MONASH University

MONASH BUSINESS SCHOOL

Feature-based time series analysis

Rob J Hyndman

27 September 2019

Outline

Outline

M3 competition

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The M3-Competition: results, conclusions and implications

Spyros Makridakis, Michèle Hibon*

INSEAD, Boulevard de Constance, 77305 Fontainebleau, France

Abstract

This paper describes the M3-Competition, the latest of the M-Competitions. It explains the reasons for conducting the competition and summarizes its results and conclusions. In addition, the paper compares such results/conclusions with those of the previous two M-Competitions as well as with those of other major empirical studies. Finally, the implications of these results and conclusions are considered, their consequences for both the theory and practice of forecasting are explored and directions for future research are contemplated. © 2000 Elsevier Science B.V. All rights reserved.

Keywords: Comparative methods — time series: univariate; Forecasting competitions; M-Competition; Forecasting methods, Forecasting accuracy

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Keywords: Comparative methods — time series: univariate; Forecasting competitions; M-Competition; Forecasting methods, Forecasting accuracy

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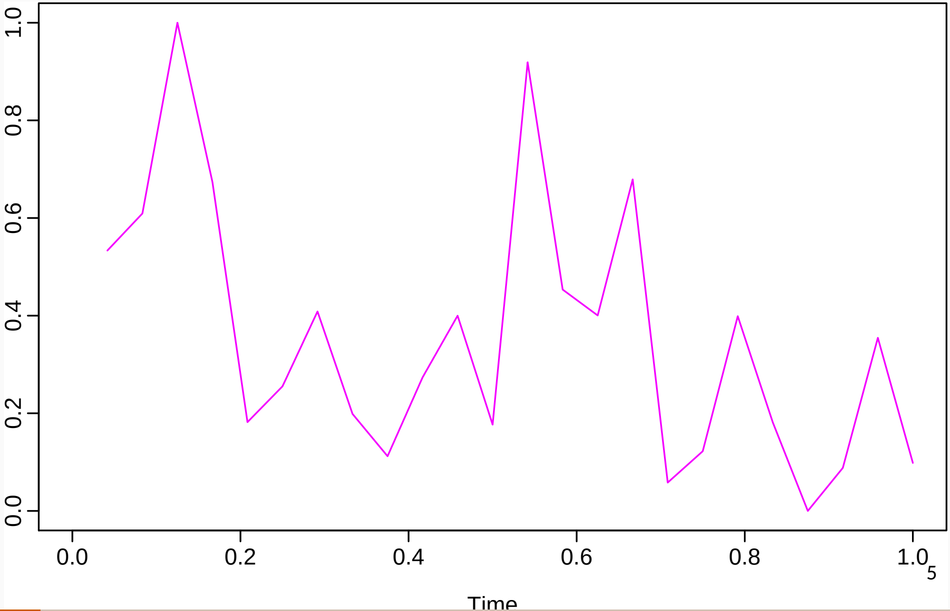

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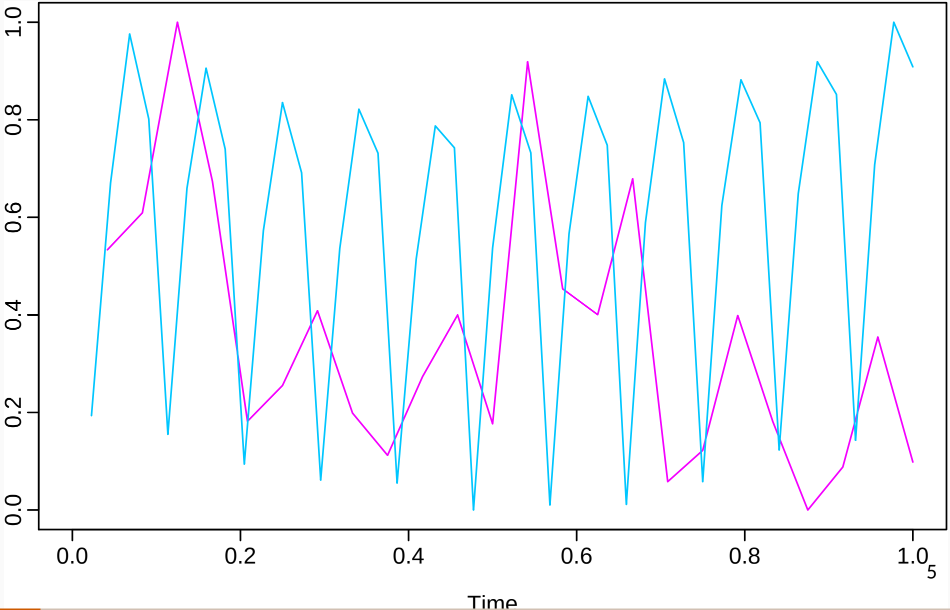

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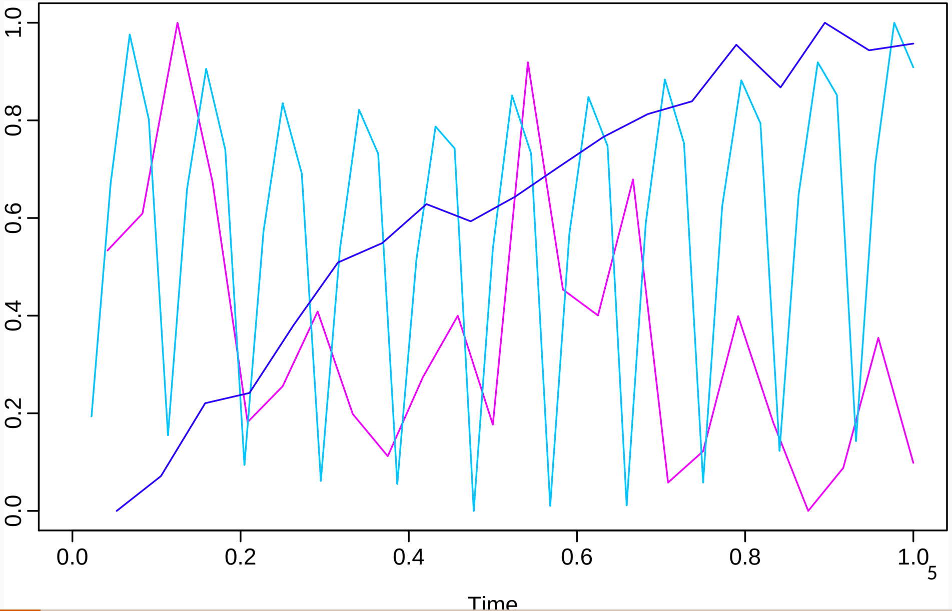

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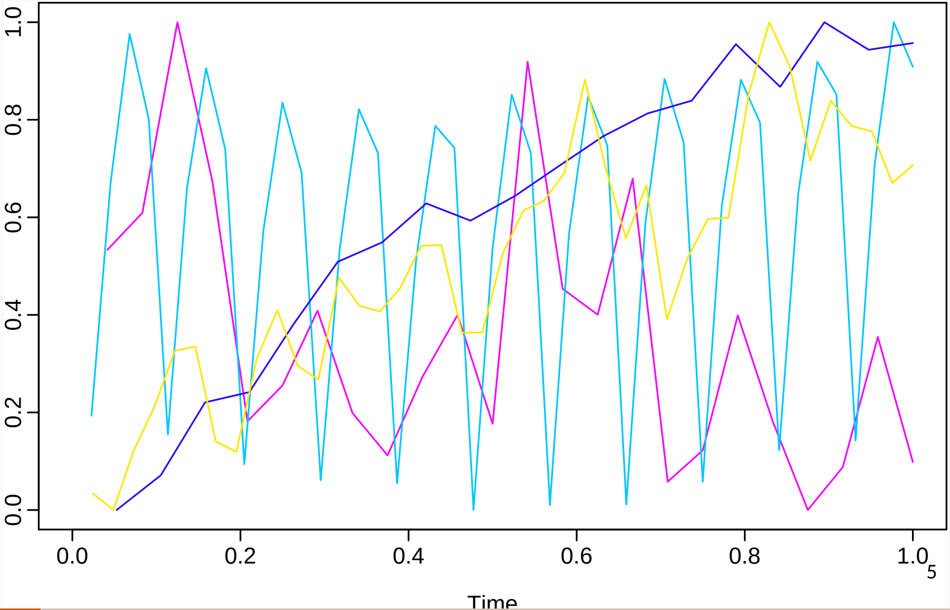

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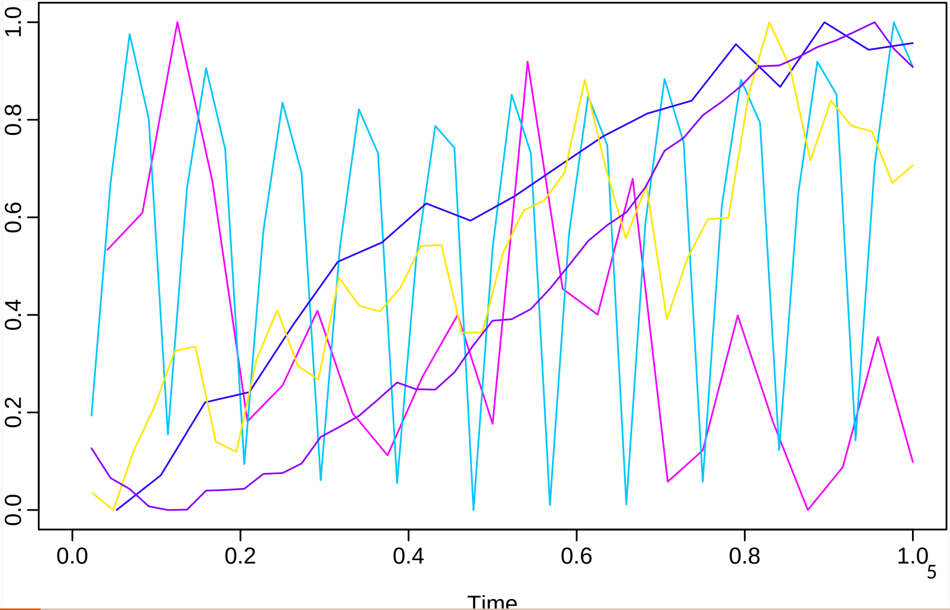

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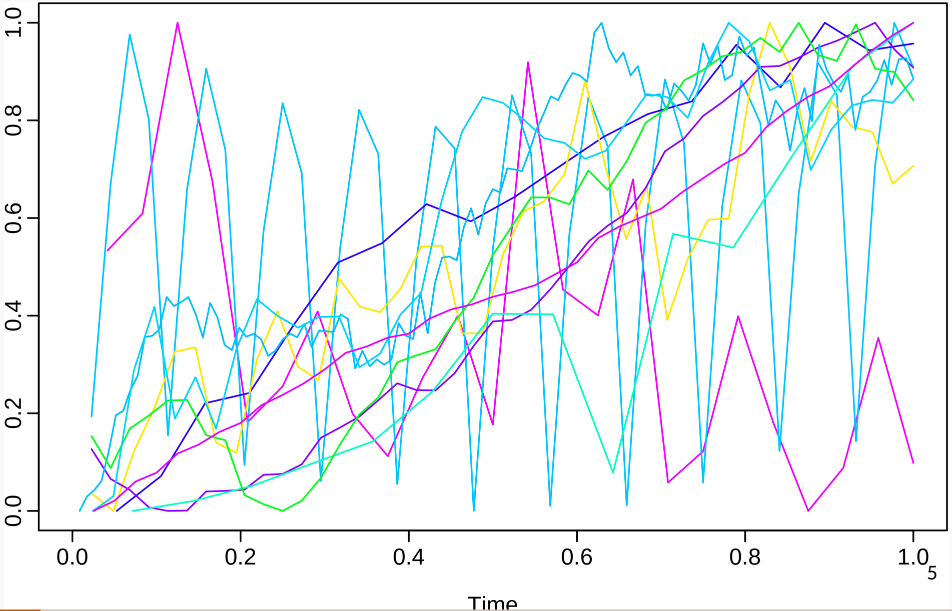

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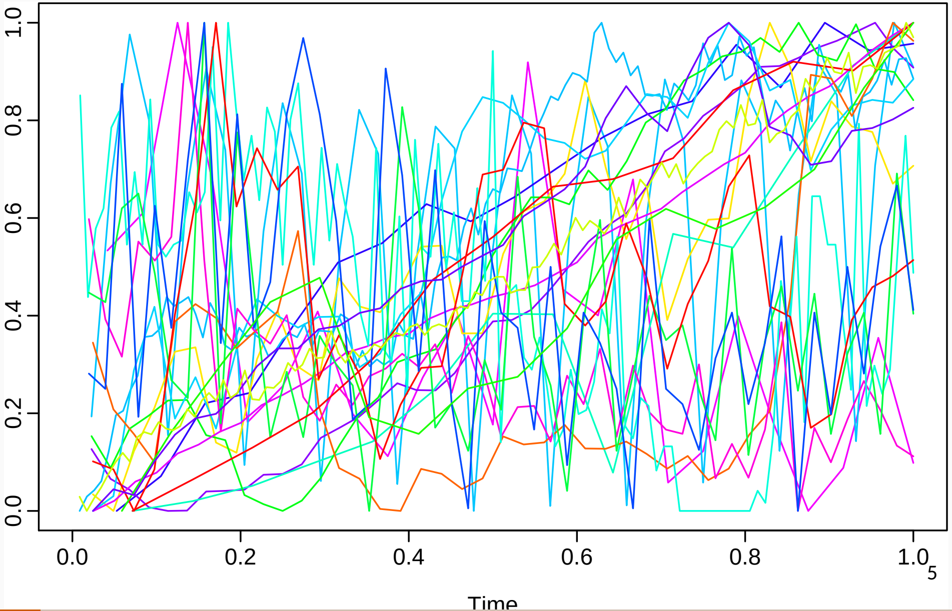

