

Models for Stationary Time Series: MA Processes

Week V: Video 15

STAT 485/685, Fall 2020, SFU

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Video 15 Learning Objectives

By the end of this video, we should be able to:

- Define a moving average process of order q , i.e. $MA(q)$
- Derive the mean function, autocovariance function and autocorrelation function for $MA(1)$ and $MA(2)$ processes
- Recognize some key properties of the general $MA(q)$ process, including the behaviour of its autocorrelation function

Moving Average Processes

Definition: A **moving average process of order q** (i.e. **MA(q)**) is defined as:

$$Y_t = e_t - \theta_1 e_{t-1} - \theta_2 e_{t-2} - \theta_3 e_{t-3} - \cdots - \theta_q e_{t-q}$$

(Notice that it *must* be finite, unlike the general linear process!)

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Also notice: The coefficients now have negative signs in front of them! This is to make some expressions easier to interpret (we will see these soon).

Caution: R uses different notation: *plus signs* in front of the θ 's.

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What's In a Name? It is a (weighted) average of white noise process terms, where the weights get shifted one spot over each time:

$$Y_{t+1} = e_{t+1} - \theta_1 e_t - \theta_2 e_{t-1} - \theta_3 e_{t-2} - \cdots - \theta_q e_{t-q+1}$$

$$Y_{t+2} = e_{t+2} - \theta_1 e_{t+1} - \theta_2 e_t - \theta_3 e_{t-1} - \cdots - \theta_q e_{t-q+2}$$

$$Y_{t+3} = e_{t+3} - \theta_1 e_{t+2} - \theta_2 e_{t+1} - \theta_3 e_t - \cdots - \theta_q e_{t-q+3}$$

$$\vdots$$

The First-Order MA Process

Definition: The first-order moving average process, i.e. **MA(1)**, is:

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- Autocovariance function:

$$\text{Cov}(Y_t, Y_{t-k})$$

$$= \text{Cov}(e_t - \theta e_{t-1}, e_{t-k} - \theta e_{t-k-1})$$

$$= \text{Cov}(e_t, e_{t-k}) - \theta \text{Cov}(e_t, e_{t-k-1}) - \theta \text{Cov}(e_{t-1}, e_{t-k}) + \theta^2 \text{Cov}(e_{t-1}, e_{t-k-1})$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}(Y_t, Y_{t-k}) &= \text{Cov}(e_t - \theta e_{t-1}, e_{t-k} - \theta e_{t-k-1}) \\ &= \text{Cov}(e_t, e_{t-k}) - \theta \text{Cov}(e_t, e_{t-k-1}) - \theta \text{Cov}(e_{t-1}, e_{t-k}) + \theta^2 \text{Cov}(e_{t-1}, e_{t-k-1}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{For } k = 0: \sigma_e^2 + \theta^2 \sigma_e^2 = \sigma_e^2 (1 + \theta^2)$$

$$\text{For } k = \pm 1: -\sigma_e^2 \theta$$

$$\text{Otherwise: } 0$$

The First-Order MA Process: Properties

$$Y_t = e_t - \theta e_{t-1}$$

Properties of the MA(1) process:

$$\mu_t = E(Y_t) = 0 \quad \text{for all } t$$

$$\gamma_k = \text{Cov}(Y_t, Y_{t-k}) = \begin{cases} \sigma_e^2 (1 + \theta^2) & \text{for } k = 0 \\ \sigma_e^2 (-\theta) & \text{for } k = 1 \\ 0 & \text{for } k > 1 \end{cases}$$

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$$\rho_k = \text{Corr}(Y_t, Y_{t-k}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } k = 0 \\ -\frac{\theta}{1+\theta^2} & \text{for } k = 1 \\ 0 & \text{for } k > 1 \end{cases}$$

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Notice: The correlation cuts off after lag 1! This will be very important later.

The First-Order MA Process: About ρ_1

We've seen that, for the MA(1) process:

$$\rho_1 = -\frac{\theta}{1 + \theta^2}$$

$$\rho_k = 0 \text{ for } k > 1$$

The correlations in the process are fully determined by the lag-1 autocorrelation.

