Marcel Dettling

Institute for Data Analysis and Process Design

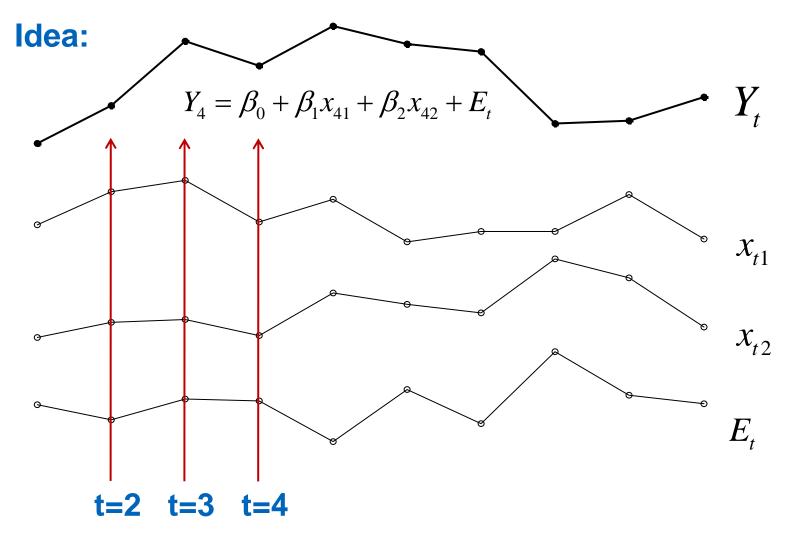
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ETH Zürich, March 31, 2014

Time Series Regression



Time Series Regression

- We speak of time series regression if response and predictors are time series, i.e. if they were observed in a sequence.
- In principle, it is perfectly fine to apply the usual OLS setup

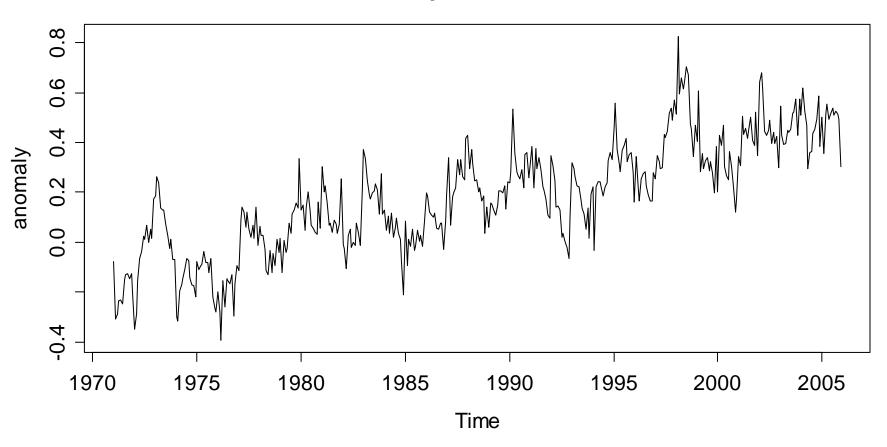
$$Y_{t} = \beta_{0} + \beta_{1} x_{t1} + \dots + \beta_{q} x_{tp} + E_{t}$$

Be careful: this assumes that the errors are uncorrelated.

- With correlated errors, the estimates $\hat{\beta}_j$ are still unbiased, but more efficient estimators than OLS exist. The standard errors are wrong, often underestimated, causing spurious significance.
- The Generalized Least Squares procedure solves the issue!

Example 1: Global Temperature

Global Temperature Anomalies



Example 1: Global Temperature

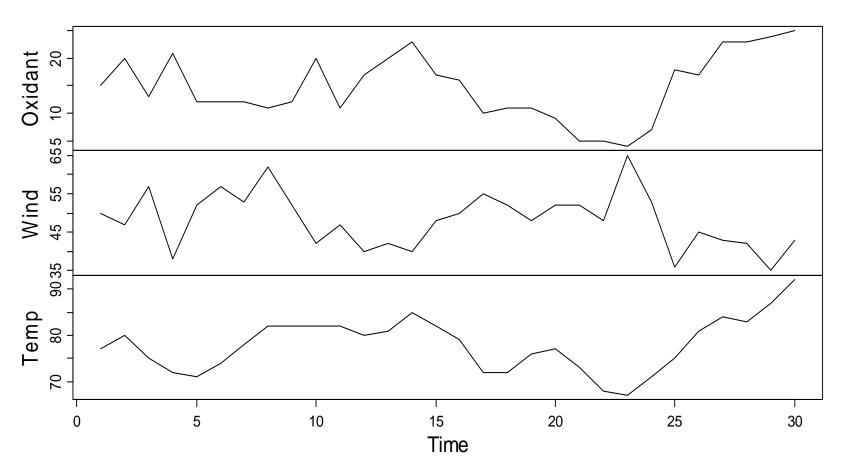
Temperature = Trend + Seasonality + Remainder

