

Master in Applied Econometrics  
and Forecasting

# Time Series Analysis and Forecasting

**Class #5: Moving Average (MA)  
and ARMA Models**

**Jorge Caiado, PhD**

CEMAPRE/REM/ISEG, University of  
Lisbon, [jcaiado@iseg.ulisboa.pt](mailto:jcaiado@iseg.ulisboa.pt)

# Moving Average (MA) and ARMA Models

## Moving average (MA) Representation: Wold's decomposition

Another useful representation of a time series process is to write the process  $X_t$  as a linear combination of a sequence of uncorrelated random variables:

$$X_t = \mu + a_t + \psi_1 a_{t-1} + \psi_2 a_{t-2} + \dots = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \psi_j a_{t-j}$$

with  $\psi_0 = 1$ , and  $a_t$  is a zero mean white noise process, and  $\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \psi_j^2 < \infty$ .

It can be shown that:

$$E(X_t) = 0, \text{Var}(X_t) = \sigma_a^2 \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \psi_j^2, E(a_t X_{t-k}) = \begin{cases} \sigma_a^2, k = 0 \\ 0, k > 0, \end{cases}$$

$$\text{and } \rho_k = \frac{\gamma_k}{\gamma_0} = \frac{E(X_t X_{t+k})}{\text{Var}(X_t)} = \frac{\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \psi_j \psi_{j+k}}{\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \psi_j^2}$$

# Moving Average (MA) and ARMA Models

## MA( $q$ ) model

The moving average model of order  $q$  is given by

$$X_t = a_t - \theta_1 a_{t-1} - \cdots - \theta_q a_{t-q},$$

where  $\varepsilon_t$  is a zero mean white noise series. Because  $1 + \theta_1^2 + \cdots + \theta_q^2 < \infty$ , the process is always stationary. To be invertible, the roots of  $(1 - \theta_1 B - \cdots - \theta_q B^q) = 0$  must be outside of the unit circle.

## MA(1) model

The first-order moving average model or MA(1) model is

$$X_t = a_t - \theta_1 a_{t-1},$$

or

$$X_t = \theta(B) a_t,$$

where  $\theta(B) = 1 - \theta_1 B$  and  $a_t$  is white noise. To be invertible, the root of  $\theta(L) = 0$  must lie outside the unit circle. Thus, we require  $|\theta_1| < 1$ .

# Moving Average (MA) and ARMA Models

## ACF and PACF of the MA(1) model

The ACF of the MA(1) process is

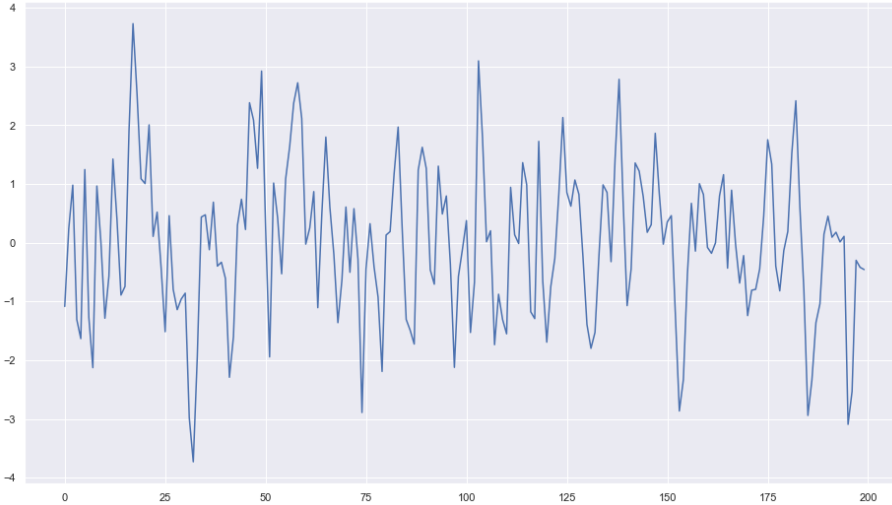
$$\rho_k = \begin{cases} \frac{-\theta_1}{1 + \theta_1^2}, & k = 1 \\ 0, & k > 1 \end{cases}$$

The general expression of the PACF of the MA(1) process is more complicated to obtain, but it can be seen to be:

