AR, MA, and ARMA for Multivariate Time Series

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The material in this set of notes is based on S&S Chapter 5, specifically 5.7. We're going to extend our **AR**, **MA**, and **ARMA** models to multivariate time series.

The Multivariate AR Model

The first kind of time series model we'll consider is an **vector autoregressive (VAR)** model. This is one of the most intuitive models we'll consider. The basic idea is that we will model the response at time t x_t as a linear function of its p previous values and some independent random noise, e.g.

$$x_t = 0.5x_{t-1} + w_t, \tag{1}$$

where x_t is stationary and $w_t \overset{i.i.d.}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_w^2)$. This kind of model is especially well suited to forecasting, as

$$\mathbb{E}[x_{t+1}|x_t] = 0.5x_{t-1}. \tag{2}$$

We explicitly define an **autoregressive model of order** p, abbreviated as **AR** (p) as:

$$(x_t - \mu_x) = \phi_1(x_{t-1} - \mu_x) + \phi_2(x_{t-2} - \mu_x) + \cdots + \phi_p(x_{t-p} - \mu_x) + w_t, \tag{3}$$

where $\phi_p \neq 0$, x_t is stationary with mean $\mathbb{E}[x_t] = \mu_x$, and $w_t \overset{i.i.d.}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_w^2)$. For convenience:

- We'll often assume $\mu_x = 0$, so

$$x_t = \phi_1 x_{t-1} + \phi_2 x_{t-2} + \cdots + \phi_p x_{t-p} + w_t. \tag{4}$$

- We'll introduce the **autoregressive operator** notation:

$$\phi(B) = 1 - \phi_1 B - \phi_2 B^2 - \cdots - \phi_p B^p, \tag{5}$$

where $B^p x_t = x_{t-p}$ is the **backshift operator**. This allows us to rewrite (3) and (4) more concisely as $\phi(B)(x_t - \mu_x) = w_t$ and

$$\phi(B)(x_t) = w_t, \tag{6}$$

respectively.

An $\mathbf{AR}(p)$ model looks like a linear regression model, but the covariates are also random variables. We'll start building an understanding of the $\mathbf{AR}(p)$ model by starting with the simpler special case where $p = 1$.

The $\mathbf{AR}(1)$ model with $\mu_x = 0$ is a special case of (3)

$$x_t = \phi_1 x_{t-1} + w_t. \tag{7}$$

A natural thing to do is to try to rewrite x_t as a function of ϕ_1 and the previous values of the random errors. Then (7) will look more like a classical regression problem, as it will no longer have random variables as as covariates. Furthermore, if we could rewrite x_t as a function of ϕ_1 and the random errors $\boldsymbol{w}$, then x_t would be a **linear process**.

A **linear process** x_t is defined to be a linear combination of white noise w_t and is given by

$$x_t = \mu_x + \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_j w_{t-j},$$

where the coefficients satisfy $\sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} |\psi_j| < \infty$, w_t are independent and identically distributed with mean 0 and variance σ_w^2, and $\mu_x = \mathbb{E}[x_t] < \infty$. The condition $\sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} |\psi_j|$

ensures that $x_t = \mu_x + \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_j w_{t-j} < \infty$. Importantly, it can be shown that the autoco-variance function of a linear process is

$$\gamma_x(h) = \sigma_w^2 \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_{j+h} \psi_j, \tag{8}$$

for $h \geq 0$, recalling that $\gamma_x(h) = \gamma_x(-h)$. This means that once we know the linear process representation of any time series process, we can easily compute its autocovariance (and autocorrelation) functions. We will often use the **infinite moving average operator** shorthand $1 + \psi_1 B + \psi_2 B^2 + \ldots \psi_j B^j + \cdots = \psi(B)$.

