

25 years of open source forecasting software

Rob J Hyndman

26 June 2025



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Books

Early R forecasting (c.2000)

ts package (now stats package):

- `HoltWinters()`: point forecasts only, with optional multiplicative seasonality (written by David Meyer).
- `arima()`: state space formulation of ARIMA models (written by Brian Ripley).
- `structTS()`: Basic structural models as per Harvey (written by Brian Ripley).

Early R forecasting (c.2000)

ts package (now stats package):

- `HoltWinters()`: point forecasts only, with optional multiplicative seasonality (written by David Meyer).
 - `arima()`: state space formulation of ARIMA models (written by Brian Ripley).
 - `structTS()`: Basic structural models as per Harvey (written by Brian Ripley).
- Each had a `predict()` method, but output was inconsistent.
 - `HoltWinters` did not produce prediction intervals.

forecast package for R: motivation

- Consistent output for existing methods by introducing new S3 generic `forecast()` and new S3 class `forecast`.
- New methods including `ets()`, `thetaf()`, `auto.arima()`.
- Modelling functions can be swapped while leaving code unchanged.
- Easy plotting tools with new `plot.forecast()` method.
- New forecasting tools such as `accuracy()` calculations.

forecast package for R: history

Date	Event
Pre 2003	Collection of functions used for consulting projects
July/August 2003	<code>ets()</code> and <code>thetaf()</code> added
August 2006	v1.0 available on CRAN
May 2007	<code>auto.arima()</code> added
July 2008	JSS paper (Hyndman & Khandakar)
September 2009	v2.0 . Unbundled from Mcomp, fma & expsmooth
May 2010	<code>arfima()</code> added
Feb/March 2011	<code>tslm()</code> , <code>stlf()</code> , <code>naive()</code> , <code>snaive()</code> added
August 2011	v3.0 . Box Cox transformations added
December 2011	<code>tbats()</code> added

forecast package for R: history

Date	Event
April 2012	Package moved to github
November 2012	v4.0. <code>nnetar()</code> added
June 2013	Major speed-up of <code>ets()</code>
January 2014	v5.0. <code>tsoutliers()</code> and <code>tsclean()</code> added
May 2015	v6.0. Added several new plots
February 2016	v7.0. Added ggplot2 graphics & bias adjustment
March 2017	v8.0. Added <code>tsCV()</code> & <code>baggedETS()</code>
April 2018	v8.3. Added <code>mstl()</code> , and revised <code>auto.arima()</code>
April 2025	v8.24. Last update

forecast package for R

- `auto.arima + forecast`
- `ets + forecast`
- `tbats + forecast`
- `bats + forecast`
- `arfima + forecast`
- `nnetar + forecast`
- `stlm + forecast`
- `meanf`
- `rwf, naive`
- `thetaf`
- `dshw, hw, holt, ses`
- `splinef`
- `croston`

All produce an object
of class `forecast`

forecast package for R

- `auto.arima + forecast`
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- `dshw, hw, holt, ses`
- `splinef`
- `croston`

All produce an object
of class `forecast`

v9.0 will have new
model functions:

- `mean_model()`
- `rw_model()`
- `theta_model()`
- `spline_model()`
- `croston_model`

CRAN Task View Time Series

CRAN Task View: Time Series Analysis

Maintainer: Rob J Hyndman, Rebecca Killick

Contact: Rob.Hyndman at monash.edu

Version: 2025-05-17

URL: <https://CRAN.R-project.org/view=TimeSeries>

Source: <https://github.com/cran-task-views/TimeSeries/>

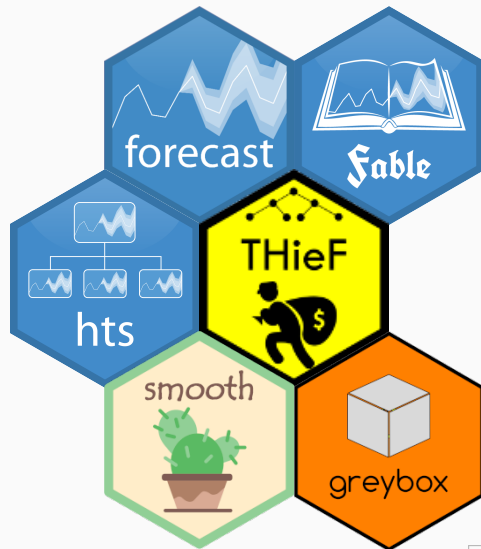
Contributions: Suggestions and improvements for this task view are very welcome and can be made through issues or pull requests on GitHub or via e-mail to the maintainer address. For further details see the [Contributing guide](#).