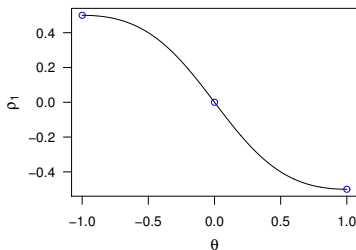
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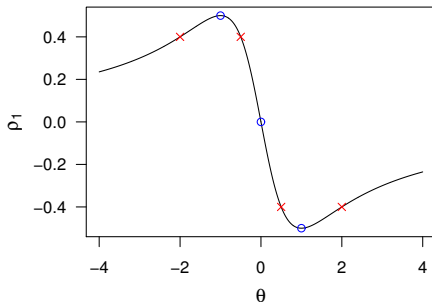


So, ρ_1 can be positive or negative, depending on the value of θ . The closer θ is to ± 1 , the closer ρ_1 is to ∓ 0.5 .

The First-Order MA Process: About ρ_1 (cont'd)

$$\rho_1 = -\frac{\theta}{1 + \theta^2}$$

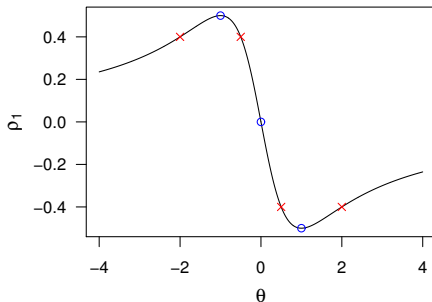
What if we consider a wider range of possible θ -values?



The First-Order MA Process: About ρ_1 (cont'd)

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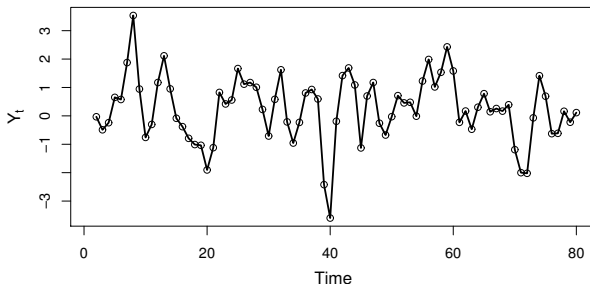


Notice: ρ_1 is the *same* for any θ vs. $1/\theta$.

This raises the question of **invertibility**: When given a value (or estimate) of ρ_1 , we can't determine the true value of θ , unless we place some restrictions on θ .

The First-Order MA Process: Example 1

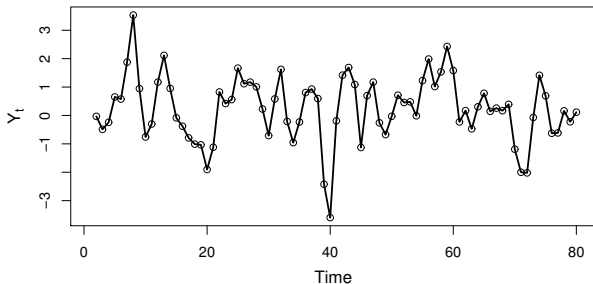
Example: MA(1) process with $\theta = -0.9$: (i.e., $\rho_1 = 0.4972$)



```
> e.vec <- rnorm(n=80, mean=0, sd=1)
> y.vec <- rep(NA, times=80)
> for (t in 2:80)
{
  y.vec[t] <- e.vec[t] + 0.9*e.vec[t-1]
}
> plot(c(1:80), y.vec, type='o', xlab='Time', ylab=expression(Y[t]))
```

The First-Order MA Process: Example 1 (cont'd)

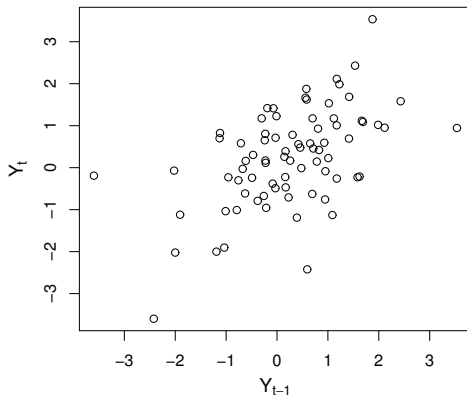
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Due to the positive lag-1 autocorrelation, observations “hang together” quite a bit.

