The background of the slide features a vibrant, abstract pattern resembling liquid or smoke, with swirling bands of orange, blue, green, and yellow against a dark background.

The geometry of forecast reconciliation

Rob J Hyndman

28 August 2020

Outline

- 1 Hierarchical and grouped time series
- 2 Forecast reconciliation
- 3 Example: Australian tourism
- 4 Probabilistic forecast reconciliation

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Australian Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme



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

ATC drug classification

ATC1: 14 classes

A

Alimentary tract and metabolism

ATC2: 84 classes

A10

Drugs used in diabetes

A10B

Blood glucose lowering drugs

A10BA

Biguanides

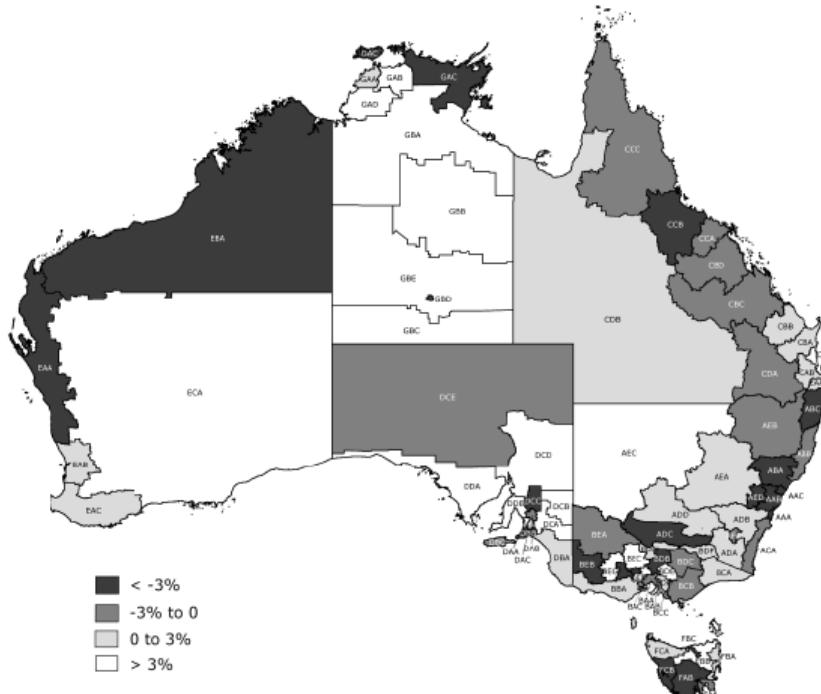
A10BA02

Metformin

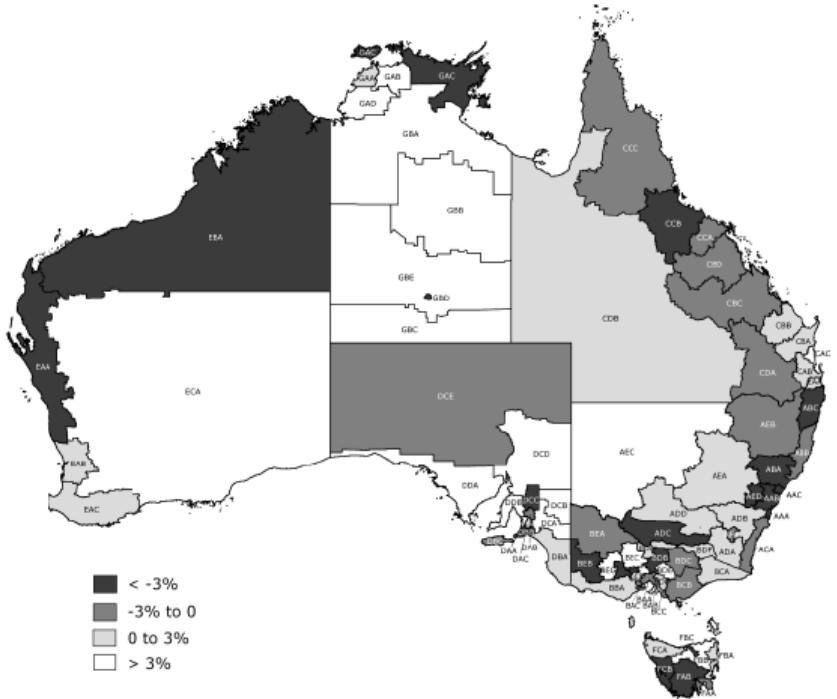
PBS sales

```
## # A tsibble: 16,688 x 5 [1M]
## # Key:      ATC1, ATC2 [84]
## #       Month ATC1  ATC2  Scripts   Cost
## #       <mth> <chr> <chr>   <dbl>   <dbl>
## 1 1991 Jul A     A01    22615  94351
## 2 1991 Aug A     A01    20443  87899
## 3 1991 Sep A     A01    21389  94949
## 4 1991 Oct A     A01    23746  107926
## 5 1991 Nov A     A01    23477  107032
## 6 1991 Dec A     A01    26316  123000
## 7 1992 Jan A     A01    22041  105996
## 8 1992 Feb A     A01    16393  61818
## 9 1992 Mar A     A01    17207  63010
## 10 1992 Apr A    A01    18847  69591
## # ... with 16,678 more rows
```

Australian tourism



Australian tourism



- Quarterly data on visitor night from 1998:Q1 – 2013:Q4
 - From *National Visitor Survey*, annual interviews of 120,000 Australians aged 15+.
 - Split by 7 states, 27 zones and 76 regions (a geographical hierarchy)
 - Also split by purpose of travel
 - ▶ Holiday
 - ▶ Visiting friends and relatives (VFR)
 - ▶ Business
 - ▶ Other
 - 304 bottom-level series

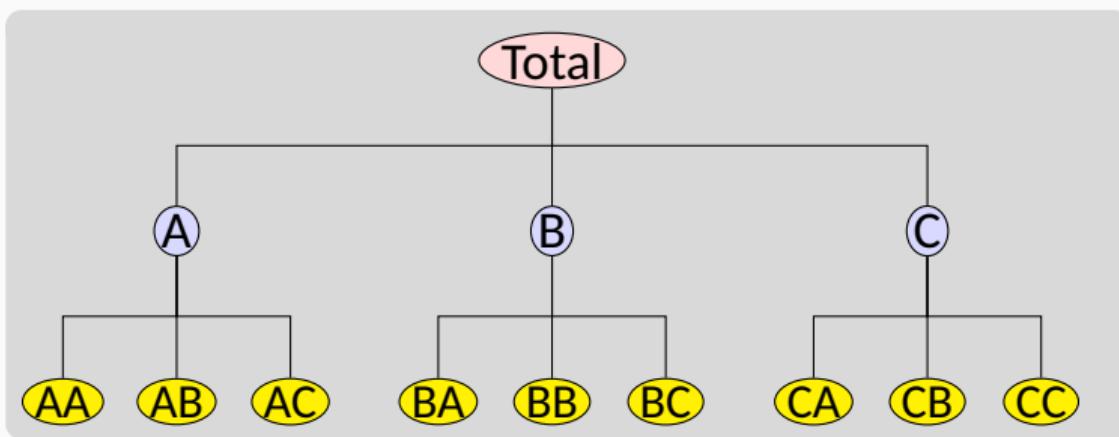
Australian tourism

tourism

```
## # A tsibble: 24,320 x 5 [1Q]
## # Key:      Region, State, Purpose [304]
##   Quarter Region  State          Purpose  Trips
##       <qtr>  <chr>  <chr>          <chr>  <dbl>
## 1 1998 Q1 Adelaide South Australia Business 135.
## 2 1998 Q2 Adelaide South Australia Business 110.
## 3 1998 Q3 Adelaide South Australia Business 166.
## 4 1998 Q4 Adelaide South Australia Business 127.
## 5 1999 Q1 Adelaide South Australia Business 137.
## 6 1999 Q2 Adelaide South Australia Business 200.
## 7 1999 Q3 Adelaide South Australia Business 169.
## 8 1999 Q4 Adelaide South Australia Business 134.
## 9 2000 Q1 Adelaide South Australia Business 154.
```

