

# Lecture 3

## Stationary Processes: Properties, Mean, and Covariance Functions

References: CC08 Chapter 2 & Chapter 4.1-4.3; BD16  
Chapter 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2; SS17 Chapter 1.2-1.4

*MATH 8090 Time Series Analysis*  
Week 3

Review

Mean and  
Autocovariance  
Functions

Stationarity

Some Examples of  
Stationary Processes

Linear Processes

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# Agenda

Stationary  
Processes:  
Properties, Mean,  
and Covariance  
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- 1 Review
- 2 Mean and Autocovariance Functions
- 3 Stationarity
- 4 Some Examples of Stationary Processes
- 5 Linear Processes

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## Additive Decomposition:

$$Y_t = \mu_t + s_t + \eta_t, \quad t = 1, 2, \dots, T$$

- 1 Plot the data  $y_t$  to explore the form of  $\mu_t$  and  $s_t$ , and check for non-constant variation in  $\eta_t$

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- 5 Estimate parameters in  $\mu_t, s_t$ , and  $\eta_t$  (ideally simultaneously in one step)
- 6 Check for fit of model (poor fit  $\Rightarrow$  return to step 1)
- 7 Use model for inference: predicting future  $y_t$ 's, describing changes in  $y_t$  over time, hypothesis testing, etc

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## Recap of the Past Few Lectures

- We discussed the use of regression techniques to model the (deterministic)  $\mu_t$  and  $s_t$

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- Residuals typically suggest **temporal dependence** in  $\{\eta_t\}$
- **Time series models** concern the modeling of temporal dependence in  $\{\eta_t\}$
- **Stationarity** assumption typically employed to overcome the issue of “one sample”
- **Weakly stationary**: constant mean and variance over time, with covariance depending only on time lags

# The Implications of Temporal Dependence

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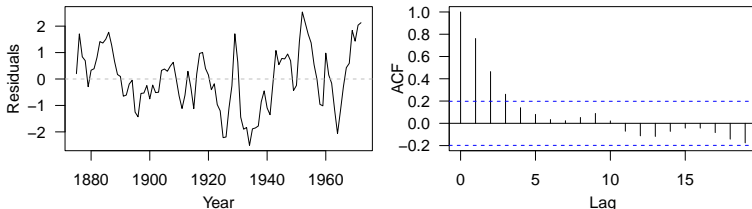
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- There is a consistent relationship between consecutive residuals
- The usual regression assumptions are violated, and  $t$ - and  $F$ -tests are not valid ☹️
- We can get better predictions of future values by modeling autocorrelation 😊

- A **time series model** is a specification of the probabilistic distribution of a sequence of random variables (RVs)  
 $\{\eta_t\}_{t=1}^T$

(The observed time series is a **realization** of such a sequence of random variables)

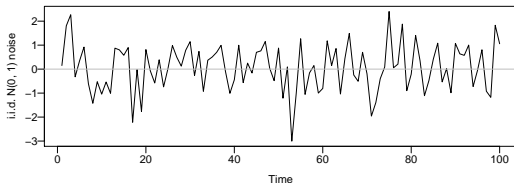
- The simplest time series is **i.i.d. (*independent and identically distributed*) noise**
  - $\{\eta_t\}$  is a sequence of independent and identically distributed zero-mean (i.e.,  $\mathbb{E}(\eta_t) = 0, \forall t$ ) random variables  
 $\Rightarrow$  **no temporal dependence**
  - It is of little value of using i.i.d. noise model to conduct **forecast** as there is no information from the past observations
  - **But**, we will use i.i.d. model as a building block to develop time series models that can accommodate time dependence



## Example Realizations of i.i.d. Noise

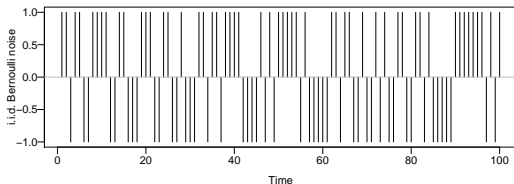
- Gaussian (normal) i.i.d. noise with mean 0 and variance  $\sigma^2 > 0$

$$f(\eta_t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{\eta_t^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$