The First-Order MA Process: Example 1 (cont'd)

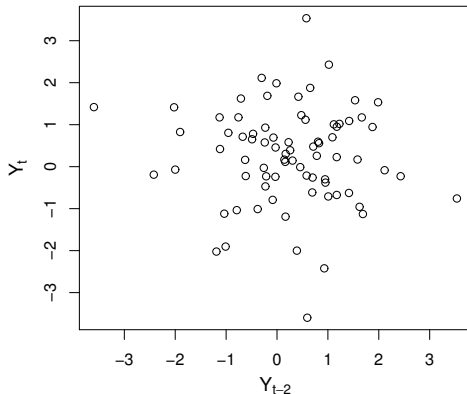
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What do we see in the plot of Y_t vs. Y_{t-1} ?

The First-Order MA Process: Example 1 (cont'd)

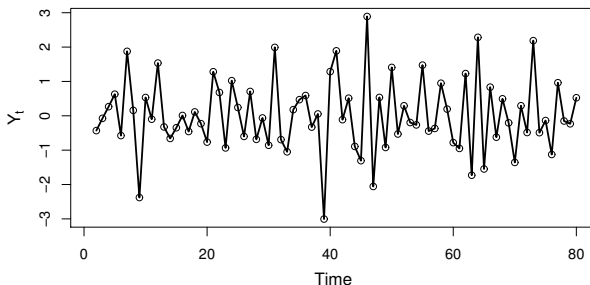
Example: MA(1) process with $\theta = -0.9$: (i.e., $\rho_1 = 0.4972$)



What do we see in the plot of Y_t vs. Y_{t-2} ?

The First-Order MA Process: Example 2

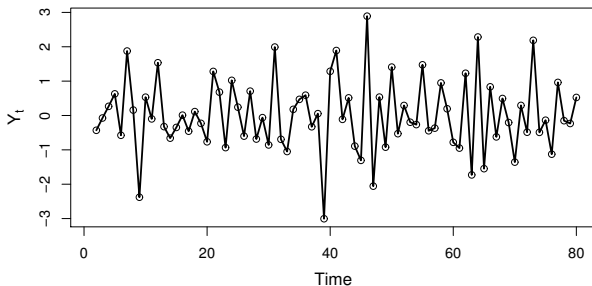
Example: MA(1) process with $\theta = +0.9$: (i.e., $\rho_1 = -0.4972$)



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> y.vec <- rep(NA, times=80)
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The First-Order MA Process: Example 2 (cont'd)

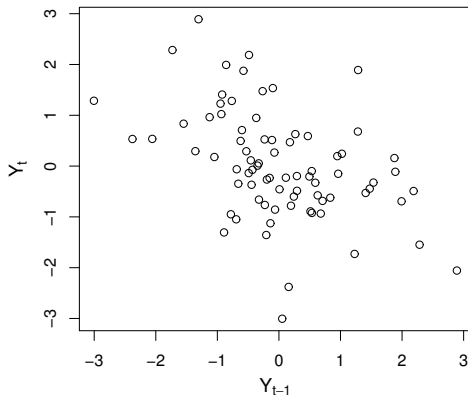
Example: MA(1) process with $\theta = +0.9$: (i.e., $\rho_1 = -0.4972$)



Due to the negative lag-1 autocorrelation, the plot is quite “jagged” over time.