Citation: Rob J Hyndman, Rebecca Killick (2025). CRAN Task View: Time Series Analysis. Version 2025-05-17. URL <https://CRAN.R-project.org/view=TimeSeries>.

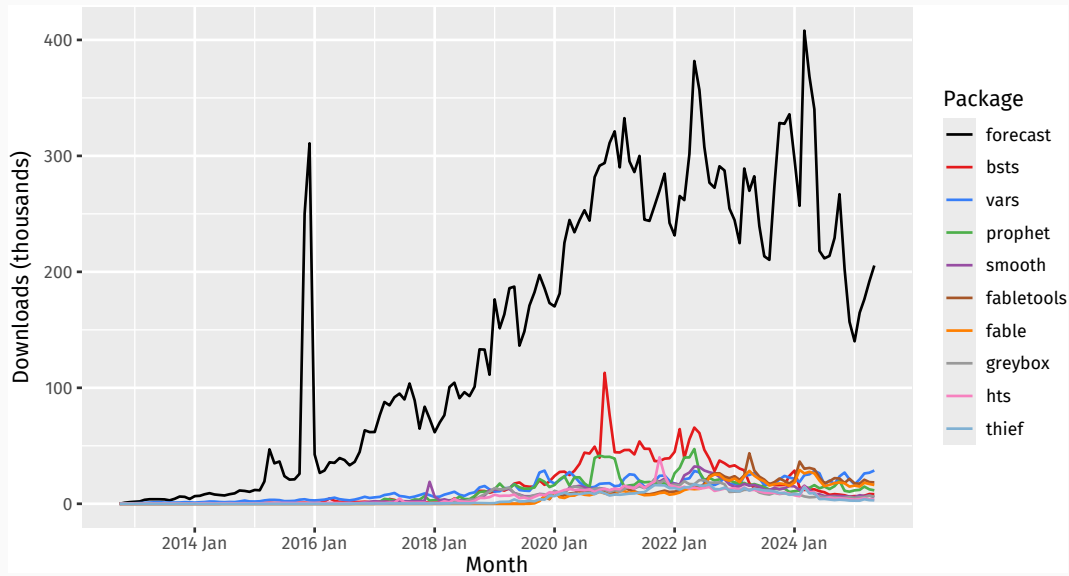
Installation: The packages from this task view can be installed automatically using the [ctv](#) package. For example, `ctv::install.views("TimeSeries", coreOnly = TRUE)` installs all the core packages or `ctv::update.views("TimeSeries")` installs all packages that are not yet installed and up-to-date. See the [CRAN Task View Initiative](#) for more details.

