

An overall seasonality test based on recursive feature elimination in conditional random forests

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Agenda

Motivation

Random forests and conditional inference trees

Candidate and overall seasonality tests

Simulation algorithm and design

Results

Summary

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What is next?

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Simulation algorithm and design

Results

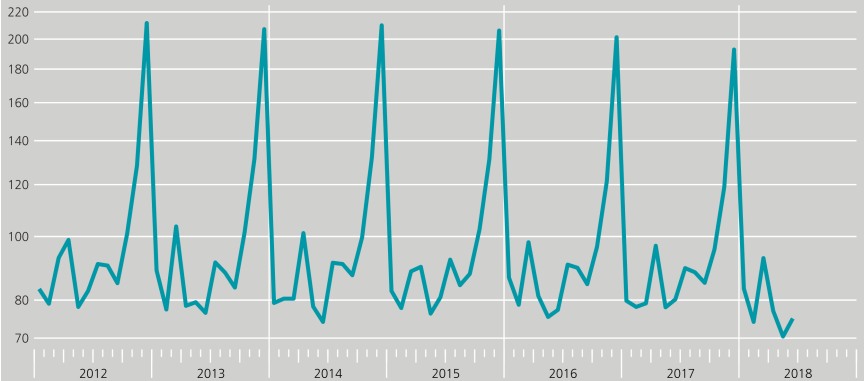
Summary

References

What is seasonality? (I/II)

Retail trade turnover: games and toys

Value, 2015 = 100, log scale



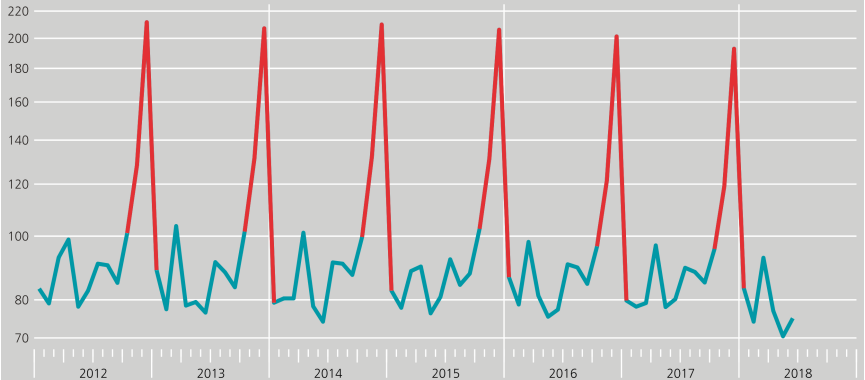
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What is seasonality? (I/II)

Retail trade turnover: games and toys

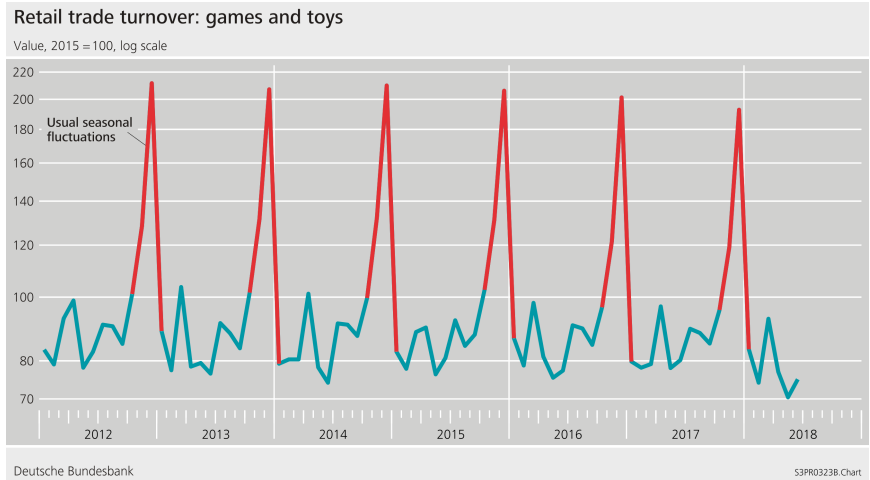
Value, 2015 = 100, log scale



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What is seasonality? (I/II)



I What is seasonality? (II/II)

Deutsche Bundesbank, Statistical Supplement 4 "Seasonally adjusted business statistics"

