

# Machine Learning for Time Series

## (MLTS or MLTS-Deluxe Lectures)

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Machine Learning and Data Analytics (MaD) Lab  
Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg  
18.10.2022

## Organisational Information

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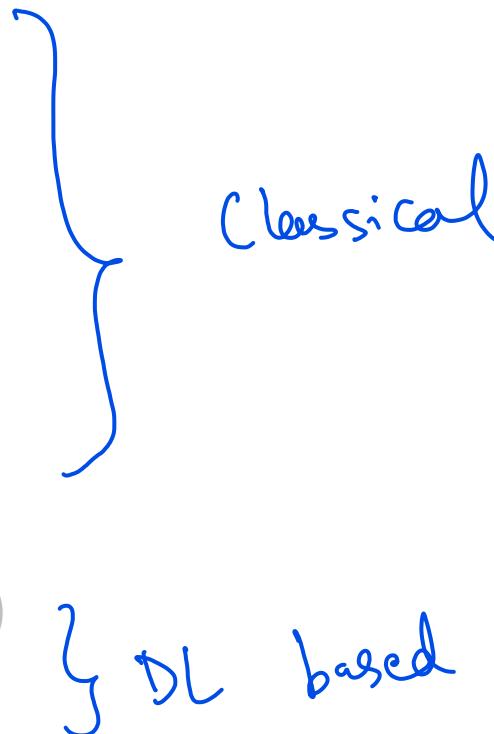
### Machine Learning for time series

- 5 ECTS
- Lectures + Exercises

### ~~Machine Learning for Time Series (Deluxe)~~

- ~~7.5 ECTS~~
- ~~Lectures + Exercises + Project~~

- Time series fundamentals and definitions (2 lectures) ↙
- Bayesian Inference (1 lecture)
- Gaussian processes (2 lectures)
- State space models (2 lectures)
- Autoregressive models (1 lecture)
- Data mining on time series (1 lecture)
- Deep learning on time series (4 lectures)
- Domain adaptation (1 lecture)



Classical

DL based

## Lectures (online)

A new lecture recording is generally released every **Thursday** on FAU.TV

Consultation hours by appointment, write to [dario.zanca@fau.de](mailto:dario.zanca@fau.de)

## Exercises (online)

Live Zoom Session starting on November 3rd

Recordings from previous editions are available at <https://www.fau.tv/course/id/3178>

## StudOn 2023-2024:

<https://www.studon.fau.de/crs5276833.html>

## Written Exam (5 ECTS)

- 70% from lectures, 30% from exercises
- On-campus

Both important  
May have additional topics.

## Machine Learning and Data Analytics (MaD) Lab

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- Prof. Dr. Björn Eskofier, [bjoern.eskofier@fau.de](mailto:bjoern.eskofier@fau.de)

\* Please, address all your correspondence about the course to Dr. Dario Zanca

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## Exercises, responsibles:

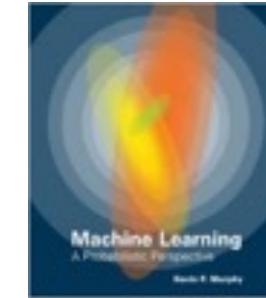
- Richard Dirauf (M.Sc.), [richard.dirauf@fau.de](mailto:richard.dirauf@fau.de)
- Philipp Schlieper (M.Sc.), [philipp.schlieper@fau.de](mailto:philipp.schlieper@fau.de)

## References

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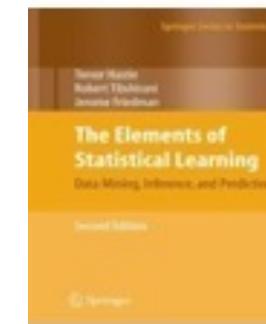
### **Machine learning: A Probabilistic Perspective,**

by Kevin Murphy (2012)



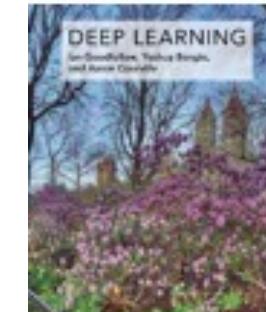
### **The Elements of Statistical Learning: Data Mining, Inference, and Prediction**

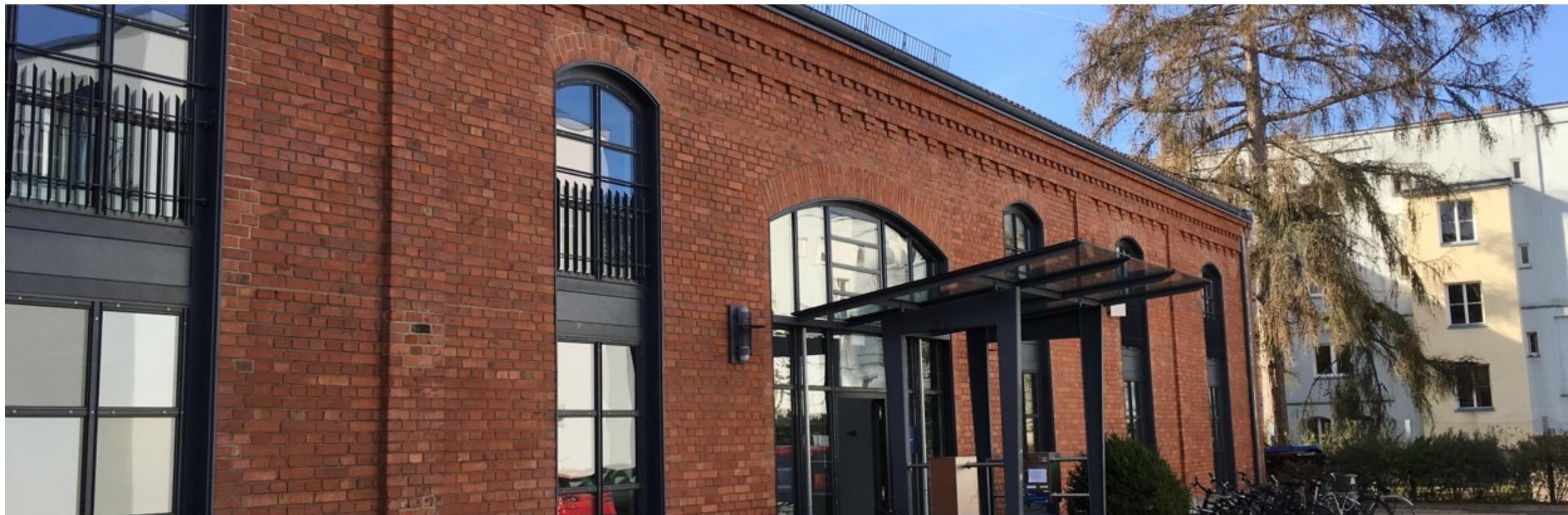
by Trevor Hastie, Robert Tibshirani, and Jerome Friedman (2009)



### **Deep Learning**

by Ian Goodfellow, Yoshua Bengio, and Aaron Courville (2016)





