MONASH University

MONASH BUSINESS SCHOOL

ETF3231/5231: Business forecasting

Week 3: Time series decomposition

`https://bf.numbat.space/`

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Outline

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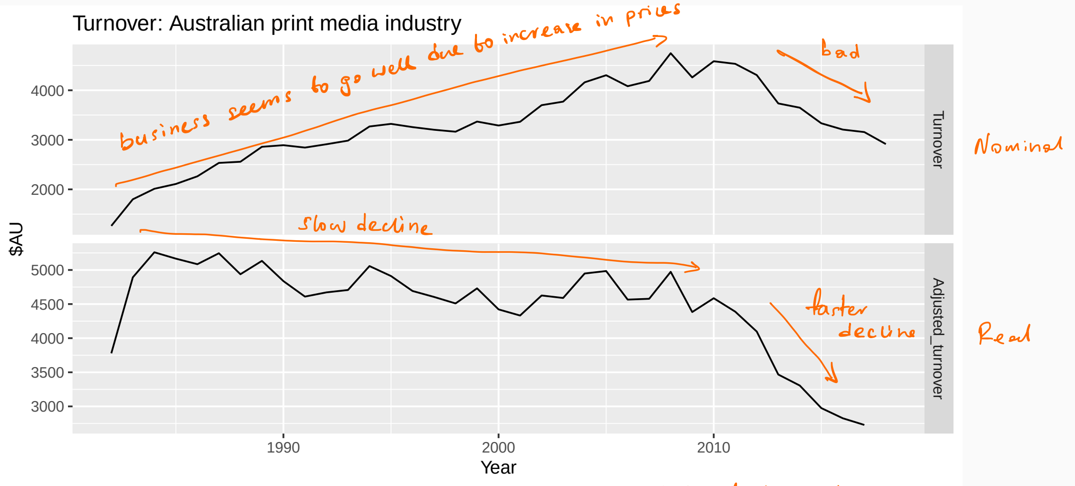
1. Transformations and adjustments
2. Time series components
3. Moving averages
4. Classical decomposition
5. History of time series decomposition
6. STL decomposition

Inflation adjustments



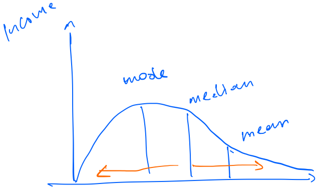
The real story: print media is going down relative to the rest of the economy

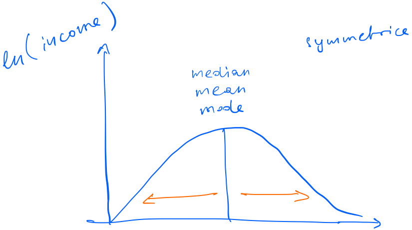
* Must return forecasts to the original scale (NO NEED FOR ASSIGNMENT)

Mathematical transformations

If the data show different variation at different levels of the series, then a transformation can be useful.

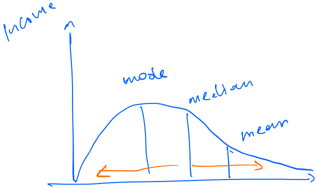
Income distribution

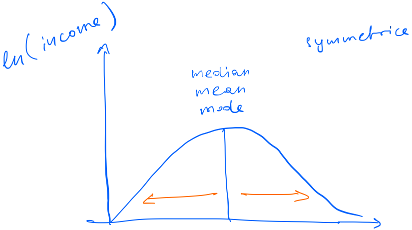




Challenge: back-transforming (returns the median - we need an adjustment to get the mean).

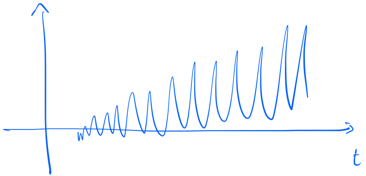
Income distribution





Challenge: back-transforming (returns the median - we need an adjustment to get the mean).

Time series setting



Mathematical transformations

If the data show different variation at different levels of the series, then a transformation can be useful.

Denote original observations as $y_1, \dots, y_T$ and transformed observations as $w_1, \dots, w_T$.