'Usual seasonal fluctuations' means those movements which

- ☞ recur with similar intensity
- ☞ in the same season each year

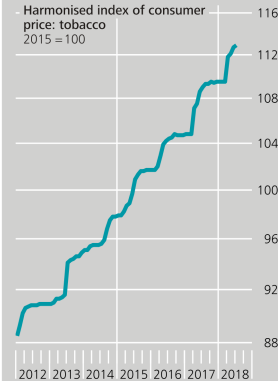
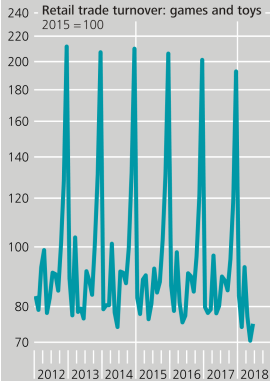
and which, on the basis of past movements of the time series in question,

- ☞ can, under normal circumstances, be expected to recur.

Are these economic time series seasonal?

Set of potentially seasonal time series

log scale, monthly



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Answers from JDemetra+

Are these economic time series seasonal?

Test	Retail trade turnover: games and toys	HICP: tobacco	CPI: energy
QS	Yes	No	Perhaps
FT	Yes	No	Perhaps
KW	Yes	No	Yes
SP	Yes	No	No
PD	Yes	No	Yes
SD	Yes	No	Yes

Research questions

How can we combine results of a set of seasonality tests?

- ☞ Classification problem
- 💡 Random forest

How can we separate relevant from irrelevant seasonality tests?

- ☞ Informational content
- 💡 Variable importance measures

How can we construct an informative overall seasonality tests?

- ☞ Sequential “winners stay – loser walks” competition
- 💡 Recursive feature elimination

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Random forest (I/III)

Notations

Training data

$$\mathcal{L} = (\mathbf{X}\mathbf{Y})$$

Predictors

$$\mathbf{X} = (\mathbf{X}_1 \dots \mathbf{X}_p) \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbf{X}_j = (x_{1j}, \dots, x_{Nj})^\top$$

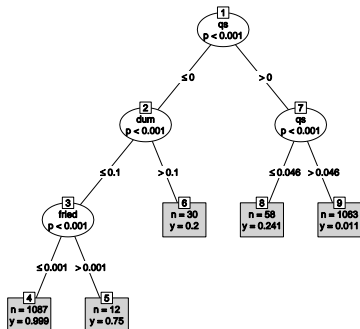
Categorical response

$$\mathbf{Y} = (y_1, \dots, y_N)^\top \quad \text{with} \quad y_i \in \{1, \dots, K\}$$

Random forest (II/III)

Basic idea

Classification tree

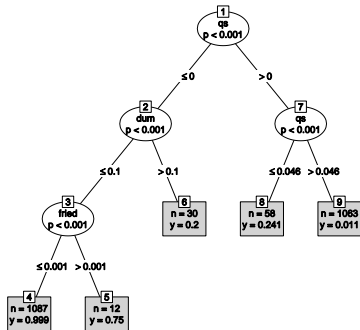


Single vote

Random forest (II/III)

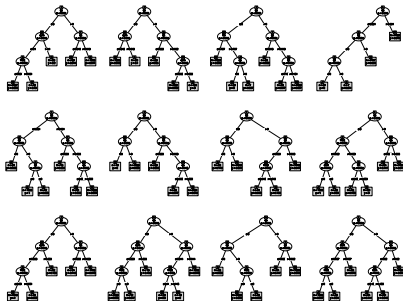
Basic idea

Classification tree



Single vote

Independent classification trees



Majority vote

Random forest (III/III)

Potential issues

Classical approach

- Variable selection, node splitting \rightsquigarrow No separation
- Source \rightsquigarrow Sampling scheme at each node

Potential biases

- Variable selection \rightsquigarrow \mathbf{X}_j 's with larger measurement scales, higher number of categories, missing values
- Variable importance measures \rightsquigarrow **Correlated \mathbf{X}_j 's** (in addition)

Potential consequences

- Truly influential \mathbf{X}_j \rightsquigarrow Underestimated importance
- Seemingly influential \mathbf{X}_j \rightsquigarrow Overestimated importance

Conditional inference trees (I/III)

Basic idea

Bootstrap samples (with replacement, $b \in \{1, \dots, B\}$)

Sampled ("bag") data	$\rightarrow \mathcal{L}_b$	\rightarrow	Unpruned tree \mathcal{T}_b
"Out-of-bag" (OOB) data	$\rightarrow \mathcal{O}_b = \mathcal{L} \setminus \mathcal{L}_b$	\rightarrow	Validation

