

MSMS 301 - Time Series

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Contents

1	Moving Average Process	2
1.1	MA(1) Process	2
1.2	MA(q) Process	3
2	Autoregressive Process	4
2.1	AR(1) Process	4
2.2	AR(2) Process	6

1 Moving Average Process

Suppose $\{Z_t\}$ is a purely random process with mean 0 and variance σ^2 . A process $\{X_t\}$ derived as a weighted sum of **present and past q** white noises is said to be a Moving Average Process of order q (abbreviated to $MA(q)$).

$$X_t = \beta_0 Z_t + \beta_1 Z_{t-1} + \dots + \beta_q Z_{t-q} \quad (1)$$

where all β_i 's are constants. The Z 's are usually scaled so that $\beta_0 = 1$.

It immediately follows

- $E(X_t) = 0 \forall t$ as $E(Z_t) = 0 \forall t$
- $Var(X_t) = \sigma^2 \sum_{i=0}^q \beta_i^2 \forall t$ as $Z_t \stackrel{ind}{\sim} \text{variance} = \sigma^2 \forall t$.

1.1 MA(1) Process

With $Z_t \sim \text{White Noise } (0, \sigma^2)$, the first order moving average process $\{X_t\}$ is defined as

$$X_t = \beta_0 Z_t + \beta_1 Z_{t-1}; \beta_0 = 1 \quad (2)$$

$$\text{or } X_t = Z_t + \theta Z_{t-1} \quad (3)$$

where $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$ (as the process is finite, θ is free to be any real constant).


Clearly $E(X_t) = 0 \forall t$ and $Var(X_t) = \sigma^2(1 + \theta^2)$.

Now

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma(h) &= cov(X_t, X_{t+h}) \\ &= cov(Z_t + \theta Z_{t-1}, Z_{t+h} + \theta Z_{t+h-1}) \\ &= cov(Z_t, Z_{t+h}) + \theta \cdot cov(Z_t, Z_{t+h-1}) + \theta \cdot cov(Z_{t-1}, Z_{t+h}) + \theta^2 \cdot cov(Z_{t-1}, Z_{t+h-1}) \\ &= \begin{cases} \sigma^2(1 + \theta^2), & h = 0 \\ \theta\sigma^2, & h = \pm 1 \\ 0, & h = \pm 2, \pm 3, \pm 4, \dots \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(h) &= \frac{\gamma(h)}{\gamma(0)} \\ &= \begin{cases} 1, & h = 0 \\ \frac{\theta}{1 + \theta^2}, & h = \pm 1 \\ 0, & h = \pm 2, \pm 3, \pm 4, \dots \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

 So, for MA(1) process, the autocorrelation function vanishes after lag 1. This is an identifier for MA(1) process.

1.2 MA(q) Process


MA(q) process as in (1) can be written as $X_t = \sum_{i=0}^q \beta_i Z_{t-i}$.

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 \gamma(h) &= \text{cov}(X_t, X_{t+h}) \\
 &= \text{cov} \left(\sum_{i=0}^q \beta_i Z_{t-i}, \sum_{j=0}^q \beta_j Z_{t+h-j} \right) \\
 &= \text{cov} \left(\sum_{i=0}^q \beta_i Z_{t-i}, \sum_{s=-h}^{q-h} \beta_{s+h} Z_{t-s} \right) \quad [s = j - h] \\
 &= \text{cov} \left(\sum_{i=0}^q \beta_i Z_{t-i}, \sum_{i=-h}^{q-h} \beta_{i+h} Z_{t-i} \right) \quad [\text{runner } s \text{ is just a dummy variable}] \\
 &= \sum_{i=0}^{q-h} \beta_i \beta_{i+h} \cdot \text{cov}(Z_{t-i}, Z_{t-i}) \\
 &= \sigma^2 \sum_{i=0}^{q-h} \beta_i \beta_{i+h} \\
 &= \begin{cases} \sigma^2 \sum_{i=0}^{q-h} \beta_i \beta_{i+h}, & h = 0, 1, \dots, q \\ 0, & h > q \\ \gamma(-h), & h < 0 \end{cases}
 \end{aligned}$$

Consequently

$$\begin{aligned}
 \rho(h) &= \frac{\gamma(h)}{\gamma(0)} \\
 &= \begin{cases} \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{q-h} \beta_i \beta_{i+h}}{\sum_{i=0}^q \beta_i^2}, & h = 0, 1, \dots, q \\ 0, & h > q \\ \rho(-h), & h < 0 \end{cases}
 \end{aligned}$$

 It can be seen from the above expression that ACF becomes 0 at lag $k > q$. It shows that ACF of MA process cuts off at lag q which is a special characteristics of MA(q) process.

@ 03.08.2025, Sunday (Yesss !! On a goddaamn Sunday !! 😊)



Random Cosine Curve : Consider a stochastic process $\{X_t\}$ given by

$$X_t = \cos \left(2\pi \left(\frac{t}{12} + \Phi \right) \right), \quad t = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$$

where $\Phi \sim U(0, 1)$. Find $E(X_t)$ and $Var(X_t)$.