$$Y_{t} = \beta_{0} + \beta_{1} \cdot t + \beta_{2} \cdot 1_{[month = "Feb"]} + \dots + \beta_{12} \cdot 1_{[month = "Dec"]} + E_{t},$$

- \rightarrow Recordings from 1971 to 2005, n = 420
- → The remainder term is usually a stationary time series, thus it would not be surprising if the regression model features correlated errors.
- → The applied question which is of importance here is whether there is a significant trend, and a significant seasonal variation

Example 2: Air Pollution

Air Pollution Data



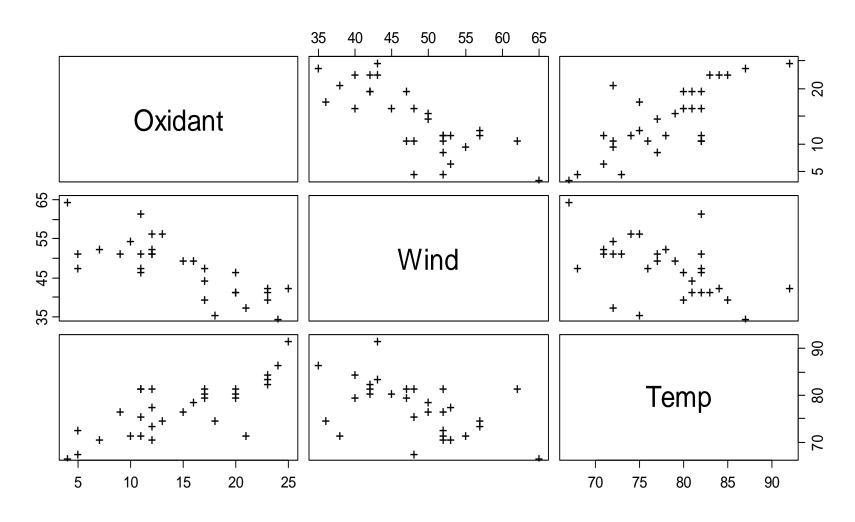
Example 2: Air Pollution

Oxidant = Wind + Temperature + Error

$$Y_{t} = \beta_{0} + \beta_{1} x_{t1} + \beta_{2} x_{t2} + E_{t}$$

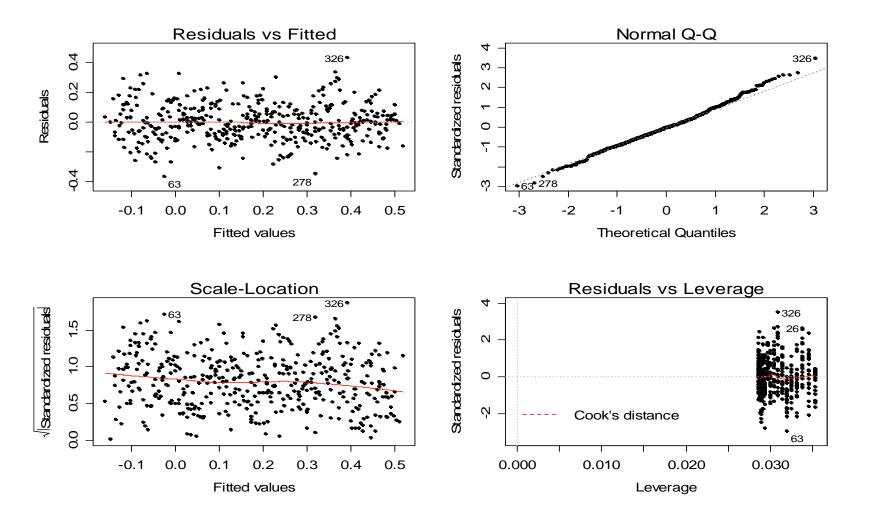
- \rightarrow Recordings from 30 consecutive days, n = 30
- → The data are from the Los Angeles basin, USA
- The pollutant level is influence by both wind and temperature, plus some more, unobserved variables.
- → It is well conceivable that there is "day-to-day memory" in the pollutant levels, i.e. there are correlated errros.