Mathematical transformations for stabilizing variation

Square root	$w_t = \sqrt{y_t}$	$\downarrow$
Cube root	$w_t = \sqrt[3]{y_t}$	Increasing
Logarithm	$w_t = \log(y_t)$	strength

Logarithms, in particular, are useful because they are more interpretable: changes in a log value are relative (percent) changes on the original scale.

y_1
y_2
y_3
$\vdots$
y_{t-1}
y_t
y_{t+1}
$\vdots$
y_{T-1}
y_T

$$\% \Delta y_t = \left(\frac{y_t - y_{t-1}}{y_{t-1}} \right) \times 100$$

$$\simeq \ln \left(y_t / y_{t-1} \right) \times 100$$

$$= \left(\ln (y_t) - \ln (y_{t-1}) \right) \times 100$$

- Taking the differences of the logs is useful in this way.
  i) shows percentage changes

Two effects : 1. stabilises variance
2. percentage changes

Box-Cox transformations

Each of this transformations is close to a member of the family of
Died 2013 "All models are wrong" later extended to "Some are useful".
Box-Cox transformations:

Designed so that transformation is continuous in λ

$$w_t = \begin{cases} \log(y_t), & \lambda = 0; \\ (\text{sign}(y_t)|y_t|^\lambda - 1)/\lambda, & \lambda \neq 0. \end{cases}$$

modification of the original to allow for -ve values of y provided that $\lambda > 0$ by Bickel & Doksum

- Actually the Bickel-Doksum transformation (allowing for $y_t < 0$)
- $\lambda = 1$: (No substantive transformation)
- $\lambda = \frac{1}{2}$: (Square root plus linear transformation)
- $\lambda = 0$: (Natural logarithm)
- $\lambda = -1$: (Inverse plus 1)

+ SWITCH TO fpp 3 (3.1)

Transformations

- Often no transformation needed.
- Simple transformations are easier to explain and work well enough.
- Transformations can have very large effect on PI. – upper limit can be extremely large

- `log1p()` can also be useful for data with zeros. – the trick is to add 1 to each observation, recall log(1) = 0
- Choosing logs is a simple way to force forecasts to be positive ← Extremely useful if projecting down
- Transformations must be reversed to obtain forecasts on the original scale. (Handled automatically by `fable`.) – more on this in the next chapter

+ Guerrero feature – balances seas. fluctuations & random variations (can be unstable)

Transformations

We often use logs.

- Often no transformation needed.
- Simple transformations are easier to explain and work well enough.
- Transformations can have very large effect on PI.

- `log1p()` can also be useful for data with zeros.
- Choosing logs is a simple way to force forecasts to be positive
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Outline

Time series patterns

Recall

Trend pattern exists when there is a long-term increase or decrease in the data.

Cyclic pattern exists when data exhibit rises and falls that are *not of fixed period* (duration usually of at least 2 years).

Seasonal pattern exists when a series is influenced by seasonal factors (e.g., the quarter of the year, the month, or day of the week).

Time series decomposition

$$y_t = f(S_t, T_t, R_t)$$

where $y_t =$ data at period t
$T_t =$ trend-cycle component at period t
$S_t =$ seasonal component at period t
$R_t =$ remainder component at period t

Additive decomposition: $y_t = S_t + T_t + R_t.$

Multiplicative decomposition: $y_t = S_t \times T_t \times R_t.$

Time series decomposition

- Additive model appropriate if magnitude of seasonal fluctuations does not vary with level.
- If seasonal are proportional to level of series, then multiplicative model appropriate.
- Multiplicative decomposition more prevalent with economic series ABS uses this almost exclusively
- Alternative: use a Box-Cox transformation, and then use additive decomposition. * This is what we will do. *
- Logs turn multiplicative relationship into an additive relationship:

$$y_t = S_t \times T_t \times R_t \quad \Rightarrow \quad \log y_t = \log S_t + \log T_t + \log R_t.$$

Question: when do we observe an additive V multiplicative?

