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0. Introduction

The aim of this paper is to develop a model-based seasonal adjustment method which will yield the same decomposition formulas as the descriptive seasonal adjustment procedures proposed in Schlicht/Pauly [1984] and Schlicht [1981]. Hence the duality between the descriptive and the model-based approaches to seasonal adjustment referred to in Schlicht [1981] is resolved for this class of statistical models and descriptive procedures. In addition, estimates for the weights used in the descriptive procedures can be obtained in the stochastic framework, in principle.

* This paper owes much to many discussions with R. Pauly. He pointed out that the descriptive methods under discussion can be turned into statistical models by introducing a suitable parametrization. He proposed the parametrization by initial values as described in Pauly [1982]; see also Pauly/Schlicht [1984]. This induced the idea of the alternative parametrization developed in this paper.

In contrast to other attempts in this direction - notably by Akaike [1980] and Pauly [1982] - the estimation procedure does not involve initial values. Hence the asymmetry in the estimation procedure associated with the introduction of initial values is avoided and a "weakly symmetric" decomposition is obtained [see Schlicht/Pauly, 1984, section 5.]. On the Schlicht/Pauly procedure and numerical results, see also Astier/Duhamel [1982].

1. The Model

Consider a time series $x \in \mathbb{R}^T$ which is to be decomposed into a trend $y \in \mathbb{R}^T$ and a seasonal component $z \in \mathbb{R}^T$. Denote the irregular component by $u \in \mathbb{R}^T$, the trend disturbances by $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $n < T$ and the seasonal perturbations $w \in \mathbb{R}^\ell$, $\ell < T$. In Schlicht/Pauly [1984] it has been argued that it is reasonable to write

$$(1) \quad x = y + z + u$$

$$(2) \quad Py = v$$

$$(3) \quad Rz = Zw$$

for certain matrices P , R , and Z . These are assumed to have the following orders and ranks

	P	R	Z
order	$n \times T$	$m \times T$	$m \times \ell$
(4)			
rank	n	m	m

$$\text{with } n < T, m < T, m + n \geq T, m \leq \ell \leq T$$

The Schlicht/Pauly adjustment procedure is simply to minimize the expression

$$(5) \quad u'u + \alpha v'v + \gamma w'w \quad \alpha > 0, \gamma > 0$$

for the given time series x and given weights α and γ under the constraints (1) - (3).

This leads to a unique solution

$$(6) \quad y = y(x; \alpha, \gamma)$$

$$(7) \quad z = z(x; \alpha, \gamma)$$

2. A Parametrization

The first step is to solve (2) und (3) for y and z , respectively. Consider first equation (2). A set of $(T - n)$ orthogonal solutions to $Py = 0$ can be normalized and give rise to a matrix N of order $T \times (T - n)$ which satisfies

$$(12) \quad PN = 0, \quad N'N = I$$

and any solution to (2) can be written as

$$(13) \quad y = P'(PP')^{-1} \cdot v + N \cdot \lambda \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R}^{T-n}$$

where λ stands for a parameter vector.

Similarly there exists a $T \times (T - m)$ matrix M satisfying

$$(14) \quad RM = 0, \quad M'M = I$$

which permits us to rewrite (3) as

$$(15) \quad z = R'(RR')^{-1}Zw + M\mu \quad \mu \in \mathbb{R}^{T-m}$$

Note that

$$(16) \quad N'y = \lambda, \quad M'z = \mu.$$

Proposition 1 The following holds true

$$(17) \quad P'(PP')^{-1}P + NN' = I$$

$$(18) \quad R'(RR')^{-1}R + MM' = I$$

$$(19) \quad r(N, M) = T-n + T-m.$$

Proof. Statement (17) will be proved first. Consider

$$(20) \quad \begin{bmatrix} P \\ N' \end{bmatrix} \cdot [P'N] = \begin{bmatrix} PP' & 0 \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix}$$

which has full rank. Hence the square matrix $(P'N)$ has full rank. This implies

$$(21) \quad [P'N] \begin{bmatrix} (PP')^{-1}0 \\ 0 \quad I \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} P \\ N' \end{bmatrix} = I$$

and hence (17).

Statement (18) is proved analogously.

