

Trend-seasonal decomposition and exponential smoothing models

Data and Tasks

Data and Tasks: Plan

- Time series is a data type

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- Time series is a data type
- Tasks for one row

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- Tasks for one row
- Tasks for multiple rows

What is a time series?

Time series

A sequence of observations ordered in time

0, 0, 5, 7, 102, 53, 23

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Time series

A sequence of random variables ordered in time

$y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4, \dots, y_T$

Tasks for one series

- Predict the following values

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- Restore missing values in the middle of a series

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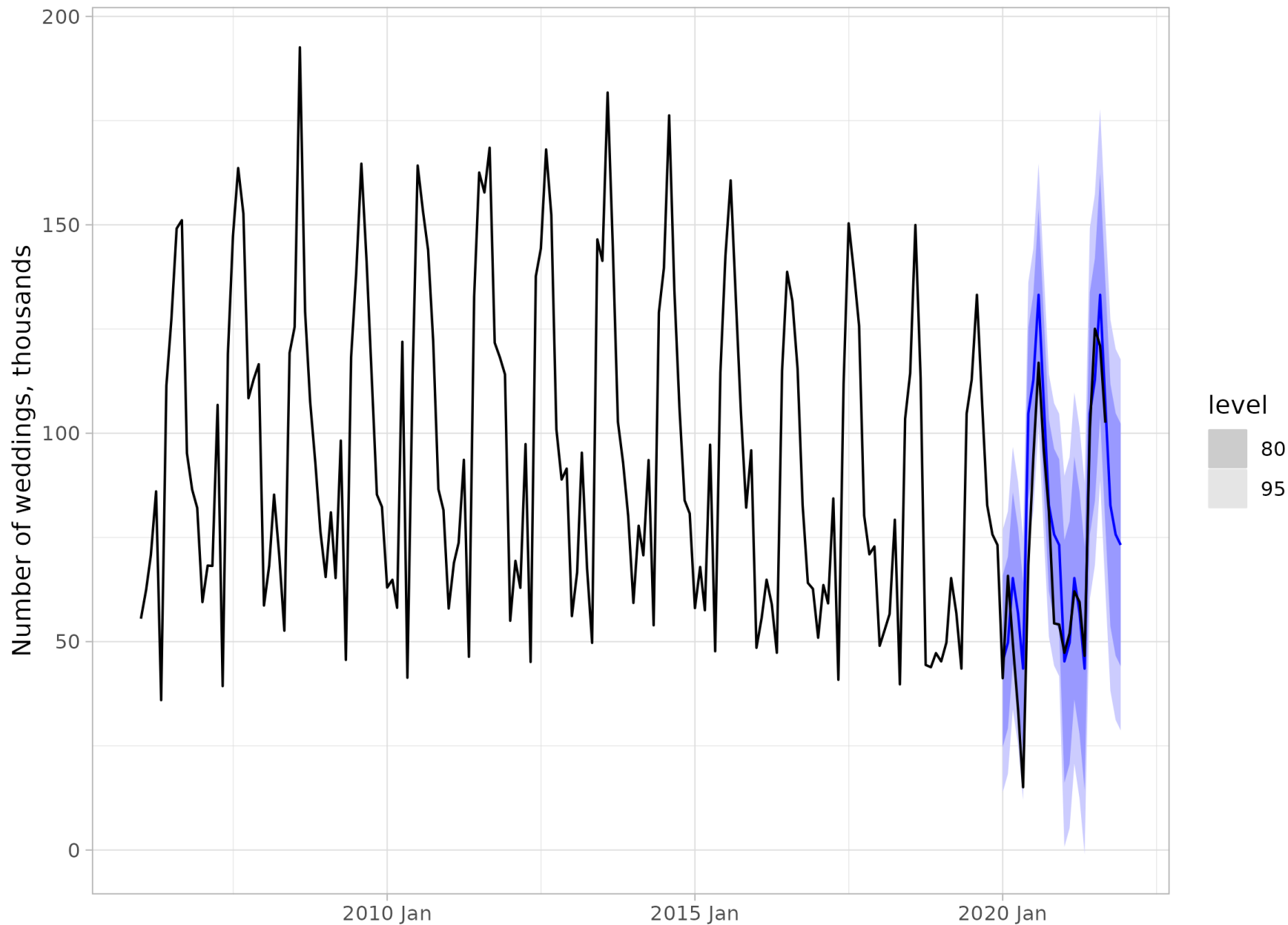
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Forecasting

Seasonal naive forecast for number of weddings in Russia



Tasks for multiple series

- Use additional series when studying the target series

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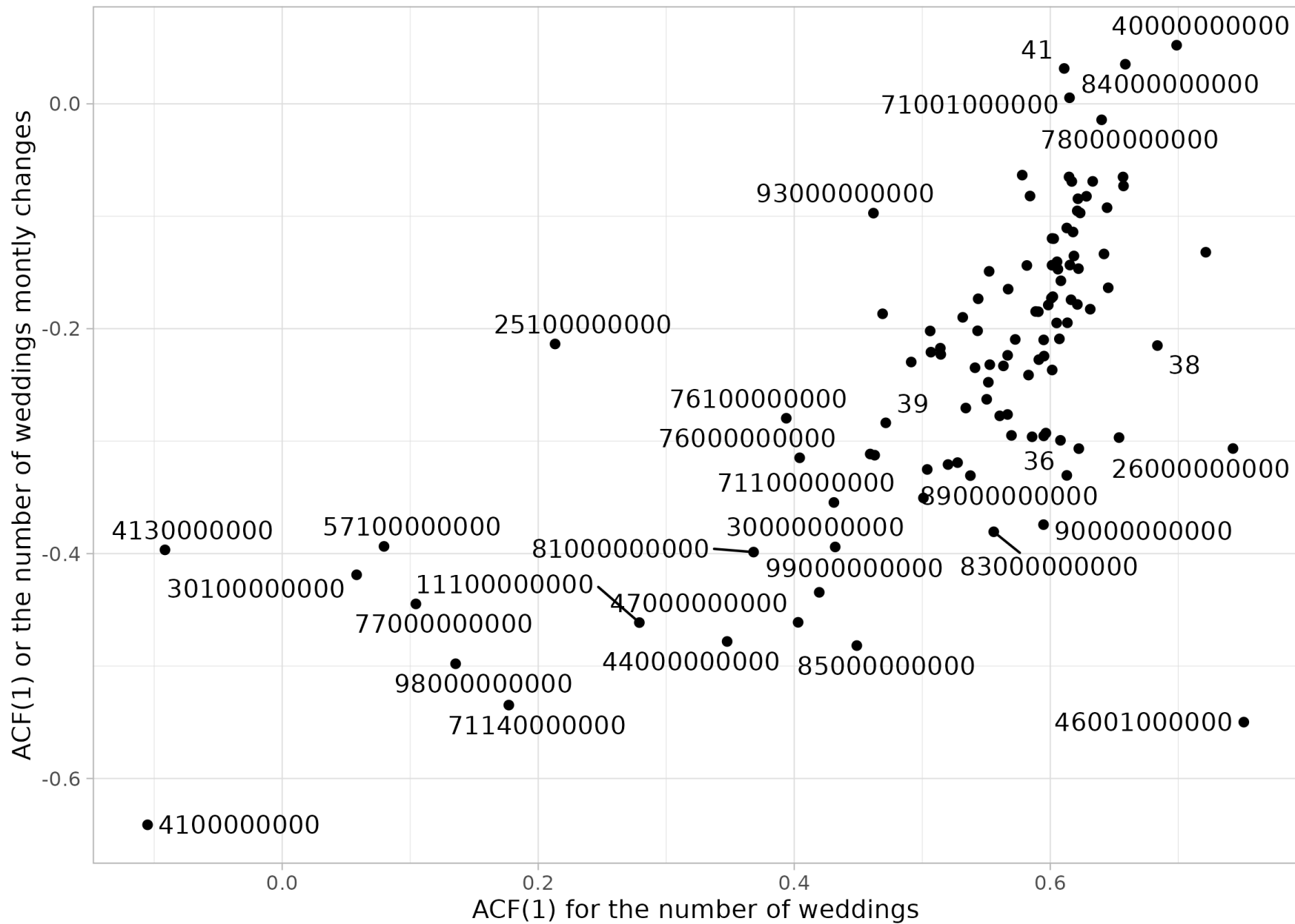
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Measuring series proximity

Russian regions proximity by the number of weddings dynamics



Models and algorithms

Models

- Explicit assumptions about the values y_1, y_2, \dots, y_T

ETS, ARIMA, ORBIT, PROPHET, ...

Models and algorithms

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- Explicit assumptions about the values y_1, y_2, \dots, y_T
- Estimation method: maximum likelihood, Bayesian approach

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Models and algorithms

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- Explicit assumptions about the values y_1, y_2, \dots, y_T
- Estimation method: maximum likelihood, Bayesian approach
- Point and interval forecasts, hypothesis testing

ETS, ARIMA, ORBIT, PROPHET, ...

Models and algorithms

Algorithms

- Fuzzy assumptions about the values y_1, y_2, \dots, y_T

STL, gradient boosting, random forest, ...

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- Fuzzy assumptions about the values y_1, y_2, \dots, y_T
- A special instruction for actions

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Algorithms

- Fuzzy assumptions about the values y_1, y_2, \dots, y_T
- A special instruction for actions
- Point estimates without confidence intervals

STL, gradient boosting, random forest, ...

Course Focus

Forecasting one-dimensional series using models

Series Components

Series Components: Plan

- Trend, cyclicity and seasonality

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- Additive and multiplicative decomposition

Series Components: Plan

- Trend, cyclicity and seasonality
- Additive and multiplicative decomposition
- A formal definition?

