

Consider a univariate stochastic process  $y_t$  which follows a first-order moving average representation

$$y_t = \epsilon_t - \theta\epsilon_{t-1} \quad (1)$$

where  $\{\epsilon_t\}$  is an i.i.d. process distributed  $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$  and  $\theta > 1$

1. Write a program to simulate this process. Simulate 100 periods when  $\theta = 2$ . (Draw  $\epsilon_{-1}$  from  $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$  and  $\theta > 1$ )
2. Argue that  $\epsilon_t$  cannot be expressed as a linear combination of  $y_{t-j}$  for  $j \geq 0$  where the sum of the squares of the weights is finite. **Hint:** Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon_t &= y_t + \theta\epsilon_{t-1} \\ &= y_t + \theta y_{t-1} + \theta^2\epsilon_{t-2} \\ &\vdots \end{aligned}$$

if you keep repeating what happens to the coefficients on  $y_{t-j}$ ?

3. Represent (1) using as a state space system using our Kalman filter. What are the matrices  $A$ ,  $C$ , and  $G$ ? How do they depend on  $\theta$ ? **Hint:**  $x_t$  will be a vector.
4. Assuming initial beliefs about  $\epsilon_{t-1}$  are  $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ . Write a program to apply this kalman filter to an arbitray sequence  $\{y_t\}_{t=0}^T$  for an arbitray  $\theta$ .
5. Write a program to compute the log-likelihood of sequence  $\{y_t\}_{t=0}^T$  for an arbitray  $\theta$ . **Hint:** Using the Kalman filter the unconditional distribution of  $y_0$  is  $\mathcal{N}(G\hat{x}_0, \Omega_0)$ . The distribution of  $y_t$  conditional on the past histories of  $y^{t-1} = (y_{t-1}, y_{t-2}, \dots, y_0)$  is  $\mathcal{N}(G\hat{x}_t, \Omega_t)$ . The likelihood of a sequence of data  $(y_T, \dots, y_0)$  can then be constructed from the conditional likelihoods

$$f(y_T, \dots, y_0) = f(y_T|y^{T-1})f(y_{T-1}|y^{T-2}) \cdots f(y_1|y_0)f(y_0) \quad (2)$$

and similarly for the log likelihood.

6. For your simulation in part 1. Plot the log likelihood as a function of  $\theta$ . Where is it maximized? What happens if the simulation length is 1000 periods?