# Time series fundamentals

## Motivations



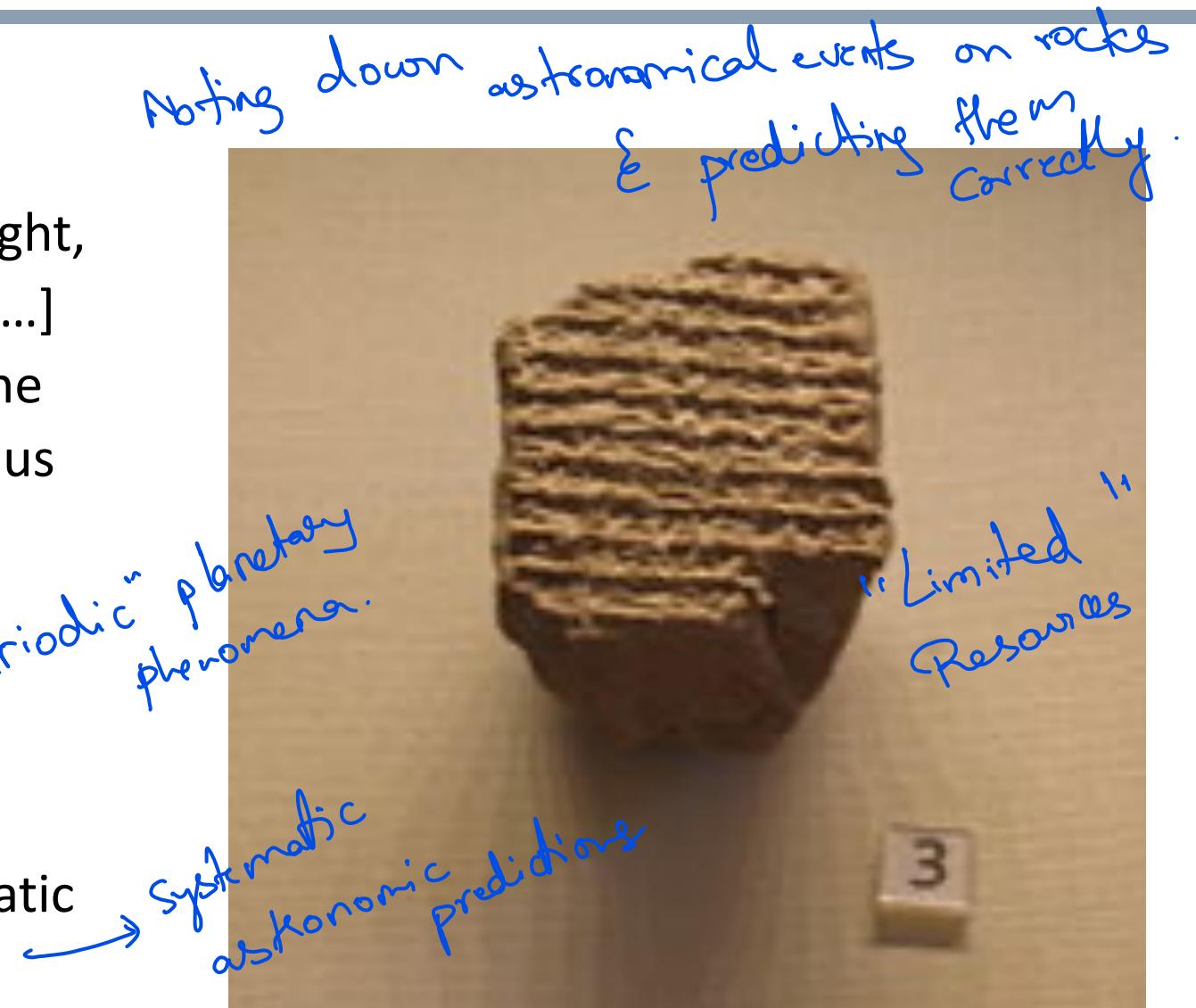
## An old history of time series analysis: Babylonian astronomical diaries

VII century B.C.

"[...] Night of the 5<sup>th</sup>, beginning of the night,  
the moon was 2 ½ cubits behind Leonis [...] ]

Night of the 17<sup>th</sup>, last part of the night, the  
moon stood 1 ½ cubits behind Mars, Venus  
was below."

- Babylonians collected the earliest evidence of periodic planetary phenomena
- Applied their mathematics for systematic astronomic predictions



## An old history of time series analysis: Babylonian astronomical diaries

Ground based + Space based

telescopes

Nowadays, thousands of ground-based and space-based telescopes<sup>(a)</sup> generate new knowledge every night.

- The Vera C. Rubin Observatory in Chile is geared up to collect 20 terabytes per night from 2022<sup>(b)</sup>.
- The Square Kilometre Array, the world's largest radio telescope, will generate up to 2 petabytes daily, starting in 2028.
- The Very Large Array (ngVLA) will generate hundreds of petabytes annually.

still math tools & statistic  
tools are important.

far more > than  
what humans can  
process.



(a) <https://research.arizona.edu/stories/space-versus-ground-telescopes>

(b) <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02284-7>

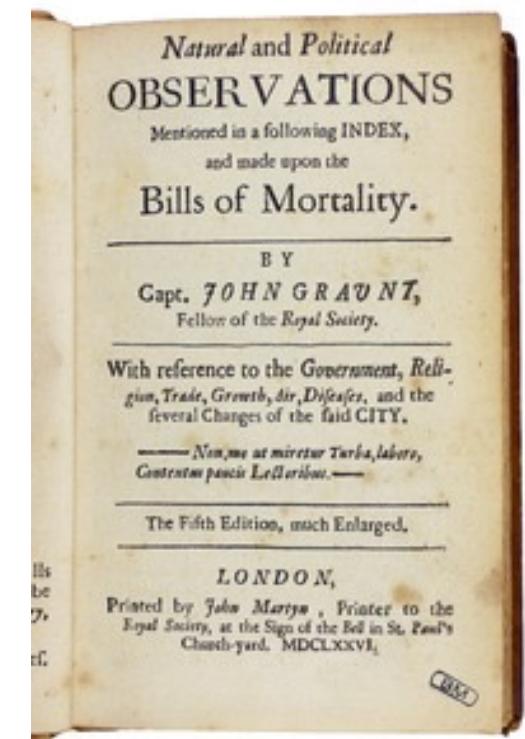
# An old history of time series analysis: The Birth of Epidemiology

1662, John Graunt describes the data collection:

"When anyone dies, [...] the same is known to the Searchers, corresponding with the said Sexton. The Searchers hereupon...examine by what Disease, or Casualty the corps died. Hereupon they make their Report to the Parish-Clerk, and he, every Tuesday night, carries in an Accompt of all the Burials, and Christnings, hapning that Week, to the Clerk of the Hall."

Collection in a systematic way.  
Allows repeatability of Experiment

Observations.



# An old history of time series analysis: The Birth of Epidemiology

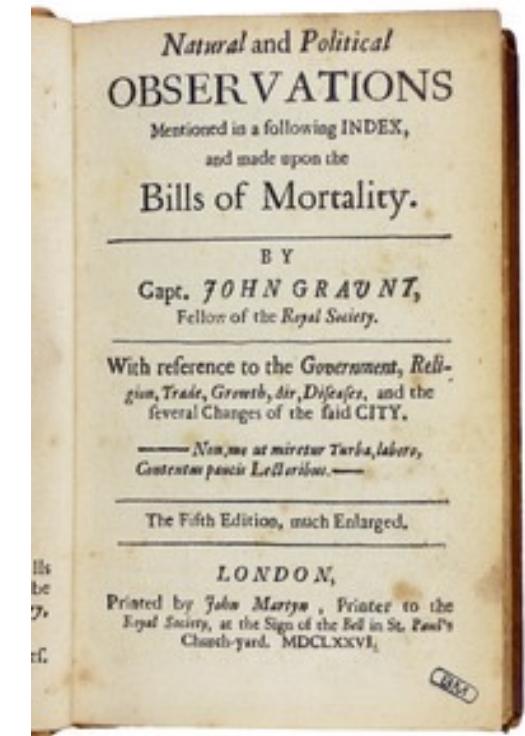
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Basic / Baseless Conclusions ?

- Rudimentary conclusions about the mortality and morbidity of certain diseases
- Graunt's work is still used today to study population trends and mortality

Still in usage.



## Importance of time series

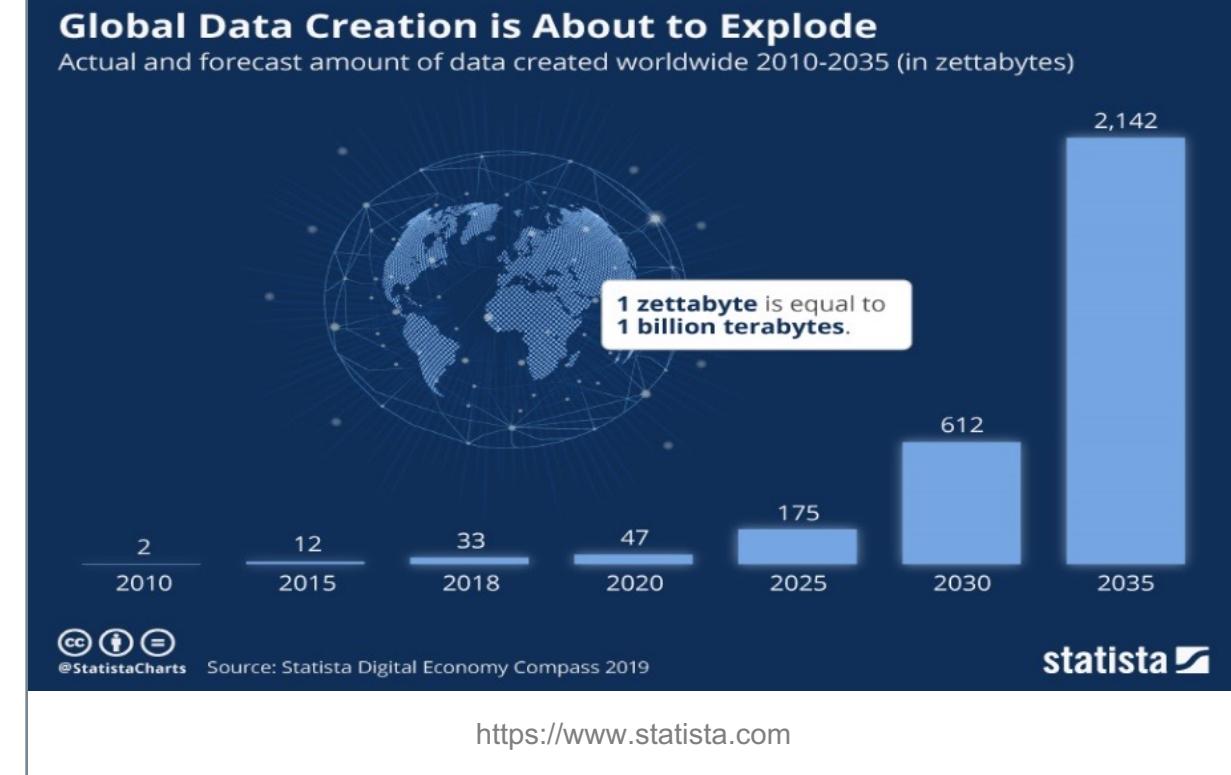
Machine learning on time series is becoming increasingly important because of the massive production of time series data from diverse sources, e.g.,

