



**Rob J Hyndman**

# State space models

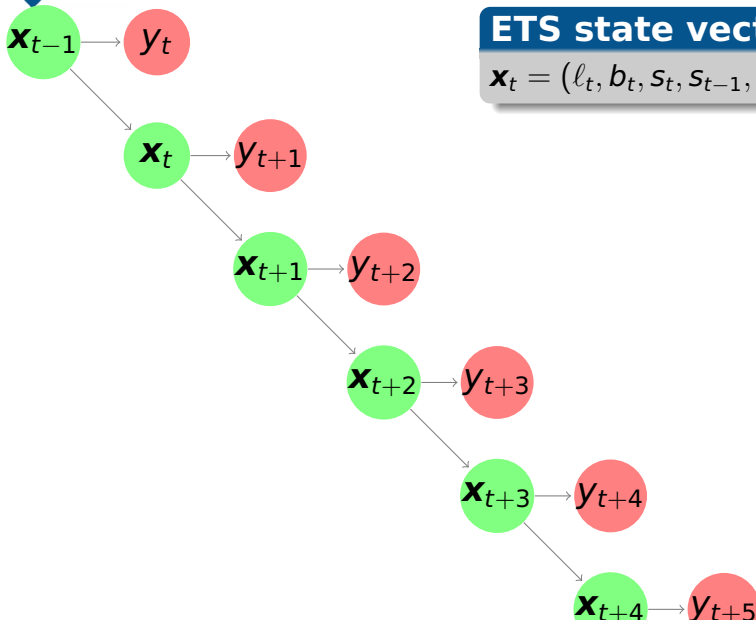
**2: Structural models**

# Outline

- 1 Simple structural models**
- 2 Linear Gaussian state space models**
- 3 Kalman filter**
- 4 Kalman smoothing**
- 5 Time varying parameter models**

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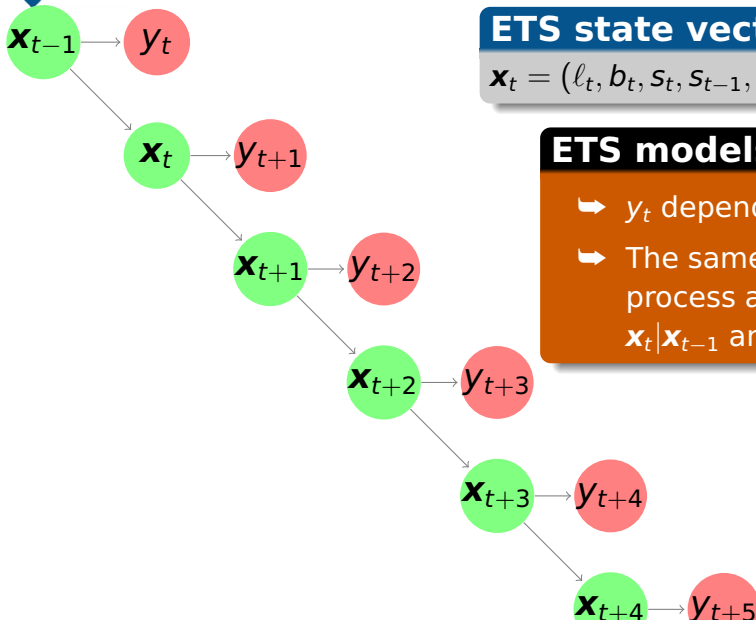
# State space models



## ETS state vector

$$\mathbf{x}_t = (\ell_t, b_t, s_t, s_{t-1}, \dots, s_{t-m+1})$$

# State space models



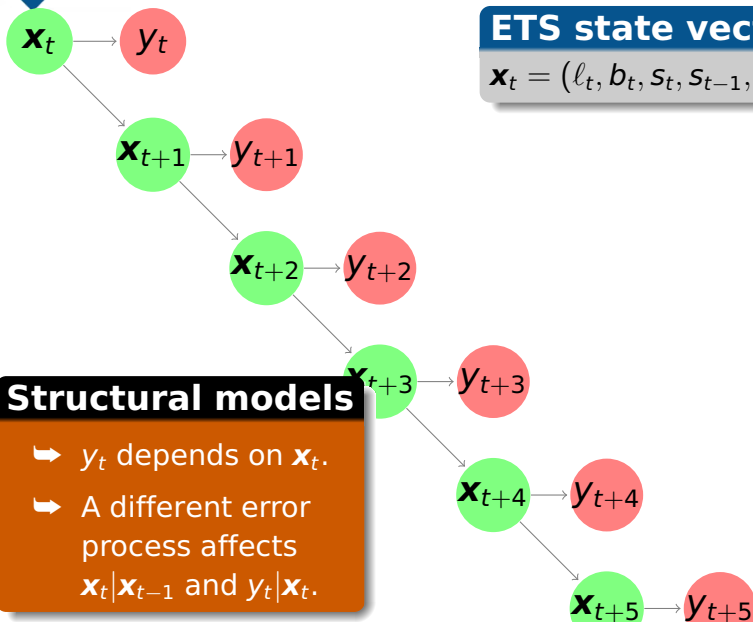
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## ETS models

