

# Lecture 9

## ARMA Models: Properties, Identification, and Estimation

Reading: Bowerman, O'Connell, and Koehler (2005): Chapter 9.2-9.4; Chapter 10.1; Cryer and Chen (2008): Chapter 4.4-4.6; Chapter 6.1-6.3

*MATH 4070: Regression and Time-Series Analysis*

Properties of ARMA  
Models: Stationarity,  
Causality, and  
Invertibility

Tentative Model  
Identification Using  
ACF and PACF

Parameter Estimation

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- 1 Properties of ARMA Models: Stationarity, Causality, and Invertibility**
- 2 Tentative Model Identification Using ACF and PACF**
- 3 Parameter Estimation**

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## ARMA( $p, q$ ) Processes

$\{\eta_t\}$  is an ARMA( $p, q$ ) process if it satisfies

$$\eta_t - \sum_{i=1}^p \phi_i \eta_{t-i} = Z_t + \sum_{j=1}^q \theta_j Z_{t-j},$$

where  $\{Z_t\}$  is a  $WN(0, \sigma^2)$  process.

- Let  $\phi(B) = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^p \phi_i B^i$  and  $\theta(B) = 1 + \sum_{j=1}^q \theta_j B^j$ . Then we can write it as

$$\phi(B)\eta_t = \theta(B)Z_t$$

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- An ARMA( $p, q$ ) process  $\{\tilde{\eta}_t\}$  with mean  $\mu$  can be written as

$$\phi(B)(\tilde{\eta}_t - \mu) = \theta(B)Z_t$$

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## A Stationary Solution to the ARMA Equation

A zero-mean ARMA process is stationary if it can be written as a linear process, i.e.,  $\eta_t = \psi(B)Z_t$ , where  $\psi(B) = \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_j B^j$  for an absolutely summable sequence  $\{\psi_j\}$

- This only happens if one can “divide” by  $\phi(B)$ , i.e., it is stationary only if the following makes sense:

$$\begin{aligned}(\phi(B))^{-1} \phi(B) \eta_t &= (\phi(B))^{-1} \theta(B) Z_t \\ \Rightarrow \eta_t &= \underbrace{\frac{\theta(B)}{\phi(B)}}_{=\psi(B)} Z_t\end{aligned}$$

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- Let's forget about  $B$  is the backshift operator and replace it with  $z$ . Now consider whether we can divide  $\theta(z)$  by  $\phi(z)$

# Roots of the AR Characteristic Polynomial and Stationarity

- A root of the polynomial  $f(z) = \sum_{j=0}^p a_j z^j$  is a value  $\xi$  such that  $f(\xi) = 0 \Rightarrow$  it can be real-valued  $\mathbb{R}$  or complex-valued  $\mathbb{C}$

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- For example, a root can take the form  $\xi = a + b i$  for real number  $a$  and  $b$ . The **modulus** of a complex number  $|\xi|$  is defined by

$$|\xi| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$$



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- For any ARMA( $p, q$ ) process, a **stationary** and **unique** solution exists if and only if

$$\phi(z) = 1 - \phi_1 z - \dots - \phi_p z^p \neq 0,$$

for all  $|z| = 1 \Rightarrow$  **None of the roots of the AR characteristic equation have a modulus of exactly 1**

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**Note:** Stationarity of the ARMA process has nothing to do with the MA polynomial!

## AR(4) Example

Consider the following AR(4) process

$$\eta_t = 2.7607\eta_{t-1} - 3.8106\eta_{t-2} + 2.6535\eta_{t-3} - 0.9238\eta_{t-4} + Z_t,$$

the AR characteristic polynomial is

$$\phi(z) = 1 - 2.7607z + 3.8106z^2 - 2.6535z^3 + 0.9238z^4$$

- Hard to find the roots of  $\phi(z)$  –we use the `polyroot` function in R:
- Use `Mod` in R to calculate the modulus of the roots
- **Conclusion:**

An ARMA process is **causal** if there exists constants  $\{\psi_j\}$  with  $\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} |\psi_j| < \infty$  and  $\eta_t = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \psi_j Z_{t-j}$ , that is, we can write  $\{\eta_t\}$  as an  $MA(\infty)$  process depending **only on the current and past values of  $\{Z_t\}$**

- Equivalently, an ARMA process is **causal** if and only if

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## Causal ARMA Processes

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- The previous AR(4) example is **causal** since each zero,  $\xi$ , of  $\phi(\cdot)$  is such that  $|\xi| > 1$

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**Note:** The causality of the ARMA process depends only on the AR polynomial!



