

Time Series — Examples Sheet

This is the examples sheet for the M. Phil. course in Time Series. A copy can be found at: <http://www.statslab.cam.ac.uk/~rrw1/timeseries/>

Throughout, unless otherwise stated, the sequence $\{\epsilon_t\}$ is white noise, variance σ^2 .

1. Find the Yule-Walker equations for the AR(2) process

$$X_t = \frac{1}{3}X_{t-1} + \frac{2}{9}X_{t-2} + \epsilon_t.$$

Hence show that it has autocorrelation function

$$\rho_k = \frac{16}{21} \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^{|k|} + \frac{5}{21} \left(-\frac{1}{3}\right)^{|k|}, \quad k \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

[The Yule-Walker equations are

$$\rho_k - \frac{1}{3}\rho_{k-1} - \frac{2}{9}\rho_{k-2} = 0, \quad k \geq 2.$$

On trying $\rho_k = A\lambda^k$, we require $\lambda^2 - \frac{1}{3}\lambda - \frac{2}{9} = 0$. This has roots $\frac{2}{3}$ and $-\frac{1}{3}$, so

$$\rho_k = A \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^{|k|} + B \left(-\frac{1}{3}\right)^{|k|},$$

where $\rho_0 = A + B = 1$. We also require $\rho_1 = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{2}{9}\rho_1$. Hence $\rho_1 = \frac{3}{7}$, and thus we require $\frac{2}{3}A - \frac{1}{3}B = \frac{3}{7}$. These give $A = \frac{16}{21}$, $B = \frac{5}{21}$.]

2. Let $X_t = A \cos(\Omega t + U)$, where A is an arbitrary constant, Ω and U are independent random variables, Ω has distribution function F over $[0, \pi]$, and U is uniform over $[0, 2\pi]$. Find the autocorrelation function and spectral density function of $\{X_t\}$. Hence show that, for any positive definite set of covariances $\{\gamma_k\}$, there exists a process with autocovariances $\{\gamma_k\}$ such that every realization is a sine wave.

[Use the following definition: $\{\gamma_k\}$ are positive definite if there exists a nondecreasing function F such that $\gamma_k = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} e^{ik\omega} dF(\omega)$.]

$$\mathbb{E}[X_t | \Omega] = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} A \cos(\Omega t + u) du = \frac{1}{2\pi} A \sin(\Omega t + u) \Big|_0^{2\pi} = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[X_{t+s} X_t] &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} A \cos(\Omega(t+s) + u) A \cos(\Omega t + u) du dF(\Omega) \\ &= \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} A^2 [\cos(\Omega(2t+s) + 2u) + \cos(\Omega s)] du dF(\Omega) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\pi} A^2 \cos(\Omega s) dF(\Omega) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int_0^{\pi} A^2 [e^{i\Omega s} + e^{-i\Omega s}] dF(\Omega) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} A^2 \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} e^{i\Omega s} d\bar{F}(\Omega) \end{aligned}$$

where we define over the range $[-\pi, \pi]$ the nondecreasing function \bar{F} , by $\bar{F}(-\Omega) = F(\pi) - F(\Omega)$ and $\bar{F}(\Omega) = F(\Omega) + F(\pi) - 2F(0)$, $\Omega \in [0, \pi]$.]

3. Find the spectral density function of the AR(2) process

$$X_t = \phi_1 X_{t-1} + \phi_2 X_{t-2} + \epsilon_t.$$

What conditions on (ϕ_1, ϕ_2) are required for this process to be an indeterministic second order stationary? Sketch in the (ϕ_1, ϕ_2) plane the stationary region.

