

# QBUS 6840 Lecture 9

## Seasonal ARIMA Models Model Combination

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# Review of $ARMA(p, q)$ and $ARIMA(p, d, q)$ Processes

- $ARMA(p, q)$  Formulation with backshift operators

$$\left(1 - \sum_{i=1}^p \phi_i B^i\right) Y_t = c + \left(1 + \sum_{i=1}^q \theta_i B^i\right) \varepsilon_t,$$

- $ARIMA(p, d, q)$  Formulation with backshift operators

$$\left(1 - \sum_{i=1}^p \phi_i B^i\right) (1 - B)^d Y_t = c + \left(1 + \sum_{i=1}^q \theta_i B^i\right) \varepsilon_t$$

# Review of $ARMA(p, q)$ and $ARIMA(p, d, q)$ Processes

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- $ARIMA(p, d, q)$  Formulation with backshift operators

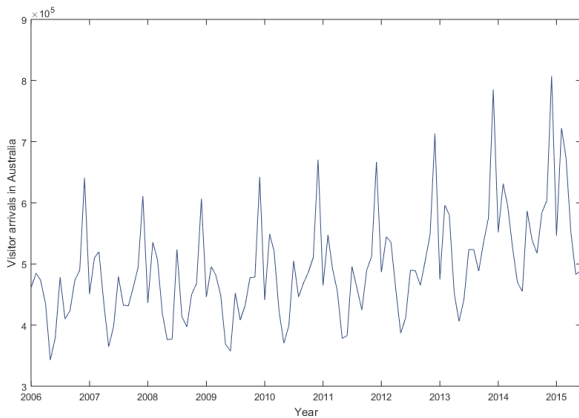
$$\left(1 - \sum_{i=1}^p \phi_i B^i\right) Z_t = c + \left(1 + \sum_{i=1}^q \theta_i B^i\right) \varepsilon_t,$$

- Let  $Z_t = (1 - B)^d Y_t$ , then  $Z_t$  is the  $d$ -order differencing of  $Y_t$ . Hence  $ARMA(p, q)$  of  $Z_t$  is the  $ARMA(p, d, q)$  of  $Y_t$

# Procedure to Estimate $ARMA(p, q)/ARIMA(p, d, q)$ processes: Lecture08\_Example04.py

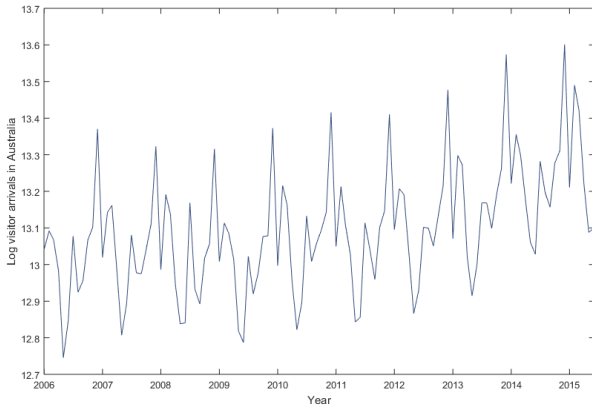
- 1 For the given time series  $\{Y_t\}$ , check its stationarity by looking at its Sample ACF and Sample PACF.
- 2 If ACF does not die down quickly, which means the given time series  $\{Y_t\}$  is nonstationary, we seek for a transformation, e.g., log transformation  $\{Z_t = \log(Y_t)\}$ , or the first order difference  $\{Z_t = Y_t - Y_{t-1}\}$ , or even the difference of log time series, or the difference of the first order difference, so that the transformed time series is stationary by checking its Sample ACF
- 3 When both Sample ACF and Sample PACF die down quickly, check the orders at which ACF or PACF die down. The order of ACF will be the lag  $q$  of the ARIMA and the order of PACF will be the lag  $p$  of the ARIMA, and the order of difference will be  $d$ .
- 4 Estimate the identified  $ARIMA(p, d, q)$ , or  $ARMA(p, q)$  (if we did not do any difference transformation)
- 5 Make forecast with estimated  $ARIMA(p, d, q)$ , or  $ARMA(p, q)$  model

# Seasonal ARIMA models



# Seasonal ARIMA models

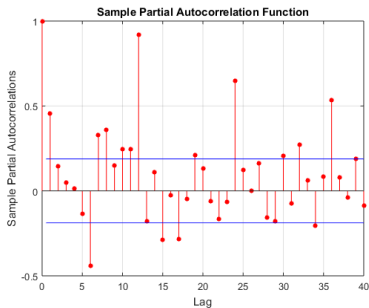
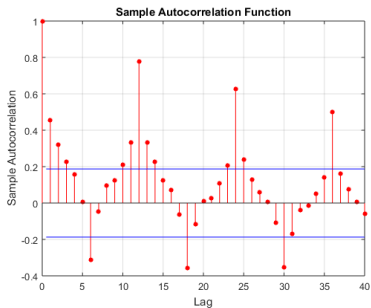
## Variance stabilising transform



This is the Log transformed data.