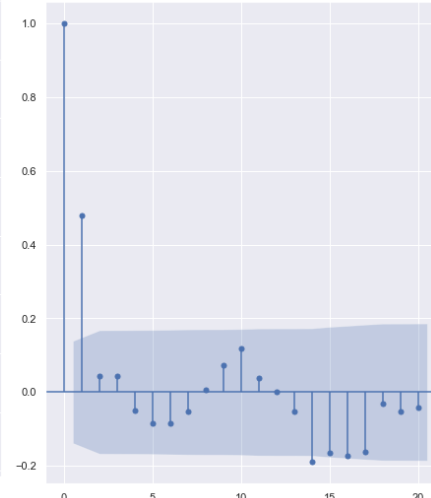
$$\begin{aligned} \phi_{11} &= \rho_1 = \frac{-\theta_1}{1 + \theta_1^2} = \frac{-\theta_1(1 - \theta_1^2)}{1 - \theta_1^4} \\ \phi_{22} &= \frac{\rho_1^2}{1 - \rho_1^2} = \frac{-\theta_1^2}{1 + \theta_1^2 + \theta_1^4} = \frac{-\theta_1^2(1 - \theta_1^2)}{1 - \theta_1^6} \\ &\quad (\dots) \\ \phi_{kk} &= \frac{-\theta_1^k(1 - \theta_1^2)}{1 - \theta_1^{2(k+1)}}, \quad k \geq 1 \end{aligned}$$