Looking for components

Additive series decomposition:

$$y_t = trend_t + seas_t + remainder_t$$

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Trend — smoothly changing component of the series

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Trend — smoothly changing component of the series

Seasonal component — a component with a clear frequency and stable intensity

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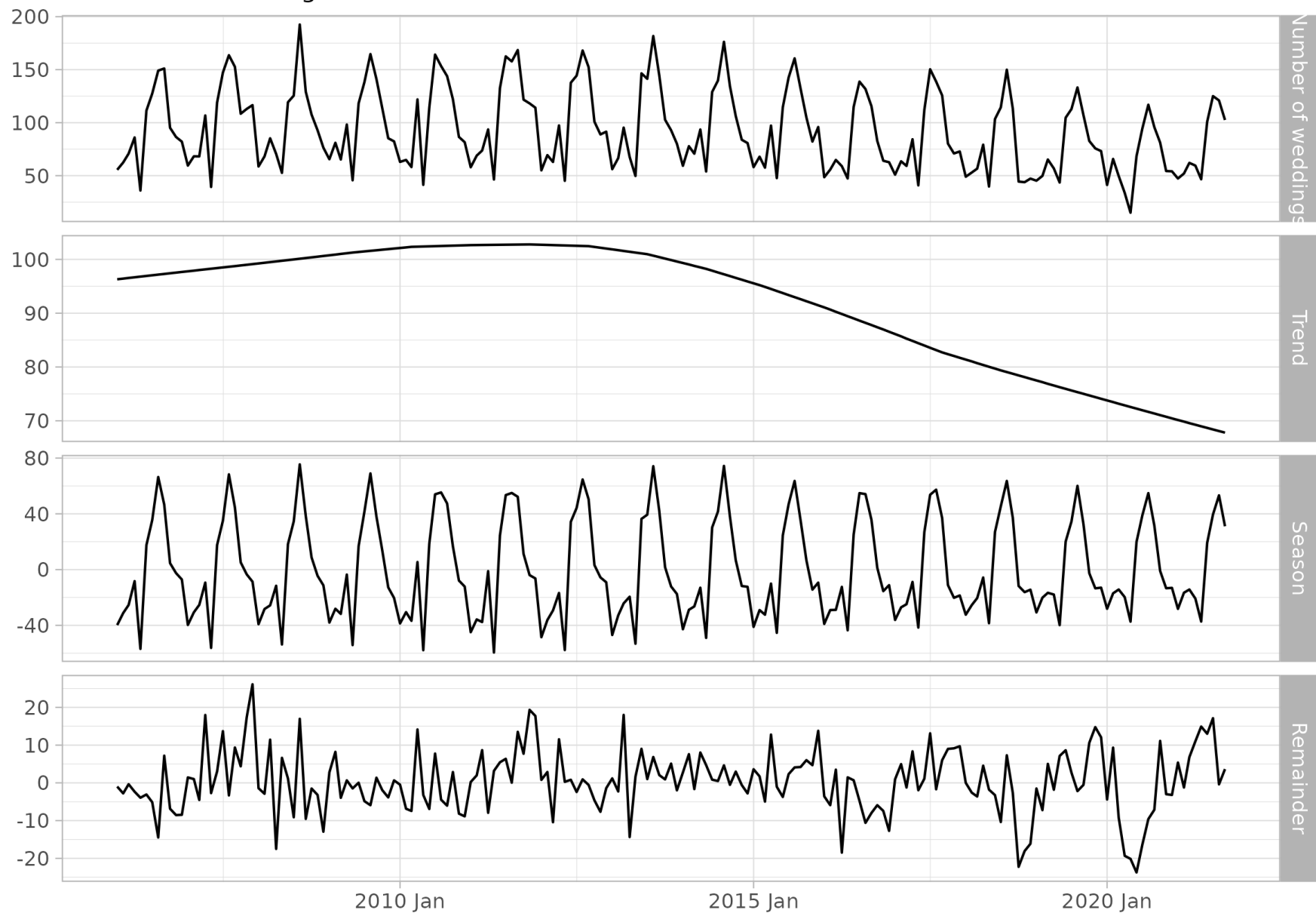
Seasonal component — a component with a clear frequency and stable intensity

Random component (remainder) — everything else

Trend, seasonality and residual

STL decomposition the number of weddings in Russia

Number of weddings = Trend + Season + Remainder



Strict definition?

There will be no single strict definition for the components!

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Some models and algorithms formally **define** these components

Cyclical component

Sometimes the series can be decomposed further

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Cyclical component — component with floating frequency and unstable intensity

Trend (in the narrow sense) — a smoothly changing monotonous component of a series

Additive and multiplicative decomposition

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Multiplicative series decomposition:

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Additive and multiplicative decomposition

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Multiplicative series decomposition:

$$y_t = trend_t \cdot seas_t \cdot remainder_t$$

Let's transform one into another:

$$\ln y_t = \ln trend_t + \ln seas_t + \ln remainder_t$$

Box-Cox Transformation

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(Generalized) Box-Cox transformation:

$$bc_\lambda(y_t) = \begin{cases} \ln y_t, & \text{if } \lambda = 0, \\ \text{sign}(y_t)(|y_t|^\lambda - 1)/\lambda, & \text{if } \lambda \neq 0 \end{cases}$$

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How to select the parameter λ ?

- Some models contain it inside and estimate λ within themselves
- You can choose λ by yourself to stabilize the amplitude of oscillations of the series

What to choose?

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ETS(AAA): different decomposition

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It is important to understand the **purpose of constructing** the decomposition

Why decompose?

- Interesting **by itself**

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- For **predicting** a series using component prediction

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- To identify unknown clusters in series

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- The seasonal component has **clear periodicity** and **stable amplitude**
- The exact formalization of the components **depends on the model**

Naive Models

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- White noise

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White noise

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Time series u_t is white noise if:

- $\mathbb{E}(u_t) = 0$;
- $\text{Var}(u_t) = \sigma^2$;
- $\text{Cov}(u_s, u_t) = 0$ for $s \neq t$

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- An integral part of all models; most often, white noise is not modelled explicitly
- Often **independence** and **normality** are assumed
ARCH, GARCH volatility models are based on the fact that u_t and u_s can be dependent!

Independent observations

Model

$$y_t = \mu + u_t,$$

where u_t is white noise, $u_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0; \sigma^2)$

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Interval forecast h steps ahead:

$$[\bar{y} - 1.96\hat{\sigma}; \bar{y} + 1.96\hat{\sigma}]$$

Random Walk

Naive model

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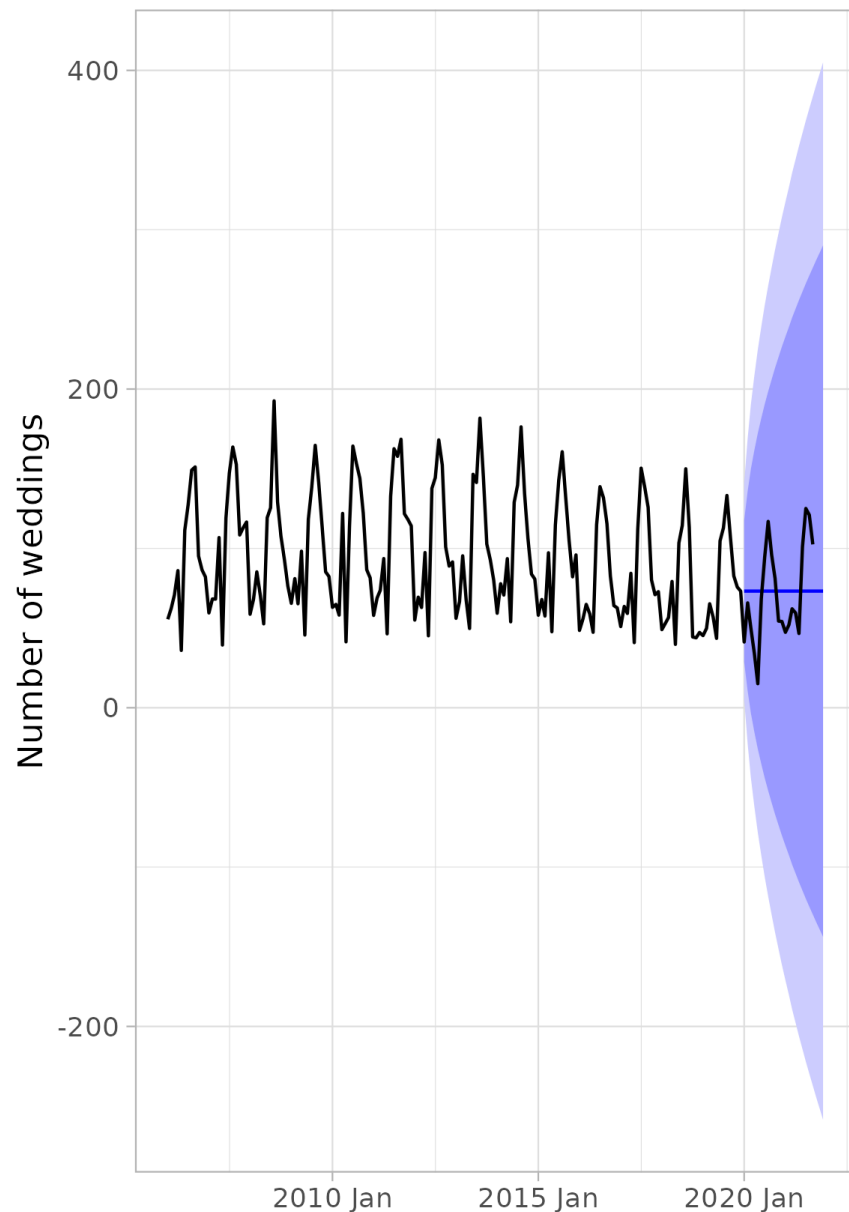
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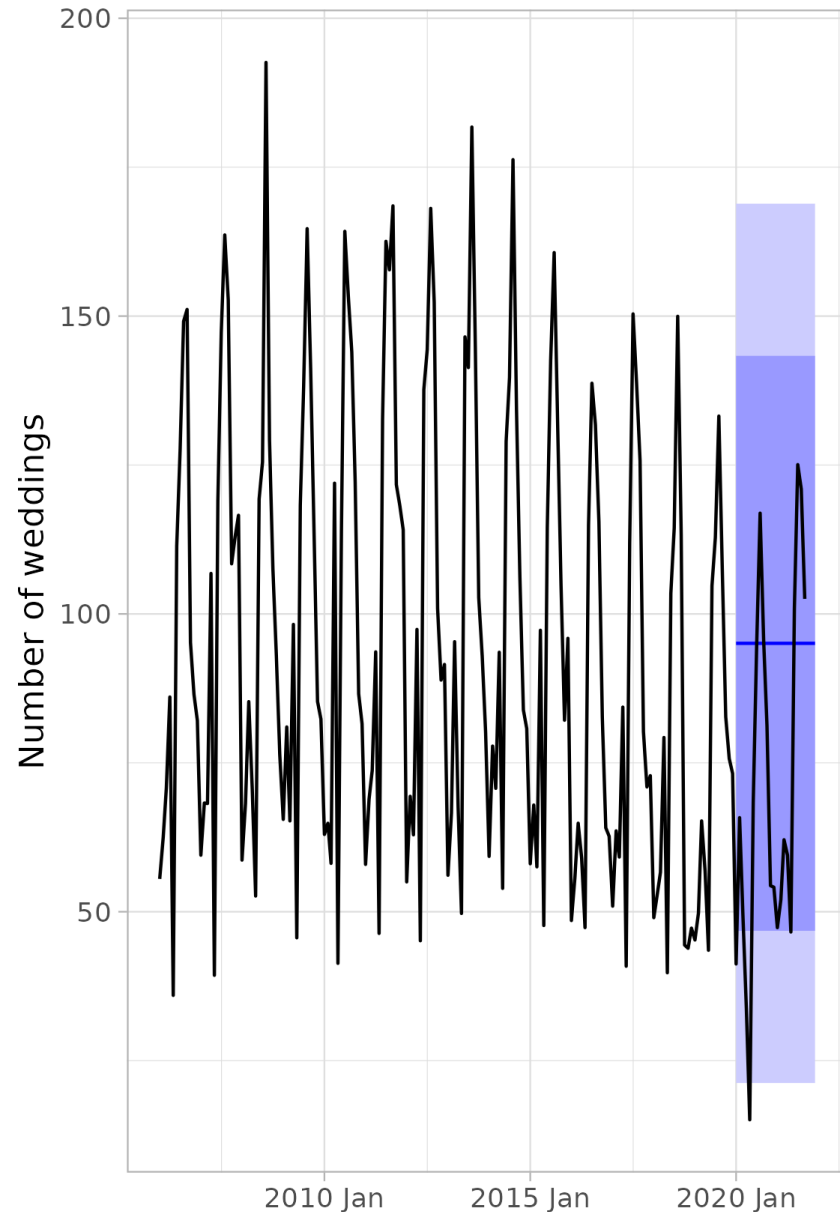
$$[y_T - 1.96\hat{\sigma}\sqrt{h}; y_T + 1.96\hat{\sigma}\sqrt{h}]$$

First predictions!