- ➔  $y_t$  depends on  $\mathbf{x}_{t-1}$ .
- ➔ The same error process affects  $\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{x}_{t-1}$  and  $y_t | \mathbf{x}_{t-1}$ .

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## ETS state vector

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## Structural models

- ↳  $y_t$  depends on  $\mathbf{x}_t$ .
- ↳ A different error process affects  $\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{x}_{t-1}$  and  $y_t | \mathbf{x}_t$ .

# Local level model

## Stochastically varying level (random walk) observed with noise

$$y_t = l_t + \varepsilon_t$$

$$l_t = l_{t-1} + \xi_t$$

- $\varepsilon_t$  and  $\xi_t$  are independent Gaussian white noise processes.
- Compare ETS(A,N,N) where  $\xi_t = \alpha\varepsilon_{t-1}$ .
- Parameters to estimate:  $\sigma_\varepsilon^2$  and  $\sigma_\xi^2$ .
- If  $\sigma_\xi^2 = 0$ ,  $y_t \sim \text{NID}(l_0, \sigma_\varepsilon^2)$ .

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- $\varepsilon_t$ ,  $\xi_t$  and  $\zeta_t$  are independent Gaussian white noise processes.
- Compare ETS(A,A,N) where  $\xi_t = (\alpha + \beta)\varepsilon_{t-1}$  and  $\zeta_t = \beta\varepsilon_{t-1}$
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- If  $\sigma_\zeta^2 = \sigma_\xi^2 = 0$ ,  $y_t = l_0 + tb_0 + \varepsilon_t$ .
- Model is a time-varying linear regression.

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# Basic structural model

$$y_t = l_t + s_{1,t} + \varepsilon_t$$

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$$s_{1,t} = - \sum_{j=1}^{m-1} s_{j,t-1} + \eta_t$$

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$$y_t = l_t + \sum_{j=1}^J s_{j,t} + \varepsilon_t$$

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$$s_{j,t} = \cos \lambda_j s_{j,t-1} + \sin \lambda_j s_{j,t-1}^* + \omega_{j,t}$$

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- $\lambda_j = 2\pi j/m$
- $\varepsilon_t, \xi_t, \zeta_t, \omega_{j,t}, \omega_{j,t}^*$  are independent Gaussian white noise processes
- $\omega_{j,t}$  and  $\omega_{j,t}^*$  have same variance  $\sigma_{\omega_j}^2$
- Equivalent to BSM when  $\sigma_{\omega_j}^2 = \sigma_{\omega}^2$  and  $J = m/2$
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# ETS vs Structural models

- ETS models are much more general as they allow non-linear (multiplicative components).
- ETS allows automatic forecasting due to its larger model space.
- Additive ETS models are almost equivalent to the corresponding structural models.
- ETS models have a larger parameter space. Structural models parameters are always non-negative (variances).
- Structural models are much easier to generalize (e.g., add covariates).
- It is easier to handle missing values with structural models.

