

# Forecast reconciliation

## 1. Hierarchical time series & forecast reconciliation

Rob J Hyndman



MONASH University

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[robjhyndman.com/fr2023](http://robjhyndman.com/fr2023)

# Outline

- 1 Hierarchical time series data
- 2 Hierarchical forecasting using single-level approaches
- 3 Linear forecast reconciliation
- 4 Example: Australian tourism
- 5 Fast computational tricks

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# Labour market participation

## Australia & New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations

- 8 major groups
  - ▶ 43 sub-major groups
    - ★ 97 minor groups
    - 359 unit groups
    - 1023 occupations

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### Example: statistician

- 2 Professionals
  - 22 Business, Human Resource and Marketing Professionals
    - 224 Information and Organisation Professionals
      - 2241 Actuaries, Mathematicians and Statisticians
        - 224113 Statistician

# PBS sales



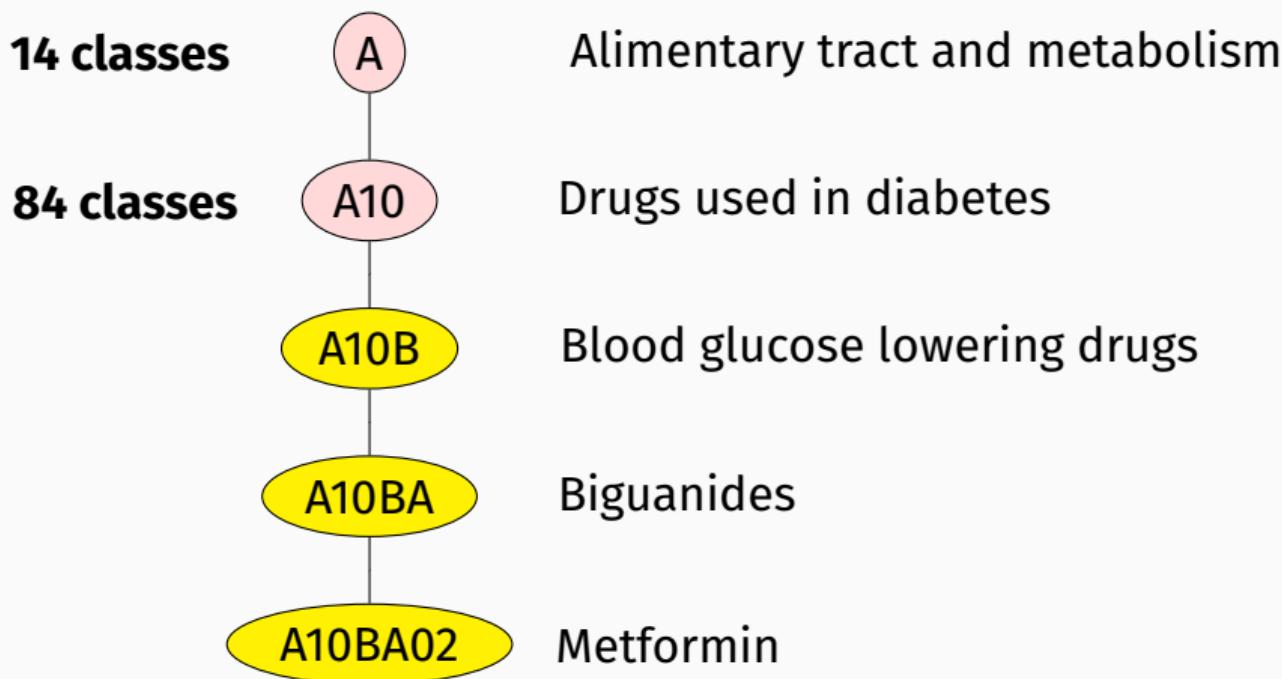
# PBS sales

## ATC drug classification

- A Alimentary tract and metabolism
- B Blood and blood forming organs
- C Cardiovascular system
- D Dermatologicals
- G Genito-urinary system and sex hormones
- H Systemic hormonal preparations, excluding sex hormones and insulins
- J Anti-infectives for systemic use
- L Antineoplastic and immunomodulating agents
- M Musculo-skeletal system
- N Nervous system
- P Antiparasitic products, insecticides and repellents
- R Respiratory system
- S Sensory organs
- V Various

# PBS sales

## ATC drug classification

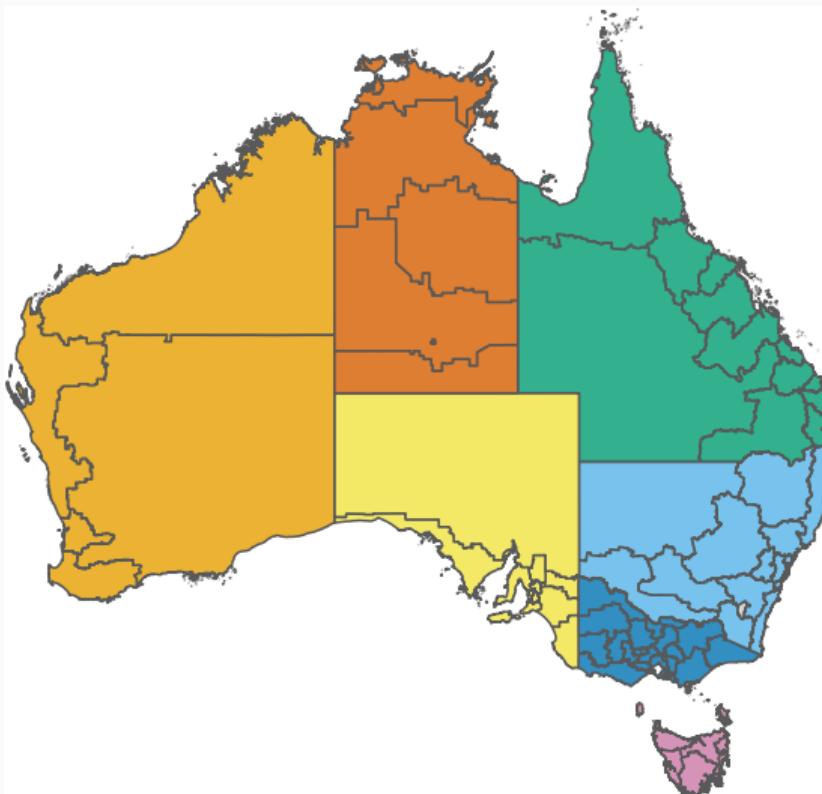


# Spectacle sales

- Monthly UK sales data from 2000 – 2014
- Provided by a large spectacle manufacturer
- Split by brand (26), gender (3), price range (6), materials (4), and stores (600)
- About 1 million bottom-level series



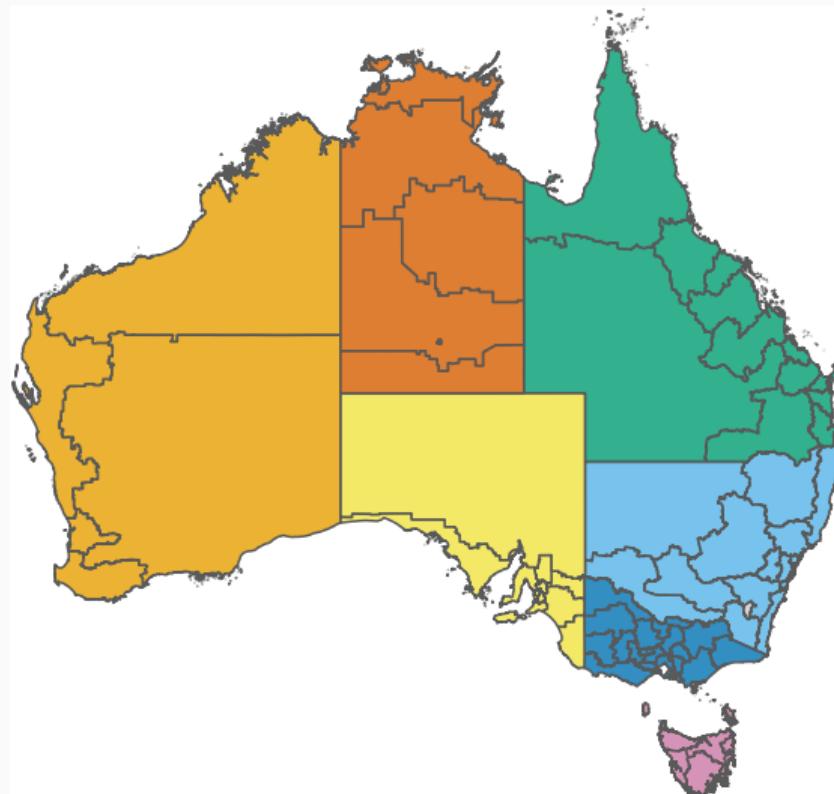
# Australian tourism regions



## State

- Australian Capital Territory
- New South Wales
- Northern Territory
- Queensland
- South Australia
- Tasmania
- Victoria
- Western Australia

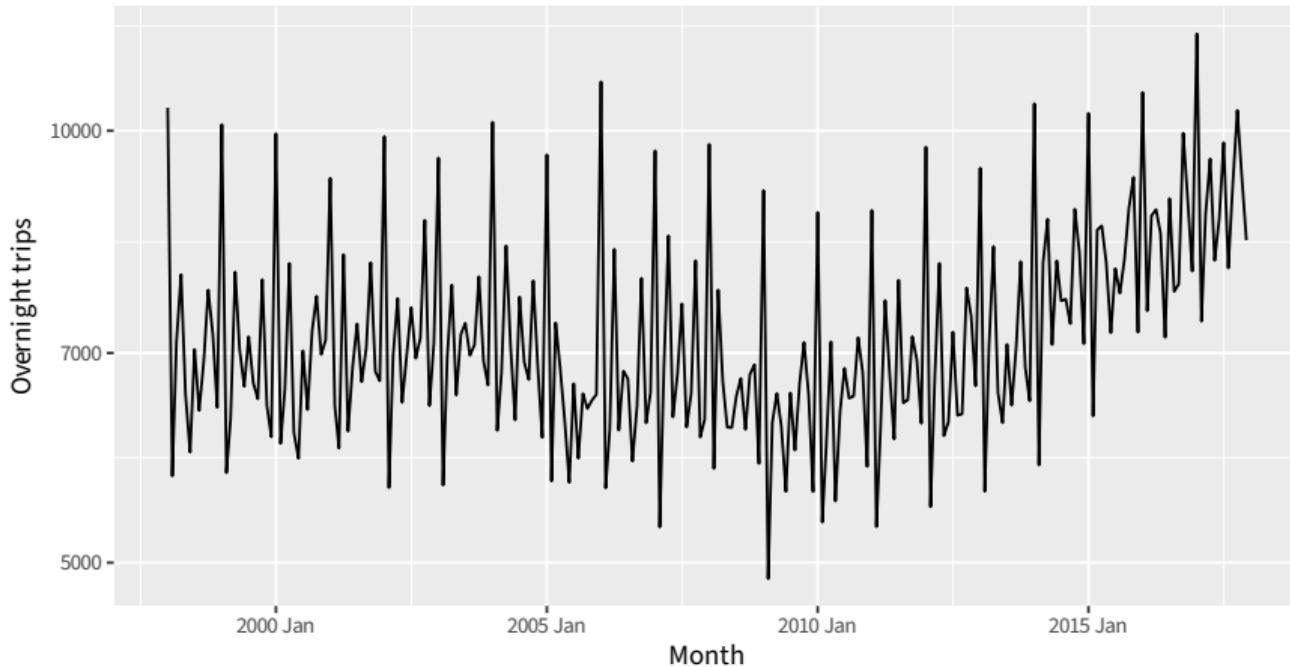
# Australian tourism regions



- Monthly data on visitor night from 1998 – 2017
- From *National Visitor Survey*, annual interviews of 120,000 Australians aged 15+.
- Geographical hierarchy split by
  - ▶ 7 states
  - ▶ 27 zones
  - ▶ 75 regions