US Retail Employment

```
us_retail_employment <- us_employment |>
  filter(year(Month) >= 1990, Title == "Retail Trade") |>
select(-Series_ID)
us_retail_employment
```

```
## # A tsibble: 357 x 3 [1M]
##         Month Title        Employed
##         <mth> <chr>           <dbl>
##   1 1990 Jan Retail Trade    13256.
##   2 1990 Feb Retail Trade    12966.
##   3 1990 Mar Retail Trade    12938.
##   4 1990 Apr Retail Trade    13012.
##   5 1990 May Retail Trade    13108.
##   6 1990 Jun Retail Trade    13183.
##   7 1990 Jul Retail Trade    13170.
##   8 1990 Aug Retail Trade    13160.
##   9 1990 Sep Retail Trade    13113.
##  10 1990 Oct Retail Trade    13185.
```

Switch to R and discuss the series.

Outline

- Idea: smoothing using MAs
- Challenge: we need a centrered MA
- Even numbers cause us trouble

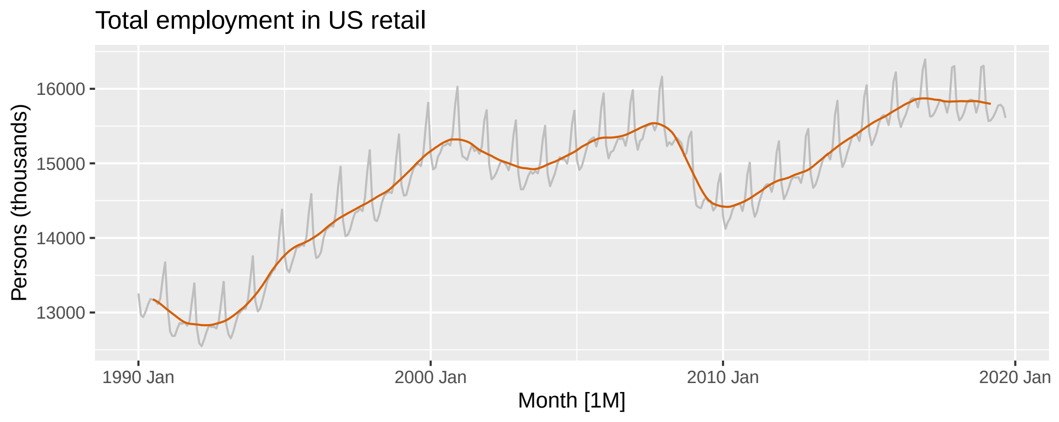
- Quarterly 2×4 MA

$$\hat{T}_t = \frac{1}{8} y_{t-2} + \frac{1}{4} y_{t-1} + \frac{1}{4} y_t + \frac{1}{4} y_{t+1} + \frac{1}{8} y_{t+2}$$

- Monthly 2×12 MA

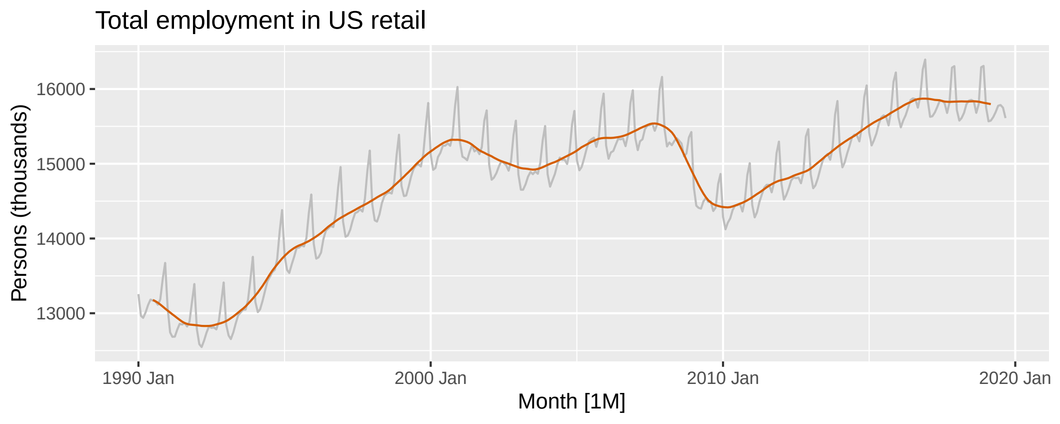
$$\hat{T}_t = \frac{1}{24} y_{t-6} + \cdots + \frac{1}{12} y_t + \cdots + \frac{1}{24} y_{t+6}$$

Moving average trend-cycle



What are the problems here?

Moving average trend-cycle



What are the problems here?