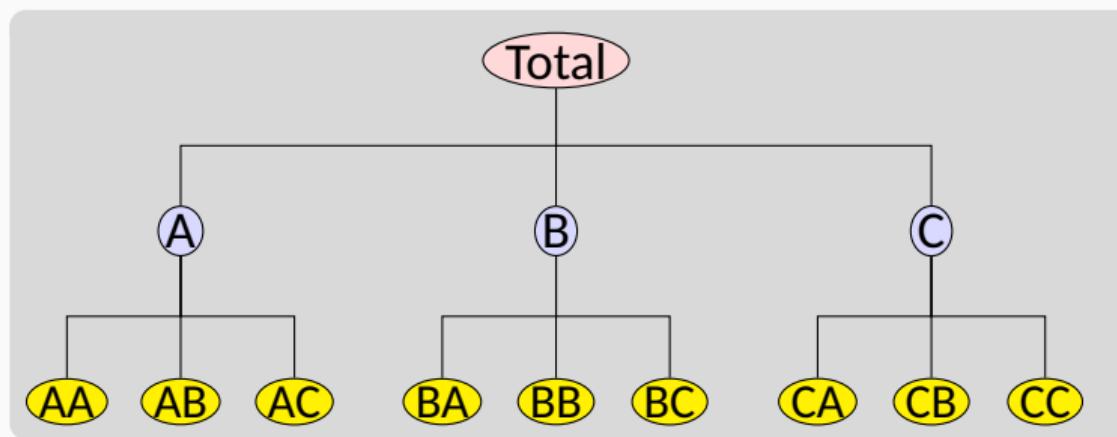
Hierarchical time series

A **hierarchical time series** is a collection of several time series that are linked together in a hierarchical structure.



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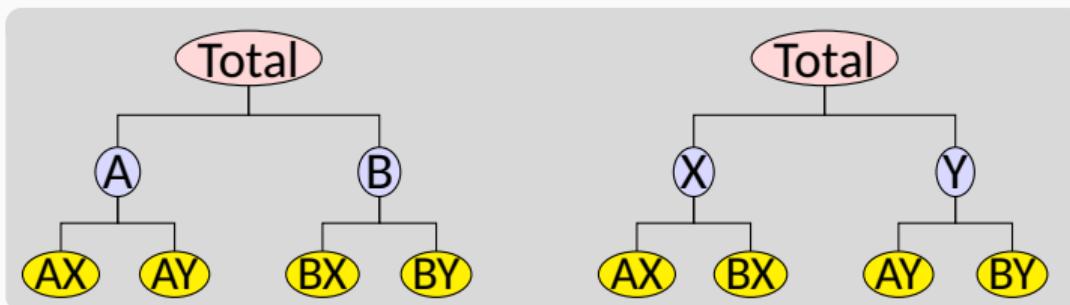


Examples

- PBS sales by ATC groups
- Tourism demand by states, zones, regions

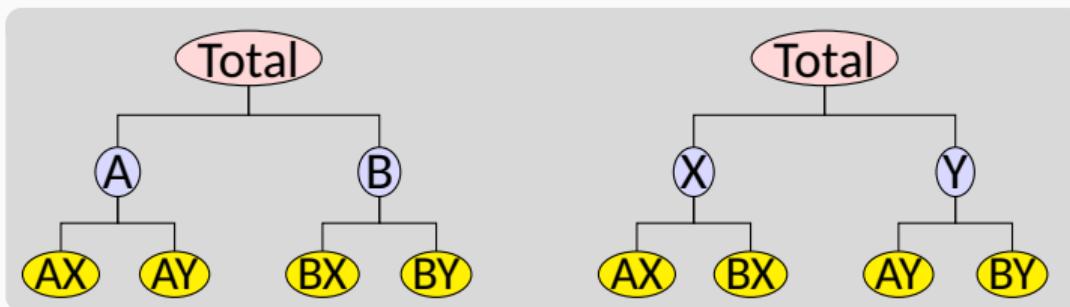
Grouped time series

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

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The problem

How to produce **coherent** forecasts at all nodes?

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Old approaches (pre 2009)

- Bottom-up forecasting
- Top-down forecasting
- Middle-out forecasting

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How to produce **coherent** forecasts at all nodes?

Old approaches (pre 2009)

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Forecast reconciliation approach

- 1 Forecast all series at all levels of aggregation using an automatic forecasting algorithm. (e.g., ETS, ARIMA, ...)
- 2 Reconcile the resulting forecasts so they are coherent using least squares optimization (i.e., find closest reconciled forecasts to the original forecasts).

Key forecast reconciliation papers

- Hyndman, Ahmed, Athanasopoulos, Shang (2011 *CSDA*) Optimal combination forecasts for hierarchical time series.
- Athanasopoulos, Ahmed, Hyndman (2009 *IJF*) Hierarchical forecasts for Australian domestic tourism.
- Hyndman, Lee, Wang (2016 *CSDA*) Fast computation of reconciled forecasts for hierarchical and grouped time series.
- Wickramasuriya, Athanasopoulos, Hyndman (2019 *JASA*) Optimal forecast reconciliation for hierarchical and grouped time series through trace minimization.
- Panagiotelis, Gamakumara, Athanasopoulos, Hyndman (2020 *IJF*) Forecast reconciliation: A geometric view with new insights on bias correction.
- Panagiotelis, Gamakumara, Athanasopoulos, Hyndman (2020) Probabilistic forecast reconciliation: properties, evaluation and score optimisation.

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_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.

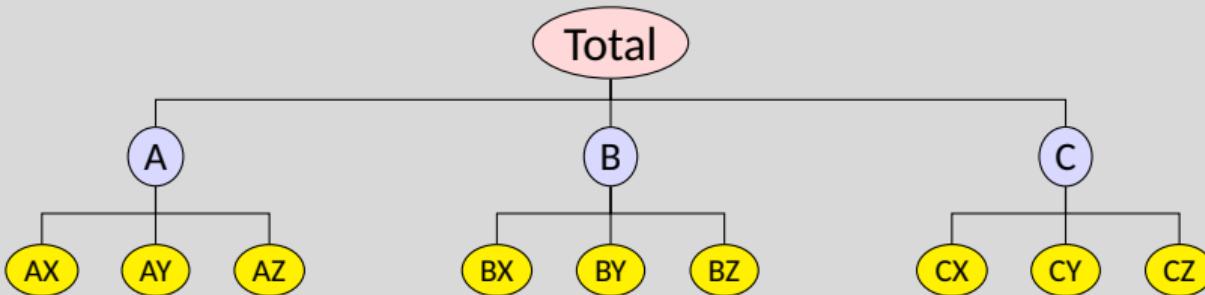


$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{y}_t &= \begin{pmatrix} y_t \\ y_{A,t} \\ y_{B,t} \\ y_{C,t} \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}}_S \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} y_{A,t} \\ y_{B,t} \\ y_{C,t} \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{b}_t} \end{aligned}$$