Top ten downloaded forecasting packages on CRAN

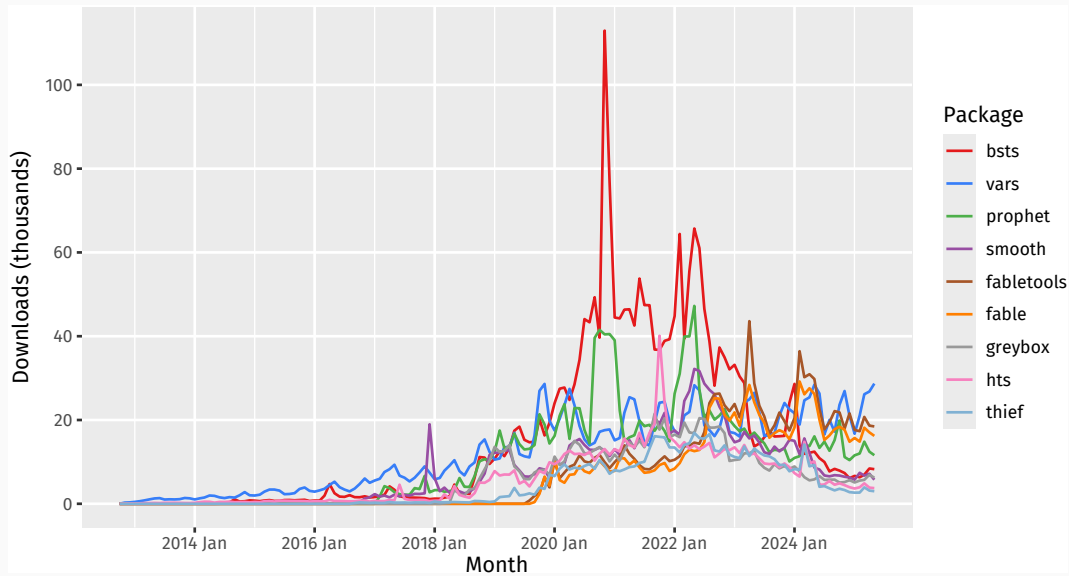
Package	Downloads ('000)
forecast	22806
bsts	2323
vars	1854
prophet	1579
smooth	1160
fabletools	1136
fable	983
greybox	911
hts	897
thief	673



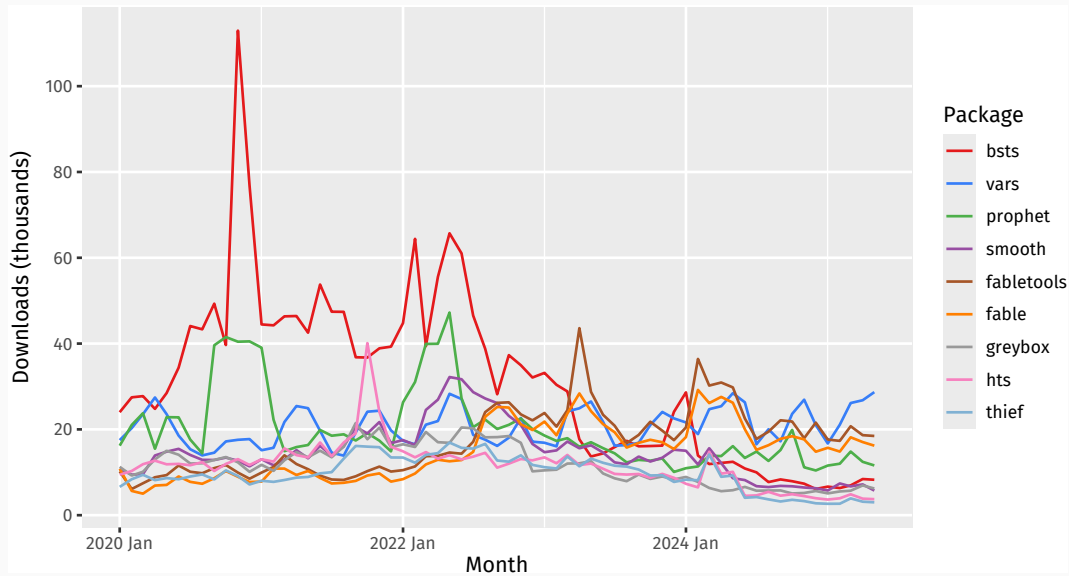
Top ten downloaded forecasting packages on CRAN



Top ten downloaded forecasting packages on CRAN



Top ten downloaded forecasting packages on CRAN



Function	PIntervals	Automatic	Covariates
<code>stats::HoltWinters()</code>	No	No	No
<code>forecast::ets()</code>	Yes	Yes	No
<code>fable::ETS()</code>	Yes	Yes	No
<code>smooth::es()</code>	Yes	Yes	Yes