# Moving Average (MA) and ARMA Models

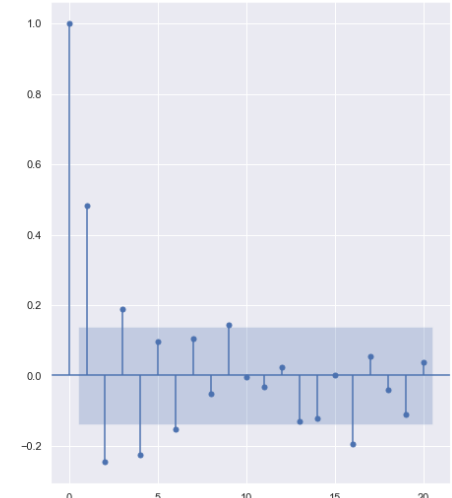
Simulated MA(1) with  $\theta=0.7$



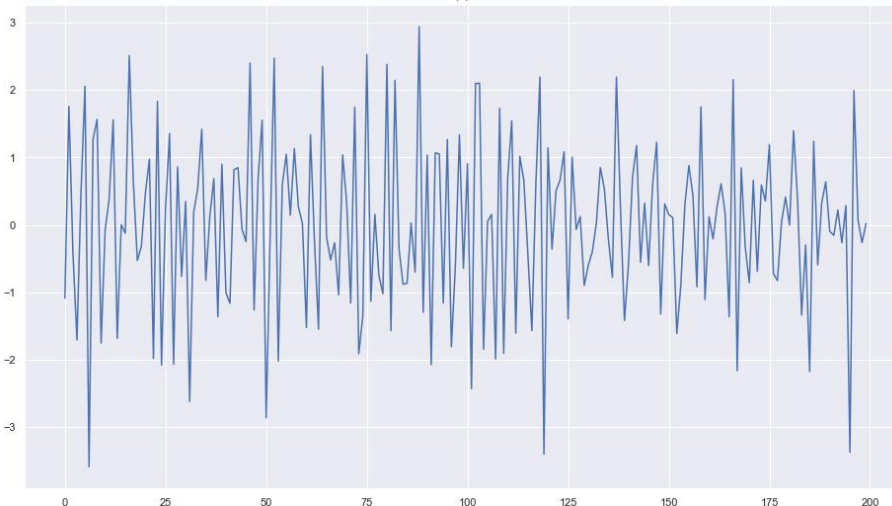
Autocorrelation



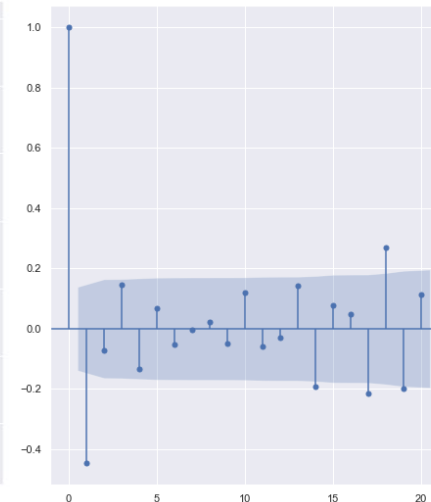
Partial Autocorrelation



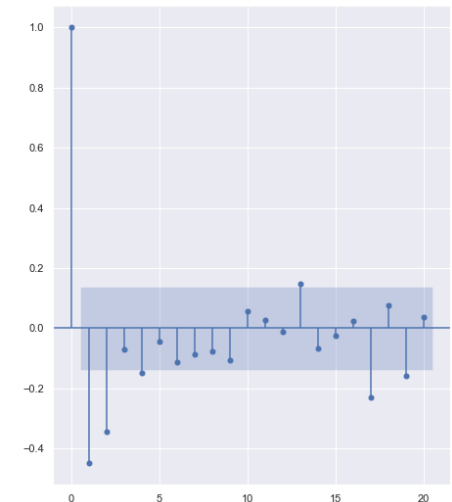
Simulated MA(1) with  $\theta=-0.7$



Autocorrelation



Partial Autocorrelation



Simulated MA(1) models,  $\theta=0.7$  and  $\theta=-0.7$

# Moving Average (MA) and ARMA Models

## MA(2) model

The second-order moving average MA(2) model is given by

$$X_t = a - \theta_1 a_{t-1} - \theta_2 a_{t-2},$$

or

$$X_t = \theta(B)a_t,$$

Where  $\theta(B) = 1 - \theta_1 B - \theta_2 B^2$  and  $a_t$  is white noise. To be invertible, the roots of  $\theta(B) = 0$  must lie outside the unit circle. Hence, we have the following conditions:

$$\theta_2 + \theta_1 < 1, \theta_2 - \theta_1 < 1, -1 < \theta_2 < 1.$$

ACF of the MA(2) model cuts off after lag 2 and PACF tails off as an exponential decay or a damped sine wave depending on the roots of  $\theta(B) = 0$ .

## MA model of order $q \geq 3$

More complicated conditions hold for MA( $q$ ) models with  $q \geq 3$ .

# Moving Average (MA) and ARMA Models

## Duality between AR( $p$ ) and MA( $q$ ) models

The stationary AR( $p$ ) model  $\phi_p(B)X_t = a_t$ , where  $\phi_p(B) = 1 - \phi_1 B - \dots - \phi_p B^p$ , can be written as

$$X_t = \frac{1}{\phi_p(B)} a_t = \psi(B) a_t ,$$

where  $\psi(B) = 1 + \psi_1 B + \psi_2 B^2 + \dots$  such that

$$\phi_p(B)\psi(B) = 1 .$$

The  $\psi$  weights can be obtained by equating coefficients of  $B^j$  on both sides of this equation. For example, given a stationary AR(2) model, it follows that

$$(1 - \phi_1 B - \phi_2 B^2)(1 + \psi_1 B + \psi_2 B^2 + \dots) = 1$$

or

$$1 + (\psi_1 - \phi_1)B + (\psi_2 - \psi_1\phi_1 - \phi_2)B^2 + (\psi_3 - \psi_2\phi_1 - \psi_1\phi_2)B^3 + \dots = 1$$

# Moving Average (MA) and ARMA Models

## Duality between AR( $p$ ) and MA( $q$ ) models

Thus, we get

$$B^0: 1 = 1$$

$$B^1: (\psi_1 - \phi_1) = 0 \rightarrow \psi_1 = \phi_1$$

$$B^2: (\psi_2 - \psi_1\phi_1 - \phi_2) = 0 \rightarrow \psi_2 = \psi_1\phi_1 + \phi_2$$

$$B^3: (\psi_3 - \psi_2\phi_1 - \psi_1\phi_2) = 0 \rightarrow \psi_3 = \psi_2\phi_1 + \psi_1\phi_2$$

In general, for  $j \geq 2$ , we have:

$$B^j: (\psi_j - \psi_{j-1}\phi_1 - \psi_{j-2}\phi_2) = 0 \rightarrow \psi_j = \psi_{j-1}\phi_1 + \psi_{j-2}\phi_2, \text{ where } \psi_0 = 1.$$

In a special case, when  $\phi_2 = 0$ , we have  $\psi_j = \psi_{j-1}\phi_1 = \phi_1^j$ , for  $j \geq 0$ .

Therefore,

$$X_t = \frac{1}{\phi_p(B)} a_t = \psi(B) a_t \leftrightarrow X_t = \frac{1}{1 - \phi_1 B} a_t = (1 + \phi_1 B + \phi_1^2 B^2 + \dots) a_t$$

This implies that the finite-order AR model is equivalent to an infinite-order MA model. It can be shown that the finite-order MA model is also equivalent to an infinite-order AR model.



