

FORECASTING STAT0010

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'Lecture 8' Outline

- 1 Box Jenkins, so far
- 2 Forecasting (AR)
- 3 Forecasting (MA)
- 4 Forecasting (ARMA)

The Box-Jenkins methodology for forecasting

1 Model identification

- **Plot** data, **ACF**, and **PACF**. **Difference** if required. Try to deduce model type.
- Decide on reasonable values for p, d, q, P, D, Q, s .

2 Parameter estimation

- Using the model and values of (the model orders) p, q , etc. from the first step, estimate (via **least squares** or otherwise) the unknown parameters, $\mu, \phi_1, \dots, \phi_p, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_k, \Phi_1, \dots, \Theta_1, \Theta_2, \dots$, etc.

3 Verification

Check model obtained from 1 & 2 by looking at **residuals**. Use **ACF**, **PACF** **t-tests**, R^2 , **Box-Pierce**, **AIC**, etc.

- Good? Goto 4 (or goto 2 and try to **overfit**, etc.)
- Bad? Goto 1 & decide on new model

4 Forecasting

Check list

- ➊ plot series [ts.plot]
- ➋ plot ACF [acf], PACF [pacf]
- ➌ Use describe to check mean (constant terms?) & variance (if, e.g. $\text{var}(\nabla Y) \gg \text{var}(Y)$ you might have overdifferenced), symmetry of distribution (e.g. t-tests and especially AIC work 'better' on normal distribution)
- ➍ Check non-stationarity. If non-stat., take $\nabla_{\tau}^{??}$ and goto ➊
- ➎ Make a shortlist of a few candidate models. Use arima command to estimate model (and produce residuals)
- ➏ Check standard errors of estimated parameters to check whether you have overfitted (i.e. used a model with too many parameters)
- ➐ check residuals (plot time series, ACF, PACF), R^2 , Ljung-Box-Pierce. (ACF or PACF might suggest why your model is wrong.)
- ➑ If all looks good, try overfitting (and goto ➎)
- ➒ Pick a few of the better models and compute AIC, AIC_c , and/or BIC.
- ➓ Give one, and only one, answer! Don't just follow this checklist! You can also use (a little bit of) your own initiative!!!

Definition 1

Consider series Y_1, \dots, Y_T up to time T . Assuming correct model of the data is known, the h -step ahead forecast is defined as

$$\hat{Y}_{T+h} := \mathbb{E}(Y_{T+h} | Y_T, Y_{T-1}, \dots, Y_1), \quad h \geq 1.$$

Here, T is called the (forecast) origin, and h the horizon or lead-time.

Lemma 2

\hat{Y}_{T+h} minimises the mean square error:

$$MSE(c) := \mathbb{E}((Y_{T+h} - c)^2 | Y_T, \dots, Y_1).$$

'Proof' Let \hat{Y} be the prediction of some random variable Y , with $\mu := \mathbb{E}(Y)$. Then, the mean square error is

$$\begin{aligned} MSE(\hat{Y}) &= \mathbb{E}((Y - \hat{Y})^2) \\ &= \mathbb{E}(((Y - \mu) + (\mu - \hat{Y}))^2) \\ &= \mathbb{E}((Y - \mu)^2) + 2(\mu - \hat{Y})\mathbb{E}(Y - \mu) + (\mu - \hat{Y})^2 \\ &= \text{var}(Y) + (\mu - \hat{Y})^2. \end{aligned}$$

$$MSE(\hat{Y}) = \text{var}(Y) + (\mu - \hat{Y})^2.$$

But, $(\mu - \hat{Y})^2 \geq 0$, with equality iff $\hat{Y} = \mu = \mathbb{E}(Y)$. Hence,

$$MSE(\mathbb{E}(Y)) = \min_{\hat{Y}} MSE(\hat{Y}),$$

i.e. the mean of the variable (that we are trying to predict) minimises the mean square prediction error.