Node splitting

- Conditional inference framework \rightsquigarrow Generic algorithm

Stop criteria

- Generic algorithm \rightsquigarrow No association between \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{Y}
- Terminal nodes \rightsquigarrow Minimum number of observations n_{\min}

Conditional inference trees (II/III)

Generic node splitting algorithm

Key idea

- Variable selection, node splitting \rightsquigarrow Separation
- Node representation \rightsquigarrow Case weights $\mathbf{w}_m \in \{0, 1\}^N$

Selection step

- $H_0 : \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{Y}|\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{w}_m) = \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{Y}|\mathbf{w}_m) \rightsquigarrow$ Test
- No rejection \rightsquigarrow Stop
- Rejection \rightsquigarrow Find \mathbf{X}_{j^*} with strongest association to \mathbf{Y}

Split step

- Take \mathbf{X}_{j^*} \rightsquigarrow Find optimal binary split
- Daughter nodes \rightsquigarrow Find case weights $\mathbf{w}_m^{\text{left}}$ and $\mathbf{w}_m^{\text{right}}$

Conditional inference trees (III/III)

Variable importance

Conditional permutation scheme

- Permutation of \mathbf{X}_j 's values in $\mathcal{O}_b \rightsquigarrow$ Mimic absence of \mathbf{X}_j
- Grid \rightsquigarrow Cut-points of $\mathbf{X}_j^c = (\mathbf{X}_1 \dots \mathbf{X}_{j-1} \mathbf{X}_{j+1} \dots \mathbf{X}_p)$ in \mathcal{T}_b

Permutation-based importance measure

$$VI(\mathbf{X}_j) = \frac{1}{B} \sum_{b=1}^B \sum_{i \in \mathcal{O}_b} \left[\frac{\mathcal{I}\{y_i \neq \hat{y}_i(\mathcal{T}_b, \mathbf{X}_{\pi(j)|\mathbf{X}_j^c})\}}{|\mathcal{O}_b|} - \frac{\mathcal{I}\{y_i \neq \hat{y}_i(\mathcal{T}_b, \mathbf{X}_j)\}}{|\mathcal{O}_b|} \right]$$

Interpretation

- Prediction accuracy of $\mathbf{X}_j \rightsquigarrow$ Mean decrease

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Preliminaries

ARIMA model

$$\phi_p(B)\Phi_P(B^\tau)(1-B)^d(1-B^\tau)^D\{x_t\} = \theta_q(B)\Theta_Q(B^\tau)\{\varepsilon_t\}$$

Short form notation

– $(pdq)(PDQ)$

Classification rule

$$\begin{aligned}(PDQ) = (000) &\rightarrow \{x_t\} \text{ is non-seasonal (N-S)} \\(PDQ) \neq (000) &\rightarrow \{x_t\} \text{ is seasonal (S)}\end{aligned}$$

Candidate tests (I/III)

JD+ tests

Name	Variable checked for significance	Short
Modified QS test	Autocorrelations at seasonal lags	QS
Friedman test	ANOVA with repeated measures on intra-year ranks	FT
Kruskal-Wallis test	ANOVA without repeated measures on overall ranks	KW
Test for spectral peaks ¹⁾	Tukey and AR(30) spectra at seasonal frequencies	SP
Periodogram test	Weighted sum of periodogram at seasonal frequencies	PD
F -test on seasonal dummies	Effects of seasonal dummies in the "(pdq)(000) + mean + seasonal dummies" model	SD

¹ This test is not considered as a candidate test.

Candidate tests (II/III)

Medical (MD) and unit root (UR) tests

Name	Variable checked for significance	Short
Welch test	ANOVA with repeated measures on time series for heteroskedastic data	WE
Welch-Kruskal-Wallis test	ANOVA with repeated measures on overall ranks for heteroskedastic data	WEKW
Edwards test	Efficient score vector at seasonal harmonics with square root transformation	ED
Roger test	Efficient score vector at seasonal harmonics without square root transformation	RO
OCSB test ¹⁾	Effect of seasonal unit root in the "Mean + unit root + seasonal unit root + augmentations" model	OCSB

1 Three variants of this test are considered: OCSB1 uses augmentation lags {1, 2, 3}, OCSB2 uses augmentation lags {1, 2, 3, 12, 13} and OCSB3 is OCSB2 with the disturbances being a MA(1) process instead of white noise.

