

Correlations versus Common Accident-Year and Calendar-Year Drivers for Long-Tail LoBs

A Single Composite Model for Multiple LoBs
and the Economic Balance Sheet

Casualty Loss Reserve Seminar
Monday, 15 September 2014
10:15 AM

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Long tail liabilities (LOBs)

- Correlations
- Accident year drivers
- Calendar year drivers
- Seemingly Unrelated Regressions(SUR)
- Single composite model for multiple LOBs
- Risk Capital Allocation
- One year ahead statistics(CDR)
 - Variation in mean ultimates one year hence
- Economic Balance Sheet and Solvency II one year risk horizon metrics

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Correlations between LOBs

- Three types of relationships
 - Process correlation
 - Parameter (trend) correlation
 - Similar trend structure implying commonality in calendar year drivers and/or accident year drivers
- Cannot measure these relationships unless LOB trend structure and process variability (volatility) modeled accurately
- Most important direction is the calendar year
- Reserve distribution correlation << Process correlation
- Highest Process correlation we have seen is 0.6!
- Highest Reserve distribution correlation is 0.2!

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Correlation and Linearity

The slope β is determined by the correlation ρ , and the standard deviations:

$$\beta = \rho \sigma_Y / \sigma_X,$$

where $\rho = \text{Cov}(X, Y) / (\sigma_X \sigma_Y).$

The correlation between Y and X is zero if and only if the slope β is zero.

Also note: when Y and X have a bivariate normal distribution, the conditional variance of Y , given X , is constant i.e. not a function of X :

$$\text{Var}(Y|X) = \sigma_{Y|X}^2$$

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Correlation and Linearity

If (Y, X) has a joint normal distribution then

$$Y | X = x \sim N(\alpha + \beta x, \sigma^2)$$

and

$$\text{Var}(Y) \geq \text{Var}(Y | X = x) = \sigma^2$$

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Correlation and Linearity

This is why, in the usual linear regression model

$$Y = \alpha + \beta X + \varepsilon$$

the variance of the "error" term ε does not depend on X .

However, not all variables are linearly related. Suppose we have two random variables related by the equation

$$S = T^2$$

where T is normally distributed with mean zero and variance 1.

What is the correlation between S and T ?

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Correlation and Linearity

Linear correlation is a measure of how close two random variables are to being linearly related.

In fact, if we know that the linear correlation is +1 or -1, then there must be a deterministic linear relationship

$$Y = \alpha + \beta X \text{ between } Y \text{ and } X \text{ (and vice versa).}$$

If Y and X are linearly related, and f and g are functions, the relationship between $f(Y)$ and $g(X)$ is not necessarily linear, so we should not expect the linear correlation between $f(Y)$ and $g(X)$ to be the same as between Y and X .

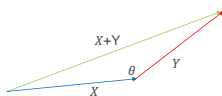
(Answer to question on previous slide is zero)

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The Geometry of Random Variables



$\|X\|$ is the "length" of X .
Length of a random variable = standard deviation.

Fundamental property of insurance:

$$\|X + Y\| \leq \|X\| + \|Y\|$$

or

$$SD(X + Y) \leq SD(X) + SD(Y)$$

← The Triangle Inequality

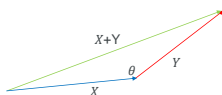
Aggregation leads to risk diversification. Without this fact there would be no such thing as insurance.

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The Geometry of Random Variables



- $\|X + Y\|^2 = \|X\|^2 + \|Y\|^2 - 2 \|X\| \|Y\| \cos(\theta)$
- $Var(X + Y) = Var(X) + Var(Y) + 2 Cov(X, Y)$
- But, $\|X\|^2 = [SD(X)]^2 = Var(X)$ hence

$$Cov(X, Y) = -\|X\| \|Y\| \cos(\theta)$$

- And since $Corr = \rho = \frac{Cov(X, Y)}{\|X\| \|Y\|}$ we have

$$\rho = -\cos(\theta)$$

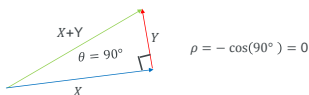
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The Geometry of Random Variables

Correlation measures the angle between two random variables.