# Moving Average (MA) and ARMA Models

## ARMA(1,1) model

The mixed autoregressive and moving average ARMA(1,1) model includes the autoregressive AR(1) and moving average MA(1) models as special cases:

$$X_t = \phi X_{t-1} + a_t - \theta a_{t-1},$$

or

$$\phi(B)X_t = \theta(B)a_t,$$

where  $\phi(B) = 1 - \phi B$ ,  $\theta(B) = 1 - \theta B$  and  $a_t$  is white noise.

To be stationary, the root of  $\phi(B) = 0$  must lie outside the unit circle, i.e.,  $-1 < \phi < 1$ . To be invertible, the root of  $\theta(B) = 0$  must lie outside the unit circle, i.e.,  $-1 < \theta < 1$ .

Both the ACF and PACF of a mixed ARMA(1,1) model tail off as  $k$  increases, with its shape depending on the signs and magnitudes of  $\phi$  and  $\theta$ .

# Moving Average (MA) and ARMA Models

The ARMA(1,1) model can be written in a pure moving average representation as

$$X_t = \psi(B)a_t,$$

where

$$\psi(B) = (1 + \psi_1 B + \psi_2 B^2 + \dots) = \frac{1 - \theta B}{1 - \phi B}.$$

The  $\psi$  weights can be obtained by equating coefficients of  $B^j$  in

$$(1 - \theta B)(1 + \psi_1 B + \psi_2 B^2 + \dots) = (1 - \phi B)$$

The ARMA(1,1) model can also be written in a pure autoregressive representation as

$$\pi(B)X_t = a_t,$$

where

$$\pi(B) = 1 - \pi_1 B - \pi_2 B^2 - \dots = \frac{1 - \phi B}{1 - \theta B}.$$

The  $\pi$  weights can be obtained by equating coefficients of  $B^j$  in

$$(1 - \theta B)(1 - \pi_1 B - \pi_2 B^2 - \dots) = (1 - \phi B)$$

Both the ACF and PACF of a mixed ARMA(1,1) model tail off as  $k$  increases, with its shape depending on the signs and magnitudes of  $\phi$  and  $\theta$ .

# Moving Average (MA) and ARMA Models

## ACF of the ARMA(1,1) Model

Assuming, without loss of generality, that  $E(X_t) = 0$ , the ACF of the ARMA(1,1) model can be derived by multiplying by  $X_{t-k}$  on both sides of the equation and then taking expected values:

$$\begin{aligned} E(X_{t-k}X_t) &= \phi_1 E(X_{t-k}X_{t-1}) + E(X_{t-k}a_t) - \theta_1 E(X_{t-k}a_{t-1}) \\ \gamma_k &= \phi_1 \gamma_{k-1} + E(X_{t-k}a_t) - \theta_1 E(X_{t-k}a_{t-1}) \end{aligned}$$

For  $k = 0$ , we have

$$\gamma_0 = \phi_1 \gamma_1 + E(X_t a_t) - \theta_1 E(X_t a_{t-1}) = \phi_1 \gamma_1 + \sigma_a^2 - \theta_1(\phi_1 - \theta_1)\sigma_a^2$$

For  $k = 1$ , we have

$$\gamma_1 = \phi_1 \gamma_0 + E(X_{t-1} a_t) - \theta_1 E(X_{t-1} a_{t-1}) = \phi_1 \gamma_0 - \theta_1 \sigma_a^2$$

For  $k \geq 2$ , we have

$$\gamma_k = \phi_1 \gamma_{k-1}$$

Hence, after some algebraic manipulations, we obtain

$$\rho_k = \begin{cases} \frac{(\phi_1 - \theta_1)(1 - \phi_1 \theta_1)}{1 + \theta_1^2 - 2\phi_1 \theta_1}, & k = 1 \\ \phi_1 \rho_{k-1}, & k > 1 \end{cases}$$

# Moving Average (MA) and ARMA Models

## PACF of the ARMA(1,1) Model

The PACF of the ARMA(1,1) model is complicated to obtain, but it can be noted that, as the ARMA(1,1) model contains the MA(1) model as a special case, the PACF of the ARMA(1,1) decays exponentially to zero in one of two forms depending on the signs and magnitudes of  $\phi$  and  $\theta$ .