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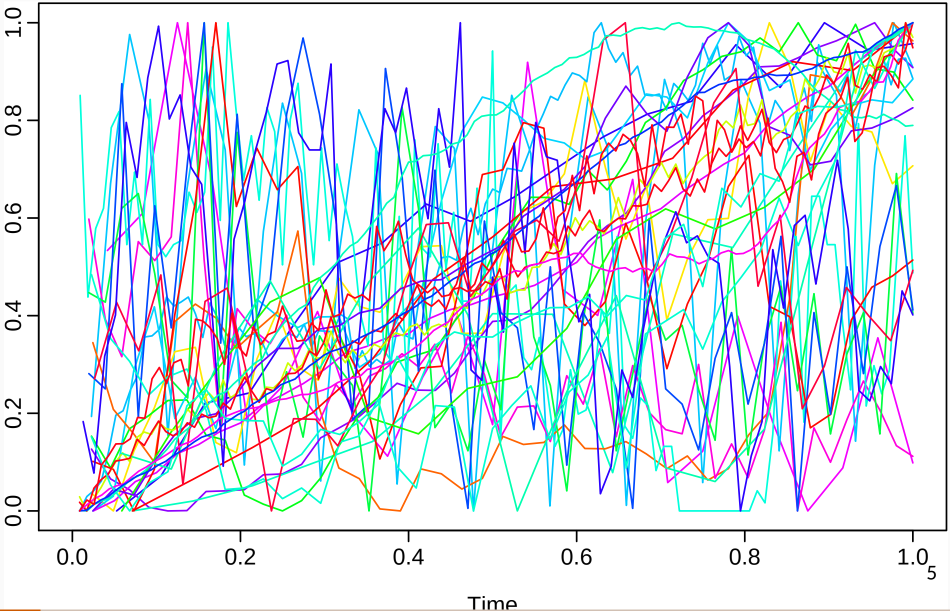

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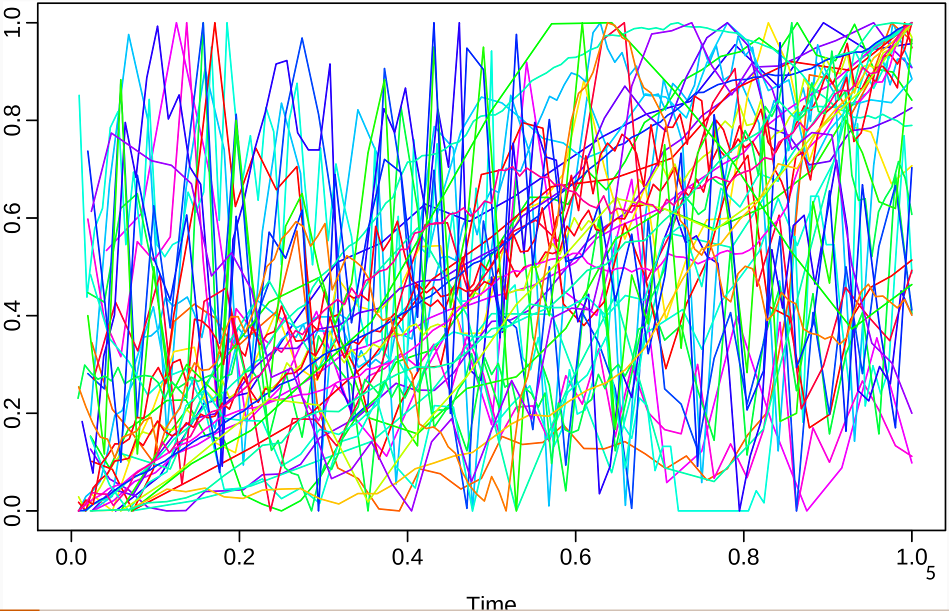

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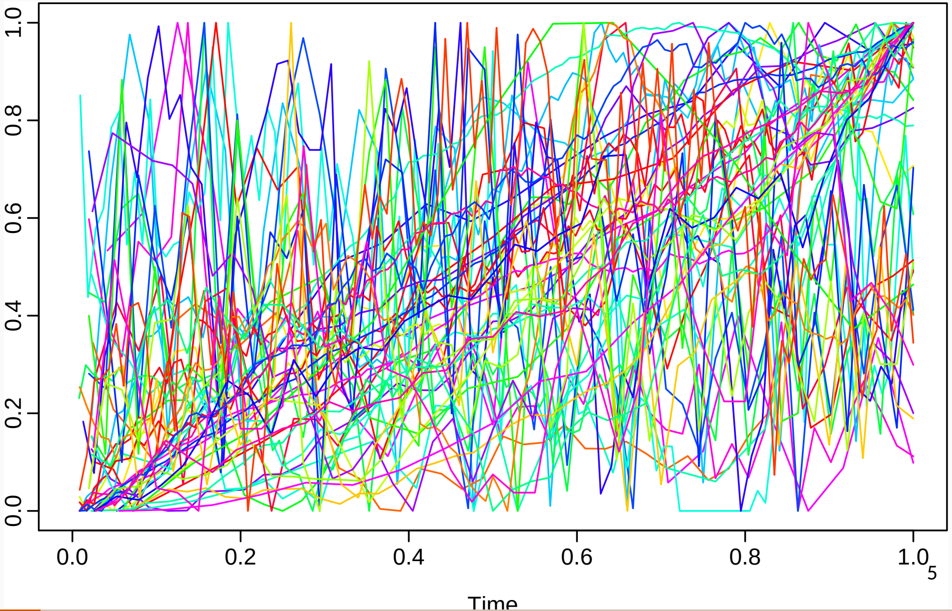

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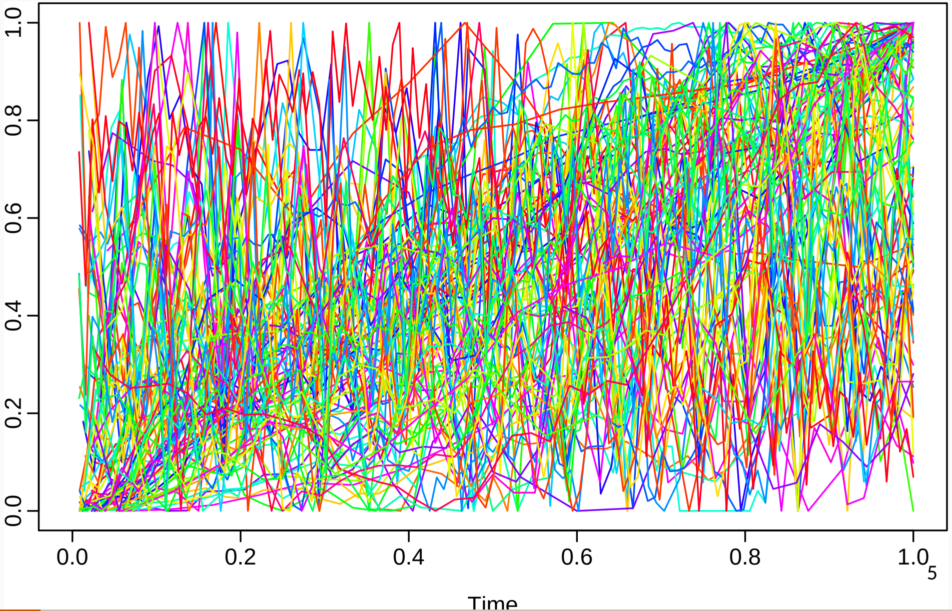

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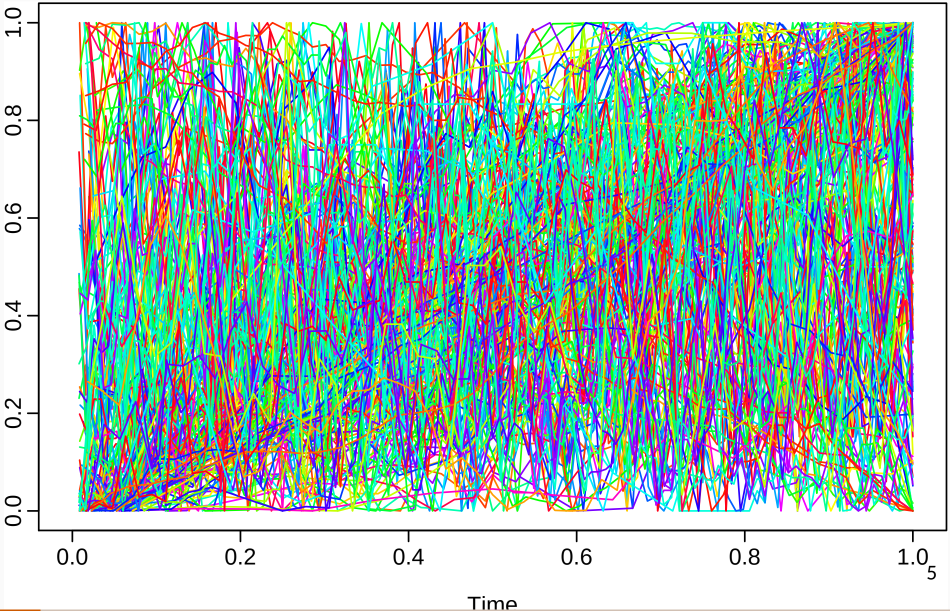

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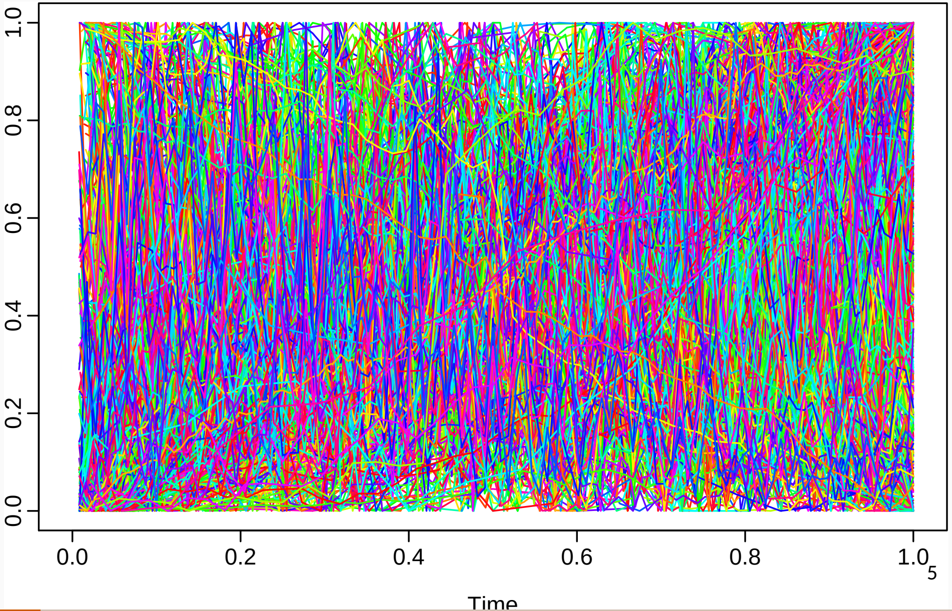

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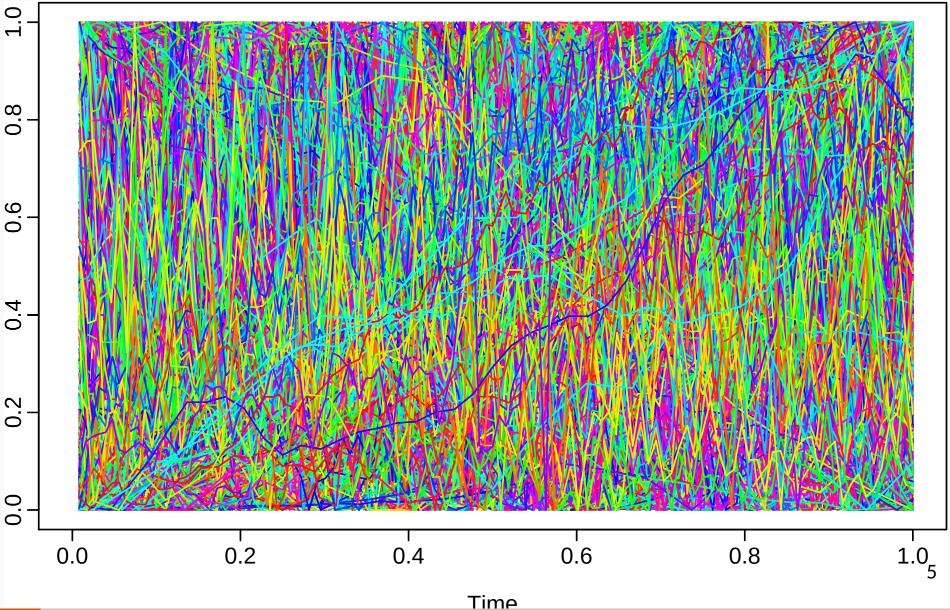
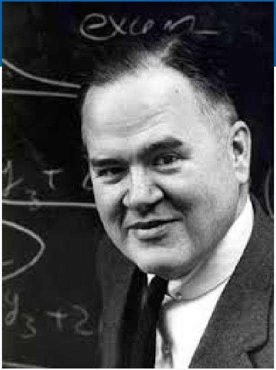


Key idea

Cognostics

Computer-produced diagnostics (Tukey and Tukey, 1985).