Candidate tests (III/III)

ARIMA residual-based variants

Non-seasonal ARIMA model

$$\phi_p(B)(1-B)^d\{x_t\} = \mu + \theta_q(B)\{\varepsilon_t\}$$

Model identification

- Method \rightsquigarrow Hyndman & Khandakar (2008)
- Restrictions $\rightsquigarrow p \leq 3, q \leq 3$

Residual-based tests

- FT, KW, QS, RO, WE, WEKW \rightsquigarrow Application to ARIMA residuals
- Short form \rightsquigarrow Suffix "-R"

Overall test

Goal

- Model parsimony, prediction accuracy \rightsquigarrow Potential conflict
- Interpretable results, low misclassification rates \rightsquigarrow Balance

Step 1

- Most informative tests (MIT) \rightsquigarrow Identification
- Conditional random forests (CRF) \rightsquigarrow Recursive feature elimination (RFE)

Step 2

- Classification rule \rightsquigarrow Derivation
- Combination of MIT \rightsquigarrow Conditional inference tree

Step 1: identification of most informative tests (I/III)

RFE algorithm

Step (a): initialise

$$\mathcal{L} = (\mathbf{X}\mathbf{Y})$$

\mathbf{X} = p -values of candidate tests → Entire set

\mathbf{Y} = Seasonality dummy → Simulated ARIMA models

Step (b): grow multiple CRFs

\mathcal{L} → Independent samples $\mathcal{L}^{(i)}$,
Validation (VAL) data $\mathcal{V}^{(i)} = \mathcal{L} \setminus \mathcal{L}^{(i)}$ → $i \in \{1, \dots, L\}$

$\mathcal{L}^{(i)}$ → Bootstrap samples $\mathcal{L}_b^{(i)}$,
OOB data $\mathcal{O}_b^{(i)} = \mathcal{L}^{(i)} \setminus \mathcal{L}_b^{(i)}$ → $b \in \{1, \dots, B\}$

$\mathcal{L}_b^{(i)}$ → Conditional inference tree $\mathcal{T}_b^{(i)}$

Step 1: identification of most informative tests (II/III)

RFE algorithm

Step (c): aggregate information

$$\begin{aligned} \bigcup_b \mathcal{O}_b^{(i)} &\rightarrow \text{Importance } \text{VI}^{(i)}(\mathbf{X}_j), \\ &\text{VI}(\mathbf{X}_j) = L^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^L \text{VI}^{(i)}(\mathbf{X}_j) \rightarrow j \in \text{candidate tests} \\ \mathcal{V}^{(i)} &\rightarrow \text{Overall misclassification rate} \\ &\text{MR}^{(i)} = \text{MR} \left(\bigcup_b \mathcal{T}_b^{(i)} \right) \rightarrow \text{Mean/Median, SD} \end{aligned}$$

Step (d): eliminate least important test

$$\mathbf{X} \rightarrow \mathbf{X}_* = \arg \min_j \text{VI}(\mathbf{X}_j) \rightarrow \mathcal{L} = (\mathbf{X}_*^c \mathbf{Y})$$

Step 1: identification of most informative tests (III/III)

RFE algorithm

Step (e): repeat steps (b) to (d)

Stop criterion $\rightarrow |\mathbf{X}| = p_{\min} \rightarrow$ RFE path

Step (f): select most informative tests

RFE path \rightarrow Mean/Median $(MR^{(1)}, \dots, MR^{(L)})$,
SD $(MR^{(1)}, \dots, MR^{(L)})$,
 $|\mathbf{X}| \rightarrow \mathbf{X}_{MIT}$

Step 2: derivation of classification rule

Step (a): grow single decision tree

$\mathcal{L} = (\mathbf{X}_{\text{MIT}} \mathbf{Y}) \rightarrow$ Sample \mathcal{L}^* ,
Validation data $\mathcal{V}^* = \mathcal{L} \setminus \mathcal{L}^*$
 $\mathcal{L}^* \rightarrow$ Conditional inference tree $\mathcal{T}^* \rightarrow$ Rule

Step (b): prune single decision tree (optional)

$\mathcal{T}^* \rightarrow$ Potential redundancies
(depending on $|\mathbf{X}_{\text{MIT}}|, n_{\min}, \dots$),
Pruned conditional inference tree \rightarrow Simplified but equivalent rule

