

# 时间序列分析

## Time Series Analysis

### Lecture 5

# Review

1. Linear Time Series
2. Simple AR Models
3. Simple MA Models
4. Simple ARMA Models

# Today's Topics

1. The Autocovariance-Generating Function
2. Sums of  $ARMA$  processes
3. Wold's Decomposition and the Box-Jenkins Modeling Philosophy
4. Maximum Likelihood Estimation

# Today's Topics

## 1. The Autocovariance-Generating Function

The Autocovariance-Generating Function

Filters

## 2. Sums of *ARMA* processes

## 3. Wold's Decomposition and the Box-Jenkins Modeling

Philosophy

## 4. Maximum Likelihood Estimation

# 1. The Autocovariance-Generating Function

For a covariance-stationary process  $Y_t$ , we define the *autocovariance-generating function (AGF)*:

$$g_Y(z) = \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} \gamma_j z^j,$$

where  $\{\gamma_j\}_{j=-\infty}^{\infty}$  is the sequence of autocovariances (if it is absolutely summable), and  $z$  is a complex scalar.

If two different processes share the same autocovariance-generating function, then the two processes exhibit the identical sequence of autocovariances.

### Example 1: Calculating the AGF for an MA process

From Lecture 4, an  $MA(1)$  process  $Y_t = \mu + \varepsilon_t + \theta\varepsilon_{t-1}$  has AGF

$$\begin{aligned}g_Y(z) &= [\theta\sigma^2]z^{-1} + [(1 + \theta^2)\sigma^2]z^0 + [\theta\sigma^2]z^1 \\&= \sigma^2[\theta z^{-1} + (1 + \theta^2)\theta z] \\&= \sigma^2(1 + \theta z)(1 + \theta z^{-1}).\end{aligned}$$

The form suggests that for the  $MA(q)$  process,

$$Y_t = \mu + (1 + \theta_1 L + \theta_2 L^2 + \cdots + \theta_q L^q)\varepsilon_t,$$

the autocovariance-generating function might be calculated as

$$\begin{aligned}g_Y(z) &= \sigma^2(1 + \theta_1 z + \theta_2 z^2 + \cdots + \theta_q z^q) \\&\quad \times (1 + \theta_1 z^{-1} + \theta_2 z^{-2} + \cdots + \theta_q z^{-q}).\end{aligned}$$

## Proof (self-reading)

This conjecture can be converted to

$$\begin{aligned} & (1 + \theta_1 z + \theta_2 z^2 + \cdots + \theta_q z^q) \times (1 + \theta_1 z^{-1} + \theta_2 z^{-2} + \cdots + \theta_q z^{-q}) \\ &= (\theta_q) z^q + (\theta_{q-1} + \theta_q \theta_1) z^{q-1} + (\theta_{q-2} + \theta_{q-1} \theta_1 + \theta_q \theta_2) z^{q-2} \\ &+ \cdots + (\theta_1 + \theta_2 \theta_1 + \theta_3 \theta_2 + \cdots + \theta_q \theta_{q-1}) z^1 \\ &+ (1 + \theta_1^2 + \theta_2^2 + \cdots + \theta_q^2) z^0 \\ &+ (\theta_1 + \theta_2 \theta_1 + \theta_3 \theta_2 + \cdots + \theta_q \theta_{q-1}) z^{-1} + \cdots + \theta_q z^{-q} \end{aligned}$$

## Extension to $MA(\infty)$ case

This method for finding  $g_Y(z)$  extends to the  $MA(\infty)$  case. If

$$Y_t = \mu + \psi(L)\varepsilon_t$$

with

$$\psi(L) = \psi_0 + \psi_1 L + \psi_2 L^2 + \dots$$

and

$$\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} |\psi_j| < \infty$$

then

$$g_Y(z) = \sigma^2 \psi(z) \psi(z^{-1}).$$



## Example 2: Calculating the AGF for an $AR(1)$ process

The stationary  $AR(1)$  process can be written as

$$Y_t - \mu = (1 - \phi L)^{-1} \varepsilon_t.$$

The AGF for an  $AR(1)$  process could therefore be calculated from

$$g_Y(z) = \frac{\sigma^2}{(1 - \phi z)(1 - \phi z^{-1})}$$

Verify this claim:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\sigma^2}{(1 - \phi z)(1 - \phi z^{-1})} &= \sigma^2(1 + \phi z + \phi^2 z^2 + \phi^3 z^3 + \dots) \\ &\quad \times (1 + \phi z^{-1} + \phi^2 z^{-2} + \phi^3 z^{-3} + \dots), \end{aligned}$$

from which the coefficient on  $z^j$  is

$$\gamma_j = \sigma^2(\phi^j + \phi^{j+1}\phi + \phi^{j+2}\phi^2 + \dots) = \sigma^2\phi^j/(1 - \phi^2).$$

### Example 3: Calculating the AGF for an $ARMA(p, q)$ process

For a stationary  $ARMA(p, q)$  process

$$\begin{aligned} Y_t &= c + \phi_1 Y_{t-1} + \dots + \phi_p Y_{t-p} \\ &+ \varepsilon_t + \theta_1 \varepsilon_{t-1} + \dots + \theta_q \varepsilon_{t-q}, \end{aligned}$$

or,

$$\begin{aligned} (1 - \phi_1 L - \dots - \phi_p L^p) Y_t &= \\ c + (1 + \theta_1 L + \dots + \theta_q L^q) \varepsilon_t, \end{aligned}$$

its autocovariance-generating function can be shown as

$$g_Y(z) = \frac{\sigma^2(1 + \theta_1 z + \theta_2 z^2 + \dots + \theta_q z^q)(1 + \theta_1 z^{-1} + \theta_2 z^{-2} + \dots + \theta_q z^{-q})}{(1 - \phi_1 z - \phi_2 z^2 - \dots - \phi_p z^p)(1 - \phi_1 z^{-1} - \phi_2 z^{-2} - \dots - \phi_p z^{-p})}.$$

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## Filters

Suppose that the original data  $Y_t$  follows an  $MA(1)$  process,

$$Y_t = (1 + \theta L)\varepsilon_t.$$

But we're interested in analyzing  $X_t$ , representing the change in  $Y_t$ :

$$X_t = Y_t - Y_{t-1} = (1 - L)Y_t = [1 + (\theta - 1)L - \theta L^2]\varepsilon_t \equiv [1 + \theta_1 L + \theta_2 L^2]\varepsilon_t,$$

with  $\theta_1 \equiv (\theta - 1)$  and  $\theta_2 \equiv -\theta$ .