John W Tukey

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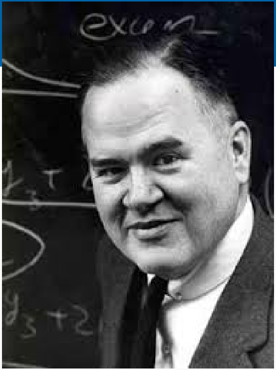


John W Tukey

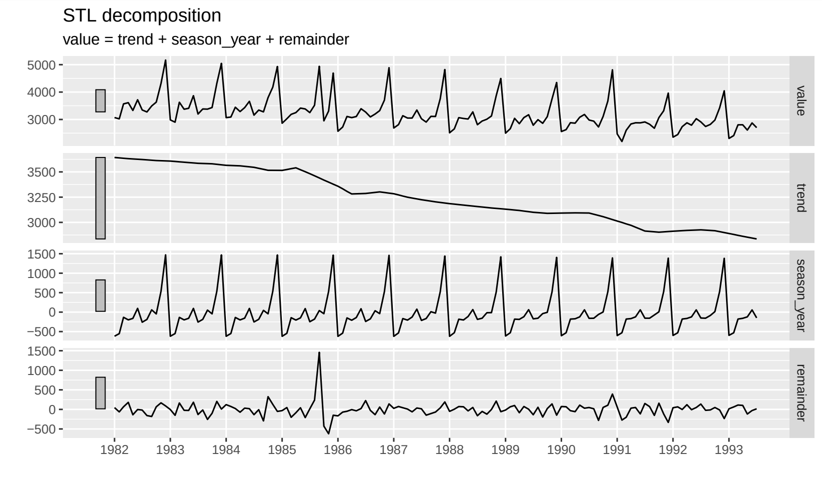
Examples for time series

- lag correlation
- size and direction of trend
- strength of seasonality
- timing of peak seasonality
- spectral entropy

Called “features” in the machine learning literature.

An STL decomposition: N2096

$Y_t = S_t + T_t + R_t$ $\qquad$ S_t is periodic with mean 0



Candidate features

STL decomposition

$$Y_t = S_t + T_t + R_t$$

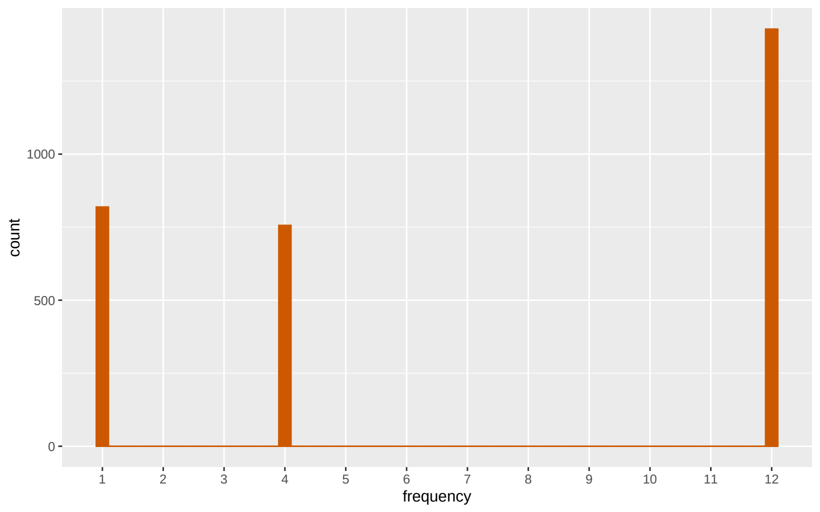
Candidate features

STL decomposition

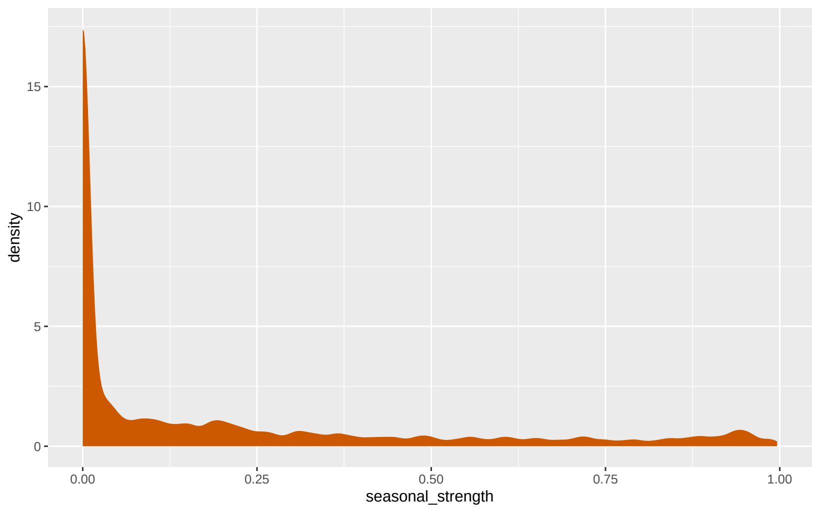
$$Y_t = S_t + T_t + R_t$$

- Seasonal period
- Autocorrelations of data $(Y_1, \dots, Y_T)$
- Autocorrelations of data $(R_1, \dots, R_T)$
- Strength of seasonality: $\max\left(0, 1 - \frac{\text{Var}(R_t)}{\text{Var}(Y_t - T_t)}\right)$
- Strength of trend: $\max\left(0, 1 - \frac{\text{Var}(R_t)}{\text{Var}(Y_t - S_t)}\right)$
- Spectral entropy: $H = -\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f_y(\lambda)\log f_y(\lambda) d\lambda$, where $f_y(\lambda)$ is spectral density of Y_t. Low values of H suggest a time series that is easier to forecast (more signal).
- Optimal Box-Cox transformation of data

Distribution of Period for M3



Distribution of Seasonality for M3



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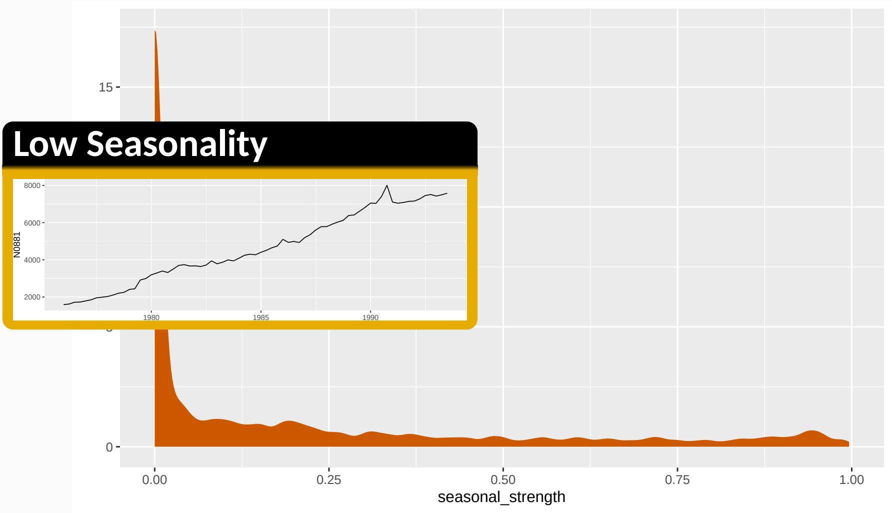

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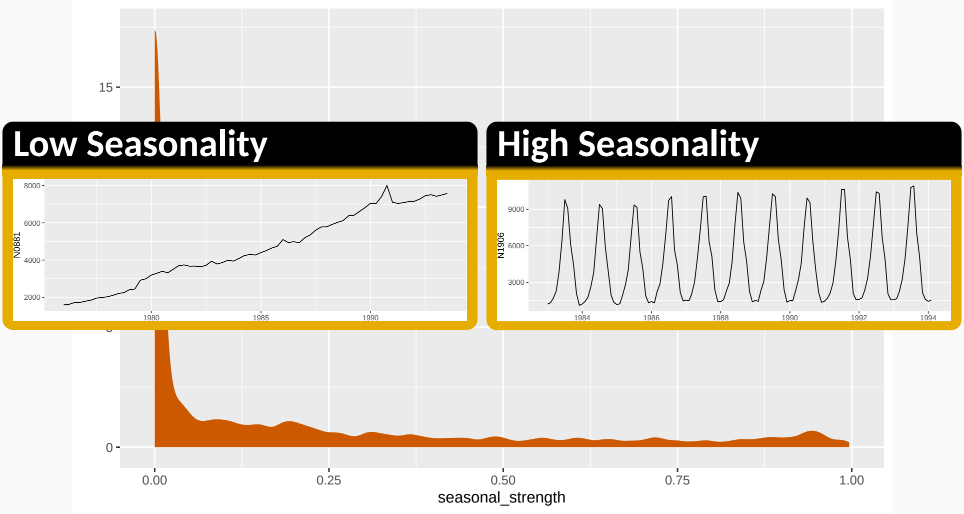
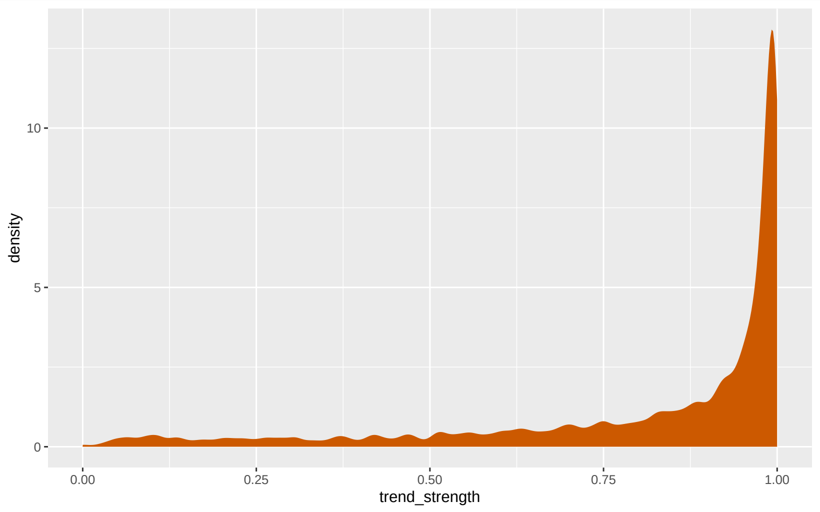


Distribution of Trend for M3



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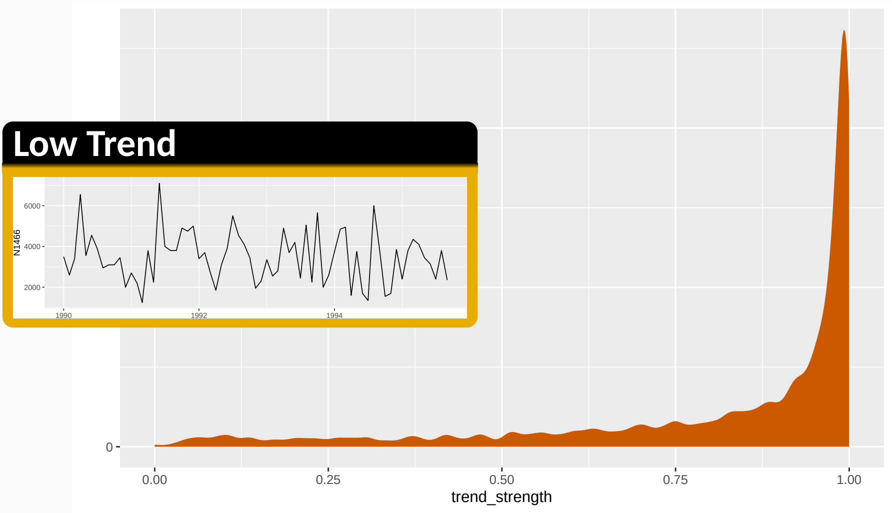