[We have

$$f_X(\omega) |1 - \phi_1 e^{i\omega} - \phi_2 e^{2i\omega}|^2 = \sigma^2 / \pi$$

Hence

$$f_X(\omega) = \frac{\sigma^2}{\pi [1 + \phi_1^2 + \phi_2^2 + 2(-\phi_1 + \phi_1\phi_2) \cos(\omega) - 2\phi_2 \cos(2\omega)]}$$

The Yule-Walker equations have solution of the form $\rho_k = A\lambda_1^k + B\lambda_2^k$ where λ_1, λ_2 are roots of

$$g(\lambda) = \lambda^2 - \phi_1\lambda - \phi_2 = 0.$$

The roots are $\lambda = \left[\phi_1 \pm \sqrt{\phi_1^2 + 4\phi_2} \right] / 2$. To be indeterministic second order stationary these roots must have modulus less than 1. If $\phi_1^2 + 4\phi_2 > 0$ then the roots are real and lie in the range $[-1, 1]$ if and only if $g(-1) > 0$ and $g(1) > 0$, i.e., $\phi_1 + \phi_2 < 1$, $\phi_1 - \phi_2 > -1$. If $\phi_1^2 + 4\phi_2 < 0$ then the roots are complex and their product must be less than 1, i.e., $\phi_2 > -1$. The union of these two regions, corresponding to possible (ϕ_1, ϕ_2) for real and imaginary roots, is simply the triangular region

$$\phi_1 + \phi_2 < 1, \quad \phi_1 - \phi_2 > -1, \quad \phi_2 \geq -1.$$

]

4. For a stationary process define the covariance generating function

$$g(z) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \gamma_k z^k, \quad |z| < 1.$$

Suppose $\{X_t\}$ satisfies $X = C(B)\epsilon$, that is, it has the Wold representation

$$X_t = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} c_r \epsilon_{t-r},$$

where $\{c_r\}$ are constants satisfying $\sum_0^{\infty} c_r^2 < \infty$ and $C(z) = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} c_r z^r$. Show that

$$g(z) = C(z)C(z^{-1})\sigma^2.$$

Explain how this can be used to derive autocovariances for the ARMA(p, q) model.

Hence show that for ARMA(1, 1), $\rho_2^2 = \rho_1\rho_3$. How might this fact be useful?

[We have

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_k &= \mathbb{E}X_t X_{t+k} = \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{r=0}^{\infty} c_r \epsilon_{t-r} \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} c_s \epsilon_{t+k-s} \right] \\ &= \sigma^2 \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} c_r c_{k+r} \end{aligned}$$

Now

$$C(z)C(z^{-1}) = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} c_r z^r \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} c_s z^{-s}$$

The coefficients of z^k and z^{-k} are clearly

$$c_k c_0 + c_{k+1} c_1 + c_{k+2} c_2 + \dots$$

from which the result follows.

For the ARMA(p, q) model $\phi(B)X = \theta(B)\epsilon$ or

$$X = \frac{\theta(B)}{\phi(B)}\epsilon$$

where ϕ and θ are polynomials of degrees p and q in z . Hence

$$C(z) = \frac{\theta(z)}{\phi(z)}$$

and γ_k can be found as the coefficient of z^k in the power series expansion of $\sigma^2\theta(z)\theta(1/z)/\phi(z)\phi(1/z)$. For ARMA(1, 1) this is

$$\sigma^2(1 + \theta z)(1 + \theta z^{-1})(1 + \phi z + \phi^2 z^2 + \dots)(1 + \phi z^{-1} + \phi^2 z^{-2} + \dots)$$

from which we have

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_1 &= \left(\theta(1 + \phi^2 + \phi^4 + \dots) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (\phi + \phi^3 + \phi^5 + \dots)(1 + \theta^2) + \theta(\phi^2 + \phi^4 + \phi^6 + \dots) \right) \sigma^2 \\ &= \frac{\theta + \phi(1 + \theta^2) + \phi^2\theta}{1 - \phi^2} \sigma^2 \end{aligned}$$

and similarly

$$\gamma_2 = \phi \frac{\theta + \phi(1 + \theta^2) + \phi^2\theta}{1 - \phi^2} \sigma^2 \quad \gamma_3 = \phi^2 \frac{\theta + \phi(1 + \theta^2) + \phi^2\theta}{1 - \phi^2} \sigma^2$$

Hence $\rho_2^2 = \rho_1\rho_3$. This might be used as a diagnostic to test the appropriateness of an ARMA(1, 1) model, by reference to the correlogram, where we would expect to see $r_2^2 = r_1r_3$.]