Example 2: Air Pollution



Finding Correlated Errors

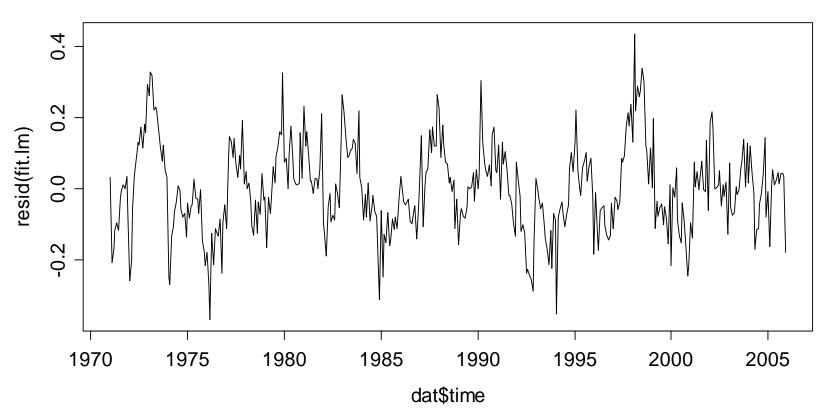
1) Start by fitting an OLS regression and analyze residuals



Finding Correlated Errors

2) Continue with a time series plot of OLS residuals

Residuals of the Im() Function



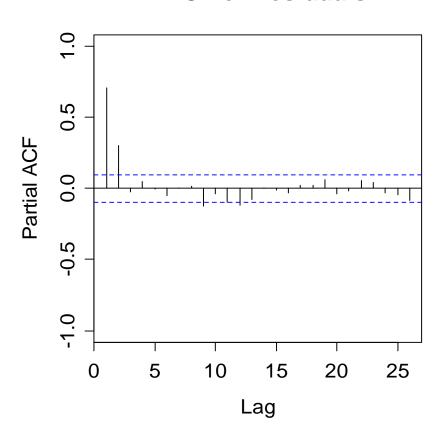
Finding Correlated Errors

3) Also analyze ACF and PACF of OLS residuals

ACF of Residuals

O.1-O.0-O.2-O.0-O.1-

PACF of Residuals



Model for Correlated Errors

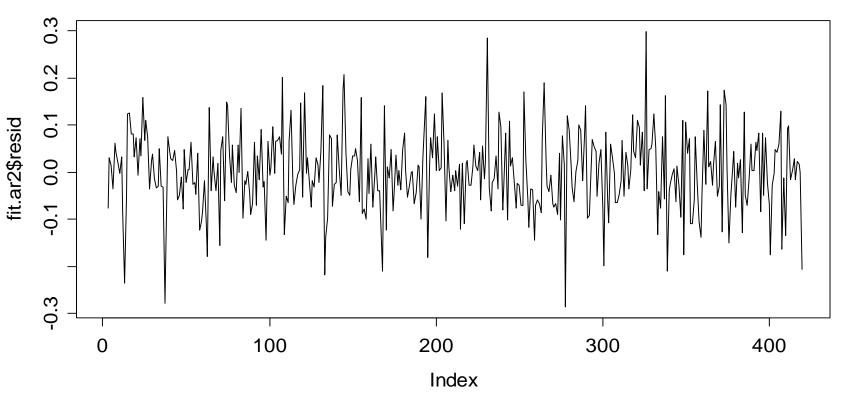
→ It seems as if an AR(2) model provides an adequate model for the correlation structure observed in the residuals of the OLS regression model.

→ Residuals of this AR(2) model must look like white noise!

Does the Model Fit?

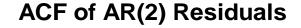
5) Visualize a time series plot of the AR(2) residuals

Residuals of AR(2)

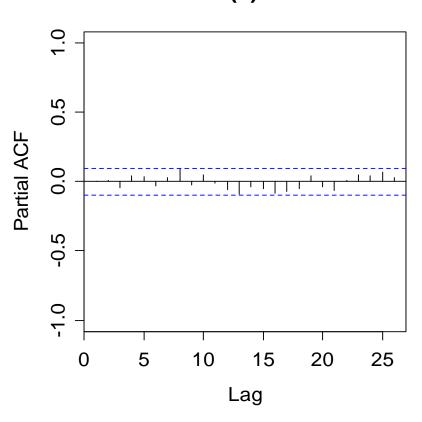


Does the Model Fit?