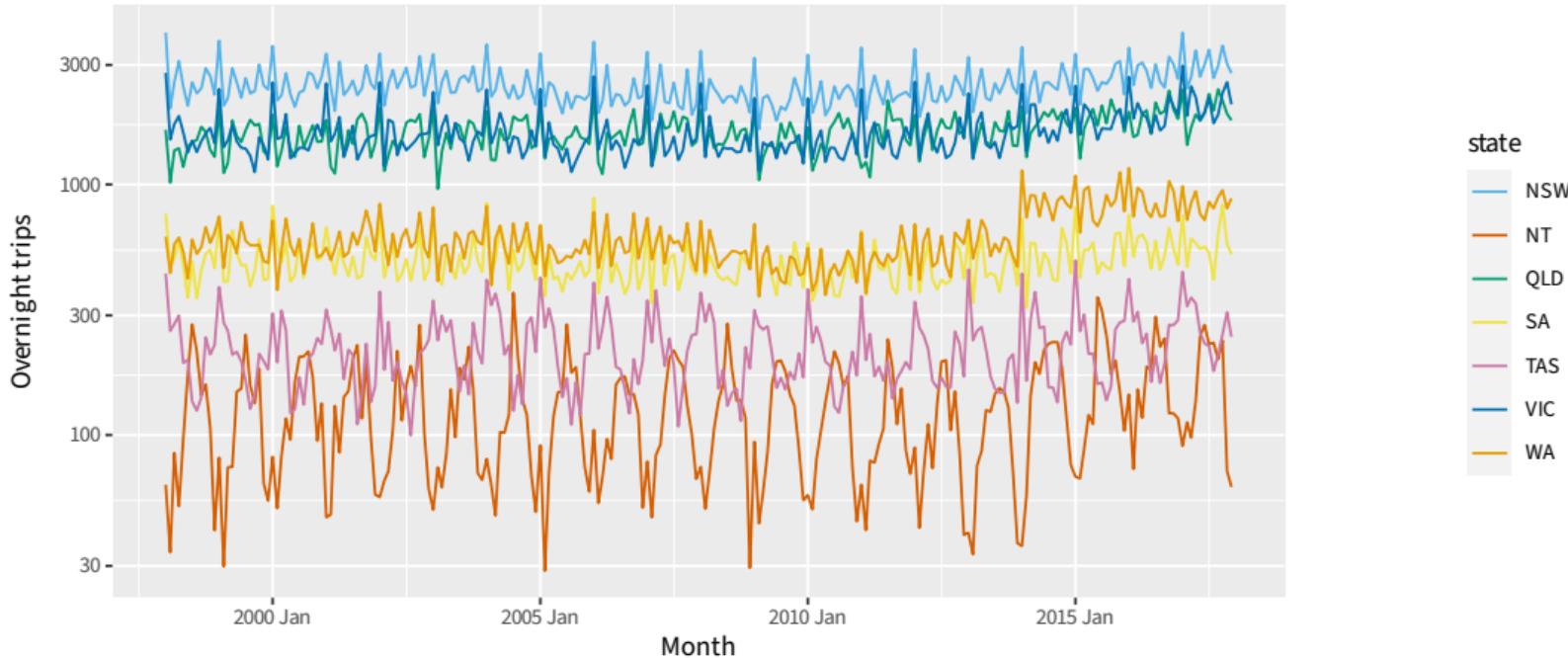
# Australian tourism data

Total domestic travel: Australia



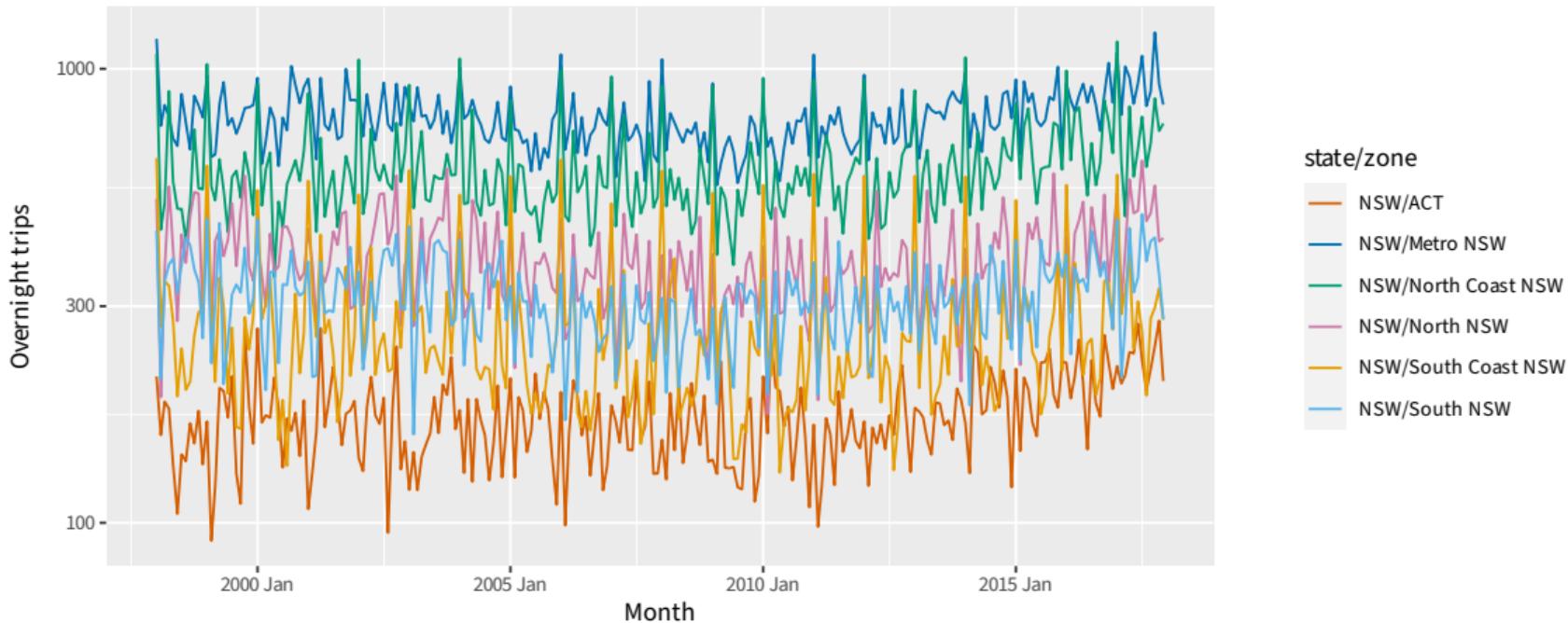
# Australian tourism data

Total domestic travel: by state



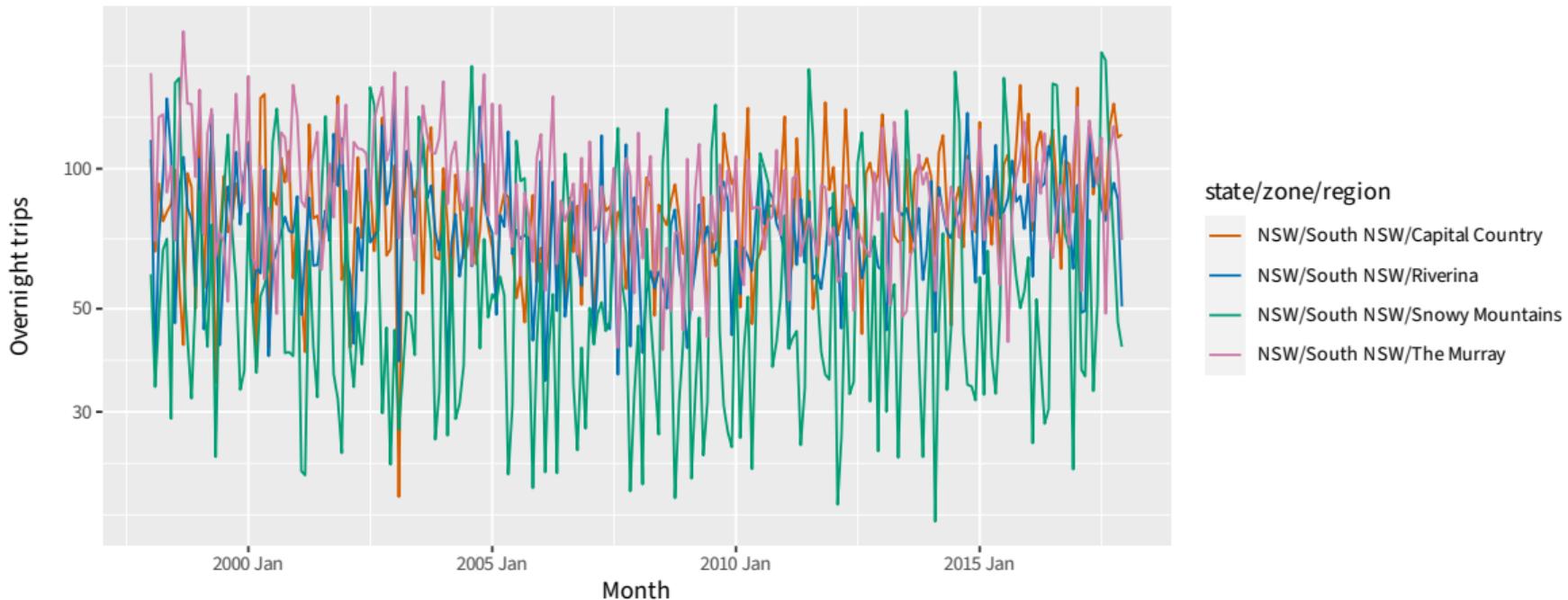
# Australian tourism data

Total domestic travel: NSW by zone



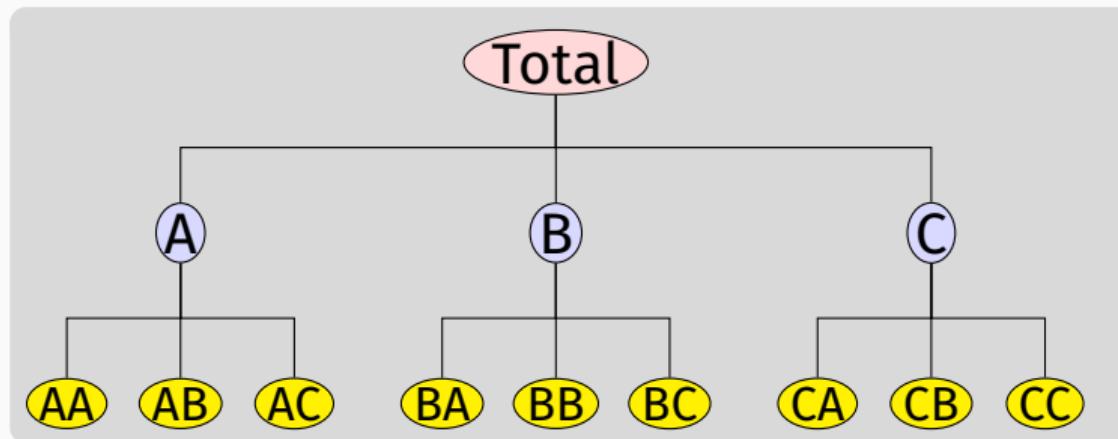
# Australian tourism data

Total domestic travel: South NSW by region



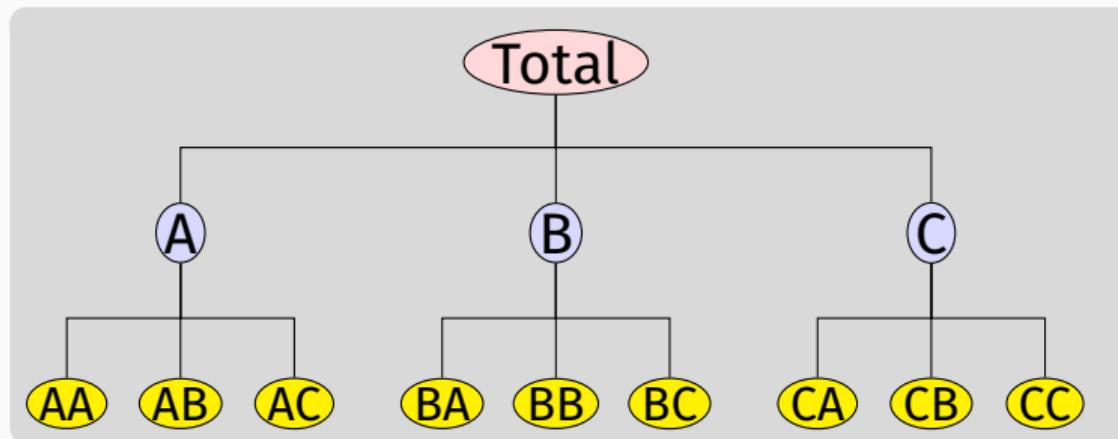
# Hierarchical time series

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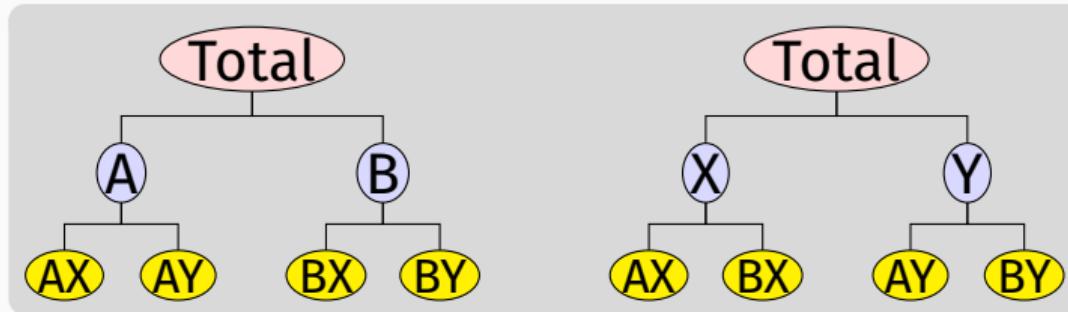