## ARMA(p,q) Model

The general mixed autoregressive and moving average ARMA(p,q) model is given by

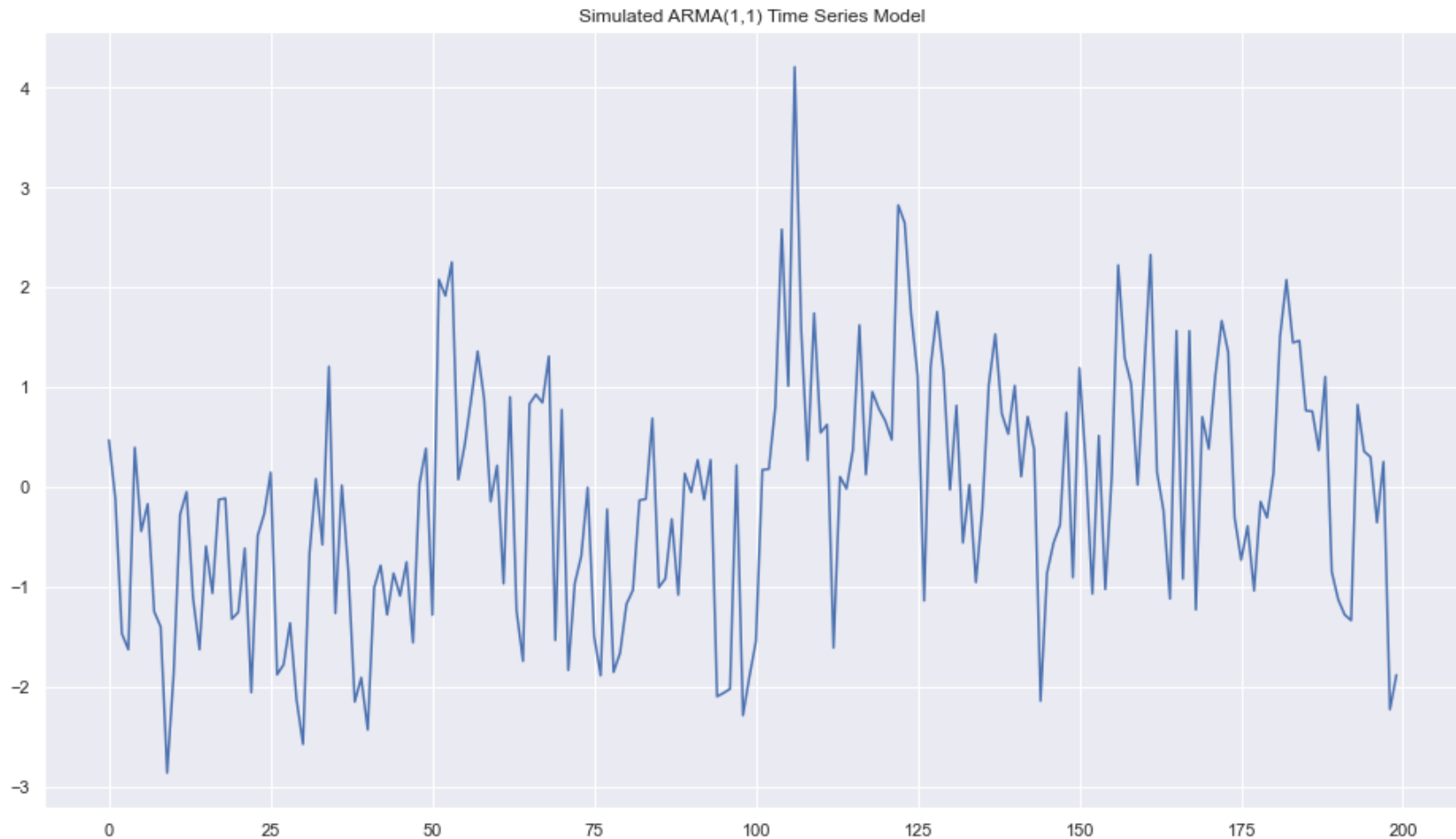
$$X_t = \phi_1 X_{t-1} + \dots + \phi_p X_{t-p} + a_t - \theta_1 a_{t-1} - \dots - \theta_q a_{t-q},$$