- Bernoulli i.i.d. noise with “success” probability

$$\mathbb{P}(\eta_t = 1) = p = 1 - \mathbb{P}(\eta_t = -1)$$



A time series model could also be a specification of the **means** and **autocovariances** of the RVs

- The **mean function** of  $\{\eta_t\}$  is

$$\mu_t = \mathbb{E}(\eta_t).$$

- $\mu_t$  is the population mean at time  $t$ , which can be computed as:

$$\mu_t = \begin{cases} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \eta_t f(\eta_t) d\eta_t & \text{when } \eta_t \text{ is a continuous RV;} \\ \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} \eta_t p(\eta_t), & \text{when } \eta_t \text{ is a discrete RV,} \end{cases}$$

where  $f(\cdot)$  and  $p(\cdot)$  are the probability density function and probability mass function of  $\eta_t$ , respectively

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- **Example 1:** What is the mean function for  $\{\eta_t\}$ , an i.i.d.  $N(0, \sigma^2)$  process?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- **Example 2:** For each time point, let  $Y_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 t + \eta_t$  with  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$  some constants and  $\eta_t$  is defined above. What is  $\mu_Y(t)$ ?

## Review: The Covariance Between Two RVs

- The **covariance** between the RVs  $X$  and  $Y$  is

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Cov}(X, Y) &= \mathbb{E}\{(X - \mu_X)(Y - \mu_Y)\} \\ &= \mathbb{E}(XY) - \mu_X \mu_Y.\end{aligned}$$

It is a measure of **linear dependence** between the two RVs. When  $X = Y$  we have

$$\text{Cov}(X, X) = \text{Var}(X).$$

- For constants  $a, b, c$ , and RVs  $X, Y, Z$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Cov}(aX + bY + c, Z) &= \text{Cov}(aX, Z) + \text{Cov}(bY, Z) \\ &= a\text{Cov}(X, Z) + b\text{Cov}(Y, Z)\end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(X + Y) &= \text{Cov}(X, X) + \text{Cov}(X, Y) + \text{Cov}(Y, X) + \text{Cov}(Y, Y) \\ &= \text{Var}(X) + \text{Var}(Y) + 2\text{Cov}(X, Y)\end{aligned}$$

- The autocovariance function of  $\{\eta_t\}$  is

$$\gamma(s, t) = \text{Cov}(\eta_s, \eta_t) = \mathbb{E}[(\eta_s - \mu_s)(\eta_t - \mu_t)]$$

It measures the strength of linear dependence between two RVs  $\eta_s$  and  $\eta_t$

- **Properties:**

- $\gamma(s, t) = \gamma(t, s)$  for each  $s$  and  $t$
- When  $s = t$  we have

$$\gamma(t, t) = \text{Cov}(\eta_t, \eta_t) = \text{Cov}(\eta_t) = \sigma_t^2$$

the value of the variance function at time  $t$

- $\gamma(s, t)$  is a non-negative definite function (will come back to this later)

- The autocorrelation function of  $\{\eta_t\}$  is

$$\rho(s, t) = \text{Corr}(\eta_s, \eta_t) = \frac{\gamma(s, t)}{\sqrt{\gamma(s, s)\gamma(t, t)}}$$

It measures the “scale invariant” linear association between  $\eta_s$  and  $\eta_t$

- **Properties:**

- $-1 \leq \rho(s, t) \leq 1$  for each  $s$  and  $t$
- $\rho(s, t) = \rho(t, s)$  for each  $s$  and  $t$
- $\rho(t, t) = 1$  for each  $t$
- $\rho(\cdot, \cdot)$  is a non-negative definite function

## Why Stationarity Matters in Time Series

- We typically need “replicates” to estimate population quantities. For example, we use

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$$

as an estimate of  $\mu_X$ , the population mean of the **single** RV,  $X$

- However, in time series analysis, we have  $n = 1$  (i.e., no replication), since we only observe one realized value at each time point
- **Stationarity** means that some characteristic of  $\{\eta_t\}$  does not depend on the time point  $t$ , but only on the time lag between time points, **so that we can create “replicates.”**