Random walk



Independent observations



Seasonal random walk

Seasonal naive model

$$y_t = y_{t-12} + u_t,$$

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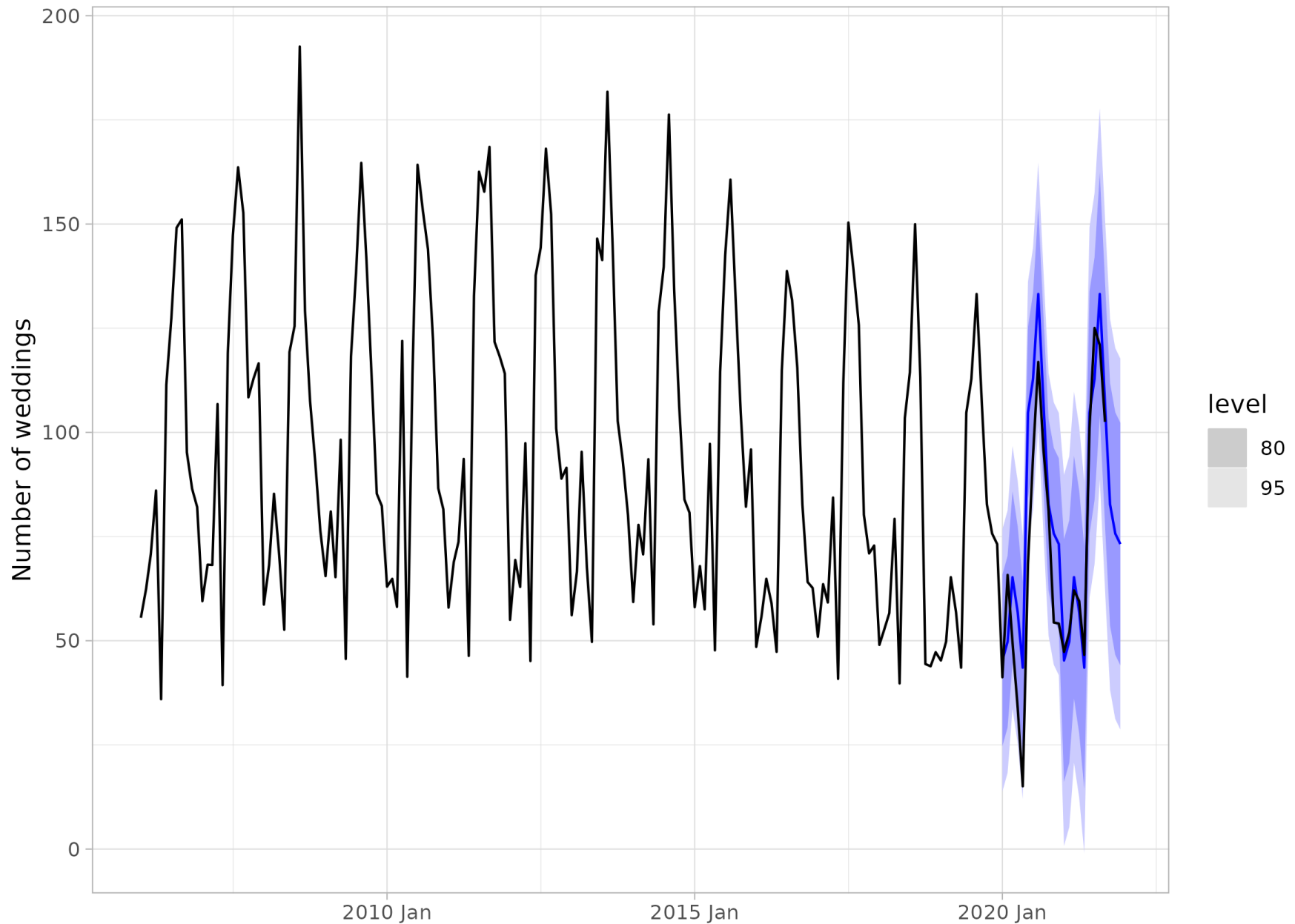
Interval forecast for h steps ahead:

$$\left[y_{T-12+h\%12} - 1.96\hat{\sigma} \sqrt{\left\lceil \frac{h}{12} \right\rceil}; y_{T-12+h\%12} + 1.96\hat{\sigma} \sqrt{\left\lceil \frac{h}{12} \right\rceil} \right]$$

where $\%$ - remainder from the division, $\lceil x \rceil$ - ceiling function

Not bad already!

Seasonal naive forecast for number of weddings in Russia



Why do we need naive models?

- Ideas for complex model:
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 - non-stationary series models are similar to a random walk

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- **Averaging** with other models' forecasts:
you can **average forecasts** of a complex model and a naive seasonal one!

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STL algorithm

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STL

STL — Seasonal Trend decomposition with LOESS

STL — seasonality and trend decomposition using LOESS

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LOESS — LOcal regrESSion

LOESS — local linear regression

STL as a black box

Input:

Row Y_t

Algorithm parameters $n_p, n_i, n_o, n_l, n_s, n_t$

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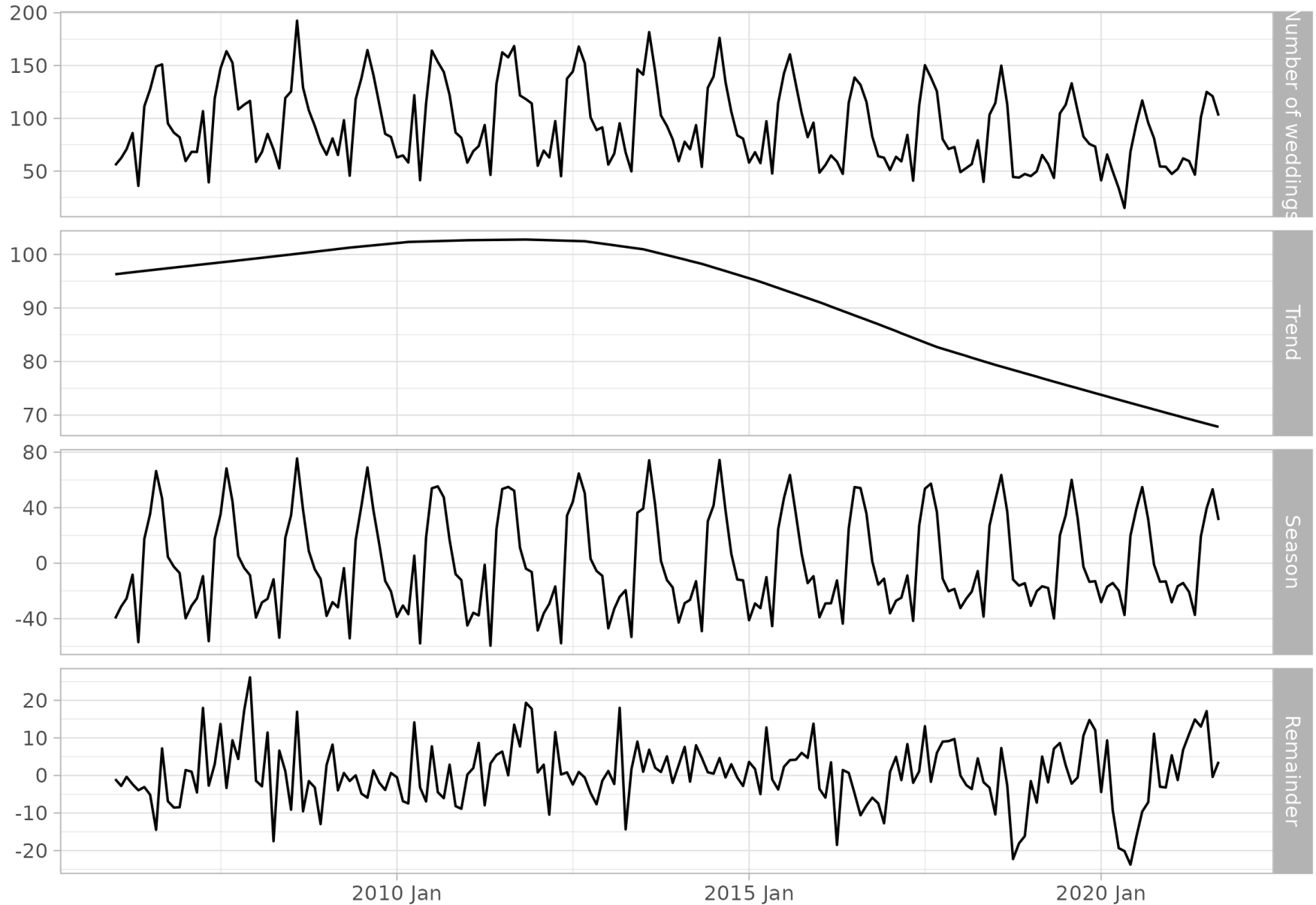
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Black box set up

STL: result

STL decomposition the number of weddings in Russia

Number of weddings = Trend + Season + Remainder



LOESS

- We want to build a forecast for the point x
- Find **local estimates** $\hat{\beta}_1(x), \hat{\beta}_2(x)$

$$\min \sum_i K_h(x_i - x) (y_i - \hat{\beta}_1 - \hat{\beta}_2 x_i)^2$$

- Predicting:

$$\hat{y} = \hat{\beta}_1(x) + \hat{\beta}_2(x)x.$$

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Kernel function

- The function $K_h(x_i - x)$ decreases with increasing distance $|x_i - x|$;
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For example, h is the number of points x_i next to x that we take into account

Nuances of local regression

- Select **degrees of the polynomial**

$$\min \sum_i K_h(x_i - x)(y_i - \hat{\beta}_1 - \hat{\beta}_2 x_i - \hat{\beta}_3 x_i^2)^2$$

- Select **kernel** function

$$K_h(d) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}h} \exp\left(-d^2/2h^2\right)$$

- Select **window width** h

STL algorithm

Purpose: decomposition of $Y_t = T_t + S_t + R_t$

The algorithm contains two loops: **outer** and **inner** loop

1. Initialize $T_t = 0, R_t = 0$

Outer loop:

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2. Calculate the weight of each observation, ρ_t :
on the first pass, $\rho_t = 1$ for each observation;
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3. Update the current decomposition $Y_t = T_t + S_t + R_t$ taking into account new weights ρ_t

STL: inner loop

Goal: update the decomposition $Y_t = T_t + S_t + R_t$.

