MONASH University

MONASH BUSINESS SCHOOL

Forecasting: principles and practice

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1.4 Exponential smoothing

Outline

Simple methods

Time series $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_T$.

Random walk forecasts

$$\hat{y}_{T+h|T} = y_T$$

Average forecasts

$$\hat{y}_{T+h|T} = \frac{1}{T}\sum_{t=1}^{T} y_t$$

- Want something in between that weights most recent data more highly.
- Simple exponential smoothing uses a weighted moving average with weights that decrease exponentially.

Simple methods

Time series $y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_T$.

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- Simple exponential smoothing uses a weighted moving average with weights that decrease exponentially.

Simple Exponential Smoothing

Forecast equation

$$\hat{y}_{T+1|T} = \alpha y_T + \alpha(1-\alpha)y_{T-1} + \alpha(1-\alpha)^2 y_{T-2} + \cdots$$

where $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$.

	Weights assigned to observations for:			
Observation	$\alpha = 0.2$	$\alpha = 0.4$	$\alpha = 0.6$	$\alpha = 0.8$
y_T	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.8
y_{T-1}	0.16	0.24	0.24	0.16
y_{T-2}	0.128	0.144	0.096	0.032
y_{T-3}	0.1024	0.0864	0.0384	0.0064
y_{T-4}	$(0.2)(0.8)^4$	$(0.4)(0.6)^4$	$(0.6)(0.4)^4$	$(0.8)(0.2)^4$
y_{T-5}	$(0.2)(0.8)^5$	$(0.4)(0.6)^5$	$(0.6)(0.4)^5$	$(0.8)(0.2)^5$

Simple Exponential Smoothing

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y_{T-5}	$(0.2)(0.8)^5$	$(0.4)(0.6)^5$	$(0.6)(0.4)^5$	$(0.8)(0.2)^5$

Simple Exponential Smoothing

Component form

Forecast equation	$\hat{y}_{t+h\|t} = \ell_t$
Smoothing equation	$\ell_t = \alpha y_t + (1-\alpha)\ell_{t-1}$

- ℓ_t is the level (or the smoothed value) of the series at time t.
- $\hat{y}_{t+1|t} = \alpha y_t + (1-\alpha)\hat{y}_{t|t-1}$
  Iterate to get exponentially weighted moving average form.

Weighted average form

$$\hat{y}_{T+1|T} = \sum_{j=0}^{T-1} \alpha(1-\alpha)^j y_{T-j} + (1-\alpha)^T \ell_0$$

Optimisation

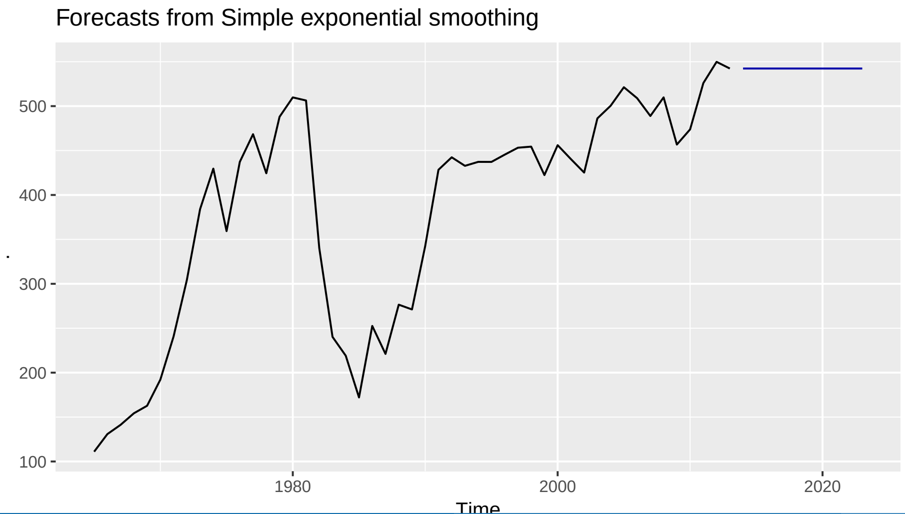
- Need to choose value for α and ℓ_0
- Similarly to regression — we choose α and ℓ_0 by minimising SSE:

$$\text{SSE} = \sum_{t=1}^{T} (y_t - \hat{y}_{t|t-1})^2.$$

- Unlike regression there is no closed form solution — use numerical optimization.