To finish proof, put $Y = Y_{T+h}$ and replace $\mathbb{E}(\cdot)$ with $\mathbb{E}(\cdot | Y_T, \dots, Y_1)$. ■

Alternative 'proof'

$$MSE(\hat{Y}) = \mathbb{E}((Y - \hat{Y})^2),$$

Differentiate:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{d\hat{Y}} \mathbb{E}((Y - \hat{Y})^2) &= \mathbb{E} \left(\frac{d}{d\hat{Y}} (Y - \hat{Y})^2 \right) \\ &= -2 \mathbb{E}(Y - \hat{Y}) \quad [\text{chain rule}] \end{aligned}$$

Now put this equal to 0, to get $\hat{Y} = \mathbb{E}(Y)$ and note 2nd derivative is positive, hence $\mathbb{E}(Y)$ minimises MSE . ■

Consider stationary $AR(1)$ process with non-zero mean:

$$Y_t = \mu + \phi_1(Y_{t-1} - \mu) + \epsilon_t.$$

Example 3 (One-step ahead forecast)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \hat{Y}_{T+1} &= \mathbb{E}(Y_{T+1} | Y_T, \dots, Y_1) \\
 &= \mathbb{E}(\mu + \phi_1(Y_T - \mu) + \epsilon_{T+1} | Y_T, \dots, Y_1) \\
 &= \mu + \phi_1 \mathbb{E}(Y_T | Y_T, \dots, Y_1) - \phi_1 \mu + \cancel{\mathbb{E}(\epsilon_{T+1} | Y_T, \dots, Y_1)} \rightarrow 0 \\
 &= \mu + \phi_1(Y_T - \mu).
 \end{aligned}$$

Consider stationary $AR(1)$ process with non-zero mean:

$$Y_t = \mu + \phi_1(Y_{t-1} - \mu) + \epsilon_t.$$

Example 4 (Two-step ahead forecast)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \hat{Y}_{T+2} &= \mathbb{E}(Y_{T+2} | Y_T, \dots, Y_1) \\
 &= \mathbb{E}(\mu + \phi_1(Y_{T+1} - \mu) + \epsilon_{T+2} | Y_T, \dots, Y_1) \\
 &= \mu + \phi_1 \mathbb{E}(Y_{T+1} | Y_T, \dots, Y_1) - \phi_1 \mu + \cancel{\mathbb{E}(\epsilon_{T+2} | Y_T, \dots, Y_1)} \rightarrow 0 \\
 &= \mu + \phi_1(\hat{Y}_{T+1} - \mu) \\
 &= \mu + \phi_1(\mu + \phi_1(Y_T - \mu) - \mu) \quad [from \text{Example 3}] \\
 &= \mu + \phi_1^2(Y_T - \mu).
 \end{aligned}$$

Remark 5

The one and two step ahead forecasts for a stationary $AR(1)$ process with non-zero mean:

$$Y_t = \mu + \phi_1(Y_{t-1} - \mu) + \epsilon_t,$$

are

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{Y}_{T+1} &= \mu + \phi_1(Y_T - \mu) \\ \hat{Y}_{T+2} &= \mu + \phi_1^2(Y_T - \mu).\end{aligned}$$

Similarly, the h -step ahead forecast is

$$\hat{Y}_{T+h} = \mu + \phi_1^h(Y_T - \mu).$$

Note, since $\{Y_t\}$ stationary, we have $|\phi_1| < 1$. Hence,

$$\hat{Y}_{T+h} \rightarrow \mu, \quad \text{as } h \rightarrow \infty.$$

I.e., to make predictions for an infinite time into the future, the best we can do is use the mean of the series to make long term predictions.

$\hat{Y}_{T+h} \rightarrow \mu$ holds for all stationary $ARMA$ models.