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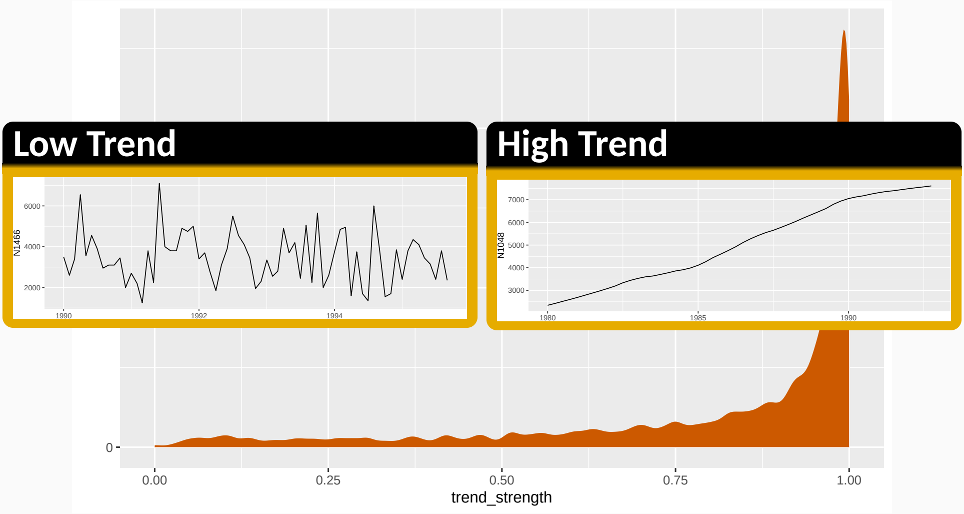
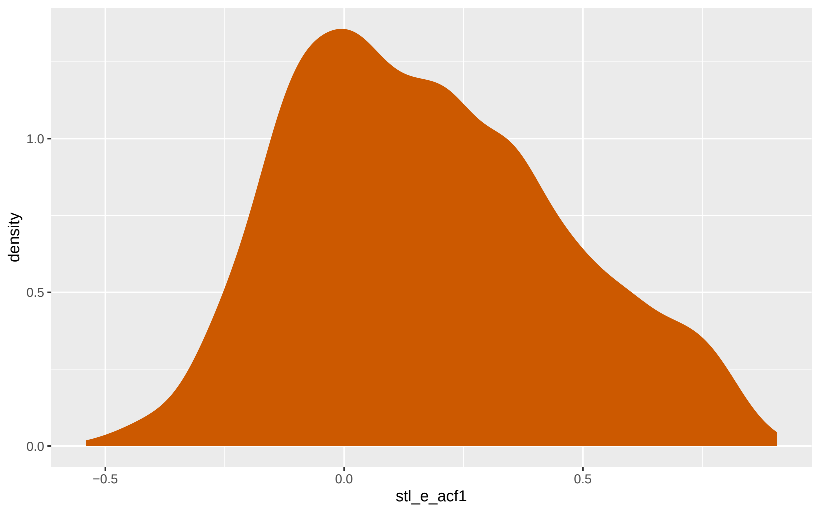


Distribution of Residual ACF1 for M3



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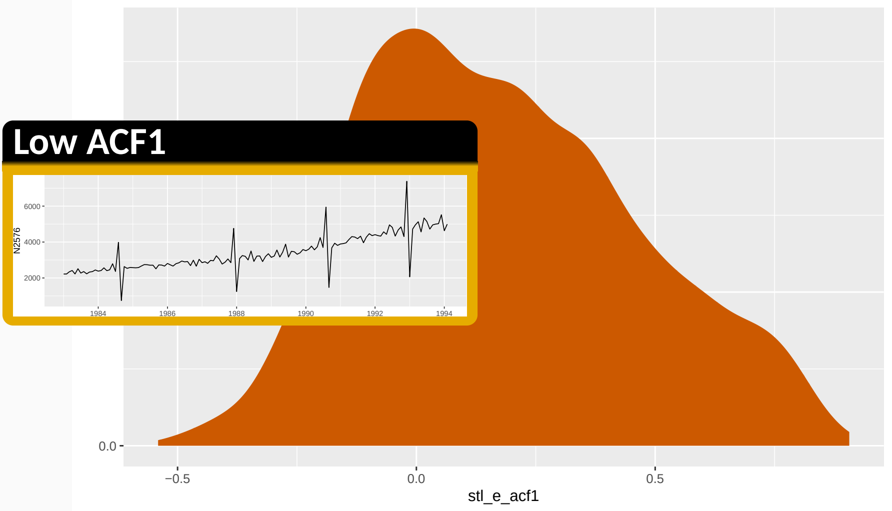

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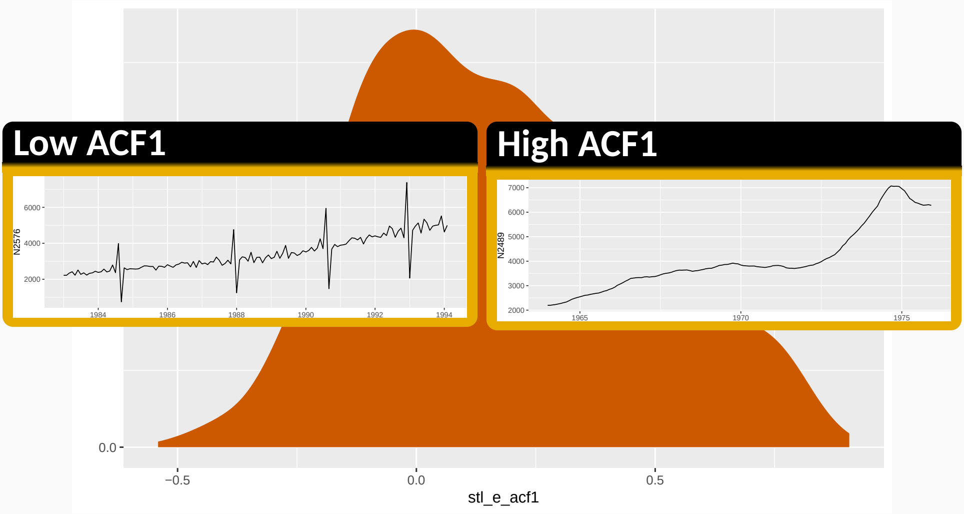
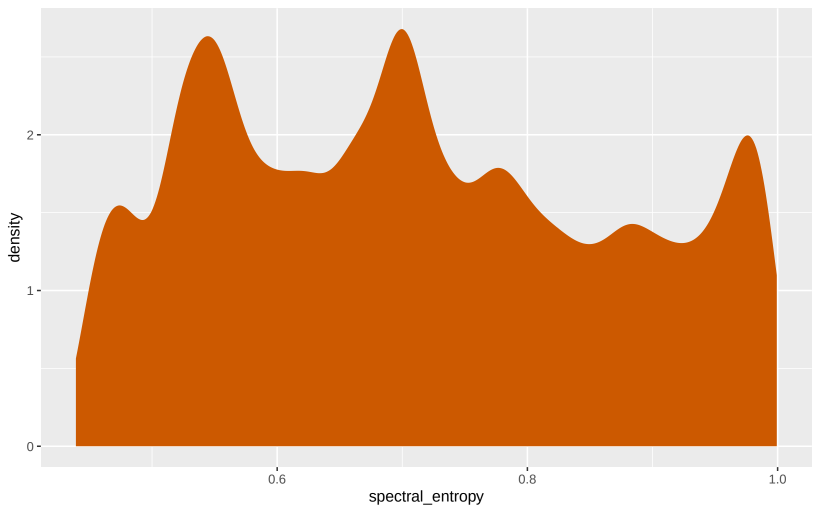


Distribution of Spectral Entropy for M3



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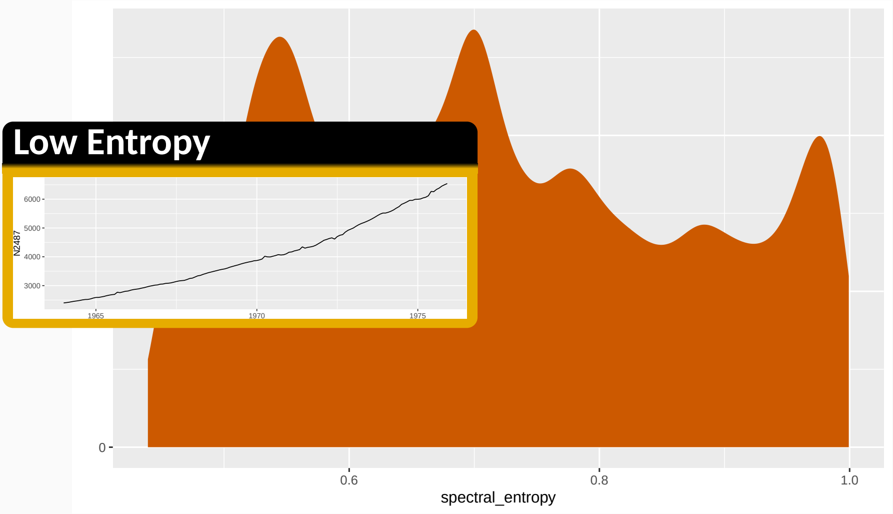

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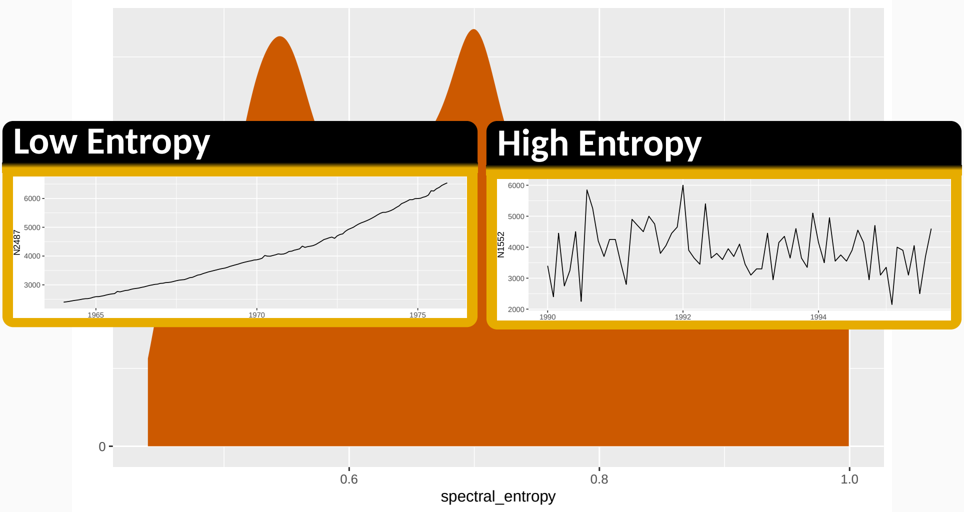
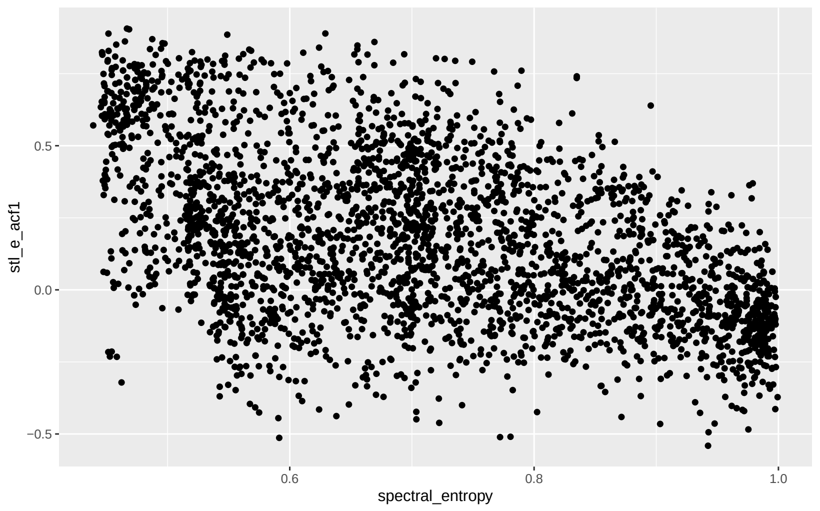


Feature distributions



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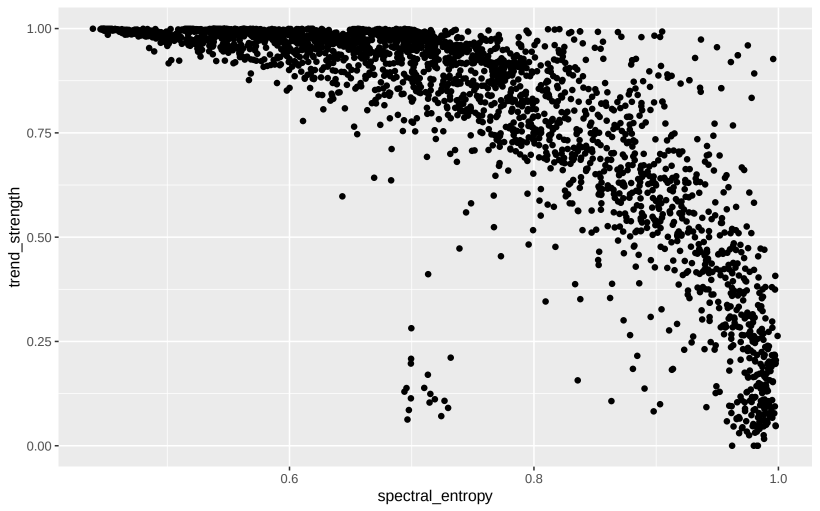