Hierarchical time series

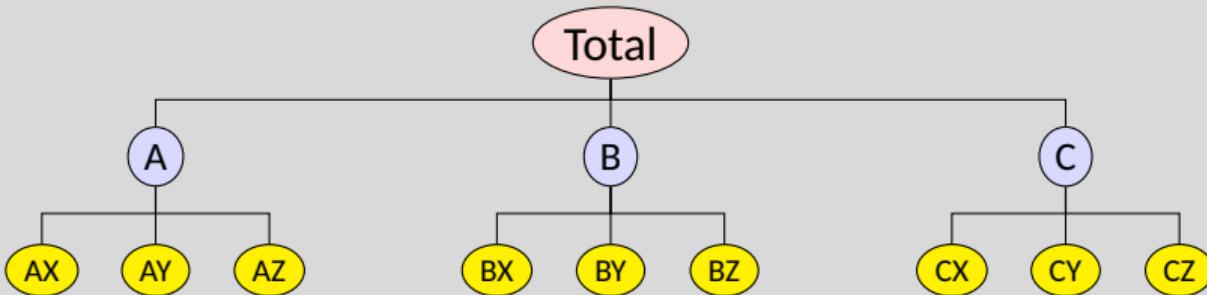


Hierarchical time series



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

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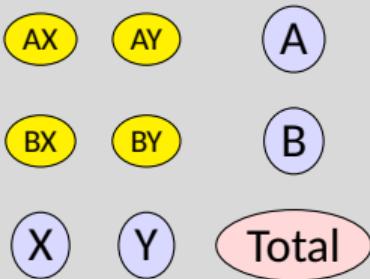
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Definitions

Coherent subspace

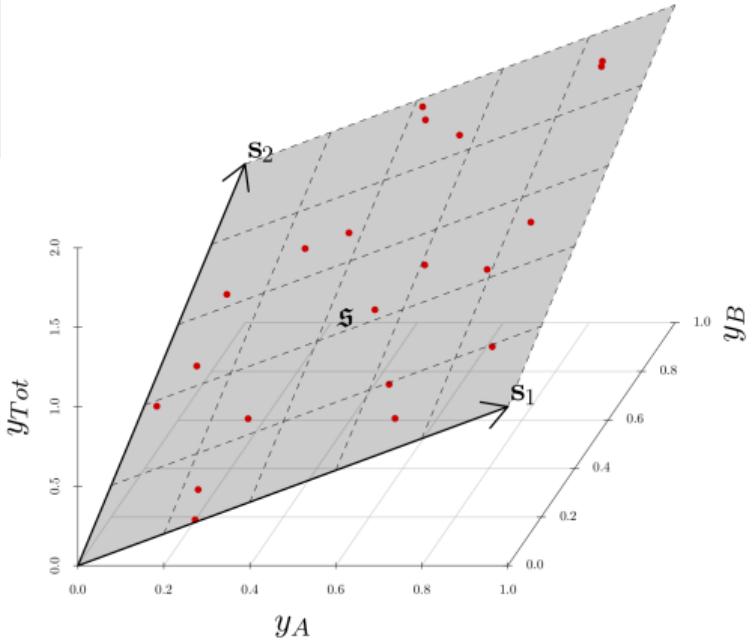
m -dimensional linear subspace $\mathfrak{s} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ for which linear constraints hold for all $\mathbf{y} \in \mathfrak{s}$.

Hierarchical time series

An n -dimensional multivariate time series such that $\mathbf{y}_t \in \mathfrak{s} \quad \forall t$.

Coherent point forecasts

$\tilde{\mathbf{y}}_{t+h|t}$ is coherent if $\tilde{\mathbf{y}}_{t+h|t} \in \mathfrak{s}$.



$$Y_{Tot} = Y_A + Y_B$$

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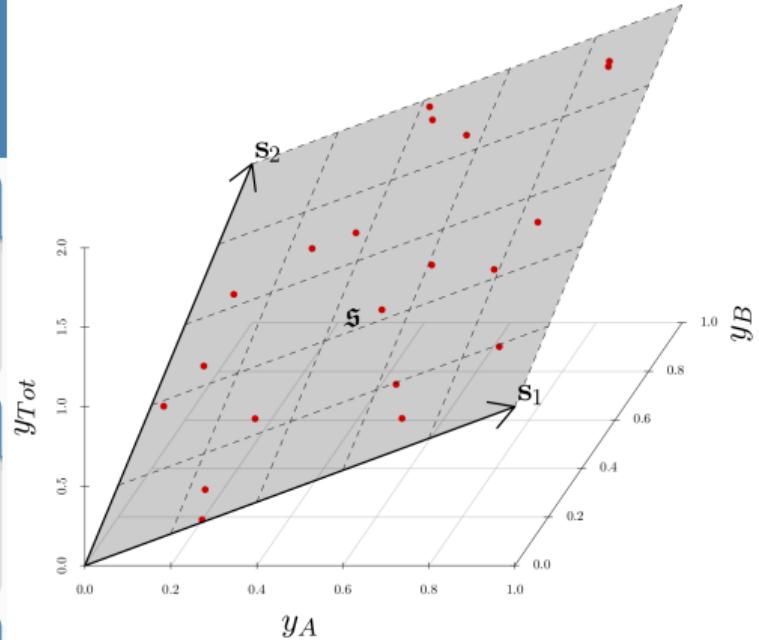
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Reconciled forecasts

Let ψ be a mapping, $\psi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathfrak{s}$.
 $\tilde{\mathbf{y}}_{t+h|t} = \psi(\hat{\mathbf{y}}_{t+h|t})$ “reconciles” $\hat{\mathbf{y}}_{t+h|t}$.

Linear reconciliation

If ψ is a linear function and \mathbf{G} is some matrix,
then

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

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

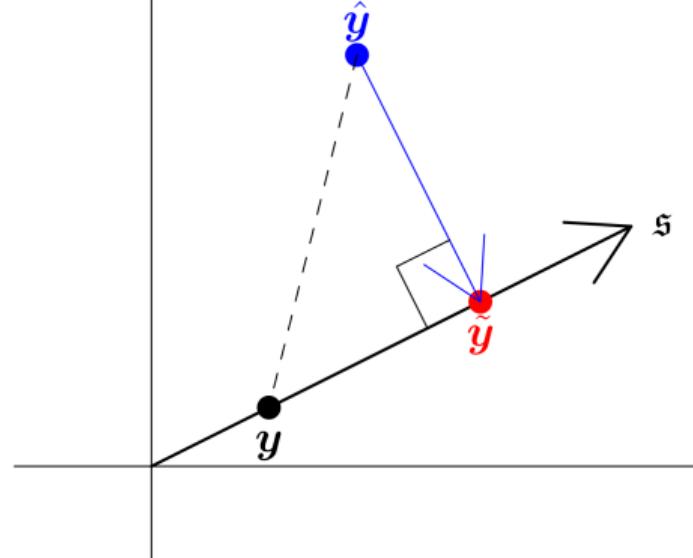
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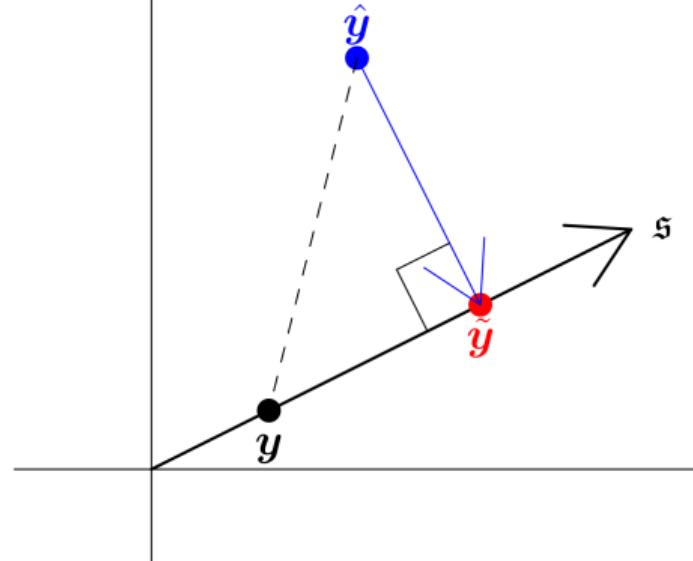
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Projections