If the random variables are uncorrelated ($\rho = 0$), or equivalently orthogonal ($X \perp Y$), we have Pythagoras' Theorem:

$$Var(X + Y) = Var(X) + Var(Y)$$

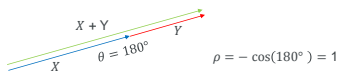
or equivalently,

$$\|X + Y\|^2 = \|X\|^2 + \|Y\|^2$$

and there is significant risk diversification

$$SD(X + Y) \ll SD(X) + SD(Y)$$

The Geometry of Random Variables



$$\|X + Y\| = \|X\| + \|Y\| \iff SD(X + Y) = SD(X) + SD(Y)$$

Alternatively, if $\rho = 1$ then the random variables are perfectly correlated and there is no risk diversification.

Indeed, $\rho = \pm 1$ if and only if one random variable can be written as a linear sum of the other:

$$Y = a + bX$$

If $\rho < 1$ there is risk diversification.

Digression: A common misconception with correlated lognormals

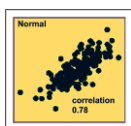
- Actuaries frequently need to find covariances or correlations between variables. such as when finding the variance of a sum of forecasts (for example in P&C reserving, when combining territories or lines of business, or computing the benefit from diversification).
- Correlated normal random variables are well understood.
- The usual multivariate distribution used for analysis of related normals is the multivariate normal, where correlated variables are linearly related. In this circumstance, the usual linear correlation (the *Pearson correlation*) makes sense.

A common misconception with correlated lognormals

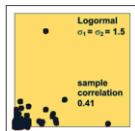
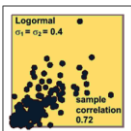
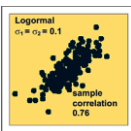
However, when dealing with lognormal random variables (whose logs are normally distributed), if the underlying normal variables are linearly correlated, then the correlation of lognormals changes as the variance parameters change, even though the correlation of the underlying normal does not.

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A common misconception with correlated lognormals



All three lognormals below are based on normal variables with correlation 0.78, as shown left, but with different standard deviations.

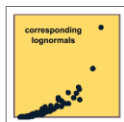
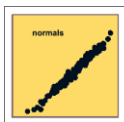


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A common misconception with correlated lognormals

We cannot measure the correlation on the log-scale and apply that correlation directly to the dollar scale, because the correlation is not the same on that scale.

Additionally, if the relationship is linear on the log scale (the normal variables are multivariate normal) the relationship is no longer linear on the original scale, so the correlation is no longer linear correlation. The relationship between the variables in general becomes a curve:



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Correlation, Regression and Time Series

- Comparing Y vs time and X vs time is very different to comparing Y vs X.
- Correlations measured before and after regression can be very different.
- To assess the effective correlation between two series, must first remove trends (the predictable portion) and measure the correlation of the residuals (the random components.)

Correlation, Regression and Time Series

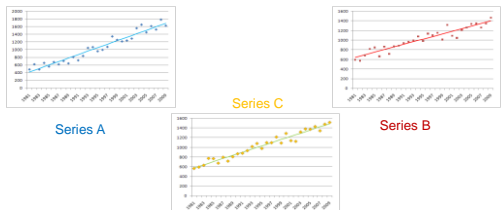
If a time series has structure (e.g. trend) you are not measuring correlation!



- Series A, B, and C all have a linear trend.
- B and C appear quite similar.
- The correlation between A and B is 0.91; between A and C it's 0.97
- Are A & B related? What about A & C?

De-trending the series

- Remove trends from the series.
 - In this case, using linear least-squares regression.
- Separate predictable components from the random component.