## Invertible ARMA Processes

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$$Z_t = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \pi_j \eta_{t-j},$$

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- A process is **invertible** if and only if

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with  $\phi(z) = 1 - 0.5z$  and  $\theta(z) = 1 + 0.4z$  has a root of the MA characteristic polynomial at  $z = \frac{-1}{0.4} = -2.5$

# Review of the Autocorrelation Function (ACF)

ARMA Models:  
Properties,  
Identification, and  
Estimation



The **autocorrelation function (ACF)** measures the correlation of a **stationary** time series  $\eta_t$  with its own lagged values

- The theoretical ACF for MA processes can be computed as  $\rho(h) = \frac{\sum_{j=0}^q \theta_j \theta_{j+h}}{\sum_{j=0}^q \theta_j^2}$ , and via the **Yule-Walker equation** for AR processes

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- The ACF is useful in identifying the MA( $q$ ) order, as it cuts off after lag  $q$

## Partial Autocorrelation Functions (PACF)

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The **partial autocorrelation function (PACF)** represents the partial correlation of a stationary time series  $\{\eta_t\}$  with its own lagged values, **while regressing out the effects of the time series at all shorter lags**

- The PACF at lag  $h$  is the autocorrelation between  $\eta_t$  and  $\eta_{t+h}$  with the linear dependence between  $\eta_t$  and  $\eta_{t+1}, \dots, \eta_{t+h-1}$  removed

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- PACF plots are a commonly used tool for **identifying the order of an AR model**, as the theoretical PACF “shuts off” past the order of the model (see an example on the next slide)



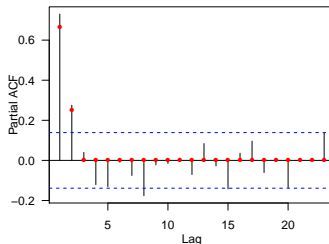
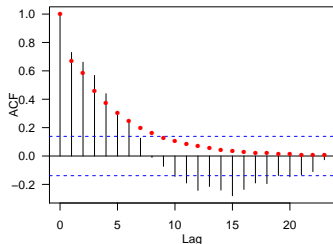
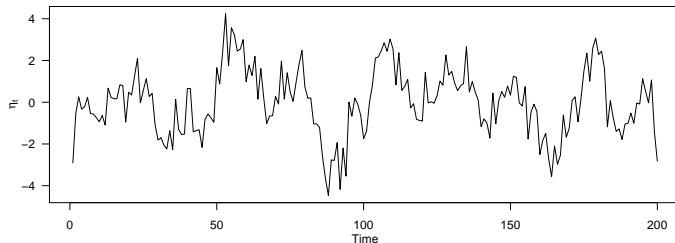
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- PACF plots are a commonly used tool for **identifying the order of an AR model**, as the theoretical PACF “shuts off” past the order of the model (see an example on the next slide)
- One can use the function `pacf` in R to plot the PACF