- Digitalization in healthcare
- Internet of things
- Smart cities
- Process monitoring

Explosion  
of time  
series  
data.

Massive production.  
of data.

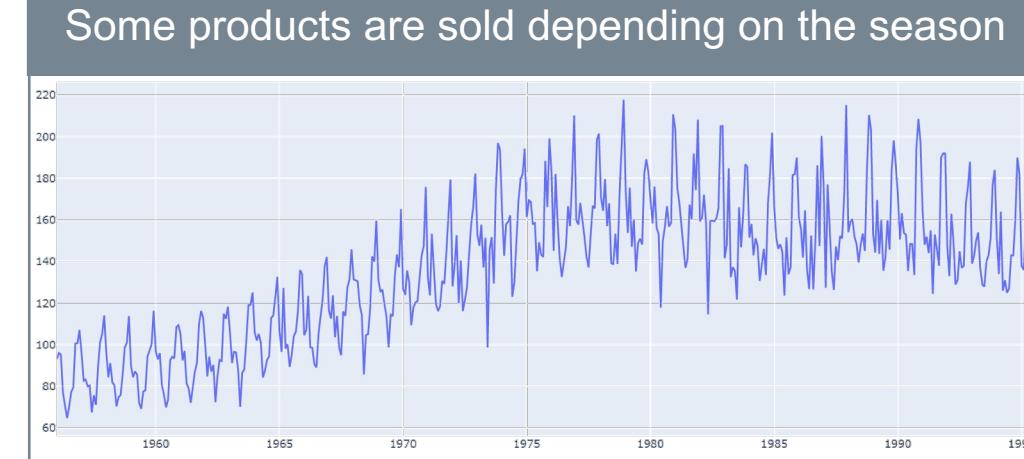
The amount of created data increased from two zettabytes in 2010 to 47 zettabytes in 2020



## Example: Predicting demand of **amazon** products

Amazon sells 400 million products in over 185 countries<sup>(a)</sup>.

- Maintaining surplus inventory levels for every product is cost-prohibitive.
- Predict future demand of products



*Amazon researchers  
tried to predict "predictive Shipping"*

# Example: Predicting demand of **amazon** products

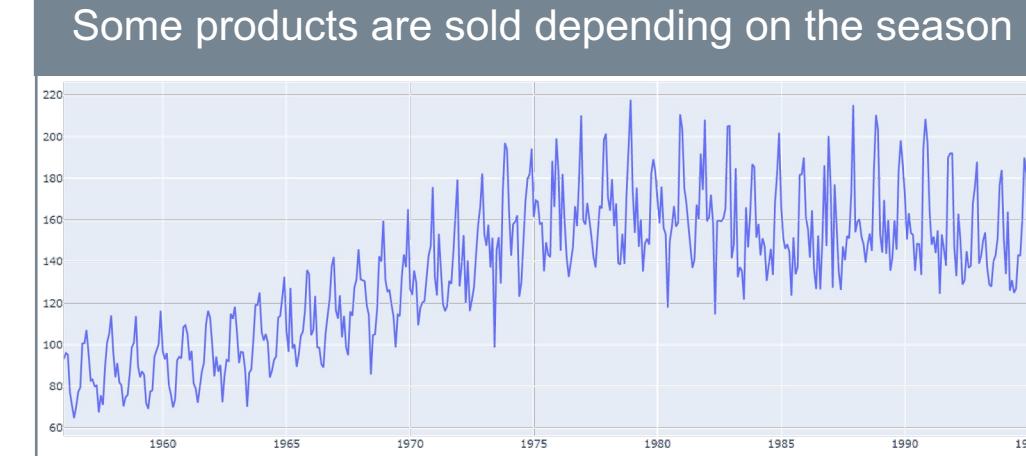
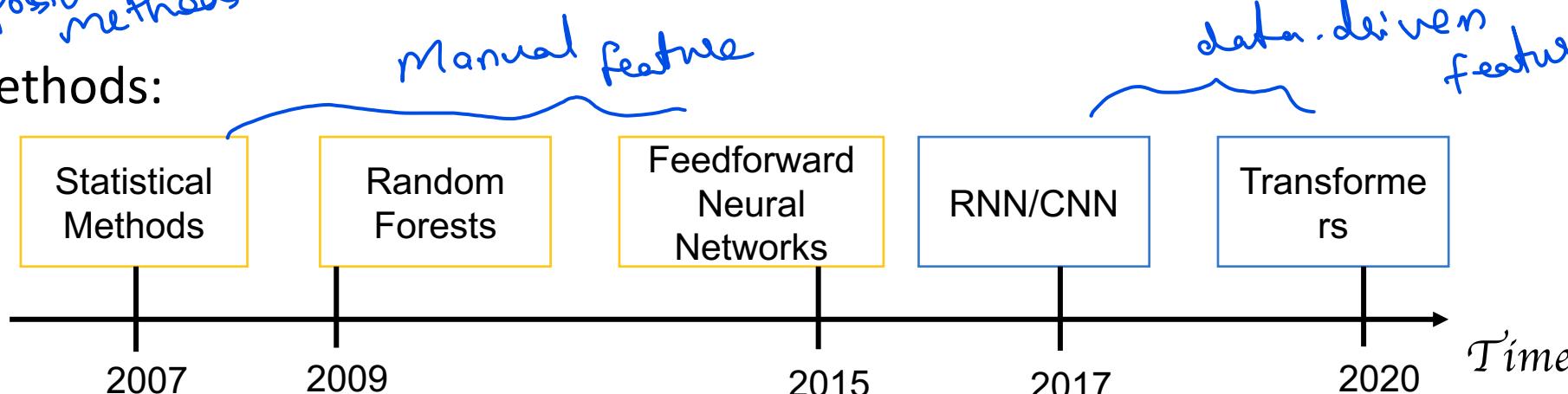
*Seasonal products?*

Amazon sells 400 million products in over 185 countries<sup>(a)</sup>.

- Maintaining surplus inventory levels for every product is cost-prohibitive.
- Predict future demand of products

*All possible methods:*

Methods:



- First models required manual feature engineering
- New methods are fully data-driven

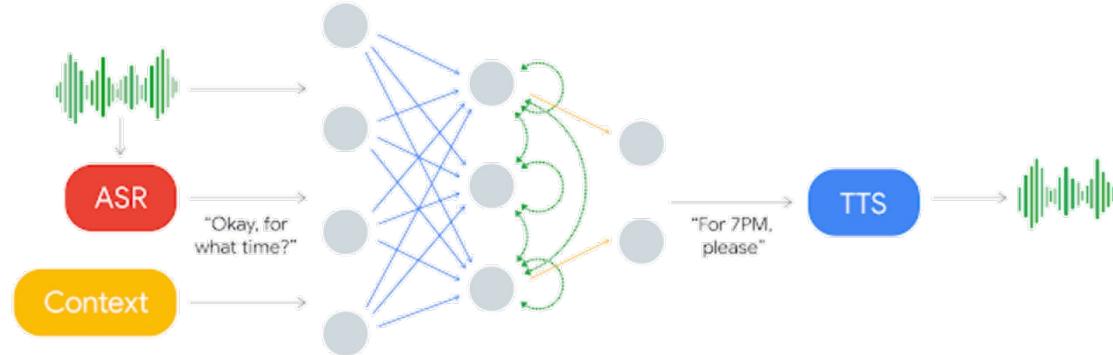
## Example: Google Duplex makes tedious phone calls

Long standing goal of making humans having a natural conversation with machines, as they would with each other.