We can start rewriting x_t as follows:

$$x_t = \phi_1^2 x_{t-1} + \phi_1 w_{t-1} + w_t$$

$$= \phi_1^3 x_{t-2} + \phi_1^2 w_{t-2} + \phi_1 w_{t-1} + w_t$$

$$= \underbrace{\phi_1^k x_{t-k}}_{(*)} + \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \phi_1^j w_{t-j}.$$

We can see that we can almost lagged values of $\boldsymbol{x}$ out of the right hand side. Fortunately, when $|\phi_1| < 1$, then

$$\lim_{k \to \infty} \mathbb{E}\left[\left(x_t - \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \phi_1^j w_{t-j}\right)^2\right] = \lim_{k \to \infty} \phi^{2k} \mathbb{E}\left[x_{t-k}^2\right] = 0,$$

because $\mathbb{E}\left[x_{t-k}^2\right]$ is constant as long as x_t is stationary is assumed. This means that when $|\phi_1| < 1$, then we can write elements of the response x_t as a linear function the previous values of the random errors:

$$x_t = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \phi^j w_{t-j}. \tag{9}$$

(9) is the **linear process** representation of an $\mathbf{AR}(1)$ model. It follows that the autoco-

variance function

$$\gamma_x(h) = \sigma_w^2 \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \phi_1^{j+h} \phi_1^j$$

$$= \sigma_w^2 \phi_1^h \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \phi_1^{2j}$$

$$= \sigma_w^2 \phi_1^h \left(\frac{1}{1 - \phi_1^2} \right). \tag{10}$$

and the autocorrelation function is

$$\rho_x(h) = \phi^h. \tag{11}$$

Note that this is not the only way to compute the values of autocovariance function. We could compute them directly from (4),

$$\gamma_x(h) = \mathbb{E}\left[x_{t-h} x_t\right] \tag{12}$$

$$= \mathbb{E}\left[x_{t-h} \left(\phi_1 x_{t-1} + w_t\right)\right]$$

$$= \phi_1 \mathbb{E}\left[x_{t-1-(h-1)} x_{t-1}\right] + \mathbb{E}\left[x_{t-h} w_t\right]$$

$$= \phi_1 \gamma_x(h-1).$$

This gives us a recursive relation that we can use to compute the autocovariance function

$\gamma_x(h)$, starting from $\gamma_x(0)$. We can compute $\gamma_x(0)$ using substitution:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\gamma_x(0) &= \mathbb{E}\left[x_t^2\right] & (13)\\
&= \mathbb{E}\left[x_t^2\right] \\
&= \mathbb{E}\left[(\phi_1 x_{t-1} + w_t)^2\right] \\
&= \mathbb{E}\left[\phi_1^2 x_{t-1}^2 + 2\phi_1 w_t x_{t-1} + w_t^2\right] \\
&= \phi_1^2 \mathbb{E}\left[x_{t-1}^2\right] + \sigma_w^2 \\
&= \sigma_w^2 \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \phi_1^{2j} & \text{(follows from continued substitution)} \\
&= \frac{\sigma_w^2}{1 - \phi_1^2}, & \text{if } |\phi_1| < 1, \gamma_x(0) = \infty \text{ otherwise!}
\end{aligned}
$$

If $|\phi_1| < 1$, then it is easy to see that the $\mathbf{AR}(1)$ model $\boldsymbol{x}$ is stationary because the mean of each x_t is zero and the autocovariance function $\gamma_x(h) = \sigma_w^2 \phi_h \left(\frac{1}{1-\phi^2}\right)$ depends only on the lag, h. What happens when $|\phi_1| > 1$? (9) does **not** give a linear process representation if $|\phi_1| > 1$, because $\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} |\phi_1|^j = +\infty$.

However when $|\phi_1| > 1$, we can revisit (7) and note that $x_{t+1} = \phi_1 x_t + w_{t+1}$. Rearranging gives

$$
x_t = \left(\frac{1}{\phi_1}\right) x_{t+1} - \left(\frac{1}{\phi_1}\right) w_{t+1}.
$$

If $\phi > 1$, then $\left(\frac{1}{\phi_1}\right) < 1$ and we can use the same approach we used previously to write

$$
x_t = -\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{\phi_1}\right)^j w_{t+j}.
$$

The problem, however, is that this requires that x_t is a function of *future* values, which may not be known at time t. We call such a time series **non-causal**. Using a **non-causal** model will rarely make sense in practice, and furthermore makes forecasting impossible - in the future, whenever we talk about $\mathbf{AR}(p)$ models we restrict our attention to **causal** models.