forecast::ets()

```
ets(AirPassengers)
```

```
ETS(M,Ad,M)
```

```
Call:
```

```
ets(y = AirPassengers)
```

```
Smoothing parameters:
```

```
alpha = 0.7096
```

```
beta  = 0.0204
```

```
gamma = 1e-04
```

```
phi   = 0.98
```

```
Initial states:
```

```
l = 120.9939
```

```
b = 1.7705
```

```
s = 0.8944 0.7993 0.9217 1.059 1.22 1.232
```

```
1.111 0.9786 0.9804 1.011 0.8869 0.9059
```

forecast::ets()

```
ets(AirPassengers) |> forecast(h = 10)
```

	Point Forecast	Lo 80	Hi 80	Lo 95	Hi 95
Jan 1961	441.8	419.6	464.0	407.9	475.7
Feb 1961	434.1	407.2	461.1	392.9	475.3
Mar 1961	496.6	460.6	532.6	441.6	551.7
Apr 1961	483.2	443.6	522.9	422.6	543.8
May 1961	484.0	440.0	528.0	416.7	551.2
Jun 1961	551.0	496.3	605.7	467.4	634.7
Jul 1961	613.2	547.4	679.0	512.6	713.8
Aug 1961	609.4	539.2	679.5	502.1	716.6
Sep 1961	530.5	465.5	595.6	431.0	630.0
Oct 1961	463.0	402.8	523.2	371.0	555.1

fable::ETS()

```
as_tsibble(AirPassengers) |> model(ETS(value)) |> report()
```

Series: value

Model: ETS(M,Ad,M)

Smoothing parameters:

alpha = 0.7096

beta = 0.02041

gamma = 0.0001005

phi = 0.98

Initial states:

l[0]	b[0]	s[0]	s[-1]	s[-2]	s[-3]	s[-4]	s[-5]	s[-6]	s[-7]	s[-8]	s[-9]
121	1.771	0.8944	0.7993	0.9217	1.059	1.22	1.232	1.111	0.9786	0.9804	1.011
s[-10]	s[-11]										
0.8869	0.9059										

sigma^2: 0.0015

AIC AICc BIC

fable::ETS()

```
as_tsibble(AirPassengers) |> model(ETS(value)) |> forecast(h = 10)
```

```
# A fable: 10 x 4 [1M]
# Key:      .model [1]
#   .model      index
#   <chr>       <mth>
1 ETS(value) 1961 Jan
2 ETS(value) 1961 Feb
3 ETS(value) 1961 Mar
4 ETS(value) 1961 Apr
5 ETS(value) 1961 May
6 ETS(value) 1961 Jun
7 ETS(value) 1961 Jul
8 ETS(value) 1961 Aug
9 ETS(value) 1961 Sep
10 ETS(value) 1961 Oct
# i 2 more variables: value <dist>, .mean <dbl>
```

smooth::es()

```
es(AirPassengers)
```

Time elapsed: 0.98 seconds

Model estimated using es() function: ETS(MMdM)

With optimal initialisation

Distribution assumed in the model: Normal

Loss function type: likelihood; Loss function value: 526.8

Persistence vector g:

alpha beta gamma

0.3536 0.0000 0.4560

Damping parameter: 0.9991

Sample size: 144

Number of estimated parameters: 18

Number of degrees of freedom: 126

Information criteria:

AIC AICc BIC BICc

1090 1095 1143 1157

smooth::es()

```
es(AirPassengers) |> forecast(h = 10, interval = "parametric")
```

	Point forecast	Lower bound (2.5%)	Upper bound (97.5%)
Jan 1961	450.5	414.3	488.3
Feb 1961	426.3	389.6	463.7
Mar 1961	482.9	438.8	527.4
Apr 1961	506.6	459.4	556.5
May 1961	521.8	470.2	575.2
Jun 1961	597.3	535.8	661.5
Jul 1961	688.9	617.1	765.2
Aug 1961	682.0	606.0	760.9
Sep 1961	567.7	503.1	636.6
Oct 1961	505.3	447.1	566.6