Example: Oil production

```
oil %>% ses(PI=FALSE) %>% autoplot
```



Outline

Holt's linear trend

Component form

Forecast	$\hat{y}_{t+h\|t} = \ell_t + hb_t$
Level	$\ell_t = \alpha y_t + (1 - \alpha)(\ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1})$
Trend	$b_t = \beta^*(\ell_t - \ell_{t-1}) + (1 - \beta^*)b_{t-1},$

- Two smoothing parameters α and β^* $(0 \leq \alpha, \beta^* \leq 1)$.
- ℓ_t level: weighted average between y_t one-step ahead forecast for time t, $(\ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1} = \hat{y}_{t|t-1})$
- b_t slope: weighted average of $(\ell_t - \ell_{t-1})$ and b_{t-1}, current and previous estimate of slope.
- Choose $\alpha, \beta^*, \ell_0, b_0$ to minimise SSE.

Holt's linear trend

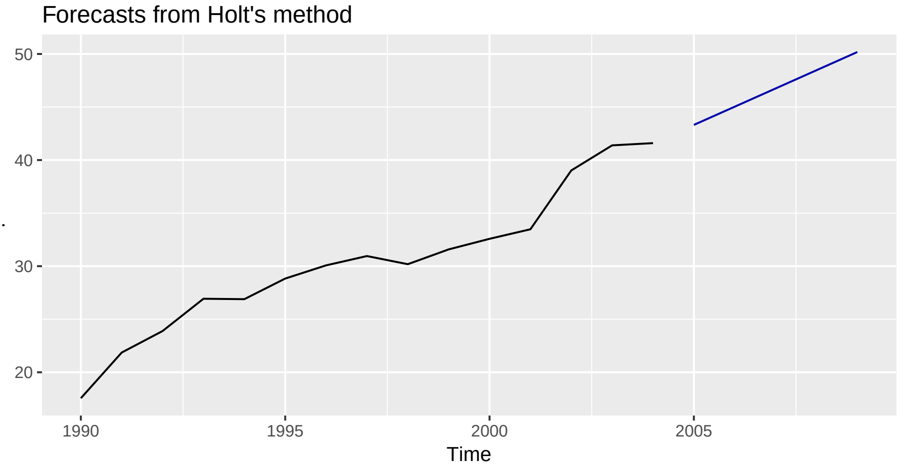
Component form

$$
\begin{aligned}
\text{Forecast} \quad & \hat{y}_{t+h|t} = \ell_t + hb_t \\
\text{Level} \quad & \ell_t = \alpha y_t + (1-\alpha)(\ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1}) \\
\text{Trend} \quad & b_t = \beta^*(\ell_t - \ell_{t-1}) + (1-\beta^*)b_{t-1},
\end{aligned}
$$

- Two smoothing parameters α and β^* ($0 \leq \alpha, \beta^* \leq 1$).
- ℓ_t level: weighted average between y_t one-step ahead forecast for time t, ($\ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1} = \hat{y}_{t|t-1}$)
- b_t slope: weighted average of $(\ell_t - \ell_{t-1})$ and b_{t-1}, current and previous estimate of slope.
- Choose $\alpha, \beta^*, \ell_0, b_0$ to minimise SSE.

Holt's method in R

```
window(ausair, start=1990, end=2004) %>%
  holt(h=5, PI=FALSE) %>% autoplot
```



Damped trend method

Component form

$$\hat{y}_{t+h|t} = \ell_t + (\phi + \phi^2 + \cdots + \phi^h) b_t$$
$$\ell_t = \alpha y_t + (1-\alpha)(\ell_{t-1} + \phi b_{t-1})$$
$$b_t = \beta^*(\ell_t - \ell_{t-1}) + (1-\beta^*)\phi b_{t-1}.$$

- Damping parameter $0 < \phi < 1$.
- If $\phi = 1$, identical to Holt's linear trend.
- As $h \to \infty$, $\hat{y}_{T+h|T} \to \ell_T + \phi b_T/(1-\phi)$.
- Short-run forecasts trended, long-run forecasts constant.