## Examples

- Tourism by state and region
- Retail sales by product groups, sub groups, and SKUs

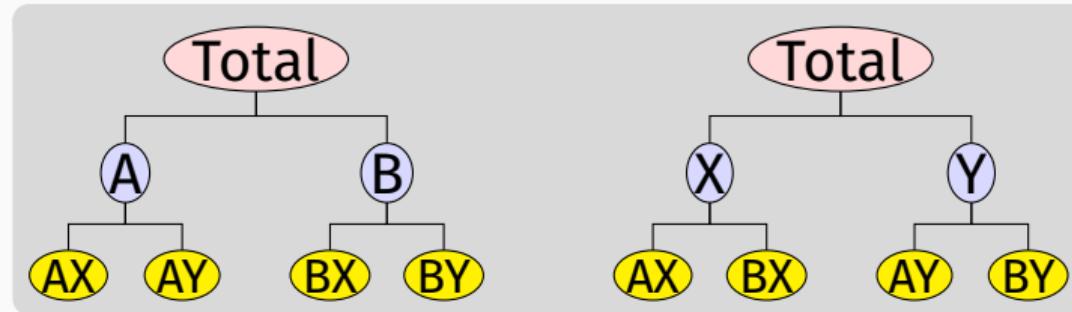
# Grouped time series

A **grouped time series** is a collection of time series that can be grouped together in a number of non-hierarchical ways.



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## Examples

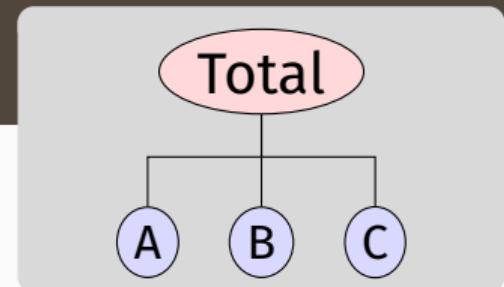
- Tourism by state and purpose of travel
- Retail sales by product groups/sub groups, and by countries/regions

# Hierarchical and grouped time series

Every collection of time series with linear constraints can be written as

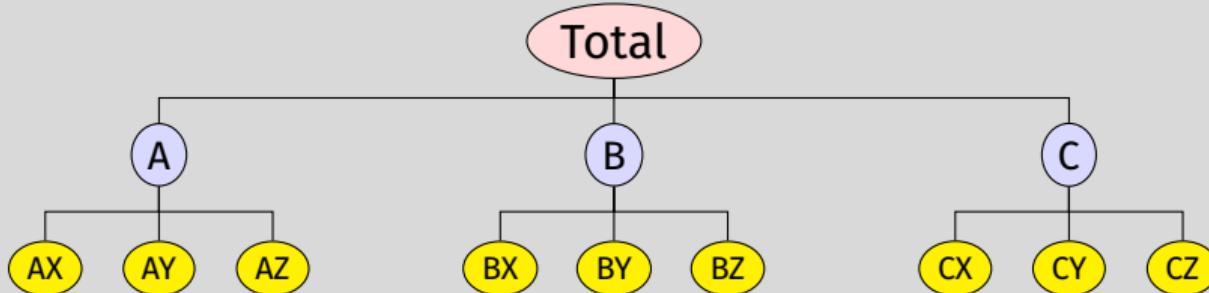
$$\mathbf{y}_t = \mathbf{S}\mathbf{b}_t$$

- $\mathbf{y}_t$  = vector of all series at time  $t$
- $y_{\text{Total},t}$  = aggregate of all series at time  $t$ .
- $y_{X,t}$  = value of series  $X$  at time  $t$ .
- $\mathbf{b}_t$  = vector of most disaggregated series at time  $t$
- $\mathbf{S}$  = “summing matrix” containing the linear constraints.

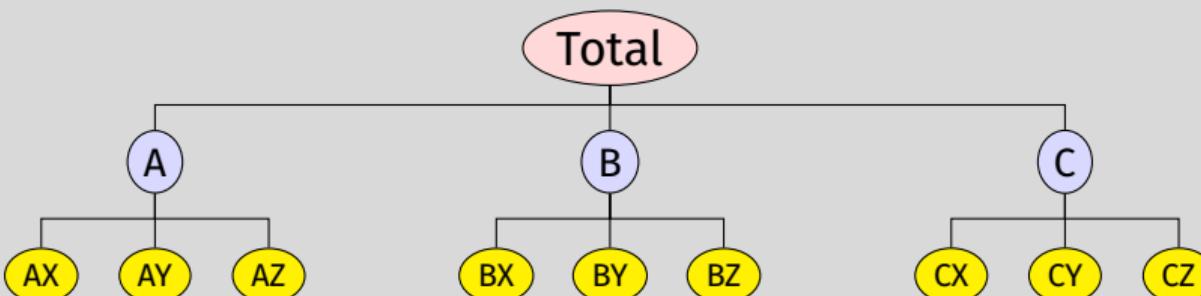


$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{y}_t &= \begin{pmatrix} y_{\text{Total},t} \\ y_{A,t} \\ y_{B,t} \\ y_{C,t} \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}}_S \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} y_{A,t} \\ y_{B,t} \\ y_{C,t} \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{b}_t} \end{aligned}$$

# Hierarchical time series

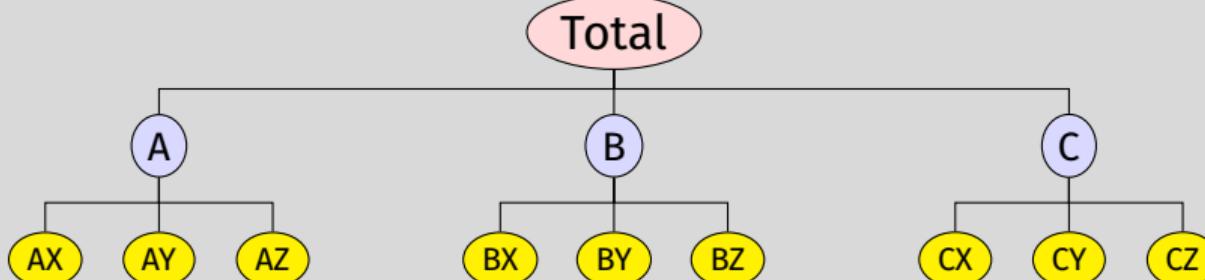


# Hierarchical time series



$$\mathbf{y}_t = \begin{pmatrix} y_{\text{Total},t} \\ y_{A,t} \\ y_{B,t} \\ y_{C,t} \\ y_{AX,t} \\ y_{AY,t} \\ y_{AZ,t} \\ y_{BX,t} \\ y_{BY,t} \\ y_{BZ,t} \\ y_{CX,t} \\ y_{CY,t} \\ y_{CZ,t} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_{AX,t} \\ y_{AY,t} \\ y_{AZ,t} \\ y_{BX,t} \\ y_{BY,t} \\ y_{BZ,t} \\ y_{CX,t} \\ y_{CY,t} \\ y_{CZ,t} \end{pmatrix}$$

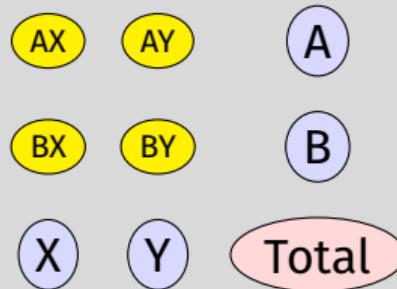
# Hierarchical time series



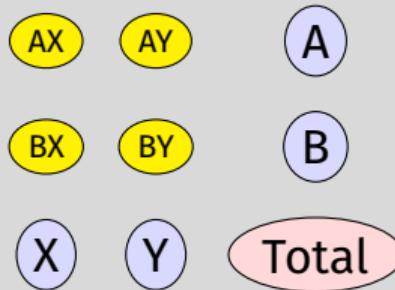
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# Grouped data

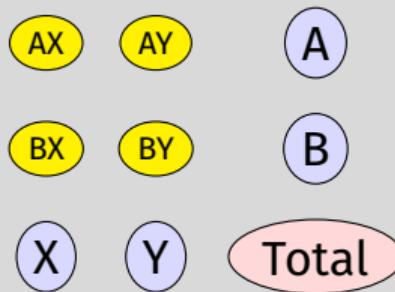


# Grouped data



$$\mathbf{y}_t = \begin{pmatrix} y_{\text{Total},t} \\ y_{A,t} \\ y_{B,t} \\ y_{X,t} \\ y_{Y,t} \\ y_{AX,t} \\ y_{AY,t} \\ y_{BX,t} \\ y_{BY,t} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_{AX,t} \\ y_{AY,t} \\ y_{BX,t} \\ y_{BY,t} \end{pmatrix}$$

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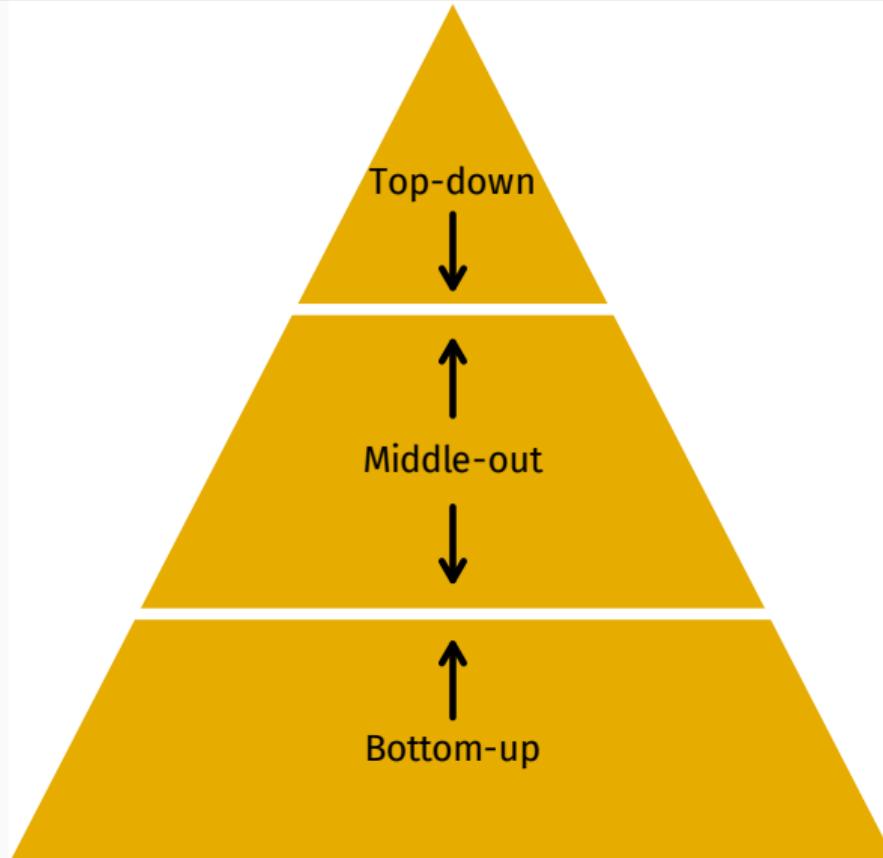
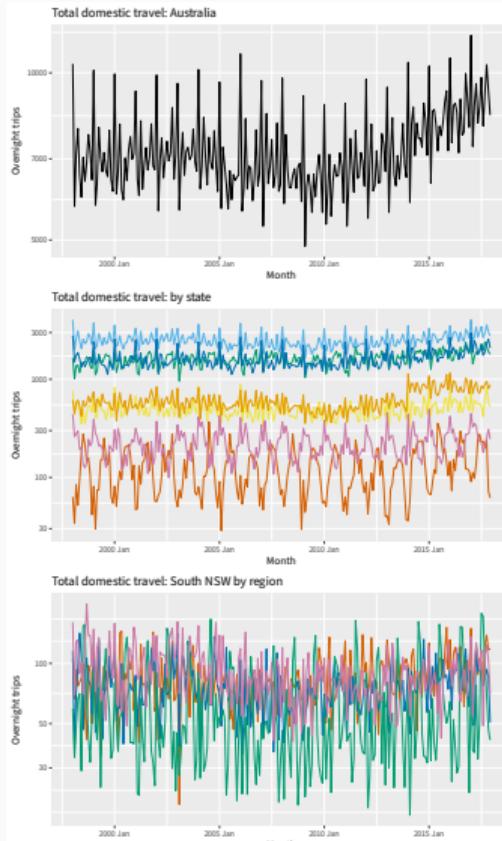
# The hierarchical forecasting problem