5) ACF and PACF plots of AR(2) residuals



ACF of AR(2) Residuals



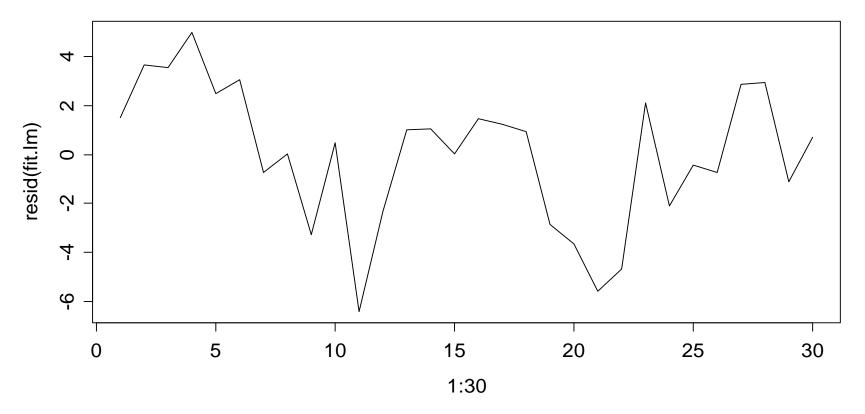
Global Temperature: Conclusions

- The residuals from OLS regression are visibly correlated.
- An AR(2) model seems appropriate for this dependency.
- The AR(2) yields a good fit, because its residuals have White Noise properties. We have thus understood the dependency of the regression model errros.
- → We need to account for the correlated errors, else the coefficient estimates will be unbiased but inefficient, and the standard errors are wrong, preventing successful inference for trend and seasonality

Air Pollution: OLS Residuals

Time series plot: dependence present or not?

Residuals of the Im() Function

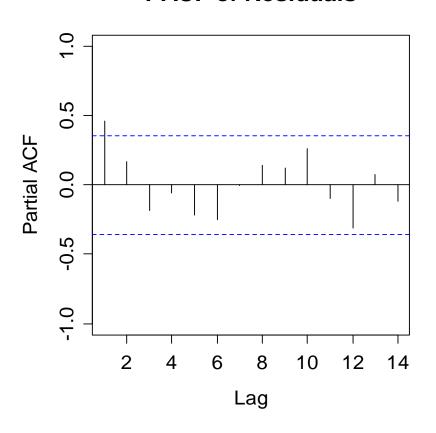


Air Pollution: OLS Residuals

ACF and PACF suggest: there is AR(1) dependence

ACF of Residuals

PACF of Residuals



Pollutant Example

```
> summary(erg.poll,corr=F)
Call: lm(formula = Oxidant \sim Wind + Temp, data = pollute)
Coefficients:
           Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept) -5.20334 11.11810 -0.468 0.644
Wind -0.42706 0.08645 -4.940 3.58e-05 ***
Temp 0.52035 0.10813 4.812 5.05e-05 ***
Residual standard error: 2.95 on 27 degrees of freedom
Multiple R-squared: 0.7773, Adjusted R-squared: 0.7608
F-statistic: 47.12 on 2 and 27 DF, p-value: 1.563e-09
```

Pollutant Example

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Temp
```

Residual standard error: 2.95 on 27 degrees of freedom Multiple R-squared: 0.7773, Adjusted R-squared: 0.7608 F-statistic: 47.12 on 2 and 27 DF, p-value: 1.563e-09

Durbin-Watson Test

 The Durbin-Watson approach is a test for autocorrelated errors in regression modeling based on the test statistic:

$$D = \frac{\sum_{t=2}^{N} (r_{t} - r_{t-1})^{2}}{\sum_{t=1}^{N} r_{t}^{2}}$$

- This is implemented in R: dwtest() in library(lmtest). A p-value for the null of no autocorrelation is computed.
- This test does not detect all autocorrelation structures. If the null is not rejected, the residuals may still be autocorrelated.
- → Never forget to check ACF/PACF of the residuals!

Durbin-Watson Test

Example 1: Global Temperature

```
> library(lmtest)
> dwtest(fit.lm)
data: fit.lm

DW = 0.5785, p-value < 2.2e-16
alt. hypothesis: true autocorrelation is greater than 0</pre>
```

Example 2: Air Pollution