1. Remove the previously calculated trend from the series:

$$Y_t^{det} = Y_t - T_t.$$

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2. Divide the detrended series into 12 series (one for each season)
3. Smooth each of the series individually with LOESS:

$$C^{jan} = LOESS_{\rho}(Y_{jan}^{det}), C^{feb} = LOESS_{\rho}(Y_{feb}^{det}), \dots$$

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4. Extract the low-frequency component (double moving average + LOESS):

$$L_t = LOESS(MA(MA(C_t)))$$

STL: inner loop

- 1-3. Remove the previously calculated trend from the series, break it down into 12 series and smooth each of them with LOESS.
4. Extract the low-frequency component L_t .
5. Get **new** seasonal component by removing the low-frequency component:

$$S_t^{new} = C_t - L_t$$

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$$S_t^{new} = C_t - L_t$$

6. Get new trend component by removing new seasonal component from the original series and smoothing with LOESS:

$$T_t^{new} = LOESS_{\rho}(Y_t - S_t^{new})$$

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 $n_o = 1$ is often sufficient

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- n_o is the number of iterations of the outer loop:
the larger the number n_o , the weaker the impact of outliers;
 $n_o = 1$ is often sufficient
- n_i — number of passes of the inner loop:
 $n_i = 2$ is often enough to achieve convergence.

STL smoothing parameters

- n_l — low pass filter smoothing strength

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2. Maybe play around with n_s

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Series Characteristics

Series Characteristics: Plan

- Sample autocorrelation

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1. Generate **features** for each series
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Classify using random forest;

Measure distance using the Mahalanobis metric;

Cluster using hierarchical clustering

Creating features

Two sets of features:

- Sample ACF (autocorrelation function, AutoCorrelation Function)

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From one series we get:

$ACF_1, ACF_2, ACF_3, \dots$

$PACF_1, PACF_2, PACF_3, \dots$

Sample ACF

Let's evaluate a set of paired regressions:

$$\hat{y}_t = \hat{\beta}_1 + \hat{\beta}_2 y_{t-1}, \quad ACF_1 = \hat{\beta}_2;$$

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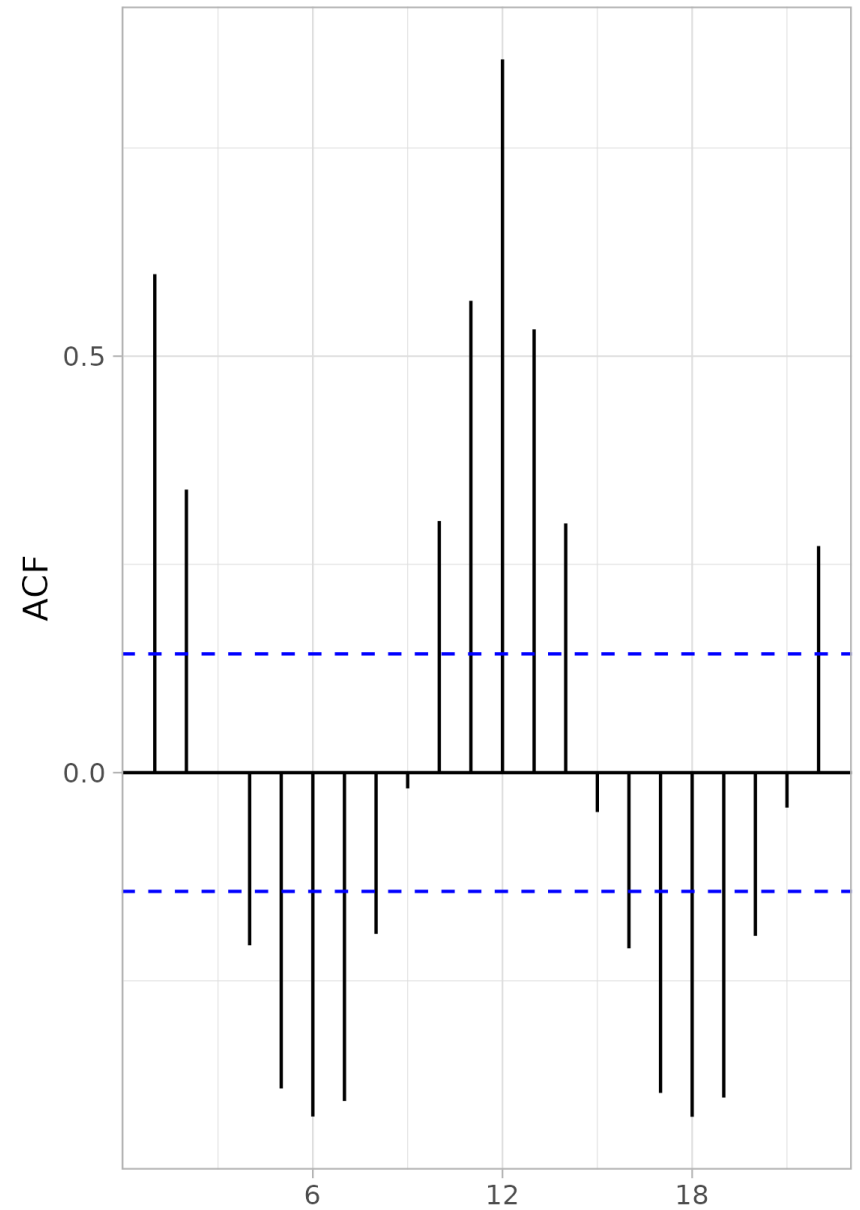
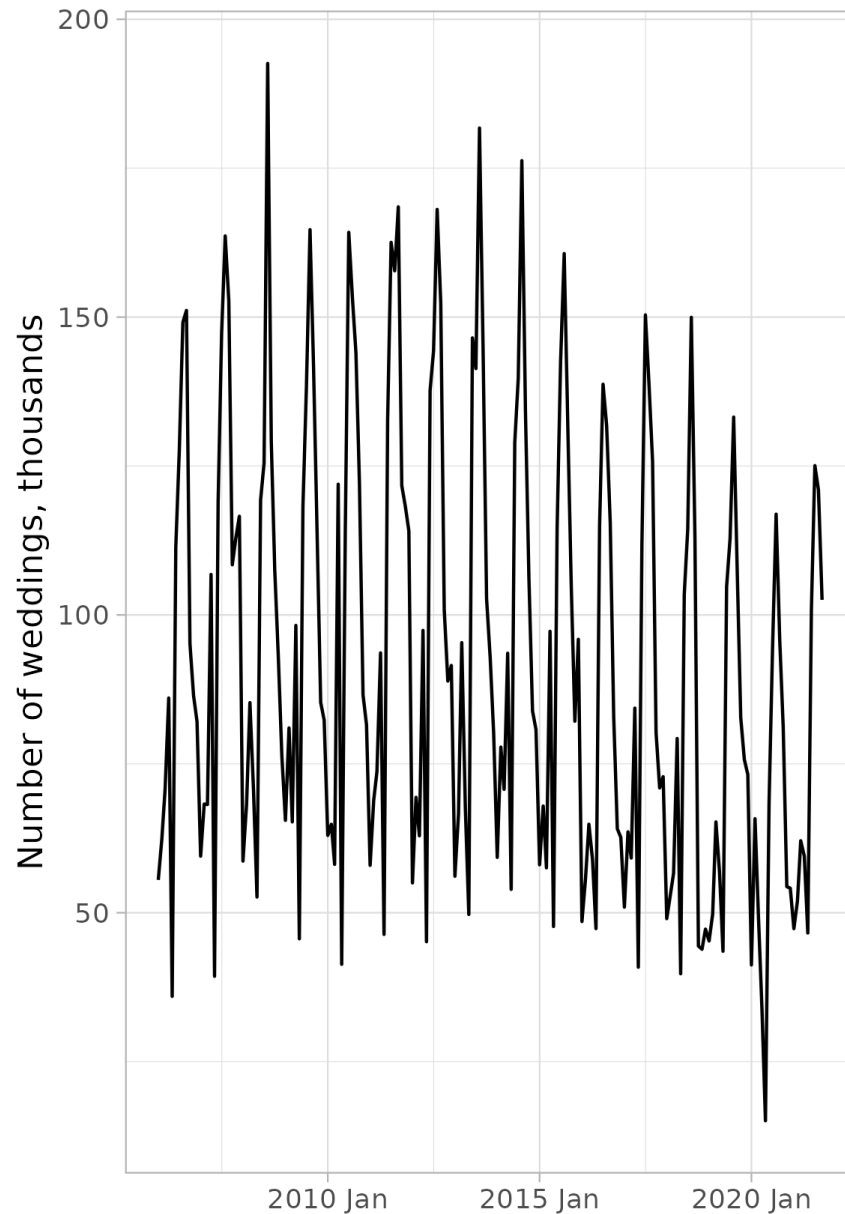
$$\hat{y}_t = \hat{\beta}_1 + \hat{\beta}_2 y_{t-2}, \quad ACF_2 = \hat{\beta}_2;$$

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Meaning ACF_2 : How many units is y_t above average on average if y_{t-2} is one unit above average.