Definition 6 (Forecast error)

Define the h -step ahead forecast error, with origin T , by

$$e_T(h) = Y_{T+h} - \hat{Y}_{T+h}.$$

Example 7 (AR(1) one-step ahead forecast is unbiased)

For the AR(1) case,

$$Y_{T+1} = \mu + \phi_1(Y_T - \mu) + \epsilon_{T+1} \quad [\text{from model defn.}]$$

$$\hat{Y}_{T+1} = \mu + \phi_1(Y_T - \mu) \quad [\text{from Example 3}]$$

Hence,

$$e_T(1) = Y_{T+1} - \hat{Y}_{T+1} = \epsilon_{T+1},$$

i.e. $\mathbb{E}(e_T(1)) = \mathbb{E}(\epsilon_{T+1}) = 0$. Therefore, the forecast \hat{Y}_{T+1} is unbiased.

Example 8 (AR(1) forecast variance)

$$\text{var}(e_T(1)) = \text{var}(\epsilon_{T+1}) = \sigma^2.$$

Remark 9 (Interpretation of $\mathbb{E}(e_T(1)) = 0$ and $\text{var}(e_T(1)) = \sigma^2$)

If you simulate $AR(1)$ lots of times and estimate 1-step ahead forecast for each realisation, then,

- the expected forecast error will be zero
- the forecast error variance will be σ^2

$AR(1)$ errors for longer term forecasts can be found by representing $AR(1)$ as $MA(\infty)$. Recall:

$$Y_t - \mu = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \phi_1^j \epsilon_{t-j}. \quad [AR(1) \text{ as an } MA(\infty) \text{ model}]$$

$$\hat{Y}_{T+h} = \mu + \phi_1^h (Y_T - \mu) \quad [\text{from Remark 5}]$$

Now,

$$\begin{aligned} e_T(h) &= Y_{T+h} - \hat{Y}_{T+h} \\ &= \mu + \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \phi_1^j \epsilon_{T+h-j} - (\mu + \phi_1^h (Y_T - \mu)) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
e_T(h) &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \phi_1^j \epsilon_{T+h-j} - (\phi_1^h (Y_T - \mu)) \\
&= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \phi_1^j \epsilon_{T+h-j} - \phi_1^h \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \phi_1^{\ell} \epsilon_{T-\ell} \quad [\text{write } Y_T - \mu \text{ as } MA(\infty)] \\
&= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \phi_1^j \epsilon_{T+h-j} - \phi_1^h \sum_{k=h}^{\infty} \phi_1^{k-h} \epsilon_{T+h-k} \quad [\text{put } \ell = k - h] \\
&= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \phi_1^j \epsilon_{T+h-j} - \sum_{k=h}^{\infty} \phi_1^k \epsilon_{T+h-k} \\
e_T(h) &= \sum_{j=0}^{h-1} \phi_1^j \epsilon_{T+h-j}
\end{aligned}$$

$$e_T(h) = \sum_{j=0}^{h-1} \phi_1^j \epsilon_{T+h-j}$$

The h -step ahead forecasts are unbiased, since

$$\mathbb{E}(e_T(h)) = \mathbb{E} \sum_{j=0}^{h-1} \phi_1^j \epsilon_{T+h-j} = \sum_{j=0}^{h-1} \phi_1^j \mathbb{E}(\epsilon_{T+h-j}) = 0$$

The forecast error variance is

$$\begin{aligned} \text{var}(e_T(h)) &= \text{var} \sum_{j=0}^{h-1} \phi_1^j \epsilon_{T+h-j} \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{h-1} \phi_1^{2j} \text{var}(\epsilon_{T+h-j}) \quad [\{\epsilon_t\} \text{ is serially uncorrelated}] \\ &= \sigma^2 \sum_{j=0}^{h-1} \phi_1^{2j} \quad [\text{var}(\epsilon_t) = \sigma^2, \forall t] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{var}(e_T(h)) &= \sigma^2 \sum_{j=0}^{h-1} \phi_1^{2j} \\
 &= \sigma^2 \frac{1 - \phi_1^{2h}}{1 - \phi_1^2} \quad [\text{geometric series}]
 \end{aligned}$$