Understanding when a $\mathbf{AR}(p)$ model is causal is more difficult than understanding when

an $\mathbf{AR}(1)$ model is causal. We figured out when an $\mathbf{AR}(1)$ model is causal by finding the coefficients $\ldots, \psi_{-j}, \ldots, \psi_j, \ldots$ of its linear process representation as a function of the AR coefficient ϕ_1, and showing that all of the coefficients $\psi_{-\infty}, \ldots, \psi_{-1}$ for future errors are exactly equal to zero.

The linear process representation is especially useful for an $\mathbf{AR}(p)$ model when $p > 1$, because computing the autocovariance function $\gamma_x(h)$ directly as we did in (12) and (13) gets much more cumbersome when $p > 1$. We can see this in the $\mathbf{AR}(2)$ case, where we have

$$x_t = \phi_2 x_{t-2} + \phi_1 x_{t-1} + w_t. \tag{14}$$

We can get a recursive relation for the autocovariance function $\gamma_x(h)$ starting from $\gamma_x(0)$ and $\gamma_x(1)$ as follows:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\gamma_x(h) =& \mathbb{E}\left[x_{t-h} x_t\right] \\
=& \mathbb{E}\left[x_{t-h}\left(\phi_1 x_{t-1} + \phi_2 x_{t-2} + w_t\right)\right] \\
=& \phi_1 \mathbb{E}\left[x_{t-1-(h-1)} x_{t-1}\right] + \phi_2 \mathbb{E}\left[x_{t-2-(h-2)} x_{t-2}\right] + \mathbb{E}\left[x_{t-h} w_t\right] \\
=& \phi_1 \gamma_x(h-1) + \phi_2 \gamma_x(h-2).
\end{aligned}
$$

We can try to compute $\gamma_x(0)$ and $\gamma_x(1)$ using substitution:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\gamma_x(0) =& \mathbb{E}\left[x_t^2\right] \\
=& \mathbb{E}\left[\left(\phi_1 x_{t-1} + \phi_2 x_{t-2} + w_t\right)^2\right] \\
=& \mathbb{E}\left[\phi_1^2 x_{t-1}^2 + \phi_2^2 x_{t-2}^2 + 2\phi_1 \phi_2 x_{t-1} x_{t-2} + 2\phi_1 x_{t-1} w_t + 2\phi_2 x_{t-2} w_t + w_t^2\right] \\
=& \mathbb{E}\left[\phi_1^2 x_{t-1}^2 + \phi_2^2 x_{t-2}^2 + 2\phi_1 \phi_2 x_{t-1} x_{t-2}\right] + \sigma_w^2.
\end{aligned}
$$

However, this gets *very* complicated, even though we only have two lags!

Unfortunately, it's much harder to find the linear process representation of an $\mathbf{AR}(p)$ model by simple substitution as we did with an $\mathbf{AR}(1)$ model. Substituting according to

$$x_t = \phi_1 \phi_2 x_{t-3} + \left(\phi_2 + \phi_1^2 \right) x_{t-2} + \phi_1 w_{t-1} + w_t$$

$$= \left(\phi_2 + \phi_1^2 \right) \phi_2 x_{t-4} + \phi_1 \left(2\phi_2 + \phi_1^2 \right) x_{t-3} + \left(\phi_2 + \phi_1^2 \right) w_{t-2} + \phi_1 w_{t-1} + w_t$$

$$= \left(\phi_2 + \phi_1^2 \right) \phi_2 x_{t-4} + \phi_1 \left(2\phi_2 + \phi_1^2 \right) \left(\phi_2 x_{t-5} + \phi_1 x_{t-4} + w_{t-3} \right) + \left(\phi_2 + \phi_1^2 \right) w_{t-2} + \phi_1 w_{t-1} + w_t$$

$$= \phi_1 \phi_2 \left(2\phi_2 + \phi_1^2 \right) x_{t-5} + \left(\phi_2^2 + \phi_1^2 \phi_2 + 2\phi_1 \phi_2^2 + \phi_1^3 \phi_2 \right) x_{t-4} +$$

$$\phi_1 \left(2\phi_2 + \phi_1^2 \right) w_{t-3} + \left(\phi_2 + \phi_1^2 \right) w_{t-2} + \phi_1 w_{t-1} + w_t \dots$$

Again, this is *not* working out nicely!