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Model identification

Goal

- Construction of overall test \rightsquigarrow "Representative" ARIMA models ($\tau = 12$, model shares, distributional properties)
- Source \rightsquigarrow BBk macroeconomic time series database

Samples

- Monthly seasonal adjustment \rightsquigarrow 3,300 time series
- No seasonal adjustment \rightsquigarrow 10,600 time series

ARIMA identification

- JD+ \rightsquigarrow regARIMA & TRAMO automatic routines
- Model shares p_{mk} \rightsquigarrow Averaged share in class $k \in \{N-S, S\}$

Model simulation

Weights

$$w_{mk} = \tilde{p}_{mk} \left(\sum_j \tilde{p}_{jk} \right)^{-1} \quad \text{with} \quad \tilde{p}_{mk} = p_{mk} \cdot \mathcal{I}\{p_{mk} \geq 0.01\}$$

Algorithm (Ollech & Webel, 2017)

- NORTA \rightsquigarrow Logspline density estimation
- ARMA parameters \rightsquigarrow Mimic multivariate distribution

Representative outcome

- $100,000 \cdot w_{mk}$ models \rightsquigarrow 5, 10, 20 years
- Total \rightsquigarrow **600,000 ARIMA models**

Construction of overall test

Candidate tests

- Three branches \rightsquigarrow 18 tests
- Stationarity assumption \rightsquigarrow Differencing (if necessary)

Step 1: RFE path

- Steps (b) to (d) $\rightsquigarrow L = 50$ (size $\in [800; 8,000]$), $B = 100$, $n_{\min} = 1$
- Step (c) \rightsquigarrow VAL data = Samples from $\mathcal{V}^{(i)}$ (size = 50,000)
- Step (e) $\rightsquigarrow p_{\min} = 1$

Step 2: classification rule

- \mathcal{L}^* \rightsquigarrow Size = 50,000
- \mathcal{T}^* $\rightsquigarrow n_{\min} = 250$

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Top 10 ARIMA models

Simulation weights

As a percentage

Rank	Non-seasonal (N-S) class		Seasonal (S) class	
	Model m	Weight w_{mk}	Model m	Weight w_{mk}
1	(011)(000)	22.8	(011)(011)	47.5
2	(311)(000)	11.0	(010)(011)	8.3
3	(110)(000)	10.3	(311)(011)	7.7
4	(100)(000)	8.5	(210)(011)	6.6
5	(211)(000)	5.4	(110)(011)	6.4
6	(001)(000)	4.7	(211)(011)	4.4
7	(010)(000)	4.2	(012)(011)	4.0
8	(111)(000)	4.0	(111)(011)	3.6
9	(012)(000)	3.6	(011)(111)	2.5
10	(210)(000)	3.6	(010)(100)	2.0

Misclassification rates (I/III)

As a percentage, $\alpha = 0.01$

Classifier		Simulated ARIMA series							
		All lengths		5-year		10-year		20-year	
		N-S	S	N-S	S	N-S	S	N-S	S
CRF*	OOB	0.6	1.9	0.6	1.9	0.5	2.0	0.7	1.9
	VAL	0.6	1.9	0.6	2.0	0.5	1.8	0.6	1.8
JD+ tests	QS	4.9	1.5	2.5	1.7	5.0	1.4	7.1	1.3
	QS-R	0.3	8.4	0.2	7.5	0.2	7.8	0.6	9.8
	FT	2.1	2.1	1.5	2.2	2.3	1.9	2.4	2.1
	FT-R	0.8	2.1	0.4	2.3	0.8	2.0	1.4	2.1
	KW	2.4	3.8	1.9	3.9	2.6	3.7	2.7	3.8
	KW-R	0.7	2.1	0.3	2.2	0.7	2.0	1.1	2.2
	PD	3.2	3.6	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.6	3.2	3.9
	SD	4.0	2.7	4.4	2.5	4.1	2.7	3.7	2.9
MD tests	RO	11.8	93.9	10.1	93.7	11.6	94.0	13.7	94.0
	RO-R	16.7	78.7	15.6	82.3	17.2	77.6	17.2	76.4
	ED	4.2	99.2	3.3	99.1	4.1	99.3	5.2	99.4
	WE	3.5	3.8	4.3	3.7	3.2	3.7	3.0	4.0
	WE-R	1.7	2.1	2.7	2.0	1.5	2.1	1.1	2.4
	WEKW	5.6	3.4	9.0	3.1	4.5	3.4	3.4	3.7
	WEKW-R	4.1	1.8	7.6	1.5	2.9	1.8	1.7	2.0
UR tests	OCSB1	4.9	4.3	7.8	3.8	3.7	4.5	3.2	4.6
	OCSB2	3.3	4.9	8.4	3.1	1.0	5.0	0.6	6.6
	OCSB3	10.5	4.6	11.9	3.2	8.6	4.7	11.0	5.9

* Average misclassification rates over 50 training data sets at the initial RFE stage.