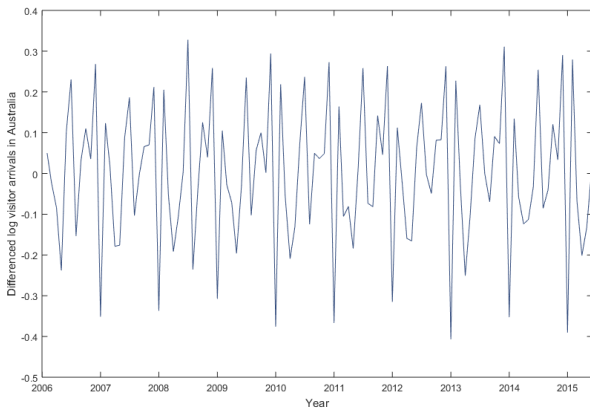
# Seasonal ARIMA models

ACF and PACF for the log visitors series



# Seasonal ARIMA models

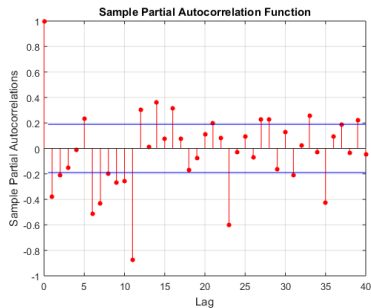
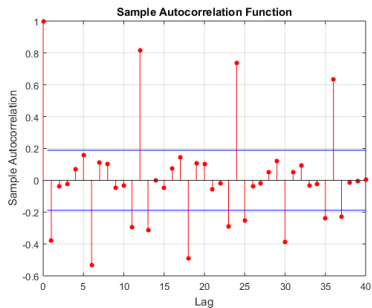
First differenced log visitors series





# Seasonal ARIMA models

ACF and PACF for the first differenced log visitors series



# Seasonal ARIMA models

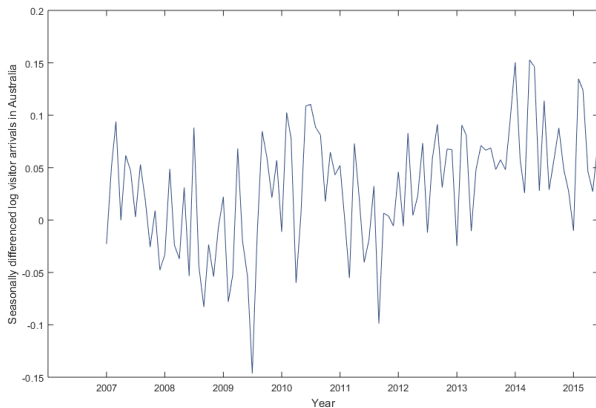
## Seasonal differencing

We can use seasonal differencing to remove the nonstationarity caused by the seasonality:

$$y_t - y_{t-12}$$

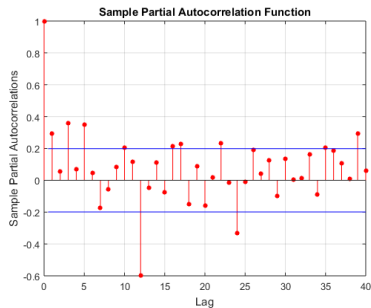
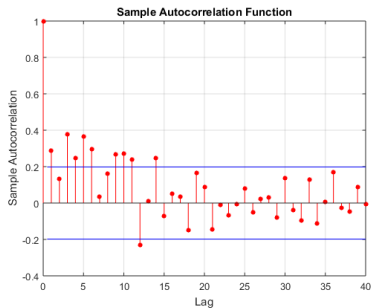
# Seasonal ARIMA models