- Carry out real-world tasks over the phone

feel world  
conversations.  
natural conversations.

+ Language-Generation  
+ Voice Synthesizer.



- Additional audio features
- Automatic speech recognition
- Desired service, time/day



E.g., Duplex calling a restaurant.

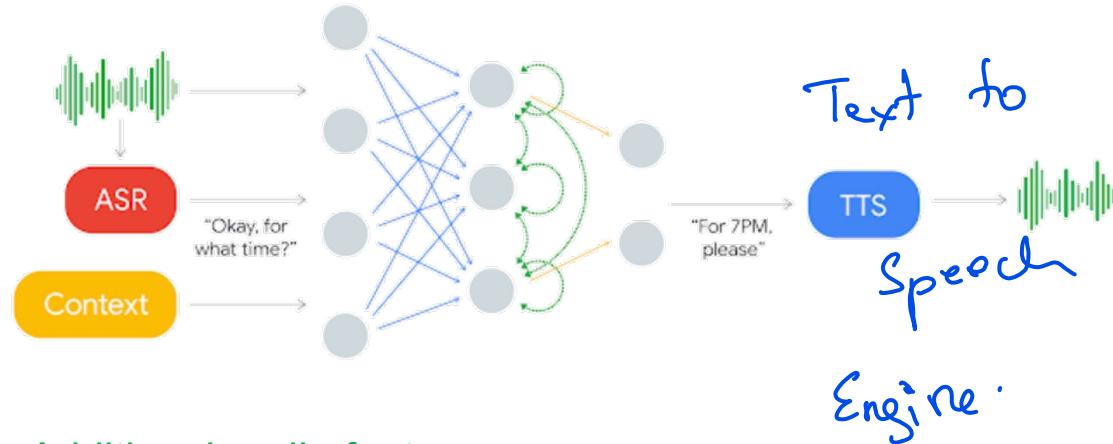
## Example: Google Duplex makes tedious phone calls

**Method:** An RNNs with several features. We use a combination of text to speech (TTS) engine and a synthesis TTS engine to control intonation (e.g., “hmm”s and “uh”s).

(natural way)

**Limitations:** trained on specific tasks. Cannot deal general conversations.

Problem  
specific  
NOT Generic.



- Additional audio features
- Automatic speech recognition
- Desired service, time/day



E.g., Duplex calling a restaurant.

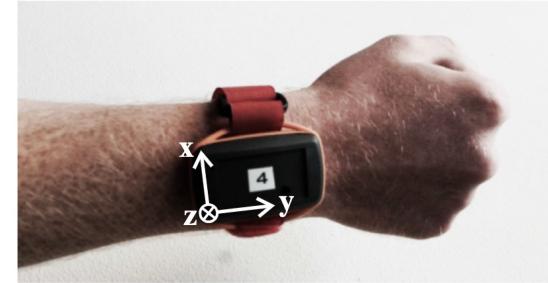
## Example: Activity recognition in sports (FAU Erlangen)

Many injuries in sports are caused by overuse.

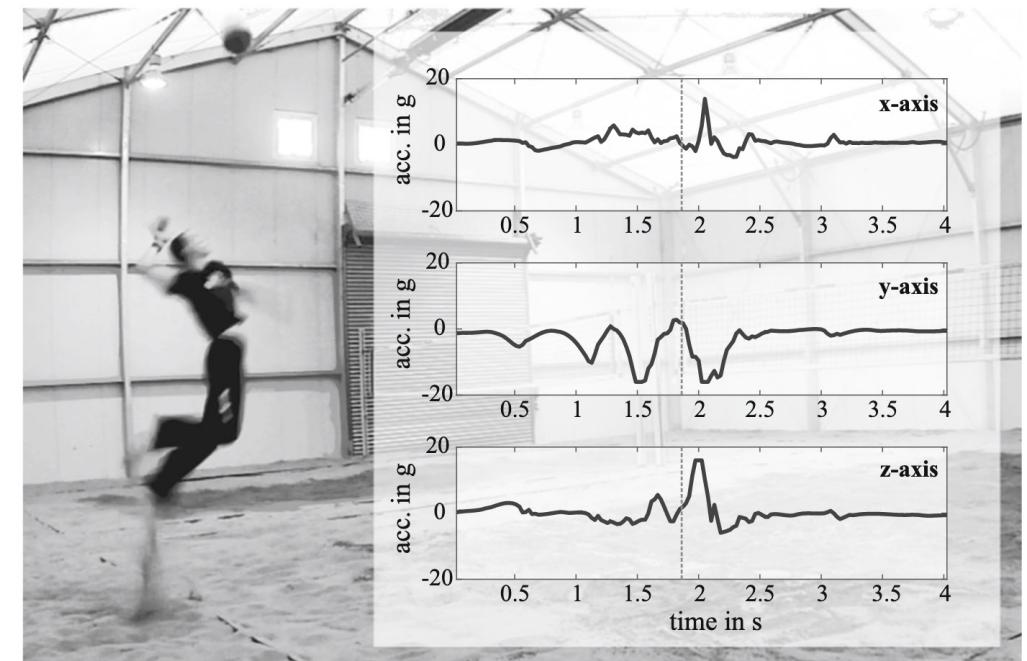
- These injuries are a major cause for reduced performance of professional and non-professional beach volleyball players.
- Monitoring of player actions could help identifying and understanding risk factors and prevent such injuries.

Professional  
Non-professional

Injuries  
Causes:



Sensor attachment at the wrist of the dominant hand with a soft, thin wristband



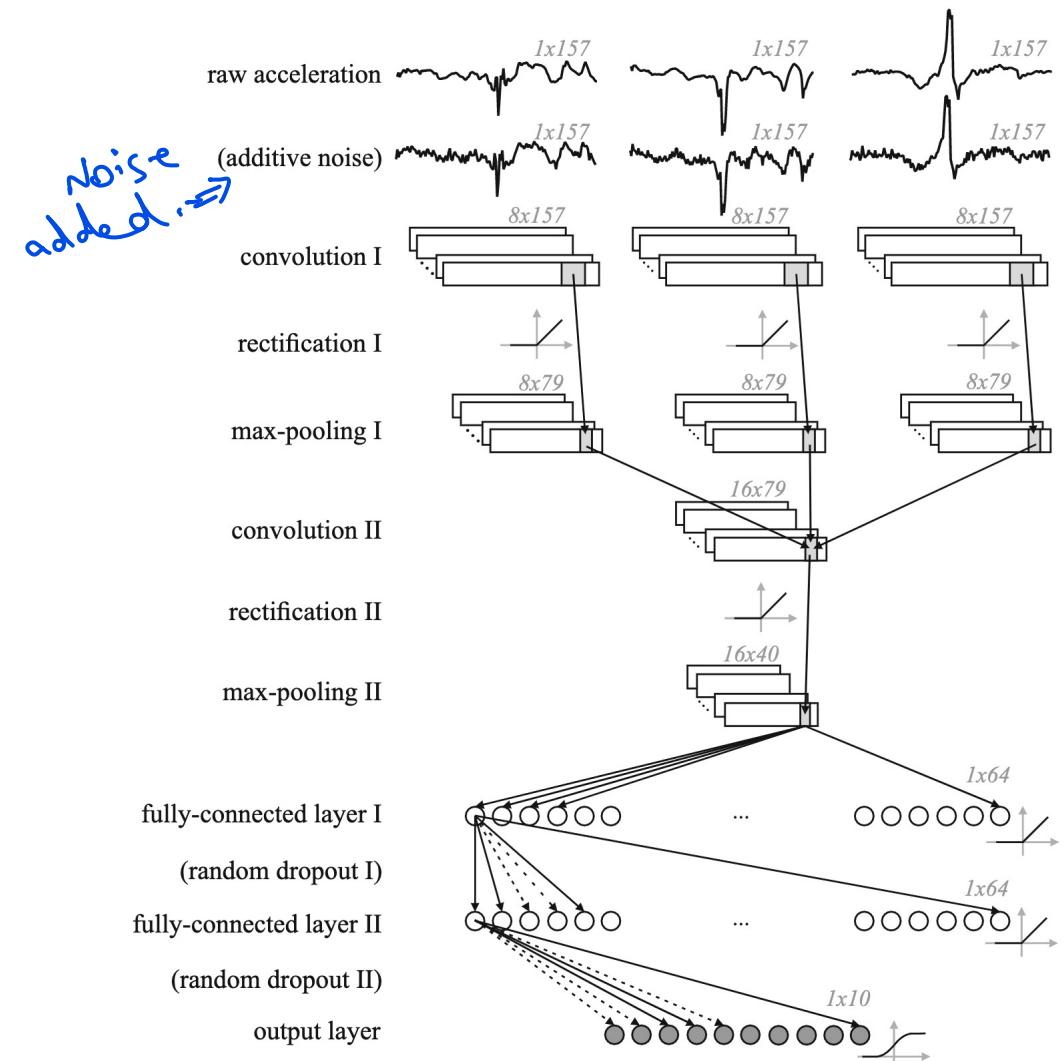
## Example: Activity recognition in sports (FAU Erlangen)

Method: A CNN is used to classify players' activities. Classifications allow to create players' profiles.