The AGF of  $X_t$  can be calculated as:

$$\begin{aligned} g_X(z) &= \sigma^2(1 + \theta_1 z + \theta_2 z^2)(1 + \theta_1 z^{-1} + \theta_2 z^{-2}) \\ &= \sigma^2(1 - z)(1 + \theta z)(1 - z^{-1})(1 + \theta z^{-1}) \\ &= (1 - z)(1 - z^{-1}) \cdot g_Y(z). \end{aligned}$$

Generally, let  $\{Y_t\}$  satisfy

$$Y_t = \mu + \psi(L)\varepsilon_t,$$

with  $\psi(L) = \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_j L^j$ ,  $\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} |\psi_j| < \infty$ .

Let's say the data are filtered according to

$$X_t = h(L)Y_t = h(1)\mu + h(L)\psi(L)\varepsilon_t \equiv \mu^* + \psi^*(L)\varepsilon_t, .$$

with  $h(L) = \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} h_j L^j$ ,  $\sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} |h_j| < \infty$ ,  $\mu^* \equiv h(1)\mu$  and  $\psi^*(L) \equiv h(L)\psi(L)$ .

The AGF of  $X_t$  can accordingly be calculated as

$$\begin{aligned} g_X(z) &= \sigma^2 \psi^*(z) \psi^*(z^{-1}) = \sigma^2 h(z) \psi(z) \psi(z^{-1}) h(z^{-1}) \\ &= h(z) h(z^{-1}) g_Y(z). \end{aligned}$$

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## 1. The Autocovariance-Generating Function

## 2. Sums of *ARMA* processes

Sum of an *MA*(1) Process Plus White Noise

Adding Two *MA* Processes

Adding Two Autoregressive Processes

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## 2. Sums of *ARMA* processes

### Example 1: Sum of an *MA*(1) Process Plus White Noise

*MA*(1) Process:

$$X_t = u_t + \delta u_{t-1},$$

where  $u_t$  is white noise. The autocovariances of  $X_t$  are

$$E(X_t X_{t-j}) = \begin{cases} (1 + \delta^2)\sigma_u^2, & \text{for } j = 0; \\ \delta\sigma_u^2, & \text{for } j = \pm 1; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise;} \end{cases}$$

Let  $v_t$  indicate a separate white noise series. Suppose that  $v$  and  $u$  are uncorrelated at all leads and lags:

$$E(u_t v_{t-j}) = 0, \quad \text{for all } j,$$

implying

$$E(X_t v_{t-j}) = 0, \quad \text{for all } j.$$

Define

$$\begin{aligned} Y_t &= X_t + v_t \\ &= u_t + \delta u_{t-1} + v_t. \end{aligned}$$

What are the time series properties of  $Y$  ?

$Y_t$  has mean zero, and its autocovariances is

$$\begin{aligned} E(Y_t Y_{t-j}) &= E(X_t + v_t)(X_{t-j} + v_{t-j}) \\ &= E(X_t X_{t-j}) + E(v_t v_{t-j}) \\ &= \begin{cases} (1 + \delta^2)\sigma_u^2 + \sigma_v^2, & \text{for } j = 0; \\ \delta\sigma_u^2, & \text{for } j = \pm 1; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

**Conclusion:**  $Y$  has AGF similar to that of an **MA(1)** process!



**Question:** Does there exist a zero-mean  $MA(1)$  representation for  $Y$ ? That is, we seek for a representation such that

$$Y_t = \varepsilon_t + \theta\varepsilon_{t-1},$$

with

$$E(\varepsilon_t \varepsilon_{t-j}) = \begin{cases} \sigma^2, & \text{for } j = 0; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

The autocovariance is

$$E(Y_t Y_{t-j}) = \begin{cases} (1 + \theta^2)\sigma^2, & \text{for } j = 0; \\ \theta\sigma^2, & \text{for } j = \pm 1; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise;} \end{cases}$$

In order to be consistent,

$$\begin{aligned}(1 + \theta^2)\sigma^2 &= (1 + \delta^2)\sigma_u^2 + \sigma_v^2, \\ \theta\sigma^2 &= \delta\sigma_u^2.\end{aligned}$$

These lead to

$$\sigma^2 = \delta\sigma_u^2/\theta,$$

$$\delta\theta^2 - [(1 + \delta^2) + (\sigma_v^2/\sigma_u^2)]\theta + \delta = 0. \quad (4.7.11)$$

For given values of  $\delta$ ,  $\sigma_u^2$  and  $\sigma_v^2$ , two values of  $\theta$  can be found from the quadratic formula:

$$\theta = \frac{[(1 + \delta^2) + (\sigma_v^2/\sigma_u^2)] \pm \sqrt{[(1 + \delta^2) + (\sigma_v^2/\sigma_u^2)]^2 - 4\delta^2}}{2\delta}.$$

If  $\sigma_v^2$  were equal to zero, the quadratic equation is

$$\delta\theta^2 - (1 + \delta^2)\theta + \delta = \delta(\theta - \delta)(\theta - \delta^{-1}) = 0. \quad (4.7.13)$$

whose solutions are  $\theta = \delta$  and  $\bar{\theta} = \delta^{-1}$ .

For  $\theta > 0$  and  $\sigma_v^2 > 0$ , (4.7.11) is everywhere lower than (4.7.13), implying that (4.7.11) has two real solution for  $\theta$ : an invertible solution:  $0 < |\theta^*| < |\delta|$  and a noninvertible solution:  $0 < |\delta^{-1}| < |\tilde{\theta}^*|$ .