Seasonally differenced log visitors series



# Seasonal ARIMA models

ACF and PACF for the seasonally differenced log visitors series



# Seasonal AR model

*AR*(1) specification

$$Y_t = c + \Phi_1 Y_{t-12} + \varepsilon_t$$

# Seasonal AR model

AR(1) specification

$$Y_t = c + \Phi_1 Y_{t-12} + \varepsilon_t$$

In the form of  $B$  operator

$$(1 - \Phi_1 B^{12})Y_t = c + \varepsilon_t$$

# Seasonal AR model

AR(1) specification

$$Y_t = c + \Phi_1 Y_{t-12} + \varepsilon_t$$

In the form of  $B$  operator

$$(1 - \Phi_1 B^{12})Y_t = c + \varepsilon_t$$

Considering the Seasonal Differencing series

$$Z_t = Y_t - Y_{t-12}$$

what is  $Z_t$ 's Seasonal AR(1)?

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what is  $Z_t$ 's Seasonal AR(1)?

$$Z_t = c + \Phi_1 Z_{t-12} + \varepsilon_t$$

i.e., for  $Y_t$ ,

$$Y_t - Y_{t-12} = c + \Phi_1 (Y_{t-12} - Y_{t-24}) + \varepsilon_t$$



# Seasonal AR model

## AR(1) specification

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In the form of  $B$  operator

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i.e., for  $Y_t$ ,

$$Y_t - Y_{t-12} = c + \Phi_1 (Y_{t-12} - Y_{t-24}) + \varepsilon_t$$

In the form of  $B$  operator

$$(1 - \Phi_1 B^{12})(1 - B^{12})Y_t = c + \varepsilon_t$$

# Seasonal MA model

MA(1) specification

$$Y_t = c + \Theta_1 \varepsilon_{t-12} + \varepsilon_t$$

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MA(1) specification

$$Y_t = c + \Theta_1 \varepsilon_{t-12} + \varepsilon_t$$

In the form of  $B$  operator

$$Y_t = c + (1 + \Theta_1 B^{12}) \varepsilon_t$$

# Seasonal MA model

## MA(1) specification

$$Y_t = c + \Theta_1 \varepsilon_{t-12} + \varepsilon_t$$

In the form of  $B$  operator

$$Y_t = c + (1 + \Theta_1 B^{12}) \varepsilon_t$$

Considering seasonally differencing  $Z_t = Y_t - Y_{t-12}$ , its seasonal MA(1) is

$$Z_t = c + \Theta_1 \varepsilon_{t-12} + \varepsilon_t$$

# Seasonal MA model

## MA(1) specification

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In the form of  $B$  operator

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Hence in terms of  $Y_t$ , it becomes

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Hence in terms of  $Y_t$ , it becomes

$$Y_t - Y_{t-12} = c + \Theta_1 \varepsilon_{t-12} + \varepsilon_t$$

In the form of  $B$  operator

$$(1 - B^{12}) Y_t = c + (1 + \Theta_1 B^{12}) \varepsilon_t$$

# Seasonal Box-Jenkins models

$ARIMA(p, d, q)(P, D, Q)_m$  models

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{ARIMA} & \underbrace{(p, d, q)} & \underbrace{(P, D, Q)_m} \\ & \uparrow & \uparrow \\ \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Non-seasonal part} \\ \text{of the model} \end{array} \right) & & \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Seasonal part} \\ \text{of the model} \end{array} \right) \end{array}$$

where  $m$  = number of seasonal period (e.g.  $m = 12$ ).

$$\begin{aligned} & (1 - \phi_1 B - \phi_2 B^2 - \dots - \phi_p B^p)(1 - \Phi_1 B^m - \Phi_2 B^{2m} - \dots - \Phi_P B^{Pm})(1 - B)^d(1 - B^m)^D Y_t \\ & = c + (1 + \theta_1 B + \theta_2 B^2 + \dots + \theta_q B^q)(1 + \Theta_1 B^m + \Theta_2 B^{2m} + \dots + \Theta_Q B^{Qm}) \epsilon_t \end{aligned}$$