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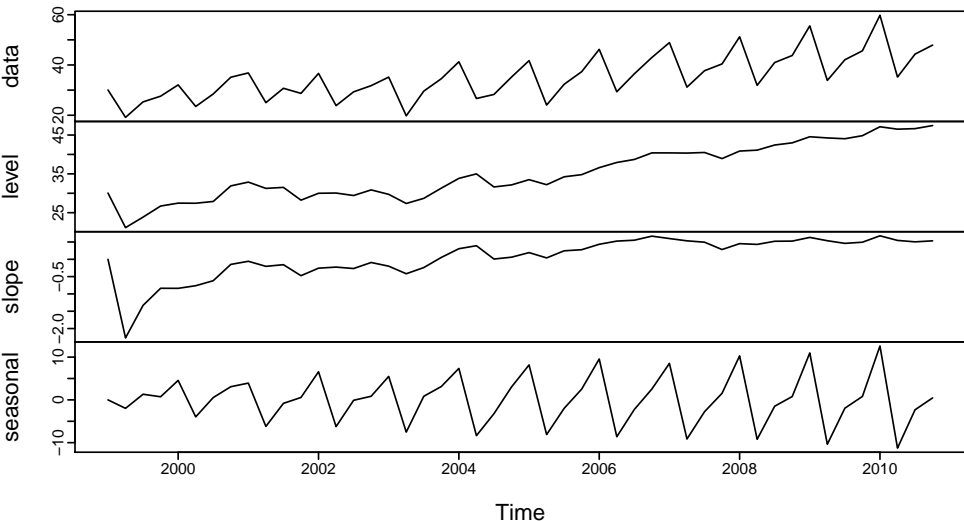
# Structural models in R

```
StructTS(oil, type="level")  
StructTS(ausair, type="trend")  
StructTS(austourists, type="BSM")
```

```
fit <- StructTS(austourists, type = "BSM")  
decomp <- cbind(austourists, fitted(fit))  
colnames(decomp) <- c("data", "level", "slope",  
  "seasonal")  
plot(decomp, main="Decomposition of  
  International visitor nights")
```

# Structural models in R

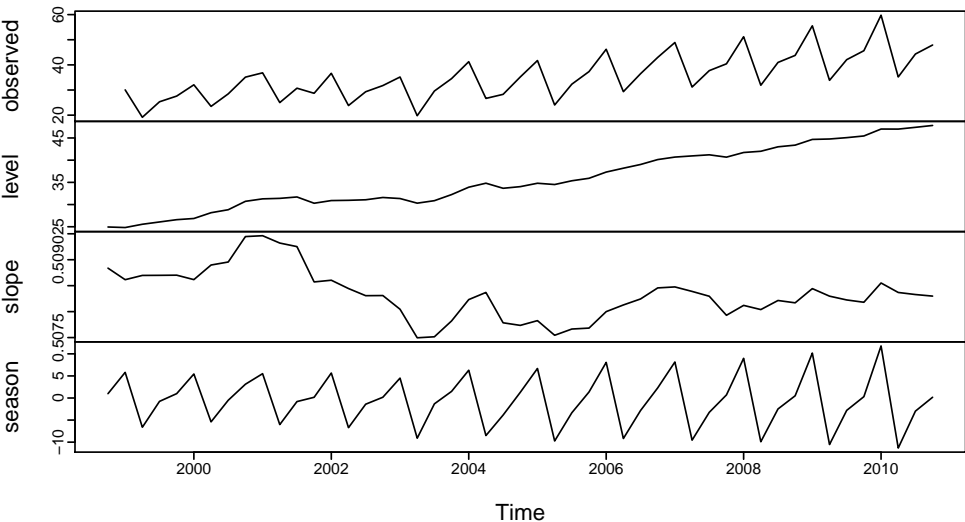
## Decomposition of International visitor nights





# ETS decomposition

Decomposition by ETS(A,A,A) method



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# Linear Gaussian SS models

Observation equation

$$y_t = \mathbf{f}'\mathbf{x}_t + \varepsilon_t$$

State equation

$$\mathbf{x}_t = \mathbf{G}\mathbf{x}_{t-1} + \mathbf{w}_t$$

- State vector  $\mathbf{x}_t$  of length  $p$
- $\mathbf{G}$  a  $p \times p$  matrix,  $\mathbf{f}$  a vector of length  $p$
- $\varepsilon_t \sim \text{NID}(0, \sigma^2)$ ,  $\mathbf{w}_t \sim \text{NID}(0, \mathbf{W})$

Local level model:

$$\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{G} = 1, \quad \mathbf{x}_t = l_t.$$

Local linear trend model:

$$\mathbf{f}' = [1 \ 0],$$

$$\mathbf{x}_t = \begin{bmatrix} l_t \\ b_t \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{G} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{W} = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_\xi^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_\zeta^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$\mathbf{G} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{W} = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_\xi^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_\zeta^2 \end{bmatrix}$$



# Linear Gaussian SS models

Observation equation

$$y_t = \mathbf{f}'\mathbf{x}_t + \varepsilon_t$$

State equation

$$\mathbf{x}_t = \mathbf{G}\mathbf{x}_{t-1} + \mathbf{w}_t$$

- State vector  $\mathbf{x}_t$  of length  $p$
- $\mathbf{G}$  a  $p \times p$  matrix,  $\mathbf{f}$  a vector of length  $p$
- $\varepsilon_t \sim \text{NID}(0, \sigma^2)$ ,  $\mathbf{w}_t \sim \text{NID}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{W})$ .