Series and its ACF

Number of weddings and ACF



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Classic definition

Sample ACF

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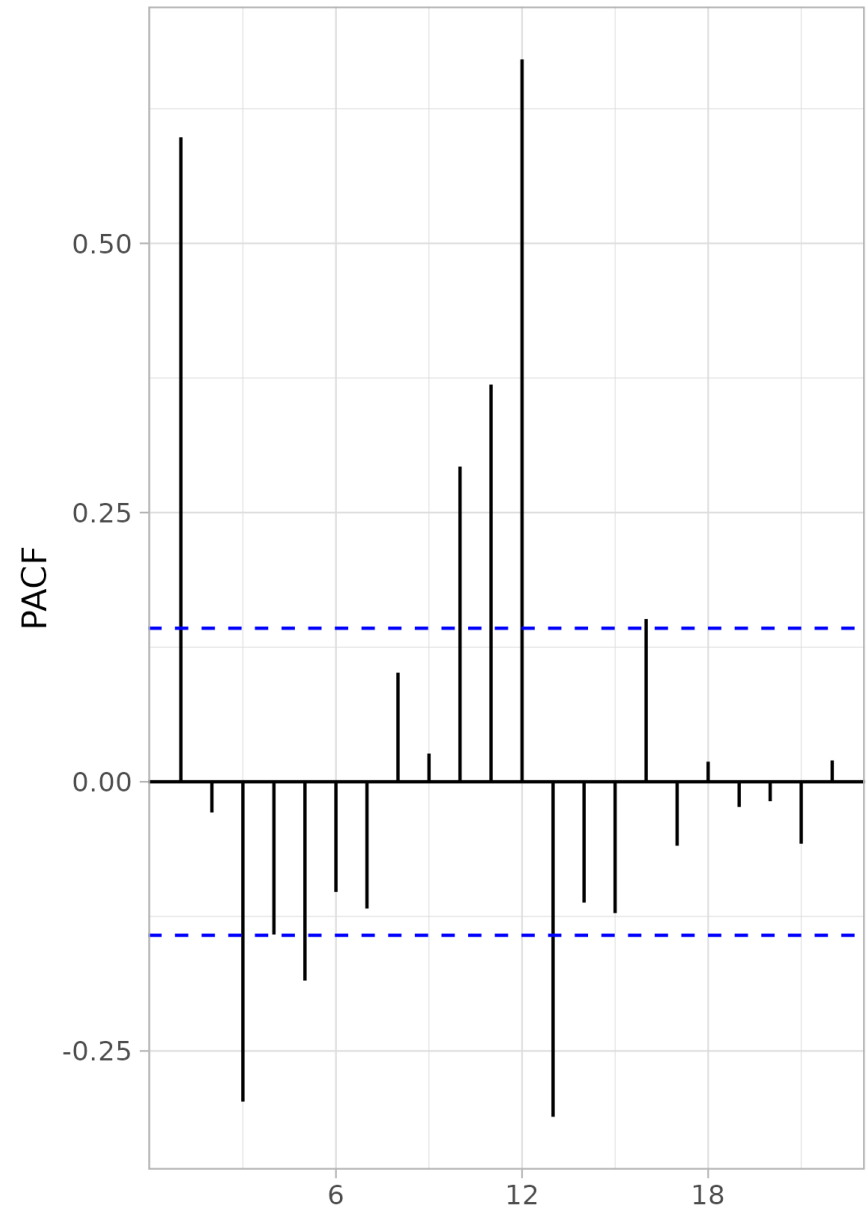
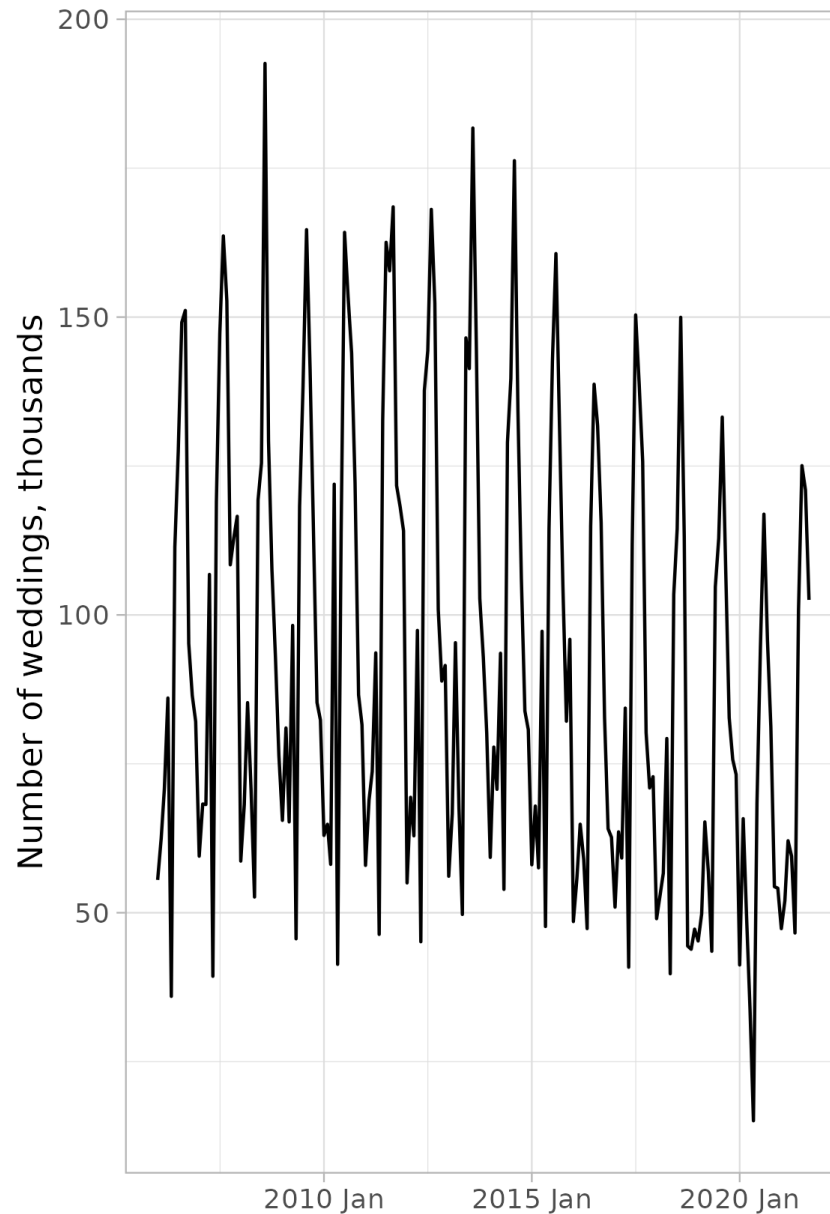
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Meaning $PACF_2$: how many units is y_t above average on average if y_{t-2} is one unit above average, and y_{t-1} is at the middle level

Series and its PACF

Number of weddings and PACF



Why is PACF a correlation?

Classic definition

Custom PACF

$PACF_4$ — sample correlation between a_t residuals and b_t residuals:

a_t — regression residuals

$$y_t \mid 1, y_{t-1}, y_{t-2}, y_{t-3};$$

b_t — regression residuals

$$y_{t-4} \mid 1, y_{t-1}, y_{t-2}, y_{t-3}$$

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The difference between the definitions of **small**

STL features

Output:

$$y_t = T_t + S_t + R_t$$

STL features

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Let's measure:

- Strength of trend F_{trend}
- Strength of seasonality F_{seas}

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We got the decomposition:

$$y_t = trend_t + seas_t + remainder_t.$$

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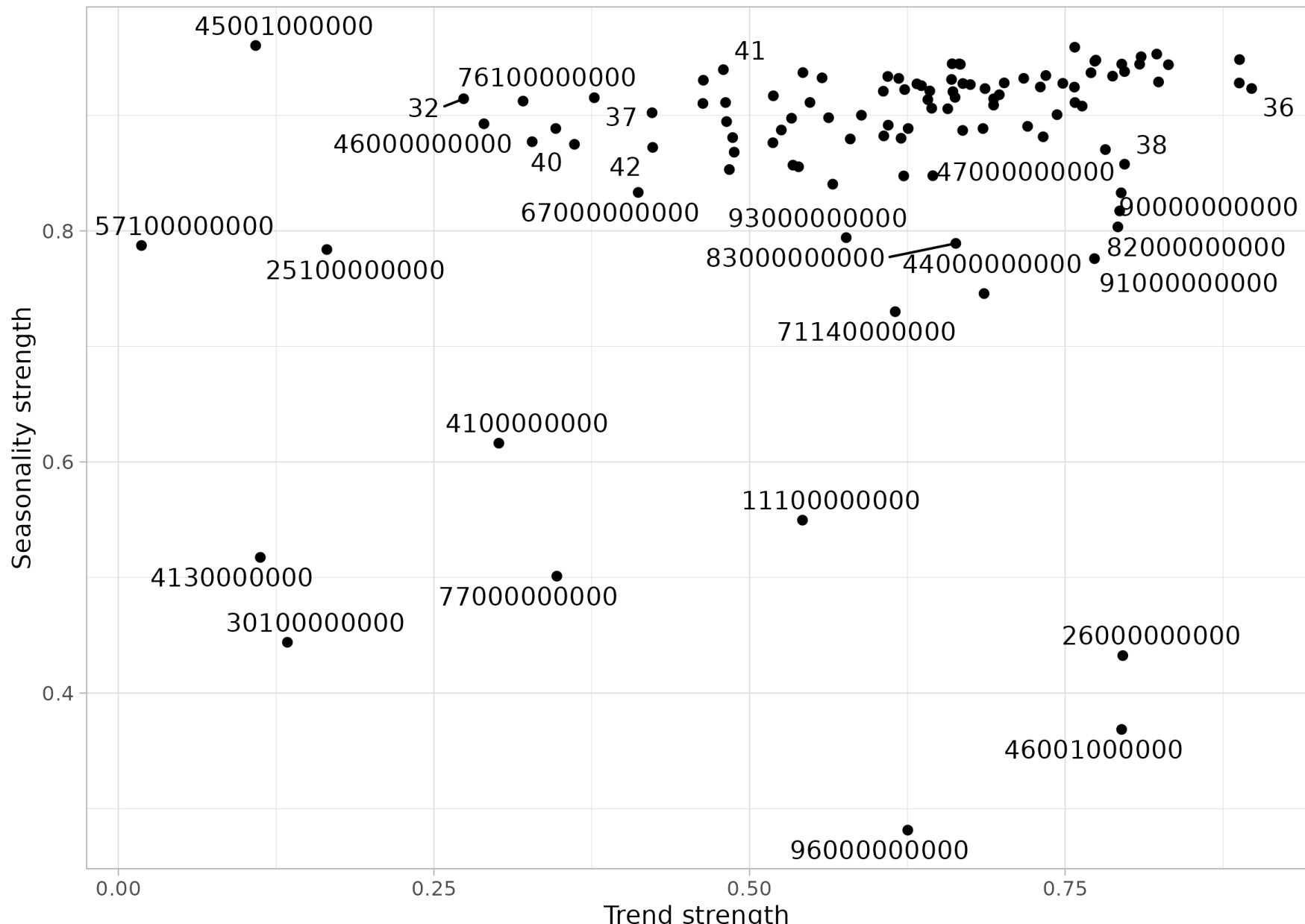
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Strength of trend and seasonality

Russian regions proximity by the strength of trend and seasonality



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Series Characteristics: Summary

- ACF — coefficients in **paired** regressions or correlations
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- STL allows you to measure **strength of trend and seasonality** in comparison to the residual component

ETS Model (Part I)

ETS Model: Plan

- ETS as a model

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- Formulas for predictions

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Formally: **30 options**

Historical names

ETS(ANN) — simple exponential smoothing

ETS(AAA) — an additive Holt-Winters method

ETS(AAM) — the multiplicative Holt-Winters method

ETS(AAdM) — Holt-Winters method with a fading trend

ETS(ANN) terminology

y_t — the observed series;

