



TM



Mercury Marine & Automatic Forecasting Systems & Business Modelling Associates



**Data Cleansing and
Automatic Procedures**

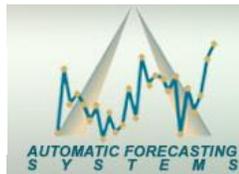


Tom Reilly Vice President



Our Company

- 1975 Incorporated
 - First-to-market Forecasting package
- 1976 “AutoBJ” available on Mainframe Time-sharing Services – IDC, CSC and CompuServe
- 1982 Autobox 1.0 launched DOS version on the PC
- 1991 Windows version
- 1996 Batch Version
- 1999 UNIX/AIX version
- 1999 Callable DLL version for “plug and play” into other systems
- 2011 - Partners with South Africa based Business Modelling Associates
www.businessmodellingassociates.com

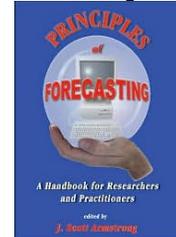


Why is Autobox's Methodology Different?

- **Automatically** creates a customized model for every data set.
- **Automatically** identifies and corrects outliers in the historical data and for the causal variables to keep the model used to forecast unaffected (Pulses, seasonal pulses, level shifts, local time trends)
- **Automatically** will identify and incorporate the time lead and lag relationship between the causal variables the variable being predicted
- **Automatically** will delete older data that behaves in a different “model” than the more recent data (i.e. Parameter Change detection via Chow Test)
- **Automatically** will weight observations based on their variance if there has been changes in historical volatility (i.e. Variance Change detection via Tsay Test)
- **Automatically** will identify intermittent demand data and use a special modelling approach to forecast the lumpy demand

Awards

- Picked as the “Best Dedicated Forecasting” Software in the “Principles of Forecasting” text book (Go to page 671 for overall results)



- Placed 12th in the “NN5” 2008 Forecasting Competition on “Daily data” (Click here to see www.neural-forecasting-competition.com results), but 1st among Automated software.



- Placed 2nd in the “NN3” 2007 Forecasting Competition on “Monthly data” (Click here to see www.neural-forecasting-competition.com), and 1st on more difficult data sets.



business modelling
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4

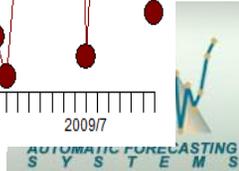
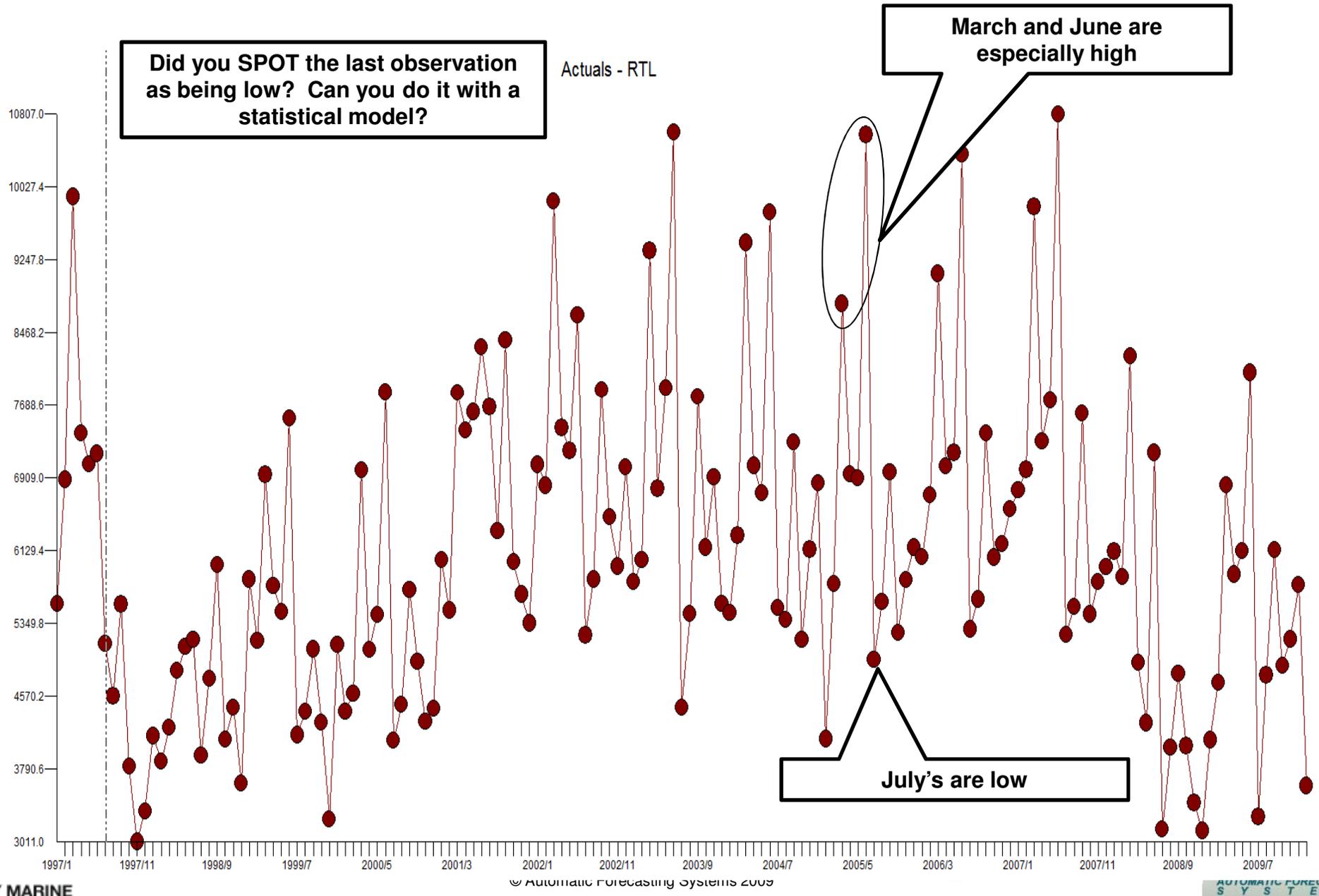
MERCURY MARINE

Mercury Marine

- Mercury Marine's forecasting process needed an improvement from basic approaches that did not provide accurate forecasts.
- They realized that their forecasts were a function of the software and its methodology.
- We undertook an effort to track accuracies in a more rigorous way to understand our service levels
- Mercury Marine published an article in APICS in 2009 with a full discussion of Autobox and its usage http://autobox.com/pdfs/apics_rev8.pdf



Monthly Outboard Motor shipments



Howzit???? It could be better!

```

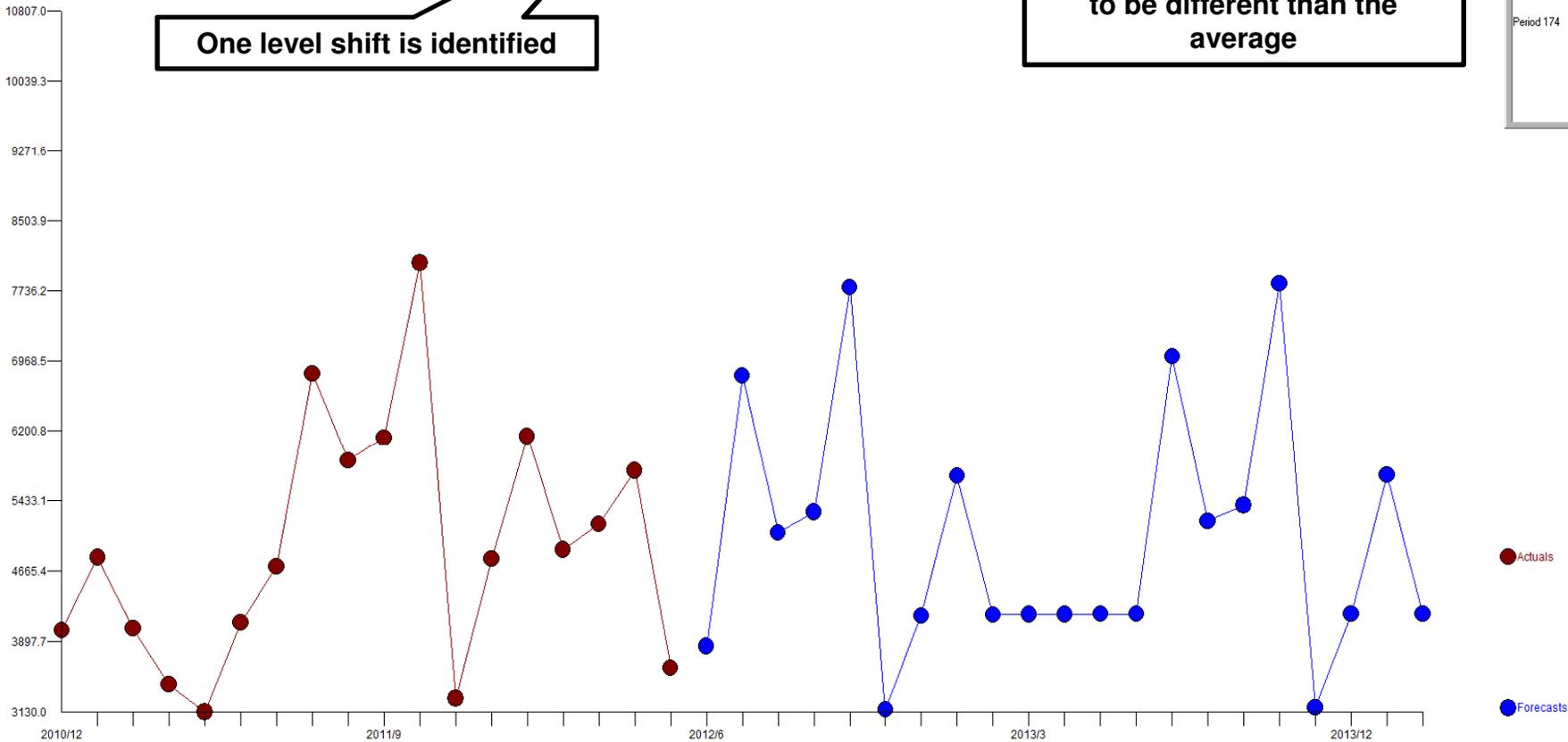
Y(T) = 5772.6
+[X1(T)] [(+ 2819.4 )] G_MONTHLYEFFECT3
+[X2(T)] [(+ 1014.2 )] G_MONTHLYEFFECT4
+[X3(T)] [(+ 1185.5 )] G_MONTHLYEFFECT5
+[X4(T)] [(+ 3620.3 )] G_MONTHLYEFFECT6
+[X5(T)] [(+ 1514.2 )] G_MONTHLYEFFECT9
+[X6(T)] [(- 1014.8 )] :SEASONAL PULSE 2003/ 7 I~S00051RTL
+[X7(T)] [(- 1576.7 )] :LEVEL SHIFT 2008/ 4 I~L00108RTL
+ [(1- .597B** 1)**-1 [A(T)]
  
```

Seems like a decent model and forecast IF you don't acknowledge that the last value is an anomaly

Months 3,4,5,6,7,9 are found to be different than the average

One level shift is identified

Actuals and Forecasts(No limits) - RTL



2013/10
Forecast 78
Period 174

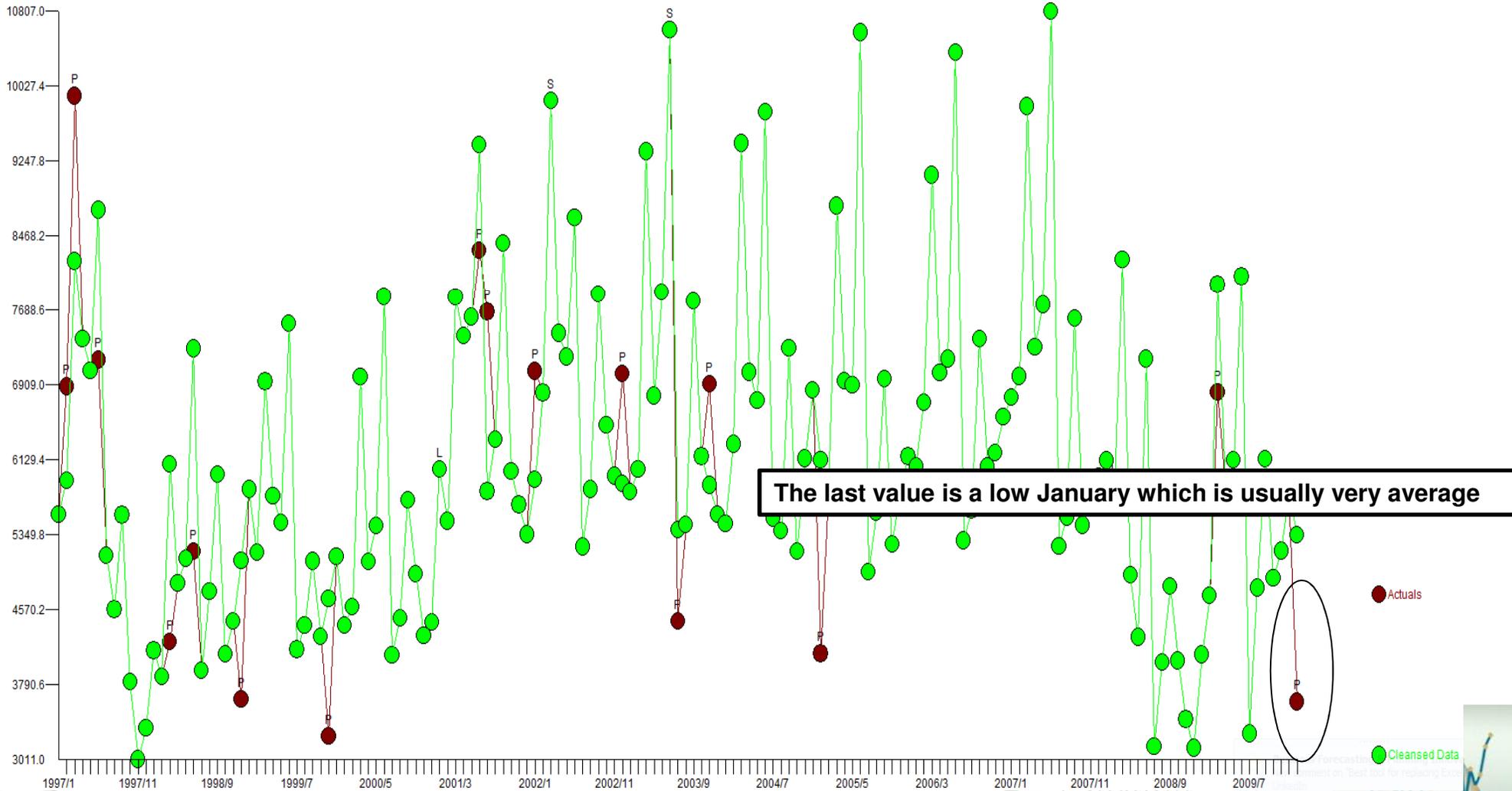
Actuals

Forecasts



Actuals and Cleansed of Outliers Plot

Actuals and Cleansed Data - RTL



Model is more robust

```

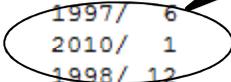
Y(T) = 4436.9
+[X1(T)] [(+ 332.30 )] G_MONTHLYEFFECT2
+[X2(T)] [(+ 2414.6 )] G_MONTHLYEFFECT3
+[X3(T)] [(+ 1166.8 )] G_MONTHLYEFFECT4
+[X4(T)] [(+ 1271.7 )] G_MONTHLYEFFECT5
+[X5(T)] [(+ 3140.5 )] G_MONTHLYEFFECT6
+[X6(T)] [(- 475.28 )] G_MONTHLYEFFECT7
+[X7(T)] [(+ 1517.3 )] G_MONTHLYEFFECT9
+[X8(T)] [(+ 1173.9 )] :SEASONAL PULSE 2003/ 6
+[X9(T)] [(+ 1868.3 )] :PULSE 2001/ 7
+[X10(T)] [(- 2112.7 )] :PULSE 1998/ 6
+[X11(T)] [(- 1850.2 )] :PULSE 1998/ 3
+[X12(T)] [(- 2011.8 )] :PULSE 2005/ 1
+[X13(T)] [(- 1570.2 )] :PULSE 1997/ 6
+[X14(T)] [(- 1736.2 )] :PULSE 2010/ 1
+[X15(T)] [(- 1447.4 )] :PULSE 1998/ 12
+[X16(T)] [(- 1432.3 )] :PULSE 1999/ 11
+[X17(T)] [(- 1378.8 )] :LEVEL SHIFT 2008/ 2
+[X18(T)] [(+ 1462.4 )] :LEVEL SHIFT 2001/ 1
+[X19(T)] [(+ 1049.7 )] :PULSE 2003/ 11
+[X20(T)] [(+ 1127.8 )] :PULSE 2002/ 1
+[X21(T)] [(+ 1145.4 )] :PULSE 2002/ 12
+[X22(T)] [(+ 1127.8 )] :SEASONAL PULSE 2002/ 3
+[X23(T)] [(+ 1127.8 )] :PULSE 2001/ 6
+[X24(T)] [(+ 1127.8 )] :PULSE 2009/ 3
+[X25(T)] [(- 952.66 )] :PULSE 2003/ 7
+[X26(T)] [(+ 1720.5 )] :PULSE 1997/ 3
+[X27(T)] [(+ 975.84 )] :PULSE 1997/ 2
+ [(1- .666B** 1)**-1 [A(T)]