```
> dwtest(fit.lm)
data: fit.lm

DW = 1.0619, p-value = 0.001675
alt. hypothesis: true autocorrelation is greater than 0
```

Generalized Least Squares

- → See the blackboard for full explanation
- OLS regression assumes a diagonal error covariance matrix, but there is a generalization to $Var(E) = \sigma^2 \Sigma$.
- If we find $\Sigma = SS^T$, the regression model can be rewritten as:

$$y = X\beta + E$$

$$S^{-1}y = S^{-1}X\beta + S^{-1}E$$

$$y^* = X^*\beta + E^* \quad \text{with } Var(E^*) = \sigma^2 I$$

One obtains the generalized least square estimates:

$$\hat{\beta} = (X^T \Sigma^{-1} X) X^T \Sigma^{-1} y \quad \text{with} \quad Var(\hat{\beta}) = (X^T \Sigma^{-1} X)^{-1} \sigma^2$$

Generalized Least Squares

For using the GLS approach, i.e. for correcting the dependent errors, we need an estimate of the error covariance matrix Σ .

The two major options for obtaining it are:

- 1) Cochrane-Orcutt (for AR(p) correlation structure only) iterative approach: i) β , ii) α , iii) β
- 2) GLS (Generalized Least Squares, for ARMA(p,q)) simultaneous estimation of β and α
- → Full explanation of the two different approaches is provided on the blackboard!

GLS: Syntax

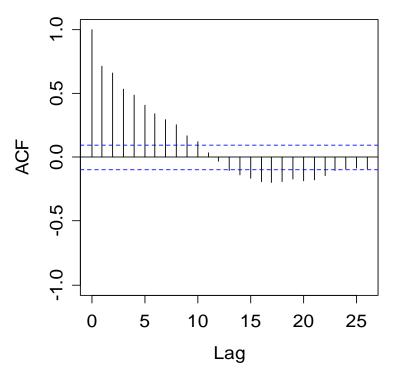
Package nlme has function gls(). It does only work if the correlation structure of the errors is provided. This has to be determined from the residuals of an OLS regression first.

The output contains the **regression coefficients** and their **standard errors**, as well as the **AR-coefficients** plus some further information about the model (Log-Likeli, AIC, ...).

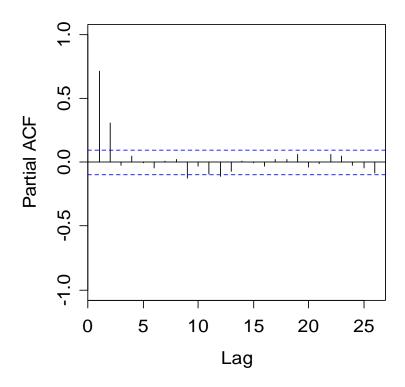
GLS: Residual Analysis

The residuals from a GLS must look like coming from a time series process with the respective structure:

ACF of GLS-Residuals



PACF of GLS-Residuals



GLS/OLS: Comparison of Results

→ The trend in the global temperature is significant!