Note, since $\{Y_t\}$ is stationary, $|\phi_1| < 1$, and $\text{var}(e_T(h))$ increases as h increases. In the limit:

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow \infty} \text{var}(e_T(h)) = \frac{\sigma^2}{1 - \phi_1^2} = \text{var}(Y).$$

Remark 10 (As forecast horizon $h \rightarrow \infty$)

- forecasts tend to mean of process
- forecasts error variance tends to variance of process

I.e. a finite data set cannot help forecast a long way into future

Example 11 (On board)

Consider problem of forecasting $MA(1)$ process, with non-zero mean:

$$Y_t = \mu + \epsilon_t - \theta_1 \epsilon_{t-1}.$$

Example 12 (One-step ahead forecast)

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{Y}_{T+1} &= \mathbb{E}(Y_{T+1} | Y_T, \dots, Y_1) \\ &= \mathbb{E}(\mu + \epsilon_{T+1} - \theta_1 \epsilon_T | Y_T, \dots, Y_1) \quad [model\ equation] \\ &= \mu + \mathbb{E}(\epsilon_{T+1} | Y_T, \dots, Y_1) - \theta_1 \mathbb{E}(\epsilon_T | Y_T, \dots, Y_1) \quad [\epsilon_{T+1} \perp Y_{1:T}]^a \\ &= \mu - \theta_1 \epsilon_T \quad [assuming\ we\ knew\ \epsilon_T]^b\end{aligned}$$

I.e., one-step ahead prediction error is

$$\begin{aligned}e_T(1) &= Y_{T+1} - \hat{Y}_{T+1} \\ &= (\mu + \epsilon_{T+1} - \theta_1 \epsilon_T) - (\mu - \theta_1 \epsilon_T) \quad [model\ eqn.\ and\ above\ result] \\ &= \epsilon_{T+1}.\end{aligned}$$

^aDefine $Y_{1:T} := Y_1, \dots, Y_T$

^bExplained later

$$e_T(1) = \epsilon_{T+1}.$$

Hence, for $MA(1)$ model, expected one-step ahead forecast error is

$$\mathbb{E}(e_T(1)) = \mathbb{E}(\epsilon_{T+1}) = 0,$$

and variance of one-step ahead forecast error is

$$\text{var}(e_T(1)) = \text{var}(\epsilon_{T+1}) = \sigma^2.$$

Example 13 ($h \geq 2$ -step ahead forecast)

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{Y}_{T+h} &= \mathbb{E}(Y_{T+h} | Y_T, \dots, Y_1) \\ &= \mathbb{E}(\mu + \epsilon_{T+h} - \theta_1 \epsilon_{T+h-1} | Y_T, \dots, Y_1) \quad [\text{model equation}] \\ &= \mu + \mathbb{E}(\epsilon_{T+h} | Y_T, \dots, Y_1) - \theta_1 \mathbb{E}(\epsilon_{T+h-1} | Y_T, \dots, Y_1) \\ &= \mu, \end{aligned}$$

$0, h \geq 2$

where the $\mathbb{E}(\cdot | Y_{1:T}) = 0$ are due to $\epsilon_{T+h} \perp Y_{1:T}$ for $h \geq 1$ and $\epsilon_{T+h-1} \perp Y_{1:T}$, for $h \geq 2$.

$$\hat{Y}_{T+h} = \mu.$$

Hence, for $MA(1)$ model, the h -step ahead forecast error is

$$e_T(h) = Y_{T+h} - \hat{Y}_{T+h} = \mu + \epsilon_{T+h} - \theta_1 \epsilon_{T+h-1} - \mu.$$

The mean h -step ahead forecast error is

$$\mathbb{E}(e_T(h)) = \mathbb{E}(\epsilon_{T+h} - \theta_1 \epsilon_{T+h-1}) = 0,$$

and variance of h -step ahead forecast error is

$$\text{var}(e_T(h)) = \text{var}(\epsilon_{T+h} - \theta_1 \epsilon_{T+h-1}) = \text{var}(Y_{T+h}) = \text{var}(Y).$$