Instead, we can find the values of $\psi_1, \dots, \psi_j, \dots$ that satisfy $\phi(B) \psi(B) w_t = w_t$, which follows from substituting $x_t = \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_j w_{t-j}$ into (20). This is equivalent to finding the inverse function $\phi^{-1}(B)$ that satisfies $\phi(B) \phi^{-1}(B) w_t = w_t$.

We can see how this method for finding the values of $\psi_1, \dots, \psi_j, \dots$ works by returning to the $\mathbf{AR}(1)$ case. The values $\psi_1, \dots, \psi_j, \dots$ that satisfy $\phi(B) \psi(B) w_t = w_t$ solve:

$$1 + (\psi_1 - \phi_1) B + (\psi_2 - \psi_1 \phi_1) B^2 + \cdots + \psi_j B^j + \dots = 1, \tag{15}$$

where (15) follows from expanding $\phi(B)$ and $\psi(B)$. This allows us to recover the linear process representation of the $\mathbf{AR}(1)$ process in a different way, as (15) holds if all of the coefficients for B^j with $j > 0$ are equal to zero, i.e. $\psi_k - \psi_{k-1} \phi_1 = 0$ for $k > 1$.

Now let's try this approach for the $\mathbf{AR}(2)$ case. We have

$$1 = \left(1 - \phi_1 B - \phi_2 B^2 \right) \left(1 + \psi_1 B + \psi_2 B^2 + \cdots + \psi_j B^j + \dots \right)$$

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

$$(\psi_j - \phi_1 \psi_{j-1} - \phi_2 \psi_{j-2}) B^j + \dots$$

We see that we can compute the values of $\psi_1, \ldots, \psi_j, \ldots$ recursively,

$$\psi_1 = \phi_1$$

$$\psi_2 = \phi_2 + \phi_1^2$$

$$\psi_3 = 2\phi_1 \left(\phi_2 + \phi_1^2 \right),$$

and so on.

It's also very tricky to figure out when $\mathbf{AR}(p)$ model is **causal** for $p > 1$. An $\mathbf{AR}(p)$ model is **causal** for $p > 1$ model is **causal** when all of the roots of the **AR polynomial**

$$\phi(z) = 1 - \phi_1 z - \cdots - \phi_p z^p,$$

lie outside the unit circle, i.e. $\phi(z) \neq 0$ for $|z| \leq 1$. This condition ensures that the $\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} |\psi_j| < \infty$. This is not very intuitive. If we want to try to get a handle on why the roots of the AR polynomial need to lie outside the unit circle for a $\mathbf{AR}(p)$ model to be **causal**, we need to take a look at the proof. You won't be tested on your understanding of this - we'll just go through it here in case you are curious following along the proof of Theorem 3.2 in Chan (2010).

Let's suppose that $\phi(z)$ has roots $r_1, \ldots, r_p$ that satisfy $1 < |r_1| \leq \cdots \leq |r_p|$, i.e. $\phi(r_j) = 0$ for $j = 1, \ldots, p$. Then this ensures that we can invert $\phi(z)$ when $z \leq |r_1|$. Recalling that $\psi(B)$ can be thought of as the inverse of $\phi(B)$, this means that

$$\frac{1}{\phi(z)} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \psi_j z^j < \infty \text{ if } |z| \leq |r_1|,$$

where $\psi_0 = 1$. Then we can invert $\phi(z)$ at any value of $z < |r_1|$, e.g. at $z = 1 + \delta < |r_1|$, where $\delta > 0$. Writing this out, we have

$$\frac{1}{\phi(1+\delta)} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \psi_j (1+\delta)^j < \infty. \tag{16}$$