or

$$\phi_p(B)X_t = \theta_q(B)a_t,$$

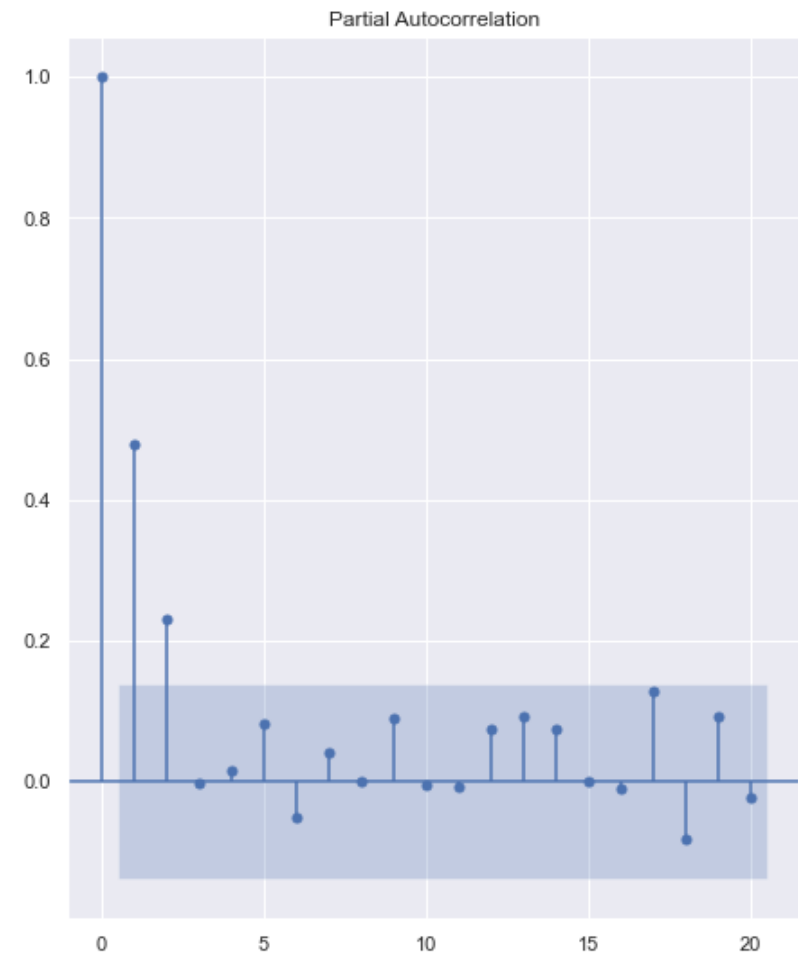
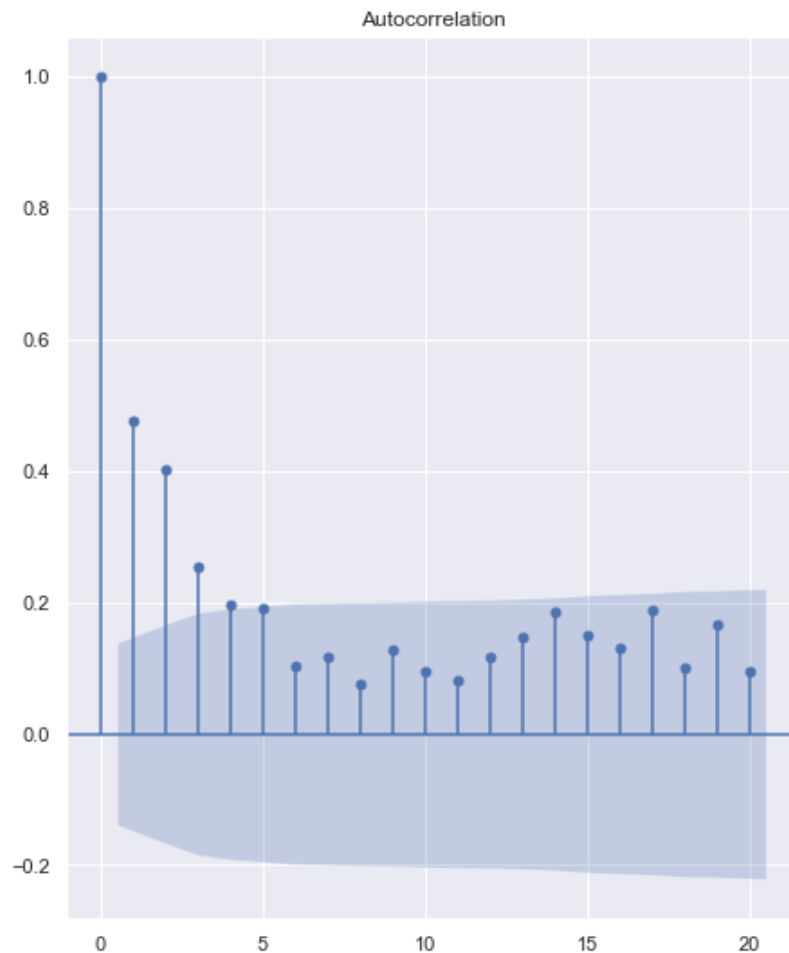
where  $\phi_p(B) = 1 - \phi_1 B - \dots - \phi_p B^p$ ,  $\theta_q(B) = 1 - \theta_1 B - \dots - \theta_q B^q$  and  $a_t$  is white noise. To be stationary, the roots of  $\phi_p(B) = 0$  must lie outside the unit circle. To be invertible, the roots of  $\theta_q(B) = 0$  must lie outside the unit circle.