Remark 14 (Summary, $MA(1)$ forecasts)

	$h = 1$	$h \geq 2$
\hat{Y}_{T+h}	$\mu - \theta_1 \epsilon_T$	μ
$e_T(h)$	ϵ_{T+1}	$\epsilon_{T+h} - \theta_1 \epsilon_{T+h-1}$
$\mathbb{E}(e_T(h))$	0	0
$\text{var}(e_T(h))$	σ^2	$\text{var}(Y)$

Proposition 15 (recall footnote in Example 12)

Consider **invertible** $MA(1)$ model. For large T :

$$\mathbb{E}(\epsilon_T | Y_T, \dots, Y_1) = \epsilon_T.$$

'Proof' Consider zero-mean $MA(1)$ process, $Y_t = (1 - \theta_1 B)\epsilon_t$. Since $\{Y_t\}$ is invertible, we have, at time T :

$$\epsilon_T = (1 - \theta_1 B)^{-1} Y_T = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \theta_1^j Y_{T-j}.$$

I.e., given Y_T, Y_{T-1}, \dots , for large T , we can find $\epsilon_T, \epsilon_{T-1}, \dots$. Hence

$$\mathbb{E}(\epsilon_T | Y_T, Y_{T-1}, \dots) = \epsilon_T, \quad T \text{ large.}$$

I.e. expected observed white noise is the observed white noise (!);
expected unobserved (future) white noise is zero.

In practice, assuming correct model and good estimates (large T), the residuals $\varepsilon_T := Y_{T+1} - \mathbb{E}(Y_{T+1} | Y_{1:T})$ can be used to approximate the required white noise terms:

$$\varepsilon_T \approx \epsilon_T.$$

Consider stationary and invertible, zero-mean $ARMA(p, q)$ process:

$$Y_t = \sum_{j=1}^p \phi_j Y_{t-j} + \epsilon_t + \sum_{k=1}^q \theta_k \epsilon_{t-k}.$$

The h -step ahead forecast, with origin T is

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{Y}_{T+h} &= \mathbb{E}(Y_{T+h} | Y_T, \dots, Y_1) && [\text{define } Y_{1:T} := Y_1, \dots, Y_T] \\ &= \mathbb{E}\left(\sum_{j=1}^p \phi_j Y_{T+h-j} + \epsilon_{T+h} - \sum_{k=1}^q \theta_k \epsilon_{T+h-k} \middle| Y_{1:T}\right) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^p \phi_j \mathbb{E}(Y_{T+h-j} | Y_{1:T}) + \cancel{\mathbb{E}(\epsilon_{T+h} | Y_{1:T})} - \sum_{k=1}^q \theta_k \mathbb{E}(\epsilon_{T+h-k} | Y_{1:T}) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^p \phi_j \hat{Y}_{T+h-j} - \sum_{k=1}^q \theta_k \mathbb{E}(\epsilon_{T+h-k} | Y_{1:T}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\hat{Y}_{T+h} = \sum_{j=1}^p \phi_j \hat{Y}_{T+h-j} - \sum_{k=1}^q \theta_k \mathbb{E}(\epsilon_{T+h-k} | Y_{1:T})$$

Now, note that,

Corollary 16

From Proposition 15 (unobserved [future] white noise has zero-mean):

$$\mathbb{E}(\epsilon_{T+k} | Y_{1:T}) = \begin{cases} \epsilon_{T+k}, & k \leq 0 \\ 0, & k > 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \mathbb{E}(\epsilon_{T+h-k} | Y_{1:T}) = \begin{cases} \epsilon_{T+h-k}, & k \geq h \\ 0, & k < h \end{cases}$$

i.e.

$$\hat{Y}_{T+h} = \sum_{j=1}^p \phi_j \hat{Y}_{T+h-j} - \sum_{k=h}^q \theta_k \epsilon_{T+h-k}.$$

Remark 17

To investigate forecast error, it is 'convenient' to express the model as an MA process.