Correlations are in the volatility component of a model

- Two lines are (positively) correlated when their results tend to miss their target values in the same way.
- This is what should concern business planners, because it affects the unpredictable component of the forecasts.
- What is predictable when it includes common trend patterns, as in the above example, does not count towards correlation, because its effects are already incorporated into the model and forecast.

Correlations are in the volatility component of a model

- A forecast must include a volatility measure.
- Without volatility, correlation cannot be measured. Calculating correlation requires a distribution.
- Fully-described loss distribution is ideal. But require, as a minimum, the mean and standard deviation (2nd moment) to calculate linear correlation.

Common accident year and common calendar year drivers

- Common drivers are a stronger influence than correlation.
- Not typically found outside closely related losses.
- For example, Gross versus Net of Reinsurance.
 - Net of Reinsurance is a subset of Gross so common drivers are expected.
 - Layers are subsets of ground up losses
 - Segments of the same line.
 - In this respect, detection of common drivers is as important as understanding correlations.
- The two effects must be correctly distinguished and adjusted for as management strategies of these risk components differ.

Regression in the presence of correlation

Which could be rewritten as:

$$y = X\beta + \epsilon$$

For illustration of the most simple case we suppose that size of vectors y in models (1) are the same and equal to n , also we suppose that

$$E(\epsilon_i, \epsilon_i^T) = \text{var}(\epsilon_i) = I_n \sigma_i^2, \quad i = 1, 2, \quad C = I_n \sigma_{12}$$

In this case

$$\text{var}(\epsilon) = \Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} I_n \sigma_1^2 & I_n \sigma_{12} \\ I_n \sigma_{12} & I_n \sigma_2^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Regression in the presence of correlation

For example, when $n = 3$

$$\Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1^2 & 0 & 0 & \sigma_{12} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_1^2 & 0 & 0 & \sigma_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \sigma_1^2 & 0 & 0 & \sigma_{12} \\ \sigma_{12} & 0 & 0 & \sigma_2^2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_{12} & 0 & 0 & \sigma_2^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \sigma_{12} & 0 & 0 & \sigma_2^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Regression in the presence of correlation

There is a big difference between linear models in (1) and linear model (2), as in (1) we consider models separately and could not use additional information, from dependency (process correlation) of these models, what we can do in model (2). To extract this additional information we need to use proper methods to estimate vector of parameters β . The estimation

$$\hat{\beta} = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T y$$

which derived by ordinary least square (OLS) method, does not provide any advantage, as the covariance matrix Σ does not participate in the estimations.

Only general least square (GLS) estimation

$$\tilde{\beta} = (X^T \Sigma^{-1} X)^{-1} X^T \Sigma^{-1} y$$

could help to achieve better results.

Model for individual iota parameters- they are correlated going forward

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{t}_1 &\sim N(\mu_1, \sigma_1^2); & \hat{\mu}_1 &= 0.1194; & \hat{\sigma}_1 &= 0.0331 \\ \hat{t}_2 &\sim N(\mu_2, \sigma_2^2); & \hat{\mu}_2 &= 0.0814; & \hat{\sigma}_2 &= 0.0321 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} t_1 \\ t_2 \end{pmatrix} \sim N(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}), \quad \hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.1194 \\ 0.0814 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \hat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.001097 & 0.000344 \\ 0.000344 & 0.001027 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\rho = \text{corr}(t_1, t_2), \quad \hat{\rho} = 0.359013$$

Reserve distribution correlations between two distinct LOBs - a very different story

- Highest process correlation observed between two different LOBs is about 0.6 (in our experience)
- But Reserve distribution correlation is typically lower.
- Trend structures for two LOBs typically different
- Parameter correlations low or zero
- See Private Passenger Automobile (PPA) versus Commercial Auto Liability (CAL)

Correlations and Other Relationships

- There are five types of relationships.
1. Process Correlation between two sets of (random) residuals
 2. Parameter Correlation
 3. Same Trend Structure - Common calendar year drivers. *This is stronger than correlations.*
 4. Common Accident-Year Drivers - Major implications for pricing future accident years. *This relationship is also stronger than correlations.*
 5. Reserve Distribution Correlations by total, accident years and calendar years. The optimal single composite model may also involve cross dataset parameter constraints.