CNN - classify .

Actions:

- Underhand serve
- Overhand serve
- Jump serve
- Underarm set
- Overhead set
- Shot attack
- Spike
- Block
- Dig
- Null class.





# Time series fundamentals

## Definitions and basic properties

*formal definitions*



## What is a time series?

set of observations,  
taken sequentially in time. FAU

A time series can be described as a set of observations, taken sequentially in time,

If independent  
observations  $\Rightarrow$  no prediction.

$$S = \{s_1, \dots, s_T\}$$

where  $s_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$  is the measured state of the observed process at time  $t_i$ .

$\hookrightarrow$  'd' dimensional vector space.

$\hookrightarrow$  measured state of observed process at time  $t_i$

Typically, observations are generally dependent - typical - dependent observations.

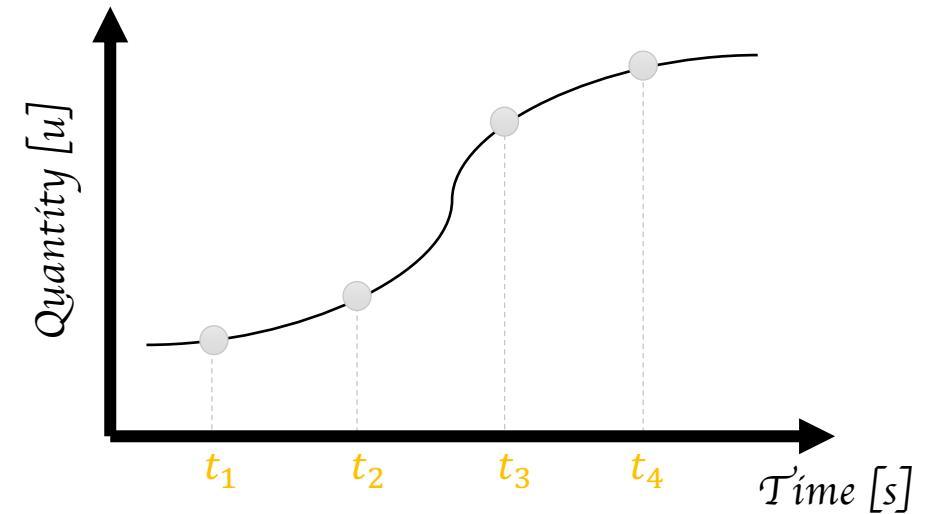
- Studying the nature of this dependency is of particular interest
- Time series analysis is concerned with techniques for the analysis of these dependencies
  - $\hookrightarrow$  Analyse dependencies using techniques.

## Terminology: Regularly Sampled vs Irregularly Sampled

Discrete time series are **regularly sampled** if their observations are equally spaced in time.

$$\forall i \in \{1, \dots, T - 1\},$$

$$\Delta t_i = t_{i+1} - t_i = \text{const.}$$



## Terminology: Regularly Sampled vs Irregularly Sampled

Discrete time series are **regularly sampled** if their observations are equally spaced in time.

$$\forall i \in \{1, \dots, T - 1\}, \quad \Delta t_i = t_{i+1} - t_i = \text{const.}$$

(call times)

In contrast, for **irregularly sampled** time sequences, the observations are not equally spaced.

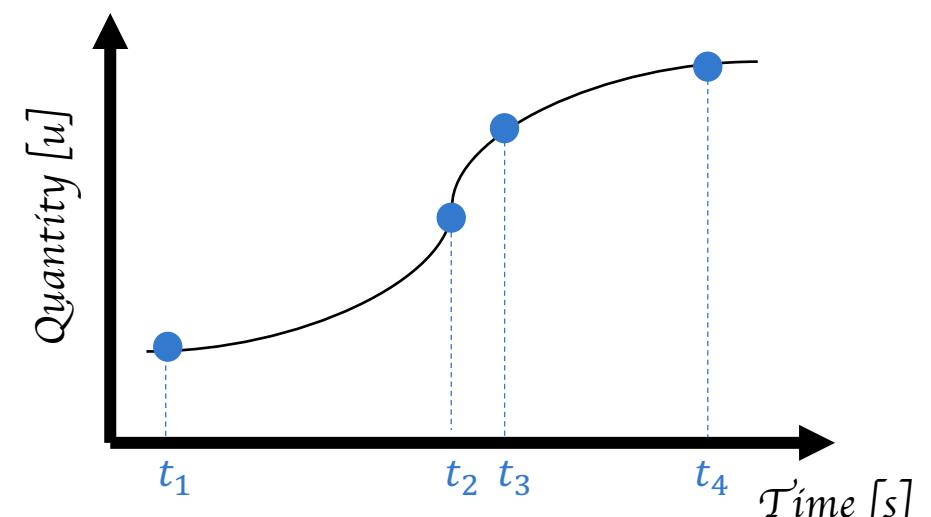
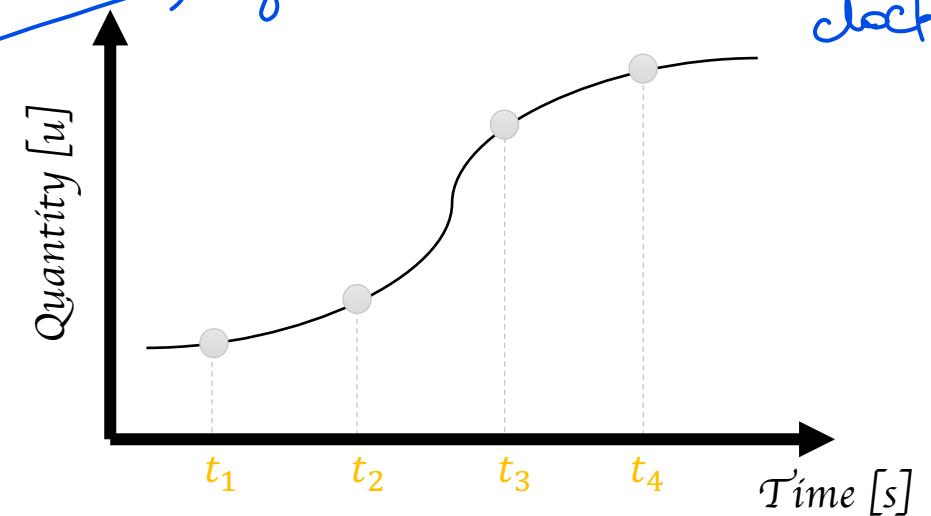
- They are generally defined as a collection of pairs