```

Months 2 is now identified to be unusual

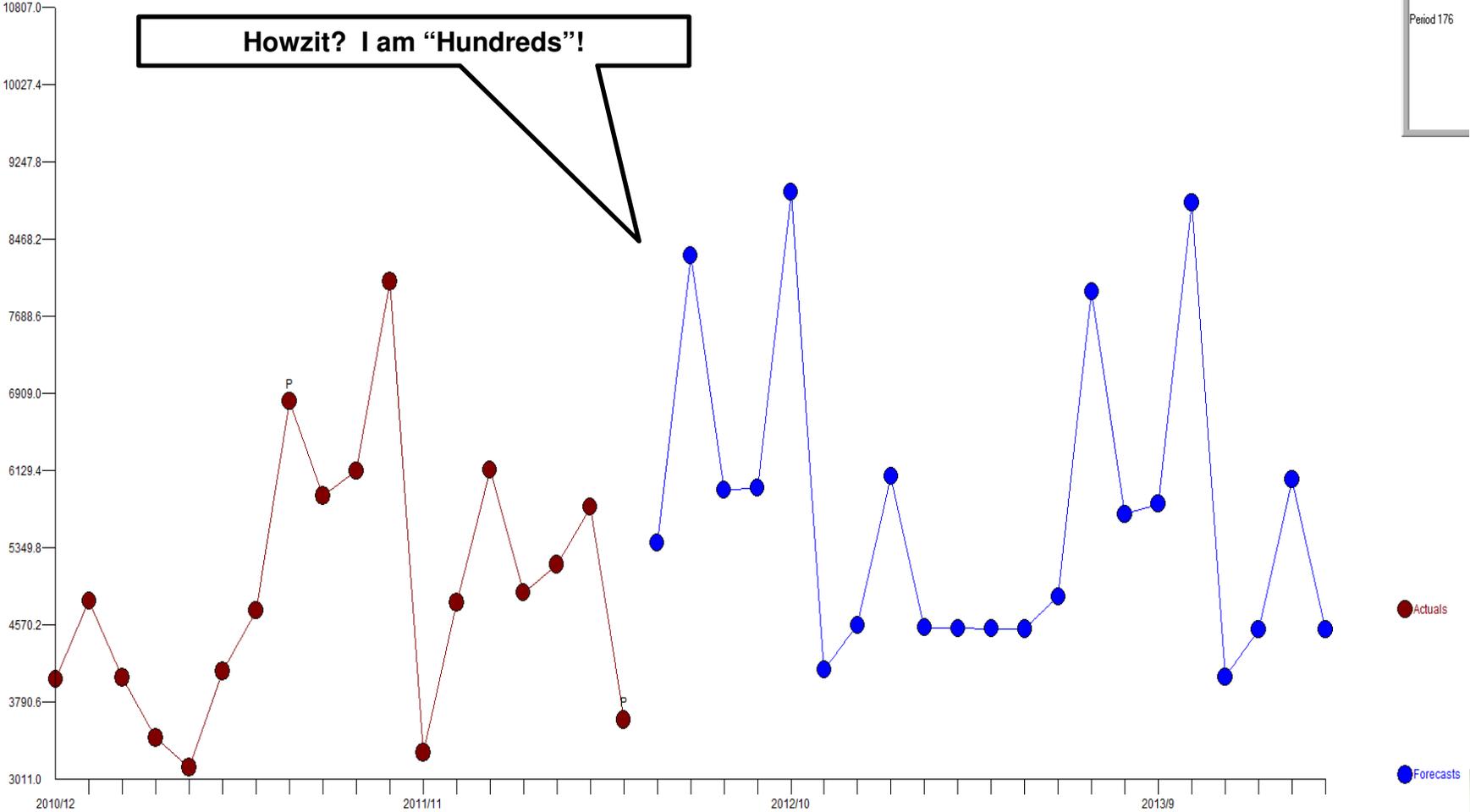
Low January in most recent observation and one of many outliers identified

Two level shifts are now identified



Level of the forecast no longer being skewed due to outlier

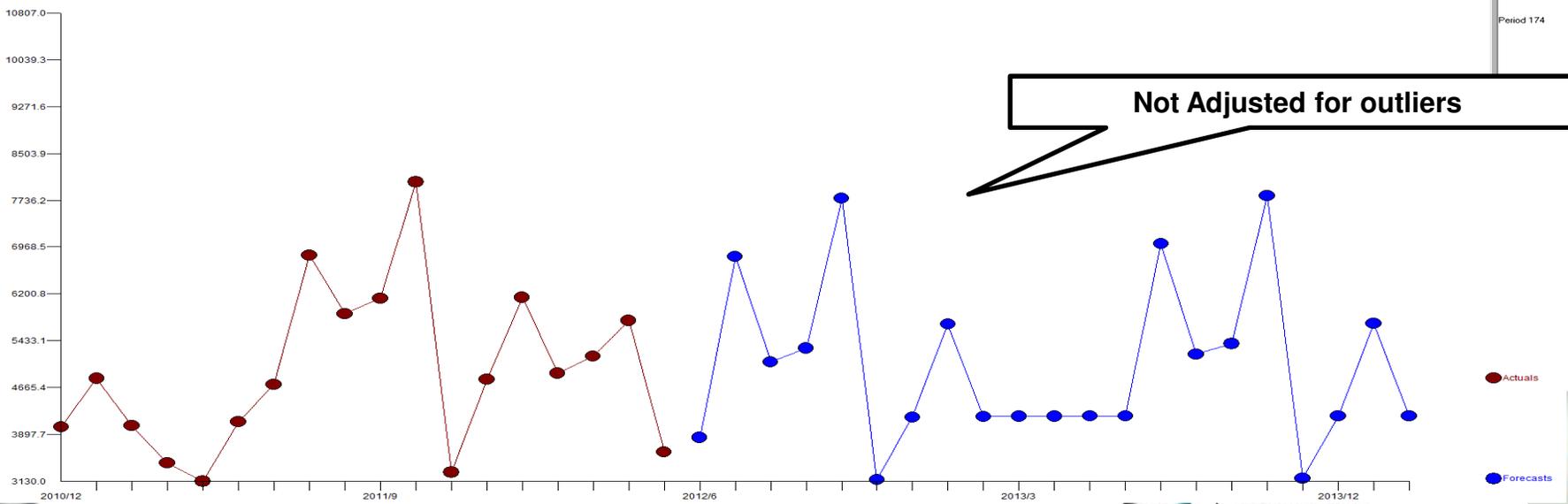
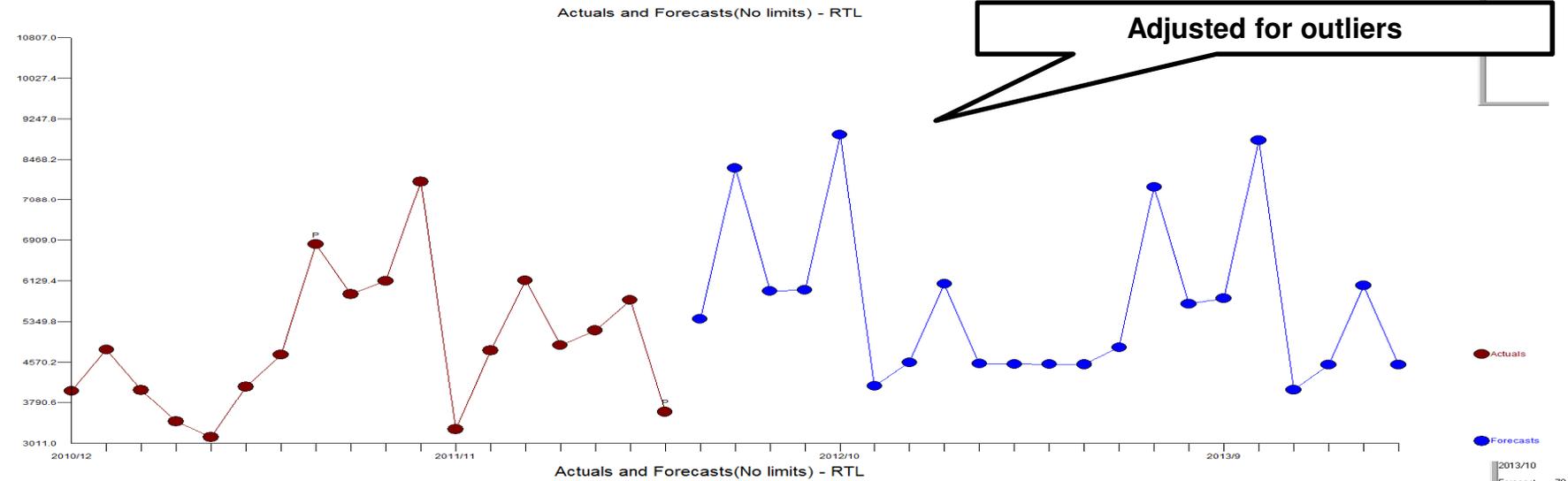
Actuals and Forecasts(No limits) - RTL



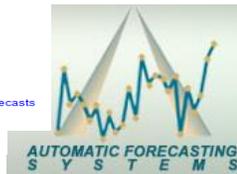
2013/12
Forecast 4!
Period 176



If you ignore outliers you get a bad forecast



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AMR/Gartner Tells us that the S&OP Process doesn't think that Technology is relevant

- **60% Change Management**
- **30% Process**
- **10% Technology**
 - **Source – 2010 Supply Chain Executive Conference – Jane Barrett & Noha Tohamy**
http://www.gartner.com/it/content/1393400/1393424/august_18_supply_chain_jbarrett.pdf
- **Consider where the message is coming from -They are selling consulting and not technology!**
- **Also consider that the world has written off any value in a quality statistical forecast as typical software does it so poorly that they shift the focus on the S&OP process to “fix” the BAD baseline forecast and lean on qualitative adjustments instead of quantitative adjustments to future events.**



Data Cleansing

Researchers Lead The Way ! Some Developers Follow !

- Ruey Tsay “Outliers, Level Shifts, and Variance Changes in Time Series” *Journal of Forecasting* 1988, 7(1), pp. 1.
- Ruey Tsay “Time Series Model Specification in the Presence of Outliers” *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 1986, 81(393), pp. 132-41
- Bell, W. (1983). "A Computer Program for Detecting Outliers in Time Series," in American Statistical Association 1983 Proceedings of the Business Economic Statistics Section, Toronto, pp. 624-639.
- Chang, I., and Tiao, G.C. (1983). "Estimation of Time Series Parameters in the Presence of Outliers," Technical Report #8, Statistics Research Center, Graduate School of Business, University of Chicago, Chicago.
- Chen, C. and G. C. Tiao (1990) "Random Level Shift Time Series Models, ARIMA approximations, and Level Shift Detection" *The Journal of Business and Economic Statistics* , January, 1990, p.81-96.
- Box, G.E.P., and Tiao, G. (1975). "Intervention Analysis with Applications to Economic and Environmental Problems," *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, Vol 70, pp. 70-79.

What is unusual?

- We are asked as children “What doesn’t belong?” We build a “model” in our head as to what is usual and what is unusual.

A	B
C	71

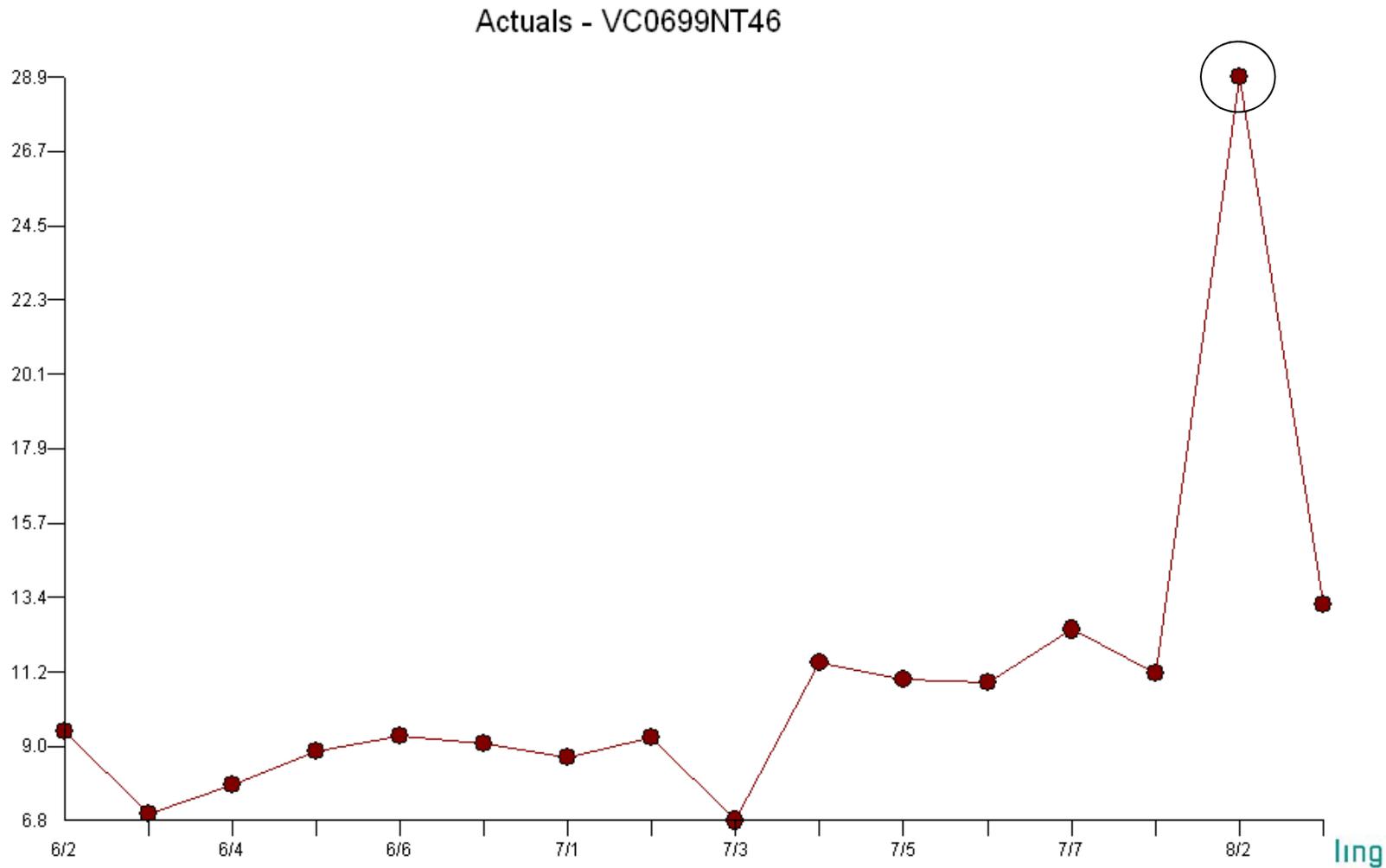
- Early researchers thought that all unusual values can be detected when they occur outside some pre-set range such as ± 3 sigma around the mean. Typically, data was plotted and a visual review was to identify anomalies
- Typically, statistics like the standard deviation were calculated and 3 sigma bands were put around the mean to identify outliers. The reality is that the standard deviation that was calculated is skewed upwards by the outlier itself so this approach is not reliable. An assumed model was used in this process where the data was subtracted by the mean to get residuals. Who is to say that the mean is in fact the correct model for the data?

What is unusual?

- When data needs to be cleansed this suggests that we have omitted an important variable in the modeling process. This omitted deterministic(0 or 1 dummy variable) variable may be either known to us or unknown to us. Detecting this phenomenon often leads directly to “hypothesis generation” where data suggests theory, such as the need for an omitted event.
- Care must be taken not to falsely identify anomalies that are systematic such as a seasonal pulse variable.

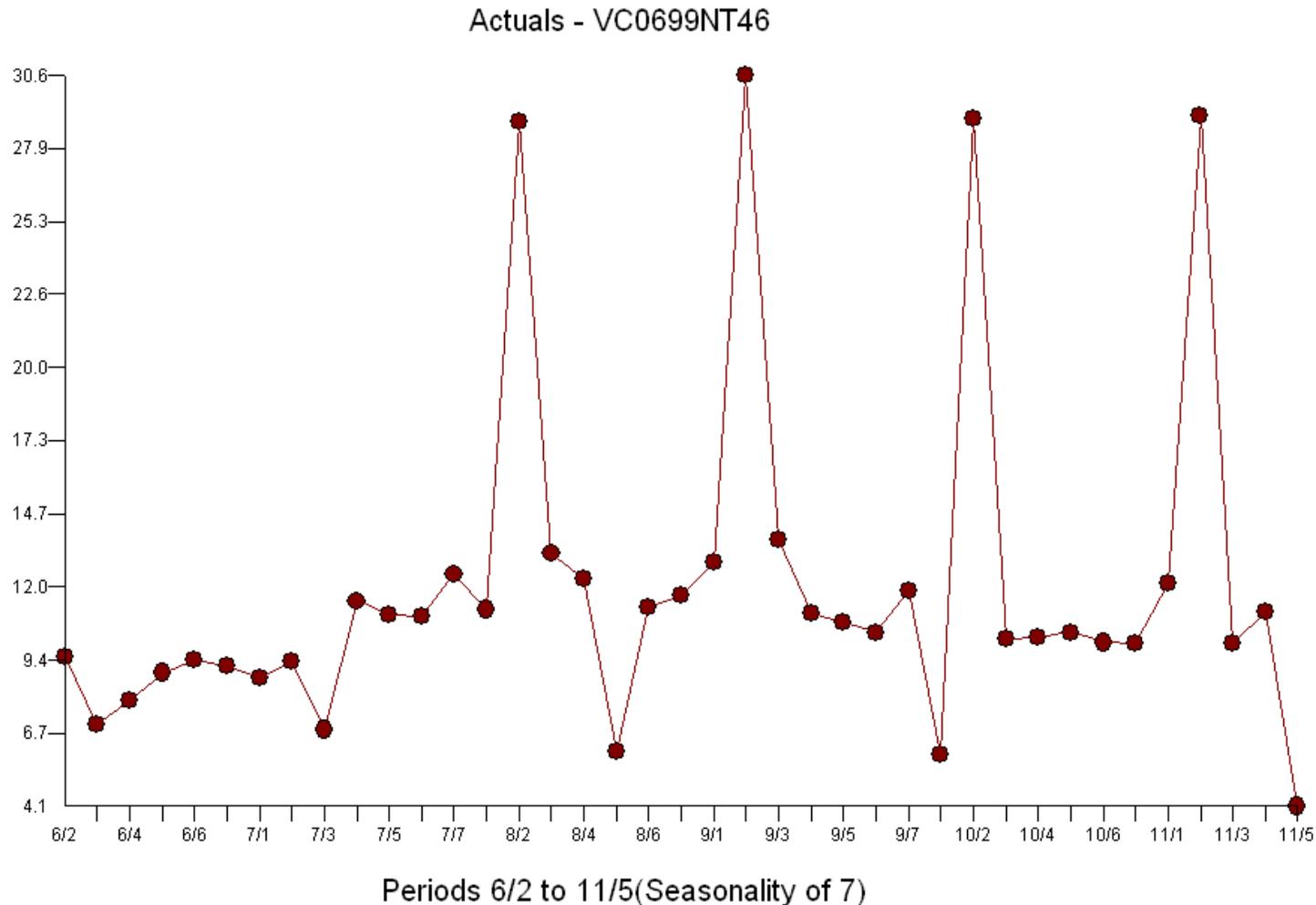
Here is an outlier, right?