```
> coef(fit.lm)["time"]
                                            OLS
     time
0.01822374
> confint(fit.lm, "time")
         2.5 % 97.5 %
time 0.01702668 0.0194208
> coef(fit.gls)["time"]
                                            GLS
     time
0.02017553
> confint(fit.gls, "time")
          2.5 % 97.5 %
time 0.01562994 0.02472112
```

GLS/OLS: Comparison of Results

→ The seasonal effect is not significant!

1 76.48005 <.0001

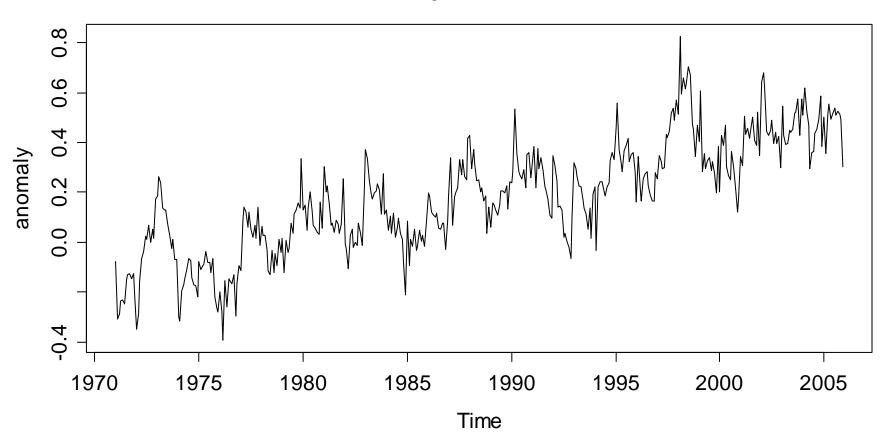
11 0.64371 0.7912

time

season

Example 1: Global Temperature

Global Temperature Anomalies



Air Pollution: Results

Both predictors are significant with both approaches...

→ But still, it is important to use GLS with correlated errors!

Simulation Study: Model

We want to study the effect of correlated errors on the quality of estimates when using the least squares approach:

$$x_t = t / 50$$

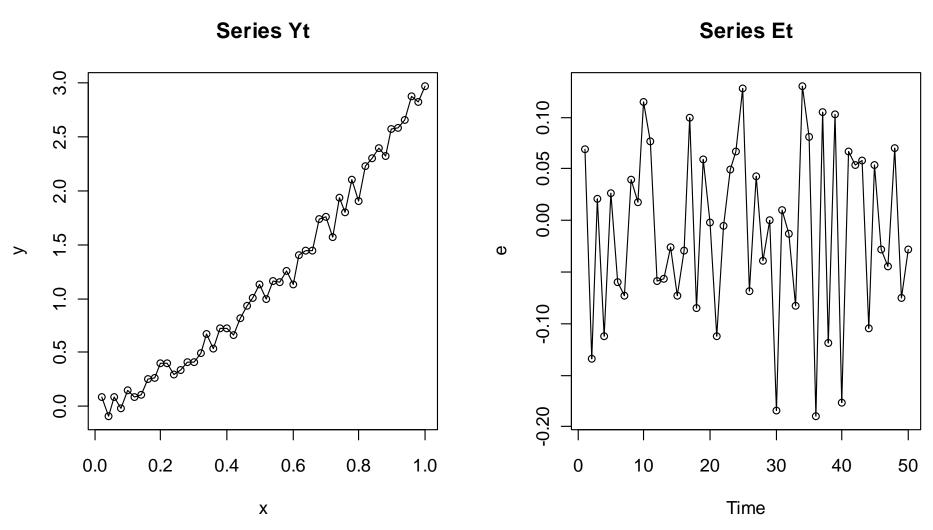