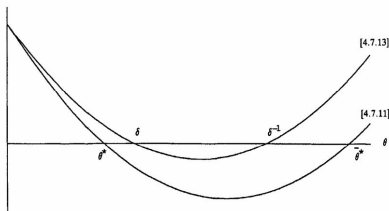


Figure 1 :

Taking the values associated with the invertible representation  
 $(\theta^*, \sigma^{*2})$ ,

$$(1 + \theta^* L)\varepsilon_t = (1 + \delta L)u_t + v_t,$$

or

$$\begin{aligned}\varepsilon_t &= (1 + \theta^* L)^{-1}[(1 + \delta L)u_t + v_t] \\ &= (u_t - \theta^* u_{t-1} + \theta^{*2} u_{t-2} - \theta^{*3} u_{t-3} + \cdots) \\ &\quad + \delta(u_{t-1} - \theta^* u_{t-2} + \theta^{*2} u_{t-3} - \theta^{*3} u_{t-4} + \cdots) \\ &\quad + (v_t - \theta^* v_{t-1} + \theta^{*2} v_{t-2} - \theta^{*3} v_{t-3} + \cdots).\end{aligned}$$

The series  $\varepsilon_t$  seems to possess a rich autocorrelation structure,  
however, it turns out to be **white noise!!!**

$\varepsilon_t$  is White Noise !

$$g_Y(z) = (1 + \delta z)\sigma_u^2(1 + \delta z^{-1}) + \sigma_v^2,$$

so the AGF of  $\varepsilon_t = (1 + \theta^* L)^{-1} Y_t$  is

$$g_\varepsilon(z) = \frac{(1 + \delta z)\sigma_u^2(1 + \delta z^{-1}) + \sigma_v^2}{(1 + \theta^* z)(1 + \theta^* z^{-1})},$$

But  $\theta^*$  and  $\sigma^{*2}$  were chosen such that

$$(1 + \theta^* z)\sigma^{*2}(1 + \theta^* z^{-1}) = g_Y(z).$$

Thus,

$$g_\varepsilon(z) = \sigma^{*2}.$$

That is,  $\varepsilon_t$  is a white noise series !!!

Conclusion:  $MA(1) + WN = MA(1)!$

## Implications for Prediction

$$Y_t = X_t + v_t = u_t + \delta u_{t-1} + v_t. (\text{MA}(1) + \text{WN})$$

$$Y_t = \varepsilon_t + \theta \varepsilon_{t-1}. (\text{MA}(1))$$

The  $\text{MA}(1)$  suggests the optimal forecast of  $Y_{t+1}$  would be

$$\hat{E}(Y_{t+1} | Y_t, Y_{t-1}, \dots) = \theta^* \varepsilon_t$$

with associated MSE  $\sigma^{*2}$ . While the  $\text{MA}(1) + \text{WN}$  suggests

$$\hat{E}(Y_{t+1} | X_t, X_{t-1}, \dots, v_t, v_{t-1}, \dots) = \delta u_t$$

with associated MSE  $\sigma_u^2 + \sigma_v^2$ . It can be shown that

$$\sigma^{*2} > \sigma_u^2 + \sigma_v^2.$$

See Ferreira and Santa-Clara (2011). “Forecasting stock market returns: The sum of the parts is more than the whole.” JFE, 100, 514-537.

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## Example 2: Adding Two $MA$ Processes

$X_t$  is a zero-mean  $MA(q_1)$  process:

$$X_t = (1 + \delta_1 L + \delta_2 L^2 + \cdots + \delta_{q_1} L^{q_1}) u_t \equiv \delta(L) u_t,$$

with

$$E(u_t u_{t-j}) = \begin{cases} \sigma_u^2, & \text{for } j = 0; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Let  $W_t$  be a zero-mean  $MA(q_2)$  process:

$$W_t = (1 + \kappa_1 L + \kappa_2 L^2 + \cdots + \kappa_{q_2} L^{q_2}) v_t \equiv \kappa(L) v_t,$$

with

$$E(v_t v_{t-j}) = \begin{cases} \sigma_v^2, & \text{for } j = 0; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



$X$  and  $W$  are uncorrelated with each other at all leads and lags:

$$E(X_t W_{t-j}) = 0, \quad \text{for all } j;$$

$$Y_t = X_t + W_t.$$

$$q \equiv \max\{q_1, q_2\}.$$

The  $j$ th autocovariance of  $Y$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} E(Y_t Y_{t-j}) &= E(X_t + W_t)(X_{t-j} + W_{t-j}) \\ &= E(X_t X_{t-j}) + E(W_t W_{t-j}) \\ &= \begin{cases} \gamma_j^X + \gamma_j^W, & \text{for } j = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots, \pm q; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

The autocovariances are zero beyond  $q$  lags, suggesting that  $Y_t$  might be represented as an  $MA(q)$  process.

since

$$\gamma_j^Y = \gamma_j^X + \gamma_j^W,$$

it follows that

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} \gamma_j^Y z^j &= \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} \gamma_j^X z^j + \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} \gamma_j^W z^j, \\ g_Y(z) &= g_X(z) + g_W(z).\end{aligned}$$

If  $Y_t$  is to be expressed as an  $MA(q)$  process,

$$Y_t = (1 + \theta_1 L + \theta_2 L^2 + \cdots + \theta_q L^q) \equiv \theta(L) \varepsilon_t,$$

with

$$E(\varepsilon_t \varepsilon_{t-j}) = \begin{cases} \sigma^2, & \text{for } j = 0; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

then its  $AGF$  would be

$$g_Y(z) = \theta(z)\theta(z^{-1})\sigma^2.$$

**Question:** whether there always exist values of  $(\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_q, \sigma^2)$  such that

$$\theta(z)\theta(z^{-1})\sigma^2 = \delta(z)\delta(z^{-1})\sigma_u^2 + \kappa(z)\kappa(z^{-1})\sigma_v^2.$$

It turns out that there do !!!