- This value is not an unusual data point



Seasonal Pulses

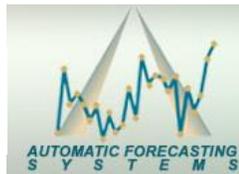
- The outlier is really a series of outliers called a seasonal pulse where the seasonality changed over time



Periods 6/2 to 11/5 (Seasonality of 7)

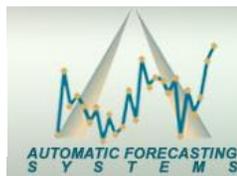
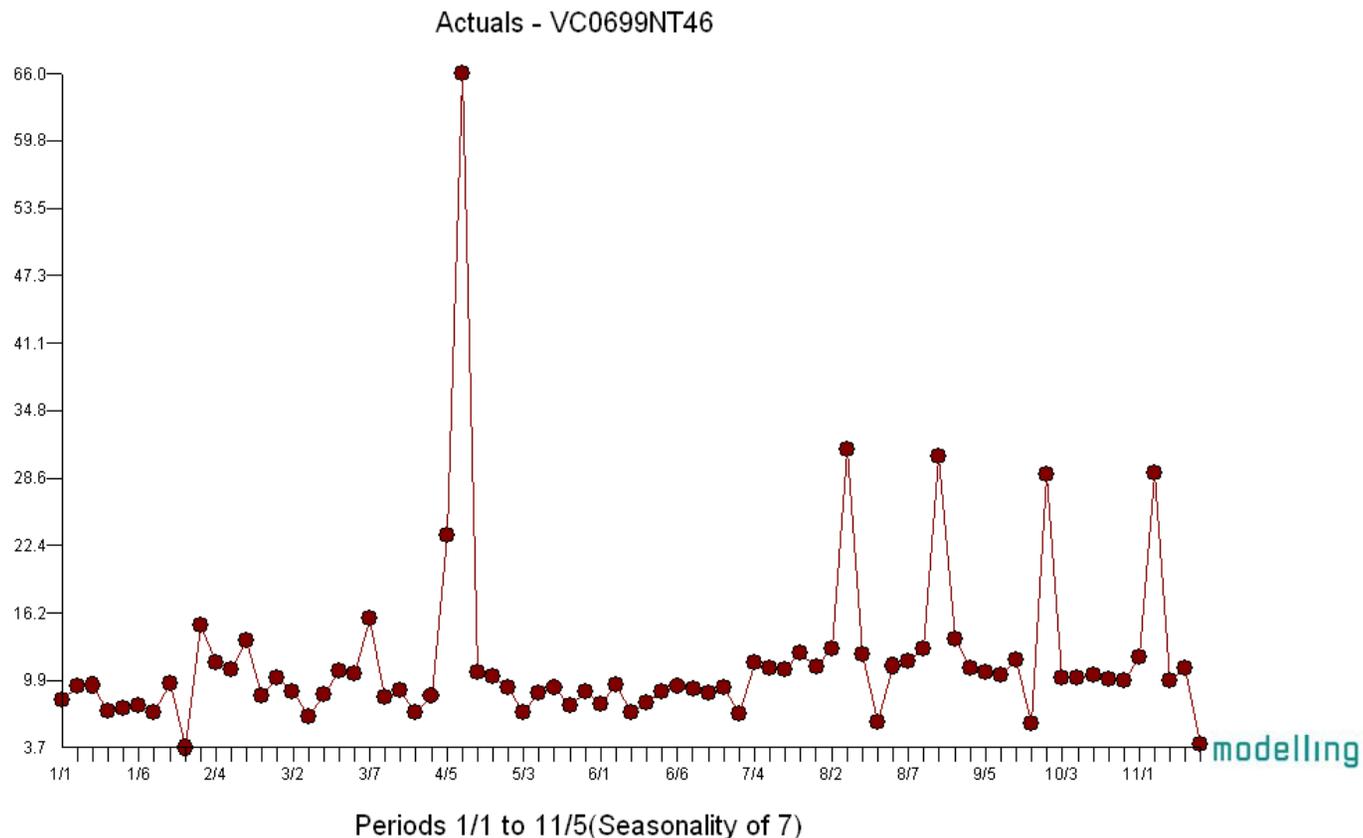
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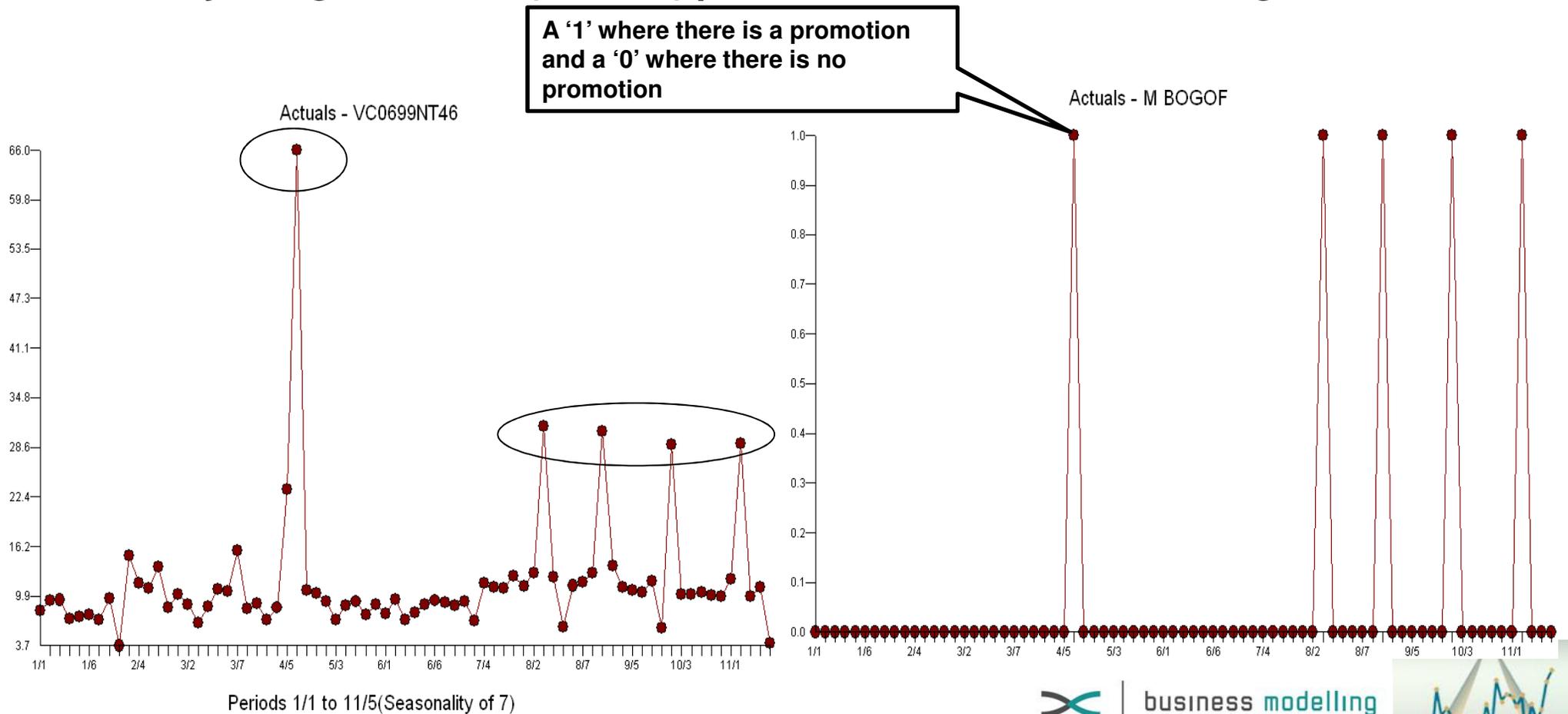
What is unusual?

- We see a big outlier in the middle, but what about the pattern near the end?
- Do we remove/fix those also? Do we set them to be an average of the previous and next data points? Or do we identify those as “seasonal pulses” and include them as causal variables in the model so that they can be forecasted correctly?



Was it a Causal Model Issue all along?

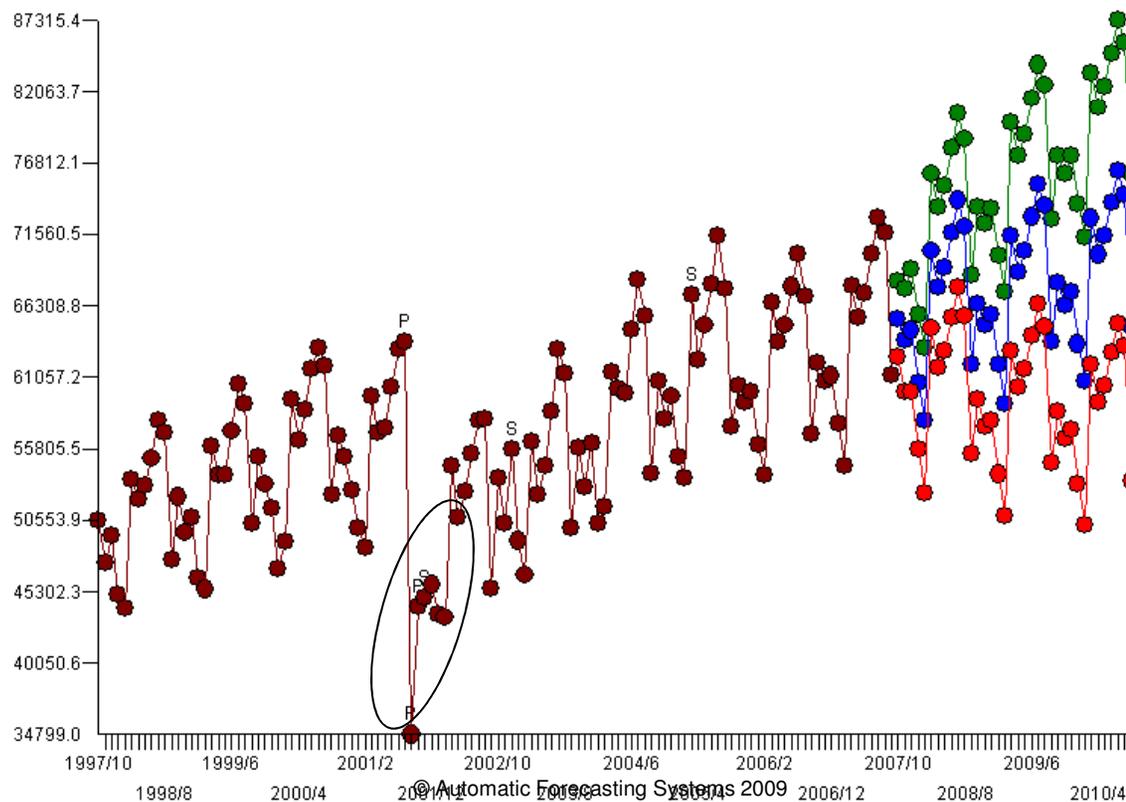
- **Oops! We realize that we shouldn't be data cleansing at all. We should be adding causal information to the process. The culprit was that there was a price discount and then a buy one get one free (BOGOF) promotion that caused the change in demand.**



What is unusual?

- This is U.S. enplanement data for 1997-2007. Note the decrease starting 9/11/01. How do you cleanse this dataset? There are a few interventions in the fall of 2001 and when corrected for and along with some new seasonal pulses, you are good to go.

Actuals and Forecasts - enplanement

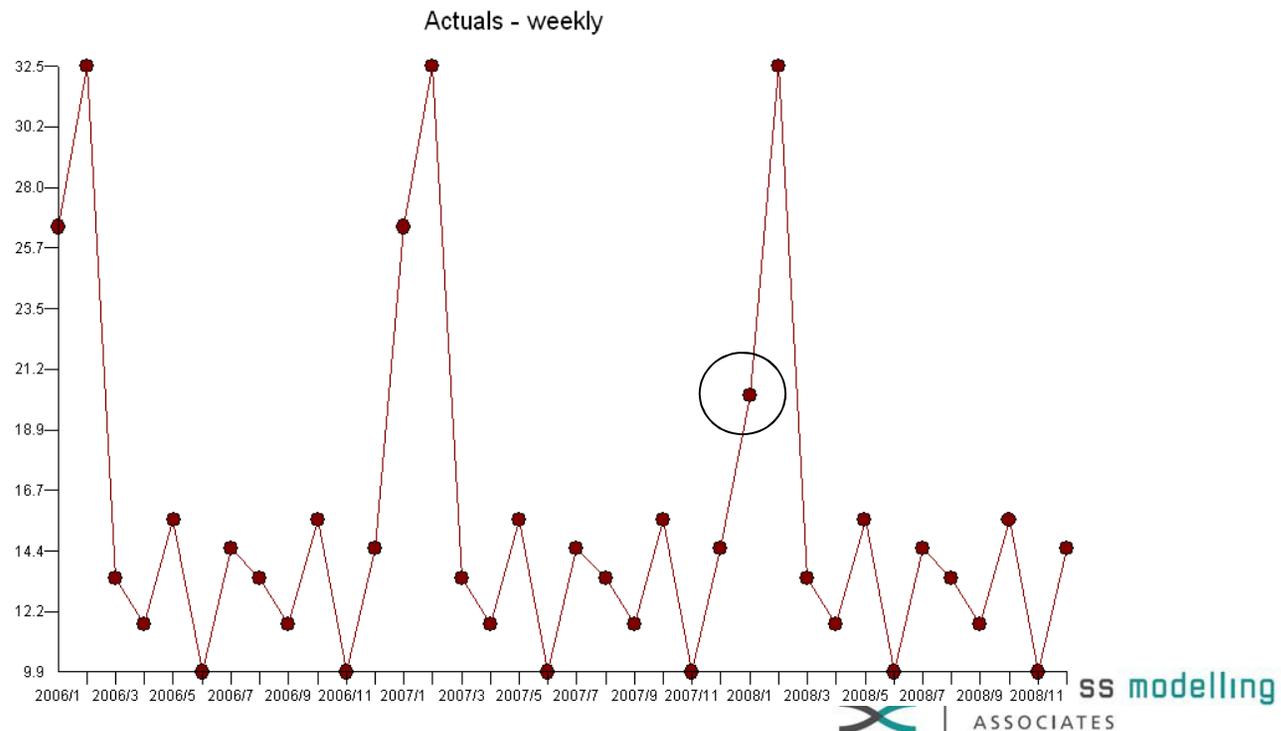


less modelling
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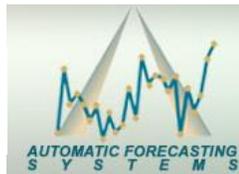
What is unusual?

- This is an example where the weekends have high sales. The last Saturday has a low value. Is this an “unusual value”? Yes, but how to identify and account for it. It is an inlier and the remedy is to “tweak” or adjust the observed value to ensure parameter optimization.
- If this value is not accounted for the model parameters and forecast will be affected



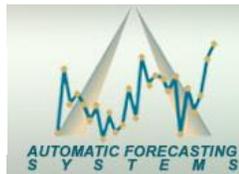
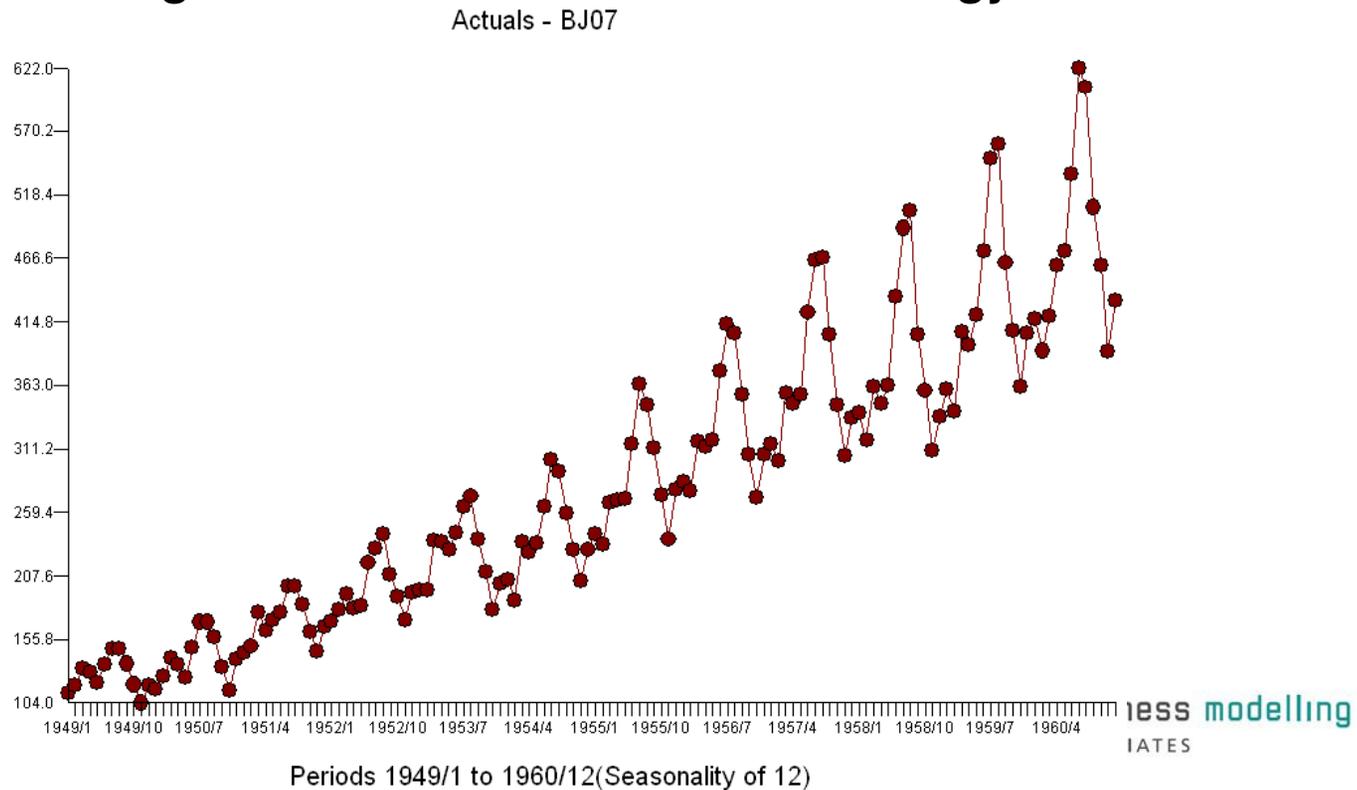
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The “Airline Series”

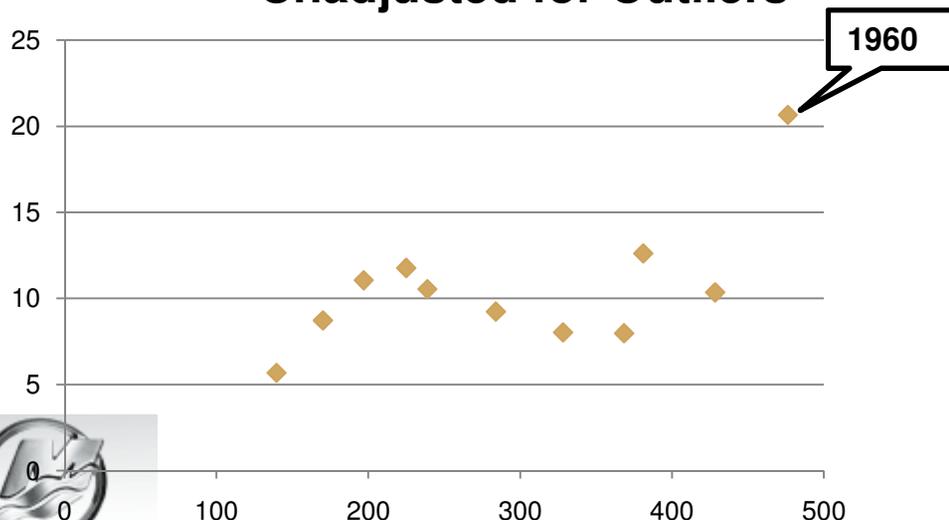
- One of the most studied time series is the International Airline Passenger’s series (in thousands) for monthly data from 1949 through 1960.
- Box and Jenkins didn’t have the ability to detect outliers and used a log transformation to adjust the data as it seemingly had non-constant variance.
- The forecast was too high and the Box-Jenkins methodology was seen as too complicated.