$$y_t = x_t + 2x_t^2 + E_t$$

where E_t is from an AR(1)-process with $\alpha = -0.65$ and $\sigma = 0.1$.

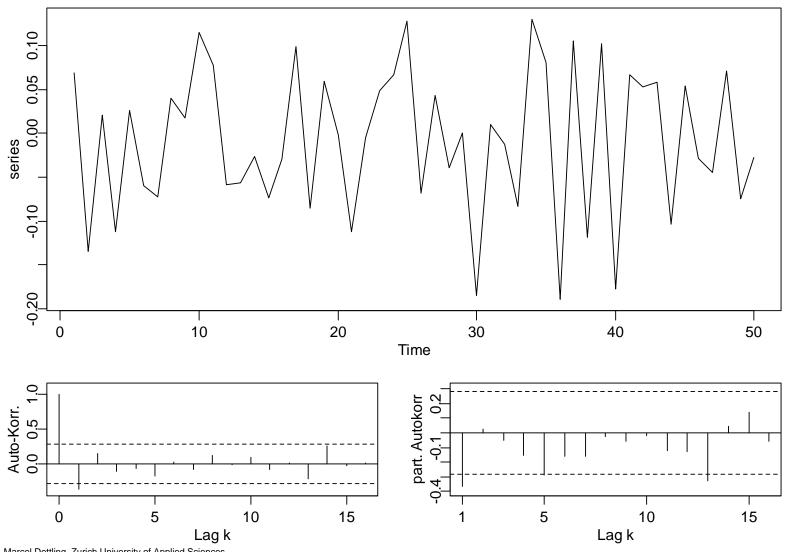
We generate 100 realizations from this model and estimate the regression coefficient and its standard error by:

- 1) LS
- 2) GLS

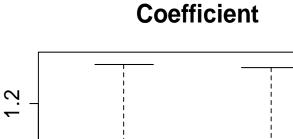
Simulation Study: Series



Simulation Study: ACF of the Error Term



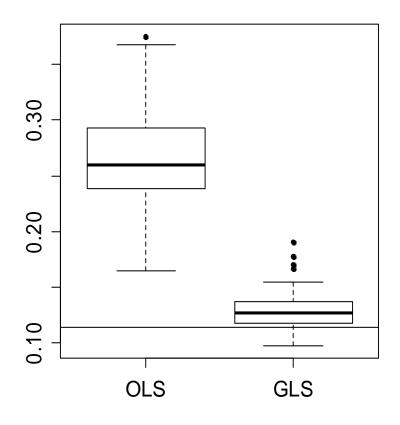
Simulation Study: Results



0.8 0.9 1.0 1.1 1

GLS

Standard Error



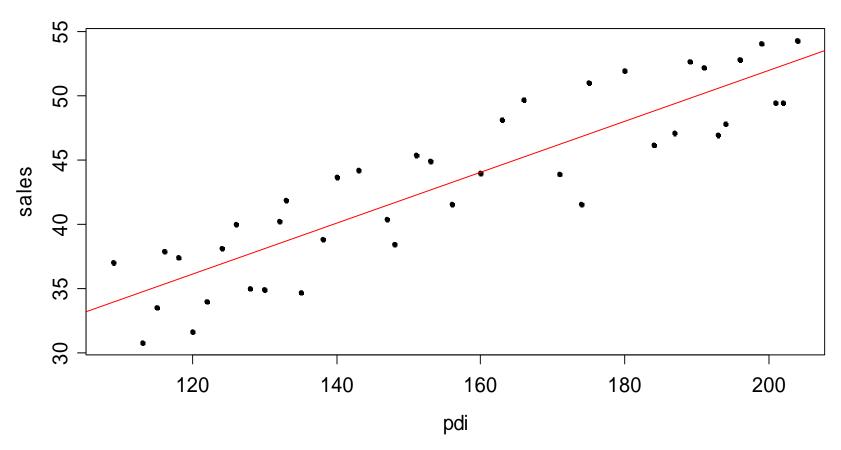
OLS

Missing Input Variables

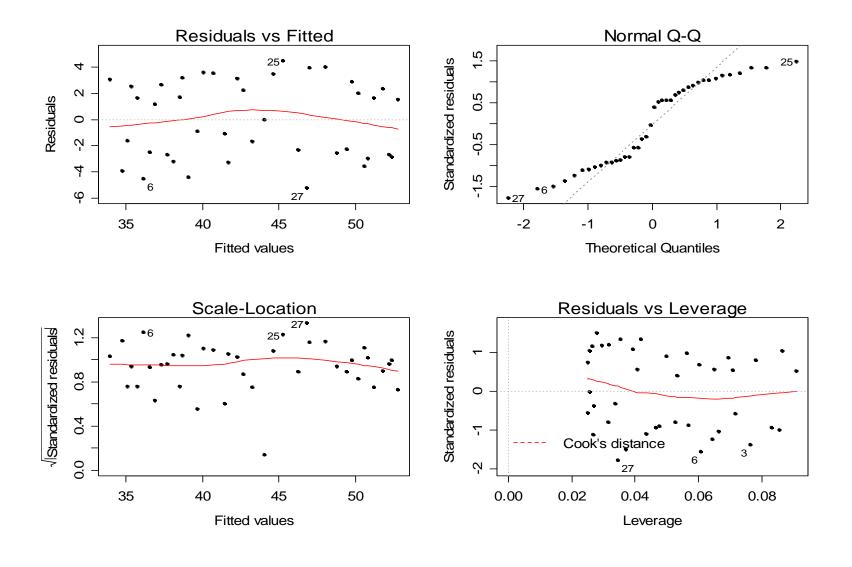
- (Auto-)correlated errors are often caused by the nonpresence of crucial input variables.
- In this case, it is much better to identify the not-yet-present variables and include them in the analysis.
- However, this isn't always possible.