## Local level model:

$$\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{G} = 1, \quad \mathbf{x}_t = \ell_t.$$

## Local linear trend model:

$$\mathbf{f}' = [1 \ 0],$$

$$\mathbf{x}_t = \begin{bmatrix} \ell_t \\ b_t \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{G} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{W} = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_\xi^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_\zeta^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Basic structural model

## Linear Gaussian state space model

$$y_t = \mathbf{f}'\mathbf{x}_t + \varepsilon_t, \quad \varepsilon_t \sim \text{N}(0, \sigma^2)$$

$$\mathbf{x}_t = \mathbf{G}\mathbf{x}_{t-1} + \mathbf{w}_t \quad \mathbf{w}_t \sim \text{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{W})$$

$$\mathbf{f}' = [1 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0], \quad \mathbf{W} = \text{diagonal}(\sigma_\xi^2, \sigma_\zeta^2, \sigma_\eta^2, 0, \dots, 0)$$

$$\mathbf{x}_t = \begin{bmatrix} l_t \\ b_t \\ s_{1,t} \\ s_{2,t} \\ s_{3,t} \\ \vdots \\ s_{m-1,t} \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{G} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 & \dots & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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# Outline

- 1 Simple structural models
- 2 Linear Gaussian state space models
- 3 Kalman filter**
- 4 Kalman smoothing
- 5 Time varying parameter models

# Kalman filter

## Notation:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t} = E[\mathbf{x}_t | y_1, \dots, y_t]$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t-1} = E[\mathbf{x}_t | y_1, \dots, y_{t-1}]$$

$$\hat{y}_{t|t-1} = E[y_t | y_1, \dots, y_{t-1}]$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{P}}_{t|t} = V[\mathbf{x}_t | y_1, \dots, y_t]$$

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## Forecasting:

$$\hat{y}_{t|t-1} = \mathbf{f}' \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t-1}$$

$$\hat{V}_{t|t-1} = \mathbf{f}' \hat{\mathbf{P}}_{t|t-1} \mathbf{f} + \sigma^2$$

## Updating or State Filtering:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t} = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t-1} + \hat{\mathbf{P}}_{t|t-1} \mathbf{f} \hat{V}_{t|t-1}^{-1} (y_t - \hat{y}_{t|t-1})$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{P}}_{t|t} = \hat{\mathbf{P}}_{t|t-1} - \hat{\mathbf{P}}_{t|t-1} \mathbf{f} \hat{V}_{t|t-1}^{-1} \mathbf{f}' \hat{\mathbf{P}}_{t|t-1}$$

## State Prediction

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1|t} = \mathbf{G} \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{P}}_{t+1|t} = \mathbf{G} \hat{\mathbf{P}}_{t|t} \mathbf{G}' + \mathbf{W}$$

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Iterate for  $t = 1, \dots, T$

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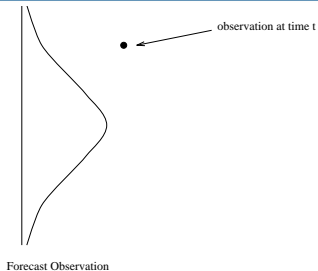
Just conditional expectations. So this gives minimum MSE estimates.

# Kalman recursions

KALMAN  
RECURSIONS

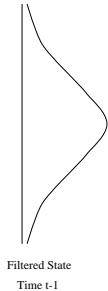
$y$

2. Forecasting

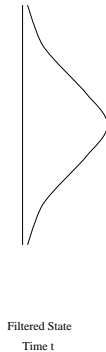
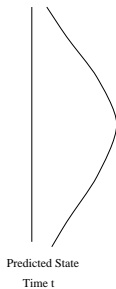


$x$

1. State Prediction



3. State Filtering



# Initializing Kalman filter

- Need  $\mathbf{x}_{1|0}$  and  $\mathbf{P}_{1|0}$  to get started.
- Common approach for structural models: set  $\mathbf{x}_{1|0} = 0$  and  $\mathbf{P}_{1|0} = k\mathbf{I}$  for a very large  $k$ .
- Lots of research papers on optimal initialization choices for Kalman recursions.
- ETS approach was to estimate  $\mathbf{x}_{1|0}$  and avoid  $\mathbf{P}_{1|0}$  by assuming error processes identical.
- A random  $\mathbf{x}_{1|0}$  could be used with ETS models, and then a form of Kalman filter would be required for estimation and forecasting.
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# Local level model