The “Airline Series”

- The 144 monthly observations were broken into 12 buckets (years) and they calculated the local means (assuming a model) and standard deviations for each bucket (year).
- The conclusion was that the standard deviation was increasing with the mean when it was really outliers in the last year that were skewing the situation by enlarging the standard deviation.

Standard Deviation vs Mean
Unadjusted for Outliers

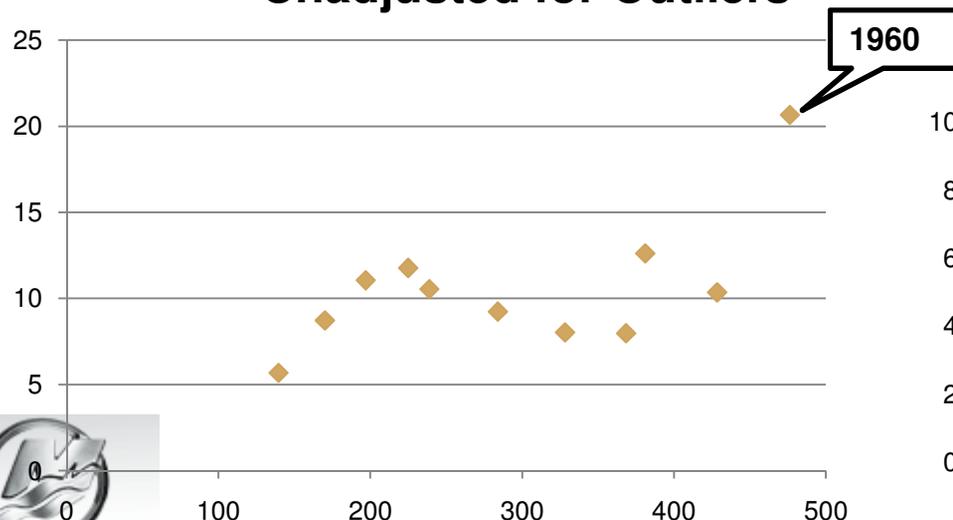


An example of
“spurious
correlation”

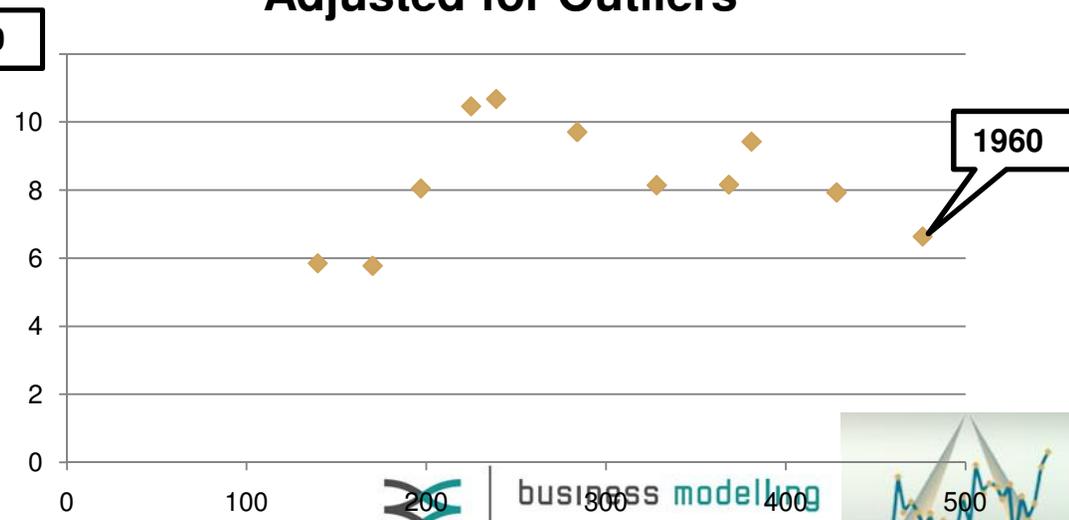
The “Airline Series”

- If we then fit the “airline model” (seasonal differencing and an AR1), identifying and including five outliers (three of them in the last year) we can then use the residuals to calculate the standard deviation for each of the buckets. We then plot the standard deviations against the local means of the observed series and we get another story altogether.
- The conclusion was that the standard deviation was increasing with the mean when it was really outliers in the last year that were skewing the situation.

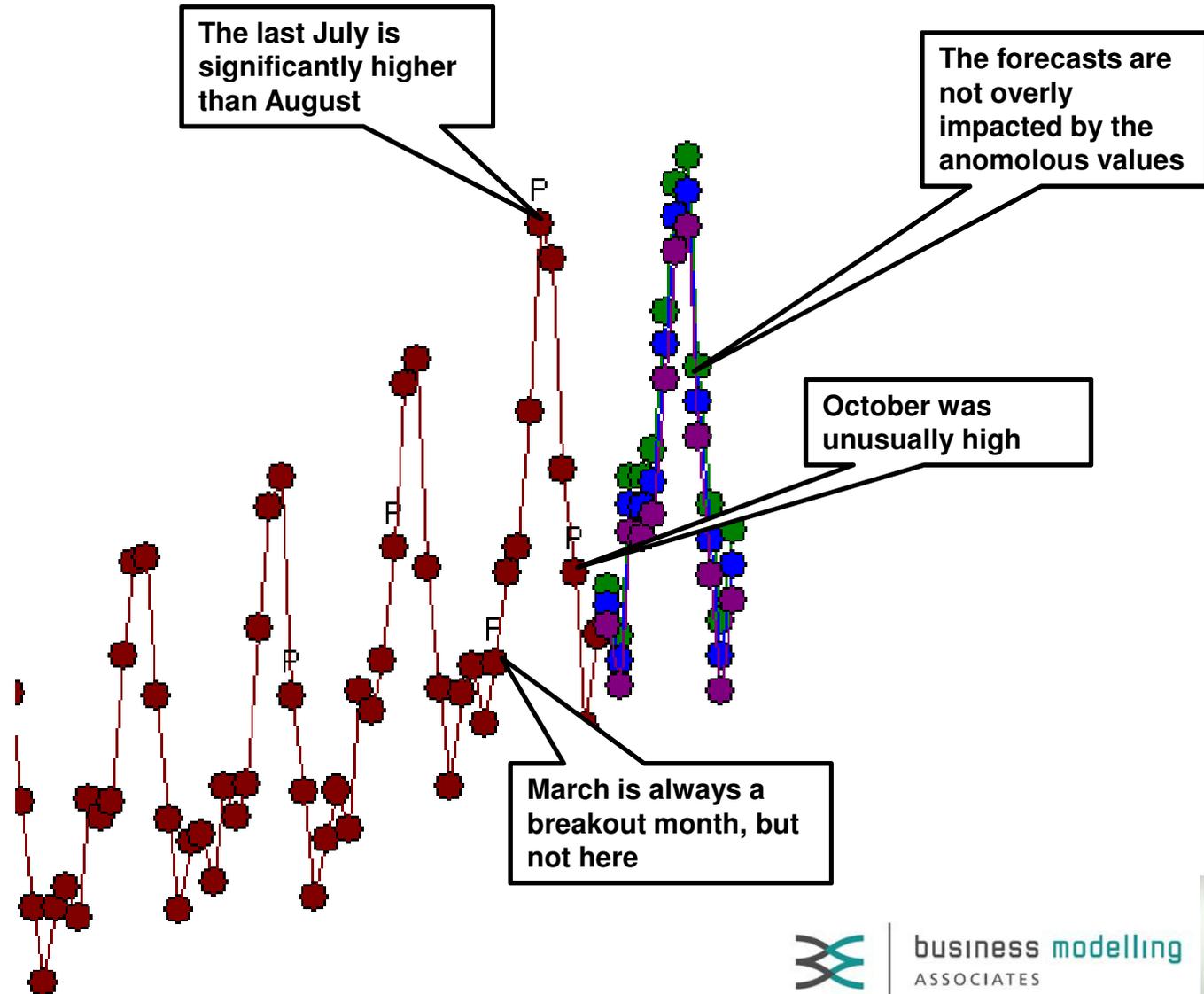
Standard Deviation vs Mean Unadjusted for Outliers



Standard Deviation versus Mean – Adjusted for Outliers



Does your forecasting software spot the outliers in 1960? If not, ask them why??????



Bad Forecasting Practices still to be found in 2011

- There are software firms that don't know that instead of taking logs as Box-Jenkins recommended in their 1976 text book, is that log transformations may not be necessary once the data has been cleansed. (Note: Some of today's textbooks also do not know or practice intervention detection !)

- SAS
 - http://support.sas.com/documentation/cdl/en/etsug/60372/HTML/default/etsug_arma_sect056.htm

Example 7.2 Seasonal Model for the Airline Series

The airline passenger data, given as Series G in Box and Jenkins (1976), have been used in time series analysis literature as an example of a nonstationary seasonal time series. This example uses PROC ARIMA to fit the airline model, $ARIMA(0,1,1) \times (0,1,1)_{12}$, to Box and Jenkins' Series G. The following statements read the data and log-transform the series:

```
title1 'International Airline Passengers';
title2 '(Box and Jenkins Series-G)';
data seriesg;
  input x @@;
  xlog = log( x );
  date = intnx( 'month', '31dec1948'd, _n_ );
  format date monyy.;
datalines;
```

Bad Forecasting Practices still to be found in 2011

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- Oracle

- <http://oracledmt.blogspot.com/2006/03/time-series-forecasting-2-single-step.html>

First we stabilize the variance. This can be done by applying a Box-Cox power transform. This transform has the following form: $y(h) = (y^h - 1) / h$, if h is not equal to 0 and $y(h) = \log(y)$ if h is 0. In general, the LOG transform ($h=0$) is a good choice for removing increasing variability. Figure 2 shows the transformed series after the LOG transform. The upward trend over time is still visible but the amount of variation in the series is about the same throughout the series.

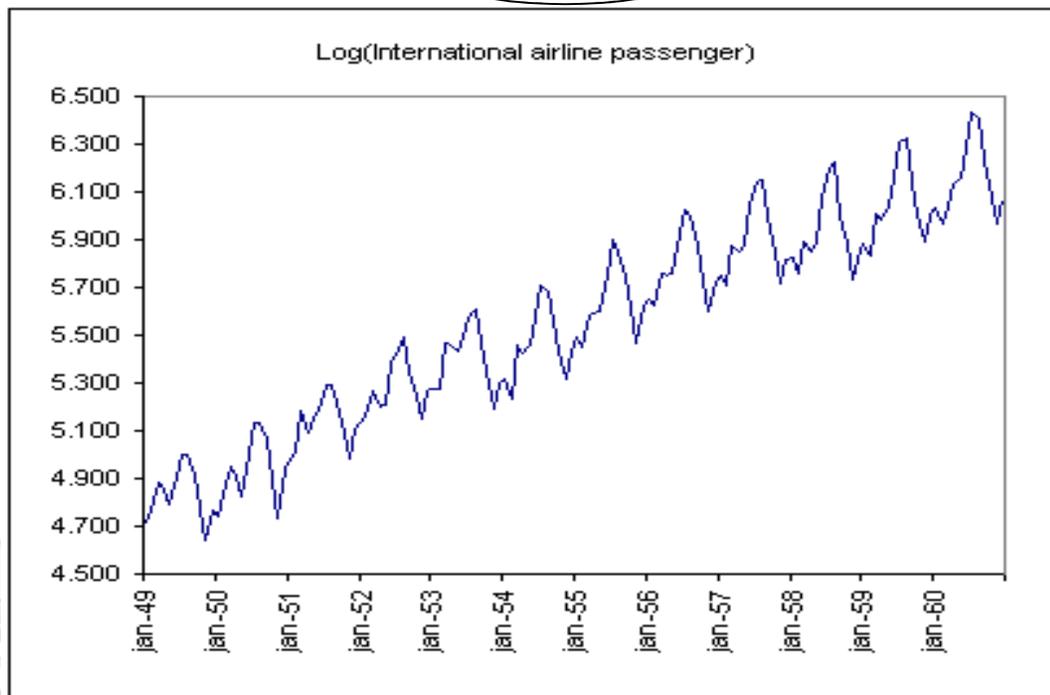
Bad Forecasting Practices still to be found in 2011

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- **XLSTAT**

- <http://www.xlstat.com/en/support/tutorials/arima.htm>

We notice on the chart, that there is a global upward trend, that every year a similar cycle starts, and that the variability within a year seems to increase over time. Before we fit the ARIMA model, we need to stabilize the variability. To do that, we transform the series using a log transformation. We can see on the chart below that the variability is reduced.

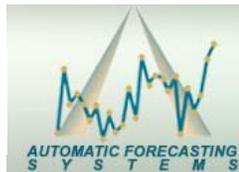


Bad Forecasting Practices still to be found in 2011

- There are software firms that don't know that instead of taking logs as Box-Jenkins recommended in their 1976 text book, is that log transformations may not be necessary once the data has been cleansed. (Note: Some of today's textbooks also do not know or practice intervention detection !)
- Visual Numerics (IMSL- International Math and Statistics Library)
 - <http://www.vni.com/products/imsi/documentation/fort06/stat/NetHelp/default.htm?turl=bctr.htm>

Example 1

Consider the Airline Data (Box and Jenkins 1976, page 531) consisting of the monthly total number of international airline passengers from January 1949 through December 1960. Routine BCTR is used to compute a forward Box-Cox transformation of the first 12 observations. In the transformation SHIFT and POWER are each set to zero, which corresponds to taking natural logarithms of the data.



Bad Forecasting Practices still to be found in 2011

- There are software firms that don't know that instead of taking logs as Box-Jenkins recommended in their 1976 text book, is that log transformations may not be necessary once the data has been cleansed. (Note: Some of today's textbooks also do not know or practice intervention detection!)

- **MATLAB**

- <http://www.mathworks.com/products/statistics/demos.html?file=/products/demos/shipping/stats/stattdemo.html>

Examine Trend and Seasonality

This series seems to have a strong seasonal component, with a trend that may be linear or quadratic. Furthermore, the magnitude of the seasonal variation increases as the general level increases. Perhaps a log transformation would make the seasonal variation be more constant. First we'll change the axis scale.

```
set(gca, 'YScale', 'log');
```

Bad Forecasting Practices still to be found in 2011

- There are software firms that don't know that instead of taking logs as Box-Jenkins recommended in their 1976 text book, is that log transformations may not be necessary once the data has been cleansed. (Note: Some of today's textbooks also do not know or practice intervention detection!)

