

## **SAS and Autobox are not yet competitors.**

Autobox plays to a market that SAS does not (or at least has not for decades). SAS is much larger and broader in scope than Autobox ever wanted to be. There is some overlap in the forecasting niche, but I see the differences and similarities more like the following:

SAS is like a box of tools and parts with some subassemblies with which a knowledgeable user could build an engine and the rest of the car. Autobox is like a pre built and very smart engine with a minimal car. I suspect that both you and Dave Reilly may differ with this view, but that's one of the shortcomings of such comparisons. "All models are wrong. Some models are useful." And I make the comparison with the engine from the forecasting perspective. If I were to talk about multivariate methods, GLM, building GUIs, presentation quality graphics, OOP, data warehousing, and the list here could get longindeed, then Autobox just isn't a "competitor". I wouldn't want to walk into a forecast review meeting with the raw output from Autobox (or the raw output from proc arima for that matter). It sounds as if SAS is now, after many decades, starting to move into automated modeling and forecasting (more than exponential smoothing), but it doesn't yet offer the "engine" that Autobox does. I built an automated intervention system because SAS didn't have one and we needed it, but I don't claim that AutoFcst competes with Autobox, nor does it compete with SAS. Perhaps in a few years you can fuss about competing with Autobox.