Conclusion:

$$MA(q_1) + MA(q_2) = MA(\max\{q_1, q_2\}).$$

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Sum of an *MA*(1) Process Plus White Noise

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## Example 3: Adding Two *AR* Processes

$X_t$  and  $W_t$  are two uncorrelated **AR(1)** processes:

$$(1 - \pi L)X_t = u_t,$$

$$(1 - \rho L)W_t = v_t,$$

where  $u_t$  and  $v_t$  are each white noise with  $u_t$  uncorrelated with  $v_t$  for all  $t$  and  $\tau$ .

$$Y_t = X_t + W_t,$$

Condition 1:  $\pi = \rho$ .

$$(1 - \pi L)X_t + (1 - \rho L)W_t = u_t + v_t,$$

$$(1 - \pi L)(X_t + W_t) = u_t + v_t.$$

$u_t + v_t$  is white noise, meaning that  $Y_t$  has an  $AR(1)$  representation

$$(1 - \pi L)Y_t = \varepsilon_t.$$

Condition 2:  $\pi \neq \rho$ .

$$(1 - \rho L)(1 - \pi L)X_t = (1 - \rho L)u_t,$$

$$(1 - \pi L)(1 - \rho L)W_t = (1 - \pi L)v_t.$$

$$(1 - \rho L)(1 - \pi L)(X_t + W_t) = (1 - \rho L)u_t + (1 - \pi L)v_t.$$

the right side has an  $MA(1)$  representation, i.e.,

$$(1 - \phi_1 L - \phi_2 L^2)Y_t = (1 + \theta L)\varepsilon_t,$$

where

$$(1 - \phi_1 L - \phi_2 L^2) = (1 - \rho L)(1 - \pi L),$$

$$(1 + \theta L)\varepsilon_t = (1 - \rho L)u_t + (1 - \pi L)v_t.$$

In other words,

$$AR(\mathbf{1}) + AR(\mathbf{1}) = ARMA(\mathbf{2}, \mathbf{1}).$$

In general, adding an  $AR(p_1)$  process to an  $AR(p_2)$  process with which it is uncorrelated at all leads and lags,

$$\pi(L)X_t = u_t, \quad \rho(L)W_t = v_t,$$

produces an  $ARMA(p_1 + p_2, \max\{p_1, p_2\})$  process,

$$\phi(L)Y_t = \theta(L)\varepsilon_t,$$

where

$$\phi(L) = \pi(L)\rho(L),$$

$$\theta(L)\varepsilon_t = \rho(L)u_t + \pi(L)v_t.$$

For more discussion on related topics, see Granger and Morris (1976), "Time Series Modelling and Interpretation," JRSS Series A, 246-257



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Wold's (1938) Decomposition

The Box-Jenkins Modeling Philosophy

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### 3. Wold's (1938) decomposition

Any zero-mean *covariance-stationary* process  $Y_t$  can be represented in the form

$$Y_t = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \psi_j \varepsilon_{t-j} + \kappa_t,$$

where  $\psi_0 = 1$  and  $\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \psi_j^2 < \infty$ . The term  $\varepsilon_t$  is white noise and represents the error made in forecasting  $Y_t$  on the basis of a linear function of lagged  $Y$ :

$$\varepsilon_t \equiv Y_t - \hat{E}(Y_t | Y_{t-1}, Y_{t-2}, \dots). \quad (\text{indeterministic})$$

The value of  $\kappa_t$  is uncorrelated with  $\varepsilon_{t-j}$  for any  $j$ , though  $\kappa_t$  can be predicted arbitrarily well from a linear function of the past values of  $Y$ :

$$\hat{\kappa}_t = \hat{E}(\kappa_t | Y_{t-1}, Y_{t-2}, \dots). \quad (\text{deterministic})$$

# Practical implications

The Wold representation requires fitting an infinite number of parameters  $(\psi_1, \psi_2, \dots)$  to the data. As a practical matter, we need to make some additional assumptions about the nature of  $(\psi_1, \psi_2, \dots)$ . A typical **assumption** is  $\psi(L)$  can be expressed as the ratio of two finite-order polynomials:

$$\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \psi_j L^j \stackrel{\text{Ass.}}{=} \frac{\theta(L)}{\phi(L)} \equiv \frac{1 + \theta_1 L + \theta_2 L^2 + \dots + \theta_q L^q}{1 - \phi_1 L - \phi_2 L^2 - \dots - \phi_p L^p}.$$

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# The Box-Jenkins Modeling Philosophy

The approach to forecasting advocated by Box and Jenkins (1976) can be broken into four steps:

- (1) Transform the data, if necessary, so that the assumption of covariance-stationarity is a reasonable one.
- (2) Make an initial guess of small values for  $p$  and  $q$  for an  $ARMA(p, q)$  model that might describe the transformed series.
- (3) Estimate the parameters in  $\phi(L)$  and  $\theta(L)$ .
- (4) Perform diagnostic analysis to confirm that the model is indeed consistent with the observed features of the data.

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Introduction

Example 1: The Likelihood Function for an  $AR(1)$

Example 2: The Likelihood Function for an  $MA(1)$

Example 3: The Likelihood Function for an  $ARMA(p,q)$

Numerical Optimization

## 4. Maximum Likelihood Estimation

Consider an *ARMA* model

$$Y_t = c + \phi_1 Y_{t-1} + \phi_2 Y_{t-2} + \cdots + \phi_p Y_{t-p} + \varepsilon_t + \theta_1 \varepsilon_{t-1} + \theta_2 \varepsilon_{t-2} + \cdots + \theta_q \varepsilon_{t-q},$$

with  $\varepsilon_t$  white noise:

$$\begin{aligned} E(\varepsilon_t) &= 0, \\ E(\varepsilon_t \varepsilon_\tau) &= \begin{cases} \sigma^2, & \text{for } t = \tau; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

**Question:** How to estimate the unknown values of

$$(c, \phi_1, \dots, \phi_p, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_q, \sigma^2)$$

on the basis of observations on  $\mathbf{Y}$ ?