- **Mathematica**

- <http://media.wolfram.com/documents/TimeSeriesDocumentation.pdf>

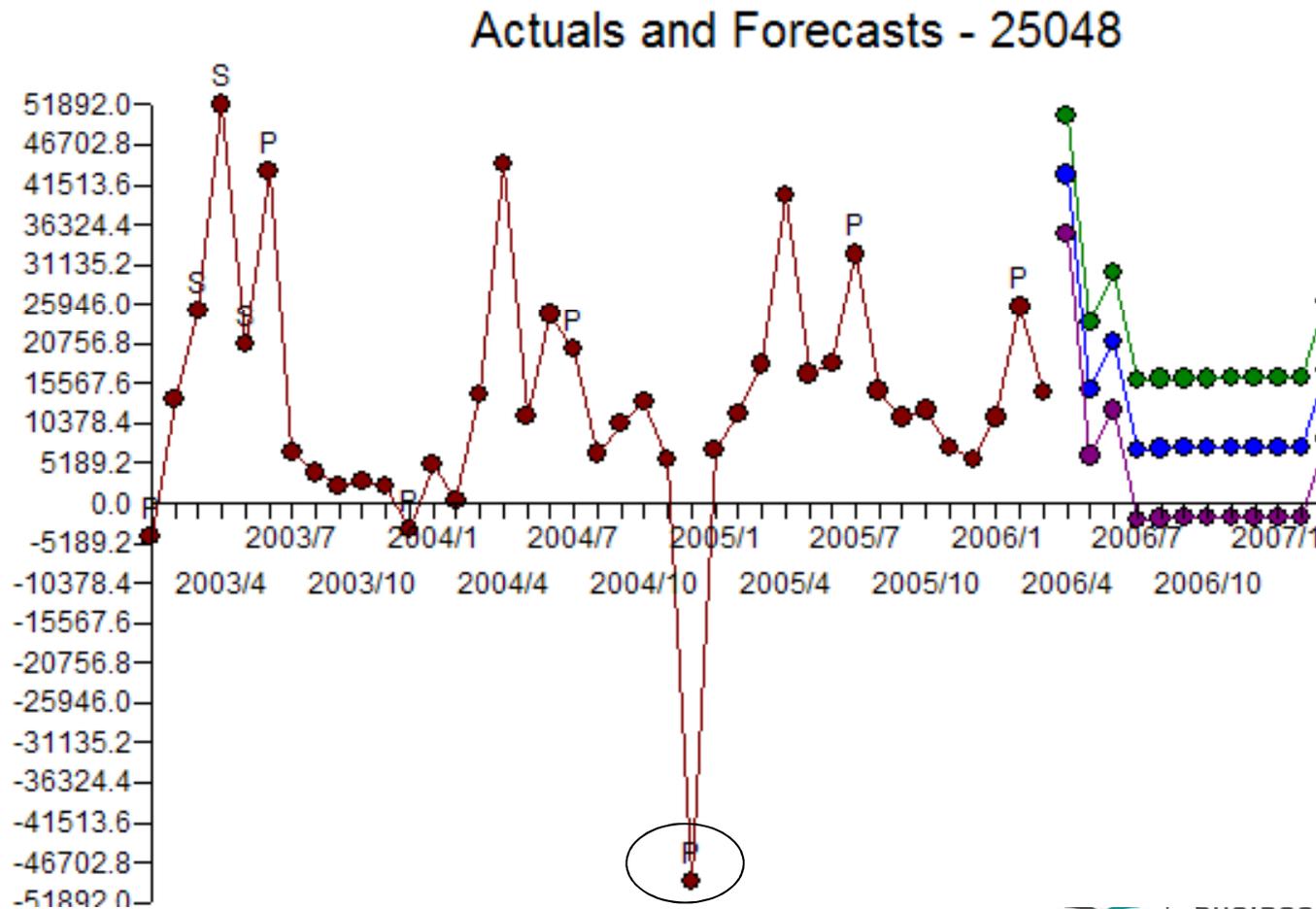
We see that the variance, riding on the trend, is also changing with time. We need to transform the series into a constant variance before modeling it further. To stabilize the variance, a nonlinear transformation such as a logarithmic or square-root transformation is often performed. In this example, we try a natural logarithmic transformation, $y_t = \ln x_t$.

This is the time plot of the airline data after the logarithmic transformation. Note that `Log[alldata]` gives the logarithm of each of the entries of `alldata`.

```
In[401]:= ListLinePlot[Log[alldata], AxesLabel -> {"t", "ln(xt)"}]
```

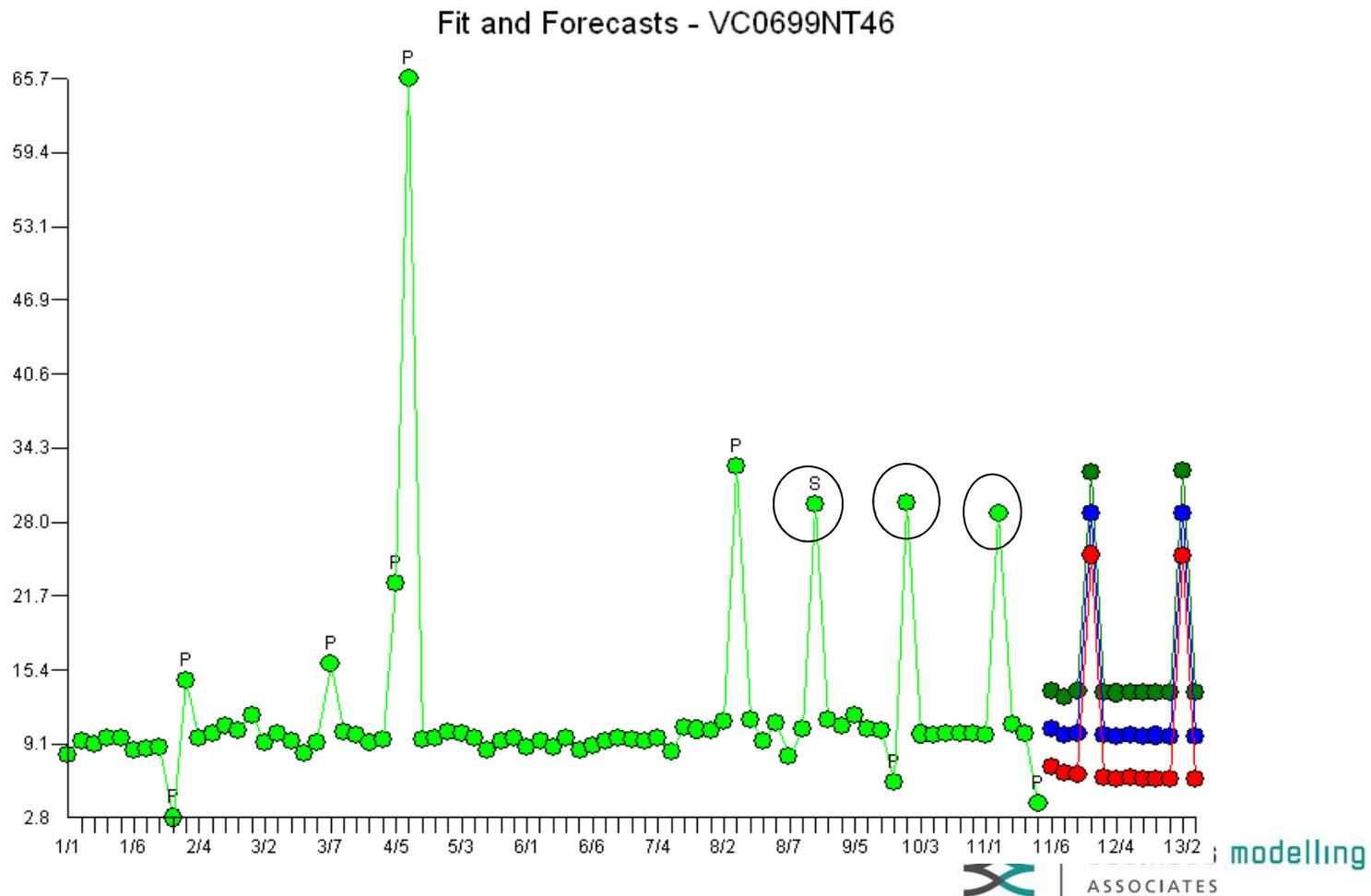
Outlier Detection – Pulse

- Pulse – Fire in the warehouse in April (0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,1,0,0,0,0,0)



Outlier Detection – Seasonal Pulse

- Seasonal Pulse – February emerges later during the year (0,1,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,1)



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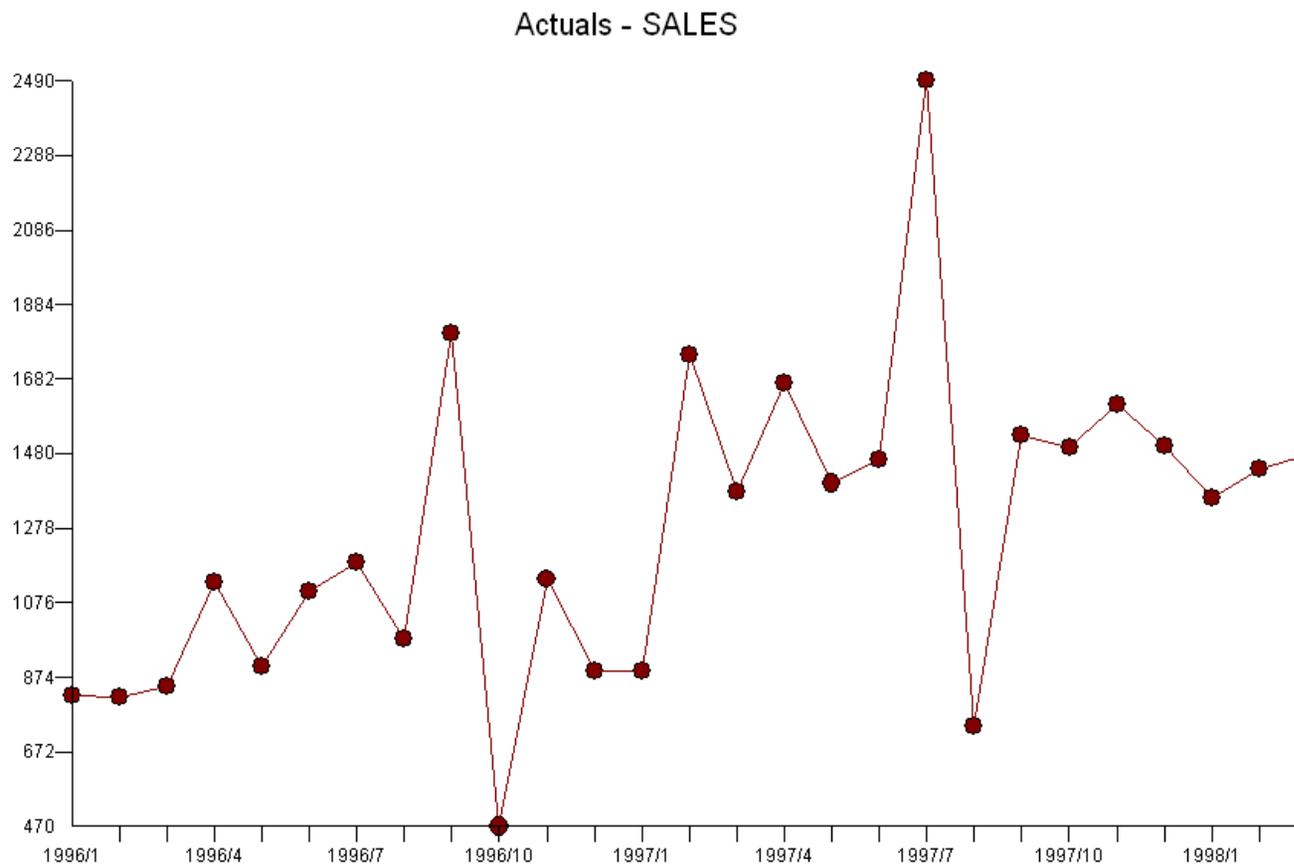
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modelling



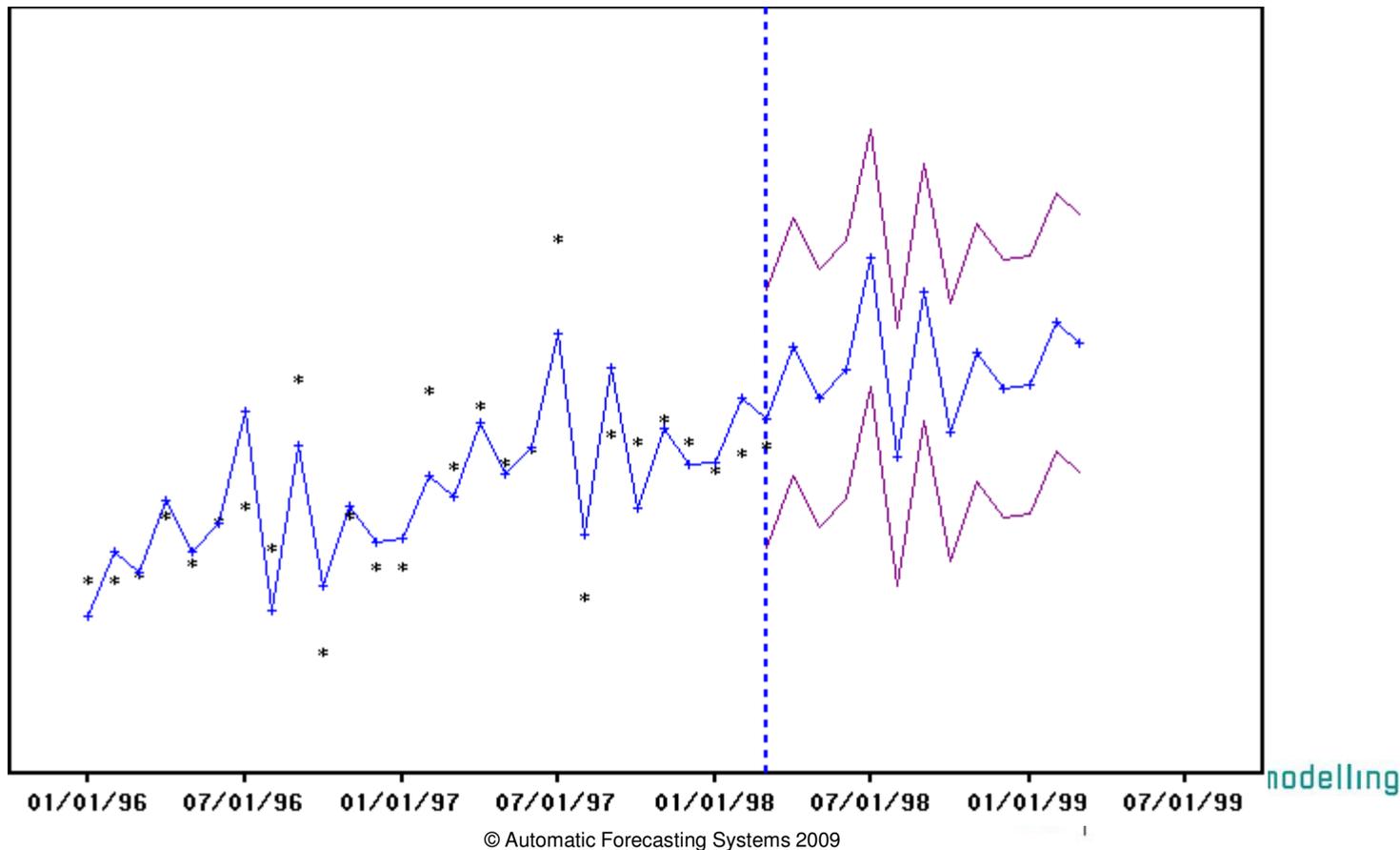
Tough Series to Model

- From a visual it looks like a seasonal model that is increasing, right?



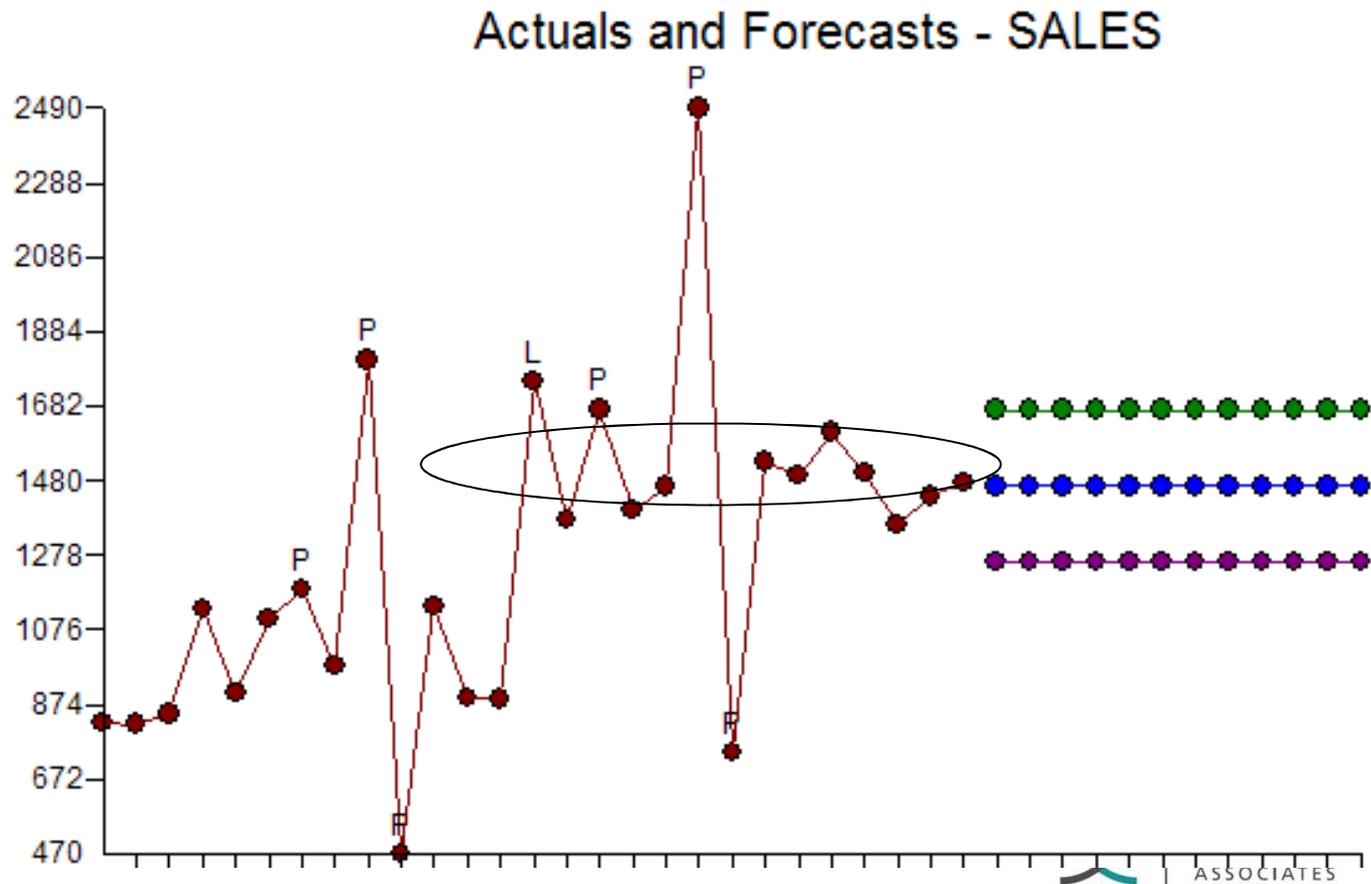
What Would PROC Do?

- Drive a Holt-Winters Model through its heart and predict an upwards trend?
- Be fooled that there is seasonality even though the blips are 13 periods apart not 12?