- regression with correlated errors can be seen as a sort of emergency kit for the case where the non-present variables cannot be added.

Example: Ski Sales

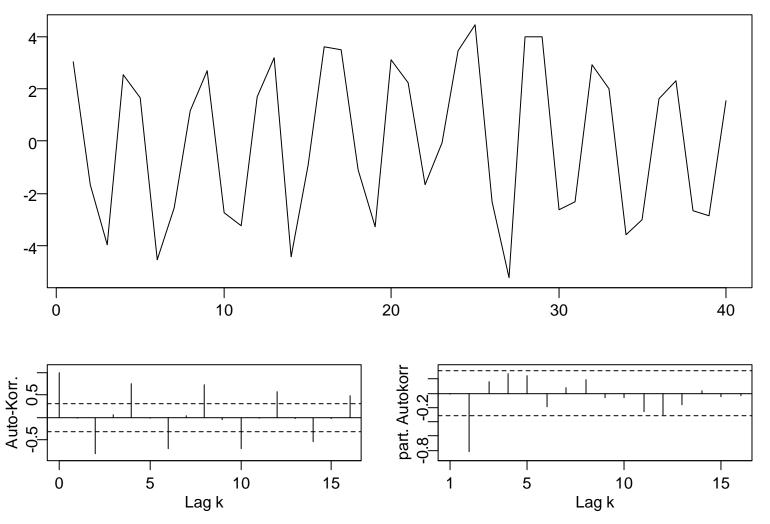




Ski Sales: Residual Diagnostics

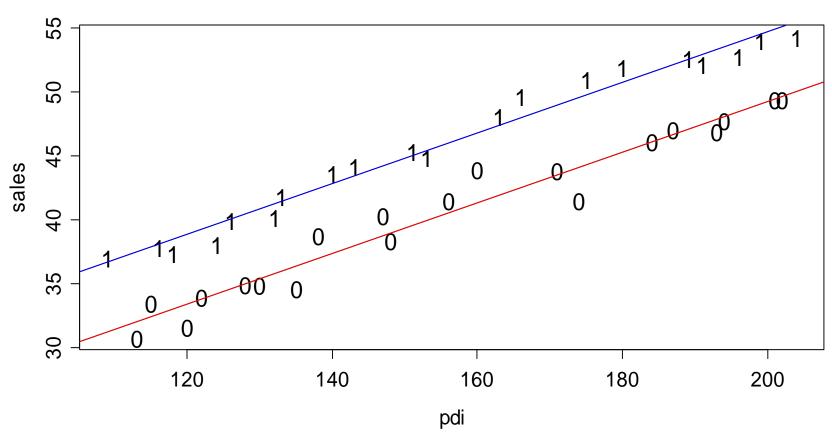


Ski Sales: ACF/PACF of Residuals

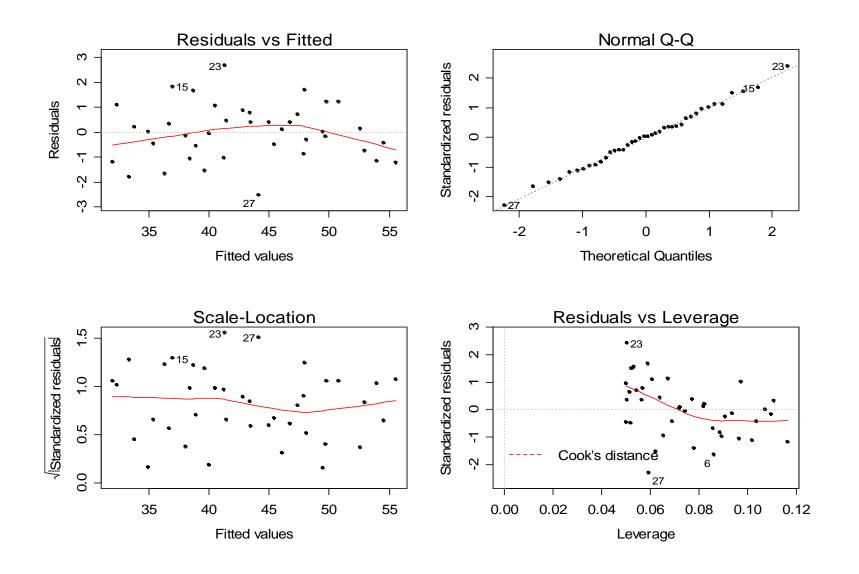


Ski Sales: Model with Seasonal Factor





Residuals from Seasonal Factor Model



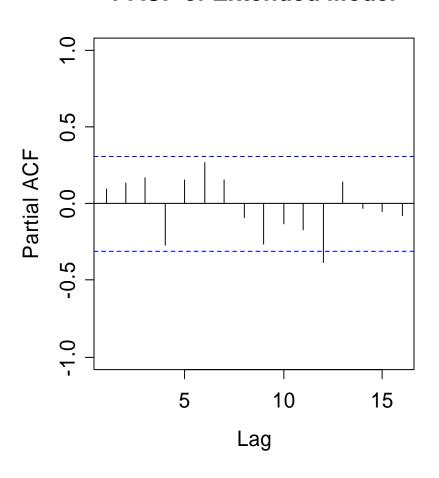
Residuals from Seasonal Factor Model

ACF of Extended Model

ACF 0.0-0.5 0.0-0.5 10 15

Lag

PACF of Extended Model



Ski Sales: Summary

- the first model (sales vs. PDI) showed correlated errors
- the Durbin-Watson test failed to indicate this correlation
- this apparent correlation is caused by ommitting the season
- adding the season removes all error correlation!
- the emergency kit "time series regression" is, after careful modeling, not even necessary in this example. This is quite often the case!