



ST418 Week 10

Kaixin Liu¹

¹PhD Student in Statistics, LSE

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1 Stationarity of multivariate time series

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Multivariate time series and weak stationarity

Let $\mathbf{x}_t = (x_{t1}, \dots, x_{tN})^\top$ where $t \in \mathcal{I}$ so that $\{\mathbf{x}_t\}$ is an N -dimensional time series with mean vector $\boldsymbol{\mu}_t = \mathbb{E}(\mathbf{x}_t)$ and covariance matrix

$$\text{Cov}(\mathbf{x}_s, \mathbf{x}_t) = \mathbb{E}[(\mathbf{x}_s - \boldsymbol{\mu}_s)(\mathbf{x}_t - \boldsymbol{\mu}_t)^\top] = (\gamma_{ij}(s, t))_{i,j=1}^N.$$

Definition (Weak stationarity)

$\{\mathbf{x}_t\}$ is weakly stationary if

$$\mathbb{E}(\mathbf{x}_t) = \boldsymbol{\mu} \quad \text{and} \quad \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_\tau = \text{Cov}(\mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{x}_{t+\tau})$$

depend only on the lag τ , with finite entries. Write

$$\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_\tau = (s_{ij,\tau}), \quad s_{ij,\tau} = \text{Cov}(x_{t,i}, x_{t+\tau,j}).$$

The correlation matrix at lag τ is

$$\rho_\tau = [\text{diag}(\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_0)]^{-1/2} \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_\tau [\text{diag}(\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_0)]^{-1/2}, \quad \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{-\tau} = \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_\tau^\top.$$

White noise and VARMA process

Definition (Vector white noise)

$\{\varepsilon_t\}$ is white noise if

$$\mathbb{E}(\varepsilon_t) = \boldsymbol{\mu}, \quad \text{Cov}(\varepsilon_t, \varepsilon_{t+\tau}) = \begin{cases} \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_0, & \tau = 0, \\ \mathbf{0}, & \tau \neq 0. \end{cases}$$

We write $\varepsilon_t \sim \text{WN}(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_0)$.

Definition (VARMA(p, q))

An N -dimensional process $\{\mathbf{x}_t\}$ is VARMA(p, q) if

$$\mathbf{x}_t = \boldsymbol{\alpha} + \Phi_1 \mathbf{x}_{t-1} + \cdots + \Phi_p \mathbf{x}_{t-p} + \varepsilon_t + \Theta_1 \varepsilon_{t-1} + \cdots + \Theta_q \varepsilon_{t-q},$$

where $\varepsilon_t \sim \text{WN}(\mathbf{0}, \boldsymbol{\Gamma})$, $\Phi_i, \Theta_j \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$, and $\Phi_p, \Theta_q \neq \mathbf{0}$.

Matrix polynomials:

$$\Phi(B) = \mathbf{I}_N - \Phi_1 B - \cdots - \Phi_p B^p, \quad \Theta(B) = \mathbf{I}_N + \Theta_1 B + \cdots + \Theta_q B^q.$$

VARMA process (cont.): Theorem 4.4 and causality

Theorem (Theorem 4.4)

If $\mathbf{x}_t \sim \text{VARMA}(p, q)$ and all roots of

$$\det(\mathbf{I}_N - \Phi_1 z - \dots - \Phi_p z^p) = 0$$

lie outside the unit circle, then $\{\mathbf{x}_t\}$ is weakly stationary.

Definition (Causality)

$\{\mathbf{x}_t\}$ is causal if it admits a one-sided VMA(∞) representation

$$\mathbf{x}_t = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \Psi_j \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{t-j}, \quad \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \|\Psi_j\| < \infty,$$

so \mathbf{x}_t depends only on the current and past innovations.

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Yule-Walker estimator

For a mean-zero weakly stationary VAR(p),

$$\mathbf{x}_t = \Phi_1 \mathbf{x}_{t-1} + \cdots + \Phi_p \mathbf{x}_{t-p} + \varepsilon_t, \quad \varepsilon_t \sim \text{WN}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{\Gamma}),$$

the Yule-Walker equations are, for $\tau \geq 1$,

$$\mathbf{\Gamma}_\tau = \mathbf{\Gamma}_{\tau-1} \Phi_1^\top + \cdots + \mathbf{\Gamma}_{\tau-p} \Phi_p^\top,$$

and at lag 0,

$$\mathbf{\Gamma}_0 = \mathbf{\Gamma}_1^\top \Phi_1^\top + \cdots + \mathbf{\Gamma}_p^\top \Phi_p^\top + \mathbf{\Gamma}.$$

Hence $\tau = 1, \dots, p$ gives p matrix equations for Φ_1, \dots, Φ_p .

Yule-Walker estimator (cont.)

Define

$$\Gamma(p) = \begin{pmatrix} \Gamma_1^\top \\ \vdots \\ \Gamma_p^\top \end{pmatrix}, \quad \Phi(p) = \begin{pmatrix} \Phi_1 \\ \vdots \\ \Phi_p \end{pmatrix},$$

and the block Toeplitz matrix

$$\Sigma_p = \begin{pmatrix} \Gamma_0 & \Gamma_1^\top & \cdots & \Gamma_{p-1}^\top \\ \Gamma_1 & \Gamma_0 & \cdots & \Gamma_{p-2}^\top \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \Gamma_{p-1} & \Gamma_{p-2} & \cdots & \Gamma_0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then

$$\Phi(p) = \Sigma_p^{-1} \Gamma(p), \quad \Gamma = \Gamma_0 - \Gamma(p)^\top \Phi(p).$$

For $\tau \geq 0$, estimate by

$$\hat{\Gamma}_\tau = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^{T-\tau} (\mathbf{x}_t - \bar{\mathbf{x}})(\mathbf{x}_{t+\tau} - \bar{\mathbf{x}})^\top,$$

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Sample cross-correlation matrix (CCM)

For $\tau \geq 0$, start from the sample cross-covariance matrix

$$\hat{\Gamma}_\tau = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^{T-\tau} (\mathbf{x}_t - \bar{\mathbf{x}})(\mathbf{x}_{t+\tau} - \bar{\mathbf{x}})^\top,$$

and use $\hat{\Gamma}_{-\tau} = \hat{\Gamma}_\tau^\top$ for negative lags. Define the sample cross-correlation matrix at lag τ by

$$\hat{\rho}_\tau = [\text{diag}(\hat{\Gamma}_0)]^{-1/2} \hat{\Gamma}_\tau [\text{diag}(\hat{\Gamma}_0)]^{-1/2}.$$

Its (i, j) entry is

$$\hat{\rho}_{ij,\tau} = \frac{\hat{S}_{ij,\tau}}{\sqrt{\hat{S}_{ii,0}\hat{S}_{jj,0}}},$$

so diagonal entries are sample ACFs and off-diagonal entries are sample cross-correlations.

Sample cross-correlation matrix (cont.)

If $\{\mathbf{x}_t\} \sim \text{VMA}(q)$ and $|\tau| > q$, then approximately

$$\text{Var}(\hat{\rho}_{ij,\tau}) \approx \frac{1}{T} \left(1 + 2 \sum_{v=1}^q \rho_{v,ii} \rho_{v,jj} \right).$$

In the white-noise case ($q = 0$), a rough 95% reference band is

$$\pm \frac{1.96}{\sqrt{T}}.$$