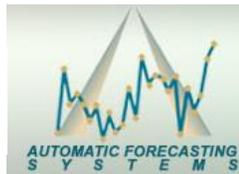
Outlier Detection – Level Shift

- Level Shift – Competitor drops out of the market and an ‘one-time’ increase in market share gain (0,0,0,0,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1)



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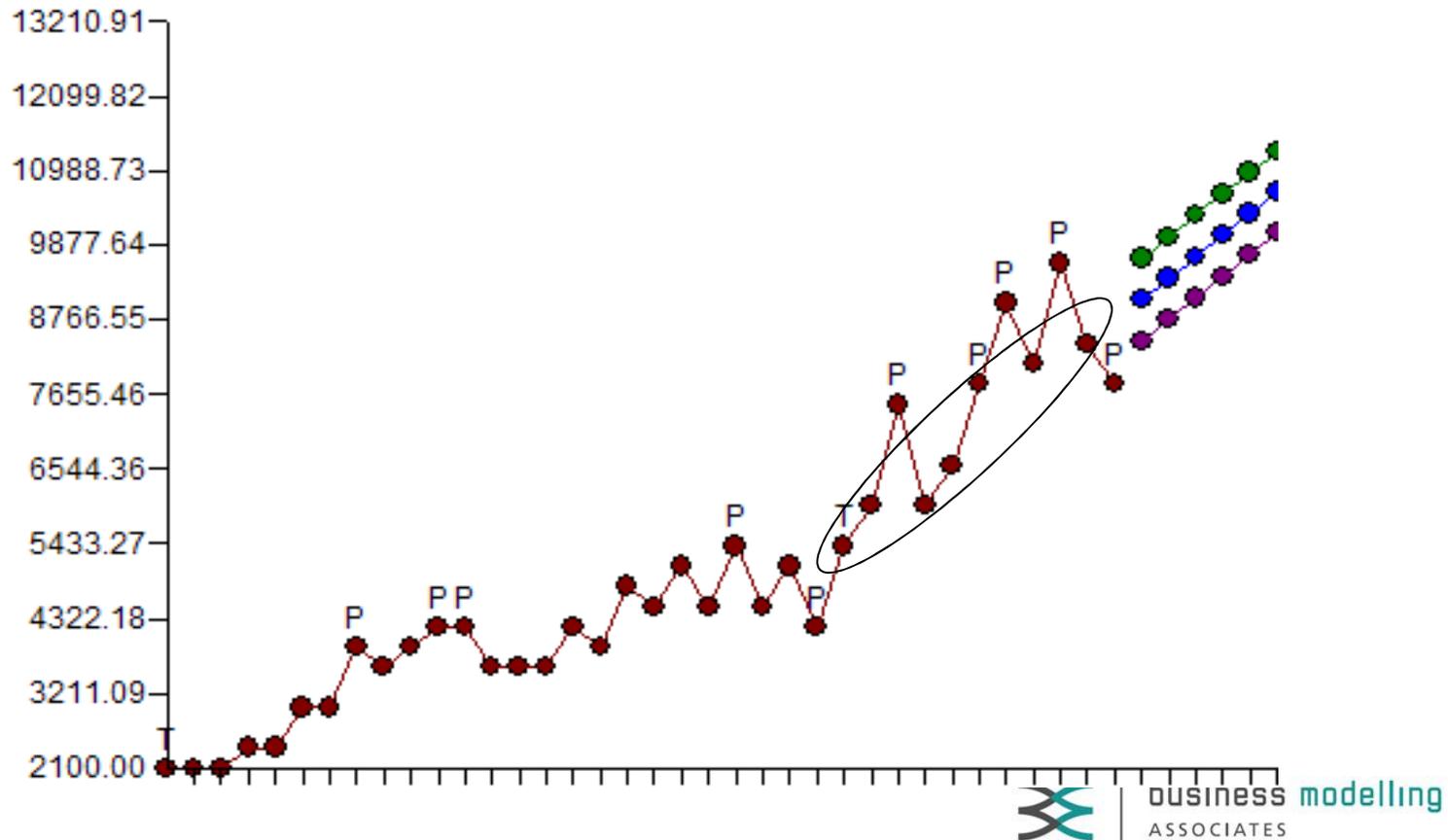
idelling



Outlier Detection – Local Time Trend

- Local Time Trend – A new trend up or down very different from the past (0,0,0,0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,etc.)

Actuals and Forecasts - Q0926



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Outlier Detection – What should you do about it?

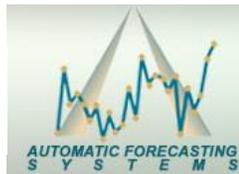
- **User Provides knowledge** - before the modelling process begins – If there is some domain knowledge that there was an event in the past then this information should be included in the model as a possible input variable so that the observed value is not “adjusted”. In this case an actual variable now has a coefficient and can explain the impact so that it’s effect can be anticipated in the future if the candidate variable is operational or in effect.
- **Action** - You don’t want to believe a pulse and you should adjust the pulse to “where it should have been” thus providing a robust estimation of the model parameters.
- **No Action** - If you do not adjust for outliers then the coefficients in the model will be skewed creating a false image of the systematic behavior. The forecast may be higher or lower than anticipated. The causal relationship may have an incorrect snapshot of the relationship between price and sales for example.



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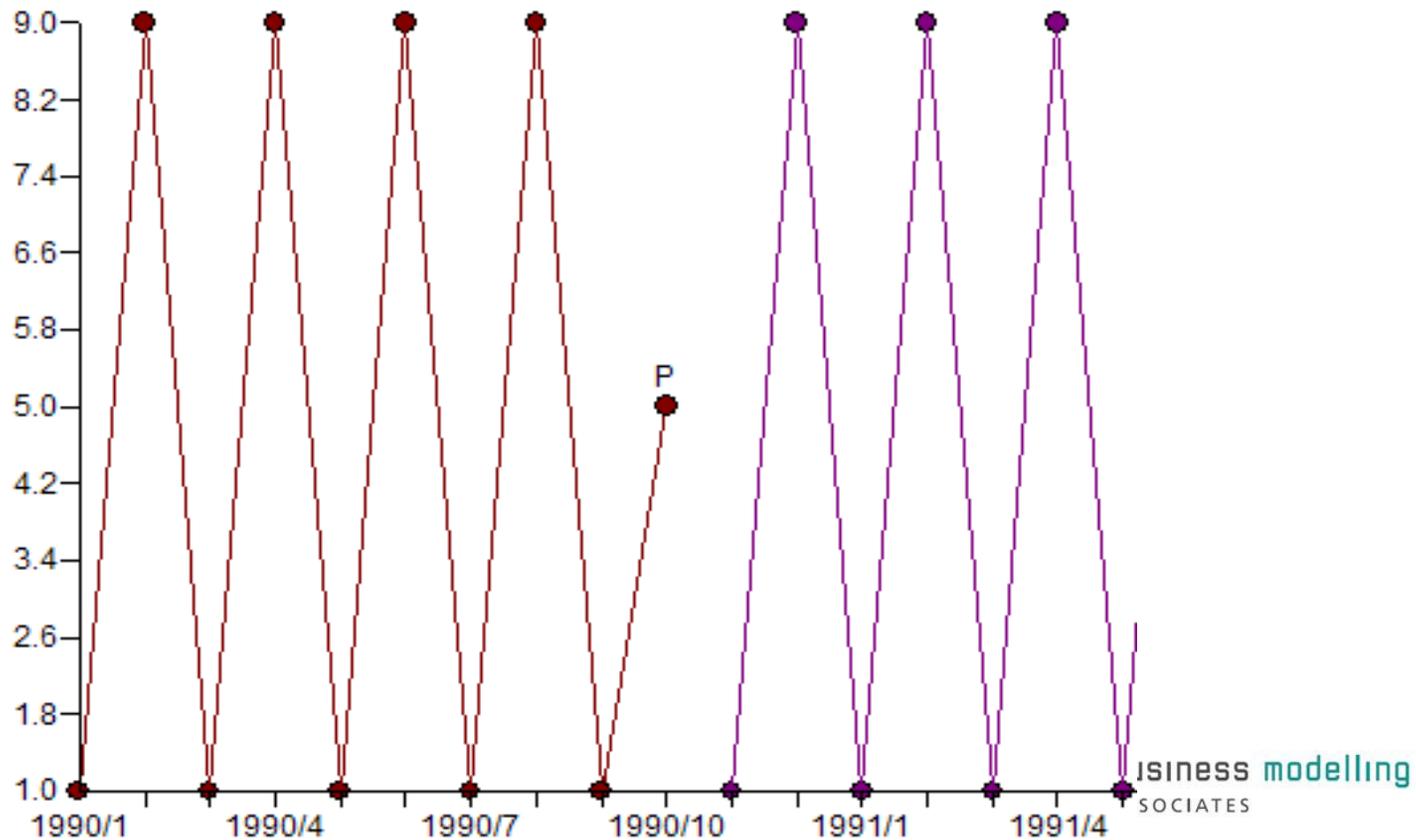


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Outlier Detection

- Keeping what is unusual within the standard deviation bound:
 - If a pulse occurs that is an “inlier” and not outside the standard deviation bounds then it will not be identified as you need a model first to identify this situation (e.g. 1,9,1,9,1,9,5)

Actuals and Forecasts - inlier



Outlier Detection - Out of Model Approach

- Calculate Residuals (Actual - Mean)
- Calculate the standard deviation around the mean
- Specify the # of standard deviations around the mean that will be considered an outlier (e.g. 3)
- Identify those observations outside the standard deviation
- Replace the unusual observations with the mean or interpolation
- Specify the number of iterations to go through the outlier removal process

Outlier Detection - Within Model Approach

- Identify a possible model for the data.
- Identify the outlier in the presence of the model effect.
- A statistically valid test is performed on the unusual value which uses a “standard deviation of the error” that excludes the impact of the outlier and therefore is more robust
- Consider identifying outliers first and then the model form.
- Evaluate the alternatives of model first then outlier detection. Compare results and determine the optimal strategy to follow for each dataset.



A Critique of Automatic Forecasting Software

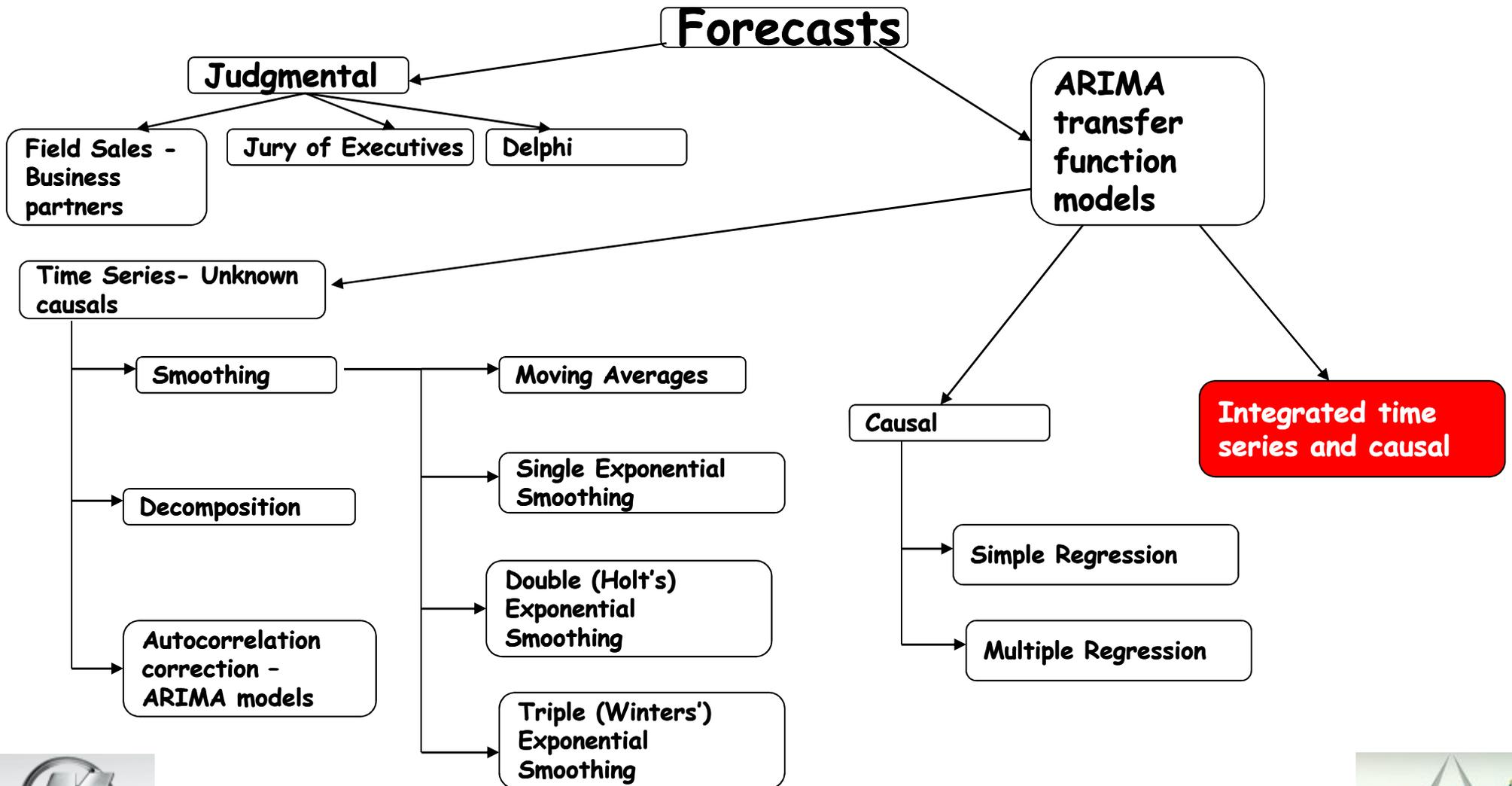
REPORT CARD

_____ C+

_____ B-

_____ A

Forecasting Methods Family Tree



History of Modelling

- 1795 - Legendre – Regression - Developed for cross-sectional data and later abused using with time series data – You can swap first observation with last observation and get the same answer
- 1920 - Seasonal Decomposition
- 1927 - Slutsky-Yule – Identified that applying a moving average to a random process may in itself create a pattern when no existed previously
- 1944 - Brown – Exponential Smoothing
- 1957 - Holt – Holt Method
- 1960 - Holt/Winters – Holt/Winters
- 1960 - **Chow test – Parameter Changes**
- 1965 - Almon – Polynomial Distributed Lag
- 1967 - Hiskin/Young, Musgrave – Seasonal Adjustment Census Bureau
- 1970 - **Box & Jenkins – Time Series Analysis Textbook –**
 - Introduced a Generic model form which all models are a subset
 - Introduced a “Data based” approach of building a unique model and coefficients for each data set
- 1976 - **Box and Tiao – Interventions**
- 1988 - **Chang, Tiao and Chen – Innovational Outliers**
- 1988 - **Tsay – Level Shifts, Variance Change**

“Model based” assuming the relationship within the data is a certain weighting scheme and the number of periods to weight.

Progress in a Real World View of History of Modeling

- Let's use the last 100 days to predict tomorrow's rainfall using an average
- Let's only use the last 12 days and weight the more recent data more and the older data less
- Let's use only the last 7 days using a weighting scheme and provide a bump up on Friday's as it rains more on Friday's
- Let's use an "additive" method to adjust by way off addition or subtraction for the forecast fluctuations
- Let's use a "multiplicative" method to adjust by way off %'s up and down for the forecast fluctuations
- By using the Box-Jenkins approach of calculating lags of the history using regression to identify the length of time to use and the weighting instead of assuming
- By using Intervention Detection, you can add unspecified causal variables to the model that adjust for outliers, level shifts, local time trends and seasonal pulses that if not accounted for will distort the coefficients in the model and thereby the forecasts



Box-Jenkins Modeling Steps

Identification - Calculate statistics on the data to suggest a model form (length and weight) using the ACF & PACF

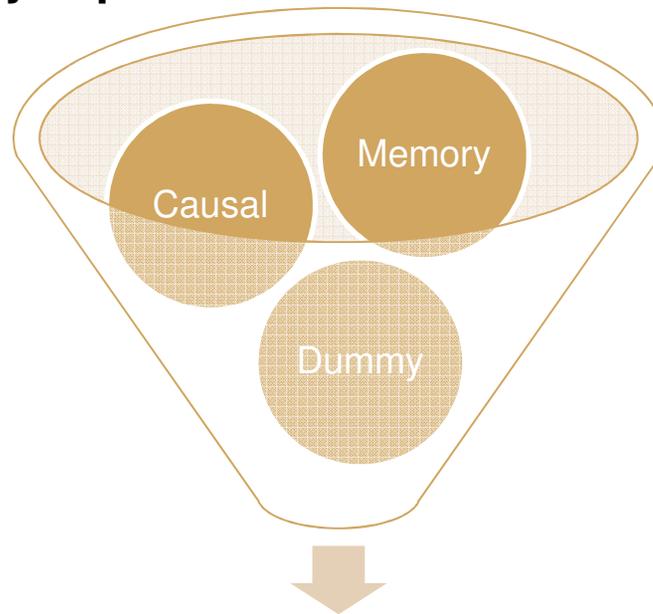
Estimation - Taking suggested model form and estimating the optimal coefficients

Diagnostic Checking - Making sure that the residuals are constant mean/variance, random and no autocorrelation

Forecasting - Take the estimated model and generate X period out forecasts

Regression Modelling

- **Causal variables** - Variables like Price might have a lead or lag relationship and that exact period may be difficult to identify. Assuming it is not going to help you.
- **Dummy variables** – Outliers need to be provided and/or identified and adjusted for by the system.
- **Memory** – There is a period to period relationship that exists in the data. The historical data implicitly captures the effect of omitted causal variables.

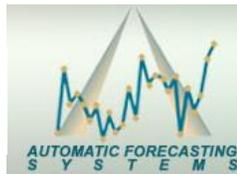


Model

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Regression Modelling

- Most Software packages allow a user to provide causal variables like price and promotion and events (e.g. holidays, outliers), but assuming that the relationship between the causals and the output series are current with no lead/lag
- “Skipping Identification” and going right into Estimation means that the lag or lead relationship between the causals and the output series has not been identified
 - Some will assume a theoretical 3 month lag relationship, but is it?
 - Some will attempt to plot lags of causals vs. the output variable to “see” the lag or lead relationship
 - Some with more knowledge will use methods to use a statistic called the “cross-correlation function” to identify the relationship
 - Some may review the residuals from the model and then add in an ARIMA of lag 1 to correct for period to period relationship of the output variable (e.g. Hildreth-Liu or Cochrane-Orcutt) instead of identifying the model
- Trying to Identify the relationship takes more computing time
 - Is there a lead or lag relationship?
 - Are there are outliers that need to be incorporated?