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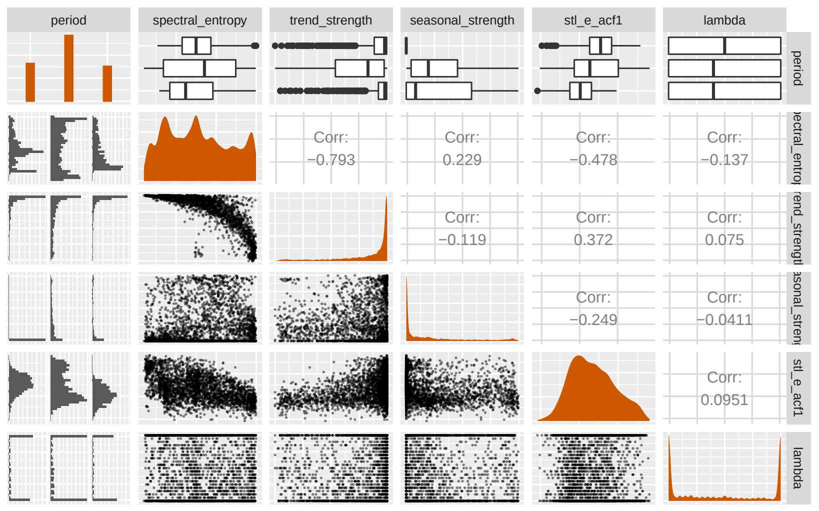
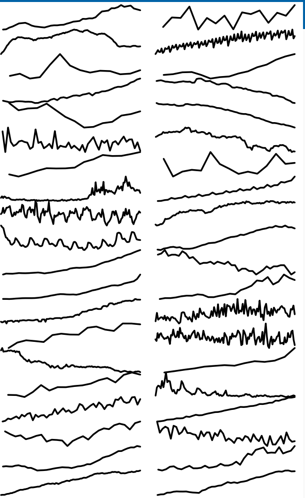


Dimension reduction for time series



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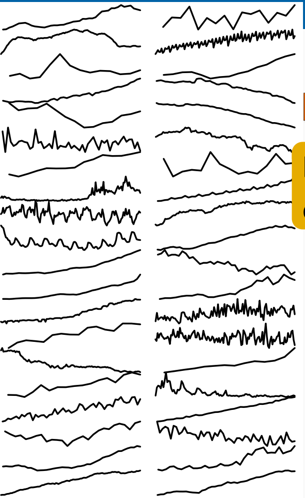

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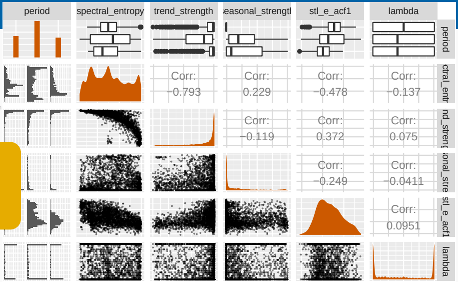

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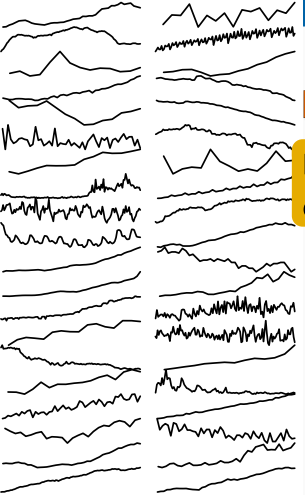

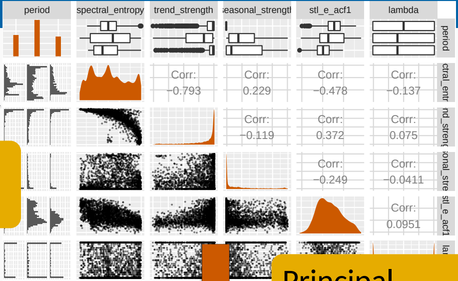

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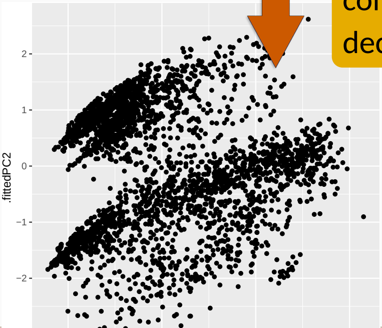
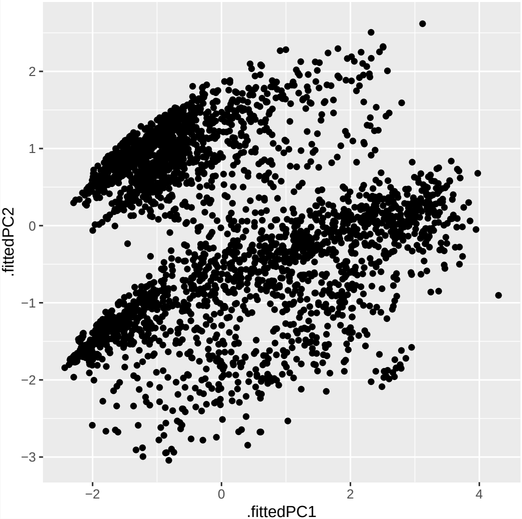


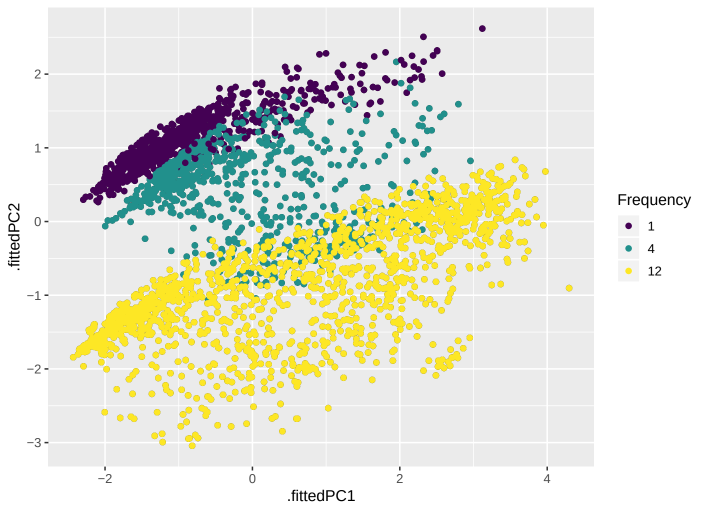
Principal component decomposition

M3 feature space



First two PCs explain 58.5% of the variance.

M3 feature space



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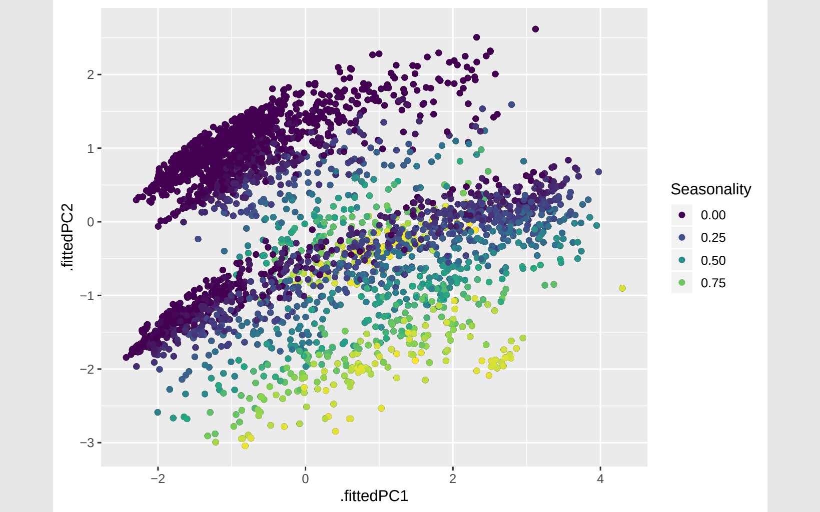

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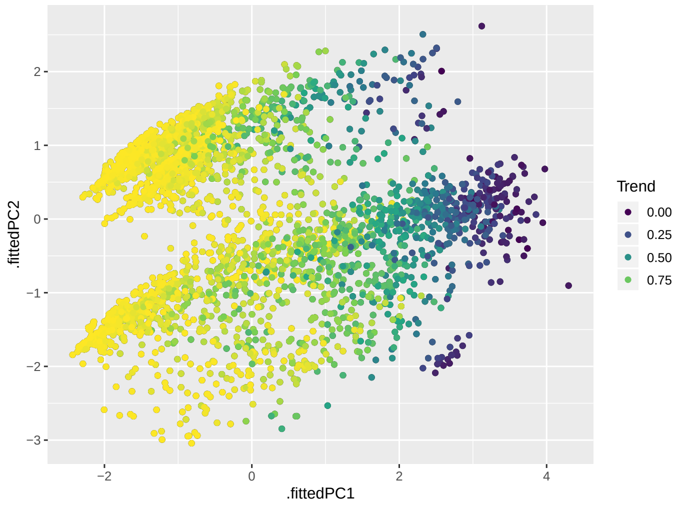

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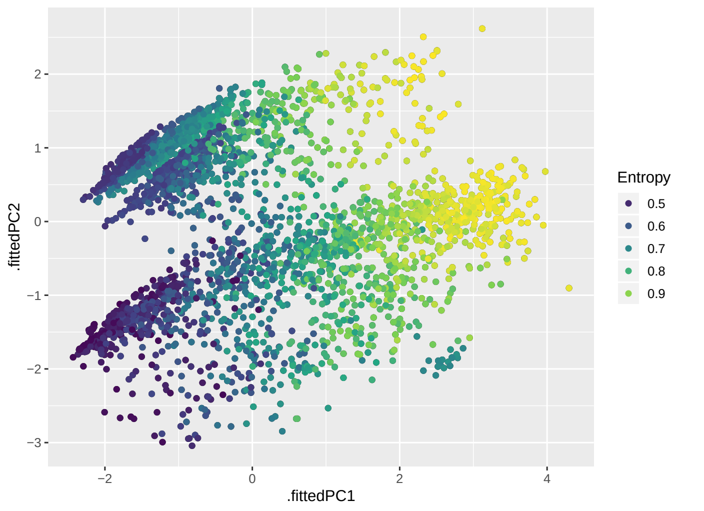

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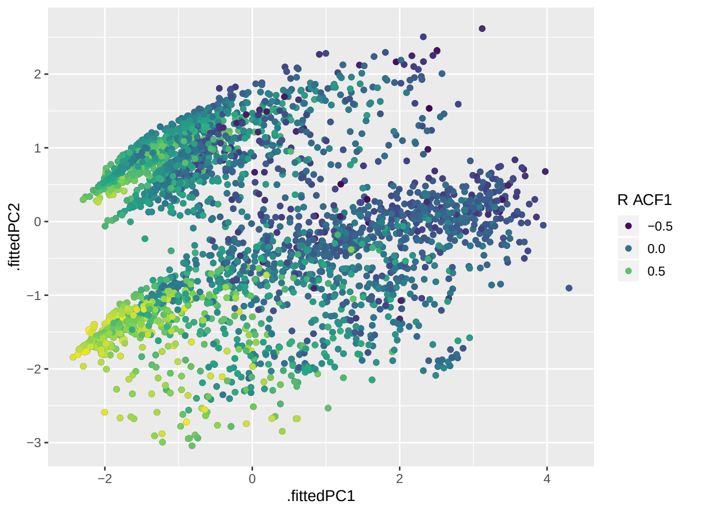

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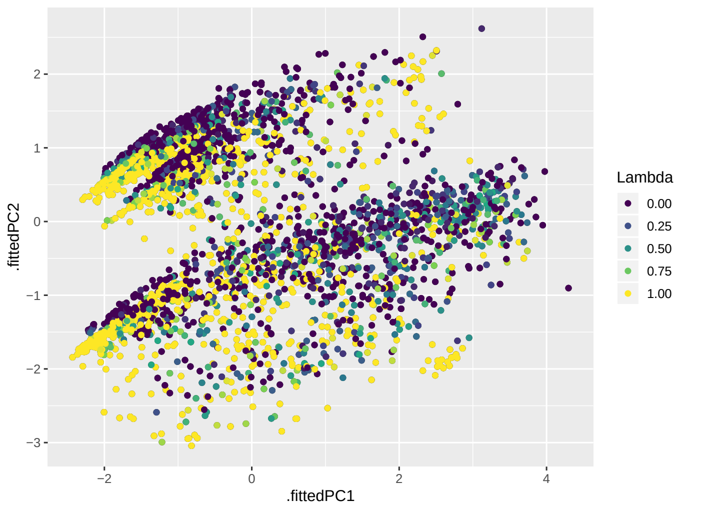