Theorem 18 (Recall lecture 4)

Let $\{Y_t\}$ be a stationary $ARMA(p, q)$ process, with $\mathbb{E}(Y_t) = \mu$, $AR(p)$ characteristic polynomial

$$\phi(B) := 1 - \sum_{j=1}^p \phi_j B^j,$$

and $MA(q)$ characteristic polynomial

$$\theta(B) := 1 - \sum_{j=1}^q \theta_j B^j.$$

I.e. $\phi(B)(Y_t - \mu) = \theta(B)\epsilon_t$. Then

$$\exists \psi(B) = \frac{\theta(B)}{\phi(B)} =: \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \psi_j B^j,$$

such that

$$Y_t - \mu = \psi(B)\epsilon_t.$$

Corollary 19

Any stationary $ARMA(p, q)$ process can be written as

$$Y_t - \mu = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \psi_j \epsilon_{t-j}.$$

Proof (Trivial?) By definition, $\phi(B)(Y_t - \mu) = \theta(B)\epsilon_t$. Hence,

$$Y_t - \mu = \frac{\theta(B)}{\phi(B)} \epsilon_t = \psi(B) \epsilon_t = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \psi_j B^j \epsilon_t. \quad \blacksquare$$

Corollary 20

Let Y_t be a stationary and invertible $ARMA(p, q)$ process. Then the h -step ahead forecast error, with origin T , satisfies:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(e_T(h)) &= 0, \\ \text{var}(e_T(h)) &= \sigma^2 \sum_{j=0}^{h-1} \psi_j^2. \end{aligned}$$

Proof Since $\{Y_t\}$ stationary, we have, from Corollary 19,

$$Y_{T+h} = \mu + \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \psi_j \epsilon_{T+h-j}.$$

The h -step ahead forecast with origin T is

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{Y}_{T+h} &= \mathbb{E}(Y_{T+h} | Y_{1:T}) \\ &= \mathbb{E}\left(\mu + \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \psi_j \epsilon_{T+h-j} \middle| Y_{1:T}\right) \\ &= \mu + \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \psi_j \mathbb{E}(\epsilon_{T+h-j} | Y_{1:T}) \\ &= \mu + \sum_{j=h}^{\infty} \psi_j \epsilon_{T+h-j}, \end{aligned}$$

since we have (for invertible $\{Y_t\}$), from Corollary 16 that:

$$\mathbb{E}(\epsilon_{T+j} | Y_{1:T}) = \begin{cases} \epsilon_{T+j}, & j \leq 0 \\ 0, & j > 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \mathbb{E}(\epsilon_{T+h-j} | Y_{1:T}) = \begin{cases} \epsilon_{T+h-j}, & j \geq h \\ 0, & j < h \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
e_T(h) &= Y_{T+h} - \hat{Y}_{T+h} \\
&= \mu + \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \psi_j \epsilon_{T+h-j} - \mu - \sum_{j=h}^{\infty} \psi_j \epsilon_{T+h-j} \\
&= \sum_{j=0}^{h-1} \psi_j \epsilon_{T+h-j}.
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, for any stationary, invertible $ARMA(p, q)$ process:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}(e_T(h)) &= \mathbb{E} \sum_{j=0}^{h-1} \psi_j \epsilon_{T+h-j} \\
&= \sum_{j=0}^{h-1} \psi_j \mathbb{E}(\epsilon_{T+h-j}) \rightarrow 0 \\
&= 0.
\end{aligned}$$

Also,

$$\begin{aligned}\text{var}(e_T(h)) &= \text{var} \sum_{j=0}^{h-1} \psi_j \epsilon_{T+h-j} \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{h-1} \psi_j^2 \text{var}(\epsilon_{T+h-j}) \\ &= \sigma^2 \sum_{j=0}^{h-1} \psi_j^2. \quad \blacksquare\end{aligned}$$