If (16), then there must be some constant $M > 0$ that gives an upper bound for all $\left| \psi_j (1+\delta)^j \right|$, i.e. $\left| \psi_j (1+\delta)^j \right| \leq M$ for all $j = 0, 1, 2, \ldots$. Shifting things around, this is

equivalent to $|\psi_j| \le M (1 + \delta)^{-j}$. Then

$$
\begin{aligned}
\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} |\psi_j| &\le M \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{1+\delta}\right)^j \\
&= M \left(\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{1+\delta}\right)^j - 1\right) \\
&= M \left(\frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{1+\delta}} - 1\right) \qquad \text{(follows from } \frac{1}{1+\delta} < 1 \text{ if } \delta > 0\text{)} \\
&= M \left(\frac{1+\delta}{1+\delta-1} - 1\right) = M \left(\frac{1}{\delta}\right) < \infty.
\end{aligned}
$$

The Multivariate MA Model

Instead of assuming that elements of a time series x_t are linear function of previous elements of the time series $x_1, \ldots, x_{t-1}$ and independent, identically distributed noise w_t, we might assume that elements of a time series x_t are a linear function of all of the current and previous noise variates, $w_1, \ldots, w_{t-1}$. The latter gives us the **moving average model of order** q, abbreviated as **MA** (q). The **MA** (q) model is explicitly defined as

$$
x_t - \mu_x = w_t + \theta_1 w_{t-1} + \theta_2 w_{t-2} + \cdots + \theta_q w_{t-q}, \tag{17}
$$

where $\theta_q \neq 0$, $\mathbb{E}[x_t] = \mu_x$, and $w_t \overset{i.i.d.}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_w^2)$. For convenience:

- We'll often assume $\mu_x = 0$, so

$$
x_t = w_t + \theta_1 w_{t-1} + \theta_2 w_{t-2} + \cdots + \theta_q w_{t-q}. \tag{18}
$$

- We'll introduce the **moving average operator** notation:

$$
\theta(B) = 1 + \theta_1 B + \theta_2 B^2 + \cdots + \theta_p B^p, \tag{19}
$$

which allows us to rewrite (17) and (18) more concisely as $x_t - \mu_x = \theta(B) w_t$ and

$$
x_t = \theta(B) w_t, \tag{20}
$$

respectively.

Again, the **MA** (q) model looks like a linear regression model. Importantly, the **MA** (q) model is stationary for any values of the parameters $\theta_1, \ldots, \theta_q$.

Like we did with the **AR** (p) model, we'll start building an understanding of the **MA** (q) by starting with the simpler special case where $q = 1$,

$$x_t = \theta_1 w_{t-1} + w_t. \tag{21}$$

It is easy to see that this **MA** (q) model is mean zero. We can compute the autocovariance function as follows:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\gamma_x(h) &= \mathbb{E}\left[x_t x_{t-h}\right] \\
&= \mathbb{E}\left[(\theta_1 w_{t-1} + w_t)(\theta_1 w_{t-h-1} + w_{t-h})\right] \\
&= \mathbb{E}\left[\theta_1^2 w_{t-1} w_{t-h-1} + \theta_1 w_t w_{t-h-1} + \theta_1 w_{t-1} w_{t-h} + w_t w_{t-h}\right] \\
&= \mathbb{E}\left[\theta_1^2 w_{t-1} w_{t-h-1} + \theta_1 w_{t-1} w_{t-h} + w_t w_{t-h}\right] \\
&= \begin{cases} \sigma_w^2\left(\theta_1^2 + 1\right) & h = 0 \\ \theta_1 & h = 1 \\ 0 & h > 1 \end{cases}.
\end{aligned} \tag{22}
$$

The corresponding autocorrelation function is

$$
\rho_x(h) = \begin{cases} \frac{\theta_1}{\theta_1^2 + 1} & h = 1 \\ 0 & h > 1 \end{cases}. \tag{23}
$$

The autocovariance and autocorrelation functions of the **MA** (q) model are noteworthy in two ways:

(•) The autocorrelation function $\rho_x(h)$ is bounded, $\rho_x(h) \leq 1/2$ for $h = 1$.