Suppose \mathbf{SG} is a projection onto \mathfrak{s} , then

- Coherent base forecasts are unchanged.
- Unbiased base forecasts remain unbiased.



- Orthogonal projections lead to smallest possible adjustments of base forecasts.

Linear reconciliation

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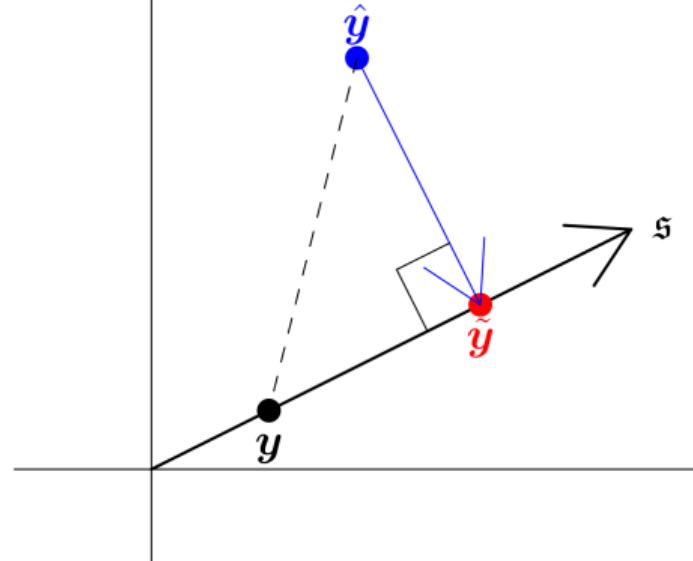
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Distance reducing property

If \mathbf{SG} is an orthogonal projection onto \mathfrak{s} then:

$$\|\mathbf{y}_{t+h} - \tilde{\mathbf{y}}_{t+h|t}\| \leq \|\mathbf{y}_{t+h} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}_{t+h|t}\|.$$



- Distance reduction holds for any realisation and any forecast.
- Other measures of forecast accuracy may be worse.
- Not necessarily the optimal reconciliation.

Oblique projections

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

Variance

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

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

Minimum trace (MinT) reconciliation

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

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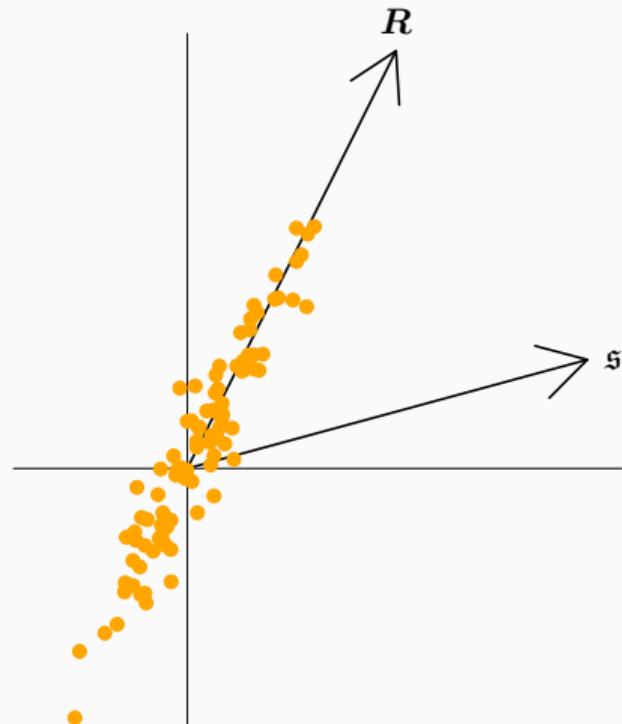
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- R is the most likely direction of deviations from \mathfrak{s} .
- Orange: in-sample errors



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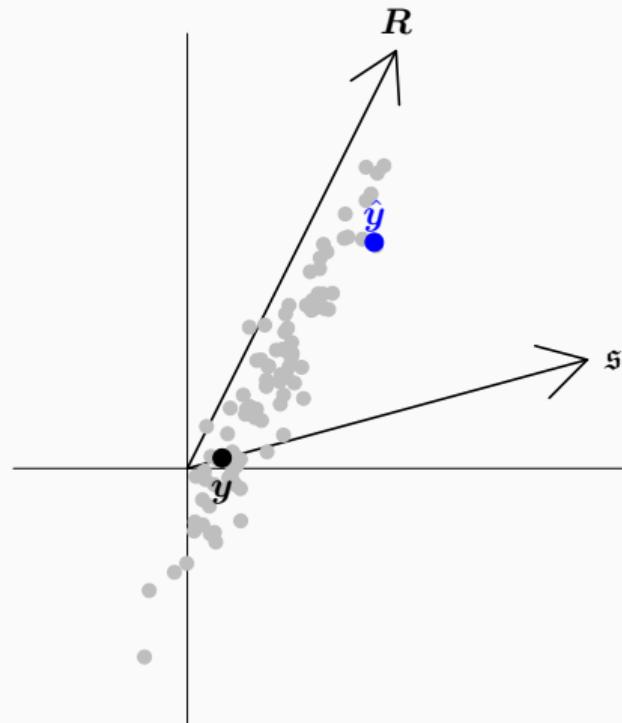
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- Grey: potential base forecasts



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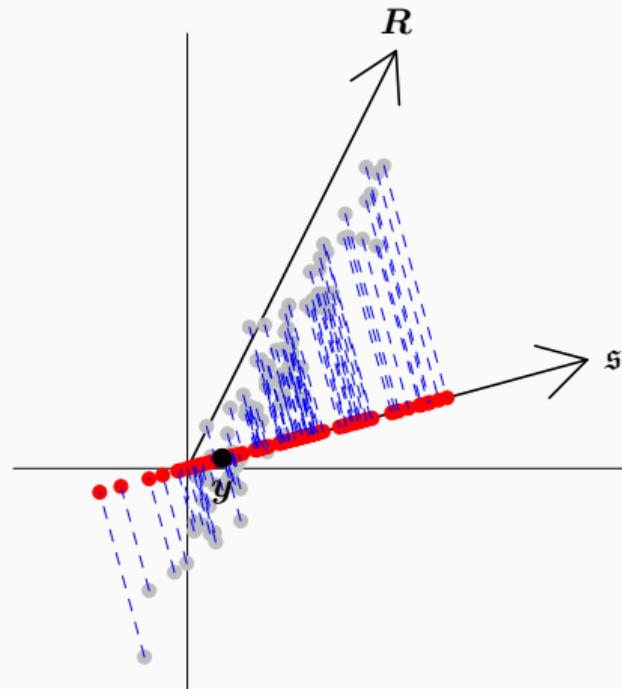
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Orthogonal projection