Benchmarks

```
bench::mark(  
  forecast = ets(AirPassengers) |> forecast(h = 10),  
  fable = as_tsibble(AirPassengers) |> model(ETS(value)) |> forecast(h = 10),  
  smooth = es(AirPassengers) |> forecast(h = 10, interval = "parametric"),  
  check = FALSE  
)
```

expression	min	median	itr/sec	mem_alloc
forecast	401.18ms	401.44ms	2.49	22.2MB
fable	427.17ms	442.76ms	2.26	37.5MB
smooth	1.19s	1.19s	0.84	192.1MB

Function	PIntervals	Automatic	Covariates
<code>stats::arima()</code>	Yes	No	Yes
<code>forecast::Arima()</code>	Yes	No	Yes
<code>forecast::auto.arima()</code>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<code>fable::ARIMA()</code>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<code>smooth::ssarima()</code>	Yes	No	Yes
<code>smooth::auto.ssarima()</code>	Yes	Yes	Yes

forecast::auto.arima()

```
auto.arima(AirPassengers, lambda = 0)
```

Series: AirPassengers

ARIMA(0,1,1)(0,1,1)[12]

Box Cox transformation: lambda= 0

Coefficients:

	ma1	sma1
	-0.402	-0.557
s.e.	0.090	0.073

$\sigma^2 = 0.00137$: log likelihood = 244.7

AIC=-483.4 AICc=-483.2 BIC=-474.8

forecast::auto.arima()

```
auto.arima(AirPassengers, lambda = 0) |> forecast(h = 10)
```

	Point Forecast	Lo 80	Hi 80	Lo 95	Hi 95
Jan 1961	450.4	429.5	472.3	418.9	484.3
Feb 1961	425.7	402.8	449.9	391.2	463.3
Mar 1961	479.0	450.1	509.7	435.6	526.8
Apr 1961	492.4	459.9	527.2	443.5	546.7
May 1961	509.1	472.7	548.2	454.6	570.0
Jun 1961	583.3	538.9	631.5	516.8	658.5
Jul 1961	670.0	615.9	728.9	589.1	762.1
Aug 1961	667.1	610.4	729.1	582.3	764.2
Sep 1961	558.2	508.5	612.8	484.0	643.8
Oct 1961	497.2	451.0	548.1	428.3	577.2

fable::ARIMA()

```
as_tsibble(AirPassengers) |> model(ARIMA(log(value))) |> report()
```

Series: value

Model: ARIMA(2,0,0)(0,1,1)[12] w/ drift

Transformation: log(value)

Coefficients:

	ar1	ar2	sma1	constant
	0.5754	0.2614	-0.5553	0.0193
s.e.	0.0843	0.0842	0.0771	0.0015

sigma^2 estimated as 0.001323: log likelihood=249.7

AIC=-489.3 AICc=-488.8 BIC=-474.9

fable::ARIMA()

```
as_tsibble(AirPassengers) |> model(ARIMA(log(value))) |> forecast(h = 10)
```

```
# A fable: 10 x 4 [1M]
```

```
# Key:       .model [1]
```

	.model <chr>	index <mth>	value <dist>	.mean <dbl>
1	ARIMA(log(value))	1961 Jan	t(N(6.1, 0.0013))	453.
2	ARIMA(log(value))	1961 Feb	t(N(6.1, 0.0018))	430.
3	ARIMA(log(value))	1961 Mar	t(N(6.2, 0.0022))	486.
4	ARIMA(log(value))	1961 Apr	t(N(6.2, 0.0025))	502.
5	ARIMA(log(value))	1961 May	t(N(6.3, 0.0028))	522.
6	ARIMA(log(value))	1961 Jun	t(N(6.4, 0.003))	600.
7	ARIMA(log(value))	1961 Jul	t(N(6.5, 0.0031))	691.
8	ARIMA(log(value))	1961 Aug	t(N(6.5, 0.0032))	690.
9	ARIMA(log(value))	1961 Sep	t(N(6.4, 0.0033))	579.
10	ARIMA(log(value))	1961 Oct	t(N(6.2, 0.0034))	516.

smooth::auto.ssarima()

```
auto.ssarima(log(AirPassengers))
```

Time elapsed: 1.7 seconds

Model estimated: SARIMA(0,1,3)[1](0,1,3)[12]

Matrix of MA terms:

	Lag 1	Lag 12
MA(1)	-0.4157	-0.7397
MA(2)	0.0313	0.1145
MA(3)	-0.1255	0.0747

Initial values were produced using backcasting.