- We want forecasts at all levels of aggregation.
- If we model and forecast each series independently, the forecasts will almost certainly not add up.
- We need to impose constraints on the forecasts to ensure they are “coherent”.
- We need to do this in a way that is computationally efficient.

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# Hierarchical forecasting 20 years ago



# Top-down forecasting

## Advantages

- Works well in presence of low counts.
- Single forecasting model easy to build
- Provides reliable forecasts for aggregate levels.

## Disadvantages

- Loss of information, especially individual series dynamics.
- Distribution of forecasts to lower levels can be difficult
- No prediction intervals

# Bottom-up forecasting

## Advantages

- No loss of information.
- Better captures dynamics of individual series.

## Disadvantages

- Large number of series to be forecast.
- Constructing forecasting models is harder because of noisy data at bottom level.
- No prediction intervals

# Forecasting notation

Let  $\hat{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T}$  be vector of initial  $h$ -step forecasts, made at time  $T$ , stacked in same order as  $\mathbf{y}_t$ . (In general, they will not “add up”.)

# Forecasting notation

Let  $\hat{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T}$  be vector of initial  $h$ -step forecasts, made at time  $T$ , stacked in same order as  $\mathbf{y}_t$ . (In general, they will not “add up”.)

Coherent linear forecasts are of the form:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T} = \mathbf{S}\mathbf{G}\hat{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T}$$

for some matrix  $\mathbf{G}$ .

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for some matrix  $\mathbf{G}$ .

- $\mathbf{G}$  extracts and combines base forecasts  $\hat{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T}$  to get bottom-level forecasts.
- $\mathbf{S}$  adds them up

# Bottom-up forecasting

$$\tilde{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T} = \mathbf{S}\mathbf{G}\hat{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T}$$

Bottom-up forecasts are obtained using

$$\mathbf{G} = [\mathbf{0} \mid \mathbf{I}],$$

where  $\mathbf{0}$  is null matrix and  $\mathbf{I}$  is identity matrix.

- $\mathbf{G}$  matrix extracts only bottom-level forecasts from  $\hat{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T}$
- $\mathbf{S}$  adds them up to give the bottom-up forecasts.

# Top-down forecasting

$$\tilde{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T} = \mathbf{S}\mathbf{G}\hat{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T}$$

Top-down forecasts are obtained using

$$\mathbf{G} = [\mathbf{p} \mid \mathbf{0}]$$

where  $\mathbf{p} = [p_1, p_2, \dots, p_{n_b}]'$  and  $\sum_{k=1}^{n_b} p_k = 1$ .

- $\mathbf{G}$  distributes forecasts of aggregate to lowest level series.
- Different methods of top-down forecasting lead to different proportionality vectors  $\mathbf{p}$ .

# Properties of single-level methods

$$\tilde{\mathbf{y}}_{t+h|t} = \mathbf{S}\mathbf{G}\hat{\mathbf{y}}_{t+h|t}$$

## Mean

$$\begin{aligned} E[\tilde{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T} \mid \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_T] &= \mathbf{S}\mathbf{G}E[\hat{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T} \mid \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_T] \\ &= \mathbf{S}\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{b}_{T+h|T} \mid \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_T] \end{aligned}$$

provided  $\mathbf{SGS} = \mathbf{S}$  and

$E[\hat{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T} \mid \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_T] = \mathbf{S}\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{b}_{T+h|T} \mid \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_T]$ . i.e., forecasts  $\tilde{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T}$  are unbiased iff base forecasts  $\hat{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T}$  are unbiased and  $\mathbf{SGS} = \mathbf{S}$ .

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- $\mathbf{SGS} = \mathbf{S}$  for bottom-up method
- $\mathbf{SGS} \neq \mathbf{S}$  for any top-down or middle-out method.

# Properties of single-level methods

$$\tilde{\mathbf{y}}_{t+h|t} = \mathbf{S}\mathbf{G}\hat{\mathbf{y}}_{t+h|t}$$

## Variance

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{V}_h &= \text{Var}[\mathbf{y}_{T+h} - \tilde{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T} \mid \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_T] \\ &= \mathbf{S}\mathbf{G}\mathbf{W}_h\mathbf{G}'\mathbf{S}'\end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathbf{W}_h = \text{Var}[\mathbf{y}_{T+h} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T} \mid \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_T]$

# Properties of single-level methods

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where  $\mathbf{W}_h = \text{Var}[\mathbf{y}_{T+h} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T} \mid \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_T]$

- $\mathbf{W}_h$  is hard to estimate for  $h > 1$ .
- This suggests we should choose  $\mathbf{G}$  to minimise  $\mathbf{V}_h$ .

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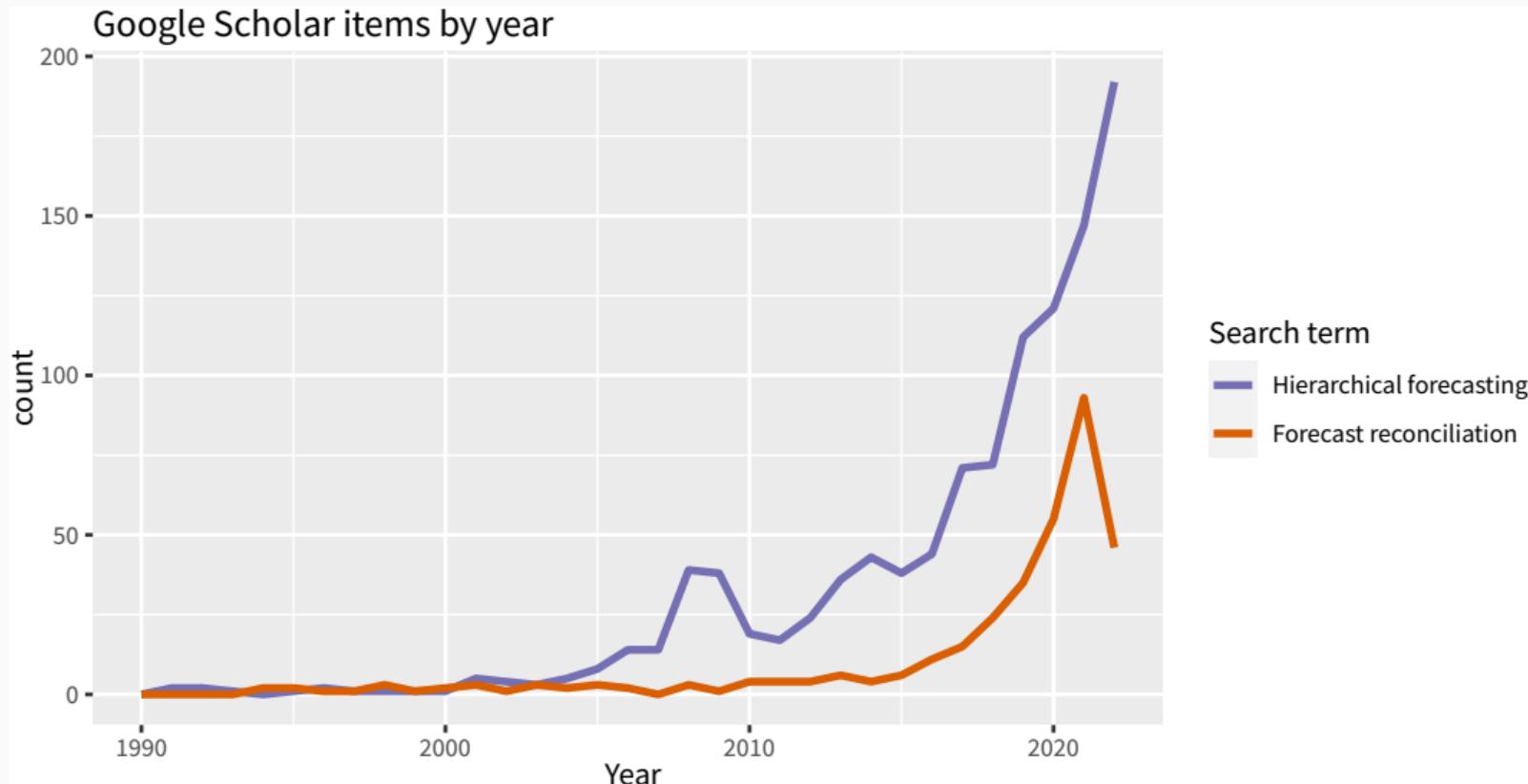
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# Early history of forecast reconciliation