Oblique projections

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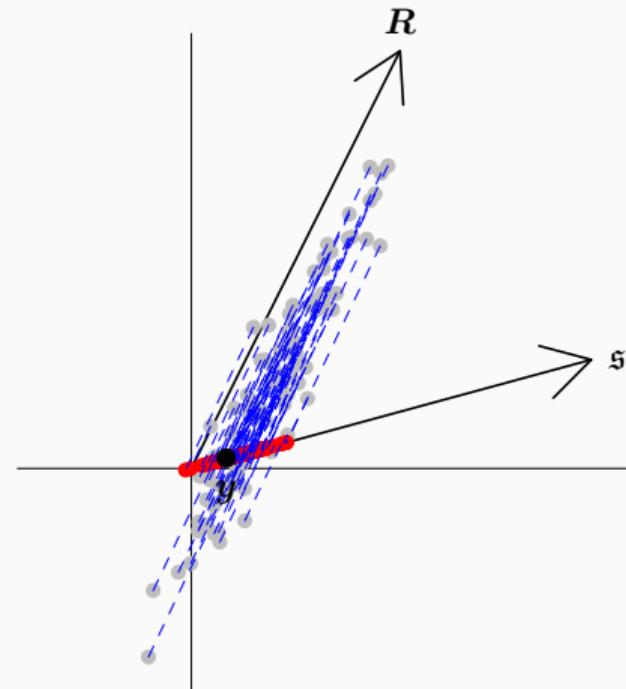
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Oblique projection

Linear projections

Reconciliation method G

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

$$\text{WLS} \quad (\mathbf{S}'\boldsymbol{\Lambda}\mathbf{S})^{-1}\mathbf{S}'\boldsymbol{\Lambda}$$

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

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

These all assume that $\mathbf{W}_h = k_h \mathbf{W}_1$ to simplify computations.

- $\boldsymbol{\Lambda}$ is diagonal matrix
- $\hat{\mathbf{W}}_{\text{sam}}$ 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 $\tau = \frac{\sum_{i \neq j} \hat{\text{Var}}(\hat{\sigma}_{ij})}{\sum_{i \neq j} \hat{\sigma}_{ij}^2}$ and σ_{ij} denotes the (i, j) th element of $\hat{\mathbf{W}}_{\text{sam}}$.

To add from geometry paper

- Tourism example from geometry paper (not bias section)

Outline

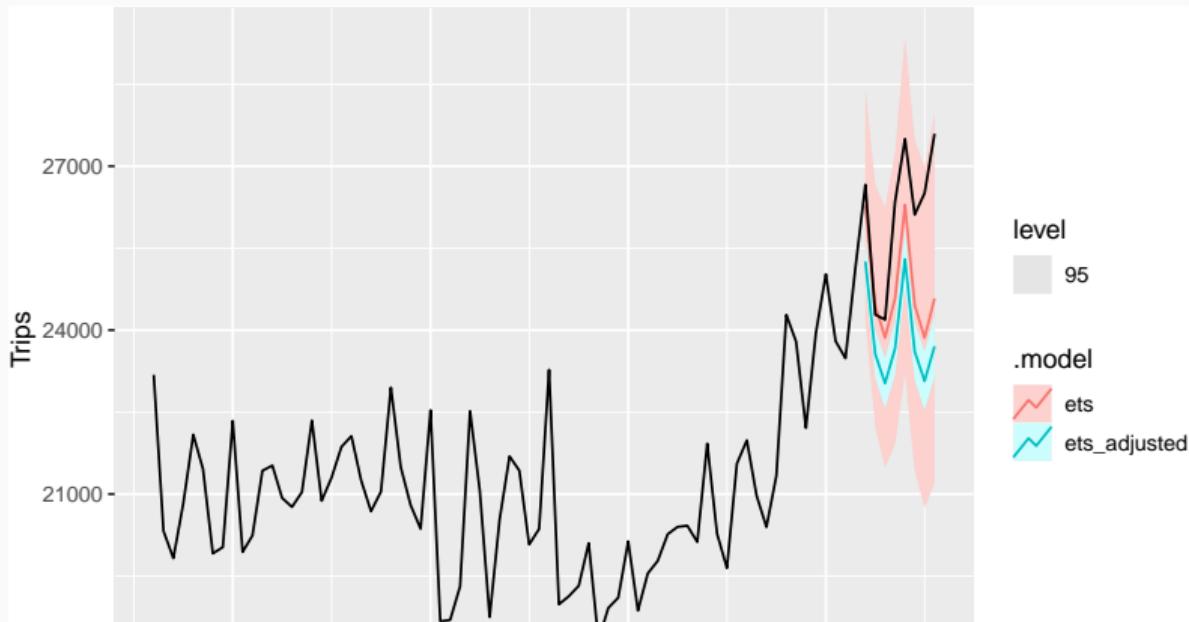
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Example: Australian tourism

```
tourism_agg <- tourism %>%
  aggregate_key(Purpose * (State / Region),
    Trips = sum(Trips)
  )
fc <- tourism_agg %>%
  filter(Quarter <= yearquarter("2015 Q4")) %>%
  model(ets = ETS(Trips)) %>%
  reconcile(ets_adjusted = min_trace(ets)) %>%
  forecast(h = "2 years")
```

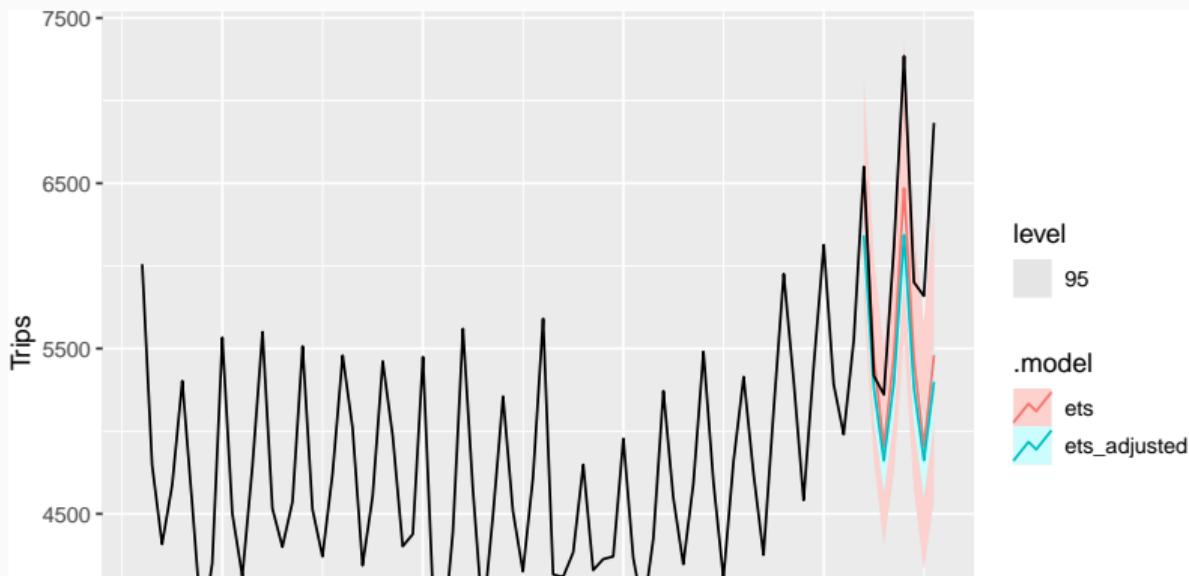
Example: Australian tourism

```
fc %>%
  filter(is_aggregated(Purpose) & is_aggregated(State)) %>%
  autoplot(tourism_agg, level = 95)
```