Statement (19) is implied by assumption (11), qed

3. The Joint Distribution

The system (1), (2), (3), (9) can be replaced now by the equivalent system (1), (13), (14), (9) and we can determine the joint distribution of (x, y, z) which is normal

$$(22) \quad \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} \sim \mathcal{N}(a, S)$$

where

$$(23) \quad a := \begin{bmatrix} N & M \\ N & 0 \\ 0 & M \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \lambda \\ \mu \end{bmatrix}$$

and

$$(24) \quad S := \begin{bmatrix} S_x + S_y + S_z & S_y & S_z \\ & S_y & 0 \\ & S_z & 0 & S_z \end{bmatrix}$$

with

$$(25) \quad S_x := \sigma_u^2 I, \quad S_y = \sigma_v^2 P'(PP')^{-1} (PP')^{-1} P$$

$$S_z := \sigma_w^2 R'(RR')^{-1} (ZZ')(RR')^{-1} R$$

The parameters are

$$(26) \quad \theta := (\lambda, \mu, \sigma_u^2, \sigma_v^2, \sigma_w^2).$$

Note that S is singular. Hence (x', y', z') is distributed on a subspace of \mathbb{R}^{3T} which is determined by the parameters λ and μ : Only those y and z satisfying (16) are possible. Nevertheless we shall speak occasionally about the density of (x', y', z') , and we refer thereby to the density on that subspace.

The distribution (22) gives rise to the marginal distribution

$$(27) \quad (x|\theta) \sim \mathcal{N}(N\lambda + M\mu, S_x + S_y + S_z)$$

and the conditional distributions

$$(28) \quad (y|_z, \theta) \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\begin{bmatrix} N & 0 \\ 0 & M \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda \\ \mu \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} S_y \\ S_z \end{bmatrix} (S_x + S_y + S_z)^{-1} (x - N\lambda - M\mu), S_{yz}\right)$$

with

$$(29) \quad S_{yz} := \begin{bmatrix} S_y & 0 \\ 0 & S_z \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} S_y \\ S_z \end{bmatrix} (S_x + S_y + S_z)^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} S_y & S_z \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(30) \quad (y|x-z, \theta) \sim \mathcal{N}(N\lambda + S_y (S_x + S_y)^{-1} (x - z - N\lambda), S_y (I - (S_x + S_y)^{-1} S_y))$$

$$(31) \quad z|x-y, \theta \sim \mathcal{N}(M\mu + S_z (S_x + S_z)^{-1} (x - y - M\mu), S_z (I - (S_x + S_z)^{-1} S_z)).$$

4. Estimates for λ and μ

The estimation of the parameters is straightforward now: We shall derive them as maximum likelihood estimates from (27). Consider first the estimation of λ and μ and assume the variances to be known. Hence the problem boils down to the regression problem described by

$$(32) \quad x = \begin{bmatrix} N, M \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda \\ \mu \end{bmatrix} + \epsilon \quad \text{with} \quad \epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, S_x + S_y + S_z)$$

Hence unbiased maximum likelihood estimators are given by the Aitken estimators

$$(33) \quad \begin{pmatrix} \hat{\lambda} \\ \hat{\mu} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} [N'] \\ [M'] \end{bmatrix} (S_x + S_y + S_z)^{-1} [N, M]^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} [N'] \\ [M'] \end{bmatrix} (S_x + S_y + S_z)^{-1} x.$$

All matrices involved are of full rank - compare (19) and (25). Hence the inverses exist. The expression (33) is equivalent to

$$(34) \quad N' (S_x + S_y + S_z)^{-1} (x - N\hat{\lambda} - M\hat{\mu}) = 0$$

$$(35) \quad M' (S_x + S_y + S_z)^{-1} (x - N\hat{\lambda} - M\hat{\mu}) = 0$$

5. Estimates for Trend and Season

If we knew the true parameters θ (including λ and μ) we would know from (28) the distribution of trend y and seasonal component z , but their "true" values would remain inaccessible. It seems to be reasonable, however, to define the estimates for trend and season by the mode (which equals the expected value) of the distribution (28), since the position of the distribution is characterized by the mode.