Next, we will talk about **strict stationarity** and **weak stationarity**

- A time series,  $\{\eta_t\}$ , is **strictly stationary** if

$$[\eta_1, \eta_2, \dots, \eta_T] \stackrel{d}{=} [\eta_{1+h}, \eta_{2+h}, \dots, \eta_{T+h}],$$

for all integers  $h$  and  $T \geq 1 \Rightarrow$  the **joint distribution** are unaffected by time shifts

- Under such the strict stationarity
  - $\{\eta_t\}$  is **identically distributed** but not (necessarily) **independent**
  - When  $\mu_t$  is finite,  $\mu_t = \mu$  is independent of time  $t$
  - When the variance function exists,

$$\gamma(s, t) = \gamma(s + h, t + h),$$

for any  $s, t$ , and  $h$



# Weakly Stationary Processes

- $\{\eta_t\}$  is weakly stationary if
  - $\mathbb{E}(\eta_t) = \mu_t = \mu$
  - $\text{Cov}(\eta_t, \eta_{t+h}) = \gamma(t, t+h) = \gamma(h)$ , finite constant that can depend on  $h$  but not on  $t$
- Other names for this type of stationarity include second-order, covariance, wide sense. The quantity  $h$  is called the lag
- Weak and strict stationarity
  - A strictly stationary process  $\{\eta_t\}$  is also weakly stationary as long as  $\mu$  is finite
  - Weak stationarity does not imply strict stationarity!

# Autocovariance Function of Stationary Processes

The autocovariance function (ACVF) of a stationary process  $\{\eta_t\}$  is defined to be

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma(h) &= \text{Cov}(\eta_t, \eta_{t+h}) \\ &= \mathbb{E}[(\eta_t - \mu)(\eta_{t+h} - \mu)],\end{aligned}$$

which measures the lag- $h$  time dependence

## Properties of the ACVF:

- $\gamma(0) = \text{Var}(\eta_t)$
- $\gamma(-h) = \gamma(h)$  for each  $h$
- $\gamma(s-t)$  as a function of  $(s-t)$  is non-negative definite

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# Autocorrelation Function of Stationary Processes

The autocorrelation function (ACF) of a stationary process  $\{\eta_t\}$  is defined to be

$$\rho(h) = \frac{\gamma(h)}{\gamma(0)}$$

which measures the “scale invariant” lag- $h$  time dependence

## Properties of the ACF:

- $-1 \leq \rho(h) \leq 1$  and  $\rho(0) = 1$  for each  $h$
- $\rho(-h) = \rho(h)$  for each  $h$
- $\rho(s-t)$  as a function of  $(s-t)$  is non-negative definite

# The White Noise Process

Let's assume  $\mathbb{E}(\eta_t) = \mu$  and  $\text{Var}(\eta_t) = \sigma^2 < \infty$ .  $\{\eta_t\}$  is a **white noise** or **WN**( $\mu, \sigma^2$ ) process if

$$\gamma(h) = 0,$$

for  $h \neq 0$

- $\{\eta_t\}$  is stationary
- However, distributions of  $\eta_t$  and  $\eta_{t+1}$  **can be different!**
- All i.i.d. noise with finite variance ( $\sigma^2 < \infty$ ) is **white noise** but **the converse need not be true**