# Seasonal Box-Jenkins models: Example

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} (1 - \phi_1 B) & (1 - \Phi_1 B^4) & (1 - B) & (1 - B^4) & y_t = & (1 + \theta_1 B) & (1 + \Theta_1 B^4) e_t. \\ \uparrow & \uparrow & \uparrow & \uparrow & & \uparrow & \uparrow \\ \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Non-seasonal} \\ \text{AR}(1) \end{array} \right) & \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Seasonal} \\ \text{AR}(1) \end{array} \right) & \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Non-seasonal} \\ \text{difference} \end{array} \right) & \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Seasonal} \\ \text{difference} \end{array} \right) & & \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Non-seasonal} \\ \text{MA}(1) \end{array} \right) & \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Seasonal} \\ \text{MA}(1) \end{array} \right) \end{array}$$

The above is an  $ARIMA(1, 1, 1)(1, 1, 1)_4$  model (with  $c = 0$ )



# Seasonal Box-Jenkins models

$ARIMA(1, 0, 0)(0, 1, 1)_{12}$  for monthly data

$ARIMA(1, 0, 0)(0, 1, 1)_{12}$  for monthly data:

$$(1 - \phi_1 B)(1 - B^{12})Y_t = c + (1 + \Theta_1 B^{12})\varepsilon_t$$

This is equivalent to

$$Y_t - Y_{t-12} = c + \phi_1(Y_{t-1} - Y_{t-13}) + \varepsilon_t + \Theta_1\varepsilon_{t-12}$$

# Seasonal Box-Jenkins models

$ARIMA(1, 0, 0)(1, 0, 0)_{12}$  models

Factored:

$$(1 - \phi_1 B)(1 - \Phi_1 B^{12})Y_t = c + \varepsilon_t$$

Or write it out

$$Y_t = c + \phi_1 Y_{t-1} + \Phi_1 Y_{t-12} - \phi_1 \Phi_1 Y_{t-13} + \varepsilon_t$$

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This is because informally

$$(1 - \phi_1 B)(1 - \Phi_1 B^{12}) = 1 - \phi_1 B - \Phi_1 B^{12} + \phi_1 \Phi_1 B^{13}$$

Hence

$$(1 - \phi_1 B)(1 - \Phi_1 B^{12})Y_t = Y_t - \phi_1 Y_{t-1} - \Phi_1 Y_{t-12} + \phi_1 \Phi_1 Y_{t-13}$$

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$ARIMA(p, d, q)(P, D, Q)_m$  models

$ARIMA(1, 1, 1)(1, 1, 0)_{12}$  model:

$$(1 - \phi_1 B)(1 - \Phi_1 B^{12})(1 - B)(1 - B^{12})Y_t = c + (1 + \theta_1 B)\varepsilon_t$$

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First denote  $Z_t = (1 - B)(1 - B^{12})Y_t$ . For this new time series  $Z_t$ , the model is

$$(1 - \phi_1 B)(1 - \Phi_1 B^{12})Z_t = c + (1 + \theta_1 B)\varepsilon_t$$

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$$(1 - \phi_1 B)(1 - \Phi_1 B^{12})Z_t = c + (1 + \theta_1 B)\varepsilon_t$$

or

$$(1 - \phi_1 B - \Phi_1 B^{12} + \phi_1 \Phi_1 B^{13})Z_t = c + (1 + \theta_1 B)\varepsilon_t$$

# Seasonal Box-Jenkins models

$ARIMA(p, d, q)(P, D, Q)_m$  models

$ARIMA(1, 1, 1)(1, 1, 0)_{12}$  model:

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or

$$(1 - \phi_1 B - \Phi_1 B^{12} + \phi_1 \Phi_1 B^{13})Z_t = c + (1 + \theta_1 B)\varepsilon_t$$

Hence

$$Z_t = \phi_1 B Z_t + \Phi_1 B^{12} Z_t - \phi_1 \Phi_1 B^{13} Z_t + c + \varepsilon_t + \theta_1 B \varepsilon_t$$

or

$$Z_t = \phi_1 Z_{t-1} + \Phi_1 Z_{t-12} - \phi_1 \Phi_1 Z_{t-13} + c + \varepsilon_t + \theta_1 \varepsilon_{t-1}$$

# Seasonal Box-Jenkins models

$ARIMA(p, d, q)(P, D, Q)_m$  models

$ARIMA(1, 1, 1)(1, 1, 0)_{12}$  model:

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Finally from

$$Z_t = \phi_1 Z_{t-1} + \Phi_1 Z_{t-12} - \phi_1 \Phi_1 Z_{t-13} + c + \varepsilon_t + \theta_1 \varepsilon_{t-1}$$