Hence we define trend and season as follows

$$(36) \quad \hat{y}(x; \theta) := N\lambda + S_y (S_x + S_y + S_z)^{-1} (x - N\lambda - M\mu)$$

$$(37) \quad \hat{z}(x; \theta) := M\mu + S_z (S_x + S_y + S_z)^{-1} (x - N\lambda - M\mu)$$

Now we shall prove the following

Theorem 1 For $\theta = (\hat{\lambda}, \hat{\mu}, \sigma_u^2, \sigma_v^2, \sigma_w^2)$ and $\hat{\lambda}, \hat{\mu}$ defined in (33) and for $\alpha = \sigma_u^2 / \sigma_v^2$ and $\gamma = \sigma_u^2 / \sigma_w^2$, the descriptive decomposition defined by (6) - (8) and the statistical decomposition (36) - (37) are numerically identical.

Proof. Equation (8) is equivalent to

$$(38) \quad \alpha P'Py = x - y - z$$

$$(39) \quad \gamma R'(ZZ')^{-1}Rz = x - y - z$$

where y and z denote the descriptive solution. We shall show that the statistical solution

$$(40) \quad \hat{y} = N \hat{\lambda} + S_Y (S_X + S_Y + S_Z)^{-1} (x - N \hat{\lambda} - M \hat{\mu})$$

$$(41) \quad \hat{z} = M \hat{\mu} + S_Z (S_X + S_Y + S_Z)^{-1} (x - N \hat{\lambda} - M \hat{\mu})$$

satisfies equations (28) and (39) for

$\alpha = \sigma_u^2 / \sigma_v^2$ and $\gamma = \sigma_u^2 / \sigma_w^2$. Because all solutions are unique, this will prove the theorem.

Formulas (40) and (41) imply

$$(42) \quad \hat{y} + \hat{z} = N \hat{\lambda} + M \hat{\mu} + (S_Y + S_Z) (S_X + S_Y + S_Z)^{-1} (x - N \hat{\lambda} - M \hat{\mu}).$$

From the definition of the covariance matrices (25) it follows that

$$(43) \quad (S_Y + S_Z) (S_X + S_Y + S_Z)^{-1} = I - \sigma_u^2 (S_X + S_Y + S_Z)^{-1}.$$

Hence (42) implies

$$(44) \quad x - \hat{y} - \hat{z} = \sigma_u^2 (S_X + S_Y + S_Z)^{-1} (x - N \hat{\lambda} - M \hat{\mu}).$$

If we insert this into (40) and (41), it follows that

$$(45) \quad \hat{y} = N \hat{\lambda} + \frac{1}{\sigma_u^2} \cdot S_Y (x - \hat{y} - \hat{z})$$

$$(46) \quad \hat{z} = M \hat{\mu} + \frac{1}{\sigma_u^2} S_Z (x - \hat{y} - \hat{z}).$$

Premultiplication with $\alpha P'P$ and $\gamma R'(ZZ')^{-1}R$ yields

$$(47) \quad \alpha P'P\hat{y} = \alpha \cdot \frac{\sigma_v^2}{\sigma_u^2} P'(PP')^{-1}P(x-\hat{y}-\hat{z})$$

$$(48) \quad \gamma R'(ZZ')^{-1}R\hat{z} = \gamma \cdot \frac{\sigma_w^2}{\sigma_u^2} R'(RR')^{-1}R(x-\hat{y}-\hat{z})$$

For $\alpha = \sigma_u^2/\sigma_v^2$ and $\gamma = \sigma_u^2/\sigma_w^2$ and with (17) and (18)

this can be rewritten as

$$(49) \quad \alpha P'P\hat{y} = x-\hat{y}-\hat{z} - NN'(x-\hat{y}-\hat{z})$$

$$(50) \quad \gamma R'(ZZ')^{-1}R\hat{z} = x-\hat{y}-\hat{z} - MM'(x-\hat{y}-\hat{z})$$

In view of (44) the final terms in (49) and (50) are

$$(51) \quad NN'(x-\hat{y}-\hat{z}) = \sigma_u^2 NN'(S_x + S_y + S_z)^{-1} (x - N\hat{\lambda} - M\hat{\mu})$$

$$(52) \quad MM'(x-\hat{y}-\hat{z}) = \sigma_u^2 MM'(S_x + S_y + S_z)^{-1} (x - N\hat{\lambda} - M\hat{\mu})$$

and (34) and (35) imply these terms to be zero.

Hence (49) and (50) imply

$$(53) \quad \alpha P'P\hat{y} = x-\hat{y}-\hat{z}$$

$$(54) \quad \gamma R'(ZZ')^{-1}R\hat{z} = x-\hat{y}-\hat{z}$$

which proves the proposition.