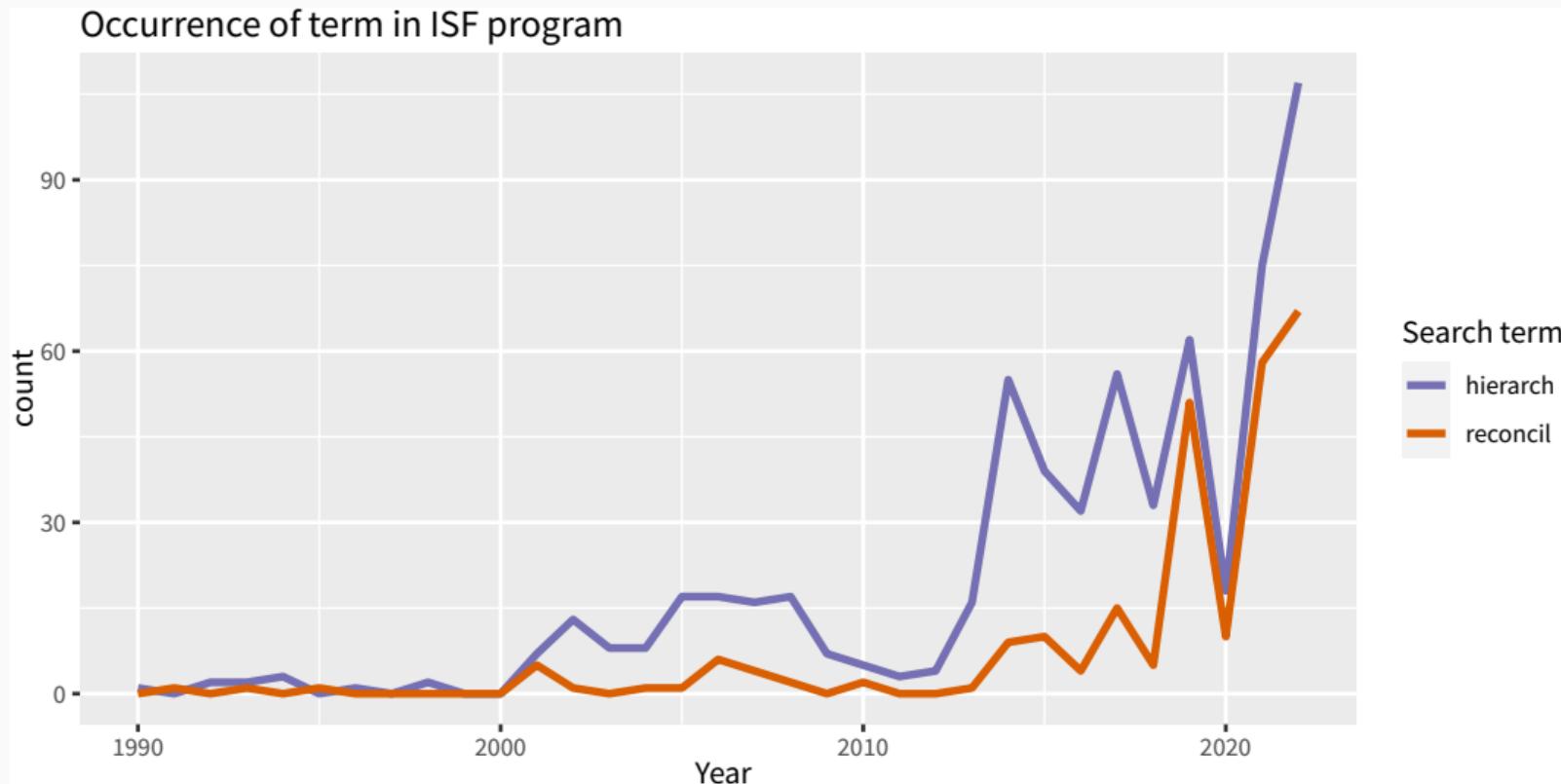
## History

- 2001:** Idea to use all available series to forecast Australia's labour market by occupation.
- 2004:** PhD student Roman Ahmed begins, co-supervised with George Athanasopoulos.
- 2006:** Presentation at ISF, Santander.
- 2007:** Pre-print of “Optimal combination forecasts for hierarchical time series”.
- 2009:** Application to Australian tourism published in IJF.
- 2010:** First version of hts package on CRAN.
- 2011:** “Optimal combination forecasts for hierarchical time series” appears in CSDA.
- 2019:** “Optimal forecast reconciliation for hierarchical and grouped time series through trace minimization” appears in JASA.

# Forecast reconciliation research



# Forecast reconciliation research



# Linear forecast reconciliation

$$\tilde{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T} = \mathbf{S}\mathbf{G}\hat{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T}$$

- $\mathbf{G}$  combines base forecasts  $\hat{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T}$  to get bottom-level forecasts.
- $\mathbf{S}$  creates linear combinations.
- Bottom-up and top-down can be seen as special cases.
- $\mathbf{SG}$  is a projection matrix iff  $\mathbf{SGS}' = \mathbf{S}$ .
- Reconciled forecasts are unbiased iff base forecasts are unbiased and  $\mathbf{SG}$  is a projection.
- $\mathbf{V}_h = \text{Var}[\mathbf{y}_{T+h} - \tilde{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T} \mid \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_T] = \mathbf{SGW}_h\mathbf{G}'\mathbf{S}'$
- How to choose  $\mathbf{G}$  to create optimal forecasts?

# Minimum trace reconciliation

## Minimum trace (MinT) reconciliation

If  $\mathbf{S}\mathbf{G}$  is a projection, then the trace of  $\mathbf{V}_h$  is minimized when

$$\mathbf{G} = (\mathbf{S}'\mathbf{W}_h^{-1}\mathbf{S})^{-1}\mathbf{S}'\mathbf{W}_h^{-1}$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T} = \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{S}'\mathbf{W}_h^{-1}\mathbf{S})^{-1}\mathbf{S}'\mathbf{W}_h^{-1}\hat{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T}$$

Reconciled forecasts

Base forecasts

- Trace of  $\mathbf{V}_h$  is sum of forecast variances.
- MinT solution is  $L_2$  optimal amongst linear unbiased forecasts.
- How to estimate  $\mathbf{W}_h = \text{Var}[\mathbf{y}_{T+h} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T} \mid \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_T]$ ?

# Linear projections

$$\tilde{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T} = \mathbf{S}\mathbf{G}\hat{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T}$$

## Reconciliation method $\mathbf{G}$

OLS  $(\mathbf{S}'\mathbf{S})^{-1}\mathbf{S}'$

WLS(var)  $(\mathbf{S}'\Lambda_v\mathbf{S})^{-1}\mathbf{S}'\Lambda_v$

WLS(struct)  $(\mathbf{S}'\Lambda_s\mathbf{S})^{-1}\mathbf{S}'\Lambda_s$

MinT(sample)  $(\mathbf{S}'\hat{\mathbf{W}}_{\text{sam}}^{-1}\mathbf{S})^{-1}\mathbf{S}'\hat{\mathbf{W}}_{\text{sam}}^{-1}$

MinT(shrink)  $(\mathbf{S}'\hat{\mathbf{W}}_{\text{shr}}^{-1}\mathbf{S})^{-1}\mathbf{S}'\hat{\mathbf{W}}_{\text{shr}}^{-1}$

These approximate  
MinT by assuming  
 $\mathbf{W}_h = k_h \mathbf{W}_1$ .

■  $\Lambda_v = \text{diag}(\mathbf{W}_1)^{-1}$  ■  $\Lambda_s = \text{diag}(\mathbf{S}\mathbf{1})^{-1}$

■  $\hat{\mathbf{W}}_{\text{sam}}$  is sample estimate of the residual covariance matrix

■  $\hat{\mathbf{W}}_{\text{shr}}$  is shrinkage estimator  $\tau \text{diag}(\hat{\mathbf{W}}_{\text{sam}}) + (1 - \tau)\hat{\mathbf{W}}_{\text{sam}}$   
where  $\tau$  selected optimally.

■ Still need a good estimate of  $\mathbf{W}_h$  for forecast variance.

# OLS is not as bad as you might think

- If all base forecasts come from the same model, then forecast errors are coherent.
- So  $\hat{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T} = \mathbf{S}\hat{\mathbf{b}}_{T+h|T} + \mathbf{S}\hat{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{T+h}$  and

$$\mathbf{W}_h = \text{Var}(\mathbf{y}_{T+h} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}_{T+h|T}) = \mathbf{S}\Sigma_h\mathbf{S}'$$

where  $\Sigma_h = \text{Var}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{T+h})$ . So

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{G} &= [\mathbf{S}'\mathbf{W}_h^{-1}\mathbf{S}]^{-1}\mathbf{S}'\mathbf{W}_h^{-1} \\ &= [\mathbf{S}'(\mathbf{S}\Sigma_h\mathbf{S}')^{-1}\mathbf{S}]^{-1}\mathbf{S}'(\mathbf{S}\Sigma_h\mathbf{S}')^{-1} \\ &= (\mathbf{S}'\mathbf{S})^{-1}\mathbf{S}'\end{aligned}$$

(Proof: Hyndman et al, CSDA 2011)

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# Example: Australian tourism

## tourism

```
# A tsibble: 18,000 x 5 [1M]
# Key:       state, zone, region [75]
# i 17,990 more rows
# ... with variables:
#   month <mth>, state <chr>, zone <chr>, region <chr>,
#   visitors <dbl>
# 
  month state zone      region visitors
  <mth> <chr> <chr>     <chr>    <dbl>
1 1998  Jan  NSW  Metro  NSW  Sydney  926.
2 1998  Feb  NSW  Metro  NSW  Sydney  647.
3 1998  Mar  NSW  Metro  NSW  Sydney  716.
4 1998  Apr  NSW  Metro  NSW  Sydney  621.
5 1998  May  NSW  Metro  NSW  Sydney  598.
6 1998  Jun  NSW  Metro  NSW  Sydney  601.
7 1998  Jul  NSW  Metro  NSW  Sydney  720.
8 1998  Aug  NSW  Metro  NSW  Sydney  645.
9 1998  Sep  NSW  Metro  NSW  Sydney  633.
10 1998  Oct  NSW  Metro  NSW  Sydney  771.
```

# Example: Australian tourism

```
tourism_agg <- tourism |>  
  aggregate_key(state / zone / region, visitors = sum(visitors))
```

```
# A tsibble: 26,400 x 5 [1M]  
# Key:      state, zone, region [110]  
  month state       zone       region     visitors  
  <mth> <chr*>    <chr*>    <chr*>     <dbl>  
1 1998 Jan <aggregated> <aggregated> <aggregated> 10376.  
2 1998 Feb <aggregated> <aggregated> <aggregated> 5746.  
3 1998 Mar <aggregated> <aggregated> <aggregated> 7129.  
4 1998 Apr <aggregated> <aggregated> <aggregated> 7939.  
5 1998 May <aggregated> <aggregated> <aggregated> 6552.  
6 1998 Jun <aggregated> <aggregated> <aggregated> 5969.  
7 1998 Jul <aggregated> <aggregated> <aggregated> 7041.  
8 1998 Aug <aggregated> <aggregated> <aggregated> 6382.  
9 1998 Sep <aggregated> <aggregated> <aggregated> 6907.  
10 1998 Oct <aggregated> <aggregated> <aggregated> 7744.
```

# Example: Australian tourism

```
fit <- tourism_agg |>  
  filter(year(month) <= 2015) |>  
  model(ets = ETS(visitors))
```

```
# A mable: 110 x 4  
# Key: state, zone, region [110]  
  
  state    zone          region           ets  
  <chr*> <chr*>        <chr*>           <model>  
1 NSW      ACT          Canberra        <ETS(M,N,A)>  
2 NSW      ACT          <aggregated>   <ETS(M,N,A)>  
3 NSW      Metro NSW    Central Coast  <ETS(M,N,M)>  
4 NSW      Metro NSW    Sydney         <ETS(M,N,A)>  
5 NSW      Metro NSW    <aggregated>   <ETS(M,N,A)>  
6 NSW      North Coast NSW Hunter       <ETS(M,N,M)>  
7 NSW      North Coast NSW North Coast NSW <ETS(M,N,M)>  
8 NSW      North Coast NSW <aggregated>   <ETS(M,N,M)>  
9 NSW      North NSW     Blue Mountains <ETS(M,N,A)>
```