5. Consider the ARMA(2, 1) process defined as

$$X_t = \phi_1 X_{t-1} + \phi_2 X_{t-2} + \epsilon_t + \theta_1 \epsilon_{t-1}.$$

Show that the coefficients of the Wold representation satisfy the difference equation

$$c_k = \phi_1 c_{k-1} + \phi_2 c_{k-2}, \quad k \geq 2,$$

and hence that

$$c_k = Az_1^{-k} + Bz_2^{-k},$$

where z_1 and z_2 are zeros of $\phi(z) = 1 - \phi_1 z - \phi_2 z^2$, and A and B are constants. Explain how in principle one could find A and B .

[The recurrence is produced by substituting $X_t = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} c_r \epsilon_{t-r}$ into the defining equation, and similarly for X_{t-1} and X_{t-2} , multiplying by ϵ_{t-k} , $k \geq 2$, and taking expected value.

The general solution to such a second order linear recurrence relation is of the form given and we find A and B by noting that

$$X_t = \phi_1 (\phi_1 X_{t-2} + \phi_2 X_{t-3} + \epsilon_{t-1} + \theta_1 \epsilon_{t-2}) + \phi_2 X_{t-2} + \epsilon_t + \theta_1 \epsilon_{t-1}$$

so that $c_0 = 1$ and $c_1 = \theta_1 + \phi_1$. Hence $A + B = 1$ and $Az_1^{-1} + Bz_2^{-1} = \theta_1 + \phi_1$. These can be solved for A and B .]

6. Suppose

$$Y_t = X_t + \epsilon_t, \quad X_t = \alpha X_{t-1} + \eta_t,$$

where $\{\epsilon_t\}$ and $\{\eta_t\}$ are independent white noise sequences with common variance σ^2 . Show that the spectral density function of $\{Y_t\}$ is

$$f_Y(\omega) = \frac{\sigma^2}{\pi} \left\{ \frac{2 - 2\alpha \cos \omega + \alpha^2}{1 - 2\alpha \cos \omega + \alpha^2} \right\}.$$

For what values of p, d, q is the autocovariance function of $\{Y_t\}$ identical to that of an ARIMA(p, d, q) process?

[

$$\begin{aligned} f_Y(\omega) &= f_X(\omega) + f_\epsilon(\omega) = \frac{1}{|1 - \alpha e^{i\omega}|^2} f_\eta(\omega) + f_\epsilon(\omega) \\ &= \frac{\sigma^2}{\pi} \left\{ \frac{1}{1 - 2\alpha \cos \omega + \alpha^2} + 1 \right\} = \frac{\sigma^2}{\pi} \left\{ \frac{2 - 2\alpha \cos \omega + \alpha^2}{1 - 2\alpha \cos \omega + \alpha^2} \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

We recognise this as the spectral density of an ARMA(1, 1) model. E.g., $Z_t - \alpha Z_{t-1} = \xi_t - \theta \xi_{t-1}$, choosing θ and σ_ξ^2 such that

$$(1 - 2\theta \cos \omega + \theta^2) \sigma_\xi^2 = (\sigma^2/\pi)(2 - 2\alpha \cos \omega + \alpha^2)$$

I.e., choosing θ such that $(1 + \theta^2)/\theta = (2 + \alpha^2)/\alpha$.]

7. Suppose X_1, \dots, X_T are values of a time series. Prove that

$$\left\{ \hat{\gamma}_0 + 2 \sum_{k=1}^{T-1} \hat{\gamma}_k \right\} = 0,$$

where $\hat{\gamma}_k$ is the usual estimator of the k th order autocovariance,

$$\hat{\gamma}_k = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=k+1}^T (X_t - \bar{X})(X_{t-k} - \bar{X}).$$

Hint: Consider $0 = \sum_{t=1}^T (X_t - \bar{X})$.

Hence deduce that not all ordinates of the correlogram can have the same sign.