$$S = \{(s_1, t_1), \dots, (s_T, t_T)\}$$

sample, time

*equal time intervals.*

*system with precise clock.*

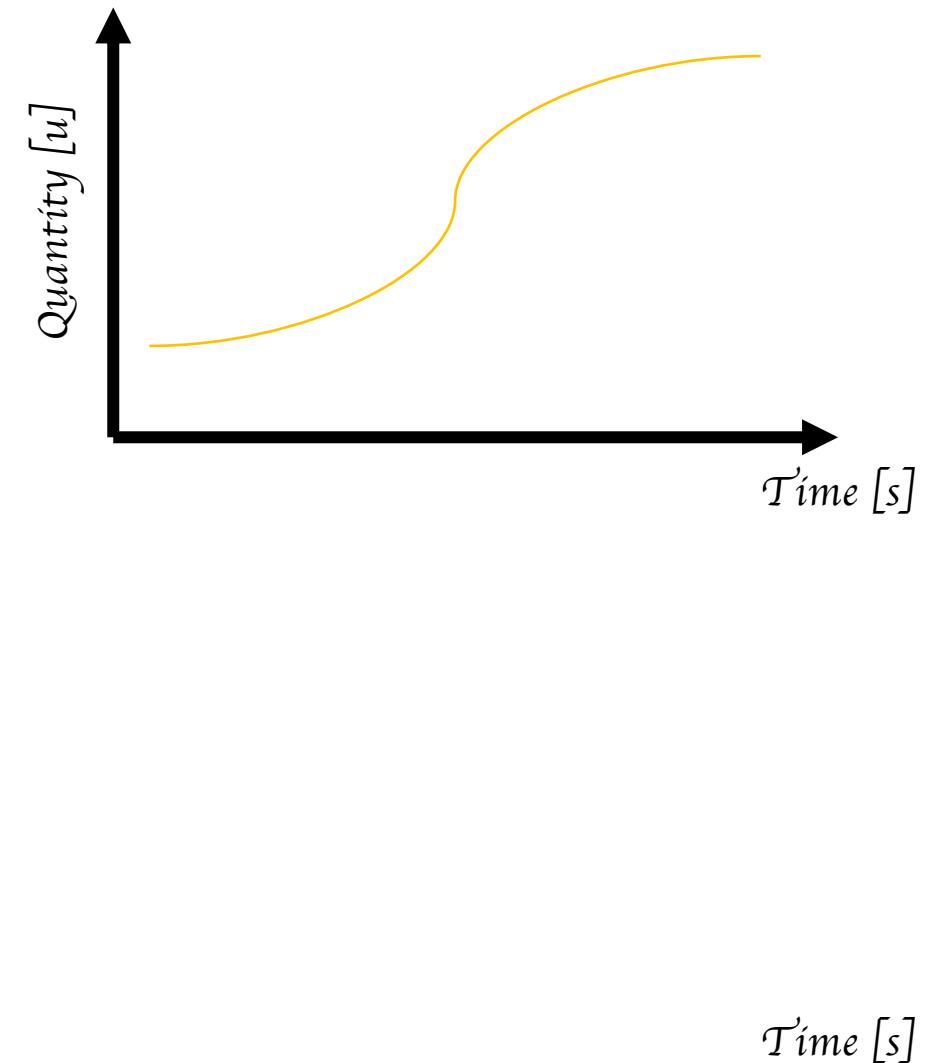


## Terminology: Univariate vs Multivariate

Let  $S = (s_1, \dots, s_T)$  be a time series,  
where  $s_i \in \mathbb{R}^d, \forall i \in \{1, \dots, T\}$ .

If  $d = 1$ ,  $S$  is said **univariate**.

- Only one variable is varying over time.



## Terminology: Univariate vs Multivariate

Let  $S = (s_1, \dots, s_T)$  be a time series,

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If  $d = 1$ ,  $S$  is said **univariate**.

- Only one variable is varying over time.

If  $d > 1$ ,  $S$  is said **multivariate**.

- Multiple variables are varying over time

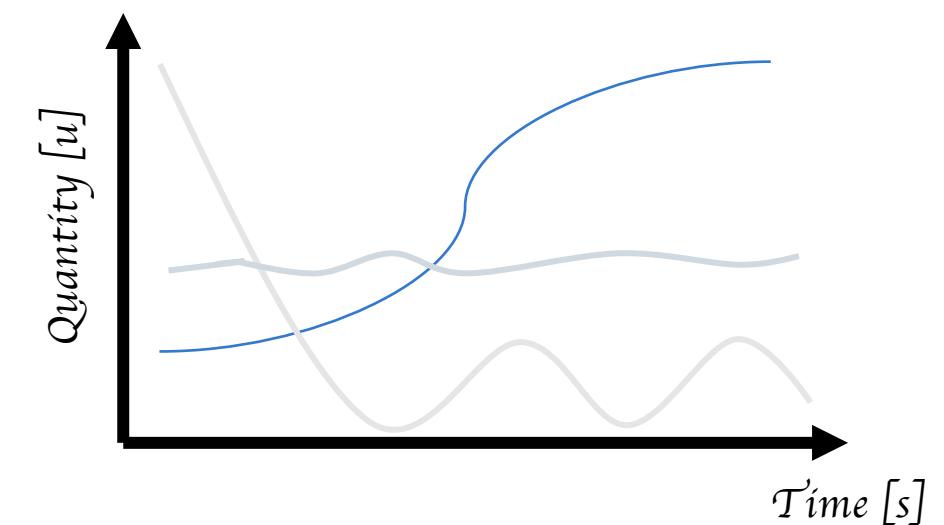
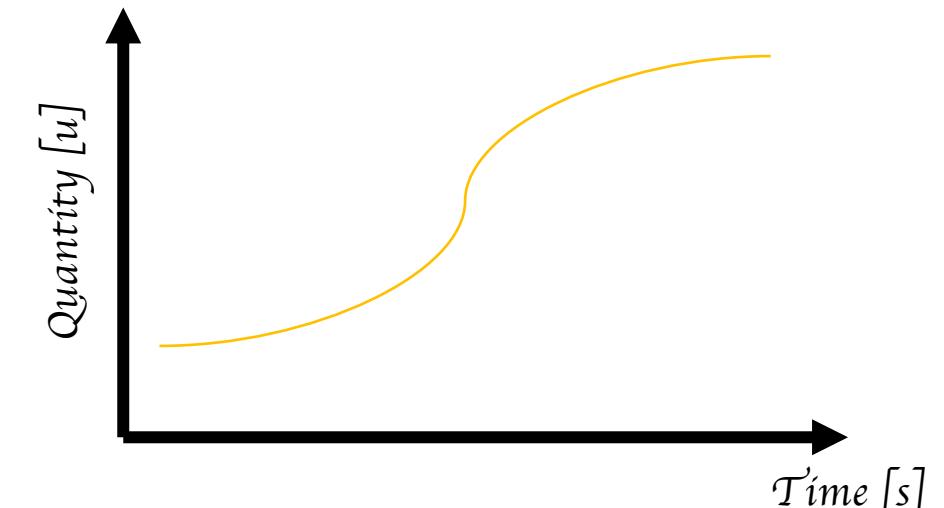
- E.g., tri-axial accelerometer

measurements

One variable  
varying over  
time.

Many variables  
vary over time

↳ tri-axial



## Terminology: Discrete vs Continuous

A time series is said to be continuous if observations are made at each instant of time, even when its measurements consist only of a discrete set of values.

- E.g., the number of people in a room.

each instant of time.

↳ Irrespective of y  
'x' continuous.

→ Specific times / intervals.

A time series is said to be discrete if observations are taken at specific times. Discrete time series can arise in different ways:

- Sampled (e.g., daily rainfall)  
↳ Going down
- Aggregated (e.g., monthly reports of daily rainfalls)  
↳ Going Up.

Sample  
Aggregate.

## Terminology: Discrete vs Continuous

$d \gg 1$   
(multiple variables  
are varying at a time)

We will denote as mixed-type a multivariate time series consisting of both continuous and discrete observations

- E.g., a time series consisting of continuous sensor values and discrete event log for the monitoring of an industrial machine

Sensor - continuous  
logs - discrete.