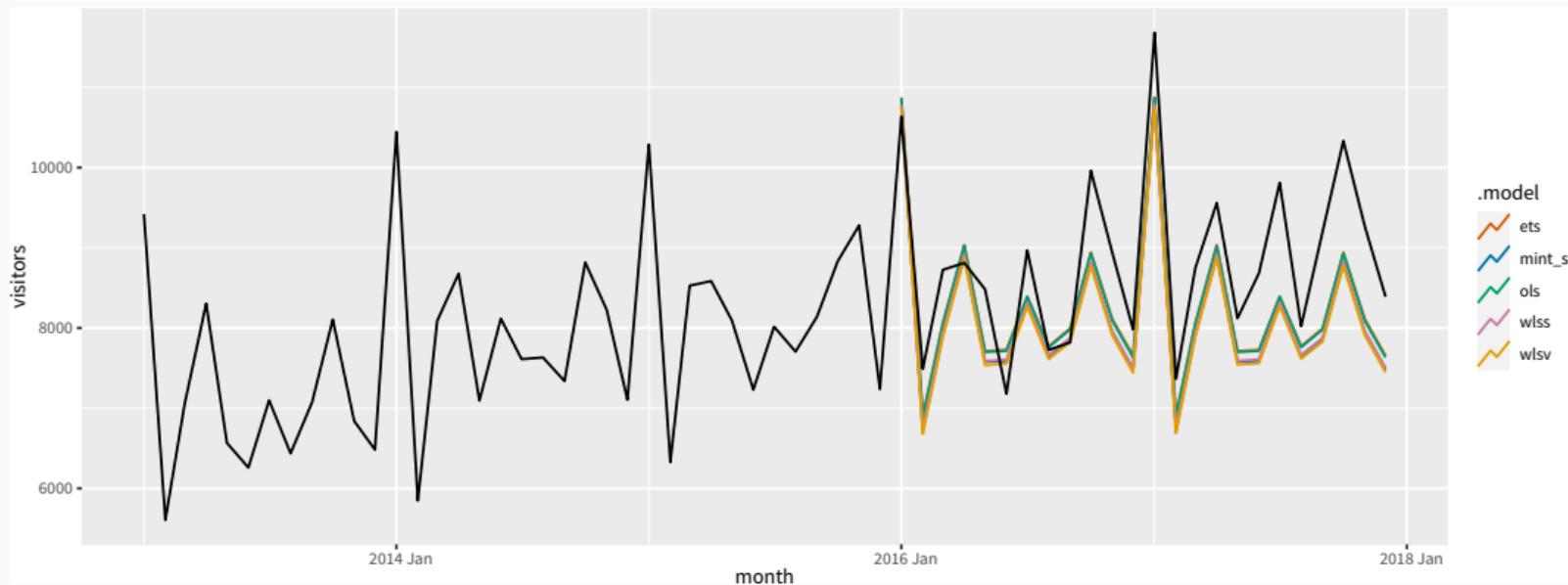
# Example: Australian tourism

```
fc <- fit |>
  reconcile(
    ols = min_trace(ets, method = "ols"),
    wlsv = min_trace(ets, method = "wls_var"),
    wlss = min_trace(ets, method = "wls_struct"),
    # mint_c = min_trace(ets, method="mint_cov"),
    mint_s = min_trace(ets, method = "mint_shrink"),
  ) |>
  forecast(h = "2 years")
```

```
# A fable: 13,200 x 7 [1M]
# Key:      state, zone, region, .model [550]
  state   zone   region     .model     month     visitors .mean
  <chr*> <chr*> <chr*>     <chr>     <mth>     <dist> <dbl>
1 NSW     ACT     Canberra  ets      2016 Jan N(202, 1437) 202.
2 NSW     ACT     Canberra  ets      2016 Feb N(160, 912) 160.
3 NSW     ACT     Canberra  ets      2016 Mar N(204, 1489) 204.
```

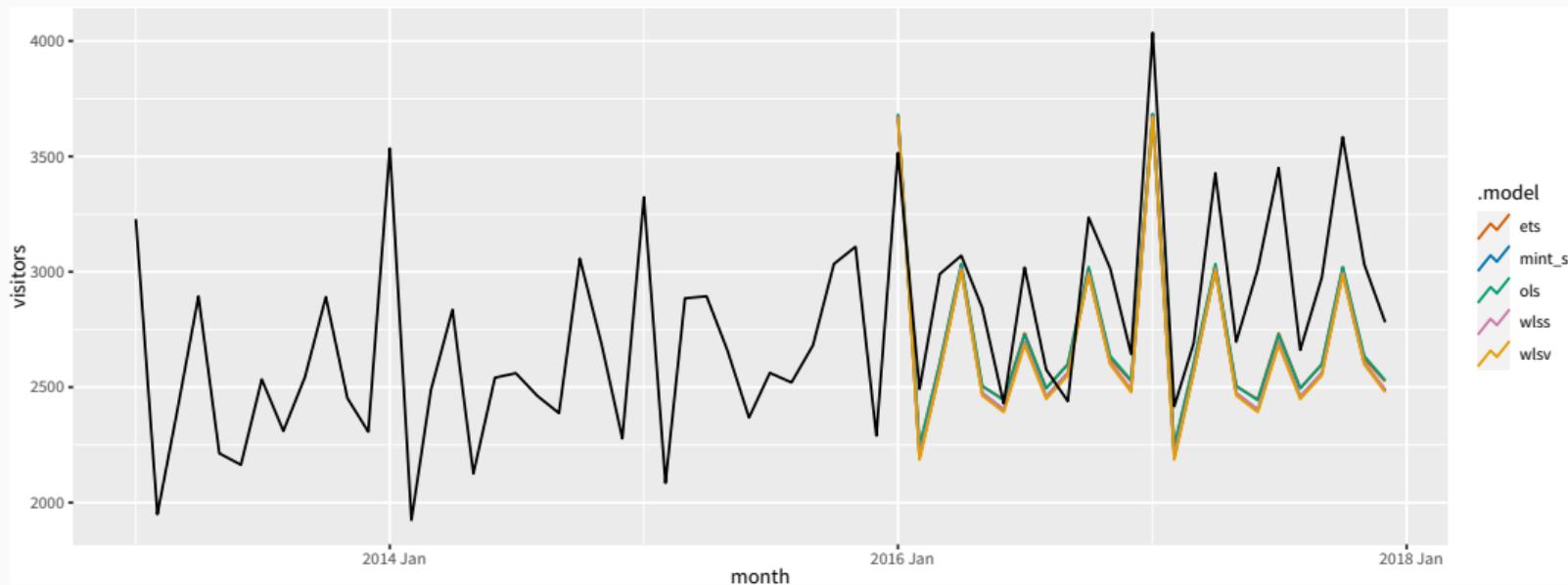
# Example: Australian tourism

```
fc |>  
  filter(is_aggregated(state)) |>  
  autoplot(filter(tourism_agg, year(month) > 2012), level = NULL)
```



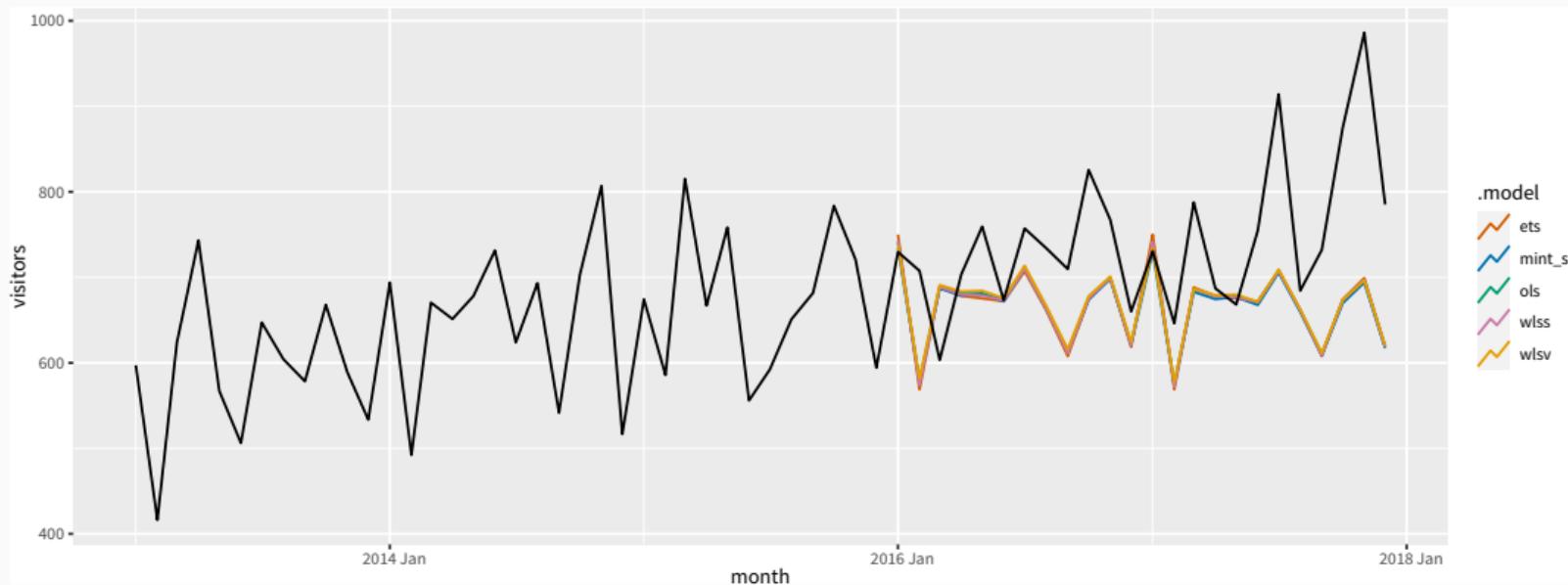
# Example: Australian tourism

```
fc |>  
  filter(state == "NSW" & is_aggregated(zone)) |>  
  autoplot(filter(tourism_agg, year(month) > 2012), level = NULL)
```



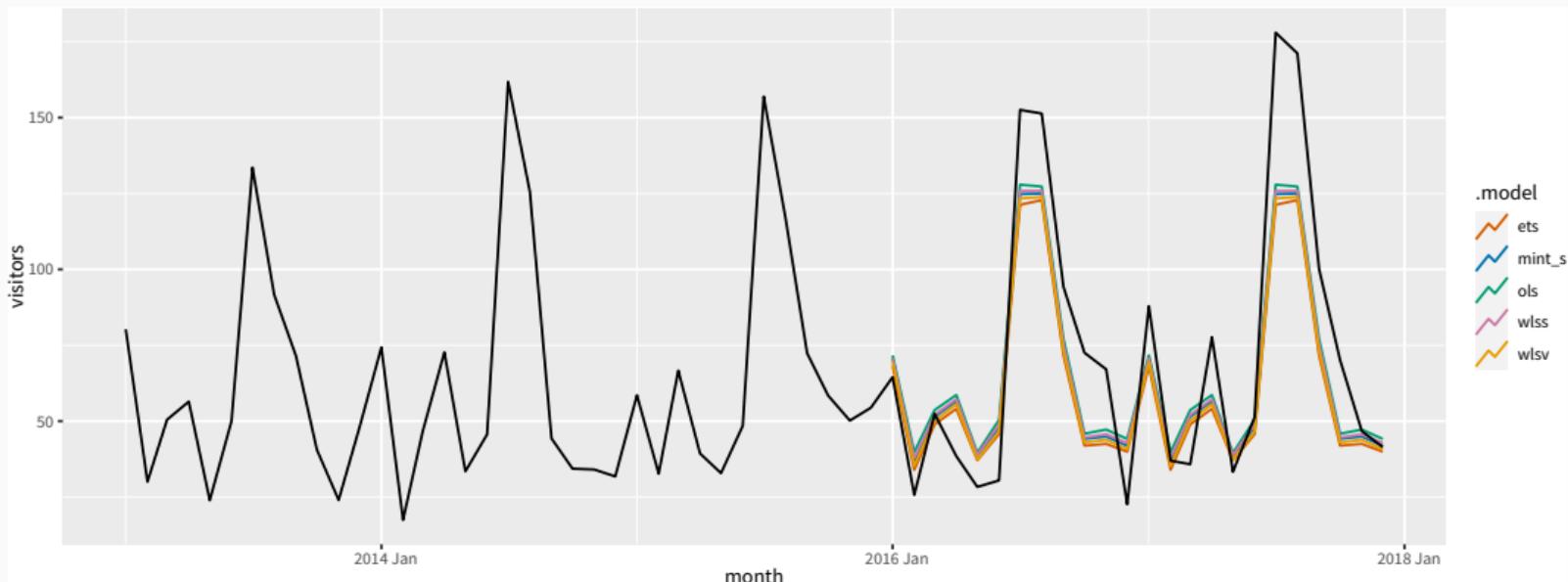
# Example: Australian tourism

```
fc |>  
  filter(region == "Melbourne") |>  
  autoplot(filter(tourism_agg, year(month) > 2012), level = NULL)
```