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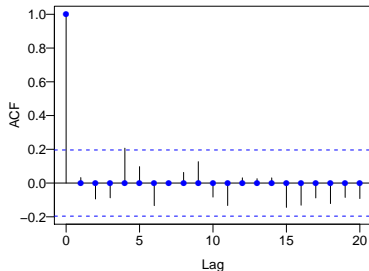
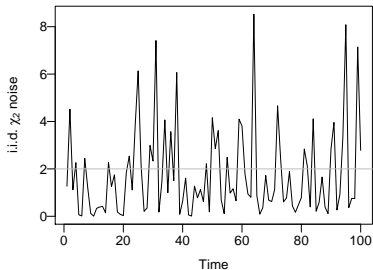
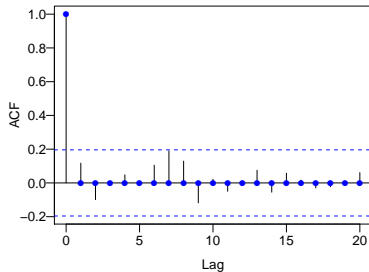
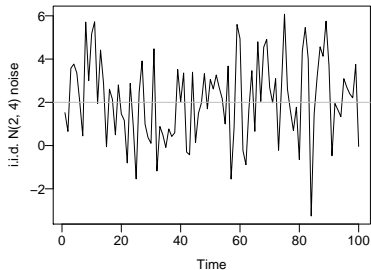
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# The Moving Average Process of First Order (MA(1))

Let  $\{Z_t\}$  be a  $WN(0, \sigma^2)$  process and  $\theta$  be some constant  $\in \mathbb{R}$ .  
For each integer  $t$ , let

$$\eta_t = Z_t + \theta Z_{t-1}.$$

- The sequences of RVs  $\{\eta_t\}$  is called the **moving average process of order 1** or MA(1) process
- One can show that the MA(1) process  $\{\eta_t\}$  is **stationary**

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# First-Order Moving Average Process: Mean Function

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Need to show the mean function is NOT a function of time  $t$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[\eta_t] &= \mathbb{E}[Z_t + \theta Z_{t-1}] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[Z_t] + \theta \mathbb{E}[Z_{t-1}] \\ &= 0 + \theta \times 0 \\ &= 0, \quad \forall t\end{aligned}$$



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# First-Order Moving Average Process: Covariance Function

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Need to show the autocovariance function  $\gamma(\cdot, \cdot)$  is a function of time lag only

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma(t, t+h) &= \text{Cov}(\eta_t, \eta_{t+h}) \\ &= \text{Cov}(Z_t + \theta Z_{t-1}, Z_{t+h} + \theta Z_{t+h-1}) \\ &= \text{Cov}(Z_t, Z_{t+h}) + \text{Cov}(Z_t, \theta Z_{t+h-1}) \\ &\quad + \text{Cov}(\theta Z_{t-1}, Z_{t+h}) + \text{Cov}(\theta Z_{t-1}, \theta Z_{t+h-1})\end{aligned}$$

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# First-Order Moving Average Process: Covariance Function

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$$\begin{aligned}\text{if } h = 0, \text{ we have} \quad & \gamma(t, t+h) = \sigma^2 + \theta^2 \sigma^2 = \sigma^2(1 + \theta^2) \\ \text{if } h = \pm 1, \text{ we have} \quad & \gamma(t, t+h) = \theta \sigma^2 \\ \text{if } |h| \geq 2, \text{ we have} \quad & \gamma(t, t+h) = 0\end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow \gamma(t, t+h)$  only depends on  $h$  but not on  $t$  😊

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# First-Order Moving Average Process: ACVF & ACF

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**ACVF:**

$$\gamma(h) = \begin{cases} \sigma^2(1 + \theta^2) & h = 0; \\ \theta\sigma^2 & |h| = 1; \\ 0 & |h| \geq 2 \end{cases}$$

We can get **ACF** by dividing everything by  $\gamma(0) = \sigma^2(1 + \theta^2)$

$$\rho(h) = \begin{cases} 1 & h = 0; \\ \frac{\theta}{1+\theta^2} & |h| = 1; \\ 0 & |h| \geq 2. \end{cases}$$

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# First-order Autoregressive Process, AR(1)

Let  $\{Z_t\}$  be a  $WN(0, \sigma^2)$  process, and  $-1 < \phi < 1$  be a constant.  
Let's assume  $\{\eta_t\}$  is a **stationary process** with

$$\eta_t = \phi\eta_{t-1} + Z_t,$$

for each integer  $t$ , where  $\eta_s$  and  $Z_t$  are **uncorrelated** for each  $s < t \Rightarrow$  future noise is uncorrelated with the current time point