The First-Order MA Process: Example 2 (cont'd)

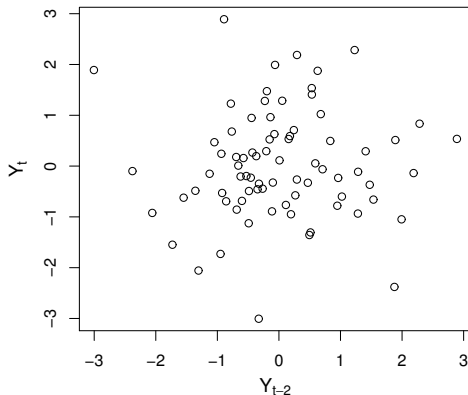
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The First-Order MA Process: Example 2 (cont'd)

Example: MA(1) process with $\theta = +0.9$: (i.e., $\rho_1 = -0.4972$)



What do we see in the plot of Y_t vs. Y_{t-2} ?

The Second-Order MA Process

Definition: The second-order moving average process, i.e. **MA(2)**, is:

$$Y_t = e_t - \theta_1 e_{t-1} - \theta_2 e_{t-2}$$

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- Autocovariance function:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}(Y_t, Y_{t-k}) &= \text{Cov}(e_t - \theta_1 e_{t-1} - \theta_2 e_{t-2}, e_{t-k} - \theta_1 e_{t-k-1} - \theta_2 e_{t-k-2}) \\ &= \text{Cov}(e_t, e_{t-k}) - \theta_1 \text{Cov}(e_t, e_{t-k-1}) - \theta_2 \text{Cov}(e_t, e_{t-k-2}) \\ &\quad - \theta_1 \text{Cov}(e_{t-1}, e_{t-k}) + \theta_1^2 \text{Cov}(e_{t-1}, e_{t-k-1}) + \theta_1 \theta_2 \text{Cov}(e_{t-1}, e_{t-k-2}) \\ &\quad - \theta_2 \text{Cov}(e_{t-2}, e_{t-k}) + \theta_1 \theta_2 \text{Cov}(e_{t-2}, e_{t-k-1}) + \theta_2^2 \text{Cov}(e_{t-2}, e_{t-k-2}) \end{aligned}$$

The Second-Order MA Process

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 \text{Cov}(Y_t, Y_{t-k}) &= \text{Cov}(e_t - \theta_1 e_{t-1} - \theta_2 e_{t-2}, e_{t-k} - \theta_1 e_{t-k-1} - \theta_2 e_{t-k-2}) \\
 &= \text{Cov}(e_t, e_{t-k}) - \theta_1 \text{Cov}(e_t, e_{t-k-1}) - \theta_2 \text{Cov}(e_t, e_{t-k-2}) \\
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 &\quad - \theta_2 \text{Cov}(e_{t-2}, e_{t-k}) + \theta_1 \theta_2 \text{Cov}(e_{t-2}, e_{t-k-1}) + \theta_2^2 \text{Cov}(e_{t-2}, e_{t-k-2})
 \end{aligned}$$

For $k = 0$: $\sigma_e^2 + \theta_1^2 \sigma_e^2 + \theta_2^2 \sigma_e^2 = \sigma_e^2 (1 + \theta_1^2 + \theta_2^2)$

For $k = \pm 1$: $-\theta_1 \sigma_e^2 + \theta_1 \theta_2 \sigma_e^2 = \sigma_e^2 (-\theta_1 + \theta_1 \theta_2)$

For $k = \pm 2$: $\sigma_e^2 (-\theta_2)$

Otherwise: 0

The Second-Order MA Process: Properties

$$Y_t = e_t - \theta_1 e_{t-1} - \theta_2 e_{t-2}$$

Properties of the MA(2) process:

$$\mu_t = E(Y_t) = 0 \quad \text{for all } t$$

$$\gamma_k = \text{Cov}(Y_t, Y_{t-k}) = \begin{cases} \sigma_e^2 (1 + \theta_1^2 + \theta_2^2) & \text{for } k = 0 \\ \sigma_e^2 (-\theta_1 + \theta_1 \theta_2) & \text{for } k = 1 \\ \sigma_e^2 (-\theta_2) & \text{for } k = 2 \\ 0 & \text{for } k > 2 \end{cases}$$

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$$\rho_k = \text{Corr}(Y_t, Y_{t-k}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } k = 0 \\ (-\theta_1 + \theta_1 \theta_2) / (1 + \theta_1^2 + \theta_2^2) & \text{for } k = 1 \\ -\theta_2 / (1 + \theta_1^2 + \theta_2^2) & \text{for } k = 2 \\ 0 & \text{for } k > 2 \end{cases}$$

Notice: The correlation cuts off after lag 2!