(∗) The parameters of the **MA** (q) model do not uniquely determine the autocovariance and autocorrelation function values. θ_1 and σ_w^2 do not uniquely determine the value

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of the autocovariance function $\gamma_x(h)$, and θ_1 does not determine the value of the autocorrelation function.

It is easiest to understand $(*)$ via some examples. First, we compute $\gamma_x(h)$ and $\rho_x(h)$ for a **MA**(1) process with $\theta_1 = 5$ and $\sigma_w^2 = 1$,

$$\gamma_x(h) = \begin{cases} 5^2 + 1 = 26 & h = 0 \\ 5 & h = 1 \\ 0 & h > 1 \end{cases} \quad \text{and } \rho_x(h) = \begin{cases} \frac{5}{5^2+1} = \frac{5}{26} & h = 1 \\ 0 & h > 1 \end{cases}.$$

Compare this to $\gamma_x(h)$ and $\rho_x(h)$ for a **MA**(1) process with $\theta_1 = 1/5$ and $\sigma_w^2 = 25$,

$$\gamma_x(h) = \begin{cases} 25\left(\frac{1}{5^2} + 1\right) = 25\left(\frac{1+25}{25}\right) = 26 & h = 0 \\ 25\left(\frac{1}{5}\right) = 5 & h = 1 \\ 0 & h > 1 \end{cases} \quad \text{and } \rho_x(h) = \begin{cases} \frac{\frac{1}{5}}{\frac{1}{5^2}+1} = \frac{5}{26} & h = 1 \\ 0 & h > 1 \end{cases}.$$

Both sets of **MA**(1) parameters give the values of the autocovariance and autocorrelation functions! This is undesirable - it means that even if we know that our time series is mean zero with a specific autocovariance function $\gamma_x(h)$ autocorrelation function $\rho_x(h)$, we can't find a **unique** pair of corresponding **MA**(1) parameter values (θ_1, σ_w^2). ☹

We solve this problem by requiring that our **MA**(1) model be **invertible**, which means that it has an infinite autoregressive representation $(1 + \pi_1 B + \pi_2 B^2 + \cdots + \pi_j B^j + \dots) x_t = w_t$ with $\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} |\pi_j| < \infty$. We can find a **unique** pair of corresponding **MA**(1) parameter values (θ_1, σ_w^2) if we restrict our attention to the parameter values that give an **invertible** **MA**(1) model. What we mean by this is that we can rearrange (21) to resemble a **AR**(1)

model for w_t,

$$w_t = -\theta_1 w_{t-1} + x_t$$

$$= \theta_1^2 w_{t-2} - \theta_1 x_{t-1} + x_t$$

$$= -\theta_1^3 w_{t-3} + \theta_1^2 x_{t-2} - \theta_1 x_{t-1} + x_t$$

$$= (-\theta_1)^k w_{t-k} + \sum_{j=0}^{k} (-\theta_1)^j x_{t-j},$$

where $\lim_{k \to \infty} (-\theta_1)^k w_{t-k} + \sum_{j=0}^{k} (-\theta_1)^j x_{t-j} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (-\theta_1)^j x_{t-j}$. Recalling the $\mathbf{AR}(1)$ model, this will be the case when $|\theta_1| < 1$. Going back to our example where we considered the $\mathbf{MA}(1)$ parameters $(\theta_1, \sigma_w^2) = (5, 1)$ and $(\theta_1, \sigma_w^2) = \left(\frac{1}{5}, 25\right)$, this means that only the latter pair $(\theta_1, \sigma_w^2) = \left(\frac{1}{5}, 25\right)$ satisfy our definition of a $\mathbf{MA}(1)$ model.