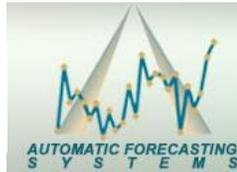
Automatic Modelling

- User might be asked(forced?) to order the data into groupings before any modelling ever occurs so the modeling process doesn't get "fooled":
 - Is the data seasonal?
 - Is there intermittent demand?
 - Do you have any events (promotions, interventions)?
- System tries various quadratic equations to get the best fit, but lacks any ability to forecast.
- User specifies the model and the system estimates the optimal coefficients.
- User specifies which of the different criteria(i.e. smallest AIC, BIC, SIC, RMSE etc.) to be used to determine the "goodness of fit" from a pre-specified list of models using a withheld number of observations yielding strange results like seasonal models when there is no seasonality in the data at all.
- Intelligent software has heuristics to determine model form, variables that are significant and suggests and includes interventions into the model.

MODELLING VS FITTING

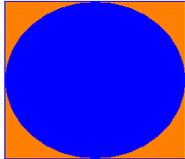


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Model Fitting

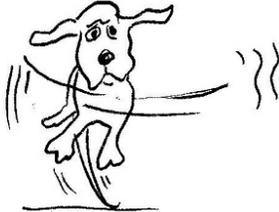


- Fast and easy to do, but not likely to match the “fingerprint to the killer”
- Fitting a round peg into a square hole 
- Can a “pick-best” approach work in an infinite sample space?
 - The “fitters” will take a list of ~10, 25, 50 models and try to find the model that best “fits” the data. The process will then tell you that it is “optimizing” the parameters, but it just can’t be as you assumed a model to begin the process
- Sometimes the “fitters” model get fooled by only partially describing the data
 - Seasonal dummy model used with data that only has some seasonal months
 - A level shift is thought to be a series with an upward trend

“Gaming the System” by Way of Withholding Data

- We could find which model and which number of observations that are withheld would result in the best fit if we really wanted to, but should you?
- If you have ~50 models and fit them using 1 period withheld
- If you have ~50 models and fit them using 2 periods withheld
- And so on until you have done up until 12 periods withheld
- You would have the combination of one type of model and a certain number to be withheld that would be the “winner” of the best outcome (e.g. model 17 and 4 withheld)
- The reality is that while this exercise in futility would certainly yield the smallest fitting statistic, but it really is not capturing the pattern in the data and is only an exercise “mathematical manipulation”

More on Withholding Observations

- Some will allow users to specify the number of observations to withhold to allow the model “train” so that it optimizes the model for this withhold set of data
- It is the case of the tail wagging the dog 
- How do you know how many observations to withhold and what happens if I change the withhold from 6 to 7, will my model and forecast change? You betcha!
- This approach builds a model on data and then changes the coefficients based on the most recent data.
- What if there are outliers not captured by the process in the withhold data? It will skew the model and forecast
- Are the older data worthless? They are rendered so as the withheld data is used to determine the “best” coefficients

Customized Modeling

- Much slower and requires complicated schemes to sift through the patterns in the data to build a customized model for the each data set.
- Did it get the model 100% right? Probably not, but then again the fitter didn't even try and took a passive rather than active approach. It's like passing to the other family in the TV GAME SHOW "Family Feud" instead of trying to answer the question yourself
- It's like getting a custom made suit that fits your dimensions, oops bad graphic!

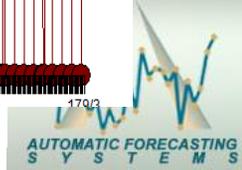
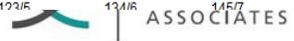
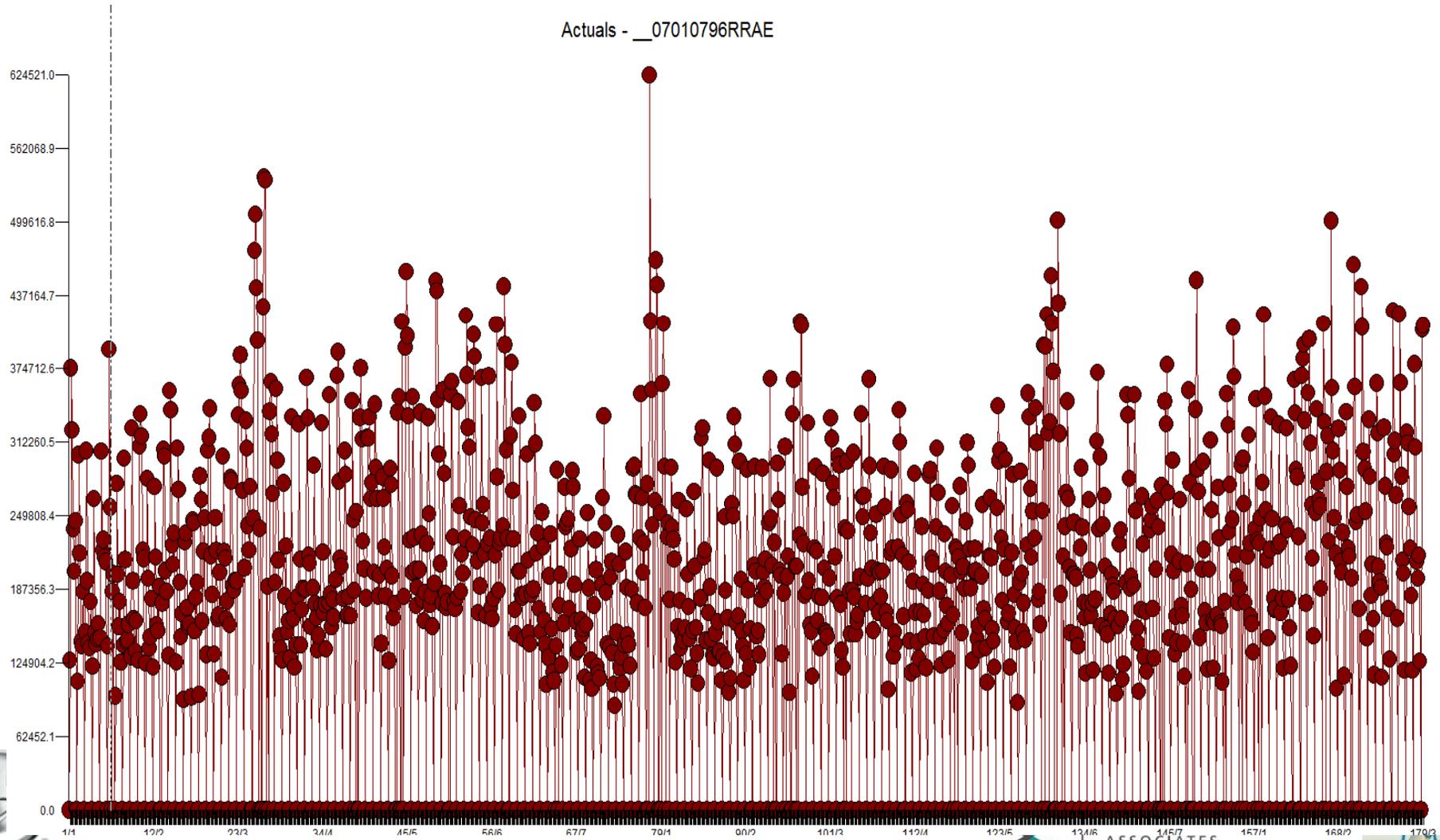


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Caveat Emptor

- Is the methodology explained? Does it do a “Pick Best” and ignore the assumptions?
- Does it build its own model from the information in each dataset or does it fit a couple of types of models to the data?
- Do they produce residuals that are free of pattern?
- Does the procedure explain what types of interventions it can detect?
- Does it explain what it does with interventions?
 - Does it correct for the outliers or just report them to you?
- Big ERP systems like Oracle, SAP, Manugistics, i2 are not exempt from this scrutiny

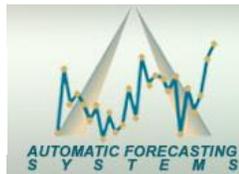
3 ½ years of daily data – Cash management Clear as mud?



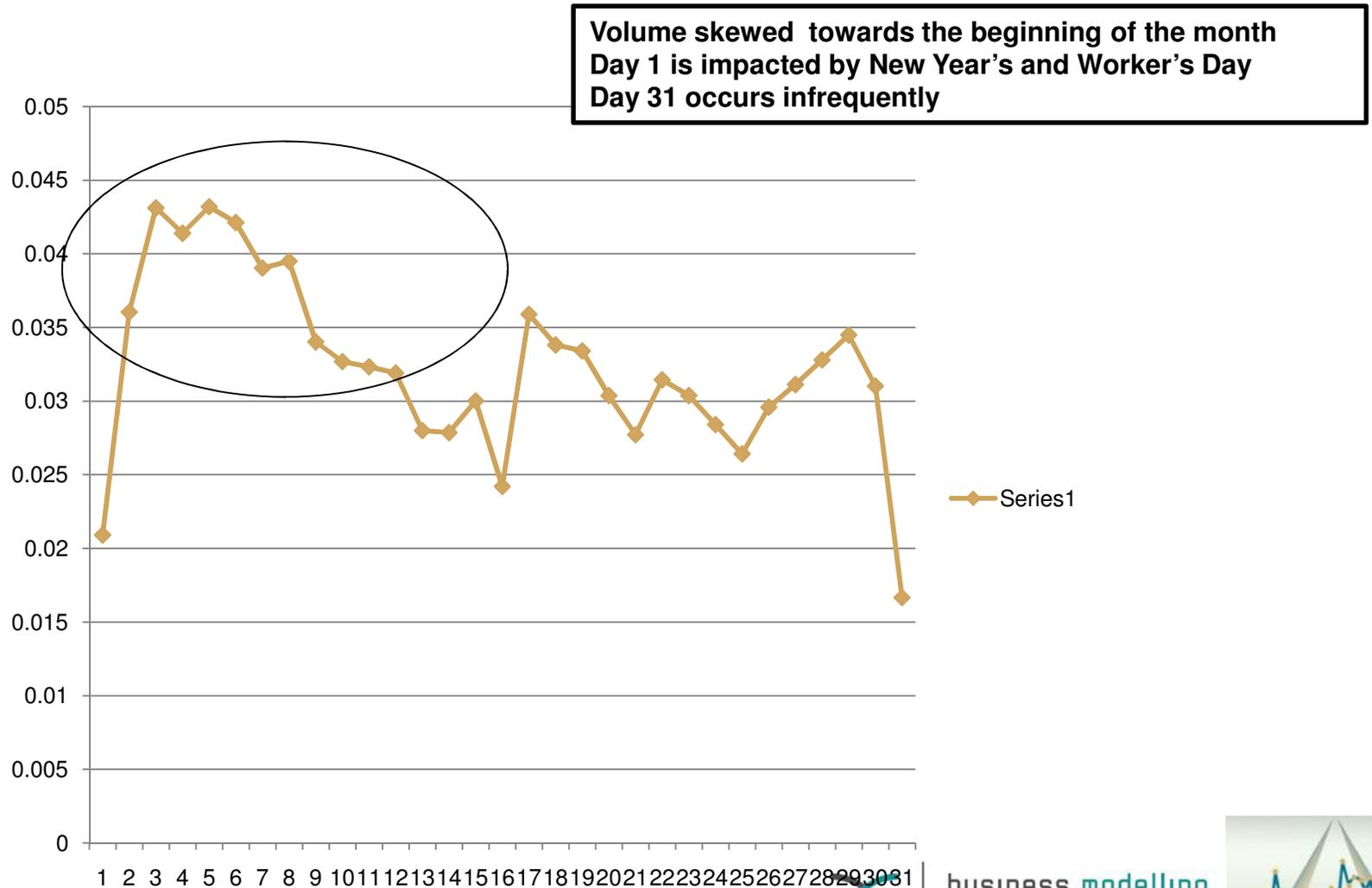
Distribution of Cash across all historical months

- Data begins on a Sunday, 7/1/2007, for daily cash demand
- Sundays are always 0
- There are many impacts on the data:
 - Trends
 - Seasonality
 - Monthly or Weekly patterns
 - Level
 - Big increases and drops, but not necessarily a trend
 - Autoregressive behavior
 - Day of the week
 - Fixed Day of the month
 - Seasonal Pulses - Changes in Day of the week

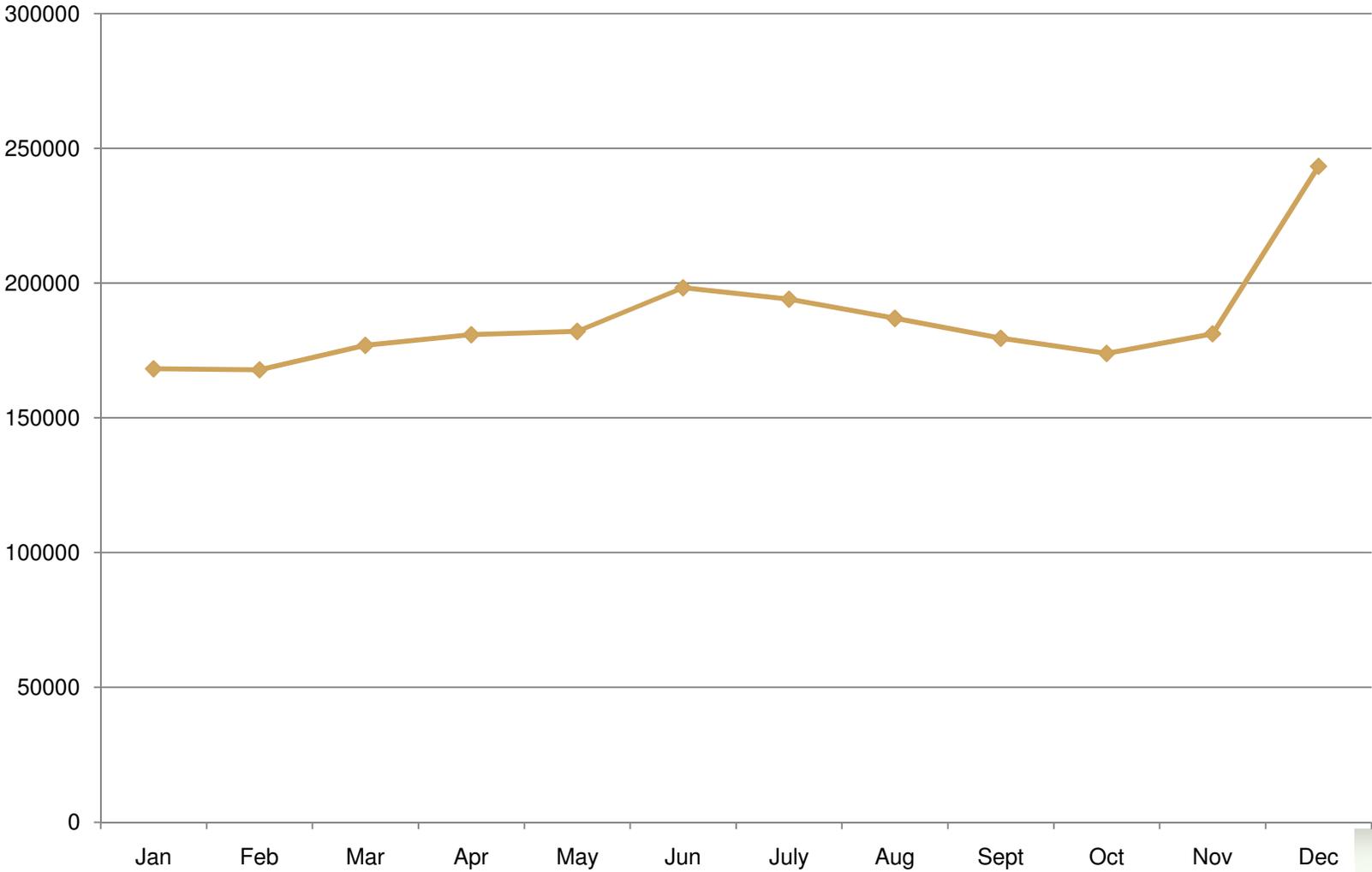
- Interventions



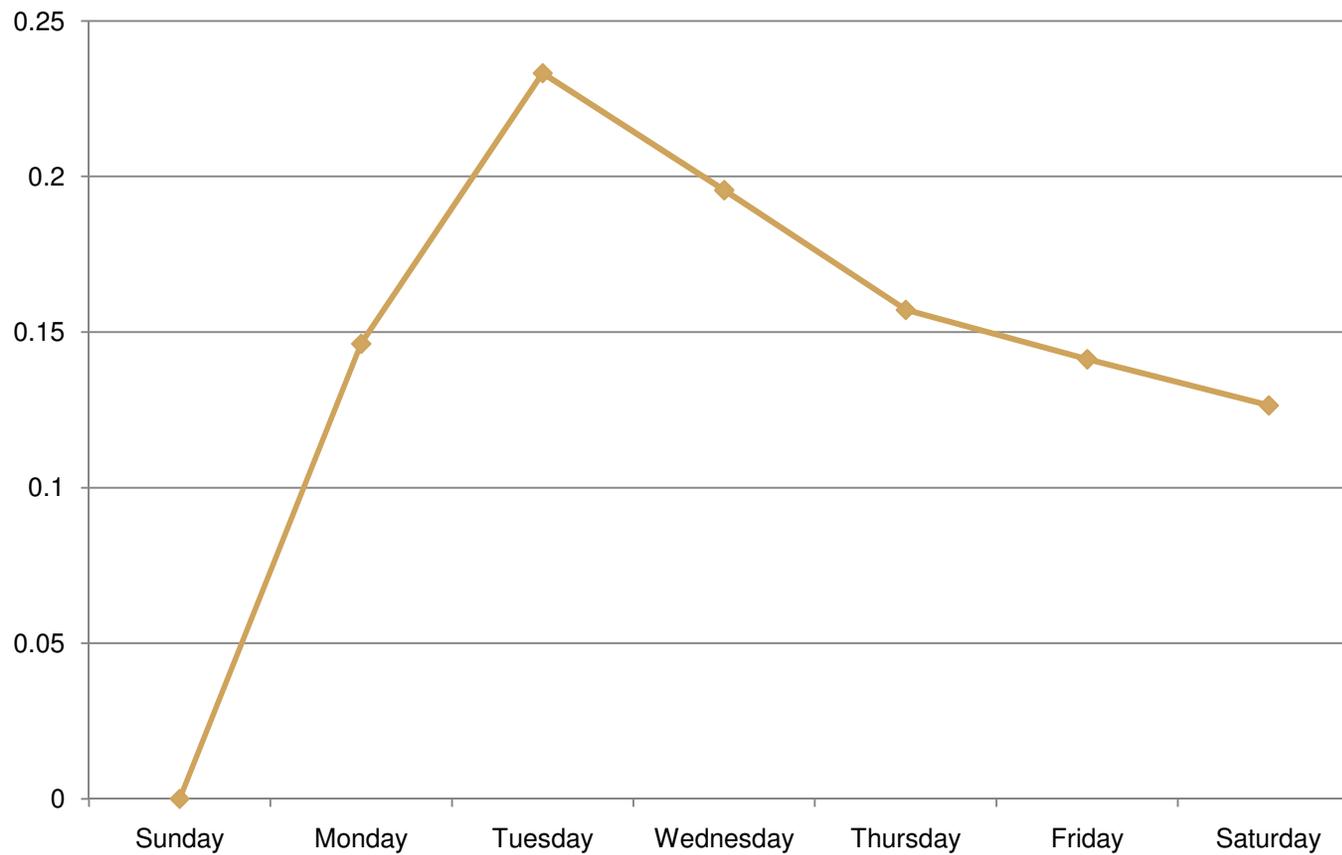
Distribution of 3 ½ years of daily cash demand by day of month