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Parameters: α, σ^2, ℓ_0

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Substitute $\alpha = 1$:

$$y_t = \ell_t = \ell_{t-1} + u_t$$

Estimation

Maximum likelihood method is used for estimation

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Main idea: decompose the likelihood into a sum

$$\ln L(y \mid \theta) = \ln L(y_1 \mid \theta) + \ln L(y_2 \mid y_1, \theta) + \dots + \\ + \ln L(y_T \mid y_{T-1}, \dots, y_1, \theta),$$

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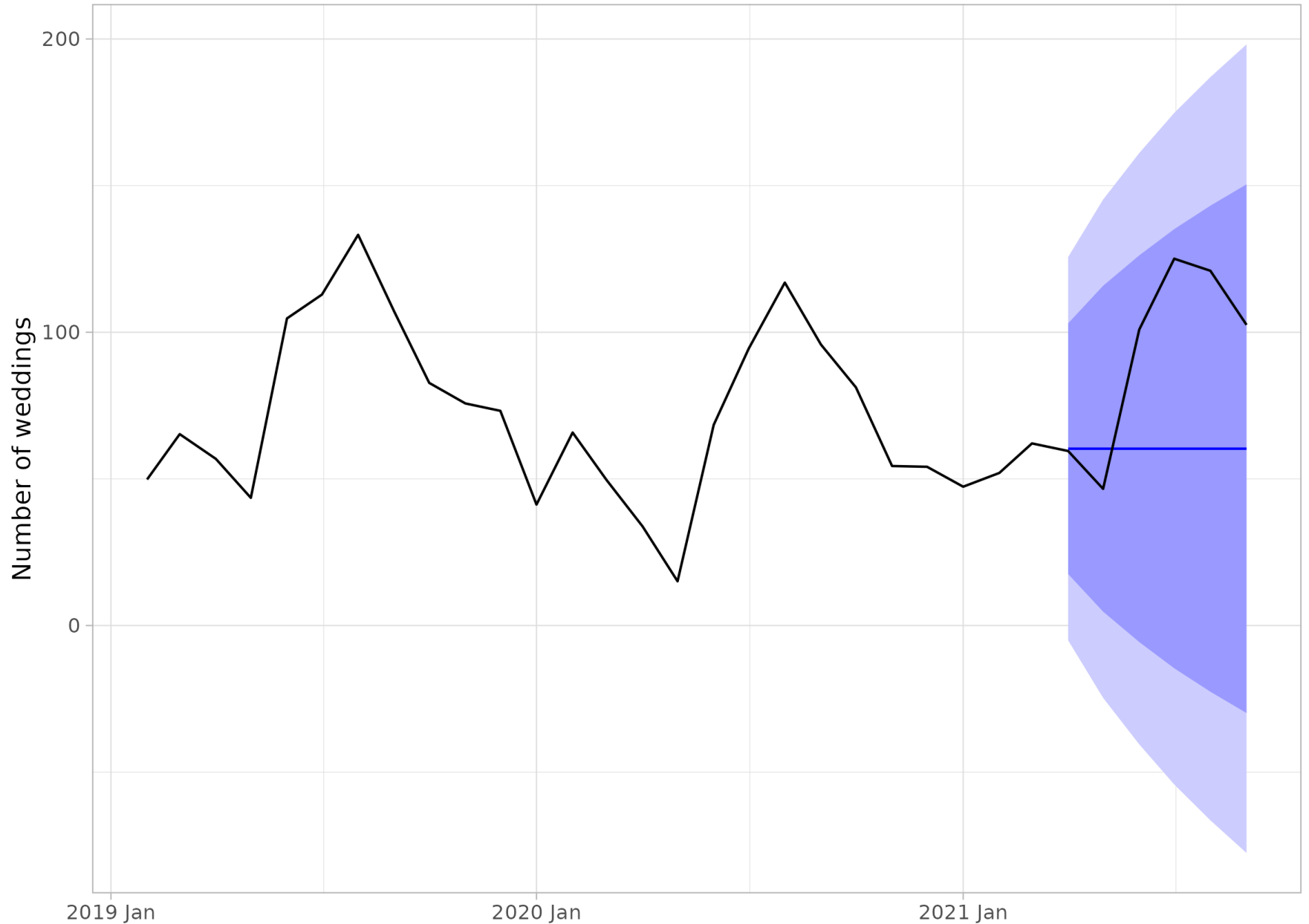
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where $\theta = (\alpha, \ell_0, \sigma^2)$

Unfortunately, there are no explicit formulas for the estimators

Forecasting

ETS(ANN)



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Predictive intervals

From distribution law

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$$[\hat{\ell}_T - 1.96\hat{\sigma}\sqrt{\hat{\alpha}^2 + 1}; \hat{\ell}_T + 1.96\hat{\sigma}\sqrt{\hat{\alpha}^2 + 1}].$$

What was discovered in the 1950s?

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ETS(AAN):

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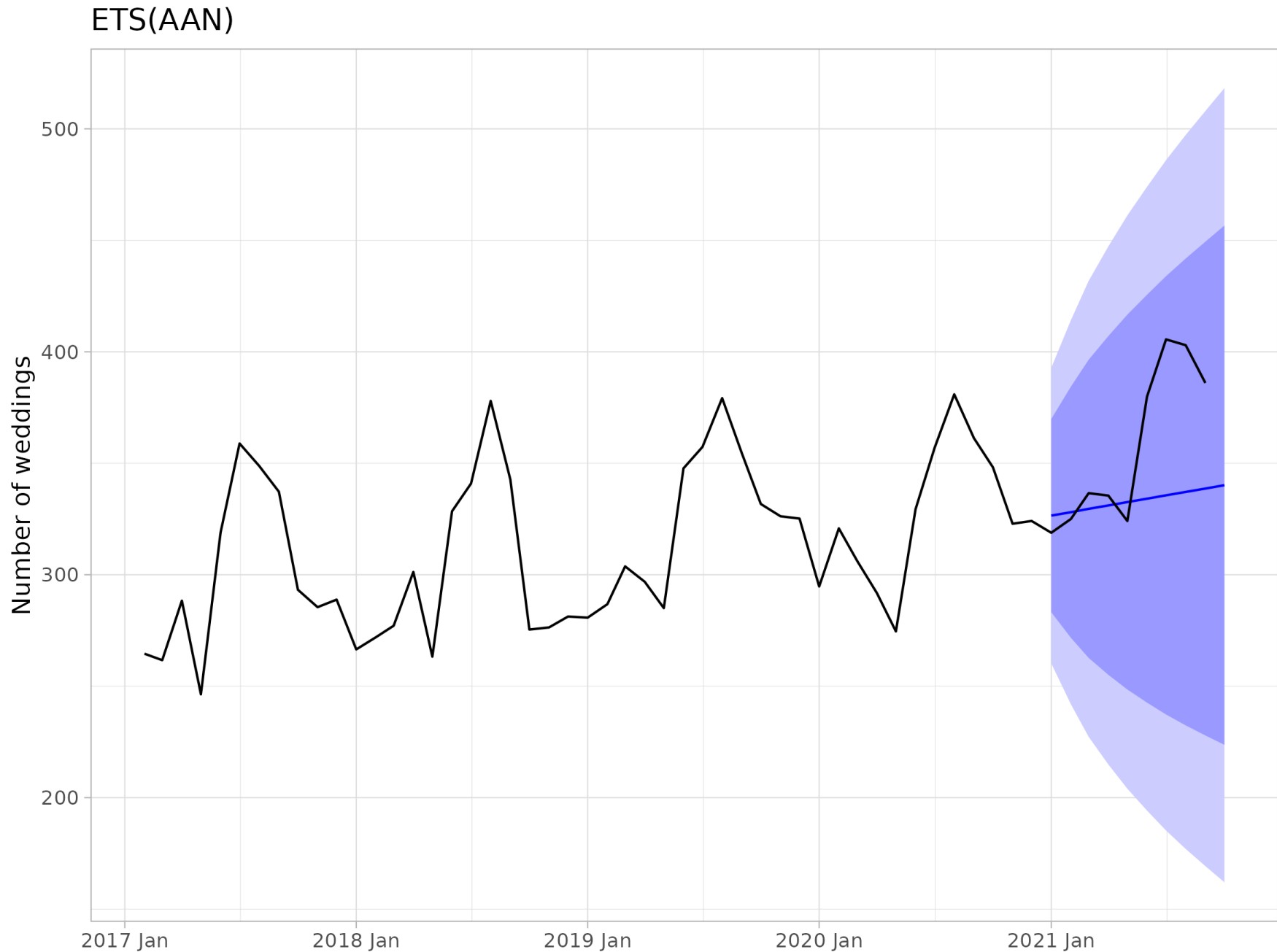
N — **no** seasonality

ETS(AAN): equations

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} y_t = \ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1} + u_t; \\ \ell_t = \ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1} + \alpha u_t, \text{ starts at } \ell_0; \\ u_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0; \sigma^2) \text{ and are independent} \\ b_t = b_{t-1} + \beta u_t, \text{ starts at } b_0; \end{array} \right.$$

Parameters: $\alpha, \beta, \sigma^2, \ell_0, b_0$

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Problem with trend in ETS(AAN)

In the ETS(AAN) model **growth rate** of the ℓ_t trend is defined by the formula

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Long-term forecast of a positive indicator at $b_T < 0$ will become negative

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In long-term negative values are impossible:
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Solution: **damped** or **fading** trend.

Extra parameters are expensive!

We want richer trend dynamics — we need **additional** parameters.

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Let's solve the problem with only **one** new parameter!