More generally, requiring that an $\mathbf{MA}(q)$ model be **invertible** ensures that we can find a **unique** set of corresponding $\mathbf{MA}(q)$ parameter values $(\theta_1, \ldots, \theta_q, \sigma_w^2)$ if we know that our time series is $\mathbf{MA}(q)$ with mean zero, a specific autocovariance function $\gamma_x(h)$, and autocorrelation function $\rho_x(h)$. We introduce some additional notation for this; an $\mathbf{MA}(q)$ model is **invertible** if we can write $w_t = \pi(B) x_t$, where $\pi(B) = 1 + \pi_1 B + \cdots + \pi_j B^j + \ldots$ and $\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} |\pi_j| < \infty$. This looks a lot like the problem of ensuring that a $\mathbf{AR}(p)$ model is **causal**, and it turns out that an $\mathbf{MA}(q)$ model is **invertible** if when all of the roots of the **MA polynomial**

$$\theta(z) = 1 + \theta_1 z + \cdots + \theta_q z^q,$$

lie outside the unit circle, i.e. $\theta(z) \neq 0$ for $|z| \leq 1$.

The Multivariate ARMA Model

The **autoregressive moving average (ARMA)** model combines the **AR** and **MA** models. We define an **ARMA**(p, q) model as:

$$(x_t - \mu_x) = \phi_1 \left(x_{t-1} - \mu_x \right) + \cdots + \phi_p \left(x_{t-p} - \mu_x \right) + \theta_1 w_{t-1} + \cdots + \theta_q w_{t-q} + w_t, \qquad (24)$$

where $w_t \overset{i.i.d.}{\sim} \mathcal{N} \left(0, \sigma_w^2 \right)$, x_t is stationary, $\phi_p \neq 0$, $\theta_q \neq 0$, $\sigma_w^2 > 0$, and the MA and AR polynomials $\theta \left(B \right)$ and $\phi \left(B \right)$ have no common roots. We refer to p as the **autoregressive order** and q as the **moving average order**. Again, for convenience we will usually assume $\mu_x = 0$, so

$$x_t = \phi_1 x_{t-1} + \cdots + \phi_p x_{t-p} + \theta_1 w_{t-1} + \cdots + \theta_q w_{t-q}. \qquad (25)$$

Using operator notation becomes especially beneficial for **ARMA**(p, q) models; we can just write $\phi \left(B \right) x_t = \theta \left(B \right) w_t$ instead of (25). Note that:

- Setting $p = 0$ gives a **MA**$\left(q \right)$ model;

- Setting $q = 0$ gives an **AR**$\left(p \right)$.

As with **AR**$\left(p \right)$ and **MA**$\left(q \right)$ models, we will need to figure out when an **ARMA**(p, q) is **causal** and **invertible**. Fortunately, this is simple given the work we've already done for **MA**$\left(q \right)$ and **AR**$\left(p \right)$ models. An **ARMA**(p, q) is:

- **Causal**, i.e. we can find $\psi_1, \ldots, \psi_j, \ldots$ such that $\psi \left(z \right) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \psi_j z^j = \frac{\theta(z)}{\phi(z)}$ that satisfy $\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} |\psi_j| < \infty$ for $|z| < 1$, if $\phi \left(z \right) \neq 0$ for $|z| \leq 1$;

- **Invertible**, i.e. we can find $\pi_1, \ldots, \pi_j, \ldots$ such that $\pi \left(z \right) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \pi_j z^j = \frac{\phi(z)}{\theta(z)}$ that satisfy $\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} |\pi_j| < \infty$ for $|z| < 1$, if $\theta \left(z \right) \neq 0$ for $|z| \leq 1$.