Damped trend method

Component form

$$\begin{aligned}
\hat{y}_{t+h|t} &= \ell_t + (\phi + \phi^2 + \cdots + \phi^h)b_t \\
\ell_t &= \alpha y_t + (1 - \alpha)(\ell_{t-1} + \phi b_{t-1}) \\
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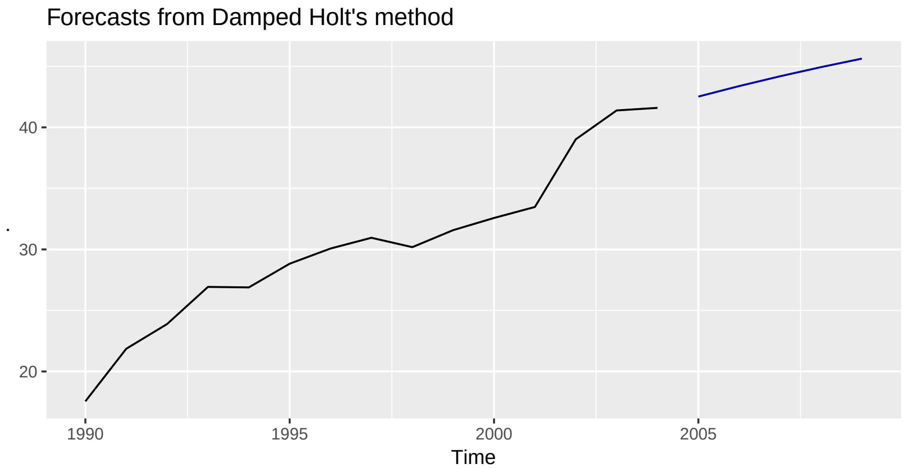
\end{aligned}$$

- Damping parameter $0 < \phi < 1$.
- If $\phi = 1$, identical to Holt's linear trend.
- As $h \to \infty$, $\hat{y}_{T+h|T} \to \ell_T + \phi b_T/(1 - \phi)$.
- Short-run forecasts trended, long-run forecasts constant.

Example: Air passengers

```
window(ausair, start=1990, end=2004) %>%
  holt(damped=TRUE, h=5, PI=FALSE) %>% autoplot
```



Example: Sheep in Asia

```
livestock2 <- window(livestock, start=1970,
                     end=2000)
fit1 <- ses(livestock2)
fit2 <- holt(livestock2)
fit3 <- holt(livestock2, damped = TRUE)
```

```
accuracy(fit1, livestock)
accuracy(fit2, livestock)
accuracy(fit3, livestock)
```

Example: Sheep in Asia

	SES	Linear trend	Damped trend
α	1.00	0.98	0.98
β^*		0.00	0.00
ϕ			0.98
ℓ_0	263.92	258.88	253.69
b_0		5.03	5.70
Training RMSE	14.77	13.92	14.00
Test RMSE	25.46	11.88	15.50
Test MAE	20.38	10.67	13.95
Test MAPE	4.60	2.53	3.21
Test MASE	2.26	1.18	1.55

Outline

Lab Session 6

Outline

Holt-Winters additive method

Holt and Winters extended Holt's method to capture seasonality.

Component form

$$\begin{aligned}
\hat{y}_{t+h|t} &= \ell_t + hb_t + s_{t-m+h_m^+} \\
\ell_t &= \alpha(y_t - s_{t-m}) + (1-\alpha)(\ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1}) \\
b_t &= \beta^*(\ell_t - \ell_{t-1}) + (1-\beta^*)b_{t-1} \\
s_t &= \gamma(y_t - \ell_{t-1} - b_{t-1}) + (1-\gamma)s_{t-m},
\end{aligned}$$

- $h_m^+ = \lfloor (h-1) \mod m \rfloor + 1 =$ largest integer not greater than $(h-1) \mod m$. Ensures estimates from the final year are used for forecasting.
- Parameters: $0 \le \alpha \le 1$, $0 \le \beta^* \le 1$, $0 \le \gamma \le 1-\alpha$ and $m =$ period of seasonality (e.g. $m = 4$ for quarterly data).

Holt-Winters additive method

- Seasonal component is usually expressed as $s_t = \gamma^*(y_t - \ell_t) + (1 - \gamma^*)s_{t-m}$.
- Substitute in for ℓ_t: $s_t = \gamma^*(1 - \alpha)(y_t - \ell_{t-1} - b_{t-1}) + [1 - \gamma^*(1 - \alpha)]s_{t-m}$
- We set $\gamma = \gamma^*(1 - \alpha)$.
- The usual parameter restriction is $0 \leq \gamma^* \leq 1$, which translates to $0 \leq \gamma \leq (1 - \alpha)$.

Holt-Winters multiplicative

For when seasonal variations are changing proportional to the level of the series.