# Maximum Likelihood Principle

- ▶ Population parameters:  $\theta \equiv (c, \phi_1, \dots, \phi_p, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_q, \sigma^2)'$
- ▶ Observed sample:  $\{y_1, \dots, y_T\}$
- ▶ Calculate the joint probability density

$$f_{Y_T, Y_{T-1}, \dots, Y_1}(y_T, y_{T-1}, \dots, y_1; \theta).$$

- ▶ The MLE of  $\theta$  is the value that maximizes the above joint probability density (viewed as the likelihood function of the parameters), i.e.,

$$\hat{\theta} = \underset{\theta \in \Theta}{\operatorname{argmax}} L(\theta) = \underset{\theta \in \Theta}{\operatorname{argmax}} f_{Y_T, Y_{T-1}, \dots, Y_1}(y_T, y_{T-1}, \dots, y_1; \theta)$$



# Distributional Assumption

- Typically, we assume that  $\varepsilon_t$  is Gaussian white noise:

$$\varepsilon_t \sim i.i.d. N(0, \sigma^2).$$

Although this assumption is strong, the estimate of  $\theta$  that result from it will often turn out to be sensible for non-Gaussian processes as well.

- The Box-Cox transformation (Box and Cox, 1964)

$$Y_t^{(\lambda)} = \begin{cases} \frac{Y_t^\lambda - 1}{\lambda} & \text{for } \lambda \neq 0; \\ \log Y_t, & \text{for } \lambda = 0. \end{cases}$$

- Other distributions, such as the student  $t$ , the extreme value distributions, are also popular for financial applications.

# How to find MLE ?

- ▶ Two key steps:
  1. Calculate the likelihood function.
  2. Find  $\theta$  which maximizes the likelihood.
- ▶ We shall discuss
  1. how to obtain the likelihood function for Gaussian  $AR(1)$ ,  $MA(1)$  and the general  $ARMA(p, q)$  processes.
  2. how to maximize the likelihood function.

# Today's Topics

1. The Autocovariance-Generating Function

2. Sums of *ARMA* processes

3. Wold's Decomposition and the Box-Jenkins Modeling

Philosophy

4. Maximum Likelihood Estimation

Introduction

Example 1: The Likelihood Function for an  $AR(1)$

Example 2: The Likelihood Function for an  $MA(1)$

Example 3: The Likelihood Function for an  $ARMA(p,q)$

Numerical Optimization

## Example 1: The Likelihood Function for an AR(1)

Gaussian  $AR(1)$  process:

$$Y_t = c + \phi Y_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t, \text{ with } \varepsilon_t \sim i.i.d. N(0, \sigma^2).$$

First consider the probability distribution of  $Y_1$  (under stationarity, i.e.,  $|\phi| < 1$ ),

- ▶ Mean:  $E(Y_1) = \mu = c/(1 - \phi)$ ,
- ▶ Variance:  $E(Y_1 - \mu)^2 = \sigma^2/(1 - \phi^2)$ .

Since  $\varepsilon_t$  is Gaussian,  $Y_1$  is also Gaussian. The density of  $Y_1$  is

$$\begin{aligned} f_{Y_1}(y_1; \boldsymbol{\theta}) &= f_{Y_1}(y_1; c, \phi, \sigma^2) \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} \sqrt{\sigma^2/(1 - \phi^2)}} \exp \left[ \frac{-\{y_1 - [c/(1 - \phi)]\}^2}{2\sigma^2/(1 - \phi^2)} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Next, consider the distribution of  $Y_2$  conditional on observing  $Y_1 = y_1$  ,

$$Y_2 = c + \phi Y_1 + \varepsilon_2,$$

$$(Y_2|Y_1 = y_1) \sim N((c + \phi y_1), \sigma^2),$$

meaning

$$f_{Y_2|Y_1}(y_2|y_1; \theta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp \left[ \frac{-(y_2 - c - \phi y_1)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right].$$

The joint distribution of  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  is

$$f_{Y_2, Y_1}(y_2, y_1; \theta) = f_{Y_2|Y_1}(y_2|y_1; \theta) f_{Y_1}(y_1; \theta).$$

Similarly, the distribution of the third observation conditional on the first two is

$$\begin{aligned} f_{Y_3|Y_2,Y_1}(y_3|y_2,y_1;\boldsymbol{\theta}) &= f_{Y_3|Y_2}(y_3|y_2;\boldsymbol{\theta}) \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp \left[ \frac{-(y_3 - c - \phi y_2)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right], \end{aligned}$$

from which

$$f_{Y_3,Y_2,Y_1}(y_3,y_2,y_1;\boldsymbol{\theta}) = f_{Y_3|Y_2,Y_1}(y_3|y_2,y_1;\boldsymbol{\theta})f_{Y_2,Y_1}(y_2,y_1;\boldsymbol{\theta}).$$

In general,

$$\begin{aligned} & f_{Y_t|Y_{t-1}, Y_{t-2}, \dots, Y_1}(y_t|y_{t-1}, \dots, y_1; \boldsymbol{\theta}) \\ &= f_{Y_t|Y_{t-1}}(y_t|y_{t-1}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left[-\frac{(y_t - c - \phi y_{t-1})^2}{2\sigma^2}\right]. \end{aligned}$$

The joint density of the whole sample is then

$$\begin{aligned} & f_{Y_T, Y_{T-1}, \dots, Y_1}(y_T, y_{T-1}, \dots, y_1; \boldsymbol{\theta}) \\ &= f_{Y_T|Y_{T-1}}(y_T|y_{T-1}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) f_{Y_{T-1}, \dots, Y_1}(y_{T-1}, \dots, y_1; \boldsymbol{\theta}) \\ &= f_{Y_1}(y_1; \boldsymbol{\theta}) \prod_{t=2}^T f_{Y_t|Y_{t-1}}(y_t|y_{t-1}; \boldsymbol{\theta}). \end{aligned}$$

The **log likelihood** function is

$$\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \log f_{Y_1}(y_1; \boldsymbol{\theta}) + \sum_{t=2}^T \log f_{Y_t|Y_{t-1}}(y_t|y_{t-1}; \boldsymbol{\theta}).$$