# An Example of PACF Plot

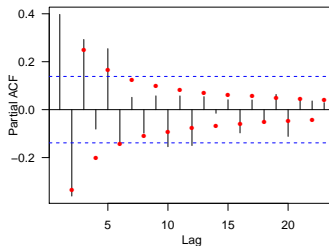
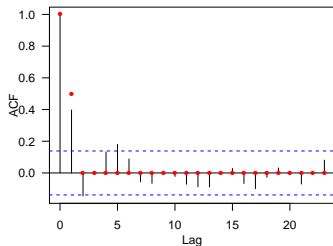
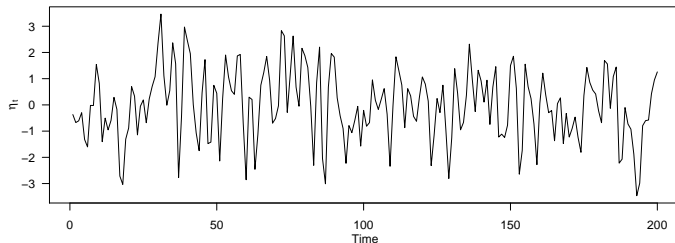
$$\eta_t - 0.5\eta_{t-1} - 0.25\eta_{t-2} = Z_t$$



The theoretical ACF decays exponentially, while the PACF cuts off at lag 2

# PACF Plot for a MA Process

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



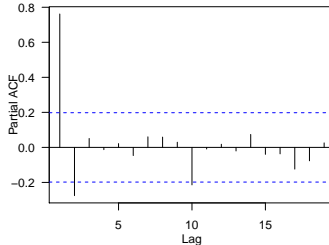
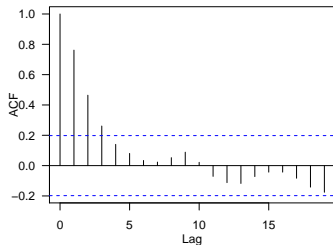
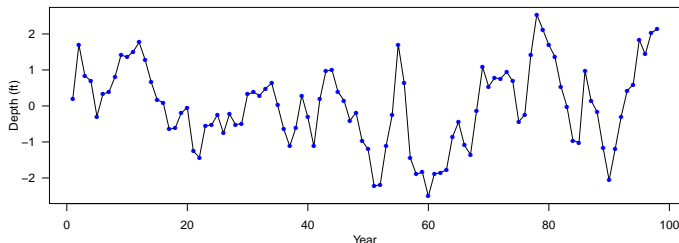
The theoretical ACF cuts off at lag 1, while the PACF decays exponentially

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# Lake Huron Series PACF Plot



We can use both ACF and PACF plots to identify the potential ARMA model order

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# PACF Plot for a ARMA Process

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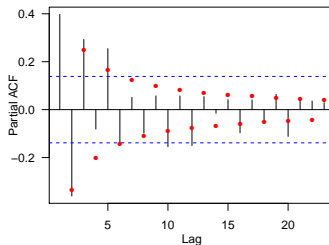
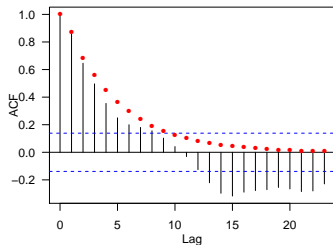
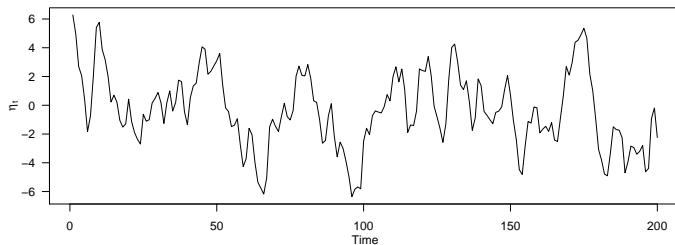


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$$\eta_t - 0.5\eta_{t-1} - 0.25\eta_{t-2} = Z_t + Z_{t-1}$$



Both the theoretical ACF and PACF decay exponentially

## Identifying Plausible Stationary ARMA Models

We can use the sample ACF and PACF to help identify plausible models:

Model	ACF	PACF
$MA(q)$	cuts off after lag $q$	tails off exponentially
$AR(p)$	tails off exponentially	cuts off after lag $p$