$$y_t = l_t + \varepsilon_t$$

$$\varepsilon_t \sim \text{NID}(0, \sigma^2)$$

$$l_t = l_{t-1} + u_t$$

$$u_t \sim \text{NID}(0, q^2)$$

## Kalman recursions:

$$\hat{y}_{t|t-1} = \hat{l}_{t-1|t-1}$$

$$\hat{v}_{t|t-1} = \hat{p}_{t|t-1} + \sigma^2$$

$$\hat{l}_{t|t} = \hat{l}_{t-1|t-1} + \hat{p}_{t|t-1} \hat{v}_{t|t-1}^{-1} (y_t - \hat{y}_{t|t-1})$$

$$\hat{p}_{t+1|t} = \hat{p}_{t|t-1} (1 - \hat{v}_{t|t-1}^{-1} \hat{p}_{t|t-1}) + q^2$$

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# Handling missing values

## Forecasting:

$$\hat{y}_{t|t-1} = \mathbf{f}'\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t-1}$$

$$\hat{v}_{t|t-1} = \mathbf{f}'\hat{\mathbf{P}}_{t|t-1}\mathbf{f} + \sigma^2$$

Iterate for  $t = 1, \dots, T$   
starting with  
 $\mathbf{x}_{1|0}$  and  $\mathbf{P}_{1|0}$ .

## Updating or State Filtering:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t} = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t-1} + \hat{\mathbf{P}}_{t|t-1}\mathbf{f}\hat{v}_{t|t-1}^{-1}(y_t - \hat{y}_{t|t-1})$$

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Ignored greyed out  
section if  $y_t$  missing.

# Handling missing values

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$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t} = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t-1} + \frac{\hat{\mathbf{P}}_{t|t-1}\mathbf{f}\hat{v}_{t|t-1}^{-1}}{\hat{\mathbf{P}}_{t|t-1}\mathbf{f}\hat{v}_{t|t-1}^{-1}\mathbf{f}'\hat{\mathbf{P}}_{t|t-1}}(y_t - \hat{y}_{t|t-1})$$

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## State Prediction

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t-1} = \mathbf{G}\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t-1|t-1}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{P}}_{t|t-1} = \mathbf{G}\hat{\mathbf{P}}_{t-1|t-1}\mathbf{G}' + \mathbf{W}$$

Ignored greyed out section if  $y_t$  missing.

# Multi-step forecasting

## Forecasting:

$$\hat{y}_{t|t-1} = \mathbf{f}'\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t-1}$$

$$\hat{v}_{t|t-1} = \mathbf{f}'\hat{\mathbf{P}}_{t|t-1}\mathbf{f} + \sigma^2$$

Iterate for

$t = T + 1, \dots, T + h$

starting with

$\mathbf{x}_{T|T}$  and  $\mathbf{P}_{T|T}$ .

## Updating or State Filtering:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t} = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t-1} + \frac{\hat{\mathbf{P}}_{t|t-1}\mathbf{f}\hat{v}_{t|t-1}^{-1}}{\hat{\mathbf{P}}_{t|t-1}\mathbf{f}\hat{v}_{t|t-1}^{-1}\mathbf{f}'\hat{\mathbf{P}}_{t|t-1} + \sigma^2}(y_t - \hat{y}_{t|t-1})$$

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Iterate for  
 $t = T + 1, \dots, T + h$   
starting with  
 $\mathbf{x}_{T|T}$  and  $\mathbf{P}_{T|T}$ .

Treat future values as  
missing.

## What's so special about the Kalman filter

- Very general equations for any model in state space format.
- Any model in state space format can easily be generalized.
- Optimal MSE forecasts
- Easy to handle missing values.
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# Likelihood calculation

$\theta$  = all unknown parameters

$f_{\theta}(y_t|y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{t-1})$  = one-step forecast density.

## Likelihood

$$L(y_1, \dots, y_T; \theta) = \prod_{t=1}^T f_{\theta}(y_t|y_1, \dots, y_{t-1})$$

## Gaussian log likelihood

$$\log L = -\frac{T}{2} \log(2\pi) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^T \log \hat{v}_{t|t-1} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^T e_t^2 / \hat{v}_{t|t-1}$$

where  $e_t = y_t - \hat{y}_{t|t-1}$ .

All terms obtained from Kalman filter equations.