Recall the **log likelihood** function is

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta) = \log f_{Y_1}(y_1; \theta) + \sum_{t=2}^T \log f_{Y_t|Y_{t-1}}(y_t|y_{t-1}; \theta).$$

The log likelihood function for a sample of size  $T$  from a Gaussian  $AR(1)$  process is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(\theta) = & -\frac{1}{2} \log(2\pi) - \frac{1}{2} \log[\sigma^2/(1-\phi^2)] - \frac{\{y_1 - [c/(1-\phi)]\}^2}{2\sigma^2/(1-\phi^2)} \\ & - [(T-1)/2] \log(2\pi) - [(T-1)/2] \log(\sigma^2) \\ & - \sum_{t=2}^T \left[ \frac{(y_t - c - \phi y_{t-1})^2}{2\sigma^2} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

The MLE for a Gaussian  $AR(1)$  process does not have an explicit solution. Numerical methods are required to find the MLE.



## Conditional Maximum Likelihood

Regard the value of  $y_1$  as deterministic and maximize the likelihood conditioned on the first observation,

$$f_{Y_t, Y_{t-1}, \dots, Y_2 | Y_1}(y_t, y_{t-1}, \dots, y_2 | y_1; \theta) = \prod_{t=2}^T f_{Y_t | Y_{t-1}}(y_t | y_{t-1}; \theta)$$

The objective of conditional maximum likelihood is to maximize

$$\begin{aligned} & \log f_{Y_t, Y_{t-1}, \dots, Y_2 | Y_1}(y_t, y_{t-1}, \dots, y_2 | y_1; \theta) \\ = & -[(T-1)/2] \log(2\pi) - [(T-1)/2] \log(\sigma^2) \\ & - \sum_{t=2}^T \left[ \frac{(y_t - c - \phi y_{t-1})^2}{2\sigma^2} \right], \end{aligned}$$

which is equivalent to the familiar least square estimation!!!

This leads to

$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{c} \\ \hat{\phi} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} T-1 & \Sigma y_{t-1} \\ \Sigma y_{t-1} & \Sigma y_{t-1}^2 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma y_{t-1} \\ \Sigma y_{t-1} y_t \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\hat{\sigma}^2 = \sum \left[ \frac{(y_t - \hat{c} - \hat{\phi} y_{t-1})^2}{T-1} \right].$$

where  $\Sigma$  denotes summation over  $t = 2, 3, \dots, T$ .

The exact *MLE* and conditional *MLE* turn out to have the same large sample distribution, provided that  $|\phi| < 1$ . And when  $|\phi| > 1$ , the conditional *MLE* continues to provide consistent estimates, whereas exact *MLE* does not.

# Today's Topics

1. The Autocovariance-Generating Function

2. Sums of *ARMA* processes

3. Wold's Decomposition and the Box-Jenkins Modeling

Philosophy

4. Maximum Likelihood Estimation

Introduction

Example 1: The Likelihood Function for an  $AR(1)$

Example 2: The Likelihood Function for an  $MA(1)$

Example 3: The Likelihood Function for an  $ARMA(p,q)$

Numerical Optimization

## Example 2: The Likelihood Function for an MA(1)

Gaussian MA(1) process:

$$Y_t = \mu + \varepsilon_t + \theta\varepsilon_{t-1},$$

with  $\varepsilon_t \sim i.i.d. N(0, \sigma^2)$ .

Let  $\boldsymbol{\theta} = (\mu, \theta, \sigma^2)'$ ,

$$Y_t | \varepsilon_{t-1} \sim N((\mu + \theta\varepsilon_{t-1}), \sigma^2),$$

$$f_{Y_t | \varepsilon_{t-1}}(y_t | \varepsilon_{t-1}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left[-\frac{(y_t - \mu - \theta\varepsilon_{t-1})^2}{2\sigma^2}\right].$$

Suppose  $\varepsilon_0 = 0$ , then

$$Y_1|\varepsilon_0 \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2).$$

Given observation of  $y_1$ , the value of  $\varepsilon_1$  is known as

$$\varepsilon_1 = y_1 - \mu.$$

$$f_{Y_2|Y_1, \varepsilon_0=0}(y_2|y_1, \varepsilon_0 = 0; \theta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left[\frac{-(y_2 - \mu - \theta\varepsilon_1)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right].$$

Since  $\varepsilon_1$  is known,  $\varepsilon_2$  can be calculated from

$$\varepsilon_2 = y_2 - \mu - \theta\varepsilon_1.$$

As a result, given  $\varepsilon_0 = 0$ , the full sequence  $\{\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \dots, \varepsilon_T\}$  can be calculated from

$$\varepsilon_t = y_t - \mu - \theta \varepsilon_{t-1},$$

for  $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$ . The conditional density of the  $t$ th observation can be calculated as

$$\begin{aligned} & f_{Y_t|Y_{t-1}, Y_{t-2}, \dots, Y_1, \varepsilon_0=0}(y_t|y_{t-1}, y_{t-2}, \dots, y_1, \varepsilon_0 = 0; \boldsymbol{\theta}) \\ &= f_{Y_t|\varepsilon_{t-1}}(y_t|\varepsilon_{t-1}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left[\frac{-\varepsilon_t^2}{2\sigma^2}\right]. \end{aligned}$$

The sample likelihood is

$$\begin{aligned} & f_{Y_T, Y_{T-1}, \dots, Y_1 | \varepsilon_0=0}(y_T, y_{T-1}, \dots, y_1 | \varepsilon_0 = 0; \theta) \\ &= f_{Y_1 | \varepsilon_0=0}(y_1 | \varepsilon_0 = 0; \theta) \prod_{t=2}^T f_{Y_{t-1}, Y_{t-2}, \dots, Y_1, \varepsilon_0=0}(y_{t-1}, y_{t-2}, \dots, y_1, \varepsilon_0 = 0; \theta) \end{aligned}$$