Suppose $f(\cdot)$ is the spectral density and $I(\cdot)$ the periodogram. Suppose f is continuous and $f(0) \neq 0$. Does $\mathbb{E}I(2\pi/T) \rightarrow f(0)$ as $T \rightarrow \infty$?

[The results follow directly from

$$\frac{1}{T} \left[\sum_{t=1}^T (X_t - \bar{X}) \right]^2 = 0.$$

Note that formally,

$$I(0) = \hat{\gamma}_0 + 2 \sum_{k=1}^{T-1} \hat{\gamma}_k = 0.$$

so it might appear that $\mathbb{E}I(2\pi/T) \rightarrow I(0) \neq f(0)$ as $T \rightarrow \infty$. However, this would be mistaken. It is a theorem that as $T \rightarrow \infty$, $I(\omega_j) \sim f(\omega_j)\chi_2^2/2$. So for large T , $\mathbb{E}I(2\pi/T) \approx f(0)$.]

8. Suppose $I(\cdot)$ is the periodogram of $\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_T$, where these are i.i.d. $N(0, 1)$ and $T = 2m + 1$. Let ω_j, ω_k be two distinct Fourier frequencies, Show that $I(\omega_j)$ and $I(\omega_k)$ are independent random variables. What are their distributions?

If it is suspected that $\{\epsilon_t\}$ departs from white noise because of the presence of a single harmonic component at some unknown frequency ω a natural test statistic is the maximum periodogram ordinate

$$T = \max_{j=1, \dots, m} I(\omega_j).$$

Show that under the hypothesis that $\{\epsilon_t\}$ is white noise

$$P(T > t) = 1 - \{1 - \exp(-\pi t/\sigma^2)\}^m.$$

[The independence of $I(\omega_j)$ and $I(\omega_k)$ was proved in lectures. Their distributions are $(\sigma^2/2\pi)\chi_2^2$, which is equivalent to the exponential distribution with mean σ^2/π . Hence the probability that the maximum is less than t is the probability that all are, i.e.,

$$P(T < t) = \{1 - \exp(-\pi t/\sigma^2)\}^m.$$

]

9. Complete this sketch of the fast Fourier transform. From data X_0, \dots, X_T , with $T = 2^M - 1$, we want to compute the 2^{M-1} ordinates of the periodogram

$$I(\omega_j) = \frac{1}{\pi T} \left| \sum_{t=0}^T X_t e^{it2\pi j/2^M} \right|^2, \quad j = 1, \dots, 2^{M-1}.$$

This requires order T multiplications for each j and so order T^2 multiplications in all. However,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{t=0,1,\dots,2^M-1} X_t e^{it2\pi j/2^M} &= \sum_{t=0,2,\dots,2^M-2} X_t e^{it2\pi j/2^M} + \sum_{t=1,3,\dots,2^M-1} X_t e^{it2\pi j/2^M} \\ &= \sum_{t=0,1,\dots,2^{M-1}-1} X_{2t} e^{i2t2\pi j/2^M} + \sum_{t=0,1,\dots,2^{M-1}-1} X_{2t+1} e^{i(2t+1)2\pi j/2^M} \\ &= \sum_{t=0,1,\dots,2^{M-1}-1} X_{2t} e^{it2\pi j/2^{M-1}} + e^{i2\pi j/2^M} \sum_{t=0,1,\dots,2^{M-1}-1} X_{2t+1} e^{it2\pi j/2^{M-1}}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that the value of either sum on the right hand side at $j = k$ is the complex conjugate of its value at $j = (2^{M-1} - k)$; so these sums need only be computed for $j = 1, \dots, 2^{M-2}$. Thus we have two sums, each of which is similar to the sum on the left hand side, but for a problem half as large. Suppose the computational effort required to work out each right hand side sum (for all 2^{M-2} values of j) is $\Theta(M - 1)$. The sum on the left hand side is obtained (for all 2^{M-1} values of j) by combining the right hand sums, with further computational effort of order 2^{M-1} . Explain

$$\Theta(M) = a2^{M-1} + 2\Theta(M - 1).$$

Hence deduce that $I(\cdot)$ can be computed (by the FFT) in time $T \log_2 T$.