We will see later there is only one unique solution to this equation. Such a sequence  $\{\eta_t\}$  of RVs is called an **AR(1) process**

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## Properties of the AR(1) process

Want to find the mean value  $\mu$  under the weakly stationarity assumption

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[\eta_t] &= \mathbb{E}[\phi\eta_{t-1} + Z_t] \\ \mu &= \phi\mathbb{E}[\eta_{t-1}] + \mathbb{E}[Z_t] \\ \mu &= \phi\mu + 0 \\ \Rightarrow \mu &= 0, \quad \forall t\end{aligned}$$



Want to find  $\gamma(h)$  under the weakly stationarity assumption

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Cov}(\eta_t, \eta_{t-h}) &= \text{Cov}(\phi\eta_{t-1} + Z_t, \eta_{t-h}) \\ \gamma(-h) &= \phi\text{Cov}(\eta_{t-1}, \eta_{t-h}) + \text{Cov}(Z_t, \eta_{t-h}) \\ \gamma(h) &= \phi\gamma(h-1) + 0 \\ \Rightarrow \gamma(h) &= \phi\gamma(h-1) = \dots = \phi^{|h|}\gamma(0)\end{aligned}$$

Next, need to figure out  $\gamma(0)$

# Properties of the AR(1) process Cont'd

$$\text{Var}(\eta_t) = \text{Var}(\phi\eta_{t-1} + Z_t)$$

$$\gamma(0) = \phi^2\gamma(0) + \sigma^2$$

$$\Rightarrow (1 - \phi^2)\gamma(0) = \sigma^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \gamma(0) = \frac{\sigma^2}{1 - \phi^2}$$



Therefore, we have

$$\gamma(h) = \begin{cases} \frac{\sigma^2}{1-\phi^2} & h = 0; \\ \frac{\phi^{|h|}\sigma^2}{1-\phi^2} & |h| \geq 1, \end{cases}$$

and

$$\rho(h) = \begin{cases} 1 & h = 0; \\ \phi^{|h|} & |h| \geq 1. \end{cases}$$

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# The Random Walk Process

Let  $\{Z_t\}$  be a  $WN(0, \sigma^2)$  process and for  $t \geq 1$  define

$$\eta_t = Z_1 + Z_2 + \cdots + Z_t = \sum_{s=1}^t Z_s.$$

- The sequence of RVs  $\{\eta_t\}$  is called a **random walk process**
- **Special case:** If we have  $\{Z_t\}$  such that for each  $t$

$$\mathbb{P}(Z_t = z) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}, & z = 1; \\ \frac{1}{2}, & z = -1, \end{cases}$$

then  $\{\eta_t\}$  is a **simple symmetric random walk**

- **The random walk process is not stationary!**

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# Example Realizations of Random Walk Processes

Stationary  
Processes:  
Properties, Mean,  
and Covariance  
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$\{\eta_t\}$  is a **Gaussian process (GP)** if the joint distribution of any collection of the RVs has a multivariate normal (aka Gaussian) distribution

- The distribution of a GP is fully characterized by  $\mu(\cdot)$ , the mean function, and  $\gamma(\cdot, \cdot)$ , the autocovariance function. The joint probability density function of  $\boldsymbol{\eta} = (\eta_1, \eta_2, \dots, \eta_T)^T$  is

$$f(\boldsymbol{\eta}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{T}{2}} |\Sigma|^{\frac{1}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(\boldsymbol{\eta} - \boldsymbol{\mu})^T \Sigma^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\eta} - \boldsymbol{\mu})\right),$$

where  $\boldsymbol{\mu} = (\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_T)^T$  and the  $(i, j)$  element of the covariance matrix  $\Sigma$  is  $\gamma(i, j)$

- If a GP  $\{\eta_t\}$  is **weakly stationary** then the process is also **strictly stationary**