- no end points
- MAs sensitive to outliers

Outline

Around since 1920s

1. Estimate $\hat{T}_t$ using MAs
2. De-trended

   Additive : $y_t - \hat{T}_t = \hat{S}_t + \hat{R}_t$

   Multi : $y_t / \hat{T}_t = \hat{S}_t \times R_t$
3. Estimate S_t by taking averages of successive seasons, e.g., same quarter, and adjust

   $$S^{(1)} + S^{(2)} + \dots + S^{(m)} = 0$$

   $$S^{(1)} + S^{(2)} + \dots + S^{(m)} = m$$
4. Additive: $\hat{R}_t = y_t - \hat{T}_t - \hat{S}_t$

   Multi : $\hat{R}_t = y_t / (\hat{T}_t \hat{S}_t)$

Additive classical decomposition

y_t

$=$

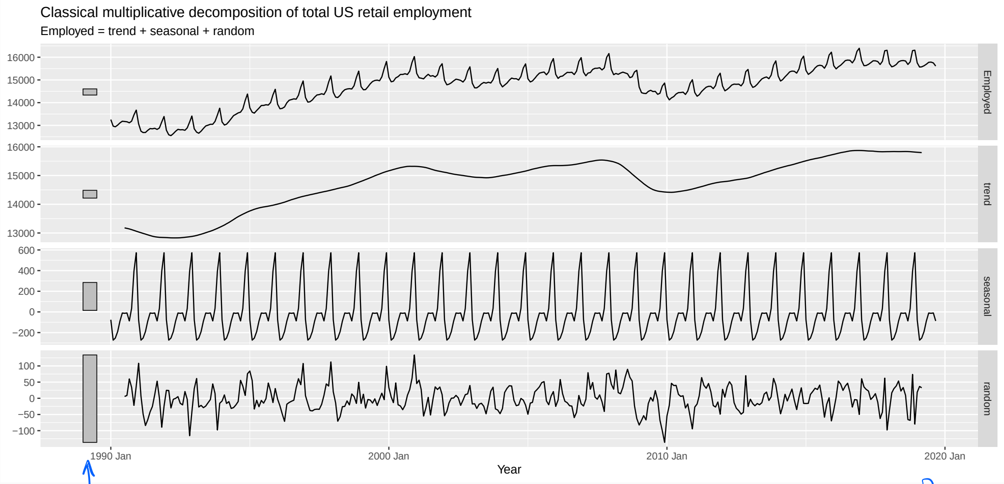
T_t

$+$

S_t

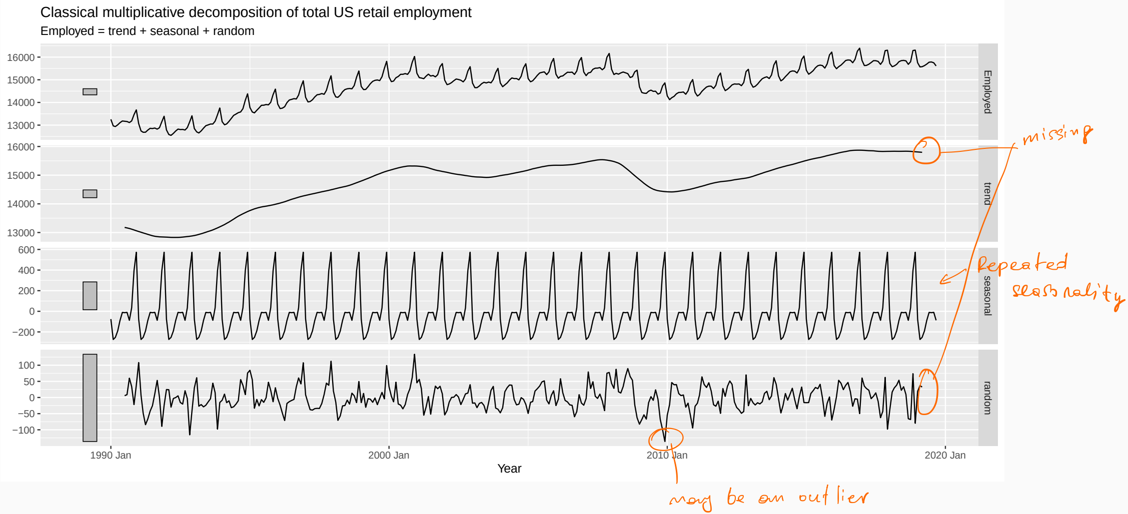
$+$

R_t



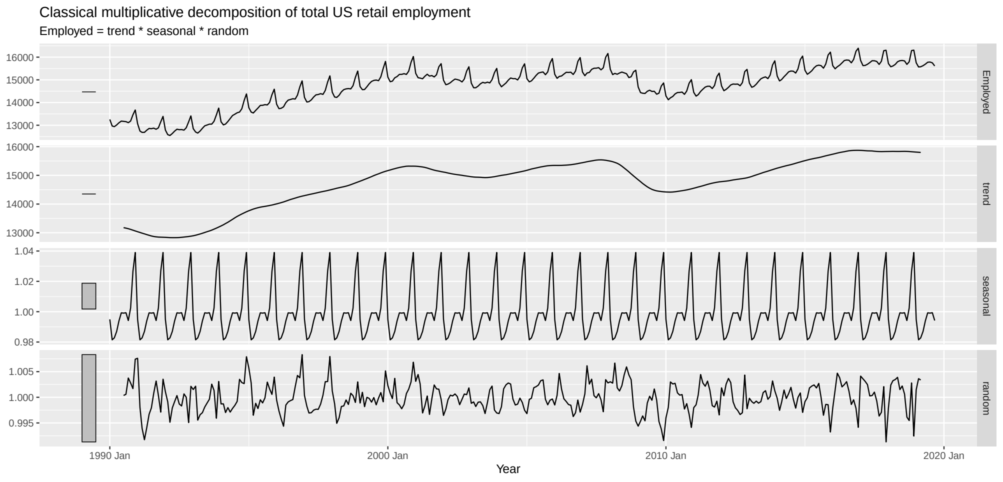
Problems ?

Additive classical decomposition



Multiplicative classical decomposition

y_t
$=$
T_t
$\times$
S_t
$\times$
R_t



how much the trend is inflated by as a ratio.

Comments on classical decomposition

- Estimate of trend is unavailable for first few and last few observations.
- Seasonal component repeats from year to year. May not be realistic.
- Not robust to outliers.
- Newer methods designed to overcome these problems.

Outline

History of time series decomposition

- Classical method originated in 1920s.

around for a while

- Census II method introduced in 1957. Basis for X-11 method and variants (including X-12-ARIMA, X-13-ARIMA)

last 10 years — last 5 years

→ forecast forward & backwards

- STL method introduced in 1983 → Not used by any statistical agency. Developed at Bell Labs (NJ). Not as developed as others.