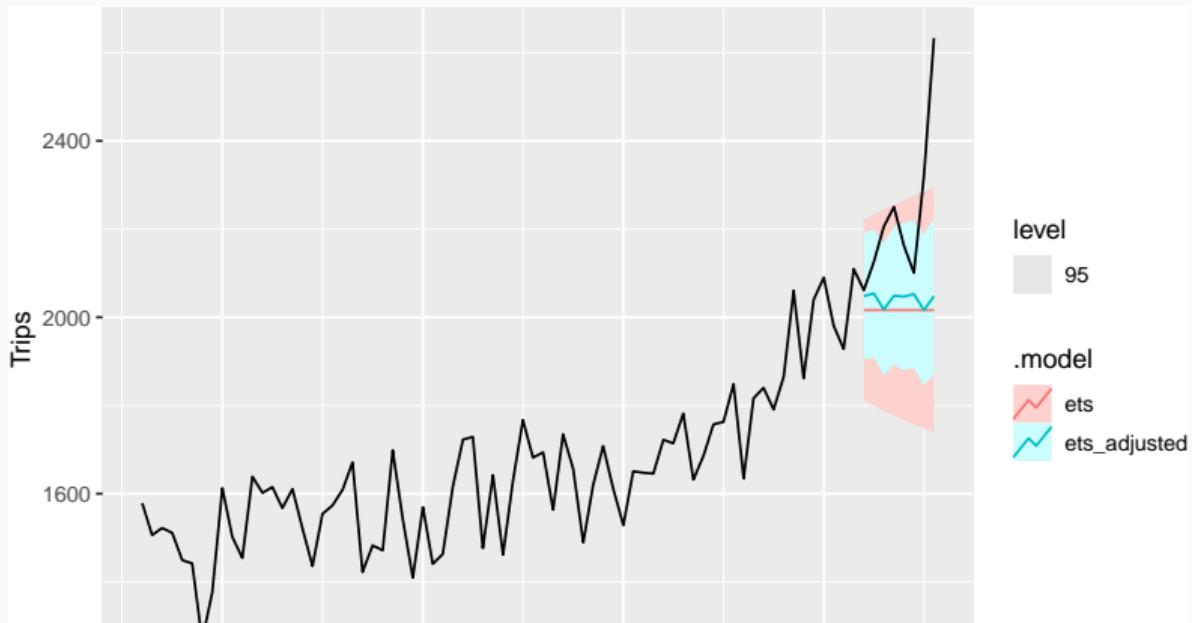
Example: Australian tourism

```
fc %>%
  filter(is_aggregated(Purpose) & State == "Victoria" &
    is_aggregated(Region)) %>%
  autoplot(tourism_agg, level = 95)
```



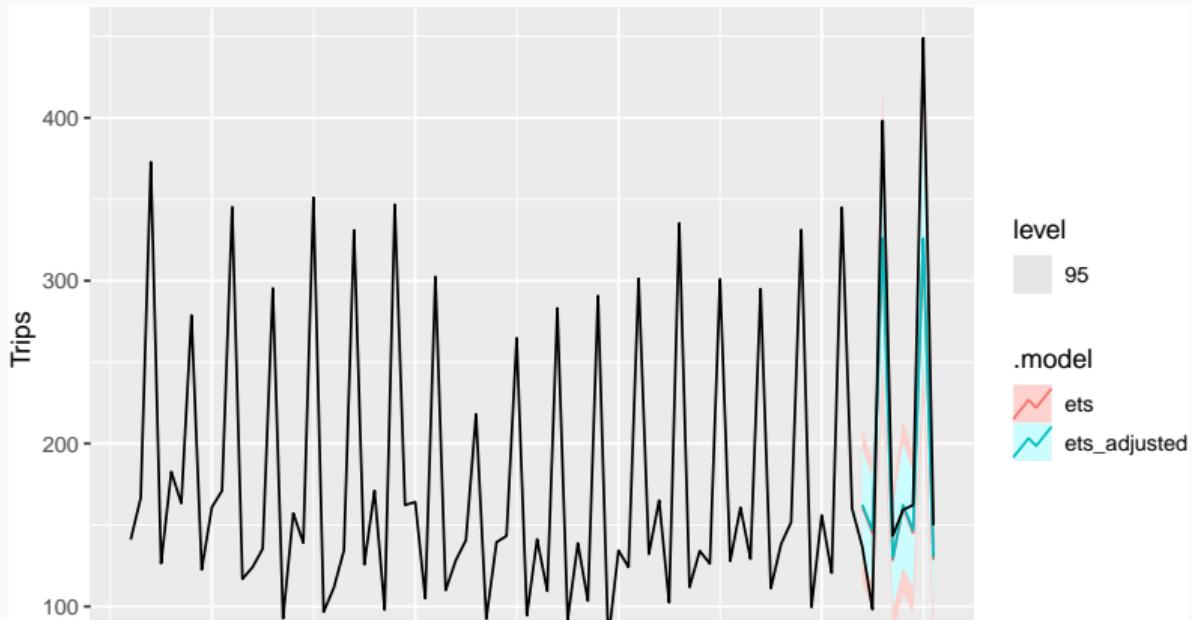
Example: Australian tourism

```
fc %>%
  filter(is_aggregated(Purpose) & Region == "Melbourne") %>%
  autoplot(tourism_agg, level = 95)
```