Damped trend

We introduce the trend damping parameter $\phi \in (0; 1)$ into the slope equation:

$$b_t = \phi b_{t-1} + \beta u_t, \text{ starts at } b_0$$

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And for the rest of the equations:

$$\begin{cases} y_t = \ell_{t-1} + \phi b_{t-1} + u_t; \\ \ell_t = \ell_{t-1} + \phi b_{t-1} + \alpha u_t, \text{ starts at } \ell_0 \end{cases}$$

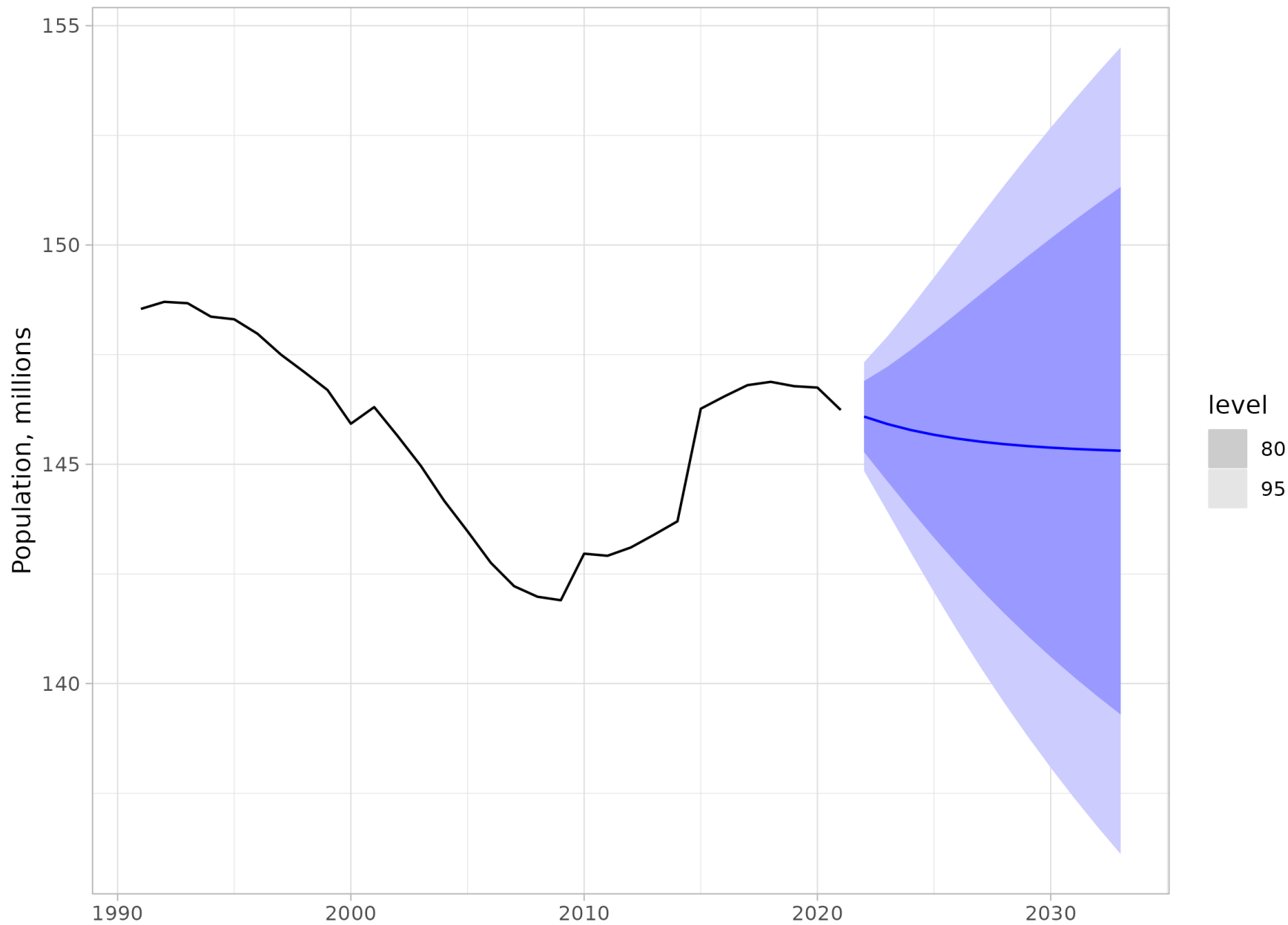
General form of ETS(AAdN)

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} y_t = \ell_{t-1} + \phi b_{t-1} + u_t; \\ \ell_t = \ell_{t-1} + \phi b_{t-1} + \alpha u_t, \text{ starts at } \ell_0; \\ b_t = \phi b_{t-1} + \beta u_t, \text{ starts at } b_0; \\ u_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0; \sigma^2) \text{ and are independent} \end{array} \right.$$

Parameters: $\alpha, \sigma^2, \ell_0, b_0, \beta, \phi$

ETS(AAdN): Forecasting

ETS(AAdN): population of Russia



ETS Model: Summary

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ETS Model: Summary

- Formulas for **exponential smoothing** have been around for a long time
- ETS — a wide class of modern models
- The slope of the trend line can change
- Damped trend: on a small forecasting horizon **there is a trend**, on a large horizon — **none**

ETS Model (Part II)

ETS Model: Plan

- Adding seasonality

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- Adding seasonality
- Formulas for predictions

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- Decomposition into components

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y_t — the observed series;

ℓ_t — trend, cleaned series;

b_t — current growth rate of the cleaned series;

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ETS(AAA):

A — additive error;

A — additive trend;

A — additive seasonality

ETS(AAA): equations

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} y_t = \ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1} + s_{t-12} + u_t; \\ \ell_t = \ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1} + \alpha u_t, \text{ starts at } \ell_0; \\ u_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0; \sigma^2) \text{ and are independent} \\ b_t = b_{t-1} + \beta u_t, \text{ starts at } b_0; \\ s_t = s_{t-12} + \gamma u_t; \text{ starts at } s_0, s_{-1}, \dots, s_{-11} \end{array} \right.$$

Parameters: $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \sigma^2, \ell_0, b_0, s_0, s_{-1}, \dots, s_{-11}$

Restriction: $s_0 + s_{-1} + \dots + s_{-11} = 0$

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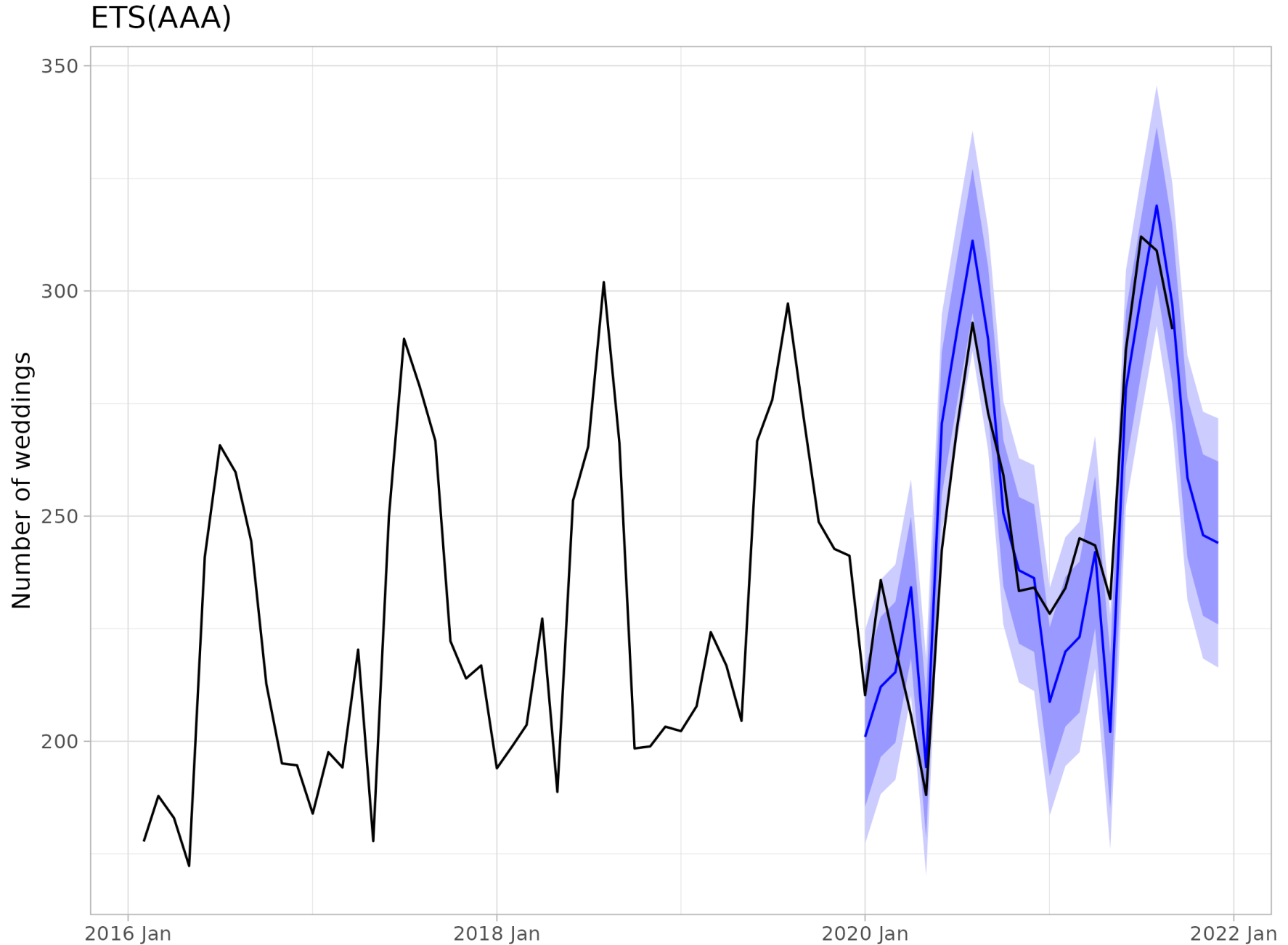
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How many independent parameters are we estimating?

Correct answer: 17

ETS(AAA): Forecasting



Forecast 1 step ahead

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} y_t = \ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1} + s_{t-12} + u_t; \\ \ell_t = \ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1} + \alpha u_t, \text{ starts at } \ell_0; \\ u_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0; \sigma^2) \text{ and are independent.} \\ b_t = b_{t-1} + \beta u_t, \text{ starts at } b_0; \\ s_t = s_{t-12} + \gamma u_t \end{array} \right.$$

$$y_{T+1} = \ell_T + b_T + s_{T-11} + u_{T+1}$$

$$(y_{T+1} \mid \mathcal{F}_T) \sim \mathcal{N}(\ell_T + b_T + s_{T-11}; \sigma^2)$$

Forecast 2 steps ahead

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} y_t = \ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1} + s_{t-12} + u_t; \\ \ell_t = \ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1} + \alpha u_t, \text{ starts at } \ell_0; \\ u_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0; \sigma^2) \text{ and are independent} \\ b_t = b_{t-1} + \beta u_t, \text{ starts at } b_0; \\ s_t = s_{t-12} + \gamma u_t \end{array} \right.$$

$$y_{T+2} = \ell_{T+1} + b_{T+1} + s_{T-10} + u_{T+2} = (\ell_T + b_T + \alpha u_{T+1}) + \\ + (b_T + \beta u_{T+1}) + s_{T-10} + u_{T+2}$$

$$(y_{T+2} \mid \mathcal{F}_T) \sim \mathcal{N}(\ell_T + 2b_T + s_{T-10}; \sigma^2((\alpha + \beta)^2 + 1))$$

Decomposition for free!

Consider the output of ETS(AAA):

Parameter estimates: $\hat{\alpha}, \hat{\beta}, \hat{\gamma}, \hat{\sigma}^2, \hat{\ell}_0, \hat{b}_0, \hat{s}_0, \hat{s}_{-1}, \dots, \hat{s}_{-11}$.