# Identifying Plausible Stationary ARMA Models

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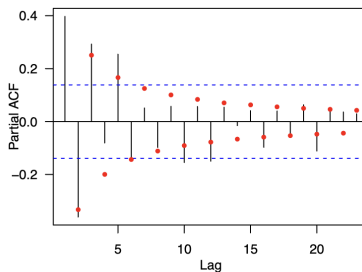
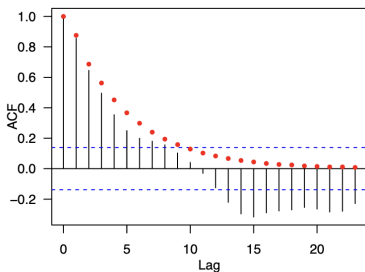
Model	ACF	PACF
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For  $ARMA(p, q)$  we will see a combination of the above



# Estimation of the ARMA Process Parameters

Suppose we choose a  $\text{ARMA}(p, q)$  model for  $\{\eta_t\}$

- Need to estimate the  $p + q + 1$  parameters:
  - AR component  $\{\phi_1, \dots, \phi_p\}$
  - MA component  $\{\theta_1, \dots, \theta_q\}$
  - $\text{Var}(Z_t) = \sigma^2$
- One strategy:
  - Do some preliminary estimation of the model parameters (e.g., via [Yule-Walker](#) estimates)
  - Follow-up with [maximum likelihood estimation](#) with Gaussian assumption



Suppose  $\eta_t$  is a **causal** AR( $p$ ) process

$$\eta_t - \phi_1\eta_{t-1} - \cdots - \phi_p\eta_{t-p} = Z_t$$

To estimate the parameters  $\{\phi_1, \dots, \phi_p\}$ , we use a **method of moments** estimation scheme:

- Let  $h = 0, 1, \dots, p$ . We multiply  $\eta_{t-h}$  to both sides

$$\eta_t\eta_{t-h} - \phi_1\eta_{t-1}\eta_{t-h} - \cdots - \phi_p\eta_{t-p}\eta_{t-h} = Z_t\eta_{t-h}$$

- Taking expectations:

$$\mathbb{E}(\eta_t\eta_{t-h}) - \phi_1\mathbb{E}(\eta_{t-1}\eta_{t-h}) - \cdots - \phi_p\mathbb{E}(\eta_{t-p}\eta_{t-h}) = \mathbb{E}(Z_t\eta_{t-h}),$$

we get  $\boxed{\gamma(h) - \phi_1\gamma(h-1) - \cdots - \phi_p\gamma(h-p) = \mathbb{E}(Z_t\eta_{t-h})}$

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# The Yule-Walker Equations

- When  $h = 0$ ,  $\mathbb{E}(Z_t \eta_{t-h}) = \text{Cov}(Z_t, \eta_t) = \sigma^2$  (Why?)  
Therefore, we have

$$\gamma(0) - \sum_{j=1}^p \phi_j \gamma(j) = \sigma^2$$

- When  $h > 0$ ,  $Z_t$  is uncorrelated with  $\eta_{t-h}$  (because the assumption of causality), thus  $\mathbb{E}(Z_t \eta_{t-h}) = 0$  and we have

$$\gamma(h) - \sum_{j=1}^p \phi_j \gamma(h-j) = 0, \quad h = 1, 2, \dots, p$$

- The Yule-Walker estimates are the solution of these equations when we replace  $\gamma(h)$  by  $\hat{\gamma}(h)$

# The Yule-Walker Equations in Matrix Form

Let  $\hat{\phi} = (\hat{\phi}_1, \dots, \hat{\phi}_p)^T$  be an estimate for  $\phi = (\phi_1, \dots, \phi_p)^T$  and let

$$\hat{\Gamma} = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\gamma}(0) & \hat{\gamma}(1) & \dots & \hat{\gamma}(p-1) \\ \hat{\gamma}(1) & \hat{\gamma}(0) & \dots & \hat{\gamma}(p-2) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \hat{\gamma}(p-1) & \hat{\gamma}(p-2) & \dots & \hat{\gamma}(0) \end{bmatrix}.$$