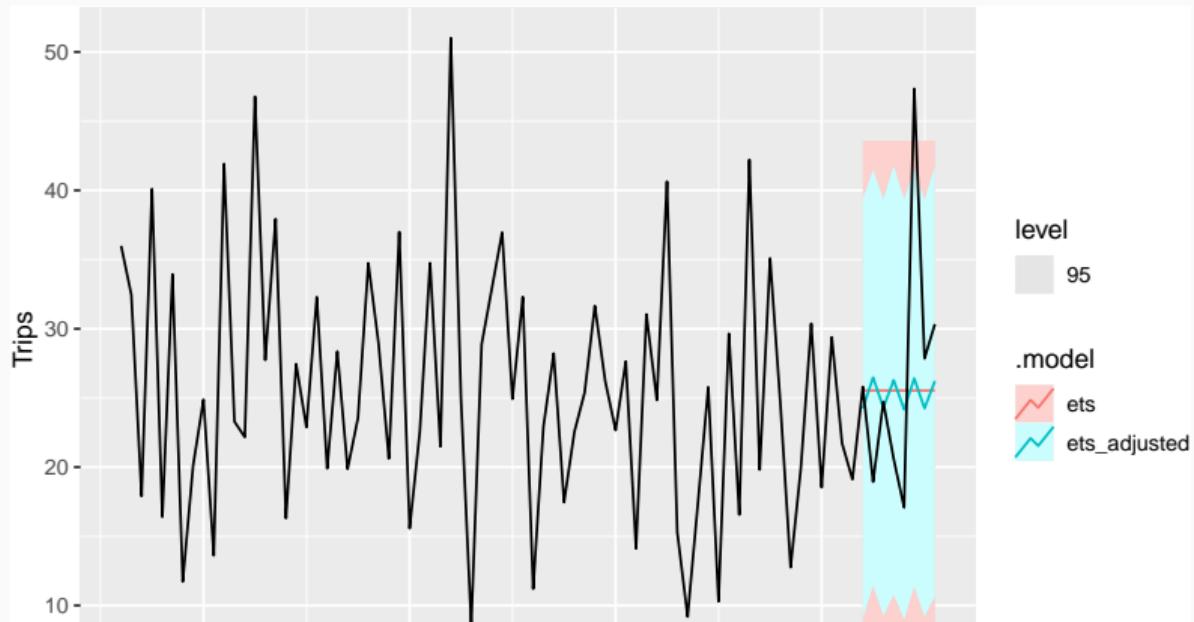
Example: Australian tourism

```
fc %>%
  filter(is_aggregated(Purpose) & Region == "Snowy Mountains") %>%
  autoplot(tourism_agg, level = 95)
```



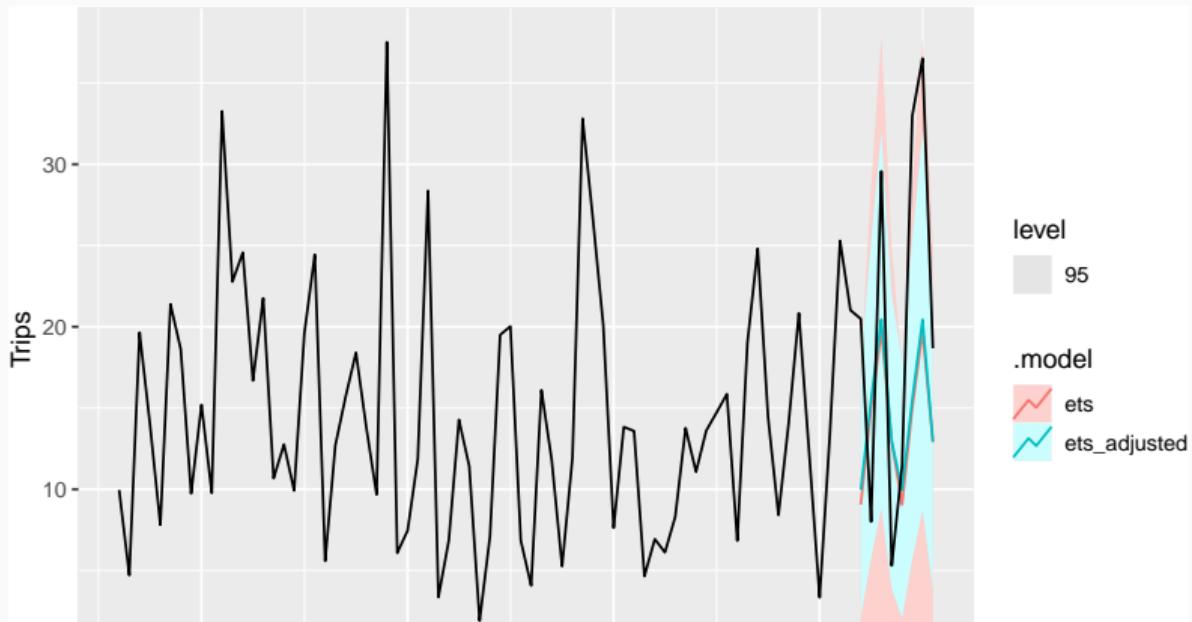
Example: Australian tourism

```
fc %>%
  filter(Purpose == "Holiday" & Region == "Barossa") %>%
  autoplot(tourism_agg, level = 95)
```



Example: Australian tourism

```
fc %>%
  filter(is_aggregated(Purpose) & Region == "MacDonnell") %>%
  autoplot(tourism_agg, level = 95)
```



Example: Australian tourism

```
fc <- tourism_agg %>%
  filter(Quarter <= yearquarter("2015 Q4")) %>%
  model(
    ets = ETS(Trips),
    arima = ARIMA(Trips)
  ) %>%
  mutate(
    comb = (ets + arima) / 2
  ) %>%
  reconcile(
    ets_adj = min_trace(ets),
    arima_adj = min_trace(arima),
    comb_adj = min_trace(comb)
  ) %>%
```

Forecast evaluation

```
fc %>% accuracy(tourism_agg)
```

```
## # A tibble: 2,550 x 12
##   .model Purpose State    Region     .type     ME
##   <chr>  <chr>  <chr>    <chr>    <chr>    <dbl>
## 1 arima  Business <aggregat~ <aggregat~ Test    685.
## 2 arima  Business South Aus~ <aggregat~ Test    49.9
## 3 arima  Business Northern ~ <aggregat~ Test    22.2
## 4 arima  Business Western A~ <aggregat~ Test   -138.
## 5 arima  Business Victoria ~ <aggregat~ Test    232.
## 6 arima  Business New South~ <aggregat~ Test    153.
## 7 arima  Business Queenslan~ <aggregat~ Test    81.8
## 8 arima  Business ACT      ~ <aggregat~ Test    35.9
## 9 arima  Business Tasmania ~ <aggregat~ Test    28.8
## 10 arima Business South Aus~ Adelaide  Test    20.8
## # ... with 2,540 more rows, and 6 more variables:
```

Forecast evaluation

```
fc %>%  
  accuracy(tourism_agg) %>%  
  group_by(.model) %>%  
  summarise(MASE = mean(MASE)) %>%  
  arrange(MASE)
```

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 2  
##   .model      MASE  
##   <chr>      <dbl>  
## 1 ets_adj     1.02  
## 2 comb_adj    1.02  
## 3 ets         1.04  
## 4 comb        1.04  
## 5 arima_adj   1.07
```

Creating aggregates

```
PBS %>%
  aggregate_key(ATC1 / ATC2, Scripts = sum(Scripts)) %>%
  filter(Month == yearmonth("1991 Jul")) %>%
  print(n = 18)
```

```
## # A tsibble: 98 x 4 [1M]
## # Key:      ATC1, ATC2 [98]
##   Month ATC1          ATC2      Scripts
##   <mth> <chr>        <chr>      <dbl>
## 1 1991 Jul <aggregated> <aggregated> 8090395
## 2 1991 Jul A           <aggregated> 799025
## 3 1991 Jul B           <aggregated> 109227
## 4 1991 Jul C           <aggregated> 1794995
## 5 1991 Jul D           <aggregated> 299779
## 6 1991 Jul G           <aggregated> 300931
## 7 1991 Jul H           <aggregated> 112114
## 8 1991 Jul J           <aggregated> 1151681
## 9 1991 Jul L           <aggregated> 24580
## 10 1991 Jul M          <aggregated> 562956
## 11 1991 Jul N          <aggregated> 1546023
## 12 1991 Jul P          <aggregated> 47661
## 13 1991 Jul R          <aggregated> 859273
## 14 1991 Jul S          <aggregated> 391639
## 15 1991 Jul V          <aggregated> 38705
## 16 1991 Jul Z          <aggregated> 51806
```

Creating aggregates