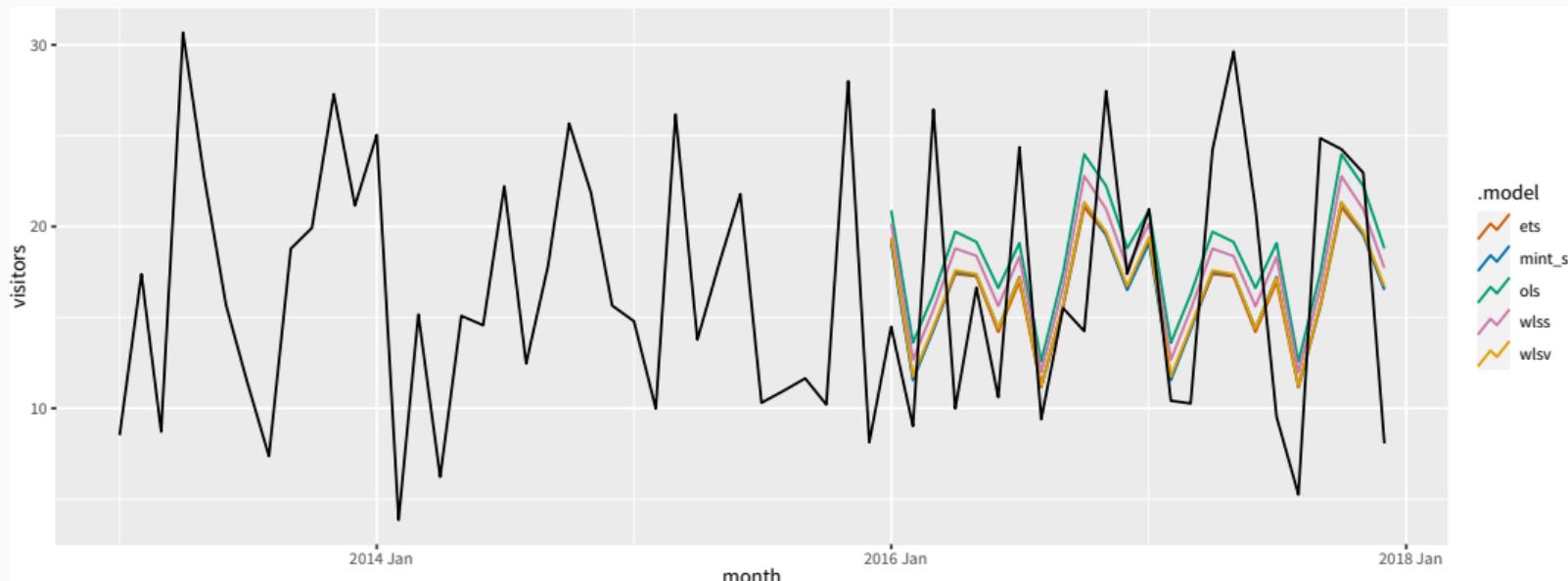
# Example: Australian tourism

```
fc |>  
  filter(region == "Snowy Mountains") |>  
  autoplot(filter(tourism_agg, year(month) > 2012), level = NULL)
```



# Example: Australian tourism

```
fc |>  
  filter(region == "Barossa") |>  
  autoplot(filter(tourism_agg, year(month) > 2012), level = NULL)
```



# Example: Australian tourism

```
fc |>
  accuracy(
    data = tourism_agg,
    measures = list(rmsse = RMSSE)
  )
```

```
# A tibble: 550 x 6
  .model state zone                 region      .type rmsse
  <chr>   <chr> <chr>                <chr>      <chr> <dbl>
1 ets     NSW   ACT                 Canberra   Test    0.835
2 ets     NSW   ACT                 <aggregated> Test    0.835
3 ets     NSW   Metro NSW           Central Coast Test    0.747
4 ets     NSW   Metro NSW           Sydney     Test    1.16 
5 ets     NSW   Metro NSW           <aggregated> Test    1.18 
6 ets     NSW   North Coast NSW Hunter   Test    1.21 
7 ets     NSW   North Coast NSW North Coast NSW Test    0.884
8 ets     NSW   North Coast NSW <aggregated> Test    1.02
```

# Example: Australian tourism

```
fc |>
  accuracy(tourism_agg,
    measures = list(mase = MASE, rmsse = RMSSE)
  ) |>
  group_by(.model) |>
  summarise(mase = mean(mase), rmsse = sqrt(mean(rmsse^2))) |>
  arrange(rmsse)
```

```
# A tibble: 5 x 3
  .model   mase   rmsse
  <chr>   <dbl>   <dbl>
1 ols     0.930  0.926
2 wlss    0.949  0.948
3 mint_s  0.953  0.954
4 wlsv    0.964  0.965
5 ets     0.968  0.968
```

# Example: Australian tourism

```
fc |>
  accuracy(tourism_agg,
    measures = list(mase = MASE, rmsse = RMSSE)
  ) |>
  group_by(.model) |>
  summarise(mase = mean(mase), rmsse = sqrt(mean(rmsse^2))) |>
  arrange(rmsse)
```

```
# A tibble: 5 x 3
  .model   mase   rmsse
  <chr>   <dbl>   <dbl>
1 ols     0.930  0.926
2 wlss    0.949  0.948
3 mint_s  0.953  0.954
4 wlsv    0.964  0.965
5 ets     0.968  0.968
```

- Overall, every reconciliation method is better than the base ETS forecasts.

# Example: Australian tourism

```
# A tibble: 20 x 4
# Groups:   .model [5]
  .model level     mase rmsse
  <chr>  <fct>    <dbl> <dbl>
1 ets    National  1.44  1.27
2 ols    National  1.46  1.29
3 wlss   National  1.61  1.43
4 mint_s National  1.64  1.45
5 wlsv   National  1.69  1.49
6 ols    State     1.07  1.08
7 ets    State     1.10  1.11
8 wlss   State     1.13  1.14
9 mint_s State     1.15  1.15
10 wlsv   State    1.18  1.17
11 ols    Zone      0.954 0.948
12 wlss   Zone      0.987 0.980
13 mint_s Zone      0.995 0.988
14 ets    Zone      1.01  0.999
15 wlsv   Zone      1.01  1.00
16 ols    Region    0.901 0.895
17 wlss   Region    0.910 0.907
18 mint_s Region    0.911 0.911
19 wlsv   Region    0.917 0.919
20 ets    Region    0.935 0.938
```

# Example: Australian tourism

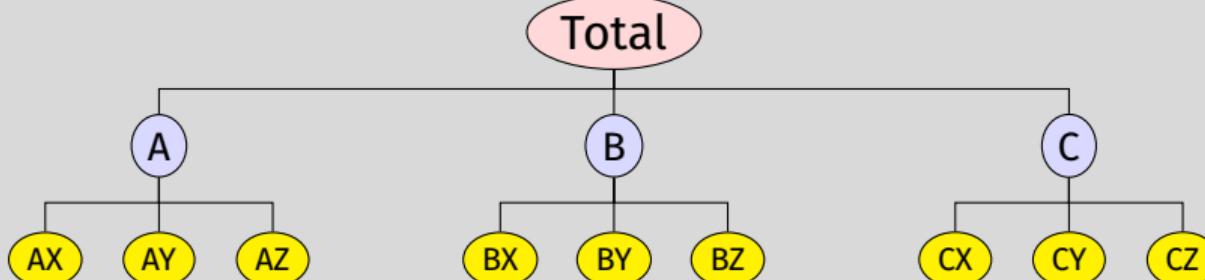
```
# A tibble: 20 x 4
# Groups:   .model [5]
  .model level      mase rmsse
  <chr>  <fct>     <dbl> <dbl>
1 ets    National  1.44  1.27
2 ols    National  1.46  1.29
3 wlss   National  1.61  1.43
4 mint_s National  1.64  1.45
5 wlsv   National  1.69  1.49
6 ols    State     1.07  1.08
7 ets    State     1.10  1.11
8 wlss   State     1.13  1.14
9 mint_s State     1.15  1.15
10 wlsv   State    1.18  1.17
11 ols    Zone      0.954 0.948
12 wlss   Zone      0.987 0.980
13 mint_s Zone      0.995 0.988
14 ets    Zone      1.01  0.999
15 wlsv   Zone      1.01  1.00
16 ols    Region    0.901 0.895
17 wlss   Region    0.910 0.907
18 mint_s Region    0.911 0.911
19 wlsv   Region    0.917 0.919
20 ets    Region    0.935 0.938
```

- OLS is best for all levels except national.
- Improvements due to reconciliation are greater at lower levels.

# Outline

- 1 Hierarchical time series data
- 2 Hierarchical forecasting using single-level approaches
- 3 Linear forecast reconciliation
- 4 Example: Australian tourism
- 5 Fast computational tricks

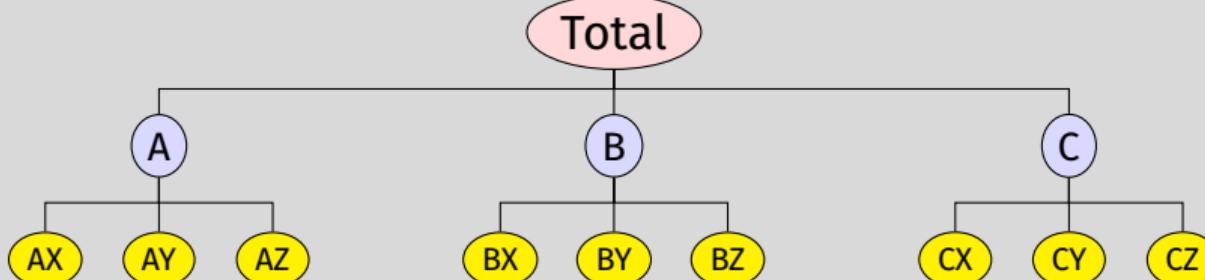
# Fast computation: hierarchical data



$$\mathbf{y}_t = \begin{pmatrix} y_{\text{Total},t} \\ y_{A,t} \\ y_{B,t} \\ y_{C,t} \\ y_{AX,t} \\ y_{AY,t} \\ y_{AZ,t} \\ y_{BX,t} \\ y_{BY,t} \\ y_{BZ,t} \\ y_{CX,t} \\ y_{CY,t} \\ y_{CZ,t} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_{AX,t} \\ y_{AY,t} \\ y_{AZ,t} \\ y_{BX,t} \\ y_{BY,t} \\ y_{BZ,t} \\ y_{CX,t} \\ y_{CY,t} \\ y_{CZ,t} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{y}_t = \mathbf{S}\mathbf{b}_t$$

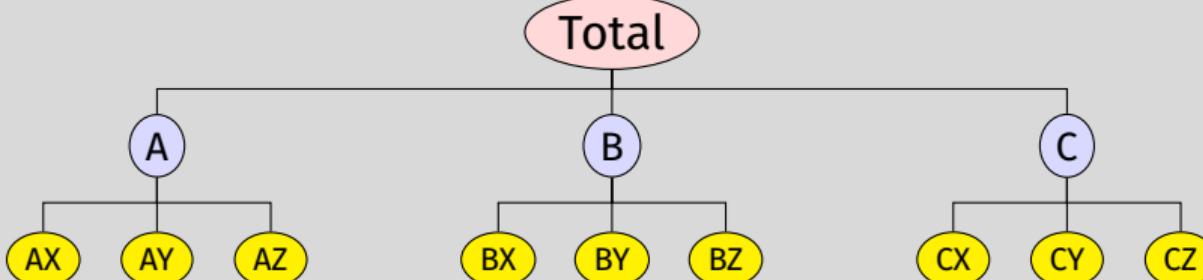
# Fast computation: hierarchical data



$$\mathbf{y}_t = \begin{pmatrix} y_{\text{Total},t} \\ y_{A,t} \\ y_{AX,t} \\ y_{AY,t} \\ y_{AZ,t} \\ y_{B,t} \\ y_{BX,t} \\ y_{BY,t} \\ y_{BZ,t} \\ y_{C,t} \\ y_{CX,t} \\ y_{CY,t} \\ y_{CZ,t} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_{AX,t} \\ y_{AY,t} \\ y_{AZ,t} \\ y_{BX,t} \\ y_{BY,t} \\ y_{BZ,t} \\ y_{CX,t} \\ y_{CY,t} \\ y_{CZ,t} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{y}_t = \mathbf{S}\mathbf{b}_t$$

# Fast computation: hierarchical data

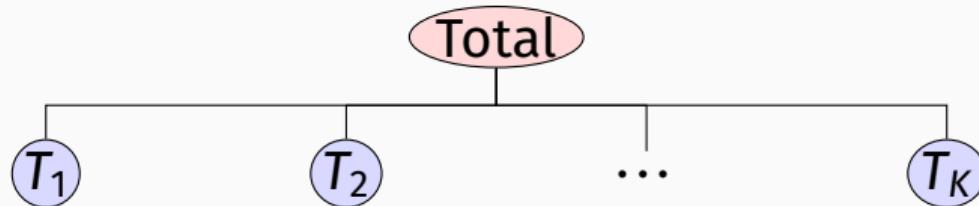


$$\mathbf{y}_t = \begin{pmatrix} y_{\text{Total},t} \\ y_{A,t} \\ y_{AX,t} \\ y_{AY,t} \\ y_{AZ,t} \\ y_{B,t} \\ y_{BX,t} \\ y_{BY,t} \\ y_{BZ,t} \\ y_{C,t} \\ y_{CX,t} \\ y_{CY,t} \\ y_{CZ,t} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_{AX,t} \\ y_{AY,t} \\ y_{AZ,t} \\ y_{BX,t} \\ y_{BY,t} \\ y_{BZ,t} \\ y_{CX,t} \\ y_{CY,t} \\ y_{CZ,t} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{y}_t = \mathbf{S}\mathbf{b}_t$$