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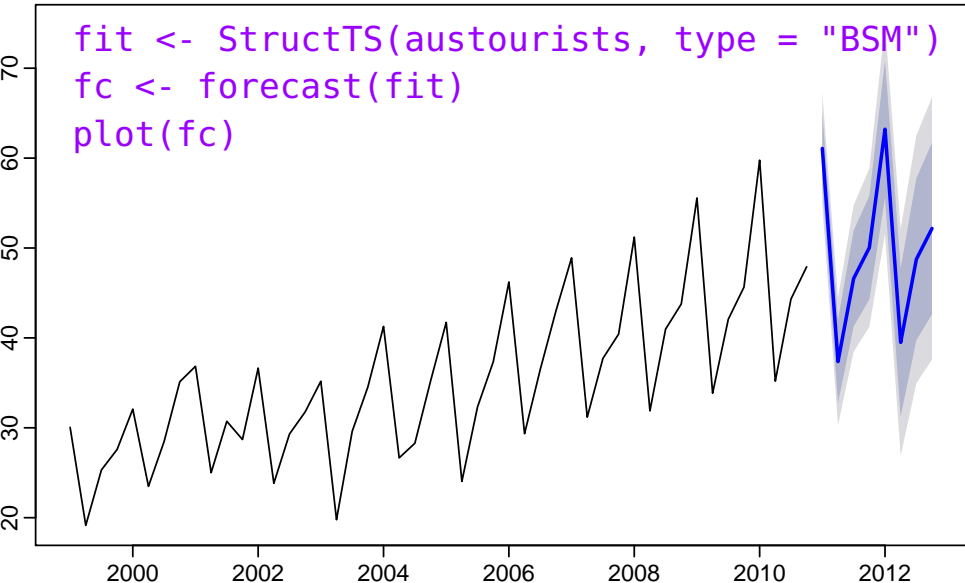
where  $e_t = y_t - \hat{y}_{t|t-1}$ .

All terms obtained from Kalman filter equations.

# Structural models in R

## Forecasts from Basic structural model

```
fit <- StructTS(austourists, type = "BSM")  
fc <- forecast(fit)  
plot(fc)
```



# Outline

- 1 Simple structural models
- 2 Linear Gaussian state space models
- 3 Kalman filter
- 4 Kalman smoothing**
- 5 Time varying parameter models

# Kalman smoothing

Want estimate of  $\mathbf{x}_t|y_1, \dots, y_T$  where  $t < T$ . That is,  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|T}$ .

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|T} = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t} + \mathbf{A}_t (\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1|T} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1|t})$$

$$\hat{P}_{t|T} = \hat{P}_{t|t} + \mathbf{A}_t (\hat{P}_{t+1|T} - \hat{P}_{t+1|t}) \mathbf{A}'_t$$

where  $\mathbf{A}_t = \hat{P}_{t|t} \mathbf{G}' (\hat{P}_{t+1|t})^{-1}$ .

- Uses all data, not just previous data.
- Useful for estimating missing values:  
 $\hat{y}_{t|T} = \mathbf{f}' \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|T}$ .
- Useful for seasonal adjustment when one of the states is a seasonal component.

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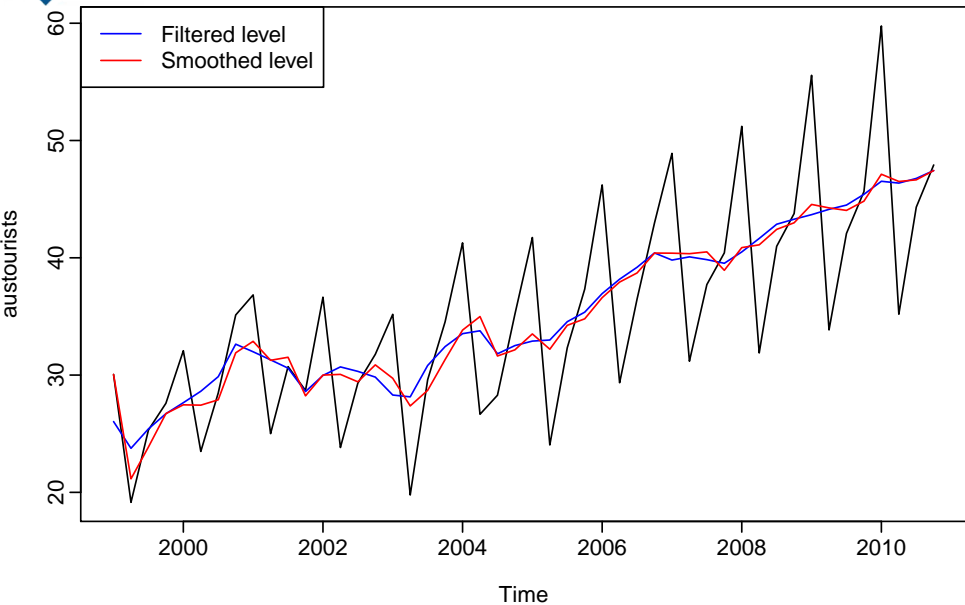
- Useful for seasonal adjustment when one of the states is a seasonal component.