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- A time series  $\{\eta_t\}$  is a **linear process** with mean  $\mu$  if we can write it as

$$\eta_t = \mu + \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_j Z_{t-j}, \quad \forall t,$$

where  $\mu$  is a real-valued constant,  $\{Z_t\}$  is a  $\text{WN}(0, \sigma^2)$  process and  $\{\psi_j\}$  is a set of absolutely summable constants<sup>1</sup>

- Absolute summability of the constants guarantees that the infinite sum converges

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<sup>1</sup>A set of real-valued constants  $\{\psi_j : j \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  is **absolutely summable** if  $\sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} |\psi_j| < \infty$

## Example: Moving Average Process of Order $q$ , $MA(q)$

Let  $\{Z_t\}$  be a  $WN(0, \sigma^2)$  process. For an integer  $q > 0$  and constants  $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_q$  with  $\theta_q \neq 0$ , define

$$\begin{aligned}\eta_t &= Z_t + \theta_1 Z_{t-1} + \dots + \theta_q Z_{t-q} \\ &= \theta_0 Z_t + \theta_1 Z_{t-1} + \dots + \theta_q Z_{t-q} \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^q \theta_j Z_{t-j},\end{aligned}$$

where we let  $\theta_0 = 1$

$\{\eta_t\}$  is known as the **moving average** process of order  $q$ , or the  $MA(q)$  process, and, by definition, is a linear process

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- Recall the backward shift operator,  $B$ , is defined by
$$B\eta_t = \eta_{t-1}$$
- We can represent a linear process using the backward shift operator as  $\eta_t = \mu + \psi(B)Z_t$ , where we let
$$\psi(B) = \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_j B^j$$
- Example:** we can write a mean zero MA(1) process as

$$\eta_t = \mu + \psi(B)Z_t,$$

where  $\mu = 0$  and  $\psi(B) = 1 + \theta B$

# Linear Filtering Preserves Stationarity

- Let  $\{Y_t\}$  be a time series and  $\{\psi_j\}$  be a set of absolutely summable constants that does not depend on time
- Definition:** A **linear time invariant** filtering of  $\{Y_t\}$  with coefficients  $\{\psi_j\}$  that do not depend on time is defined by

$$X_t = \psi(B)Y_t$$

- Theorem:** Suppose  $\{Y_t\}$  is a zero mean stationary series with ACVF  $\gamma_Y(\cdot)$ . Then  $\{X_t\}$  is a zero mean stationary process with ACVF

$$\gamma_X(h) = \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_j \psi_k \gamma_Y(j - k + h)$$

## Example: The MA( $q$ ) Process is Stationary

By the filtering preserves stationarity result, the MA( $q$ ) process is a stationary process with mean zero and ACVF

$$\gamma(h) = \sigma^2 \sum_{j=0}^q \theta_j \theta_{j+h}$$

## Example: The MA( $q$ ) Process is Stationary

By the filtering preserves stationarity result, the MA( $q$ ) process is a stationary process with mean zero and ACVF

$$\gamma(h) = \sigma^2 \sum_{j=0}^q \theta_j \theta_{j+h}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma(h) &= \sum_{j=0}^q \sum_{k=0}^q \theta_j \theta_k \gamma_Z(j - k + h) \\ &= \sigma^2 \sum_{j=0}^q \sum_{k=0}^q \theta_j \theta_k \mathbb{1}(k = j + h) \\ &= \sigma^2 \sum_{j=0}^q \theta_j \theta_{j+h}\end{aligned}$$

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- A time series  $\eta_t$  is  $q$ -correlated if

$\eta_t$  and  $\eta_s$  are uncorrelated  $\forall |t - s| > q$ ,

i.e.,  $\text{Cov}(\eta_t, \eta_s) = 0, \forall |t - s| > q$

- A time series  $\{\eta_t\}$  is  $q$ -dependent if

$\eta_t$  and  $\eta_s$  are independent  $\forall |t - s| > q$ .