6. The Estimation of Variances

In order to estimate σ_u^2 , σ_v^2 , and σ_w^2 we put $\lambda = \hat{\lambda}$ and $\mu = \hat{\mu}$ and define the associated errors in (32) as

$$(55) \quad \hat{\epsilon} = x - N\hat{\lambda} - M\hat{\mu},$$

In view of Theorem 1 we take furthermore

$$\alpha = \sigma_u^2 / \sigma_v^2$$

$$\gamma = \sigma_u^2 / \sigma_w^2$$

in the following.

Disregarding constants, the associated concentrated logarithmic likelihood function reads

$$L(\sigma_u^2, \sigma_v^2, \sigma_w^2) = \log \det (S_x + S_y + S_z + \hat{\epsilon}' (S_x + S_y + S_z)^{-1} \hat{\epsilon})$$

last term

$$(59) \quad A := \hat{\epsilon}' (S_x + S_y + S_z)^{-1} \hat{\epsilon}$$

can be simplified further. Define

$$(60) \quad \hat{u} := x - \hat{y} - \hat{z}, \quad \hat{v} = P\hat{y}, \quad \hat{w} = Z'(ZZ')^{-1}R\hat{z}$$

as the associated errors resulting from the decomposition defined by (8). Hence (44) implies

$$\hat{u} = \sigma_u^2 (S_x + S_y + S_z)^{-1} \hat{\epsilon}$$

and

$$A = \frac{1}{\sigma_u^4} \hat{u}' (S_x + S_y + S_z) \hat{u}.$$

Since (53) and (54) together with the definitions of the covariance matrices imply

$$\frac{1}{\sigma_u^4} \hat{u}' S_x \hat{u} = \frac{1}{\sigma_u^2} \hat{u}' \hat{u}$$

$$\frac{1}{\sigma_u^4} \hat{u}' S_y \hat{u} = \frac{1}{\sigma_v^2} \hat{y}' P' P \hat{y} = \frac{1}{\sigma_v^2} \hat{v}' \hat{v}$$

$$(65) \quad \frac{1}{\sigma_u^4} \hat{u}' S_z \hat{u} = \frac{1}{\sigma_w^2} \hat{z}' R' (ZZ')^{-1} R \hat{z} = \frac{1}{\sigma_w^2} \hat{w}' \hat{w}$$

expression A can be written alternatively as

$$(66) \quad A = \frac{1}{\sigma_u^2} \hat{u}' \hat{u} + \frac{1}{\sigma_v^2} \hat{v}' \hat{v} + \frac{1}{\sigma_w^2} \hat{w}' \hat{w} ,$$

the likelihood function can be written as

$$(67) \quad L(\sigma_u^2, \sigma_v^2, \sigma_w^2) = \log \det (S_x + S_y + S_z) + \frac{1}{\sigma_u^2} \hat{u}' \hat{u} + \frac{1}{\sigma_v^2} \hat{v}' \hat{v} + \frac{1}{\sigma_w^2} \hat{w}' \hat{w}$$

and maximum likelihood estimates can be obtained numerically¹⁾.

At present P. Duhamel, Université de Paris-Sud, is pursuing this problem in the framework of the Schlicht/Paul procedure via extensive Monte-Carlo studies.

1) From (8) one gets

$$(*) \quad A = \frac{1}{\sigma_u^2} (x'x - [x', x'] H^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ x \end{bmatrix})$$

and

$$(**) \quad \frac{\partial A}{\partial \sigma_u^2} = -\frac{1}{\sigma_u^4} \hat{u}' \hat{u}, \quad \frac{\partial A}{\partial \sigma_v^2} = -\frac{1}{\sigma_v^4} \hat{v}' \hat{v}, \quad \frac{\partial A}{\partial \sigma_w^2} = -\frac{1}{\sigma_w^4} \hat{w}' \hat{w}$$

In addition

$$(***) \quad B = \log \det (S_x + S_y + S_z)$$

is homogeneous of degree T. This implies the necessary condition

$$(***) \quad \frac{1}{\sigma_u^2} \hat{u}' \hat{u} + \frac{1}{\sigma_v^2} \hat{v}' \hat{v} + \frac{1}{\sigma_w^2} \hat{w}' \hat{w} = TB = A$$

for a maximum of (67), but I have been unable to solve the complete problem analytically.

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