Then the **Yule-Walker estimates** of  $\phi$  and  $\sigma^2$  are

$$\hat{\phi} = \hat{\Gamma}^{-1} \hat{\gamma},$$

and

$$\hat{\sigma}^2 = \hat{\gamma}(0) - \hat{\phi}^T \hat{\gamma},$$

where  $\hat{\gamma} = (\hat{\gamma}(1), \dots, \hat{\gamma}(p))^T$

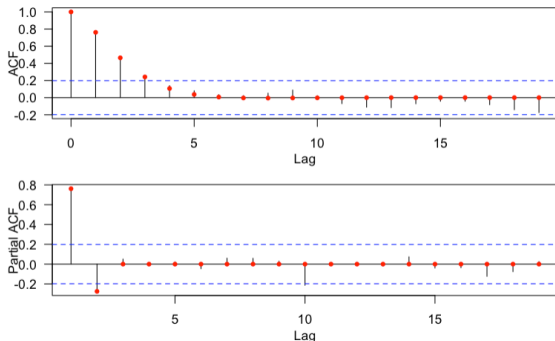
Properties of ARMA  
Models: Stationarity,  
Causality, and  
Invertibility

Tentative Model  
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Parameter Estimation

# Lake Huron Example in R

```
``{r}
YW_est <- ar(lm$residuals, aic = F, order.max = 2, method = "yw")
# plot sample and estimated acf/pacf
par(las = 1, mgp = c(2.2, 1, 0), mar = c(3.6, 3.6, 0.6, 0.6), mfrow = c(2, 1))
acf(lm$residuals)
acf_YWest <- ARMAacf(ar = YW_est$ar, lag.max = 23)
points(0:23, acf_YWest, col = "red", pch = 16, cex = 0.8)
pacf(lm$residuals)
pacf_YWest <- ARMAacf(ar = YW_est$ar, lag.max = 23, pacf = T)
points(1:23, pacf_YWest, col = "red", pch = 16, cex = 0.8)
``
```



## Remarks on the Yule-Walker Method

ARMA Models:  
Properties,  
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- For large sample size, Yule-Walker estimator have (approximately) the same sampling distribution as maximum likelihood estimator (MLE), but with small sample size Yule-Walker estimator can be far less efficient than the MLE

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<sup>1</sup>See **Least Squares Estimation** in Chapter 7.2 of Cryer and Chan (2008).

## Remarks on the Yule-Walker Method

- For large sample size, Yule-Walker estimator have (approximately) the same sampling distribution as maximum likelihood estimator (MLE), but with small sample size Yule-Walker estimator can be far less efficient than the MLE
- The Yule-Walker method is a poor procedure for  $MA(q)$  and  $ARMA(p,q)$  processes with  $q > 0$  (see Cryer Chan 2008, p. 150-151)

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## Remarks on the Yule-Walker Method

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- The Yule-Walker method is a poor procedure for  $MA(q)$  and  $ARMA(p,q)$  processes with  $q > 0$  (see Cryer Chan 2008, p. 150-151)
- We move on the more versatile and popular method for estimating  $ARMA(p,q)$  parameters—maximum likelihood estimation<sup>1</sup>

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# Maximum Likelihood Estimation

- The setup:

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# Maximum Likelihood Estimation

- The setup:
  - Model:  $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$  has joint probability density function  $f(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\omega})$  where  $\boldsymbol{\omega} = (\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_p)$  is a vector of  $p$  parameters

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- The **maximum likelihood estimate** (MLE) is the value of  $\boldsymbol{\omega}$  which maximizes the likelihood,  $L_n(\boldsymbol{\omega})$ , of the data  $\mathbf{x}$ :

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\omega}} = \underset{\boldsymbol{\omega}}{\operatorname{argmax}} L_n(\boldsymbol{\omega}).$$

It is equivalent (and often easier) to maximize the log likelihood,

$$\ell_n(\boldsymbol{\omega}) = \log L_n(\boldsymbol{\omega})$$

## The MLE for an i.i.d. Gaussian Process

Suppose  $\{X_t\}$  be a Gaussian i.i.d. process with mean  $\mu$  and variance  $\sigma^2$ . We observe a time series  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)^T$ .