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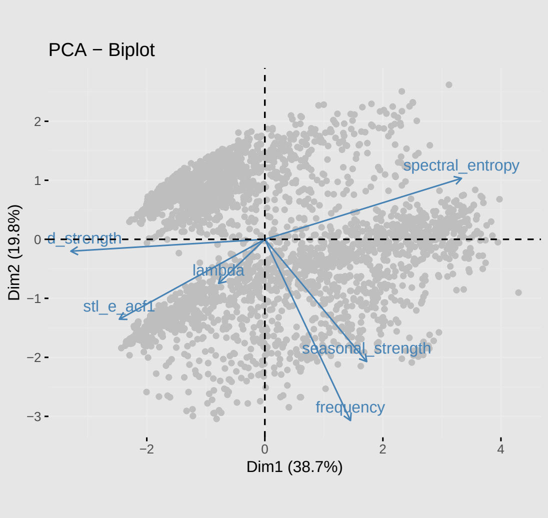
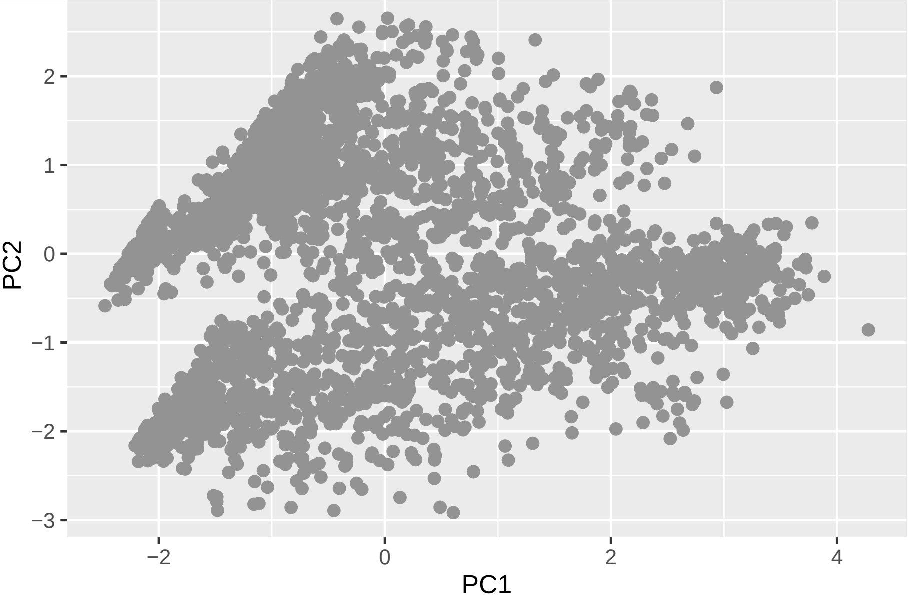


What about the holes?



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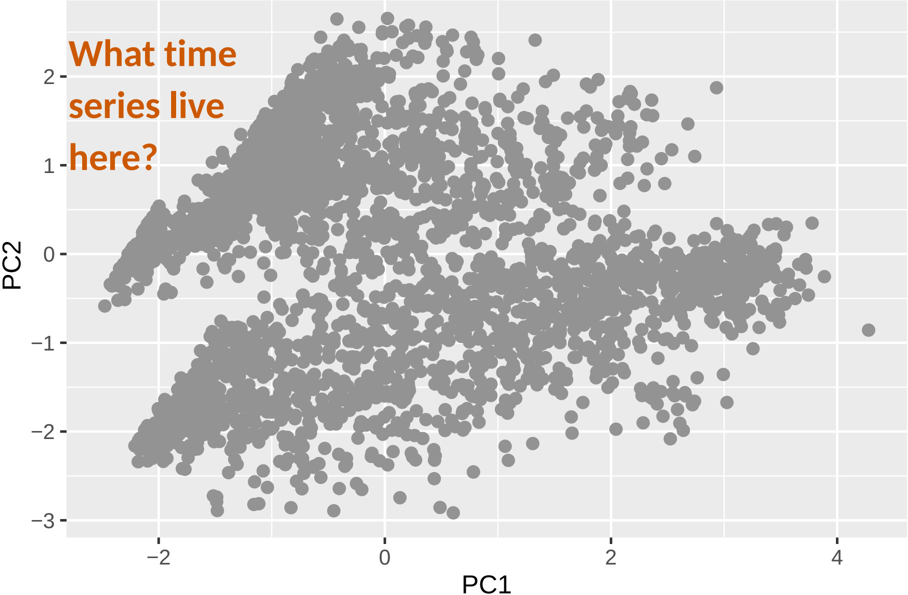

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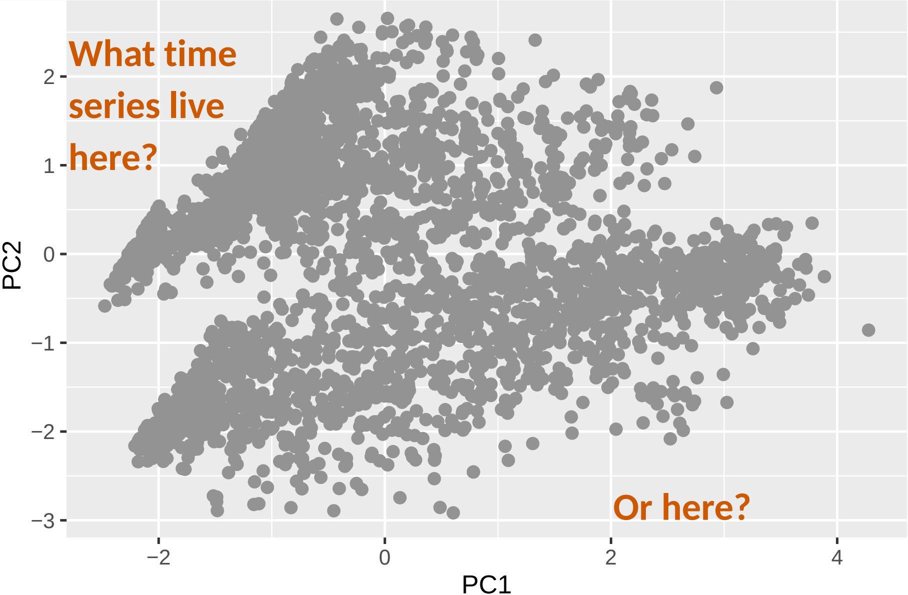

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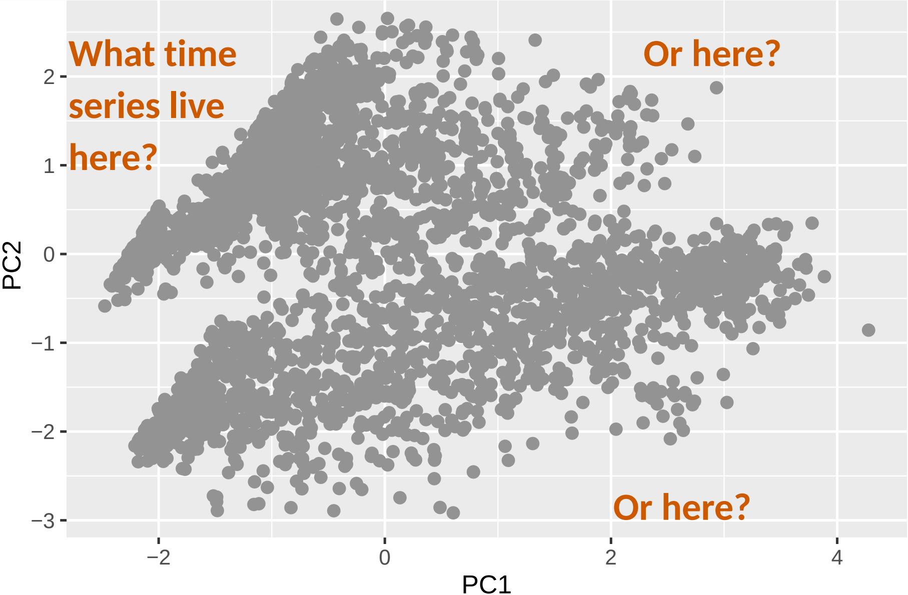

Generating new time series

We can use the feature space to:

- Generate new time series with similar features to existing series
- Generate new time series where there are “holes” in the feature space.

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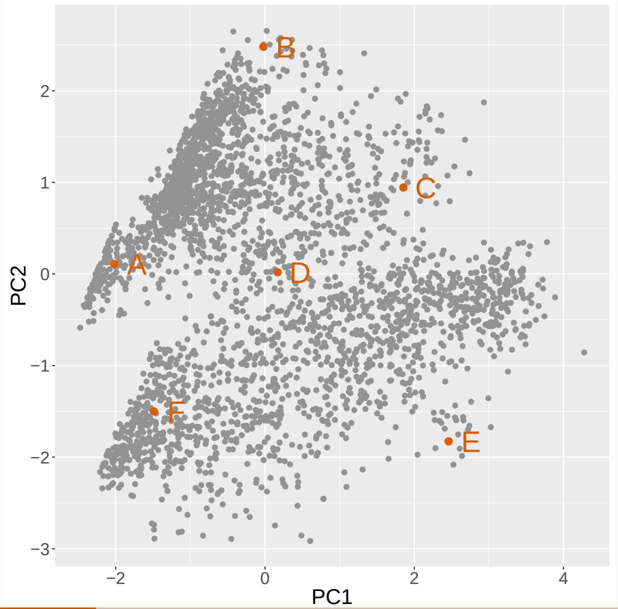
- Let $\{\mathrm{PC}_1, \mathrm{PC}_2, \dots, \mathrm{PC}_n\}$ be a "population" of time series of specified length and period.
- Genetic algorithm uses a process of selection, crossover and mutation to evolve the population towards a target point T_i.
- Optimize: Fitness $(\mathrm{PC}_j) = -\sqrt{(|\mathrm{PC}_j - T_i|^2)}$.
- Initial population random with some series in neighbourhood of T_i.

Evolving new time series



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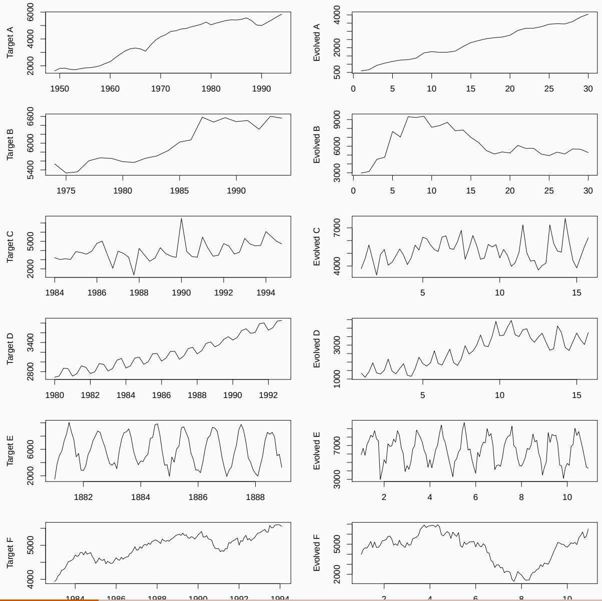

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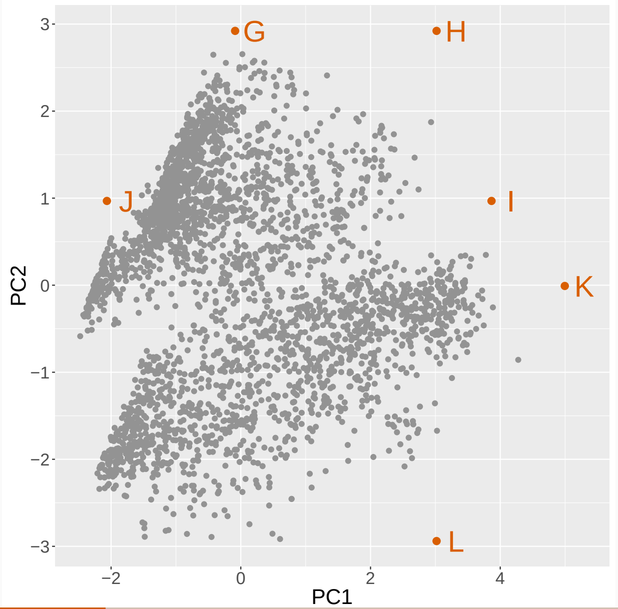

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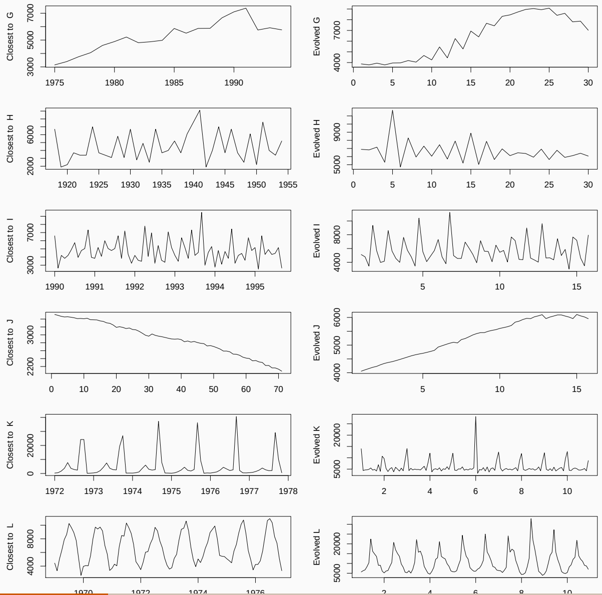