# Kalman smoothing in R

```
fit <- StructTS(austourists, type = "BSM")
sm <- tsSmooth(fit)

plot(austourists)
lines(sm[,1],col='blue')
lines(fitted(fit)[,1],col='red')
legend("topleft",col=c('blue','red'),lty=1,
      legend=c("Filtered level","Smoothed level"))
```

# Kalman smoothing in R





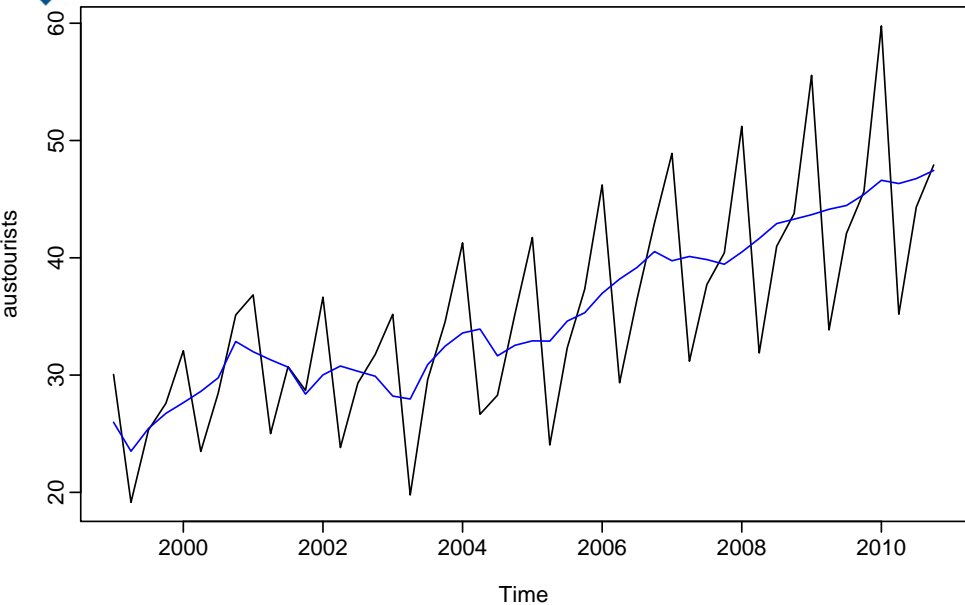
# Kalman smoothing in R

```
fit <- StructTS(austourists, type = "BSM")
sm <- tsSmooth(fit)

plot(austourists)

# Seasonally adjusted data
aus.sa <- austourists - sm[,3]
lines(aus.sa,col='blue')
```