# Moving Average (MA) and ARMA Models



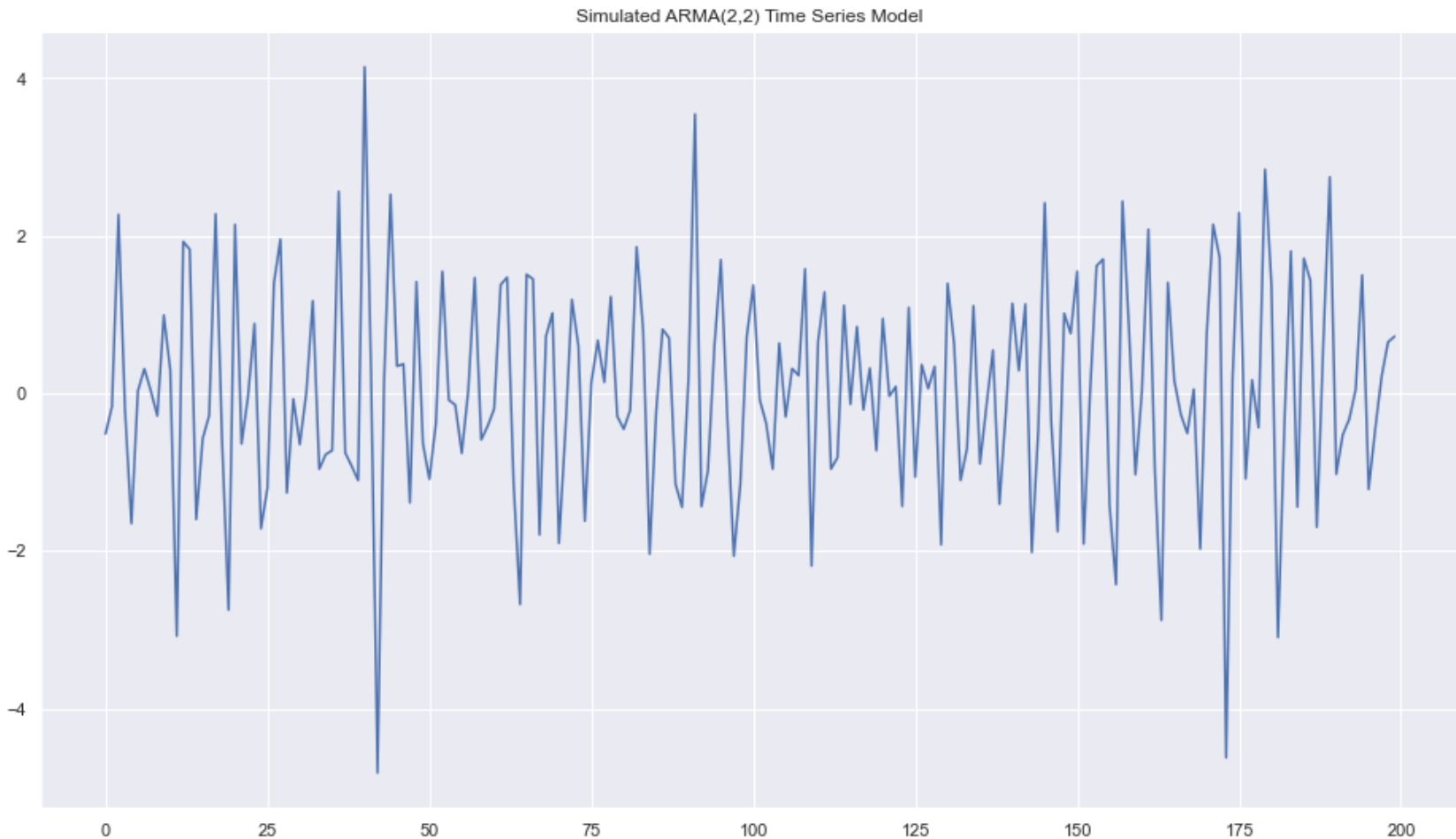
Simulation of an ARMA(1,1) model:  $X_t = 0.85X_{t-1} + a_t + 0.5a_{t-1}$