Evolving new time series

PC2

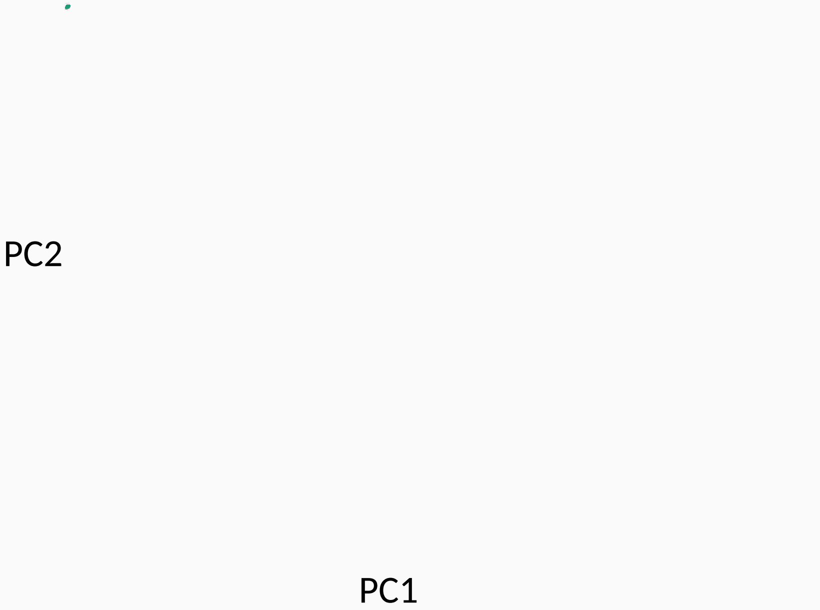
PC1

Evolving new time series

PC2

PC1

Evolving new time series

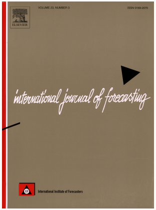


Evolving new time series

PC2

PC1

Papers and packages



Kang, Hyndman, & Smith-Miles, K. (2017) Visualising forecasting algorithm performance using time series instance spaces. *IJF*, **33**(2) 345–358.

Hyndman, Wang, Kang, Talagala & Montero-Manso (2018). **tsfeatures**: Time Series Feature Extraction.
`github.com/robjhyndman/tsfeatures/`

Feature properties

In this analysis, we have restricted features to be

- ergodic
- scale-independent

For other analyses, it may be appropriate to have different requirements.

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R package

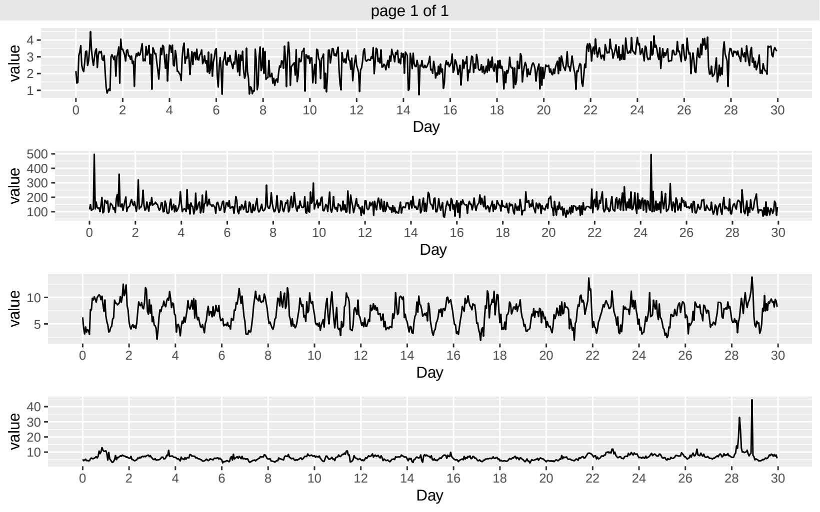
github.com/robjhyndman/tsfeatures

Outline

Yahoo server metrics

- Tens of thousands of time series collected at one-hour intervals over 1–2 months.
- Consisting of several server metrics (e.g. CPU usage and paging views) from many server farms globally.
- Aim: find unusual (anomalous) time series.

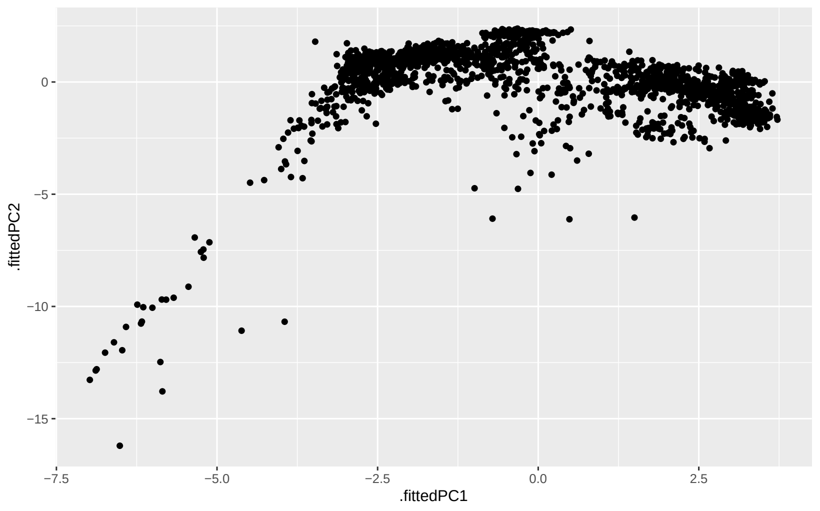
Yahoo server metrics



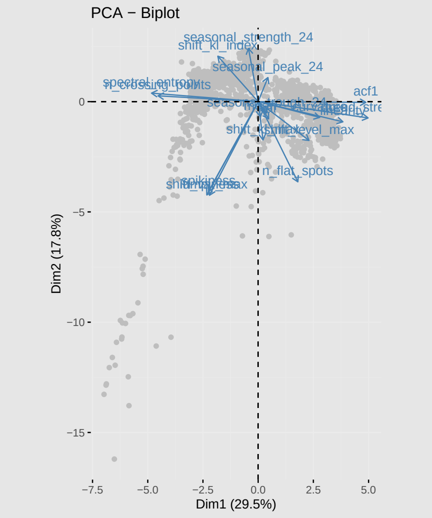
Yahoo server metrics

- **ACF1**: first order autocorrelation = Corr(Y_t, Y_{t-1})
- Strength of **trend** and **seasonality** based on STL
- Size of seasonal **peak** and **trough**
- Spectral **entropy**
- **Lumpiness**: variance of block variances (block size 24).
- **Spikiness**: variances of leave-one-out variances of STL remainders.
- **Level shift**: Maximum difference in trimmed means of consecutive moving windows of size 24.
- **Variance change**: Max difference in variances of consecutive moving windows of size 24.
- **Flat spots**: Discretize sample space into 10 equal-sized intervals. Find max run length in any interval.
- Number of **crossing points** of mean line.
- **Kullback-Leibler score**: Maximum of $D_{KL}(P\|Q) = \int P(x) \ln P(x)/Q(x) dx$ where P and Q are estimated by kernel density estimators applied to consecutive windows

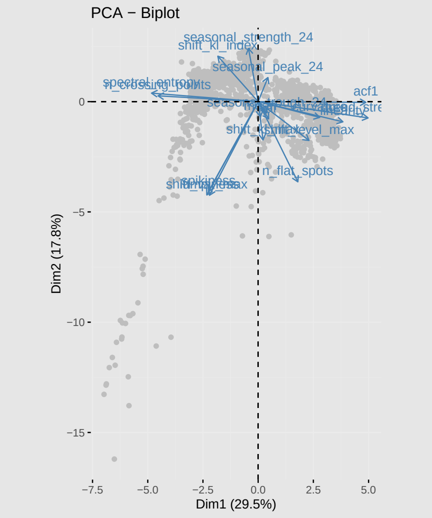
Feature space



Feature space



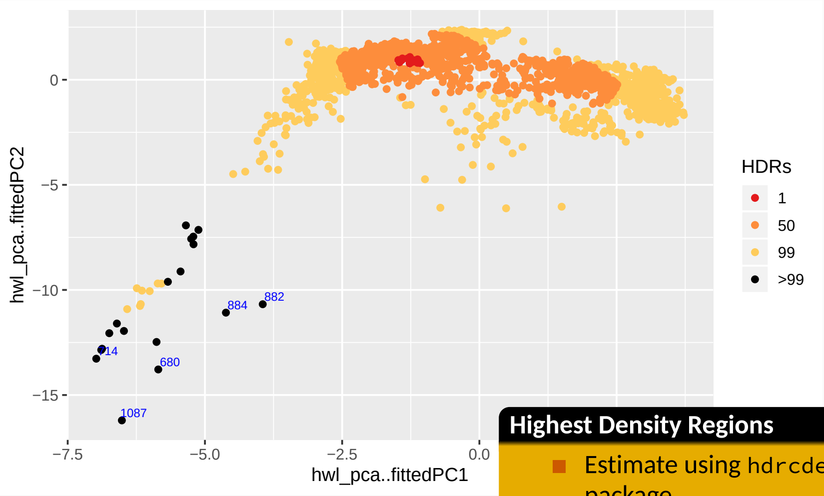
Feature space



What is “anomalous”?

- We need a measure of the “anomalousness” of a time series.
- Rank points based on their local density using a bivariate kernel density estimate.

Finding weird time series



Highest Density Regions

- Estimate using `hdrcde` package
- Highlight outlying points as those with lowest density.

Packages

- **hdrcde**: scatterplots with bivariate HDRs.
  CRAN | `github.com/robjhyndman/hdrcde`
- **stray**: finding outliers in high dimensions.
  `github.com/pridiltal/stray`
- **oddstream**: finding outliers in streaming data.
  `github.com/pridiltal/oddstream`
- **anomalous**: yahoo data.
  `github.com/robjhyndman/anomalous`

Outline

Forecast model selection

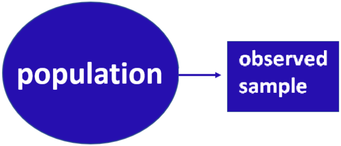
Features used to select a forecasting model

- length
- strength of seasonality
- strength of trend
- linearity
- curvature
- spikiness
- stability
- lumpiness
- first ACF value of remainder series
- parameter estimates of Holt's linear trend method
- spectral entropy
- Hurst exponent
- nonlinearity
- parameter estimates of Holt-Winters' additive method
- unit root test statistics
- first ACF value of residual series of linear trend model
- ACF and PACF based features - calculated on both the raw and differenced series

FFORMS: Feature-based FORecast Model Selection

population

FFORMS: Feature-based FORecast Model Selection



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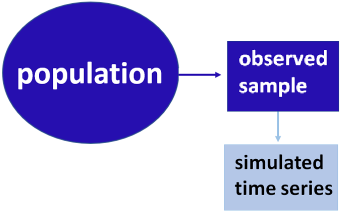

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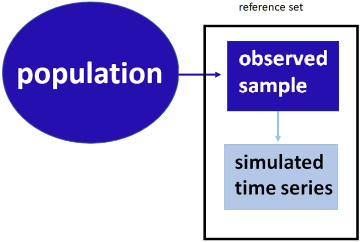

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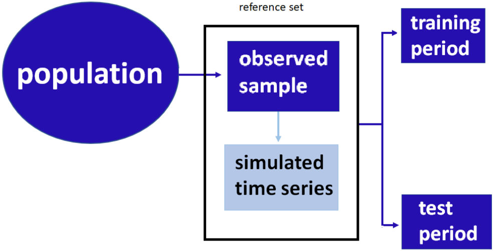

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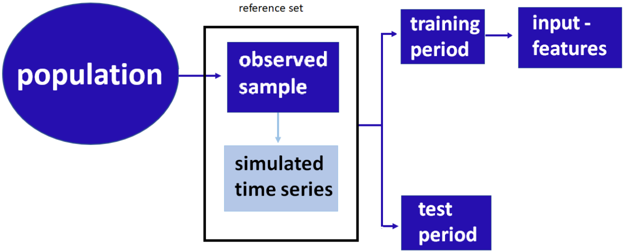

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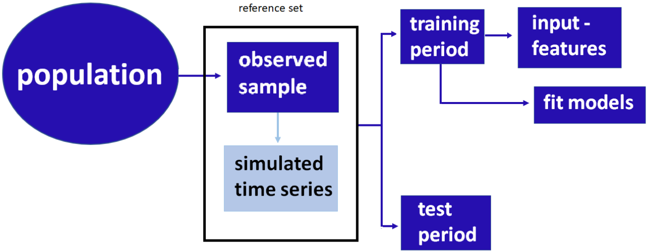

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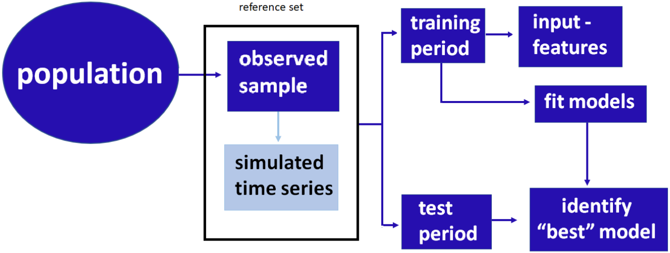