Loss function type: likelihood; Loss function value: -287.9556

Error standard deviation: 0.0336

Sample size: 144

Number of estimated parameters: 7

Number of degrees of freedom: 137

Information criteria:

AIC	AICc	BIC	BICc
-561.9	-561.1	-541.1	-539.1

smooth::auto.ssarima()

```
auto.ssarima(log(AirPassengers)) |> forecast(h = 10)
```

	Point forecast	Lower bound (2.5%)	Upper bound (97.5%)
Jan 1961	6.104	6.039	6.169
Feb 1961	6.049	5.973	6.124
Mar 1961	6.181	6.096	6.266
Apr 1961	6.185	6.094	6.276
May 1961	6.224	6.128	6.321
Jun 1961	6.372	6.271	6.474
Jul 1961	6.506	6.399	6.612
Aug 1961	6.512	6.401	6.623
Sep 1961	6.324	6.209	6.440
Oct 1961	6.201	6.082	6.321

Benchmarks

```
bench::mark(  
  forecast = auto.arima(AirPassengers, lambda = 0, biasadj = TRUE) |>  
    forecast(h = 12),  
  fable = as_tsibble(AirPassengers) |> model(ARIMA(log(value))) |>  
    forecast(h = 12),  
  smooth = auto.ssarima(log(AirPassengers)) |>  
    forecast(h = 12, interval="parametric"),  
  check = FALSE  
)
```

expression	min	median	itr/sec	mem_alloc
forecast	1.15s	1.15s	0.87	400.39MB
fable	3.96s	3.96s	0.25	1.27GB
smooth	1.68s	1.68s	0.60	450.8MB

R reconciliation packages

	hts	thief	fable	ForeReco
First release	2010	2016	2019	2020
Last release	2024	2018	2025	2024
Cross-sectional	✓		✓	✓
Temporal		✓		✓
Cross-temporal				✓
Probabilistic			✓	✓
BU	✓	✓	✓	✓
TD	✓	✓	✓	✓
OLS	✓	✓	✓	✓
WLS	✓	✓	✓	✓
MinT	✓	✓	✓	✓

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Python packages with statistical models

(Release dates)

- statsmodels (2016–2024)
- pmdarima (2017–2023)
- sktime (2019–2025) — includes wrapper to pmdarima and to some StatsForecast functions
- GluonTS (AWS, 2019–2025) — via wrapper to R forecast package
- Darts (2020–2025) — some wrappers to StatsForecast
- Merlion (Salesforce, 2021–2023)
- StatsForecast (Nixtla 2022–2025)
- aeon (2023–2025) — fork of sktime

Most complete packages

statsmodels

- ARIMA (not automated)
- ETS (not automated)
- MSTL
- Theta
- Regime switching
- ARDL
- ECM
- VARMA

sktime

- AutoARIMA
- AutoETS
- BATS/TBATS
- Theta
- STLForecaster
- Croston
- Bagged-ETS
- Prophet

StatsForecast

- AutoARIMA
- AutoETS
- AutoTBATS
- Theta
- MSTL
- Croston
- TSB, ADIDA
- ARCH/GARCH

Python packages with ML methods

(Release dates)

- `aeon` (2023–2025) — fork of `sktime`
- `Darts` (2020–2025)
- `GluonTS` (AWS, 2019–2025)
- `Kats` (2021–2022)
- `Merlion` (Salesforce, 2021–2023)
- `MLforecast` (Nixtla 2022–2025)
- `NeuralForecast` (Nixtla 2022–2025)
- `NeuralProphet` (2020–2024)
- `pytorch-forecasting` (2020–2025)
- `skforecast` (2021–2025)
- `sktime` (2019–2025)

ML forecasting methods available in GluonTS

- Deep Renewal Processes
- DeepAR
- DeepFactor
- DeepNPTS
- DeepState
- DeepTPP
- DeepVAR
- DeepVARHierarchical
- GPForecaster
- GPVAR
- LSTNet
- MQ-CNN
- MQ-RNN
- MQF2
- N-BEATS
- Rotbaum
- SimpleFeedForward
- Temporal Fusion Transformer
- Transformer
- WaveNet