The conditional log likelihood is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(\theta) &= \log f_{Y_T, Y_{T-1}, \dots, Y_1 | \varepsilon_0=0}(y_T, y_{T-1}, \dots, y_1 | \varepsilon_0 = 0; \theta) \\ &= -\frac{T}{2} \log(2\pi) - \frac{T}{2} \log(\sigma^2) - \sum_{t=1}^T \frac{\varepsilon_t^2}{2\sigma^2}. \end{aligned}$$

## Remarks

- ▶ The log likelihood is a complicated function of  $\mu$  and  $\theta$ , so even the conditional maximum likelihood estimates for an  $MA(1)$  process must be found by numerical optimization.
- ▶ The effect of initial value  $\varepsilon_0$  on iteration:

$$\begin{aligned}\varepsilon_t = & (y_t - \mu) - \theta(y_{t-1} - \mu) + \theta^2(y_{t-2} - \mu) - \cdots \\ & + (-1)^{t-1}\theta^{t-1}(y_1 - \mu) + (-1)^t\theta^t\varepsilon_0.\end{aligned}$$

If  $|\theta| < 1$ , the effect of  $\varepsilon_0$  will quickly die out. If  $|\theta| > 1$ , the conditional approach is not reasonable.



## Exact Likelihood Function (Self-reading)

$$\mathbf{\Omega} = E[(\mathbf{Y} - \boldsymbol{\mu})(\mathbf{Y} - \boldsymbol{\mu})'].$$

The variance-covariance matrix for an  $MA(1)$  process is

$$\mathbf{\Omega} = \sigma^2 \begin{bmatrix} (1+\theta^2) & \theta & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \theta & (1+\theta^2) & \theta & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \theta & (1+\theta^2) & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & (1+\theta^2) \end{bmatrix}$$

The likelihood function is then

$$f_{\mathbf{Y}}(\mathbf{y}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = (2\pi)^{-T/2} |\mathbf{\Omega}|^{-1/2} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\mu})' \mathbf{\Omega}^{-1} (\mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\mu})\right].$$

The triangular factorization of  $\Omega$ :  $\Omega = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{A}'$ , where

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{\theta}{1+\theta^2} & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{\theta(1+\theta^2)}{1+\theta^2+\theta^4} & 1 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & \frac{\theta[1+\theta^2+\theta^4+\dots+\theta^{2(n-2)}]}{1+\theta^2+\theta^4+\dots+\theta^{2(n-2)}} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{D} = \sigma^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1+\theta^2 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1+\theta^2+\theta^4}{1+\theta^2} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1+\theta^2+\theta^4+\theta^6}{1+\theta^2+\theta^4} & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & \frac{1+\theta^2+\theta^4+\dots+\theta^{2n}}{1+\theta^2+\theta^4+\dots+\theta^{2(n-1)}} \end{bmatrix}$$

Then the likelihood function is

$$f_{\mathbf{Y}}(\mathbf{y}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = (2\pi)^{-T/2} |\mathbf{A}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{A}'|^{-1/2} \\ \times \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\mu})'[\mathbf{A}']^{-1}\mathbf{D}^{-1}\mathbf{A}^{-1}(\mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\mu})\right].$$

$$|\mathbf{A}| = 1 \implies |\mathbf{A}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{A}'| = |\mathbf{A}||\mathbf{D}||\mathbf{A}'| = |\mathbf{D}|.$$

Defining

$$\bar{\mathbf{y}} \equiv \mathbf{A}^{-1}(\mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\mu}),$$

the likelihood can be written

$$f_{\mathbf{Y}}(\mathbf{y}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = (2\pi)^{-T/2} |\mathbf{D}|^{-1/2} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2}\bar{\mathbf{y}}'\mathbf{D}^{-1}\bar{\mathbf{y}}\right].$$

$$\mathbf{A}\bar{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\mu}.$$

The first row states that  $\bar{y}_1 = y_1 - \mu$ , while the  $t$ th row implies that

$$\bar{y}_t = y_t - \mu - \frac{\theta[1 + \theta^2 + \theta^4 + \dots + \theta^{2(t-2)}]}{1 + \theta^2 + \theta^4 + \dots + \theta^{2(t-1)}} \bar{y}_{t-1}.$$

$$d_{tt} = \sigma^2 \frac{1 + \theta^2 + \theta^4 + \dots + \theta^{2t}}{1 + \theta^2 + \theta^4 + \dots + \theta^{2(t-1)}}.$$

Since  $\mathbf{D}$  is diagonal, its determinant is

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathbf{D}| &= \prod_{t=1}^T d_{tt}. \\ \bar{\mathbf{y}}' \mathbf{D}^{-1} \bar{\mathbf{y}} &= \sum_{t=1}^T \frac{\bar{y}_t^2}{d_{tt}}. \end{aligned}$$

As a result,

$$f_{\mathbf{Y}}(\mathbf{y}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = (2\pi)^{-T/2} \left[ \prod_{t=1}^T d_{tt} \right]^{-1/2} \exp \left[ -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^T \frac{\bar{y}_t^2}{d_{tt}} \right].$$

The exact log likelihood for a Gaussian  $MA(1)$  process is

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta) = \log f_{\mathbf{Y}}(\mathbf{y}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = -\frac{T}{2} \log(2\pi) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^T \log(d_{tt}) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^T \frac{\bar{y}_t^2}{d_{tt}}.$$

# Today's Topics

1. The Autocovariance-Generating Function

2. Sums of *ARMA* processes

3. Wold's Decomposition and the Box-Jenkins Modeling

Philosophy

4. Maximum Likelihood Estimation

Introduction

Example 1: The Likelihood Function for an  $AR(1)$

Example 2: The Likelihood Function for an  $MA(1)$

Example 3: The Likelihood Function for an  $ARMA(p,q)$

Numerical Optimization

## Example 3: The Likelihood Function for an ARMA(p,q)

*Gaussian ARMA(p,q) process:*

$$Y_t = c + \phi_1 Y_{t-1} + \phi_2 Y_{t-2} + \cdots + \phi_p Y_{t-p} + \varepsilon_t \\ + \theta_1 \varepsilon_{t-1} + \theta_2 \varepsilon_{t-2} + \cdots + \theta_q \varepsilon_{t-q},$$

where  $\varepsilon_t \sim i.i.d. N(0, \sigma^2)$ .