[The derivation of the recurrence for $\Theta(M)$ should be obvious. We have $\Theta(1) = 1$, and hence $\Theta(M) = aM2^M = O(T \log_2 T)$.]

10. Suppose we have the ARMA(1, 1) process

$$X_t = \phi X_{t-1} + \epsilon_t + \theta \epsilon_{t-1},$$

with $|\phi| < 1$, $|\theta| < 1$, $\phi + \theta \neq 0$, observed up to time T , and we want to calculate k -step ahead forecasts $\hat{X}_{T,k}$, $k \geq 1$.

Derive a recursive formula to calculate $\hat{X}_{T,k}$ for $k = 1$ and $k = 2$.

[

$$\hat{X}_{T,1} = \phi X_T + \hat{\epsilon}_{T+1} + \theta \hat{\epsilon}_T = \phi X_T + \theta(X_T - \hat{X}_{T-1,1})$$

$$\hat{X}_{T,2} = \phi \hat{X}_{T,1} + \hat{\epsilon}_{T+2} + \theta \hat{\epsilon}_{T+1} = \phi \hat{X}_{T,1}$$

]

11. Consider the stationary scalar-valued process $\{X_t\}$ generated by the moving average, $X_t = \epsilon_t - \theta\epsilon_{t-1}$.

Determine the linear least-square predictor of X_t , in terms of X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}, \dots .

[We can directly apply our results to give

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{X}_{t-1,1} &= -\theta\hat{\epsilon}_{t-1} \\ &= -\theta[X_{t-1} - \hat{X}_{t-2,1}] \\ &= -\theta X_{t-1} + \theta\hat{X}_{t-2,1} \\ &= -\theta X_{t-1} + \theta[-\theta X_{t-2} + \theta\hat{X}_{t-3,1}] \\ &= -\theta X_{t-1} - \theta^2 X_{t-2} - \theta^3 X_{t-3} - \dots\end{aligned}$$

Alternatively, take the linear predictor as $\hat{X}_{t-1,1} = \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} a_r X_{t-r}$ and seek to minimize $\mathbb{E}[X_t - \hat{X}_{t-1,1}]^2$. We have

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[X_t - \hat{X}_{t-1,1}]^2 &= \mathbb{E}\left[\epsilon_t - \theta\epsilon_{t-1} - \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} a_r(\epsilon_{t-r} - \theta\epsilon_{t-r-1})\right]^2 \\ &= \sigma^2 \left[1 + (\theta + a_1)^2 + (\theta a_1 - a_2)^2 + (\theta a_2 - a_3)^2 + \dots\right]\end{aligned}$$

Note that all terms, but the first, are minimized to 0 by taking $a_r = -\theta^r$.]

12. Consider the ARIMA(0, 2, 2) model

$$(I - B)^2 X = (I - 0.81B + 0.38B^2)\epsilon$$

where $\{\epsilon_t\}$ is white noise with variance 1.

(a) With data up to time T , calculate the k -step ahead optimal forecast of $\hat{X}_{T,k}$ for all $k \geq 1$. By giving a general formula relating $\hat{X}_{T,k}$, $k \geq 3$, to $\hat{X}_{T,1}$ and $\hat{X}_{T,2}$, determine the curve on which all these forecasts lie.

[The model is

$$X_t = 2X_{t-1} - X_{t-2} + \epsilon_t - 0.81\epsilon_{t-1} + 0.38\epsilon_{t-2}.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{X}_{T,1} &= 2X_T - X_{T-1} + \hat{\epsilon}_{T+1} - 0.81\hat{\epsilon}_T + 0.38\hat{\epsilon}_{T-1} \\ &= 2X_T - X_{T-1} - 0.81[X_T - \hat{X}_{T-1,1}] + 0.38[X_{T-1} - \hat{X}_{T-2,1}]\end{aligned}$$

and similarly

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{X}_{T,2} &= 2\hat{X}_{T,1} - X_T + 0.38[X_T - \hat{X}_{T-1,1}] \\ \hat{X}_{T,k} &= 2\hat{X}_{T,k-1} - \hat{X}_{T,k-2}, \quad k \geq 3.\end{aligned}$$

This implies that the forecasts lie on a straight line.]