Misclassification rates (II/III)

As a percentage, $\alpha = 0.05$

Classifier		Simulated ARIMA series							
		All lengths		5-year		10-year		20-year	
		N-S	S	N-S	S	N-S	S	N-S	S
CRF*	OOB	0.6	1.9	0.6	1.9	0.5	2.0	0.7	1.9
	VAL	0.6	1.9	0.6	2.0	0.5	1.8	0.6	1.8
JD+ tests	QS	7.4	1.2	4.9	1.4	7.5	1.1	9.8	1.2
	QS-R	1.1	7.0	0.9	6.1	0.9	6.4	1.4	8.3
	FT	6.6	1.6	5.7	1.6	7.0	1.5	7.2	1.7
	FT-R	4.2	1.6	3.2	1.6	4.2	1.5	5.2	1.7
	KW	6.9	3.2	6.2	3.1	7.1	3.1	7.4	3.3
	KW-R	4.0	1.6	3.1	1.6	4.1	1.5	4.7	1.8
	PD	8.1	3.2	8.3	2.8	8.2	3.1	8.0	3.5
	SD	9.1	2.2	9.7	2.0	9.2	2.2	8.5	2.5
MD tests	RO	15.1	91.0	13.5	90.7	14.9	91.1	16.8	91.3
	RO-R	19.9	71.7	18.8	74.9	20.6	70.6	20.4	69.8
	ED	4.9	99.1	3.9	98.9	4.8	99.1	6.1	99.3
	WE	8.9	3.3	10.8	3.0	8.2	3.2	7.7	3.6
	WE-R	6.4	1.7	8.6	1.4	5.7	1.6	4.9	2.0
	WEKW	12.0	2.9	17.5	2.7	10.1	2.9	8.3	3.2
	WEKW-R	10.4	1.4	16.7	1.1	8.3	1.4	6.1	1.6
UR tests	OCSB1	2.9	7.1	4.0	7.0	2.4	7.4	2.3	6.7
	OCSB2	0.8	10.0	1.7	6.9	0.4	9.6	0.4	13.4
	OCSB3	3.5	8.5	3.6	7.0	3.1	8.6	4.0	9.8

* Average misclassification rates over 50 training data sets at the initial RFE stage.

Misclassification rates (III/III)

Preliminary conclusion

Residual-based tests

- Lower \rightsquigarrow Compared to standard tests (except for QS, RO)

ED & RO tests

- Unacceptably high (especially for class S) \rightsquigarrow No consideration for RFE path

OCSB tests

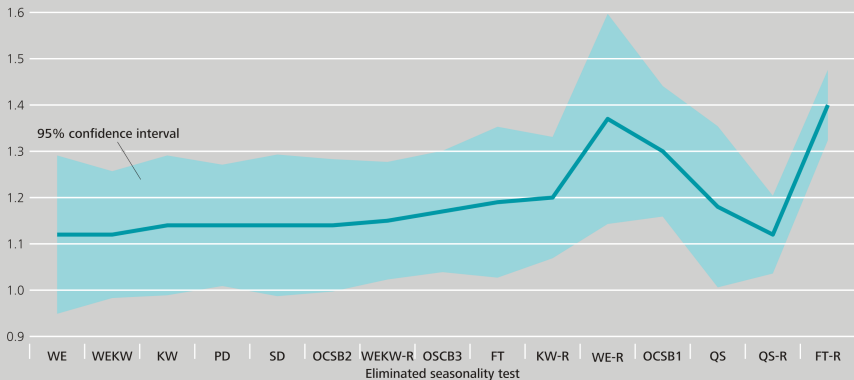
- Lower for class S \rightsquigarrow OCSB1
- Lower for class N-S (especially for longer series) \rightsquigarrow OCSB2

RFE path (I/II)

Mean variable importance

Average misclassification rates

External validation data, %



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53PR0386.Chart

Karsten Webel (BBk)