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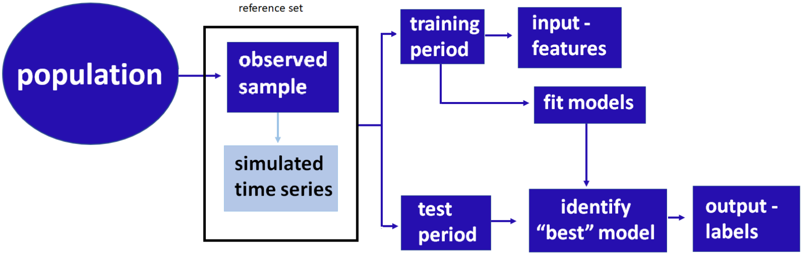

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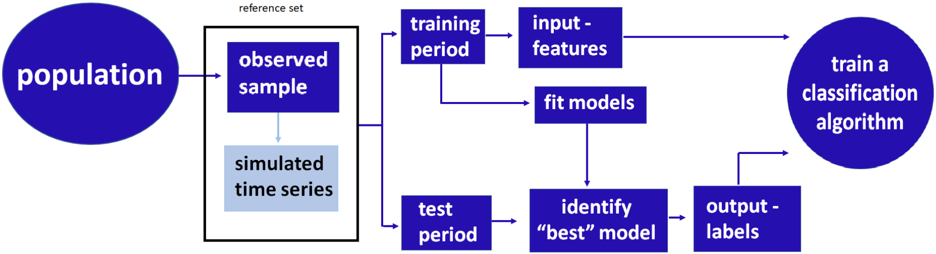

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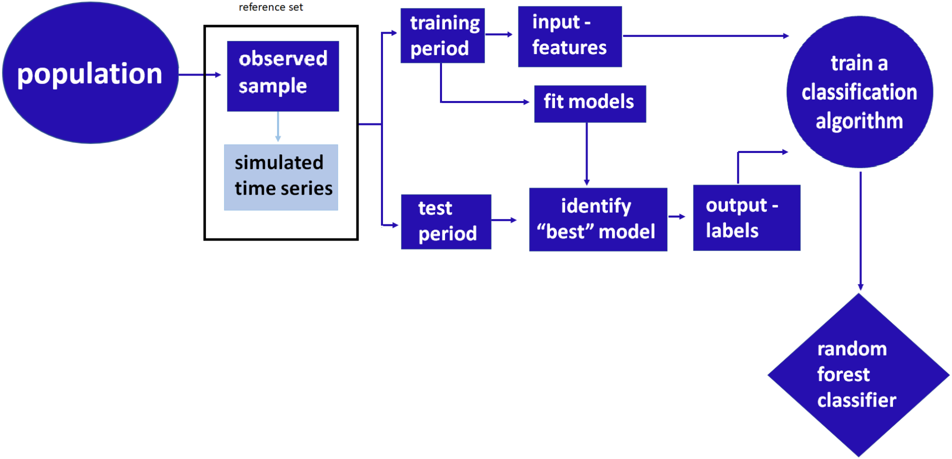

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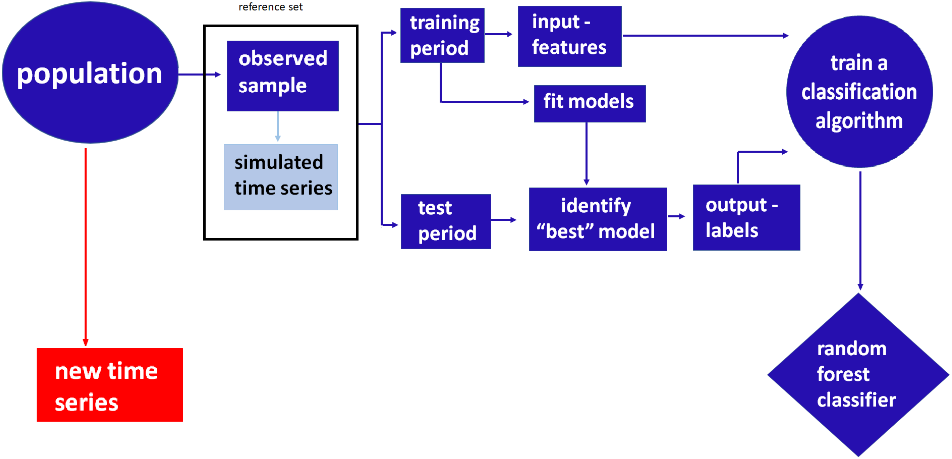

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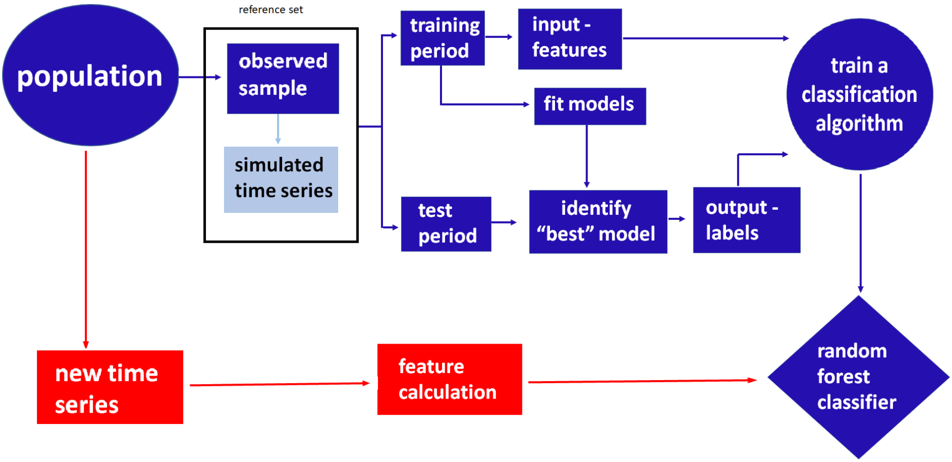

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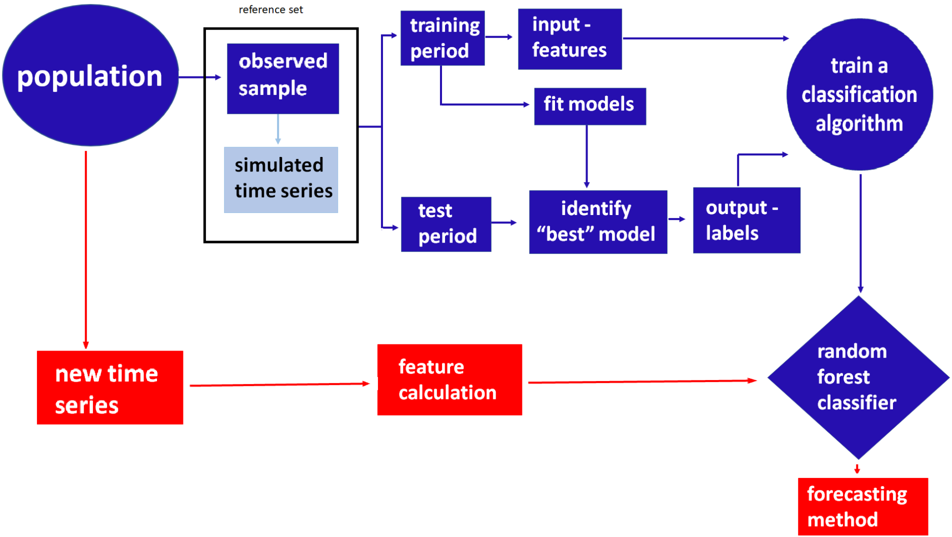


Application to M competition data

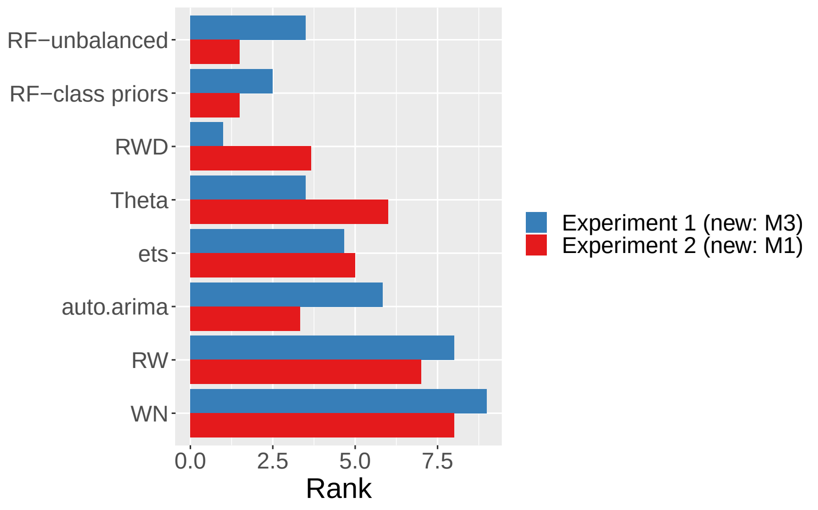
Experiment 1

	Source	Y	Q	M
Observed series	M1	181	203	617
Simulated series		362000	406000	123400
New series	M3	645	756	1428

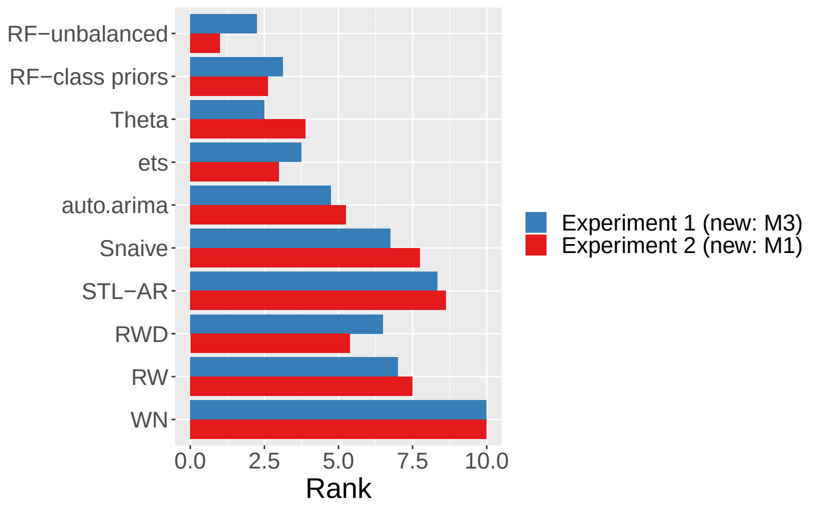
Experiment 2

	Source	Y	Q	M
Observed series	M3	645	756	1428
Simulated series		1290000	1512000	285600
New series	M1	181	203	617

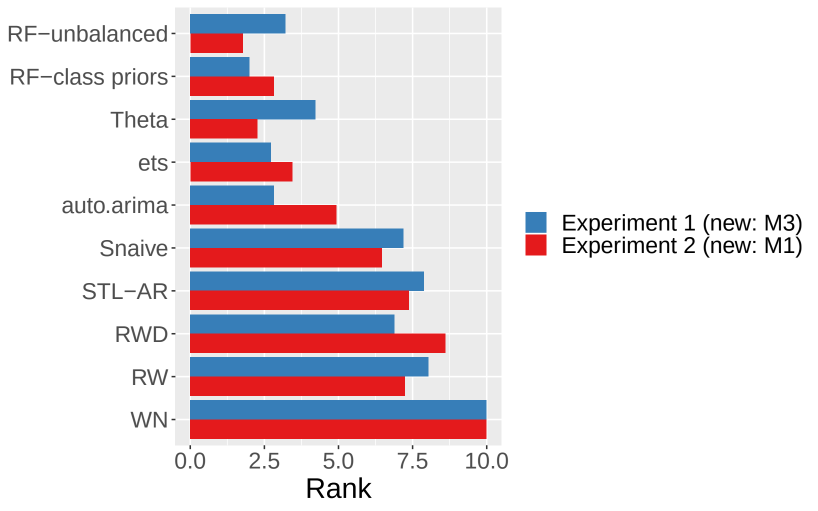
Results: Yearly



Results: Quarterly



Results: Monthly



FFORMA: Feature-based FORecast Model Averaging

- Like FFORMS but we use gradient boosted trees rather than a random forest.
- The optimization criterion is forecast accuracy not classification accuracy.
- The probability of each model being best is used to construct a model weight.
- A combination forecast is produced using these weights.
- **Came second in the M4 forecasting competition**

FFORMA: Feature-based FORecast Model Averaging

Models included

1. Naive
2. Seasonal naive
3. Random walk with drift
4. Theta method
5. ARIMA
6. ETS
7. TBATS
8. STLM-AR
9. NNAR

R Packages

- **seer**: FFORMS — selecting forecasting model using features.
  `github.com/thiyangt/seer`
- **M4metalearning**: FFORMA – forecast combinations using features to choose weights.
  `github.com/robjhyndman/M4metalearning`

Tidyverts R packages

tidyverts.org

tsibble

tsibbledata

feasts

fable

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