The Second-Order MA Process: Example

Example: MA(2) process:

$$Y_t = e_t - 0.9e_{t-1} + 0.7e_{t-2}$$

i.e., $\theta_1 = 0.9$ & $\theta_2 = -0.7$.

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Then:

$$\rho_1 = \frac{-\theta_1 + \theta_1\theta_2}{1 + \theta_1^2 + \theta_2^2} = \frac{-0.9 + (0.9)(-0.7)}{1 + (0.9)^2 + (-0.7)^2} = -0.67$$

$$\rho_2 = \frac{-\theta_2}{1 + \theta_1^2 + \theta_2^2} = \frac{0.7}{1 + (0.9)^2 + (-0.7)^2} = 0.30$$

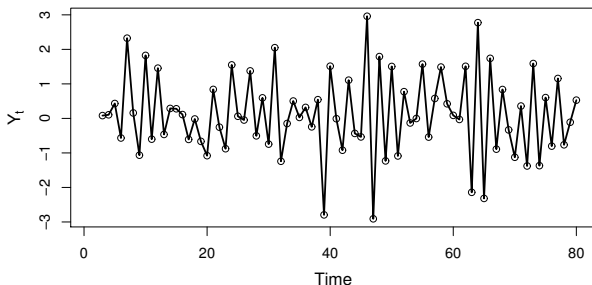
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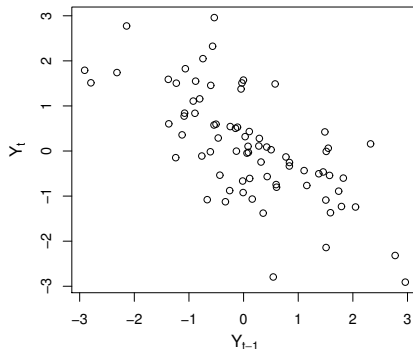
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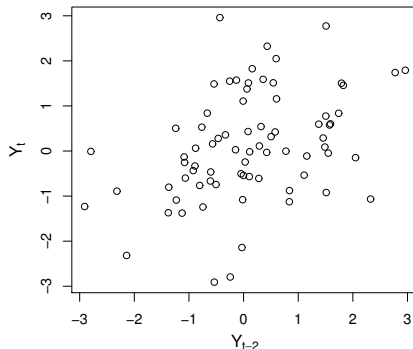
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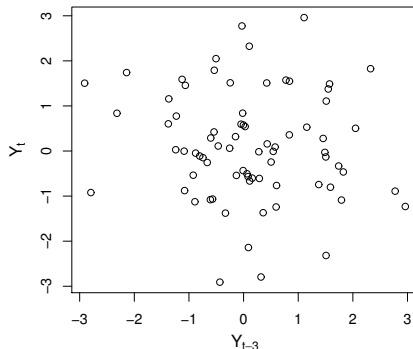
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What do we see in the plot of Y_t vs. Y_{t-3} ?