Correlations and Other Relationships

- #1 induces #2.
- #3 is the 'worst' kind of relationship you can have between two LOBs
 - Very little, if any, risk diversification.
 - For future calendar year trends, the two LOBs move together, i.e. trend changes in one LOB mean trend changes in the other LOB.
- If two LOBs satisfy #3, then #1 and #2 are typically not far from 1.
- #3 – Only ever observed between layers of the same LOB, between segments of the same LOB, and between net of reinsurance and gross data (of the same LOB).

Correlations and Other Relationships

- #1, #2, #3 induce #5.
 - #5 is typically much less than #1 in the absence of #3.
- #4 results in mean ultimates by accident year moving synchronously.
 - Relationship may be close to linear- this is stronger than correlations and has implications for pricing.
 - Synchronous mean ultimates are already incorporated in the reserving model.
 - Sometimes only one or two accident years move synchronously due to a major event like Katrina. The process correlation about the new levels (trends) is usually low.
- You cannot measure the relationship between two LOBs unless you first identify the trend structure and process variability in each LOB.

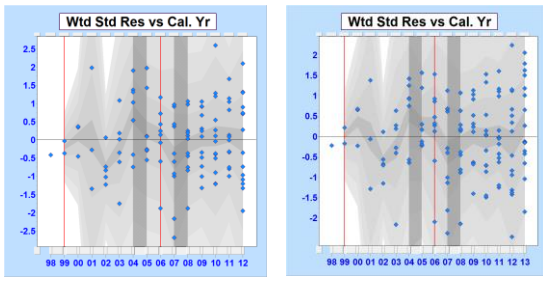
Correlations and Other Relationships

- Only in the Probabilistic Trend Family (PTF) modelling framework can you
- Identify a parsimonious model that
 - Separates the trend structure in the three directions from the process variability.

The data triangle (real data) is regarded as a sample path from the identified model that fits (different) normal distributions to each cell.

Simulated triangles from the identified good model are indistinguishable from the real data.

Consistent estimates of prior year ultimates and SII metrics updating



Consistent Estimates of prior year ultimates on updating

Original Forecast			On Updating		
Acc. Yr	Mean		Acc. Yr	Mean	
	Outstanding	Ultimate		Outstanding	Ultimate
1998	0	4,302,916	1998	0	4,305,867
1999	100,508	6,822,005	1999	76,545	6,897,816
2000	291,127	6,713,398	2000	182,218	6,779,058
2001	487,828	9,323,056	2001	396,189	8,417,257
2002	790,374	10,484,035	2002	641,387	10,722,188
2003	1,918,061	16,497,237	2003	1,246,296	16,774,899
2004	2,808,328	24,338,373	2004	2,432,713	24,841,162
2005	4,416,971	35,141,812	2005	2,987,693	35,500,697
2006	6,913,228	42,860,789	2006	4,594,073	42,388,718
2007	10,308,033	48,364,178	2007	7,158,276	47,287,224
2008	15,873,848	56,111,850	2008	10,240,367	54,233,648
2009	17,808,028	52,989,959	2009	11,283,984	52,365,077
2010	27,146,880	65,327,878	2010	18,972,241	58,803,229
2011	45,184,872	68,428,362	2011	24,238,378	65,653,881
2012	60,857,840	65,673,332	2012	29,488,961	62,547,102
2013	179,505,841	499,999,660	2013	87,278,110	68,296,590
Total	179,505,841	499,999,660	Total	303,529,696	586,733,997

8% projected CY trend 0% projected CY trend 8% projected CY trend 20% projected CY trend

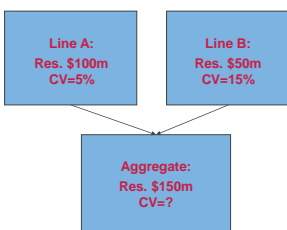
For forecast mean ultimates to be consistent you require a consistent model and consistent assumptions about the future.