- The likelihood function is

$$\begin{aligned} L_n(\mu, \sigma^2) &= f(\mathbf{x}|\mu, \sigma^2) \\ &= \prod_{t=1}^n f(x_t|\mu, \sigma) \\ &= \prod_{t=1}^n \left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp \left[ -\frac{(x_t - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right] \right\} \\ &= (2\pi)^{-n/2} (\sigma^2)^{-n/2} \exp \left[ -\frac{\sum_{t=1}^n (x_t - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right] \end{aligned}$$

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$$\Rightarrow \hat{\mu}_{\text{MLE}} = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^n X_t}{n} = \bar{X}, \quad \hat{\sigma}_{\text{MLE}}^2 = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^n (X_t - \bar{X})^2}{n}$$



## Likelihood for Stationary Gaussian Time Series Models

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Suppose  $\{X_t\}$  be a mean zero **stationary Gaussian** time series with ACVF  $\gamma(h)$ . If  $\gamma(h)$  depends on  $p$  parameters,  $\omega = (\omega_1, \dots, \omega_p)$

- The likelihood of the data  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$  given the parameters  $\omega$  is

$$L_n(\omega) = (2\pi)^{-n/2} |\Gamma|^{-1/2} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}^T \Gamma^{-1} \mathbf{x}\right),$$

where  $\Gamma$  is the **covariance matrix** of  $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, \dots, X_n)^T$ ,  $|\Gamma|$  is the **determinant** of the matrix  $\Gamma$ , and  $\Gamma^{-1}$  is the **inverse** of the matrix  $\Gamma$

- The log-likelihood is

$$\ell_n(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = -\frac{n}{2} \log(2\pi) - \frac{1}{2} \log |\Gamma| - \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}^T \Gamma^{-1} \mathbf{x}$$

## Decomposing Joint Density into Conditional Densities

A joint distribution can be represented as the product of conditionals and a marginal distribution

- The simple version for  $n = 2$  is:

$$f(x_1, x_2) = f(x_2|x_1)f(x_1)$$

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- Extending for general  $n$  we get the following expression for the likelihood:

$$L_n(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = f(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = f(x_1) \prod_{t=2}^n f(x_t|x_{t-1}, \dots, x_1; \boldsymbol{\theta}),$$

and the log-likelihood is

$$\ell_n(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \log f(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \log(f(x_1)) + \sum_{t=2}^n \log f(x_t|x_{t-1}, \dots, x_1; \boldsymbol{\theta}).$$

## AR(1) Log-likelihood

Let  $\{\eta_1, \eta_2, \dots, \eta_n\}$  be a realization of a zero-mean stationary AR(1) Gaussian time series. Let  $\theta = (\phi, \sigma^2)$

$$\ell_n(\theta) = \underbrace{\log(f(\eta_1))}_{\ell_{n,1}} + \underbrace{\sum_{t=2}^n \log f(\eta_t | \eta_{t-1}, \dots, \eta_1; \theta)}_{\ell_{n,2}}.$$

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Note that for  $t \geq 2$ ,  $f(\eta_t | \eta_{t-1}, \dots, \eta_1) = f(\eta_t | \eta_{t-1})$ , where  $[\eta_t | \eta_{t-1}] \sim N(\phi\eta_{t-1}, \sigma^2) \Rightarrow \ell_{n,2} =$

$$-\frac{(n-1)}{2} \log 2\pi - \frac{(n-1)}{2} \log \sigma^2 - \frac{\sum_{t=2}^n (\eta_t - \phi\eta_{t-1})^2}{2\sigma^2}$$

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Also, we know  $[\eta_1] \sim N\left(0, \frac{\sigma^2}{(1-\phi^2)}\right) \Rightarrow \ell_{1,n} =$