## Terminology: Periodic

A time series is said **periodic** if there exists a number  $\tau \in \mathbb{R}$ , called *period*, such that

If after some time ;  
back to initial state. It repeats.

$$s_i = s_{i+\tau}, \forall i \in \{1, \dots, T - \tau\}$$

Every  $\tau$  observations ;  
value gets repeated ; not just initial

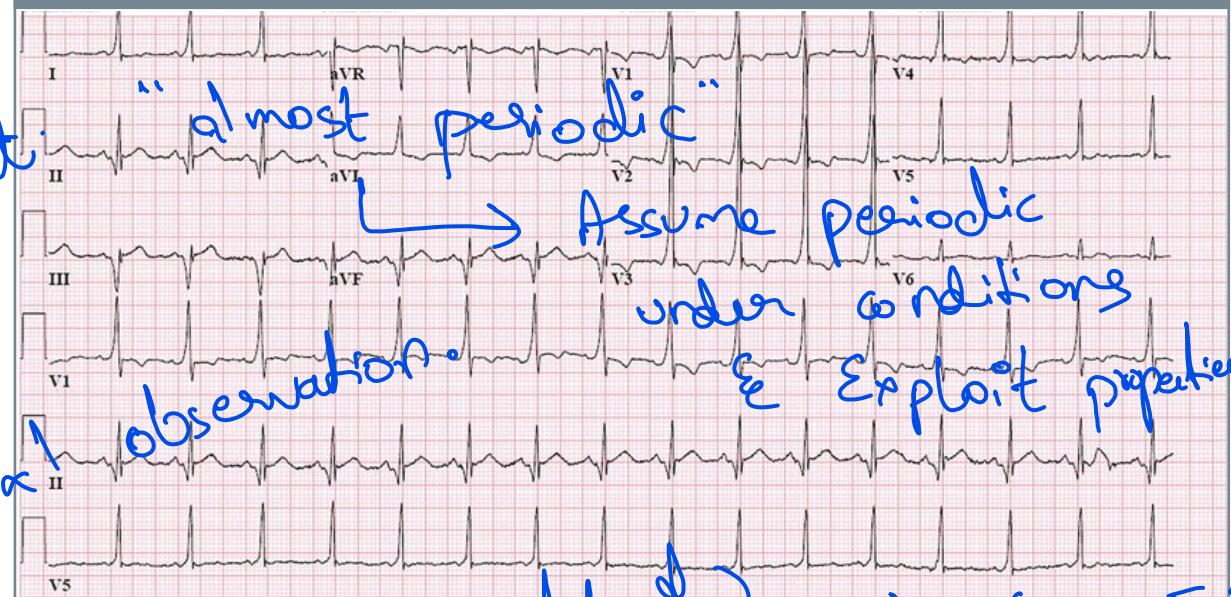
E.g., the continuous time series defined by the trigonometric function

$$f(x) = \sin(x)$$

Period exists.

not exactly changing periodically.

Is the biological signal of an heartbeat a periodic function?



(indexes ; matched)  $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, T - \tau\}$

$$s_{T-\tau} = s_{T-\tau} + \tau$$

## Terminology: Deterministic vs Non-Deterministic

A deterministic time series is one that could be expressed explicitly by an analytical expression.

System of Equations without randomness.

- Observations are generated from a system with no randomness.

In contrast, a non-deterministic time series can not be described by an analytic expression. A time series may be non-deterministic because :

- The information necessary to describe the process is not fully observable, or
- The process generating the time series is inherently random

→ NOT fully observable process.

↳ Arises in real world because of

↳ Random process generation.

Non-determinism understood as stochastic process

FAU

## Stochastic Process

↳ defined set of random variables.

Non-deterministic time series can be regarded as manifestations (equiv., realization) of a **stochastic process**, which is defined as a set of random variables  $\{X_t\}_{t \in \{1, \dots, T\}}$

Even if we were to imagine having observed the process for an infinite period  $T$  of time, the infinite sequence

$$S = \{\dots, s_{t-1}, s_t, s_{t+1}, \dots\} = \{s_t\}_{t=-\infty}^{+\infty}$$

would still be a single **realization** from that process.

Stochastic process  
mathematical  
realization.

Stochastic process → ∞ Time period ???

## Stochastic Process

Still, if we had a battery of  $N$  computers generating series  $S^{(1)}, \dots, S^{(N)}$ , and considering selecting the observation at time  $t$  from each series,

$$\{s_t^{(1)}, \dots, s_t^{(N)}\}$$

{Series of series}

this would be described as a sample of  $N$  realizations of the random variable  $X_t$

Drawing relationship b/w  $X_t$  (random variable)  
and  $s_t$  (time series)

## Stochastic Process

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this would be described as a sample of  $N$  realizations of the random variable  $X_t$

This random variable  $X_t$  is associated with an **unconditional density**, denoted by

function of  
time series.

$$f_{X_t}(s_t)$$

→ unconditional density.

- E.g., for the Gaussian white noise process  $f_{X_t}(s_t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{\frac{-s_t^2}{2\sigma^2}}$

## Stochastic Process

The unconditional mean is the expectation, provided it exists, of the  $t$ -th observation, i.e.,

$$E(X_t) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} s_t f_{X_t}(s_t) ds_t = \mu_t$$

Similarly, the variance of the random variable  $X_t$  is defined as

$$E(X_t - \mu_t)^2 = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (s_t - \mu_t)^2 f_{X_t}(s_t) ds_t$$

Expectation. <sup>of</sup>  $(X_t - \mu_t)^2$

## Stochastic Process

Superscript is for  
ith computer.

FAU

Given any particular realization  $S^{(i)}$  of a stochastic process (i.e., a time series), we can define the vector of the  $j + 1$  most recent observations

Random variable from  $i$ th computer at time  $t$

$$x_t^i = [s_{t-j}^{(i)}, \dots, s_t^{(i)}]$$

old  $\xrightarrow{\text{New}}$   $s_{\cdot}^{(\cdot)}$

$t-j$   $j+1$  recent observations

We want to know the probability distribution of this vector  $x_t^i$  across realizations. We can calculate the  $j$ -th autocovariance

$j$ -th Auto covariance

$$\gamma_{jt} = E(X_t - \mu_t)(X_{t-j} - \mu_{t-j})$$

concept:

## Stationarity

If neither  $\mu_t$  or  $\gamma_{jt}$ ,  $t$

If neither the mean  $\mu_t$  or the autocovariance  $\gamma_{jt}$  depend on the temporal variable  $t$ , then the process is said to be **(weakly) stationary.**

weakly stationary.

E.g., let the stochastic process  $\{X_t\}_{t=-\infty}^{+\infty}$  represent the sum of a constant  $\mu$  with a Gaussian white noise process  $\{\epsilon_t\}_{t=-\infty}^{+\infty}$ , such that

$$X_t = \mu + \epsilon_t$$

geometr

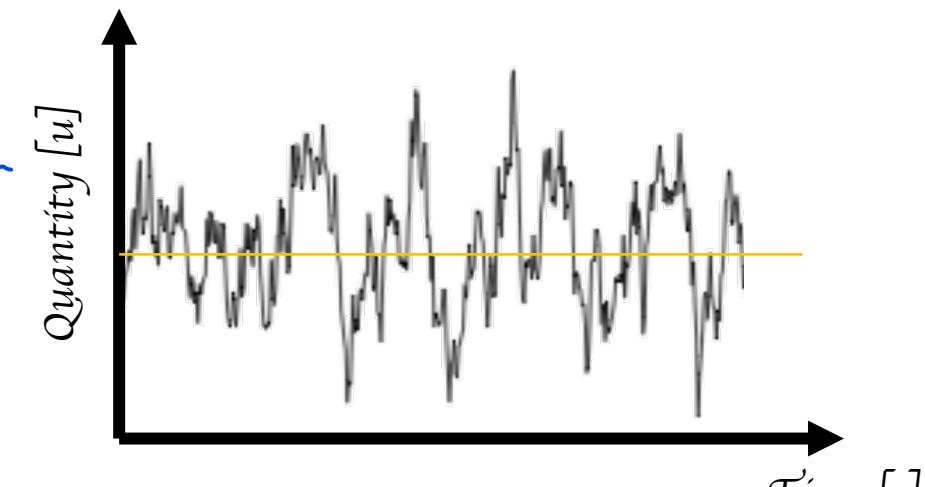
Then, its mean is constant:  $E(X_t) = \mu + E(\epsilon_t) = \mu$

and its  $j$ -th autocovariance:  $E(X_t - \mu)(X_{t-j} - \mu) = \gamma_j$

Auto Covariance

of Gaussian noise.

Sum of const ; Gaussian.



$t$  constant variance.

## Stationarity

Stationary process -

If neither the mean  $\mu_t$  or the autocovariance  $\gamma_{jt}$  depend on the temporal variable  $t$ , then the process is said to be (**weakly**) stationary.

