mn}'\mathbf{A}\mathbf{1}_{mn}}$$

$$\mathbf{A} = \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_U^{-1} - \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_U^{-1} (\mathbf{J}_m \otimes \mathbf{D}) \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_U^{-1} - \mathbf{E} \mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{E}'.$$

D is diagonal with elements $d_j = \lambda_{0j}/(1 + \lambda_{0j} \sum_i \lambda_{ij}^{-1})$.

E has $m \times m$ blocks where e_{ij} has kth element

$$(\mathbf{e}_{ij})_{k} = \begin{cases} \lambda_{i0}^{1/2} \lambda_{ik}^{-1} - \lambda_{i0}^{1/2} \lambda_{ik}^{-2} d_{k}, & i = j, \\ -\lambda_{j0}^{1/2} \lambda_{ik}^{-1} \lambda_{jk}^{-1} d_{k}, & i \neq j. \end{cases}$$

M is $m \times m$ with (i, j) element

$$(\textbf{\textit{M}})_{ij} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1 + \lambda_{i0} \sum_{k} \lambda_{ik}^{-1} - \lambda_{i0} \sum_{k} \lambda_{ik}^{-2} d_{k}, & i = j, \\ -\lambda_{i0}^{1/2} \lambda_{j0}^{1/2} \sum_{k} \lambda_{ik}^{-1} \lambda_{jk}^{-1} d_{k}, & i \neq j. \end{array} \right.$$

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$$(\mathbf{S}\mathbf{\Lambda}\mathbf{S})^{-1} = \mathbf{A} - rac{\mathbf{A}\mathbf{1}_{mn}\mathbf{1}_{mn}'\mathbf{A}}{1/\lambda_{00} + \mathbf{1}_{mn}'\mathbf{A}\mathbf{1}_{mn}}$$

$$\mathbf{A} = \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_U^{-1} - \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_U^{-1} (\mathbf{J}_m \otimes \mathbf{D}) \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_U^{-1} - \mathbf{E} \mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{E}'.$$

D is diagonal with elements $d_i = \lambda_{0i}/(1 + \lambda_{0i} \sum_i \lambda_{ii}^{-1})$.

E has $m \times m$ blocks where e_{ii} has kth element

Again, the calculations can be done in such a way that we never store any of M is $m \times$ the large matrices involved.

$$(\mathbf{M})_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 + \lambda_{i0} \sum_{k} \lambda_{ik}^{-1} - \lambda_{i0} \sum_{k} \lambda_{ik}^{-2} d_{k}, & i = j, \\ -\lambda_{i0}^{1/2} \lambda_{j0}^{1/2} \sum_{k} \lambda_{ik}^{-1} \lambda_{jk}^{-1} d_{k}, & i \neq j. \end{cases}$$

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R packages



https://github.com/earowang/tsibble

http://pkg.earo.me/sugrrants

https://github.com/mitchelloharawild/fasster

http://pkg.robjhyndman.com/forecast

http://pkg.earo.me/hts