Forecasting methods available in NeuralForecast

- Autoformer
- BiTCN
- DeepAR
- DeepNPTS
- DilatedRNN
- FEDformer
- GRU
- HINT
- Informer
- iTransformer
- KAN
- LSTM
- MLP
- MLPMultivariate
- NBEATS
- NBEATSx
- NHITS
- NLinear
- PatchTST
- RNN
- SOFTS
- StemGNN
- TCN
- TFT
- TiDE
- TimeMixer
- TimeLLM
- TimesNet
- TSMixer
- TSMixerx
- VanillaTransformer

Python reconciliation packages

	sktime	Darts	pyhts	HierarchicalForecast
First release	2019	2020	2021	2022
Last release	2025	2025	2022	2025
Cross-sectional	✓	✓	✓	✓
Temporal			✓	
Cross-temporal				
Probabilistic				✓
BU	✓	✓		✓
TD	✓	✓		✓
OLS	✓	✓	✓	✓
WLS	✓	✓	✓	✓
MinT	✓	✓	✓	✓

Foundation models

Open source

- Time-LLM (Jin et al. 2023)
- TimeGPT-1 (Garza, Challu, and Mergenthaler-Canseco 2023)
- **Lag-Llama** (Rasul et al. 2023)
- TimesFM (Das et al. 2023)
- Tiny Time Mixers (Ekambaram et al. 2024)
- Moirai (Woo et al. 2024)
- MOMENT (Goswami et al. 2024)
- UniTS (Gao et al. 2024)
- Chronos (Ansari et al. 2024)
- Time-MoE (Shi et al, 2024)

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- **colintbowers/RARIMA.jl**: 2015–2018. Wrapper for R packages `stats` and `forecast`. No longer working
- **josemanuel22/DeepAR.jl**: 2024–2025. DeepAR models.
- **LAMPSPUC/Sarimax.jl**: 2024–2025. SARIMA using JuMP.
- **LAMPSPUC/ScoreDrivenModels.jl**: 2020–2022. Generalized AR score models.
- **LAMPSPUC/StateSpaceModels.jl**: 2018–2025. Based on Durbin & Koopman (2012).
- **viraltux/Forecast.jl**: 2020–2021. Descriptive stats and plots, but only AR forecasting.

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Monash Time Series Forecasting Repository

The first repository containing datasets of related time series for global forecasting

[VISIT REPOSITORY](#)

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Books

Forecasting: principles and practice

OTexts.com

Rob J Hyndman
George Athanasopoulos

FORECASTING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

A comprehensive introduction to the latest forecasting methods using R. Learn to improve your forecast accuracy using dozens of real data examples.



1st ed 2013; 2nd ed 2018

Rob J Hyndman
George Athanasopoulos

FORECASTING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

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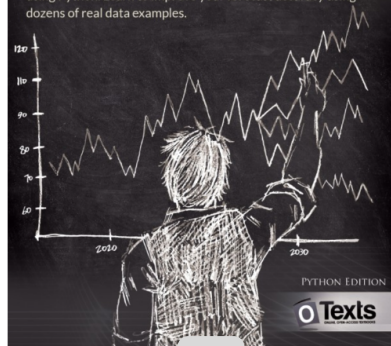


3rd ed 2021

Rob J Hyndman, George Athanasopoulos,
Azul Garza, Cristian Challu,
Max Mergenthaler, Kin G Olivares

FORECASTING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE, THE PYTHONIC WAY

A comprehensive introduction to the latest forecasting methods using Python. Learn to improve your forecast accuracy using dozens of real data examples.



2025

Forecasting and analytics with ADAM

Forecasting and Analytics with the Augmented Dynamic Adaptive Model (ADAM)

Ivan Svetunkov



 **CRC Press**
Taylor & Francis Group
A CHAPMAN & HALL BOOK

openforecast.org/adam/

robjhyndman.com/osfs25