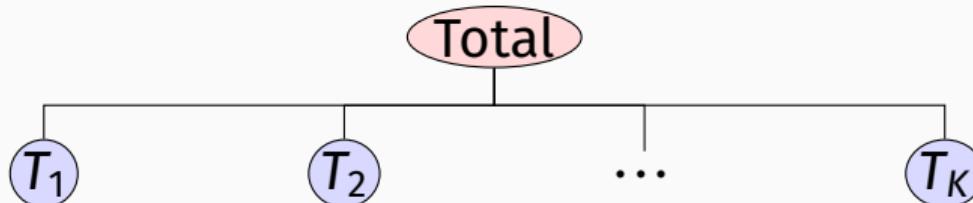
# Fast computation: hierarchies

Think of the hierarchy as a tree of trees:



# Fast computation: hierarchies

Think of the hierarchy as a tree of trees:



Then the summing matrix contains  $K$  smaller summing matrices:

$$S = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1}'_{n_1} & \mathbf{1}'_{n_2} & \cdots & \mathbf{1}'_{n_K} \\ S_1 & \mathbf{0} & \cdots & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & S_2 & \cdots & \mathbf{0} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \cdots & S_K \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $\mathbf{1}_n$  is an  $n$ -vector of ones and tree  $T_i$  has  $n_i$  terminal nodes.

# Fast computation: hierarchies

$$\mathbf{S}'\Lambda\mathbf{S} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{S}'_1\Lambda_1\mathbf{S}_1 & \mathbf{0} & \cdots & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{S}'_2\Lambda_2\mathbf{S}_2 & \cdots & \mathbf{0} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \cdots & \mathbf{S}'_K\Lambda_K\mathbf{S}_K \end{bmatrix} + \lambda_0 \mathbf{J}_n$$

- $\lambda_0$  is the top left element of  $\Lambda$
- $\Lambda_k$  is a block of  $\Lambda$ , corresponding to tree  $T_k$
- $\mathbf{J}_n$  is a matrix of ones
- $n = \sum_k n_k$

# Fast computation: hierarchies

$$\mathbf{S}'\Lambda\mathbf{S} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{S}_1'\Lambda_1\mathbf{S}_1 & \mathbf{0} & \cdots & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{S}_2'\Lambda_2\mathbf{S}_2 & \cdots & \mathbf{0} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \cdots & \mathbf{S}_K'\Lambda_K\mathbf{S}_K \end{bmatrix} + \lambda_0 \mathbf{J}_n$$

- $\lambda_0$  is the top left element of  $\Lambda$
- $\Lambda_k$  is a block of  $\Lambda$ , corresponding to tree  $T_k$
- $\mathbf{J}_n$  is a matrix of ones
- $n = \sum_k n_k$

Now apply the Sherman-Morrison formula ...

# Fast computation: hierarchies

$$(\mathbf{S}'\Lambda\mathbf{S})^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} (\mathbf{S}'_1\Lambda_1\mathbf{S}_1)^{-1} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & (\mathbf{S}'_2\Lambda_2\mathbf{S}_2)^{-1} & \dots & \mathbf{0} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & (\mathbf{S}'_K\Lambda_K\mathbf{S}_K)^{-1} \end{bmatrix} - c\mathbf{S}_0$$

- $\mathbf{S}_0$  can be partitioned into  $K^2$  blocks, with the  $(k, \ell)$  block (of dimension  $n_k \times n_\ell$ ) being  $(\mathbf{S}'_k\Lambda_k\mathbf{S}_k)^{-1}\mathbf{J}_{n_k, n_\ell}(\mathbf{S}'_\ell\Lambda_\ell\mathbf{S}_\ell)^{-1}$
- $\mathbf{J}_{n_k, n_\ell}$  is a  $n_k \times n_\ell$  matrix of ones
- $c^{-1} = \lambda_0^{-1} + \sum_k \mathbf{1}'_{n_k} (\mathbf{S}'_k\Lambda_k\mathbf{S}_k)^{-1} \mathbf{1}_{n_k}$
- Each  $\mathbf{S}'_k\Lambda_k\mathbf{S}_k$  can be inverted similarly
- $\mathbf{S}'\Lambda\mathbf{y}$  can also be computed recursively

# Fast computation: hierarchies

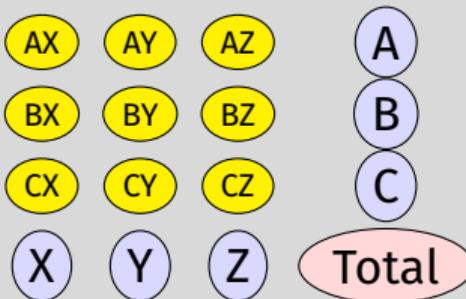
$$(\mathbf{S}'\Lambda\mathbf{S})^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} (\mathbf{S}'_1\Lambda_1\mathbf{S}_1)^{-1} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & (\mathbf{S}'_2\Lambda_2\mathbf{S}_2)^{-1} & \dots & \mathbf{0} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & (\mathbf{S}'_K\Lambda_K\mathbf{S}_K)^{-1} \end{bmatrix} - c\mathbf{S}_0$$

- $\mathbf{S}_0$  can be partitioned into  $K^2$  blocks, with the  $(k, \ell)$  block (of dimension  $n_k \times n_\ell$ ) being  $(\mathbf{S}'_k\Lambda_k\mathbf{S}_k)^{-1}\mathbf{J}_{n_k, n_\ell}(\mathbf{S}'_\ell\Lambda_\ell\mathbf{S}_\ell)^{-1}$
- $\mathbf{J}_{n_k, n_\ell}$  is a  $n_k \times n_\ell$  matrix of ones
- $c^{-1} = \lambda_0^{-1} + \sum_k \mathbf{1}'_{n_k} (\mathbf{S}'_k\Lambda_k\mathbf{S}_k)^{-1} \mathbf{1}_{n_k}$
- Each  $\mathbf{S}'_k\Lambda_k\mathbf{S}_k$  can be inverted similarly
- $\mathbf{S}'\Lambda\mathbf{y}$  can also be computed recursively

The recursive calculations can be done in such a way that we never store any of the large matrices involved.



# Fast computation: grouped data



$$\mathbf{y}_t = \begin{pmatrix} y_t \\ y_{A,t} \\ y_{B,t} \\ y_{C,t} \\ y_{X,t} \\ y_{Y,t} \\ y_{Z,t} \\ y_{AX,t} \\ y_{AY,t} \\ y_{AZ,t} \\ y_{BX,t} \\ y_{BY,t} \\ y_{BZ,t} \\ y_{CX,t} \\ y_{CY,t} \\ y_{CZ,t} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_{AX,t} \\ y_{AY,t} \\ y_{AZ,t} \\ y_{BX,t} \\ y_{BY,t} \\ y_{BZ,t} \\ y_{CX,t} \\ y_{CY,t} \\ y_{CZ,t} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{y}_t = \mathbf{S}\mathbf{b}_t$$

# Fast computation: grouped data

$$\mathbf{S} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1}'_m \otimes \mathbf{1}'_n \\ \mathbf{1}'_m \otimes \mathbf{I}_n \\ \mathbf{I}_m \otimes \mathbf{1}'_n \\ \mathbf{I}_m \otimes \mathbf{I}_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$m$  = number of rows  
 $n$  = number of columns

# Fast computation: grouped data

$$\mathbf{S} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1}'_m \otimes \mathbf{1}'_n \\ \mathbf{1}'_m \otimes \mathbf{I}_n \\ \mathbf{I}_m \otimes \mathbf{1}'_n \\ \mathbf{I}_m \otimes \mathbf{I}_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$m$  = number of rows  
 $n$  = number of columns

$$\mathbf{S}'\Lambda\mathbf{S} = \lambda_{00}\mathbf{J}_{mn} + (\Lambda_R \otimes \mathbf{J}_n) + (\mathbf{J}_m \otimes \Lambda_C) + \Lambda_U$$

- $\Lambda_R$ ,  $\Lambda_C$  and  $\Lambda_U$  are diagonal matrices corresponding to rows, columns and unaggregated series;
- $\lambda_{00}$  corresponds to aggregate.

# Fast computation: grouped data

$$(\mathbf{S} \Lambda \mathbf{S})^{-1} = \mathbf{A} - \frac{\mathbf{A} \mathbf{1}_{mn} \mathbf{1}'_{mn} \mathbf{A}}{1/\lambda_{00} + \mathbf{1}'_{mn} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{1}_{mn}}$$

$$\mathbf{A} = \Lambda_U^{-1} - \Lambda_U^{-1} (\mathbf{J}_m \otimes \mathbf{D}) \Lambda_U^{-1} - \mathbf{E} \mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{E}'.$$

$\mathbf{D}$  is diagonal with elements  $d_j = \lambda_{0j}/(1 + \lambda_{0j} \sum_i \lambda_{ij}^{-1})$ .

$\mathbf{E}$  has  $m \times m$  blocks where  $\mathbf{e}_{ij}$  has  $k$ th element

$$(\mathbf{e}_{ij})_k = \begin{cases} \lambda_{i0}^{1/2} \lambda_{ik}^{-1} - \lambda_{i0}^{1/2} \lambda_{ik}^{-2} d_k, & i = j, \\ -\lambda_{j0}^{1/2} \lambda_{ik}^{-1} \lambda_{jk}^{-1} d_k, & i \neq j. \end{cases}$$

$\mathbf{M}$  is  $m \times m$  with  $(i, j)$  element

$$(\mathbf{M})_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 + \lambda_{i0} \sum_k \lambda_{ik}^{-1} - \lambda_{i0} \sum_k \lambda_{ik}^{-2} d_k, & i = j, \\ -\lambda_{i0}^{1/2} \lambda_{j0}^{1/2} \sum_k \lambda_{ik}^{-1} \lambda_{jk}^{-1} d_k, & i \neq j. \end{cases}$$

# Fast computation: grouped data

$$(\mathbf{S} \Lambda \mathbf{S})^{-1} = \mathbf{A} - \frac{\mathbf{A} \mathbf{1}_{mn} \mathbf{1}'_{mn} \mathbf{A}}{1/\lambda_{00} + \mathbf{1}'_{mn} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{1}_{mn}}$$

$$\mathbf{A} = \Lambda_U^{-1} - \Lambda_U^{-1} (\mathbf{J}_m \otimes \mathbf{D}) \Lambda_U^{-1} - \mathbf{E} \mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{E}'.$$

$\mathbf{D}$  is diagonal with elements  $d_j = \lambda_{0j}/(1 + \lambda_{0j} \sum_i \lambda_{ij}^{-1})$ .

$\mathbf{E}$  has  $m \times m$  blocks where  $\mathbf{e}_{ij}$  has  $k$ th element

$$(\mathbf{e}_{ij})_k = \begin{cases} \lambda_{i0}^{1/2} \lambda_{ik}^{-1} - \lambda_{i0}^{1/2} \lambda_{ik}^{-2} d_k, & i = j, \\ -\lambda_{j0}^{1/2} \lambda_{ik}^{-1} \lambda_{jk}^{-1} d_k, & i \neq j. \end{cases}$$

$\mathbf{M}$  is  $m \times m$  with  $(i, j)$  element

$$(\mathbf{M})_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 + \lambda_{i0} \sum_k \lambda_{ik}^{-1} - \lambda_{i0} \sum_k \lambda_{ik}^{-2} d_k, & i = j, \\ -\lambda_{i0}^{1/2} \lambda_{j0}^{1/2} \sum_k \lambda_{ik}^{-1} \lambda_{jk}^{-1} d_k, & i \neq j. \end{cases}$$

Again, the calculations can be done in such a way that we never store any of the large matrices involved



# References

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