E.g., let the stochastic process  $\{X_t\}_{t=-\infty}^{+\infty}$  represent the sum of a constant  $\mu$  with a Gaussian white noise process  $\{\epsilon_t\}_{t=-\infty}^{+\infty}$ , such that

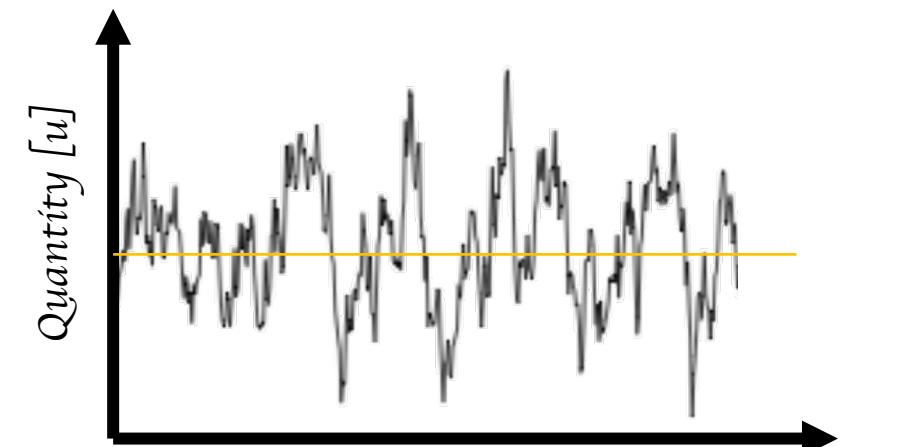
$$X_t = \mu + \epsilon_t$$

Then, its mean is constant:  $E(X_t) = \mu + E(\epsilon_t) = \mu$

and its  $j$ -th autocovariance:  $E(X_t - \mu)(X_{t-j} - \mu) = \gamma_j$



In other words: A process is said to be stationary if the process statistics do not depend on time.



*Not . Time statistics*

## Ergodicity

Given a time series, denoted by  $S^{(i)} = \{s_1^{(i)}, \dots, s_T^{(i)}\}$ , we can compute the sample temporal average as

$$\bar{s} = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T s_t^{(i)}$$

Average overtime.

The ergodicity of a time series bind the concept of the process mean with that of temporal sample mean:

- A process is said to be ergodic if  $\bar{s}$  converges to  $\mu_t$  as  $T \rightarrow \infty$

## Ergodicity

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$$\bar{s} = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T s_t^{(i)}$$

Average over time period.

The ergodicity of a time series bind the concept of the process mean with that of temporal sample mean:

- A process is said to be ergodic if  $\bar{s}$  converges to  $\mu_t$  as  $T \rightarrow \infty$

temporal sample mean  $\Rightarrow$  process mean.

Unconditional  
mean of density.

"Process repeats itself ???"  
 $\hookrightarrow$  after time.

In other words: A process is said to be ergodic if its time statistics equals the process statistic, provided that the process is observed long enough.

$\hookrightarrow$  observed over long time.

## Example: Stationarity and Ergodicity

To clarify the concept, we give an example of stationary but not ergodic process. Suppose the mean  $\mu^{(i)}$  of the  $i$ -th realization of  $\{X_t\}_{t=-\infty}^{+\infty}$  is sampled from the normal distribution  $U(0, \lambda^2)$  and, similarly to the previous example,  $X_t^{(i)} = \mu^{(i)} + \epsilon_t$ .

Stationary not ergodic

We have that the process is stationary because:

Normal process  
+ Normal noise

$$\mu_t = E(\mu^{(i)}) + E(\epsilon_t) = 0$$

$$\gamma_{jt} = E(\mu^{(i)} + \epsilon_t)(\mu^{(i)} + \epsilon_{t-j}) = \underline{\lambda^2}$$

process statistics  
-  $\mu_t$ ,  $\gamma_{jt}$

} independent of time  $t$ .

## Example: Stationarity and Ergodicity

However, its sample temporal mean, converges to a different value than the process mean,  
i.e.,

$$\bar{s} = (1/T) \sum (\mu^{(i)} + \epsilon_t) = \mu^{(i)}$$

Mean of  
temporal samples  
computed by  
 $i^{\text{th}}$  Computer.



# Time series fundamentals

## i.i.d. observations and central limit theorems



## Time series and i.i.d. data

---

Observations collected in a time series  $S = (s_1, \dots, s_T)$  are **generally not i.i.d.**

- Observation  $s_i$  could be **dependent** on previous observations  $s_j$ , with  $j < i$
- The distribution of the underlying data generation process could change over time, i.e. it is **not identically distributed**

## Time series and i.i.d. data

→ independent identically distributed.

Observations collected in a time series  $S = (s_1, \dots, s_T)$  are generally not i.i.d.

- Observation  $s_i$  could be dependent on previous observations  $s_j$ , with  $j < i$
- The distribution of the underlying data generation process could change over time, i.e. it is **not identically distributed**

↳ could change overtime

↳ Some previous data one process  
other latest data other process.

For example:

dependency; change in underlying.

- The price of a stock today depends on its price yesterday (dependence)
- and the volatility of the stock, i.e., its dispersion of returns, might change over time (change on the underlying distribution)

## Time series and i.i.d. data

The structure of this dependence imposes challenges on the statistical data analysis of time series.

- Many tools for statistical inference are valid only for i.i.d. data

i.i.d. → statistical inference

## Time series and i.i.d. data

It might be useful to be able to assess the structure of the dependence between random variables. For this reason we make use of their correlation.

- Generally, we measure the correlation between two variables  $X_i$  and  $X_j$  with their **covariance**  $\text{Cov}(X_i, X_j)$ .
  - $\text{Cov}(X_i, X_j) = 0 \rightarrow \text{uncorrelated}$
- We measure dependence of an entire time series with a similar concept, the **long-run variance**
  - $\sigma_i^2 = \sum_{\mathbb{Z}} \text{Cov}(X_i, X_{i+h})$

Covariance = 0  $\rightarrow$  uncorrelated.

long-run variance:  
=  $\sum \text{all covariances}$

## The Central Limit Theorem

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The **Central Limit Theorem (CLT)** suggests that the sum of random variables converges to a normal distribution, under precise conditions.

More precisely, for a sequence of i.i.d. random variables  $\{X_t\}_{t \in \{1, \dots, T\}}$  with  $\mu = E(X_t)$  and  $\sigma^2 = E(X_t - \mu)^2$ , by the CLT it holds:

$$\sqrt{T} \left( \frac{1}{T} \sum_1^T X_i - \mu \right) \rightarrow \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$$

## The Central Limit Theorem

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↳ what condition?

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long-run  
variance

left converges to normal distribution.

process statistics  
do not depend  
on time

For stationary time series with mean  $\mu$  and long-run variance  $\sigma^2$  the CLT holds as before.

## Why is the CLT important?

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If the CLT holds for a time series, we can draw from a larger range of methods.

- Statistical inference depends on the possibility to take a broad view of results from a sample to the population.
- The CLT legitimizes the assumption of normality of the error terms in linear regression.

However,

- Many time series we encounter in the real world satisfy CLT assumption of independence and stationarity
- Or can be transformed into stationary time series, e.g., by differentiations or other transformations

## Why is the CLT important?

CLT satisfied? → many doors open

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Some satisfy | Some do not

It is a good idea to start by checking whether the data is independent or stationary.

↑ check process statistics

## Insight: CLT for dependent random variables

Different version of the CLT exist for dependent random variables. For example, under the assumption of a M-dependent random process<sup>(a)</sup>, we have that the following limit theorem holds:

Let  $\{X_t\}_{t \in \{1, \dots, T\}}$  be M-dependent stationary process with mean  $\mu$ , covariance  $\gamma_j$ , and denoted with  $V_M$  the variance of the mean of n observations,

Variance of mean

$$V_M := \sum_{j=-M}^M \gamma_j$$

If  $V_M > 0$ , then,

$$\sqrt{n}(X_i - \mu) \rightarrow N(0, V_M).$$

M dependent  
stationary process.  
Independent  
depkt k  
 $n+1$

independent  
 $\geq m+1$

<sup>(a)</sup> A stochastic process  $\{X_t\}_{t \in \{1, \dots, T\}}$  is said to be M-dependent if  $\{X_t\}_{t \leq k}$  are independent of the stochastic variables  $\{X_t\}_{t \geq k+M+1}$

conditions on data lost ?

statistical tools lost

sense of time dependencies

make



# Time series fundamentals

## Recap



## Recap

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Time series have long been studied in history

- Recent digitalization increases the importance of time series analysis

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Time series have long been studied in history

- Recent digitalization increases the importance of time series analysis

Properties of time series

- Regularly vs irregularly sampled
- Univariate vs multivariate
- Discrete vs continuous
- Periodic
- Deterministic vs non-deterministic
- Stationarity
- Ergodicity

## Recap

Time series have long been studied in history

- Recent digitalization increases the importance of time series analysis

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- Regularly vs irregularly sampled
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CLT only for stationary.

Central limit theorem only holds for stationary time series

- Less restrictive CLT versions exist
- Need to properly learn dependences



