Parameter Fitting

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1 Fitting Setup

Now that we have established which methods we wish to evaluate the efficacy of for epidemic forecasting, it is prudent to see how they perform when fitting parameters for a known epidemic model. We have already seen how they perform when fitting parameters for a model with a deterministic evolution process and observation noise, but a more realistic model will have both process and observation noise.

To form such a model, we will take a deterministic SIR ODE model given by

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{dS}{dt} &= -\beta S I \\
\frac{dI}{dt} &= \beta S I - \gamma I \\
\frac{dR}{dt} &= \gamma I,
\end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

and add process noise by allowing β to embark on a geometric random walk given by

$$\beta_{t+1} = \exp\left(\log(\beta_t) + \eta(\log(\bar{\beta}) - \log(\beta_t)) + \epsilon_t\right). \tag{2}$$

We will take ϵ_t to be normally distributed with standard deviation ρ^2 such that $\epsilon_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \rho^2)$. The geometric attraction term constrains the random walk, the force of which is $\eta \in [0, 1]$. If we take $\eta = 0$ then the walk will be unconstrained; if we let $\eta = 1$ then all values of β_t will be independent from the previous value (and consequently all other values in the sequence).
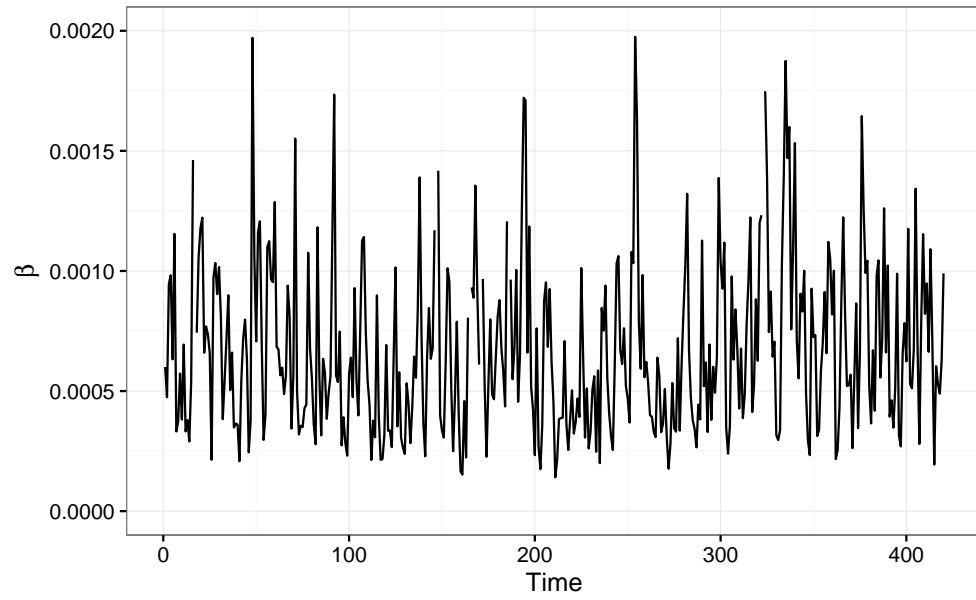
Choosing an intermediate value of $\eta = 0.5$ gives us the plot in Figure [1] below.

Figure 1: β power!!!.