- **Theorem:** if  $\{\eta_t\}$  is a stationary  $q$ -correlated time series with zero mean, then it can always be represented as an  $\text{MA}(q)$  process

## The Autoregressive Process of Order $p$ , $AR(p)$

- This process is attributed to [George Udny Yule](#). The  $AR(1)$  process has also been called the Markov process
- Let  $\{Z_t\}$  be a  $WN(0, \sigma^2)$  process and let  $\{\phi_1, \dots, \phi_p\}$  be a set of constants for some integer  $p > 0$  with  $\phi_p \neq 0$
- The  $AR(p)$  process is defined to be the solution to the equation

$$\eta_t = \sum_{j=1}^p \phi_j \eta_{t-j} + Z_t \Rightarrow \eta_t - \underbrace{\sum_{j=1}^p \phi_j \eta_{t-j}}_{\phi(B)\eta_t} = Z_t,$$

where we let  $\phi(B) = 1 - \sum_{j=1}^p \phi_j B^j$

## A Stationary Solution for AR(1)

- We want the solution to the AR equation to yield a **stationary process**. Let's first consider AR(1). We will demonstrate that **a stationary solution exists for  $|\phi_1| < 1$** .
- We first write

$$\begin{aligned}\eta_t &= \phi_1 \eta_{t-1} + Z_t = \phi_1 (\phi_1 \eta_{t-2} + Z_{t-1}) + Z_t \\ &= \phi_1^2 \eta_{t-2} + \phi_1 Z_{t-1} + Z_t \\ &\vdots \\ &= \phi_1^k \eta_{t-k} + \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \phi_1^j Z_{t-j} \\ &\vdots \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \phi_1^j Z_{t-j}\end{aligned}$$

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## AR(1) Example Cont'd

- Now let  $\psi_j = \phi_1^j$ . We then have

$$\eta_t = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \psi_j Z_{t-j}.$$

Using the fact that, for  $|a| < 1$ ,  $\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} a^j = \frac{1}{1-a}$ , the sequence  $\{\psi_j\}$  is absolutely summable

- Thus, since  $\{\eta_t\}$  is a **linear process**, it follows by the filtering preserves stationarity result that  $\{\eta_t\}$  is a zero mean stationary process with ACVF

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma(h) &= \sigma^2 \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \psi_j \psi_{j+h} \\ &= \sigma^2 \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \phi_1^j \phi_1^{j+h} \\ &= \sigma^2 \phi_1^h \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (\phi_1^2)^j\end{aligned}$$

## AR(1) Example Cont'd

Now  $|\phi_1| < 1$  implies that  $|\phi_1^2| < 1$  and therefore we have

$$\gamma(h) = \frac{\sigma^2 \phi_1^h}{1 - \phi_1^2}$$

When  $|\phi_1| \geq 1$

- No stationary solutions exist for  $|\phi_1| = 1$
- When  $|\phi_1| > 1$ , dividing by  $\phi_1$  for both sides we get

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_1^{-1} \eta_t &= \eta_{t-1} + \phi_1^{-1} Z_t \\ \Rightarrow \eta_{t-1} &= \phi_1^{-1} \eta_t - \phi_1^{-1} Z_t\end{aligned}$$

A linear combination of **future**  $Z_t$ 's  $\Rightarrow$  we have a stationary solution, **but**,  $\eta_t$  depends on future  $\{Z_t\}$ 's—This process is said to be not **causal**

- If we assume that  $\eta_s$  and  $Z_t$  are uncorrelated for each  $t > s$ ,  $|\phi_1| < 1$  is the only stationary solution to the AR equation

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- AR(1) process

$$\eta_t = \phi_1 \eta_{t-1} + Z_t \Rightarrow (1 - \phi_1 B) \eta_t = Z_t \Rightarrow \eta_t = (1 - \phi_1 B)^{-1} Z_t$$

- Recall  $\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} a^j = \frac{1}{1-a} = (1-a)^{-1}$ . We have

$$\eta_t = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (\phi_1 B)^j Z_t = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \phi_1^j B^j Z_t = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \phi_1^j Z_{t-j}$$

**$\Rightarrow$  This is another way to show that AR(1) is a linear process**

- Here  $1 - \phi_1 B$  is the **AR characteristic polynomial**