# Moving Average (MA) and ARMA Models



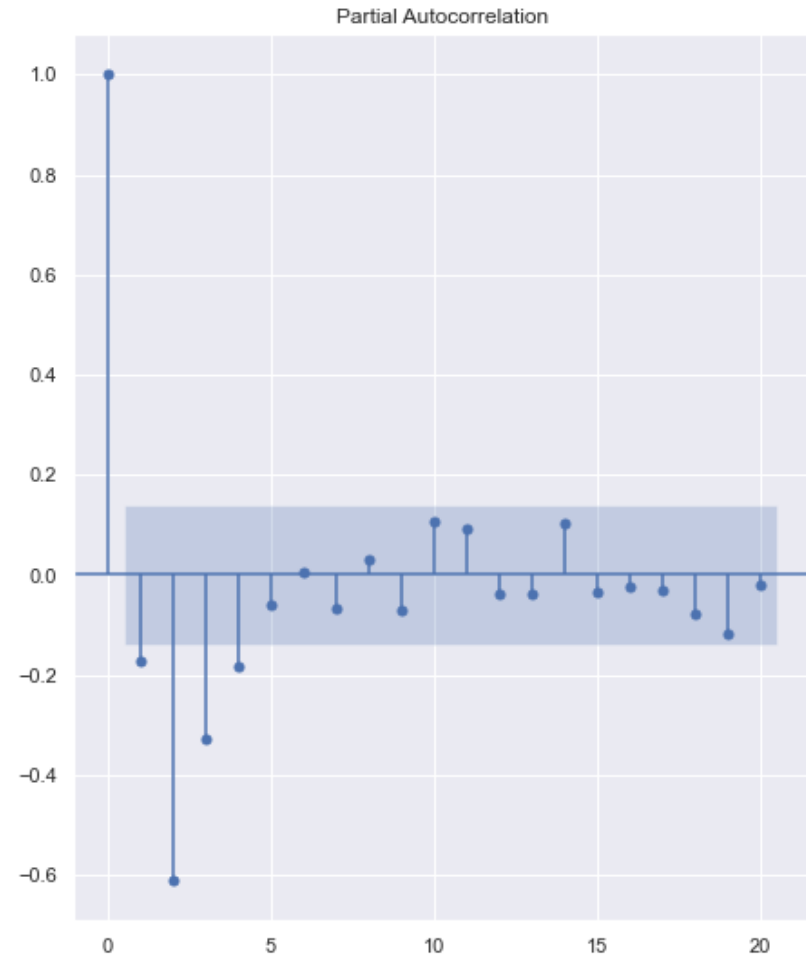
Sample ACF and PACF of an ARMA(1,1) model:  $X_t = 0.85X_{t-1} + a_t + 0.5a_{t-1}$

# Moving Average (MA) and ARMA Models



Simulation of an ARMA(2,2) model:  $X_t = 0.2X_{t-1} - 0.7X_{t-2} + a_t - 0.75a_{t-1} + 0.25a_{t-2}$

# Moving Average (MA) and ARMA Models



Sample ACF and PACF of an ARMA(2,2):  $X_t = 0.2X_{t-1} - 0.7X_{t-2} + a_t - 0.75a_{t-1} + 0.25a_{t-2}$



# Moving Average (MA) and ARMA Models

## Problems

1. Consider the MA(1) processes:  $X_t = (1 - 0.4B)a_t$  and  $Y_t = (1 - 2.5B)a_t$ . Show that both processes have the same autocorrelation function

2. Consider the MA(2) model:  $X_t = a_t - 0.1a_{t-1} - 0.21a_{t-2}$

- a) Is the model stationary? Why?
- b) Is the model invertible? Why?
- c) Find the ACF for the model

3. Consider the ARMA(1,1) model:  $(1 - B)X_t = (1 - 0.5B)a_t$

- a) Is it stationary? Is it invertible?
- b) Express the model in na AR representation if it exists
- c) Express the model in na MA representation if it exists

4. Consider the ARMA(1,1) model:  $(1 - 0.9B)X_t = (1 - 0.3B)a_t$

- a) Is it stationary? Is it invertible?
- b) Express the model in na AR representation if it exists
- c) Express the model in na MA representation if it exists