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# ETC3550/ETC5550

## Applied forecasting

Week 8: ARIMA models



# ARIMA models

- AR:** autoregressive (lagged observations as inputs)
- I:** integrated (differencing to make series stationary)
- MA:** moving average (lagged errors as inputs)

An ARIMA model is rarely interpretable in terms of visible data structures like trend and seasonality. But it can capture a huge range of time series patterns.

# Stationarity

## Definition

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Transformations help to **stabilize the variance**.

For ARIMA modelling, we also need to **stabilize the mean**.

# Non-stationarity in the mean

## Identifying non-stationary series

- time plot.
- The ACF of stationary data drops to zero relatively quickly
- The ACF of non-stationary data decreases slowly.
- For non-stationary data, the value of  $r_1$  is often large and positive.

## Differencing

- Differencing helps to **stabilize the mean**.
- First differencing: *change* between consecutive observations:  $y'_t = y_t - y_{t-1}$ .
- Seasonal differencing: *change* between years:  $y'_t = y_t - y_{t-m}$ .
- Sometimes two differences need to be applied (but never more).

# Automatic differencing

Statistical tests to determine the required order of differencing.

- 1 Augmented Dickey Fuller test: null hypothesis is that the data are **non-stationary** and non-seasonal.
- 2 Kwiatkowski-Phillips-Schmidt-Shin (KPSS) test: null hypothesis is that the data are **stationary** and non-seasonal.

## Seasonal strength

STL decomposition:  $y_t = T_t + S_t + R_t$

Seasonal strength  $F_s = \max\left(0, 1 - \frac{\text{Var}(R_t)}{\text{Var}(S_t + R_t)}\right)$

If  $F_s > 0.64$ , do one seasonal difference.

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# R commands

- Lag 1 difference: `difference(y)`
- Seasonal difference: `difference(y, lag = 4)`
- KPSS test: `unitroot_kpss(y)`
- Seasonal strength: `feat_stl(y, .period = 4)`
- Automatic first differencing: `unitroot_ndiffs(y)`
- Automatic seasonal differencing:  
`unitroot_nsdiffs(y, .period = 4)`

# Relationship to random walks

A random walk is the process:

$$y_t = y_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t$$

where  $\varepsilon_t$  is a white noise variable.

So if data did come from such a process, differencing would give white noise:

$$y_t - y_{t-1} = \varepsilon_t$$

# Relationship to random walks

A seasonal random walk is the process

$$y_t = y_{t-m} + \varepsilon_t$$

where  $\varepsilon_t$  is a white noise variable.

So if data did come from such a process, seasonal differencing would give white noise:

$$y_t - y_{t-m} = \varepsilon_t$$

# Relationship to random walk with drift

A random walk with drift is the process:

$$y_t = c + y_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t$$

where  $\varepsilon_t$  is a white noise variable.

So if data did come from such a process, differencing would give white noise with non-zero mean

$$y_t - y_{t-1} = c + \varepsilon_t$$

- $c$  is the **average change** between consecutive observations.

# Backshift operator notation

- $B$  shifts the data back one period.  $By_t = y_{t-1}$
- $B^2$  shifts the data back two periods:  $B(By_t) = B^2y_t = y_{t-2}$
- A difference can be written as  $(1 - B)y_t$
- A  $d$ th-order difference can be written as  $(1 - B)^d y_t$
- A seasonal difference followed by a first difference can be written as  $(1 - B)(1 - B^m)y_t$