The General MA(q) Process

Definition: The moving average process of order q , i.e. **MA(q)**, is:

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Properties:

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$$\gamma_k = \text{Cov}(Y_t, Y_{t-k}) = \begin{cases} \sigma_e^2 \left(1 + \sum_{j=1}^q \theta_j^2 \right) & \text{for } k = 0 \\ \sigma_e^2 \left(-\theta_k + \sum_{j=k+1}^q \theta_{j-k} \theta_j \right) & \text{for } k = 1, 2, \dots, q \\ 0 & \text{for } k > q \end{cases}$$

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Try $q = 1$:

$$\gamma_k = \begin{cases} \sigma_e^2 (1 + \theta^2) & \text{for } k = 0 \\ \sigma_e^2 (-\theta) & \text{for } k = 1 \\ 0 & \text{for } k > 1 \end{cases}$$

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Try $q = 2$:

$$\gamma_k = \begin{cases} \sigma_e^2 (1 + \theta_1^2 + \theta_2^2) & \text{for } k = 0 \\ \sigma_e^2 \left(-\theta_1 + \sum_{j=2}^2 \theta_{j-1} \theta_j\right) = \sigma_e^2 (-\theta_1 + \theta_1 \theta_2) & \text{for } k = 1 \\ \sigma_e^2 (-\theta_2) & \text{for } k = 2 \\ 0 & \text{for } k > 2 \end{cases}$$

The General MA(q) Process

$$\gamma_k = \text{Cov}(Y_t, Y_{t-k}) = \begin{cases} \sigma_e^2 \left(1 + \sum_{j=1}^q \theta_j^2\right) & \text{for } k = 0 \\ \sigma_e^2 \left(-\theta_k + \sum_{j=k+1}^q \theta_{j-k} \theta_j\right) & \text{for } k = 1, 2, \dots, q \\ 0 & \text{for } k > q \end{cases}$$

Try $q = 3$:

$$\gamma_k = \begin{cases} \sigma_e^2 (1 + \theta_1^2 + \theta_2^2 + \theta_3^2) & \text{for } k = 0 \\ \sigma_e^2 \left(-\theta_1 + \sum_{j=2}^3 \theta_{j-1} \theta_j\right) = \sigma_e^2 (-\theta_1 + \theta_1 \theta_2 + \theta_2 \theta_3) & \text{for } k = 1 \\ \sigma_e^2 \left(-\theta_2 + \sum_{j=3}^3 \theta_{j-2} \theta_j\right) = \sigma_e^2 (-\theta_2 + \theta_1 \theta_3) & \text{for } k = 2 \\ \sigma_e^2 (-\theta_3) & \text{for } k = 3 \\ 0 & \text{for } k > 3 \end{cases}$$

The General MA(q) Process (cont'd)

Definition: The moving average process of order q , i.e. MA(q), is:

$$Y_t = e_t - \theta_1 e_{t-1} - \theta_2 e_{t-2} - \theta_3 e_{t-3} - \cdots - \theta_q e_{t-q}$$

Properties:

$$\mu_t = E(Y_t) = 0 \quad \text{for all } t$$

$$\gamma_k = \text{Cov}(Y_t, Y_{t-k}) = \begin{cases} \sigma_e^2 \left(1 + \sum_{j=1}^q \theta_j^2\right) & \text{for } k = 0 \\ \sigma_e^2 \left(-\theta_k + \sum_{j=k+1}^q \theta_{j-k} \theta_j\right) & \text{for } k = 1, 2, \dots, q \\ 0 & \text{for } k > q \end{cases}$$

$$\rho_k = \text{Corr}(Y_t, Y_{t-k}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } k = 0 \\ \left(-\theta_k + \sum_{j=k+1}^q \theta_{j-k} \theta_j\right) / \left(1 + \sum_{j=1}^q \theta_j^2\right) & \text{for } k = 1, 2, \dots, q \\ 0 & \text{for } k > q \end{cases}$$

Notice: The correlation cuts off after lag q !

That's all for now!

In this video, we've learned about the moving average process of order q , i.e. $MA(q)$.

We derived the properties for the special cases $MA(1)$ and $MA(2)$, and we learned how the autocorrelation function for an $MA(q)$ process cuts off after lag q .

Next Week in STAT 485/685: Autoregressive (AR) processes, ARMA processes, and more.

Thank you!

References:

- [1] Cryer, J. D., & Chan, K. S. (2008). *Time series analysis: with applications in R*. Springer Science and Business Media.
- [2] Chan, K. S., & Ripley, B. (2020). TSA: Time Series Analysis. R package version 1.2.1.