(b) Suppose now that $T = 95$. Calculate numerically the forecasts $\hat{X}_{95,k}$, $k = 1, 2, 3$ and their mean squared prediction errors when the last five observations are $X_{91} = 15.1$, $X_{92} = 15.8$, $X_{93} = 15.9$, $X_{94} = 15.2$, $X_{95} = 15.9$.

[You will need estimates for ϵ_{94} and ϵ_{95} . Start by assuming $\epsilon_{91} = \epsilon_{92} = 0$, then calculate $\hat{\epsilon}_{93} = \epsilon_{93} = X_{93} - \hat{X}_{92,1}$, and so on, until ϵ_{94} and ϵ_{95} are obtained.]

[Using the above formulae we obtain

| t | X_t | $\hat{X}_{t,1}$ | $\hat{X}_{t,2}$ | $\hat{X}_{t,3}$ | ϵ_t |
|-----|-------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 91 | 15.1 | | | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| 92 | 15.8 | 16.500 | 17.200 | 17.900 | 0.000 |
| 93 | 15.9 | 16.486 | 16.844 | 17.202 | -0.600 |
| 94 | 15.2 | 15.314 | 14.939 | 14.564 | -1.286 |
| 95 | 15.9 | 15.636 | 15.596 | 15.555 | 0.586 |

Now

$$X_{T+k} = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} c_r \epsilon_{T+k-r} \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{X}_{T,k} = \sum_{r=k}^{\infty} c_r \epsilon_{T+k-r}.$$

Thus

$$\mathbb{E} \left[X_{T+k} - \hat{X}_{T,k} \right]^2 = \sigma_\epsilon^2 \sum_{r=0}^{k-1} c_r^2.$$

where $\sigma_\epsilon^2 = 1$. Now

$$X_T = \epsilon_T + (2 - 0.81)\epsilon_{T-1} + (-2(0.81) - 1 + 0.38)\epsilon_{T-2} + \dots$$

Hence the mean square errors of $\hat{X}_{95,1}$, $\hat{X}_{95,2}$, $\hat{X}_{95,3}$ are respectively 1, 1.416, 5.018.]

13. Consider the state space model,

$$\begin{aligned} X_t &= S_t + v_t, \\ S_t &= S_{t-1} + w_t, \end{aligned}$$

where X_t and S_t are both scalars, X_t is observed, S_t is unobserved, and $\{v_t\}$, $\{w_t\}$ are Gaussian white noise sequences with variances V and W respectively. Write down the Kalman filtering equations for \hat{S}_t and P_t .

Show that $P_t \equiv P$ (independently of t) if and only if $P^2 + PW = WV$, and show that in this case the Kalman filter for \hat{S}_t is equivalent to exponential smoothing.

[This is the same as Section 8.4 of the notes. $F_t = 1$, $G_t = 1$, $V_t = V$, $W_t = W$. $R_t = P_{t-1} + W$. So if $(S_{t-1} | X_1, \dots, X_{t-1}) \sim N(\hat{S}_{t-1}, P_{t-1})$ then $(S_t | X_1, \dots, X_t) \sim N(\hat{S}_t, P_t)$, where

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{S}_t &= \hat{S}_{t-1} + R_t(V + R_t)^{-1}(X_t - \hat{S}_{t-1}) \\ P_t &= R_t - \frac{R_t^2}{V + R_t} = \frac{VR_t}{V + R_t} = \frac{V(P_{t-1} + W)}{V + P_{t-1} + W}. \end{aligned}$$

P_t is constant if $P_t = P$, where P is the positive root of $P^2 + WP - WV = 0$.

In this case \hat{S}_t behaves like $\hat{S}_t = (1 - \alpha) \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \alpha^r X_{t-r}$, where $\alpha = V/(V + W + P)$. This is simple exponential smoothing.]