# Kalman smoothing in R

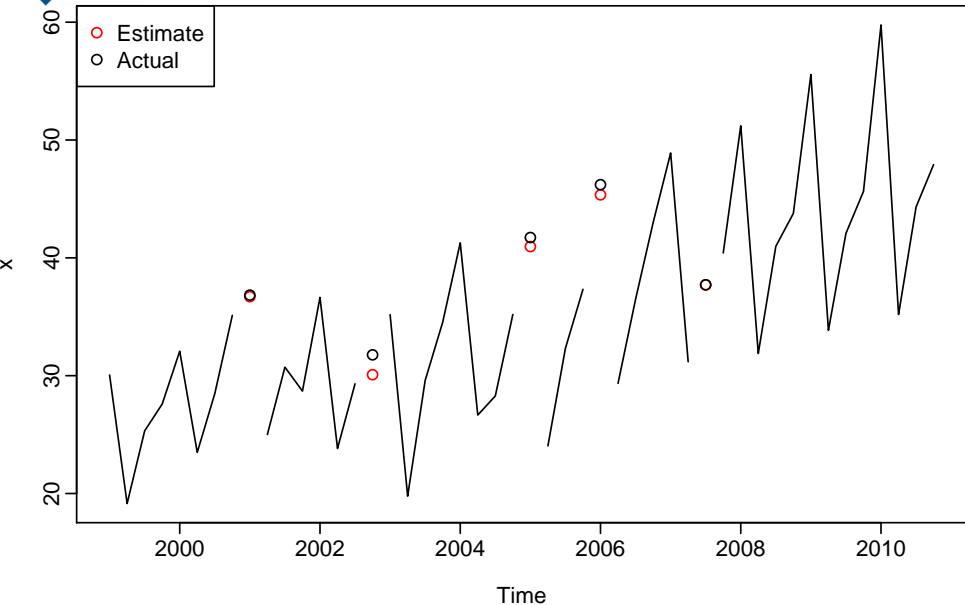


# Kalman smoothing in R

```
x <- austourists
miss <- sample(1:length(x), 5)
x[miss] <- NA
fit <- StructTS(x, type = "BSM")
sm <- tsSmooth(fit)
estim <- sm[,1]+sm[,3]

plot(x, ylim=range(austourists))
points(time(x)[miss], estim[miss],
       col='red', pch=1)
points(time(x)[miss], austourists[miss],
       col='black', pch=1)
legend("topleft", pch=1, col=c(2,1),
       legend=c("Estimate", "Actual"))
```

# Kalman smoothing in R



# Outline

- 1 Simple structural models
- 2 Linear Gaussian state space models
- 3 Kalman filter
- 4 Kalman smoothing
- 5 Time varying parameter models**

# Time varying parameter models

## Linear Gaussian state space model

$$y_t = \mathbf{f}'_t \mathbf{x}_t + \varepsilon_t, \quad \varepsilon_t \sim N(0, \sigma_t^2)$$

$$\mathbf{x}_t = \mathbf{G}_t \mathbf{x}_{t-1} + \mathbf{w}_t \quad \mathbf{w}_t \sim N(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{W}_t)$$

## Kalman recursions:

$$\hat{y}_{t|t-1} = \mathbf{f}'_t \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t-1}$$

$$\hat{v}_{t|t-1} = \mathbf{f}'_t \hat{\mathbf{P}}_{t|t-1} \mathbf{f}_t + \sigma_t^2$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t} = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t-1} + \hat{\mathbf{P}}_{t|t-1} \mathbf{f}_t \hat{v}_{t|t-1}^{-1} (y_t - \hat{y}_{t|t-1})$$

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$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t-1} = \mathbf{G}_t \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t-1|t-1}$$

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# Time varying parameter models

## Linear Gaussian state space model

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$$\hat{y}_{t|t-1} = \mathbf{f}'_t \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t-1}$$

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$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t-1} = \mathbf{G}_t \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t-1|t-1}$$

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# Structural models with covariates

## Local level with covariate

$$y_t = l_t + \beta z_t + \varepsilon_t$$

$$l_t = l_{t-1} + \xi_t$$

$$\mathbf{f}'_t = [1 \ z_t] \quad \mathbf{x}_t = \begin{bmatrix} l_t \\ \beta \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{G} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{W}_t = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_\xi^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Assumes  $z_t$  is fixed and known (as in regression)

Estimate of  $\beta$  given by

Equivalent to simple linear regression with covariate

See slide 10



# Structural models with covariates

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- Equivalent to simple linear regression with time varying intercept.

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# Time varying regression

## Simple linear regression with time varying parameters

$$y_t = l_t + \beta_t z_t + \varepsilon_t$$

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- Allows for a linear regression with parameters that change slowly over time.

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- Allows for a linear regression with parameters that change slowly over time.
- Parameters follow independent random walks.
- Estimates of parameters given by  $\hat{x}_{t|T}$  or  $\hat{x}_{t|t}$ .

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# Updating (“online”) regression

- Same idea can be used to estimate a regression iteratively as new data arrives.

## Simple linear regression with updating parameters

$$y_t = l_t + \beta_t z_t + \varepsilon_t$$

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Updated parameter estimates given by  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t}$ .

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- Updated parameter estimates given by  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t}$ .
- Recursive residuals given by  $y_t - \hat{y}_{t|t-1}$ .

# Updating (“online”) regression

- Same idea can be used to estimate a regression iteratively as new data arrives.

## Simple linear regression with updating parameters

$$y_t = l_t + \beta_t z_t + \varepsilon_t$$

$$l_t = l_{t-1} + \xi_t$$

$$\beta_t = \beta_{t-1} + \zeta_t$$

$$\mathbf{f}'_t = [1 \ z_t] \quad \mathbf{x}_t = \begin{bmatrix} l_t \\ \beta_t \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{G} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{W}_t = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Updated parameter estimates given by  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t|t}$ .
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