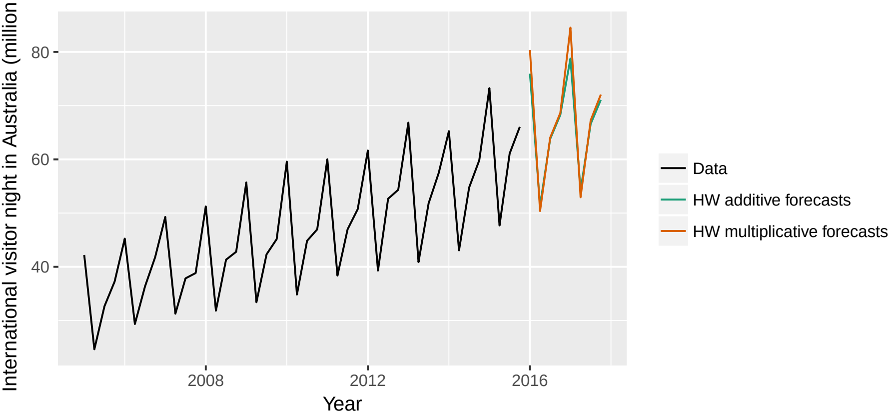
Component form

$$\begin{aligned}
\hat{y}_{t+h|t} &= (\ell_t + hb_t)s_{t-m+h_m^+}. \\
\ell_t &= \alpha \frac{y_t}{s_{t-m}} + (1-\alpha)(\ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1}) \\
b_t &= \beta^*(\ell_t - \ell_{t-1}) + (1-\beta^*)b_{t-1} \\
s_t &= \gamma \frac{y_t}{(\ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1})} + (1-\gamma)s_{t-m}
\end{aligned}$$

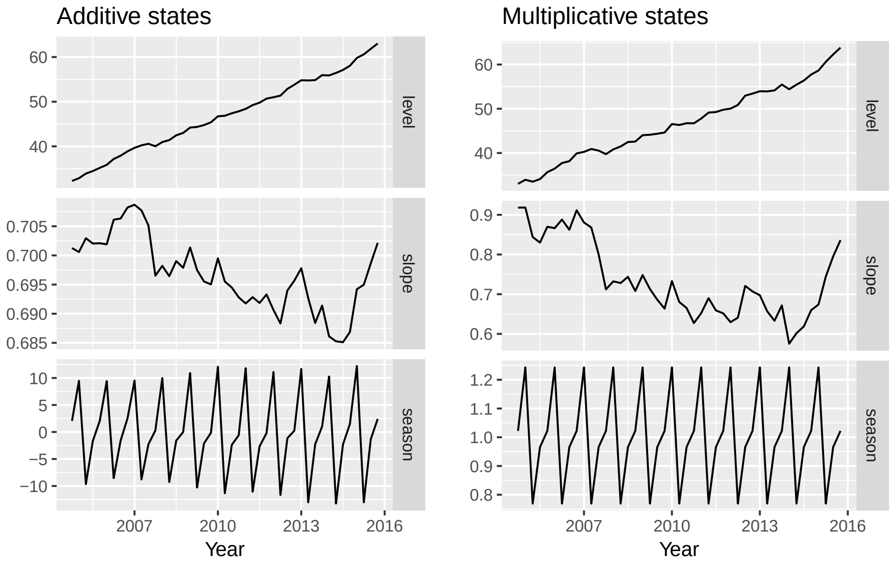
- With additive method s_t is in absolute terms: within each year $\sum_i s_i \approx 0$.
- With multiplicative method s_t is in relative terms: within each year $\sum_i s_i \approx m$.

Example: Visitor Nights

```
aust <- window(austourists,start=2005)
fit1 <- hw(aust,seasonal="additive")
fit2 <- hw(aust,seasonal="multiplicative")
```



Estimated components



Holt-Winters damped method

Often the single most accurate forecasting method for seasonal data:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\hat{y}_{t+h|t} &= [\ell_t + (\phi + \phi^2 + \cdots + \phi^h)b_t]s_{t-m+h_m^+} \\
\ell_t &= \alpha(y_t/s_{t-m}) + (1-\alpha)(\ell_{t-1} + \phi b_{t-1}) \\
b_t &= \beta^*(\ell_t - \ell_{t-1}) + (1-\beta^*)\phi b_{t-1} \\
s_t &= \gamma \frac{y_t}{(\ell_{t-1} + \phi b_{t-1})} + (1-\gamma)s_{t-m}
\end{aligned}
$$

Outline

Lab Session 7

Outline

Exponential smoothing methods

Trend Component		Seasonal Component N (None)	A (Additive)	M (Multiplicative)
N	(None)	(N,N)	(N,A)	(N,M)
A	(Additive)	(A,N)	(A,A)	(A,M)
A_d	(Additive damped)	(A_d,N)	(A_d,A)	(A_d,M)

(N,N): Simple exponential smoothing
(A,N): Holt's linear method
(A_d,N): Additive damped trend method
(A,A): Additive Holt-Winters' method
(A,M): Multiplicative Holt-Winters' method
(A_d,M): Damped multiplicative Holt-Winters' method

There are also multiplicative trend methods (not recommended).