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and

$$\begin{aligned} Z_t &= (1 - B)(1 - B^{12})Y_t = Y_t - Y_{t-1} - Y_{t-12} + Y_{t-13} \\ &= (Y_t - Y_{t-1}) - (Y_{t-12} - Y_{t-13}) \end{aligned}$$

# Seasonal Box-Jenkins models

$ARIMA(p, d, q)(P, D, Q)_m$  models

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Finally from

$$Z_t = \phi_1 Z_{t-1} + \Phi_1 Z_{t-12} - \phi_1 \Phi_1 Z_{t-13} + c + \varepsilon_t + \theta_1 \varepsilon_{t-1}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} Z_t &= (1 - B)(1 - B^{12})Y_t = Y_t - Y_{t-1} - Y_{t-12} + Y_{t-13} \\ &= (Y_t - Y_{t-1}) - (Y_{t-12} - Y_{t-13}) \end{aligned}$$

we

$$\begin{aligned} (Y_t - Y_{t-1}) - (Y_{t-12} - Y_{t-13}) &= c + \phi_1 [(Y_{t-1} - Y_{t-2}) - (Y_{t-13} - Y_{t-14})] \\ &\quad + \Phi_1 [(Y_{t-12} - Y_{t-13}) - (Y_{t-24} - Y_{t-25})] \\ &\quad - \phi_1 \Phi_1 [(Y_{t-13} - Y_{t-14}) - (Y_{t-25} - Y_{t-26})] \\ &\quad + \varepsilon_t + \theta_1 \varepsilon_{t-1} \end{aligned}$$

# Seasonal ARIMA models

## First and seasonal differencing

In our example for the log visitors series, we saw that seasonally differencing is not enough to make the series stationary. We can then consider the transform:

$$(1 - B^{12})(1 - B)Y_t = (Y_t - Y_{t-1}) - (Y_{t-12} - Y_{t-13})$$

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Note that

$$(Y_t - Y_{t-1}) - (Y_{t-12} - Y_{t-13}) = (Y_t - Y_{t-12}) - (Y_{t-1} - Y_{t-13})$$

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Note that

$$\begin{aligned}(Y_t - Y_{t-1}) - (Y_{t-12} - Y_{t-13}) &= (Y_t - Y_{t-12}) - (Y_{t-1} - Y_{t-13}) \\ &= (1 - B^{12})Y_t - (1 - B^{12})Y_{t-1}\end{aligned}$$

# Seasonal ARIMA models

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Note that

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$$\text{denote } Z_t = (1 - B^{12})Y_t : \quad = Z_t - Z_{t-1} = (1 - B)Z_t$$

# Seasonal ARIMA models

## First and seasonal differencing

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Note that

$$\begin{aligned}(Y_t - Y_{t-1}) - (Y_{t-12} - Y_{t-13}) &= (Y_t - Y_{t-12}) - (Y_{t-1} - Y_{t-13}) \\ &= (1 - B^{12})Y_t - (1 - B^{12})Y_{t-1}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{denote } Z_t = (1 - B^{12})Y_t : &= Z_t - Z_{t-1} = (1 - B)Z_t \\ &= (1 - B)(1 - B^{12})Y_t\end{aligned}$$

# Seasonal ARIMA models

## First and seasonal differencing

In our example for the log visitors series, we saw that seasonally differencing is not enough to make the series stationary. We can then consider the transform:

$$(1 - B^{12})(1 - B)Y_t = (Y_t - Y_{t-1}) - (Y_{t-12} - Y_{t-13})$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned}(Y_t - Y_{t-1}) - (Y_{t-12} - Y_{t-13}) &= (Y_t - Y_{t-12}) - (Y_{t-1} - Y_{t-13}) \\ &= (1 - B^{12})Y_t - (1 - B^{12})Y_{t-1}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{denote } Z_t = (1 - B^{12})Y_t : &= Z_t - Z_{t-1} = (1 - B)Z_t \\ &= (1 - B)(1 - B^{12})Y_t\end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$(1 - B^{12})(1 - B)Y_t = (1 - B)(1 - B^{12})Y_t$$



# Seasonal Box-Jenkins models

$ARIMA(p, d, q)(P, D, Q)_m$  models

$ARIMA(0, 0, 0)(P, 0, 0)$

- Sample autocorrelations die down for lags  $m, 2m, 3m$ , etc.
- Sample partial autocorrelations cut off at lag  $Pm$ .