Consistent Estimates of prior year ultimates on updating

Notice: estimates increasing. Future CY trend 9%

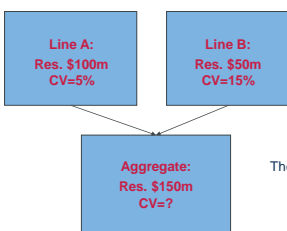
At end 2012, Mean ultimate distribution 2012 = 64.6 and SD of ultimate distribution = 5.7
 At end 2013, Mean ultimate distribution 2012 = 66.2 and SD of ultimate distribution = 4.2

Risk Capital Allocation



Assume Risk Capital at 98th percentile = 2 Standard Deviations
 Risk Capital for Line A = \$10m
 Risk Capital for Line B = \$15m
 Aggregate Risk Capital (ARC) = \$25m ?

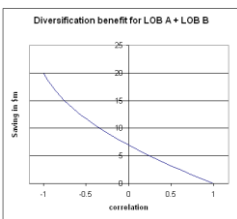
Risk Capital Allocation



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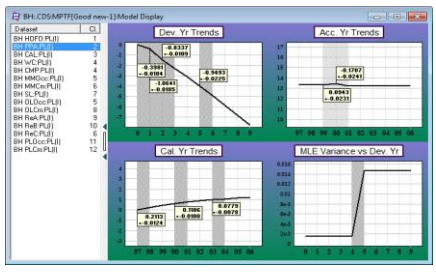
The answer depends on the correlation.
 If Corr = +1.0, ARC = \$25m
 If Corr = 0.0 ARC = \$18m

Risk Capital Allocation: Diversification benefit



Benefit =
 Sum of individual risk capital assessments – aggregate risk capital assessment from joint distribution of the two (correlated) lines.

A single composite model for multiple LOBs



A single composite model for multiple LOBs.
 LOBs are in same cluster if significantly correlated

Correlations |

Final Weighted Residual Correlations Between Datasets				
Clusters		Datasets		Correlations
Select	Action	Action	Name	
1	SEL		BH HCFO-PL(I)	1
2		Add to SEL	BH PPA-PL(I)	1
3		Add to SEL	BH CAL-PL(I)	1
4	Combine	Add to SEL	BH WC-PL(I)	1 0.357
5		Add to SEL	BH CMP-PL(I)	0.357 1
5	Combine	Add to SEL	BH MMCC-PL(I)	1 0.453
6		Add to SEL	BH OLCC-PL(I)	0.453 1
6	Combine	Add to SEL	BH MMCM-PL(I)	1 0.354
		Add to SEL	BH Rec-PL(I)	0.354 1

Clusters have been set
 9 iterations were executed
 Residuals correlation difference tolerance 0.010%

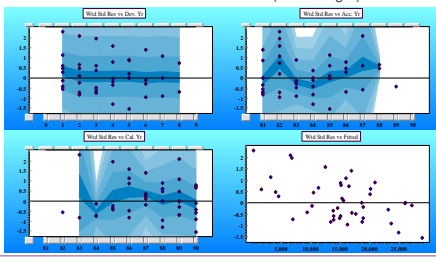
A single composite model for multiple LOBs

Projected lognormals for each cell and their correlations.
 Blue is observed.
 Black is fitted mean of lognormal.
 Red is standard deviation of fitted lognormal.
 Burgundy is standard deviation.