**Question:** how to estimate

$$\theta = (c, \phi_1, \dots, \phi_p, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_q, \sigma^2)'$$

Taking initial values for  $\mathbf{y}_0 \equiv (y_0, y_{-1}, \dots, y_{-p+1})'$  and  $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_0 \equiv (\varepsilon_0, \varepsilon_{-1}, \dots, \varepsilon_{-q+1})'$ . Then the sequence  $\{\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \dots, \varepsilon_T\}$  can be calculated from  $\{y_1, y_2, \dots, y_T\}$  by iterating on

$$\begin{aligned}\varepsilon_t = & y_t - c - \phi_1 y_{t-1} - \phi_2 y_{t-2} - \dots - \phi_p y_{t-p} \\ & - \theta_1 \varepsilon_{t-1} - \theta_2 \varepsilon_{t-2} - \dots - \theta_q \varepsilon_{t-q},\end{aligned}$$

for  $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$ . The conditional log likelihood is then

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) &= \log f_{Y_T, Y_{T-1}, \dots, Y_1 | \mathbf{y}_0, \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_0}(y_T, y_{T-1}, \dots, y_1 | \mathbf{y}_0, \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_0; \boldsymbol{\theta}) \\ &= -\frac{T}{2} \log(2\pi) - \frac{T}{2} \log(\sigma^2) - \sum_{t=1}^T \frac{\varepsilon_t^2}{2\sigma^2}.\end{aligned}$$



How to set initial  $y$ 's and  $\varepsilon$ 's ?

- (1) equal to their expected value. That is, set

$y_s = c / (1 - \phi_1 - \phi_2 - \cdots - \phi_p)$  for  $s = 0, -1, \dots, -p + 1$   
and set  $\varepsilon_s = 0$  for  $s = 0, -1, \dots, -p + 1$ .

- (2) set  $\varepsilon$ 's to zero but  $y$ 's equal to their actual values.

Then the conditional likelihood is

$$\begin{aligned} \log f(y_T, y_{T-1}, \dots, y_{p+1} | y_p, \dots, y_1, \varepsilon_p = 0, \dots, \varepsilon_{p-q+1} = 0) \\ = -\frac{T-p}{2} \log(2\pi) - \frac{T-p}{2} \log(\sigma^2) - \sum_{t=p+1}^T \frac{\varepsilon_t^2}{2\sigma^2}. \end{aligned}$$

## Remarks

As in the case for the *MA* processes, these approximation should be used only if all values of  $z$  satisfying

$$1 + \theta_1 z + \theta_2 z^2 + \cdots + \theta_q z^q = 0$$

lie outside the unit circle.

# Today's Topics

1. The Autocovariance-Generating Function

2. Sums of *ARMA* processes

3. Wold's Decomposition and the Box-Jenkins Modeling

Philosophy

4. Maximum Likelihood Estimation

Introduction

Example 1: The Likelihood Function for an  $AR(1)$

Example 2: The Likelihood Function for an  $MA(1)$

Example 3: The Likelihood Function for an  $ARMA(p,q)$

Numerical Optimization

# Numerical Optimization

## Newton-Raphson Method

Suppose that  $\theta$  is an  $(a \times 1)$  vector of parameters to be estimated.

Let

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{g}(\theta^{(0)})_{(a \times 1)} &= \left. \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(\theta)}{\partial \theta} \right|_{\theta = \theta^{(0)}}, \\ \mathbf{H}(\theta^{(0)})_{(a \times a)} &= \left. -\frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{L}(\theta)}{\partial \theta \partial \theta'} \right|_{\theta = \theta^{(0)}}.\end{aligned}$$

Consider approximating  $\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta})$  with a second-order Taylor series around  $\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(0)}$ :

$$\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \cong \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta}_0) + \mathbf{g}[\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(0)}]'[\boldsymbol{\theta} - \boldsymbol{\theta}^{(0)}] - \frac{1}{2}[\boldsymbol{\theta} - \boldsymbol{\theta}^{(0)}]'\mathbf{H}(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(0)})[\boldsymbol{\theta} - \boldsymbol{\theta}^{(0)}].$$

Setting the derivative of the above equation with respect to  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$  equal to zero results in

$$\mathbf{g}(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(0)}) - \mathbf{H}(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(0)})[\boldsymbol{\theta} - \boldsymbol{\theta}^{(0)}] = 0.$$

The above equation suggests that an improved estimate of  $\theta$  (denoted  $\theta^{(1)}$ ) would satisfy

$$\mathbf{g}(\theta^{(0)}) - \mathbf{H}(\theta^{(0)})[\theta^{(1)} - \theta^{(0)}] = 0.$$

or

$$\theta^{(1)} - \theta^{(0)} = [\mathbf{H}(\theta^{(0)})]^{-1} \mathbf{g}(\theta^{(0)}).$$

Similarly, the  $m$ th step in the iteration updates the estimate of  $\theta$  by using the formula

$$\theta^{(m+1)} = \theta^{(m)} + [\mathbf{H}(\theta^{(m)})]^{-1} \mathbf{g}(\theta^{(m)}).$$

- (1) If the log likelihood function happens to be a perfect quadratic function, we will get the exact  $MLE$  in a single step:

$$\theta^{(1)} = \hat{\theta}_{MLE}.$$

- (2) If the quadratic approximation is reasonable good,  $NR$  should converge to the local maximum quickly.
- (3) If the likelihood function is not concave,  $NR$  behaves quite poorly.

The iteration is often modified as follows:

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(m+1)} = \boldsymbol{\theta}^{(m)} + s[\mathbf{H}(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(m)})]^{-1}\mathbf{g}(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(m)}).$$

where  $s$  is a scalar controlling the step length.

One calculates  $\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(m+1)}$  and the associated value for the log likelihood  $\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(m+1)})$  for various values of  $s$  and chooses as the estimate  $\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(m+1)}$  the value that produces the biggest value for the log likelihood.