$ARIMA(0, 0, 0)(0, 0, Q)$

- Sample autocorrelations cuts off at lag  $Qm$ .
- Sample partial autocorrelations die down for lags  $m, 2m, 3m$ , etc.

$ARIMA(0, 0, 0)(0, 1, 0)$

- Sample autocorrelations and partial autocorrelations die down very slowly for lags  $m, 2m, 3m$ , etc.

# Seasonal ARIMA models

Lecture09\_Example01.py

Carefully read the scripts in Lecture09\_Example01.py

# Seasonal ARIMA models

Lecture09\_Example01.py

Carefully read the scripts in Lecture09\_Example01.py

The concluded model is

$$(1 - \phi_1 B - \phi_2 B^2 - \phi_3 B^3 - \phi_4 B^4 - \phi_5 B^5)(1 - B^{12})Z_t = \varepsilon_t + \Theta_1 B^{12} \varepsilon_t$$

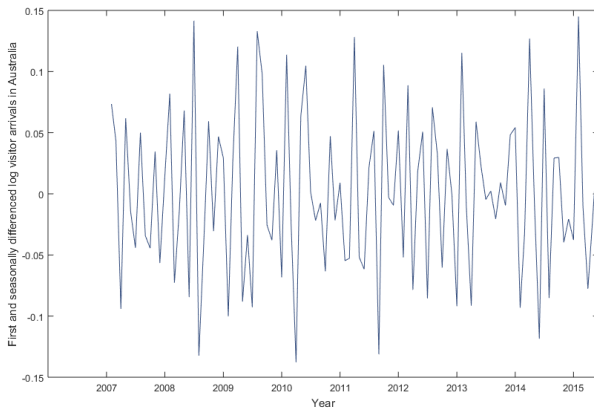
or

$$(1 - \phi_1 B - \phi_3 B^3 - \phi_5 B^5)(1 - B^{12})Z_t = \varepsilon_t + \Theta_1 B^{12} \varepsilon_t$$

where  $Z_t$  is the quartic root data, i.e.,  $Z_t = Y_t^{1/4}$ .

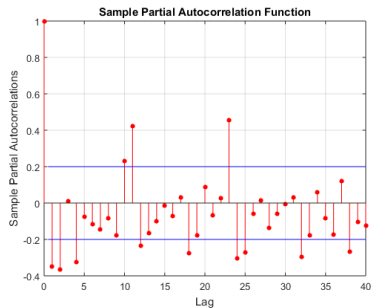
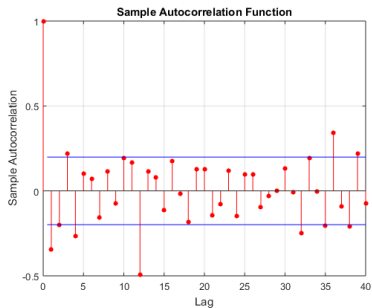
# Seasonal ARIMA models

## First and seasonal differencing



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First and seasonally differenced log visitors: estimation

$ARIMA(2, 1, 2)(0, 1, 1)_{12}$  model:

$$(1 - \phi_1 B - \phi_2 B^2)(1 - B)(1 - B^{12})Y_t = c + (1 + \theta_1 B + \theta_2 B^2)(1 + \Theta_1 B^{12})\varepsilon_t$$

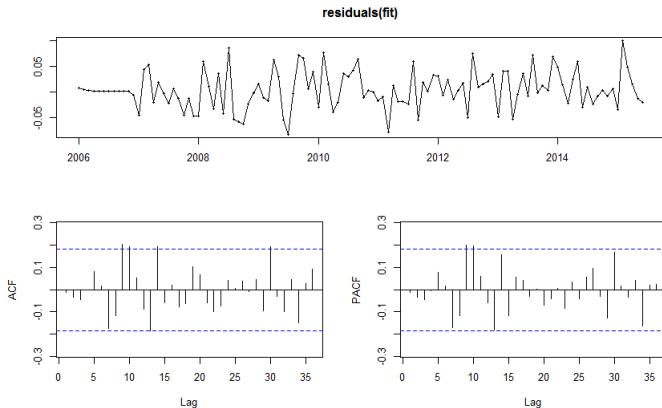
Estimated coefficients (using R):

	ar1	ar2	ma1	ma2	sma1
	-0.7817	-0.3154	-0.0300	-0.4007	-0.7471
s.e.	0.2212	0.1227	0.2213	0.1909	0.1073

log likelihood=178.99, AIC=-345.97, AICc=-345.08, BIC=-330.28.