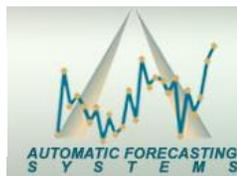
Distribution of daily demand across 3 1/2 years by month



Distribution of daily demand across 3 1/2 years by day of week



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Variables in the model (partial list)

```

Estimation/Diagnostic Checking for Variable Y      __07010796RRAE
X1      G_WOMEN
X2      G_HERITAGE
X3      G_RECONCILE
X4      M_XMAS
X5      M_NEWYEARS
X6      M_EASTER
X7      G_FREEDOM
X8      G_WORKERS
X9      G_YOUTH
X10     MONTH_EFF10
X11     MONTH_EFF12
X12     MONTH_EFF01
X13     MONTH_EFF02
X14     FIXED_EFF_N10107
X15     FIXED_EFF_N10307
X16     FIXED_EFF_N10407
X17     FIXED_EFF_N10507
X18     FIXED_EFF_N10607
:       VERY SPECIAL DAY VARIABLE      X19     FIXED_DAY02
:       VERY SPECIAL DAY VARIABLE      X20     FIXED_DAY03
:       VERY SPECIAL DAY VARIABLE      X21     FIXED_DAY04
:       VERY SPECIAL DAY VARIABLE      X22     FIXED_DAY05
:       VERY SPECIAL DAY VARIABLE      X23     FIXED_DAY06
:       VERY SPECIAL DAY VARIABLE      X24     FIXED_DAY07
:       VERY SPECIAL DAY VARIABLE      X25     FIXED_DAY08
:       VERY SPECIAL DAY VARIABLE      X26     FIXED_DAY09
:       NEWLY IDENTIFIED VARIABLE      X27     I~S00814 09/21/09      SEASP
:       NEWLY IDENTIFIED VARIABLE      X28     I~P00170 12/17/07      PULSE
:       NEWLY IDENTIFIED VARIABLE      X29     I~P01038 05/03/10      PULSE
  
```



How complicated is this to do well?

#	MODEL COMPONENT	LAG (BOP)	COEFF	STANDARD ERROR	P VALUE	T VALUE
1	CONSTANT		.148E+06	.357E+04	.0000	41.36
INPUT SERIES X1 G_WOMEN						
2	Omega (input) -Factor # 1	0	-.233E+06	.214E+05	.0000	-10.90
INPUT SERIES X2 G_HERITAGE						
3	Omega (input) -Factor # 2	0	-.187E+06	.178E+05	.0000	-10.53
INPUT SERIES X3 G_RECONCILE						
4	Omega (input) -Factor # 3	-1	.895E+05	.211E+05	.0000	4.24
5		0	.279E+06	.256E+05		
6		1	-.189E+06	.358E+05		
INPUT SERIES X4 M_XMAS						
7	Omega (input) -Factor # 4	-4	.162E+06	.257E+05	.0000	6.32
8		-3	-.146E+06	.211E+05	.0000	-6.93
9		-2	-.162E+06	.236E+05	.0000	-6.31
10		-1	-.146E+06	.211E+05	.0000	-6.29
11		0	.243E+06	.211E+05	.0000	11.53
12		1	.215E+06	.211E+05	.0000	10.19
INPUT SERIES X5 M_NEWYEARS						
13	Omega (input) -Factor # 5	-4	.295E+06	.257E+05	.0000	11.50
14		-3	-.159E+06	.256E+05	.0000	-6.22
15		-2	-.476E+05	.211E+05	.0241	-2.26
16		0	.206E+06	.208E+05	.0000	9.92

Impacts from 4 days in advance of the holiday, on the holiday and the day after the holiday

How complicated is this to do well?

INPUT SERIES X6 M_EASTER

17Omega (input)	-Factor #	6	-3	-.800E+05	.207E+05	.0001	-3.87
18			-2	.201E+06	.207E+05	.0000	9.70
19			-1	-.727E+05	.206E+05	.0004	-3.52
20			1	.210E+06	.206E+05	.0000	10.16

INPUT SERIES X7 G_FREEDOM

21Omega (input)	-Factor #	7	0	-.768E+05	.251E+05	.0023	-3.06
22			1	-.777E+05	.251E+05	.0020	-3.09

INPUT SERIES X8 G_WORKERS

23Omega (input)	-Factor #	8	-2	.769E+05	.205E+05	.0002	3.75
24			0	.174E+06	.206E+05	.0000	8.45

INPUT SERIES X9 G_YOUTH

25Omega (input)	-Factor #	9	0	-.238E+06	.205E+05	.0000	-11.63
26			1	-.657E+05	.205E+05	.0014	-3.20
27			2	-.757E+05	.205E+05	.0002	-3.69

December is High, January, February and October Lower

INPUT SERIES X 10 MONTH_EFF10

28Omega (input) -Factor # 10 0 -.121E+05 .350E+04 .0006 -3.44

INPUT SERIES X 11 MONTH_EFF12

29Omega (input) -Factor # 11 0 .240E+05 .524E+04 .0000 4.58

INPUT SERIES X 12 MONTH_EFF01

30Omega (input) -Factor # 12 0 -.128E+05 .404E+04 .0015 -3.18

INPUT SERIES X 13 MONTH_EFF02

31Omega (input) -Factor # 13 0 -.205E+05 .416E+04 .0000 -4.93

INPUT SERIES X 14 FIXED_EFF_N10107

32Omega (input) -Factor # 14 0 -.170E+06 .360E+04 .0000 -47.28

INPUT SERIES X 15 FIXED_EFF_N10307

33Omega (input) -Factor # 15 0 .135E+06 .359E+04 .0000 37.51

INPUT SERIES X 16 FIXED_EFF_N10407

34Omega (input) -Factor # 16 0 .836E+05 .363E+04 .0000 23.05

INPUT SERIES X 17 FIXED_EFF_N10507

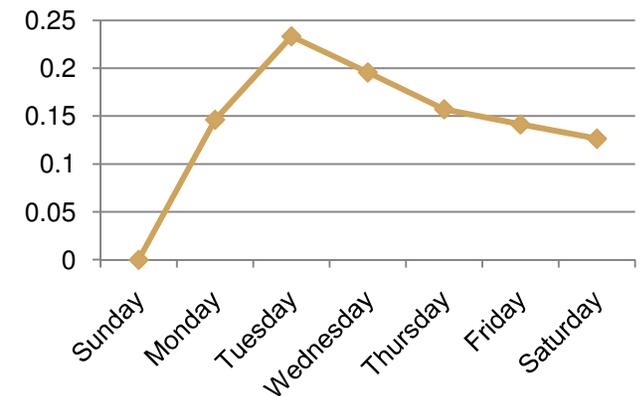
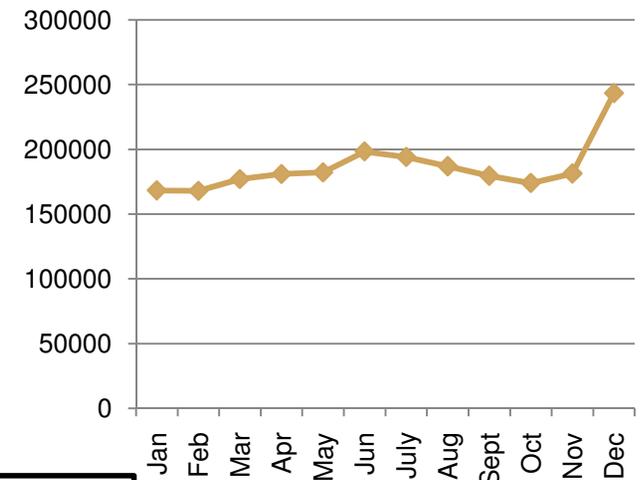
35Omega (input) -Factor # 17 0 .339E+05 .365E+04 .0000 9.30

INPUT SERIES X 18 FIXED_EFF_N10607

36Omega (input) -Factor # 18 0 .190E+05 .363E+04 .0000 5.25

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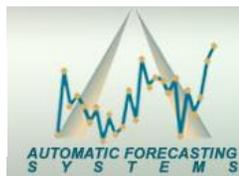
Remember Sunday is the first day of the series



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Day 2 through 9 days are different than other days

INPUT SERIES X 19 FIXED_DAY02

37Omega (input) -Factor # 19 0 .485E+05 .589E+04 .0000 8.22

INPUT SERIES X 20 FIXED_DAY03

38Omega (input) -Factor # 20 0 .689E+05 .590E+04 .0000 11.68

INPUT SERIES X 21 FIXED_DAY04

39Omega (input) -Factor # 21 0 .560E+05 .580E+04 .0000 9.66

INPUT SERIES X 22 FIXED_DAY05

40Omega (input) -Factor # 22 0 .749E+05 .575E+04 .0000 13.03

INPUT SERIES X 23 FIXED_DAY06

41Omega (input) -Factor # 23 0 .651E+05 .574E+04 .0000 11.34

INPUT SERIES X 24 FIXED_DAY07

42Omega (input) -Factor # 24 0 .525E+05 .573E+04 .0000 9.17

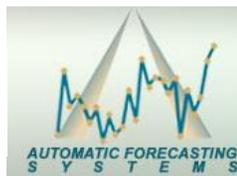
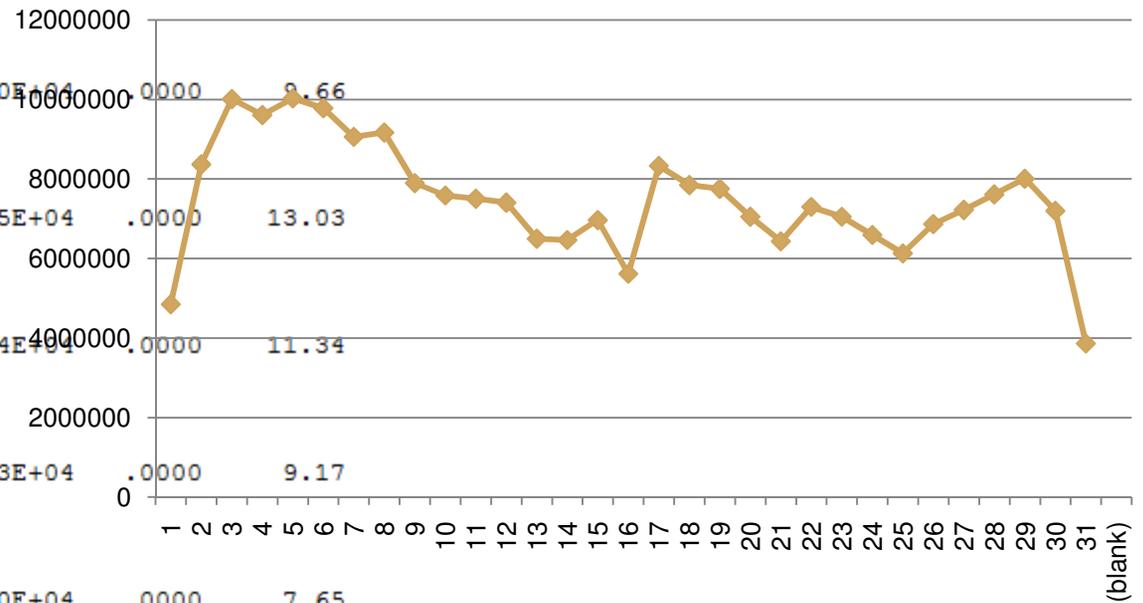
INPUT SERIES X 25 FIXED_DAY08

43Omega (input) -Factor # 25 0 .443E+05 .580E+04 .0000 7.65

INPUT SERIES X 26 FIXED_DAY09

44Omega (input) -Factor # 26 0 .362E+05 .597E+04 .0000 6.05

Total



How complicated is this to do well?

Monday was not identified as a day of the week variable, but half way through it was found to have become different than the average

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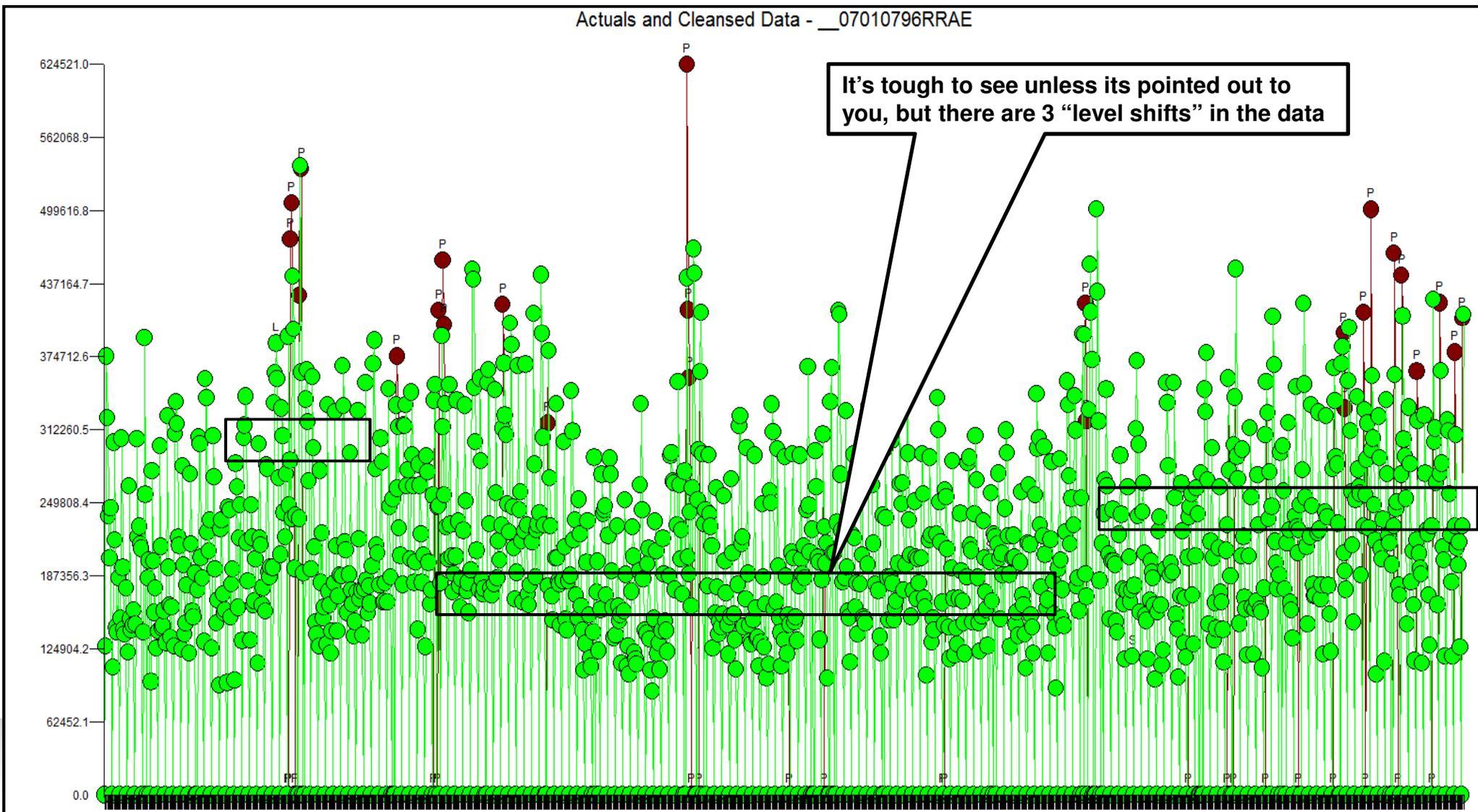
INPUT SERIES X 27 I~S00814 09/21/09 SEASP
  45Omega (input) -Factor # 27  0  .574E+05  .576E+04
INPUT SERIES X 28 I~P00170 12/17/07 PULSE
  46Omega (input) -Factor # 28  0  -.392E+06  .502E+05  .0000  -7.81
INPUT SERIES X 29 I~P01038 05/03/10 PULSE
  47Omega (input) -Factor # 29  0  -.299E+06  .362E+05  .0000  -8.25
INPUT SERIES X 30 I~L00998 03/24/10 LEVEL
  48Omega (input) -Factor # 30  0  .270E+05  .307E+04  .0000  8.80
INPUT SERIES X 31 I~L00417 08/20/08 LEVEL
  49Omega (input) -Factor # 31  0  -.328E+05  .277E+04  .0000  -11.83
INPUT SERIES X 32 I~L00159 12/06/07 LEVEL
  50Omega (input) -Factor # 32  0  .307E+05  .380E+04  .0000  8.06
INPUT SERIES X 33 I~P01067 06/01/10 PULSE
  51Omega (input) -Factor # 33  0  -.307E+06  .355E+05  .0000  -8.65
  
```

Multiple outliers that need to be cleansed in order to measure the true patterns



Actual(Red) and Cleansed(Green) History

Actuals and Cleansed Data - __07010796RRAE



It's tough to see unless its pointed out to you, but there are 3 "level shifts" in the data

Questions?

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