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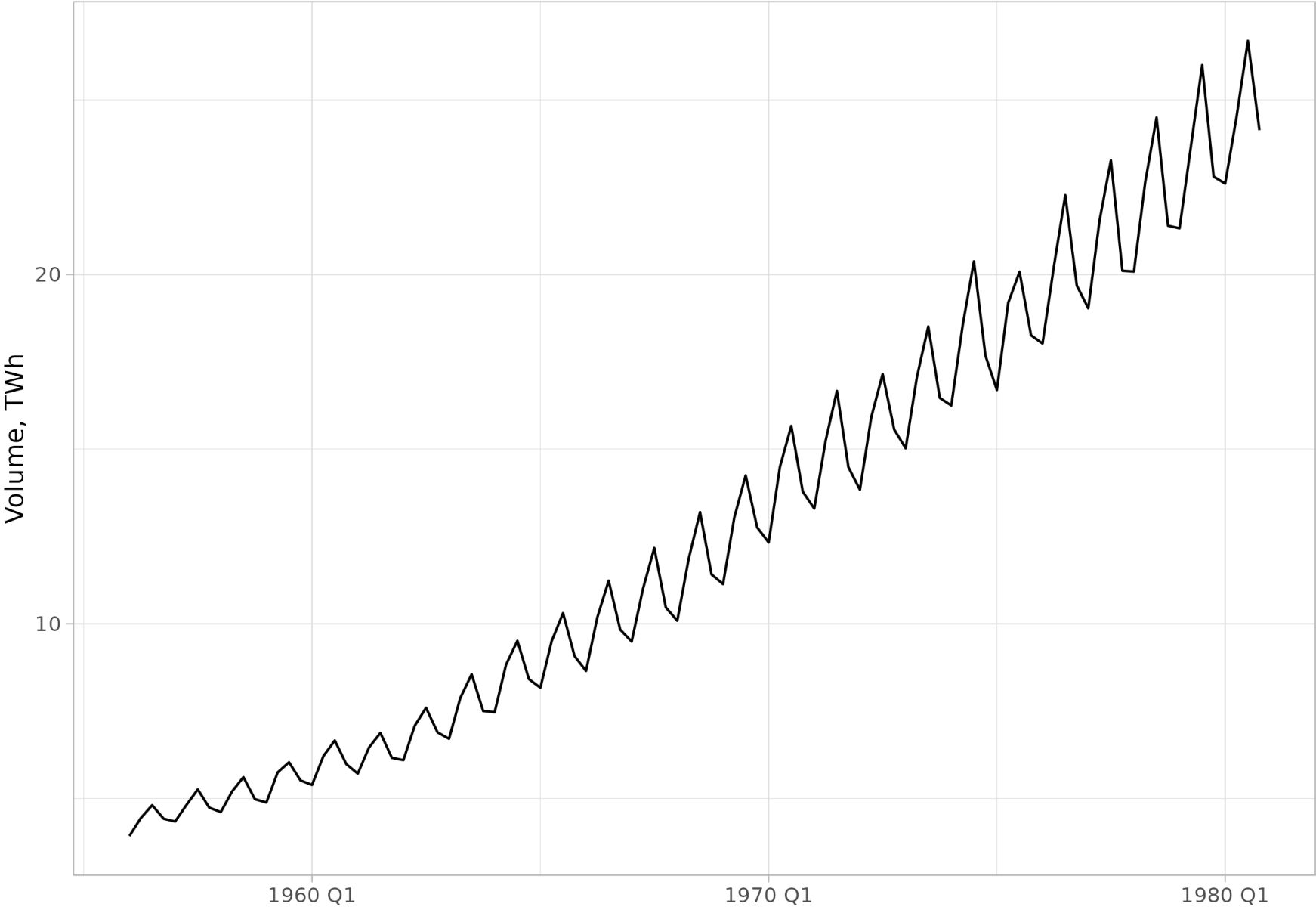
Constraints: $\hat{s}_0 + \hat{s}_{-1} + \dots + \hat{s}_{-11} = 0$.

Estimated component values: $\hat{\ell}_t, \hat{b}_t, \hat{s}_t$.

We automatically get **decomposition:** $y_t = \hat{\ell}_t + \hat{s}_t + remainder_t$.

Oscillation amplitude can vary

Volume of electricity produced in Australia



Various oscillation amplitude

Possible solutions:

- Switch to logarithms, $y_t \rightarrow \ln y_t$

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ETS(MNM): equations

ETS(MNM) for monthly data:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} y_t = \ell_{t-1} \cdot s_{t-12} \cdot (1 + u_t); \\ \ell_t = \ell_{t-1} \cdot (1 + \alpha u_t), \text{ starts at } \ell_0; \\ s_t = s_{t-12} \cdot (1 + \gamma u_t), \text{ starts at } s_0, \dots, s_{-11}; \\ u_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0; \sigma^2) \text{ and are independent} \end{array} \right.$$

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ETS(ANA):

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} y_t = \ell_{t-1} + s_{t-12} + u_t; \\ \ell_t = \ell_{t-1} + \alpha u_t, \text{ starts at } \ell_0; \\ s_t = s_{t-12} + \gamma u_t, \text{ starts at } s_0, \dots, s_{-11}; \end{array} \right.$$

Units

Series y_t, ℓ_t — initial units.

Units

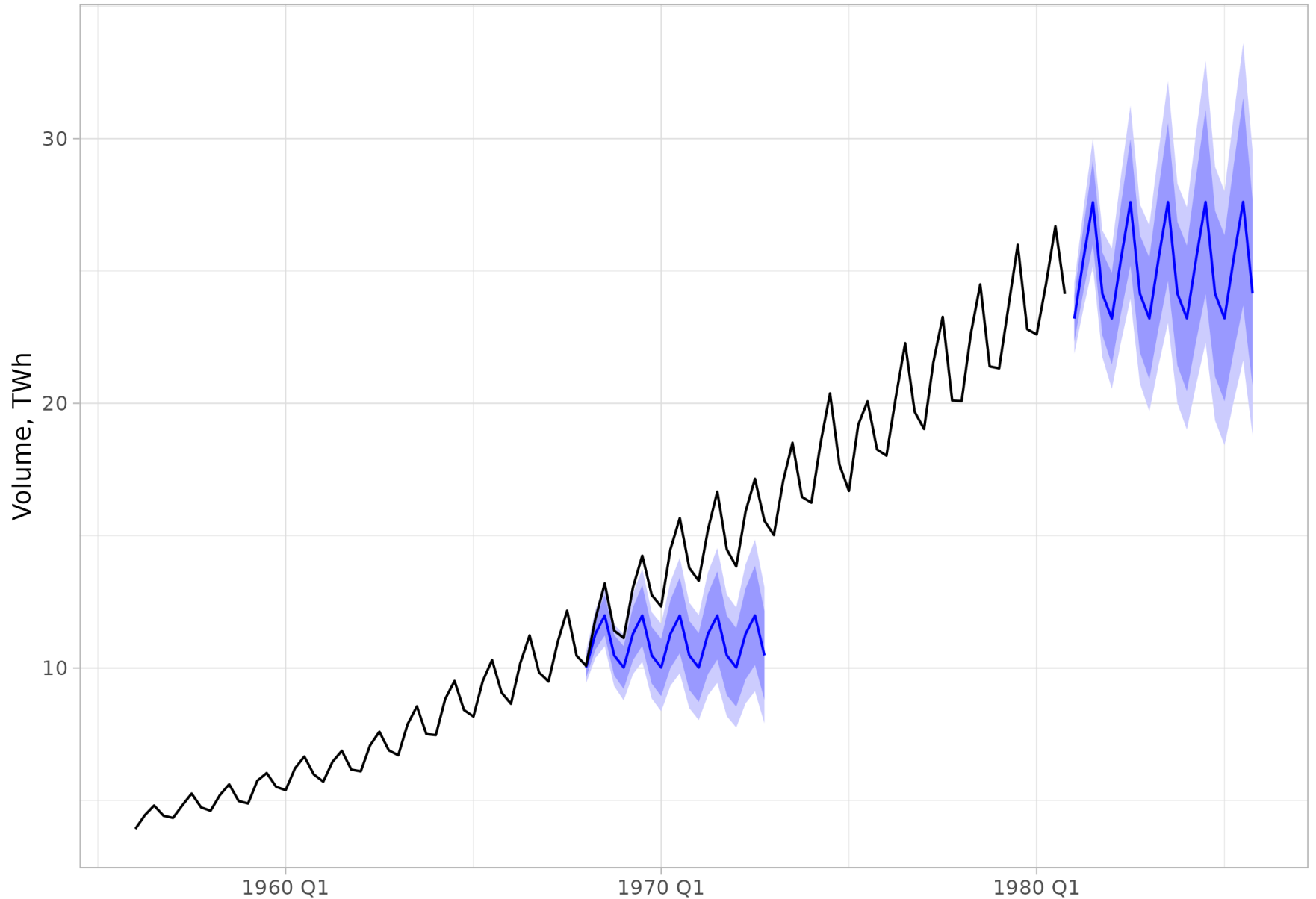
Series y_t, ℓ_t — initial units.

The s_t series is measured relative to one, for example, $s_t = 0.9$ — 10% below the trend.

The u_t series is measured relative to zero, for example, $u_t = -0.1$ — a 10% drop.

ETS(MNM): Forecasting

ETS(MNM): Volume of electricity produced in Australia



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Automatic selection based on the AIC criterion works.

You can get the ETS(AAdA) model with seasonality.

Some of the multiplicative models can be numerically unstable or not implemented in the software.

ETS Model: Summary

- The slope of the trend and seasonality may change

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- Automatic decomposition into components
- Multiplicative models take into account **changing** oscillation amplitudes
- A lot of possible **combinations**

Theta method

Theta method: Plan

- An unexpected leader

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Theta method: Plan

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- Special case of ETS

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Initially suggested **without a statistical model**.

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1. Decompose the series into two **theta lines** ($\theta = 0, \theta = 2$)

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You can pre-delete seasonality and add it back in the end

What is a theta line?

Zero theta line — regression on time:

$$\hat{y}_t = \hat{\beta}_1 + \hat{\beta}_2 t$$

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Theta line for arbitrary theta:

$$\Delta^2 y_t^{new} = \theta \Delta^2 y_t$$

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- Averaging reduces the variance of predictions

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We take $\theta = 2$:

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We solve the optimization problem:

$$\sum_{t=1}^T (y_t - y_t^{new})^2 \rightarrow \min$$

Statistical Model

Formal model appeared in 2003:

$$\begin{cases} y_t = \ell_t + b + u_t; \\ \ell_t = \ell_{t-1} + b + \alpha u_t; \\ \ell_1 = y_1 \end{cases}$$

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Or:

$$\Delta y_t = b + (\alpha - 1)u_{t-1} + u_t$$

Theta method — ETS variant

A special case of a more general model — ETS(AAN):

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} y_t = \ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1} + u_t; \\ \ell_t = \ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1} + \alpha u_t, \text{ starts at } \ell_1; \\ b_t = b_{t-1} + \beta u_t, \text{ starts at } b_0; \\ u_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0; \sigma^2) \text{ and are independent.} \end{array} \right.$$

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Nuances of initialization are possible.

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