

Beyond regression: time series and changepoints

Rebecca Killick(r.killick@lancs.ac.uk) Rewilding, Edinburgh Oct 2025

Process vs Statistical



- Different underlying paradigms
- Practically can look very similar

In my brain, a key difference is:

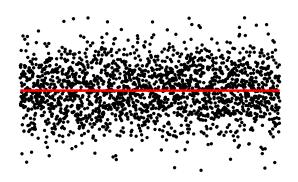
Statistical models require data to develop, process models require data to validate.

Outline



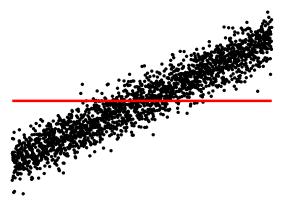
- Recap regression (linear models)
- Time series as regression
- Linear Mixed Models (Tom's talk)
- Changepoint modelling
- Monitoring for change



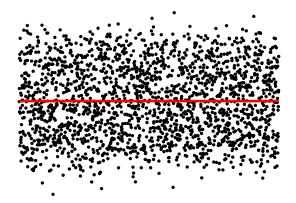




$$y_t = \mathbb{E}(\mathbf{y}) = \mu$$







Linear model



$$y_t = a + bt = \beta_1 + \beta_2 t$$



Regression



$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & n-1 \\ 1 & n \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \beta_2 \end{pmatrix} + \epsilon$$

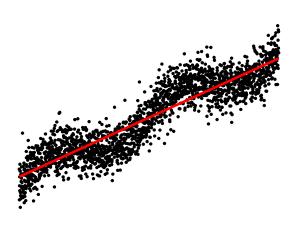
Often $\epsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$.

More generally

$$\mathbf{y} = X\beta + \epsilon$$
.

Fit using 1m in R or OLS from statsmodels in Python.

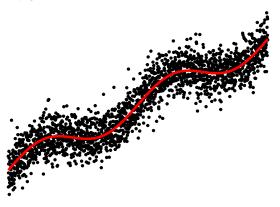
Regression



Regression



$$y_t = \beta_1 + \beta_2 t + \beta_3?$$



Seasonality



$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & & & & \\ 1 & n-1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & n & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \beta_2 \\ \beta_3 \\ \beta_4 \\ \beta_5 \end{pmatrix} + \epsilon$$

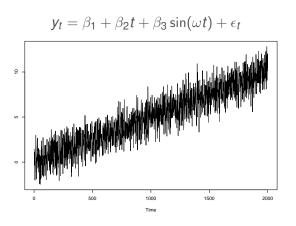
 β_3 is the *change* from quarter 1 to quarter 2.

 β_4 is the *change* from quarter 1 to quarter 3.

 β_5 is the *change* from quarter 1 to quarter 4.

Seasonality

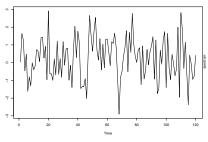


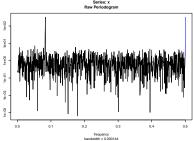


Seasonality



$$y_t = \beta_1 + \beta_2 t + \beta_3 \sin(\omega t) + \epsilon_t$$





Mean Modelling



Many different things you can do here, depending on how you model.

- Traditional regression
- Time dependence through trend and seasonality
- Non-parametric modelling
- Spatial modelling

We have been thinking of this for continuous measurements but other types of measurements can use this model through GLM (Generalized Linear Model).

Second orders

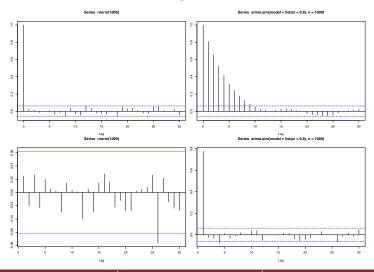


$$\Gamma(t,s) = \operatorname{Cov}(Y_t, Y_s) = \mathbb{E}[(Y_t - \mathbb{E}(Y_t))(Y_s - \mathbb{E}(Y_s))]$$

Check Second Order



Weighted Portmanteau Test (WeightedPortTest in R)



GLMER



Small amount of time points? Use a Generalized Linear Mixed Effects Regression (GLMER) model (1me4 in R).

$$y_i|b \sim \operatorname{Distr}\left(\mu_i, \sigma^2\right)$$
 (1)

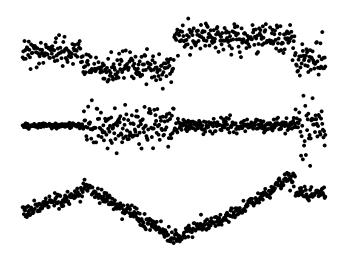
$$g(\mu) = X\beta + Zb, \tag{2}$$

- X external regressors with coefficients β
- Distr conditional distribution
- Z random effects with coefficients b



Non-stationarity





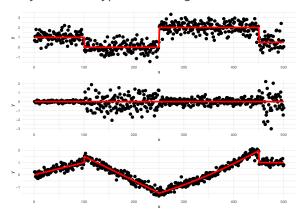
What are changepoints? Mathematical Sciences | Lancaster University





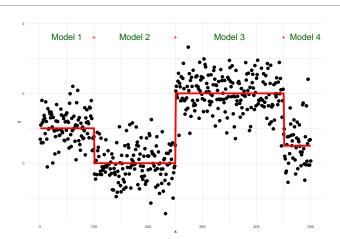
For data y_1, \ldots, y_n , if a changepoint exists at τ , then y_1, \ldots, y_{τ} differ from $y_{\tau+1}, \ldots, y_n$ in some way.

There are many different types of change.



Changepoint Problem

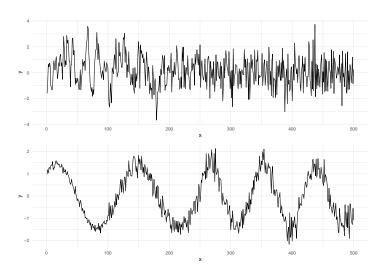




- How many changes? (changepoint package in R)
- Where are the changes? 2^{n-1} possible solutions!

More complicated change *\text{Athematical Sciences} \|



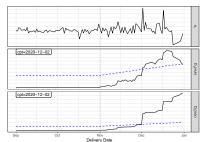


Concept drift



Monitor models for concept drift - works with any type of model online fit/forecast



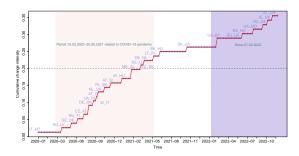


Networks



Concept drift in time series on networks





Summary



- Took a modelling approach to introducing time series
- We learnt about mixed effects models, traditional ARMA models, and changepoint models
- Model diagnostics and visually (even parts of) data are important.
- Many more models out there; spatiotemporal, threshold, functional, locally stationary, . . .
- I enjoy working with messy real life data . . .
- ... as often it sparks my next research challenge.

Code



R packages: Ime4, forecast, changepoint, WeightedPortTest

Links or stars from: https://www.github.com/rkillick

Online monitoring: https://github.com/grundy95/changepoint.forecast

Multivariate:

Covariance:

https://github.com/s-ryan1/Covariance_RMT_simulations

Mean/Var: https://github.com/grundy95/changepoint.geo