- TRAMO/SEATS introduced in 1990s.

National Statistics Offices

- ABS uses X-12-ARIMA
- US Census Bureau uses X-13ARIMA-SEATS
- Statistics Canada uses X-12-ARIMA
- ONS (UK) uses X-12-ARIMA
- EuroStat use X-13ARIMA-SEATS

Outline

STL decomposition

Local regression

- STL: "Seasonal and Trend decomposition using Loess"
- Very versatile and robust.
- Unlike X-12-ARIMA, STL will handle any type of seasonality.

have used it for weekly data in forecasting comps

A bit of subjectivity

- Seasonal component allowed to change over time, and rate of change controlled by user.
- Smoothness of trend-cycle also controlled by user.
- Robust to outliers

Disadvantages limitations

- No trading day or calendar adjustments.
- Only additive.
- Take logs to get multiplicative decomposition.
- Use Box-Cox transformations to get other decompositions.

STL decomposition

* Talk about the syntax here : tsibble |> model (MODEL (variable)) -> fit

```
us_retail_employment |>
  model(STL(Employed)) |>
  components()
```

how many consecutive obs. to be used to estimate trend

- `trend(window = ?)` controls wiggliness of trend component.

how many consecutive years to estimate seas. comp.

- `season(window = ?)` controls variation on seasonal component.
- `season(window = 'periodic')` is equivalent to an infinite window.

Default setting (often these work very well - no need to change them)

- Season `window = 13`
- Trend `window = nextodd(`
  `ceiling((1.5*period)/(1-(1.5/s.window)))`
- Robust `robust=`FALSE