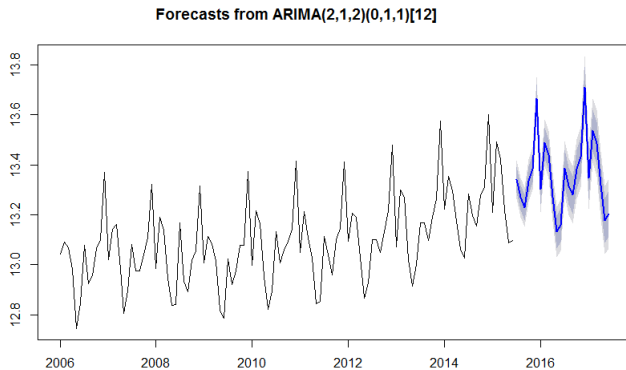
# Seasonal ARIMA models

$ARIMA(2, 1, 2)(0, 1, 1)_{12}$  model: residuals



# Seasonal ARIMA models

$ARIMA(2, 1, 2)(0, 1, 1)_{12}$  model: forecasts





# Seasonal ARIMA models

## Notes

- Intercept terms induce permanent trends.
- Only seasonally difference once.
- Usually only either one seasonal AR or MA term is needed.
- Seasonal AR terms are often used when the lag  $m$  sample autocorrelation terms are positive.
- Seasonal MA terms are often used when the lag  $m$  sample autocorrelation terms are negative.

# Forecasting combinations

## Introduction

Classical reference:

Bates, J. M., and C. W. J. Granger (1969). The combination of forecasts, *Operational Research Quarterly*, 20, 451–468.

They provide the following illustration:

TABLE 1. ERRORS IN FORECASTS (ACTUAL LESS ESTIMATED) OF  
PASSENGER MILES FLOWN, 1953

Month	Brown's exponential smoothing forecast errors	Box-Jenkins adaptive forecasting errors	Combined forecast ( $\frac{1}{2}$ Brown + $\frac{1}{2}$ Box-Jenkins) errors
Jan	1	-3	-1
Feb.	6	-10	-2
March	18	24	21
April	18	22	20
May	3	-9	-3
June	-17	-22	-19.5
July	-24	10	-7
Aug.	-16	2	-7
Sept.	-12	-11	-11.5
Oct.	-9	-10	-9.5
Nov.	-12	-12	-12
Dec.	-13	-7	-10
Variance of errors	196	188	150

# Forecasting combinations

## Introduction

- It is possible to combine unbiased forecasts  $\hat{y}_{T+1|T}^{(i)}$  from models  $i = 1, \dots, m$ .
- The models can be various ARIMA type of models or a set of ARIMA models, HW exponential smoothing models and regression models for example.
- $\hat{y}_{T+1|T}^{(i)}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, m$  could also be  $m$  expert forecasts.

# Forecasting combinations

## Weights

- The forecasts can be combined as follows

$$\hat{y}_{T+1|T}^c = \sum_{i=1}^m w_i \hat{y}_{T+1|T}^{(i)}$$

- The simplest way is to set  $w_i = \frac{1}{m}$ , then you are using a simple average.
- Simple averages often work surprisingly well.
- We often use convex combinations, that is  $0 \leq w \leq 1$ .
- The question is how to combine forecasts “optimally”?

# Forecasting combinations

## Variance reduction: example of two forecasts

If you have two unbiased forecasts  $\hat{y}_{T+1|T}^{(1)}$  and  $\hat{y}_{T+1|T}^{(2)}$  with the corresponding variances  $\sigma_1^2$  and  $\sigma_2^2$ , then we can combine them linearly

$$\hat{y}_{T+1|T}^c = w\hat{y}_{T+1|T}^{(1)} + (1 - w)\hat{y}_{T+1|T}^{(2)}.$$

The variance of the combined forecast will be

$$\sigma_c^2 = w^2\sigma_1^2 + (1 - w)^2\sigma_2^2 + 2\rho w\sigma_1(1 - w)\sigma_2.$$

It will have minimum at

$$w = \frac{\sigma_2^2 - \rho\sigma_1\sigma_2}{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2 - 2\rho\sigma_1\sigma_2}.$$

where  $w$  is the “optimal” value. In case where  $\hat{y}_{T+1|T}^{(1)}$  and  $\hat{y}_{T+1|T}^{(2)}$  are uncorrelated ( $\rho = 0$ ), then  $w = \sigma_2^2/(\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2)$ , which is no greater than the smaller of the two individual variances.