Returning to the definition of an **ARMA**(p, q) model, it is not immediately obvious why we require that the moving average and autoregressive polynomials $\theta \left(B \right)$ and $\phi \left(B \right)$ have no

common roots. Consider the following model, which resembles an $\mathbf{ARMA}\,(p,q)$ model:

$$x_t = 0.5x_{t-1} - 0.5w_{t-1} + w_t, \tag{26}$$

where x_t is stationary and $w_t \overset{i.i.d.}{\sim} \mathcal{N}\,(0, \sigma_w^2)$. It's easy to see that the mean function $\mu_x = 0$. The autocovariance function $\gamma_x\,(h)$ satisfies:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\gamma_x\,(h) &= \mathbb{E}\,[x_t x_{t-h}] \\
&= \mathbb{E}\,[(0.5x_{t-1} - 0.5w_{t-1} + w_t)\,x_{t-h}] \\
&= 0.5\mathbb{E}\,[x_{t-1}x_{t-h}] - 0.5\mathbb{E}\,[w_{t-1}x_{t-h}] + \mathbb{E}\,[w_t x_{t-h}] \\
&= \begin{cases} 0.5\gamma_x\,(0) - 0.5\sigma_w^2 & h = 1 \\ 0.5\gamma_x\,(h-1) & h > 1 \end{cases}
\end{aligned}
\tag{27}
$$

We just need to combine this with a starting value, $\gamma_x\,(0)$:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\gamma_x\,(0) &= \mathbb{E}\,\left[x_t^2\right] \\
&= \mathbb{E}\,\left[0.5^2 x_{t-1}^2 + 0.5^2 w_{t-1}^2 + w_t^2 - (2)\,(0.5)^2\,w_{t-1}^2\right] \\
&= 0.5^2\gamma_x\,(0) + \left(1 - 0.5^2\right)\sigma_w^2 \implies \gamma_x\,(0) = \sigma_w^2
\end{aligned}
$$

Plugging this in to (27), for $h > 0$ we get

$$\gamma_x\,(h) = 0!$$

This means that (26) is equivalent to the white noise model, $x_t = w_t$!

If we examine the corresponding AR and MA polynomials, we see that they share the common factor $1 - 0.5B$, $\theta\,(B) = 1 - 0.5B$ and $\phi\,(B) = 1 - 0.5B$. Dividing each by the common factor yields $\theta\,(B) = 1$ and $\phi\,(B) = 1$, which gives us the familiar definition of the white noise model, $x_t = w_t$. This is why we require that the the moving average and autoregressive polynomials $\theta\,(B)$ and $\phi\,(B)$ have no common roots, otherwise we could mistake a white noise process for an $\mathbf{ARMA}(p,q)$ process with $p, q > 0$.

As with the $\mathbf{AR}\,(p)$ model, the linear process representation of an $\mathbf{ARMA}\,(p,q)$ model

is especially useful for computing the autocovariance function of an $\mathbf{ARMA}\,(p,q)$ model. Using the same approach we used for the $\mathbf{AR}\,(p)$ model, the values of $\psi_1, \ldots, \psi_j, \ldots$ that satisfy $x_t = \psi\,(B)\,w_t$ with $\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} |\psi_j| < \infty$ can be computed by substituting $\psi\,(B)\,w_t$ into the equation that defines the $\mathbf{ARMA}\,(p,q)$ model, $\phi\,(B)\,x_t$, and matching the coefficients for each power of B on each side, i.e.

$$\phi\,(B)\,\psi\,(B)\,w_t = \theta_z w_t$$
$$\implies \left(1 - \phi_1 B - \ldots \phi_p B^p\right)\left(1 + \psi_1 B + \ldots \psi_j B^j\right) w_t = \left(1 + \theta_1 B + \cdots + \theta_q B^q\right) w_t.$$

This yields a sequence of equations that would start with

$$\psi_1 - \phi_1 = \theta_1$$
$$\psi_2 - \phi_2 - \phi_1 \psi_1 = \theta_2,$$

and continue on for $\psi_3, \ldots, \psi_j, \ldots$. We will *not* be computing $\psi_1, \ldots, \psi_j, \ldots$ by hand in class - this requires a knowledge of differential equations that goes above and beyond the prerequisites for this course. However, statistical software like R will often include functions that can be used to compute the $\phi_1, \ldots, \phi_K$ for some user specified value $K > 1$ given values for $\phi_1, \ldots, \phi_p$ and $\theta_1, \ldots, \theta_p$.