Recursive formulae

Trend	Seasonal N	Seasonal A	Seasonal M
N	$\hat{y}_{t+h\|t} = \ell_t$ $\ell_t = \alpha y_t + (1-\alpha)\ell_{t-1}$	$\hat{y}_{t+h\|t} = \ell_t + s_{t-m+h_m^+}$ $\ell_t = \alpha(y_t - s_{t-m}) + (1-\alpha)\ell_{t-1}$ $s_t = \gamma(y_t - \ell_{t-1}) + (1-\gamma)s_{t-m}$	$\hat{y}_{t+h\|t} = \ell_t s_{t-m+h_m^+}$ $\ell_t = \alpha(y_t/s_{t-m}) + (1-\alpha)\ell_{t-1}$ $s_t = \gamma(y_t/\ell_{t-1}) + (1-\gamma)s_{t-m}$
A	$\hat{y}_{t+h\|t} = \ell_t + hb_t$ $\ell_t = \alpha y_t + (1-\alpha)(\ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1})$ $b_t = \beta^*(\ell_t - \ell_{t-1}) + (1-\beta^*)b_{t-1}$	$\hat{y}_{t+h\|t} = \ell_t + hb_t + s_{t-m+h_m^+}$ $\ell_t = \alpha(y_t - s_{t-m}) + (1-\alpha)(\ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1})$ $b_t = \beta^*(\ell_t - \ell_{t-1}) + (1-\beta^*)b_{t-1}$ $s_t = \gamma(y_t - \ell_{t-1} - b_{t-1}) + (1-\gamma)s_{t-m}$	$\hat{y}_{t+h\|t} = (\ell_t + hb_t)s_{t-m+h_m^+}$ $\ell_t = \alpha(y_t/s_{t-m}) + (1-\alpha)(\ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1})$ $b_t = \beta^*(\ell_t - \ell_{t-1}) + (1-\beta^*)b_{t-1}$ $s_t = \gamma(y_t/(\ell_{t-1} - b_{t-1})) + (1-\gamma)s_{t-m}$
A$_\mathbf{d}$	$\hat{y}_{t+h\|t} = \ell_t + \phi_h b_t$ $\ell_t = \alpha y_t + (1-\alpha)(\ell_{t-1} + \phi b_{t-1})$ $b_t = \beta^*(\ell_t - \ell_{t-1}) + (1-\beta^*)\phi b_{t-1}$	$\hat{y}_{t+h\|t} = \ell_t + \phi_h b_t + s_{t-m+h_m^+}$ $\ell_t = \alpha(y_t - s_{t-m}) + (1-\alpha)(\ell_{t-1} + \phi b_{t-1})$ $b_t = \beta^*(\ell_t - \ell_{t-1}) + (1-\beta^*)\phi b_{t-1}$ $s_t = \gamma(y_t - \ell_{t-1} - \phi b_{t-1}) + (1-\gamma)s_{t-m}$	$\hat{y}_{t+h\|t} = (\ell_t + \phi_h b_t)s_{t-m+h_m^+}$ $\ell_t = \alpha(y_t/s_{t-m}) + (1-\alpha)(\ell_{t-1} + \phi b_{t-1})$ $b_t = \beta^*(\ell_t - \ell_{t-1}) + (1-\beta^*)\phi b_{t-1}$ $s_t = \gamma(y_t/(\ell_{t-1} - \phi b_{t-1})) + (1-\gamma)s_{t-m}$

R functions

- Simple exponential smoothing: no trend.
  `ses(y)`
- Holt's method: linear trend.
  `holt(y)`
- Damped trend method.
  `holt(y, damped=TRUE)`
- Holt-Winters methods
  ```
  hw(y, damped=TRUE, seasonal="additive")
  hw(y, damped=FALSE, seasonal="additive")
  hw(y, damped=TRUE, seasonal="multiplicative")
  hw(y, damped=FALSE, seasonal="multiplicative")
  ```
- Combination of no trend with seasonality not possible using these functions.