Overall seasonality test – 5th ITISE, 20 September 2018

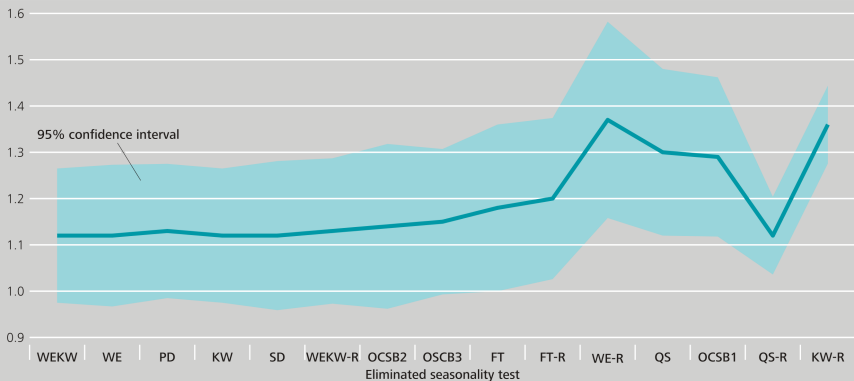
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RFE path (II/II)

Median variable importance

Average misclassification rates

External validation data, %



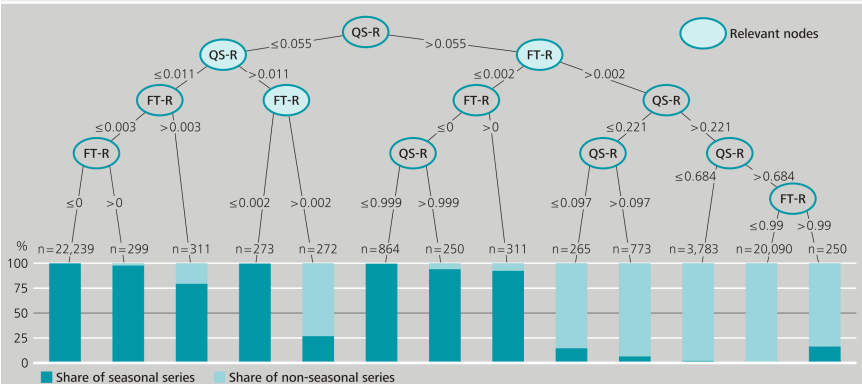
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Classification rule (I/III)

Conditional inference tree

Classification tree consisting of the QS-R and FT-R tests



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Classification rule (II/III)

Pruned conditional inference tree

Overall seasonality test

A time series is classified as seasonal if

1. $p\text{-value} \leq 0.011$ for the QS-R test OR
2. $p\text{-value} > 0.011$ for the QS-R test AND $p\text{-value} \leq 0.002$ for the FT-R test.

Misclassification rates

As a percentage

Data	All lengths		5-year		10-year		20-year	
	N-S	S	N-S	S	N-S	S	N-S	S
Training set	0.54	1.56	0.18	2.20	0.36	1.47	1.09	1.02
Validation set	0.56	1.57	0.28	2.07	0.38	1.49	1.03	1.14

Classification rule (III/III)

Application

Are these economic time series seasonal?

Test	Retail trade turnover: games and toys	HICP: tobacco	CPI: energy
QS	Yes	No	Perhaps
FT	Yes	No	Perhaps
KW	Yes	No	Yes
SP	Yes	No	No
PD	Yes	No	Yes
SD	Yes	No	Yes
Overall seasonality test			
QS-R	$p\text{-value} = 0.000$	$p\text{-value} = 0.969$	$p\text{-value} = 0.038$
FT-R	$p\text{-value} = 0.000$	$p\text{-value} = 0.740$	$p\text{-value} = 0.017$
Σ	Yes	No	No

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In a nutshell

Overall seasonality test

- Most informative tests \rightsquigarrow Identification via RFE in CRF framework
- Classification rule \rightsquigarrow Derivation via pruned conditional tree

Large-scale simulation study

- ARIMA models \rightsquigarrow Representative of BBk database
- Most informative tests \rightsquigarrow ARIMA residual-based QS & FT tests
- Overall test \rightsquigarrow High precision, tractable rule

Future research

- Verification \rightsquigarrow Unbalanced training data (N-S vs S), barely seasonal data
- Seasonality tests \rightsquigarrow Very short series, $\tau \neq 12$

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