```
tourism %>%
  aggregate_key(Purpose * (State / Region), Trips = sum(Trips)) %>%
  filter(Quarter == yearquarter("1998 Q1")) %>%
  print(n = 15)
```

```
## # A tsibble: 425 x 5 [1Q]
## # Key:      Purpose, State, Region [425]
##   Quarter Purpose     State       Region     Trips
##   <qtr> <chr>    <chr>       <chr>     <dbl>
## 1 1998 Q1 <aggregated> <aggregated> <aggregated> 23182.
## 2 1998 Q1 Business     <aggregated> <aggregated>  3599.
## 3 1998 Q1 Holiday      <aggregated> <aggregated> 11806.
## 4 1998 Q1 Other        <aggregated> <aggregated>   680.
## 5 1998 Q1 Visiting     <aggregated> <aggregated>  7098.
## 6 1998 Q1 <aggregated> ACT          ~ <aggregated>   551.
## 7 1998 Q1 <aggregated> New South Wales~ <aggregated>  8040.
## 8 1998 Q1 <aggregated> Northern Territ~ <aggregated>   181.
## 9 1998 Q1 <aggregated> Queensland     ~ <aggregated> 4041.
## 10 1998 Q1 <aggregated> South Australia~ <aggregated> 1735.
## 11 1998 Q1 <aggregated> Tasmania      ~ <aggregated>  982.
## 12 1998 Q1 <aggregated> Victoria      ~ <aggregated> 6010.
## 13 1998 Q1 <aggregated> Western Austral~ <aggregated> 1641.
```

Creating aggregates

- Similar to `summarise()` but using the key structure
- A grouped structure is specified using `grp1 * grp2`
- A nested structure is specified via parent / child.
- Groups and nesting can be mixed:

```
(country/region/city) * (brand/product)
```

- All possible aggregates are produced.
- These are useful when forecasting at different levels of aggregation.

Forecast reconciliation

```
tourism %>%  
  aggregate_key(Purpose * (State / Region), Trips = sum(Trips)) %>%  
  model(ets = ETS(Trips)) %>%  
  reconcile(ets_adjusted = min_trace(ets)) %>%  
  forecast(h = 2)
```

```
## # A fable: 1,700 x 7 [1Q]  
## # Key:      Purpose, State, Region, .model [850]  
##   Purpose     State     Region     .model Quarter  
##   <chr>       <chr>     <chr>       <chr>     <qtr>  
## 1 Business    <aggregat~ <aggregat~ ets     2018 Q1  
## 2 Business    <aggregat~ <aggregat~ ets     2018 Q2  
## 3 Business    <aggregat~ <aggregat~ ets_a~ 2018 Q1  
## 4 Business    <aggregat~ <aggregat~ ets_a~ 2018 Q2  
## 5 Business    South Aus~ <aggregat~ ets     2018 Q1  
## 6 Business    South Aus~ <aggregat~ ets     2018 Q2  
## 7 Business    South Aus~ <aggregat~ ets_a~ 2018 Q1  
## 8 Business    South Aus~ <aggregat~ ets_a~ 2018 Q2
```

Outline

- 1 Hierarchical and grouped time series
- 2 Forecast reconciliation
- 3 Example: Australian tourism
- 4 Probabilistic forecast reconciliation

Coherent probabilistic forecasts

Coherent probabilistic forecasts

Given the triple $(\mathbb{R}^m, \mathcal{F}_{\mathbb{R}^m}, \nu)$, a coherent probability triple $(\mathfrak{s}, \mathcal{F}_{\mathfrak{s}}, \check{\nu})$ is such that

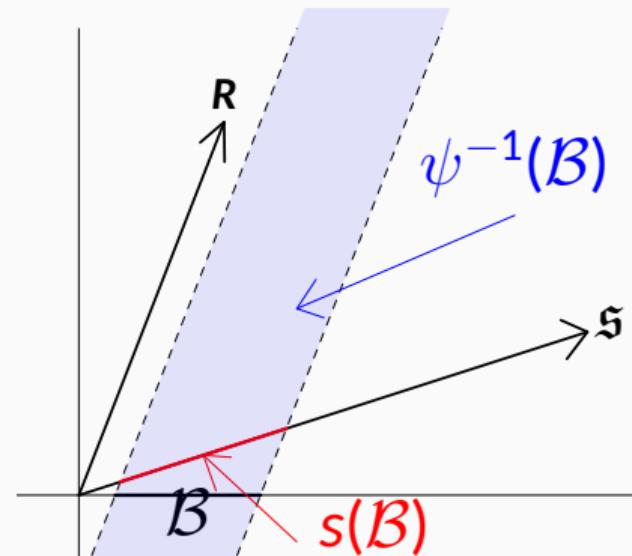
$$\check{\nu}(s(\mathcal{B})) = \nu(\mathcal{B}) \quad \forall \mathcal{B} \in \mathcal{F}_{\mathbb{R}^m}.$$

Probabilistic forecast reconciliation

The reconciled probability measure of $\hat{\nu}$ wrt $\psi(\cdot)$ is such that

$$\hat{\nu}(\mathcal{B}) = \hat{\nu}(\psi^{-1}(\mathcal{B})) \quad \forall \mathcal{B} \in \mathcal{F}_{\mathfrak{s}},$$

where $\psi^{-1}(\mathcal{B}) := \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n : \psi(y) \in \mathcal{B}\}$ is the pre-image of \mathcal{B} , that is the set of all points in \mathbb{R}^n that $\psi(\cdot)$ maps to a point in \mathcal{B} .



Construction of reconciled distributions

Reconciled density of bottom-level

Density of bottom-level series under reconciled distribution is

$$\tilde{f}_b(\mathbf{b}) = |\mathbf{G}^*| \int \hat{f}(\mathbf{G}^- \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{G}_\perp \mathbf{a}) d\mathbf{a},$$

- \hat{f} is density of incoherent base probabilistic forecast
- \mathbf{G}^- is $n \times m$ generalised inverse of \mathbf{G} st $\mathbf{G}\mathbf{G}^- = \mathbf{I}$
- \mathbf{G}_\perp is $n \times (n - m)$ orthogonal complement to \mathbf{G} st $\mathbf{G}\mathbf{G}_\perp = \mathbf{0}$
- $\mathbf{G}^* = (\mathbf{G}^- : \mathbf{G}_\perp)$, and \mathbf{b} and \mathbf{a} are obtained via

the change of variables $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{G}^* \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{b} \\ \mathbf{a} \end{pmatrix}$

Construction of reconciled distributions

Reconciled density of full hierarchy

Density of full hierarchy under reconciled distribution is

$$\tilde{f}_y(y) = |\mathbf{S}^*| \tilde{f}_b(\mathbf{S}^- y) \mathbb{1}\{y \in \mathfrak{s}\},$$

- $\mathbf{S}^* = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{S}^- \\ \mathbf{S}'_{\perp} \end{pmatrix}$
- \mathbf{S}^- is $m \times n$ generalised inverse of \mathbf{S} such that $\mathbf{S}^- \mathbf{S} = I$,
- \mathbf{S}'_{\perp} is $n \times (n - m)$ orthogonal complement to \mathbf{S} such that $\mathbf{S}'_{\perp} \mathbf{S} = 0$.

To add from probabilistic paper

- Theorem 3.5
- Table 2
- Score optimal reconciliation
- Electricity example