2 Autoregressive Process

2.1 AR(1) Process

The first-order autoregressive process $\{X_t\}$ is defined as

$$X_t = \alpha X_{t-1} + Z_t \quad t = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots \quad (4)$$

where Z_t 's are White Noise with mean 0 and variance σ^2 ; $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$, constant.

Notice (4) reduces to a random walk model for $\alpha = 1$.

We may write (4) as $X_t = \alpha B X_t + Z_t$ where B is a backshift operator with $B X_t = X_{t-1}$.

Then $(1 - \alpha B)X_t = Z_t$ so that

$$\begin{aligned} X_t &= (1 - \alpha B)^{-1} Z_t \\ &= (1 + \alpha B + \alpha^2 B^2 + \alpha^3 B^3 + \dots) Z_t \\ &= Z_t + \alpha Z_{t-1} + \alpha^2 Z_{t-2} + \alpha^3 Z_{t-3} + \dots \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \alpha^j Z_{t-j} \quad \text{provided the sum exists i.e. } |\alpha| < 1 \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Using (5), $E(X_t) = 0$, $t = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$

And $Var(X_t) = \sigma^2 \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \alpha^{2j} = \frac{\sigma^2}{1 - \alpha^2}$, provided $|\alpha| < 1$.

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma(h) &= cov(X_t, X_{t+h}) \\ &= cov\left(\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \alpha^j Z_{t-j}, \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \alpha^j Z_{t+h-j}\right) \\ &= cov\left(\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \alpha^j Z_{t-j}, \sum_{k=-h}^{\infty} \alpha^{k+h} Z_{t-k}\right), \quad \text{taking } k = j - h \\ &= \sigma^2 \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \alpha^j \alpha^{j+h} \\ &= \sigma^2 \alpha^h \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \alpha^{2j} \\ &= \frac{\sigma^2 \alpha^h}{1 - \alpha^2} \quad \text{provided } |\alpha| < 1, h \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Note that $\gamma(h)$ does not depend on t . So AR(1) model is weak stationary only if $|\alpha| < 1$.

Consequently

$$\begin{aligned}\rho(h) &= \frac{\gamma(h)}{\gamma(0)} \\ &= \begin{cases} 1, & h = 0 \\ \alpha^h, & h = 1, 2, \dots \\ \rho(-h), & h = -1, -2, \dots \end{cases} \\ &= \alpha^{|h|}, \quad h = \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots\end{aligned}$$

Multiplying X_{t-k} on both sides of (4) and taking expectation we get

$$\begin{aligned}E(X_t \cdot X_{t-h}) &= \alpha E(X_{t-1} \cdot X_{t-h}) + E(Z_t \cdot X_{t-h}), \\ \Rightarrow \gamma(h) &= \alpha \gamma(h-1)\end{aligned}\tag{6}$$

Remember Z_t, X_{t-h} are independent and $E(X_t) = 0 \forall t$. Also, using (5), $cov(Z_t, X_{t-h}) = 0$.

Following (6) we have

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma(1) &= \alpha \gamma(0) \\ \gamma(2) &= \alpha^2 \gamma(0) \\ &\vdots \\ \gamma(h) &= \alpha^h \gamma(0)\end{aligned}\tag{7}$$

On dividing both sides of (7) by $\gamma(0)$, we get

$$\rho(h) = \alpha^{|h|}, \quad h = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$$



Find ACVF & ACF and draw the ACF plot for the following $AR(1)$ processes.

- (i) $X_t = 0.35 X_{t-1} + Z_t$
- (ii) $X_t = 0.85 X_{t-1} + Z_t$
- (iii) $X_t = -0.35 X_{t-1} + Z_t$



The ACVFs and ACFs are as follows.

- (i) $\gamma(h) = 0.8775 \cdot \sigma^2 0.35^{|h|}$, $\rho(h) = 0.35^{|h|} \forall h = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$
- (ii) $\gamma(h) = 0.2775 \cdot \sigma^2 0.85^{|h|}$, $\rho(h) = 0.85^{|h|} \forall h = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$
- (iii) $\gamma(h) = 0.8775 \cdot \sigma^2 (-0.35)^{|h|}$, $\rho(h) = (-0.35)^{|h|} \forall h = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$



Then

$$\begin{aligned}
\forall h > 0, \gamma(h) &= \text{cov}(X_t, X_{t+h}) \\
&= \text{cov} \left(\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \psi_j Z_{t-j}, \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \psi_j Z_{t+h-j} \right) \\
&= \text{cov} \left(\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \psi_j Z_{t-j}, \sum_{k=-h}^{\infty} \psi_{k+h} Z_{t-k} \right), \text{ taking } k = j - h \\
&= \sigma^2 \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \psi_j \psi_{j+h} \text{ provided the sum exists}
\end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\gamma(h) = \begin{cases} \sigma^2 \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \psi_j \psi_{j+h}, & h = 1, 2, 3, \dots \\ \sigma^2 \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \psi_j^2, & h = 0 \\ \rho(-h), & h = -1, -2, -3, \dots \text{ provided all the sums exist} \end{cases}$$

Consequently

$$\rho(h) = \begin{cases} \frac{\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \psi_j \psi_{j+h}}{\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \psi_j^2}, & h = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots \\ \rho(-h), & h = -1, -2, -3, \dots \text{ provided all the sums exist} \end{cases}$$