IL(C) Data

Mack (=volume weighted average) weighted standardized residuals

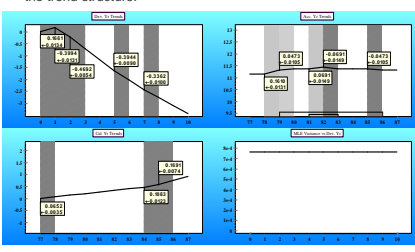
- Note trend in residuals versus fitted values (bottom right)



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Dataset ABC: The PTF model

The optimal PTF identified model. Note the model fits a normal distribution to each cell. The means are related via the trend structure.

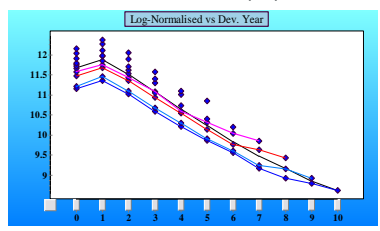


Note major calendar year trend shift.

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Dataset ABC

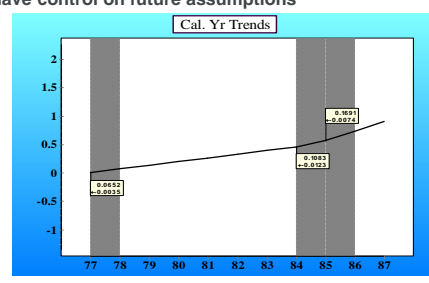
- As you move down the accident years the "kick-up" is one development period earlier
- Real data satisfies axiomatic trend properties.



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Dataset ABC
PTF-Calendar Year Trends

Have control on future assumptions



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Dataset ABC

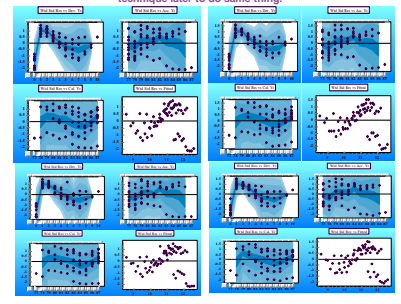
Three simulated triangles from the fitted model, and the real data triangle? Which is real data?



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Dataset ABC

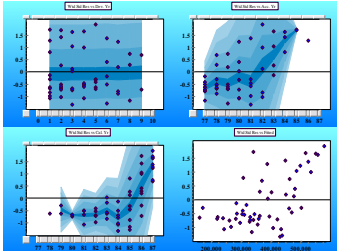
Three simulated, one real. Residuals of fitting only one parameter in each direction. Which is the real data? Simulated triangles have the same statistical features as the real data! We will use Bootstrap technique later to do same thing.



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Dataset ABC- Wtd Standardized Residuals of Mack method (CL link ratios)

It is impossible for any link ratio method including Mack (=CL ratios) to capture and describe trends in any direction, let alone the calendar years.

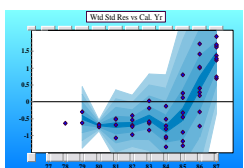


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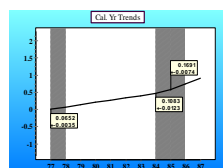
Dataset ABC

ELRF- Mack (volume weighted average link ratios) Residuals versus calendar year. Cannot capture calendar year trend structure. No control on assumptions going forward either, and average calendar year trend captured cannot be discerned.

Mack Residuals



Calendar Year trends in incrementals



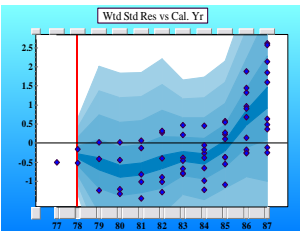
(Left) Residuals after applying Mack method to the loss array for Dataset ABC. Note the sharp trend after 1984. Mack underfits recent calendar years and overfits earlier years.
 (Right) Probability Trend Family model picks up the change in trend structure in this direction, the other two directions and the volatility.

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Dataset ABC

Removing the three calendar year trends. (setting the trend to zero for all calendar years in the PTF modelling framework)

Looks a bit like the Mack residuals (but on a log scale)



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