# Forecasting combinations

## Empirical weights

- Unfortunately we don't know the actual  $\sigma_1^2$  and  $\sigma_2^2$ . Now we design a way to estimate them.
- One-step ahead forecasts over a sample  $T + 1$  observations.
- Dividing the  $T + 1$  observations into an initial estimation (regression) subsample (e.g., from time 1 to  $t_0$ ) and a second evaluation (prediction) subsample (from  $t_0 + 1$  to  $T + 1$ ).
- The first subsample enables you to estimate the parameters of each model.
- In the second subsample, the forecasting performance of each model can be evaluated. Each model's performance will differ from period to period:

$$e_{1,t_0+1}, e_{1,t_0+2}, \dots, e_{1,T}$$

$$e_{2,t_0+1}, e_{2,t_0+2}, \dots, e_{2,T}$$

# Forecasting combinations

## Empirical weights

- We are going to use the estimates (many possibilities)

$$\sigma_1^2 \approx \frac{1}{t_1 - t_0} \sum_{t=t_0+1}^{t_1} e_{1,t}^2; \text{ for } t_1 = t_0 + 1, \dots, T$$

$$\sigma_2^2 \approx \frac{1}{t_1 - t_0} \sum_{t=t_0+1}^{t_1} e_{2,t}^2; \text{ for } t_1 = t_0 + 1, \dots, T$$

- In general, we can define The simplest version of such adaptive weights is, for  $t_1 = t_0 + 1, \dots, T$ ,

$$w_{t_1+1} = \frac{\sigma_2^2}{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2} \approx \frac{\sum_{t=t_0+1}^{t_1} (e_{2,t})^2}{\sum_{t=t_0+1}^{t_1} (e_{1,t})^2 + \sum_{t=t_0}^{t_1} (e_{2,t})^2},$$

# Forecasting combinations

## Empirical weights

- At the time  $T$ , we can have the simplest version of such adaptive weights

$$w_{T+1} = \frac{\sum_{t=t_0+1}^T (e_{2,t})^2}{\sum_{t=t_0+1}^T (e_{1,t})^2 + \sum_{t=t_0+1}^T (e_{2,t})^2},$$

- Or updating as (a clever way)

$$\begin{aligned} w_{T+1}^* &= \alpha w_T^* + (1 - \alpha) \frac{\sum_{t=t_0+1}^T (e_{2,t})^2}{\sum_{t=t_0+1}^T (e_{1,t})^2 + \sum_{t=t_0+1}^T (e_{2,t})^2}, \\ &= \alpha w_T^* + (1 - \alpha) w_{T+1} \end{aligned}$$



# Forecasting combinations

## Alternative combination methods

Numerous other alternatives are available, see  
Clemen, R. T. (1989). Combining forecasts: a review and  
annotated bibliography, *International Journal of Forecasting*, 5,  
559–583

Hendry, D. F., and M. P. Clements (2002). Pooling of forecasts,  
*The Econometrics Journal*, 7, 1–31

# Forecasting combinations

There is extensive empirical evidence in favour of combinations as a forecasting strategy.

- Forecasting combinations offer diversification gains that make them very useful compared to relying on a single model, as we have just seen.
- There may be structural breaks in the data, making it plausible that combining models with different levels adaptability will lead to better results than relying on a single model.

# Forecasting combinations

- Even without structural breaks, individuals models may be subject to misspecification bias: it is implausible that a single model dominates all others at all time periods.
- An additional argument for combining forecasts is that predictions from different forecasters may have been constructed under different loss functions.

# Forecasting combinations

## Note

- Estimation errors are a serious problem for obtaining the combination weights. Simple averages are often better.
- Similarly, nonstationarities can cause instabilities on the weights.

# Forecasting combinations

## Additional references

If you are interested in this topic, you can also check:

- Stock and Watson (2004) Combination Forecasts of Output Growth in a Seven-Country Data Set, J. of Forecasting, 23, 405–430
- Timmermann (2006) Forecast combinations, Handbook of Economic Forecasting, vol 1, pp 135–196
- Vasnev A, Skirtun M and Pauwels L (2013) Forecasting Monetary Policy Decisions in Australia: A Forecast Combination Approach, Journal of Forecasting, 32, 151–156