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$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \ell_n(\theta) = & -\frac{n}{2} \log 2\pi - \frac{n}{2} \log \sigma^2 - \frac{\sum_{t=2}^n (\eta_t - \phi\eta_{t-1})^2}{2\sigma^2} \\ & + \frac{\log(1-\phi^2)}{2} - \frac{(1-\phi^2)\eta_1^2}{2\sigma^2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\ell_n(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = -\frac{n}{2} \log 2\pi - \frac{n}{2} \log \sigma^2 + \frac{\log(1 - \phi^2)}{2} - \frac{S(\phi)}{2\sigma^2},$$

where  $S(\phi) = \sum_{t=2}^n (\eta_t - \phi\eta_{t-1})^2 + (1 - \phi^2)\eta_1^2$

- For given value of  $\phi$ ,  $\ell_n(\phi, \sigma^2)$  can be maximized analytically with respect to  $\sigma^2$

$$\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{S(\hat{\phi})}{n}$$

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- Estimation of  $\phi$  can be simplified by maximizing the **conditional sum-of-squares** ( $\sum_{t=2}^n (\eta_t - \phi\eta_{t-1})^2$ )

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Let the **best linear one-step predictor** of  $X_t$  be

$$\hat{X}_t = \begin{cases} 0, & t = 1; \\ P_{t-1}X_t, & t = 2, \dots, n \end{cases}$$

- The **one-step prediction errors** or **innovations** are defined

$$U_t = X_t - \hat{X}_t, \quad t = 1, \dots, n,$$

and the associated **mean squared error** is

$$\nu_{t-1} = \mathbb{E}[(X_t - \hat{X}_t)^2] = \mathbb{E}(U_t^2), \quad t = 1, \dots, n.$$

- For a causal ARMA process we can write  $\nu_{t-1} = \sigma^2 r_{t-1}$ , where  $r_t$  only depends on the AR and MA parameters  $\phi$  and  $\theta$ , but not  $\sigma^2$

## Working with the Innovations

- **Result I:**  $\{U_t\}$  is an **independent** set of RVs with

$$U_t \sim N(0, \nu_{t-1}), t = 1, \dots, n$$

⇒ the one-step prediction errors are uncorrelated with one another, and each each a normal distribution

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## Working with the Innovations

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- **Result II:** The likelihoods are **the same** if we use a model based on realizations of  $\{X_t\}$  or a model based on realizations of  $\{U_t\}$

- Therefore

$$\ell_n(\omega) = -\frac{n}{2} \log(2\pi) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^n \log(\nu_{t-1}) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^n \left( \frac{u_t^2}{\nu_{t-1}} \right).$$

For a causal ARMA process this becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \ell_n(\phi, \theta, \sigma^2) = & -\frac{n}{2} \log(2\pi) - \frac{n}{2} \log(\sigma^2) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^n \log(r_{t-1}) \\ & - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{t=1}^n \left( \frac{u_t^2}{r_{t-1}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

## The MLEs of $\sigma^2$ , $\phi$ , and $\theta$

- Now take the derivative of  $\ell_n$  with respect to  $\sigma^2$ , setting the derivative equal to zero and solving for  $\sigma^2 \Rightarrow$

$$\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{S(\phi, \theta)}{n},$$

where

$$S(\phi, \theta) = \sum_{t=1}^n \left( \frac{u_t^2}{r_{t-1}} \right).$$

- Substituting  $\hat{\sigma}^2$  into  $\ell_n$ , the MLE estimates of  $\phi$  and  $\theta$ , denoted by  $\hat{\phi}$  and  $\hat{\theta}$ , respectively, are those values which **maximize**

$$\tilde{\ell}_n(\phi, \theta, \hat{\sigma}^2) = -\frac{n}{2} \log(\hat{\sigma}^2) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^n \log(r_{t-1}) - \frac{1}{2\hat{\sigma}^2} \sum_{t=1}^n \left( \frac{u_t^2}{r_{t-1}} \right)$$