

# Exponentially weighted forecasts

FORECASTING IN R



**Rob J. Hyndman**

Professor of Statistics at Monash  
University

# Simple exponential smoothing

Forecasting Notation:

$\hat{y}_{t+h|t}$  = point forecast of  $\hat{y}_{t+h}$  given data  $y_1, \dots, y_t$

Forecast Equation:

$$\hat{y}_{t+h|t} = \alpha y_t + \alpha(1 - \alpha)y_{t-1} + \alpha(1 - \alpha)^2 y_{t-2} + \dots$$

*where  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$*

# Simple exponential smoothing

Observation	$\alpha = 0.2$	$\alpha = 0.4$	$\alpha = 0.6$	$\alpha = 0.8$
$y_t$	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.8
$y_{t-1}$	0.16	0.24	0.24	0.16
$y_{t-2}$	0.128	0.144	0.096	0.032
$y_{t-3}$	0.1024	0.0864	0.0384	0.0064
$y_{t-4}$	$(0.2)(0.8)^4$	$(0.4)(0.6)^4$	$(0.6)(0.4)^4$	$(0.8)(0.2)^4$
$y_{t-5}$	$(0.2)(0.8)^5$	$(0.4)(0.6)^5$	$(0.6)(0.4)^5$	$(0.8)(0.2)^5$

# Simple exponential smoothing

Component form	
Forecast equation	$\hat{y}_{t+h t} = l_t$
Smoothing equation	$l_t = \alpha y_t + (1 - \alpha)l_{t-1}$

- $l_t$  is the level (or the smoothed value) of the series at time  $t$
- We choose  $\alpha$  and  $l_0$  by minimizing SSE:

$$SSE = \sum_{t=1}^T (y_t - \hat{y}_{t|t-1})^2$$

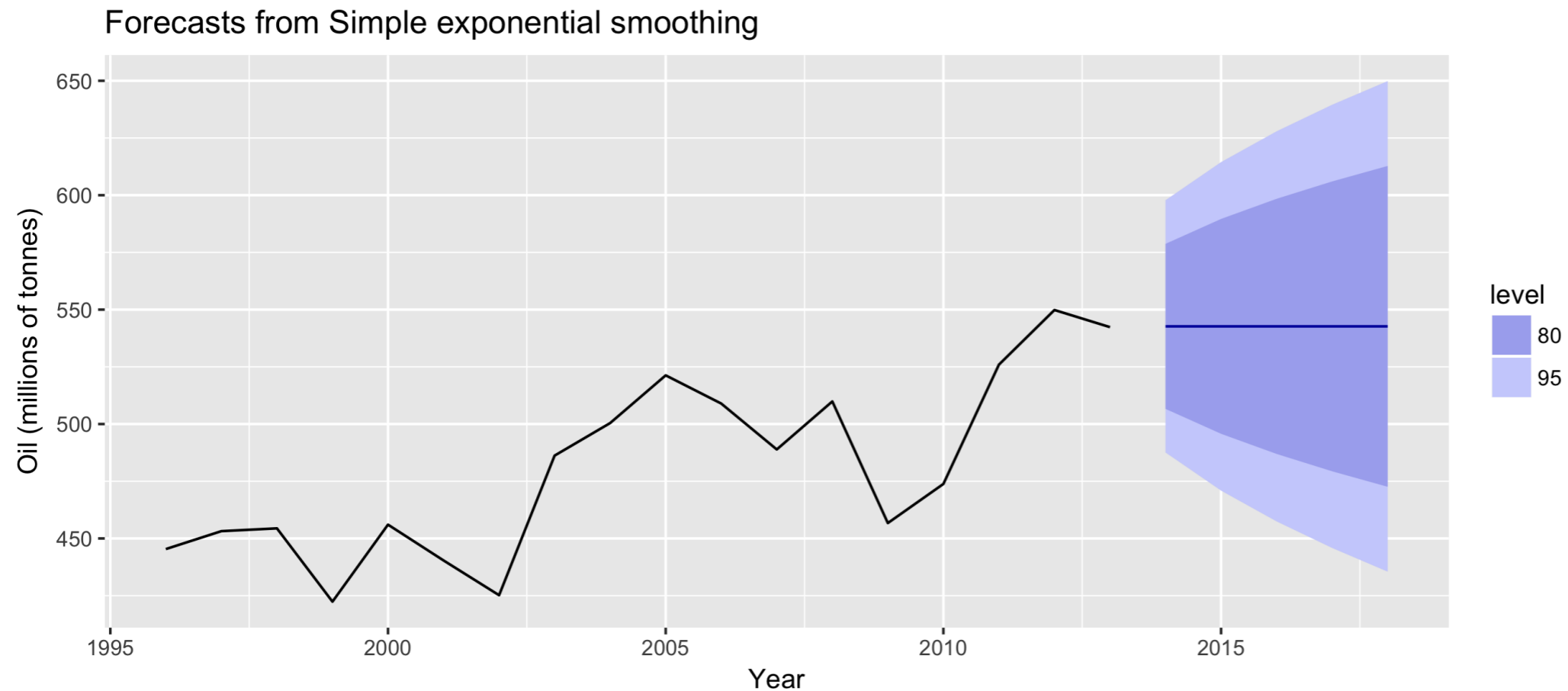
# Example: oil production

```
oildata <- window(oil, start = 1996)      # Oil Data
fc <- ses(oildata, h = 5)                 # Simple Exponential Smoothing
summary(fc)
```

```
Forecast method: Simple exponential smoothing
Model Information:
Simple exponential smoothing
Call:
ses(y = oildata, h = 5)
Smoothing parameters:
  alpha = 0.8339
Initial states:
  l = 446.5759
sigma: 28.12
*** Truncated due to space
```

# Example: oil production

```
autoplot(fc) +  
  ylab("Oil (millions of tonnes)") + xlab("Year")
```



# Let's practice!

FORECASTING IN R

# Exponential smoothing methods with trend

FORECASTING IN R



**Rob J. Hyndman**

Professor of Statistics at Monash  
University



# Holt's linear trend

	Simple exponential smoothing
Forecast	$\hat{y}_{t+h t} = l_t$
Level	$l_t = \alpha y_t + (1 - \alpha)l_{t-1}$

	Holt's linear trend
Forecast	$\hat{y}_{t+h t} = l_t + hb_t$
Level	$l_t = \alpha y_t + (1 - \alpha)(l_{t-1} + b_{t-1})$
Trend	$b_t = \beta^*(l_t - l_{t-1}) + (1 - \beta^*)b_{t-1}$

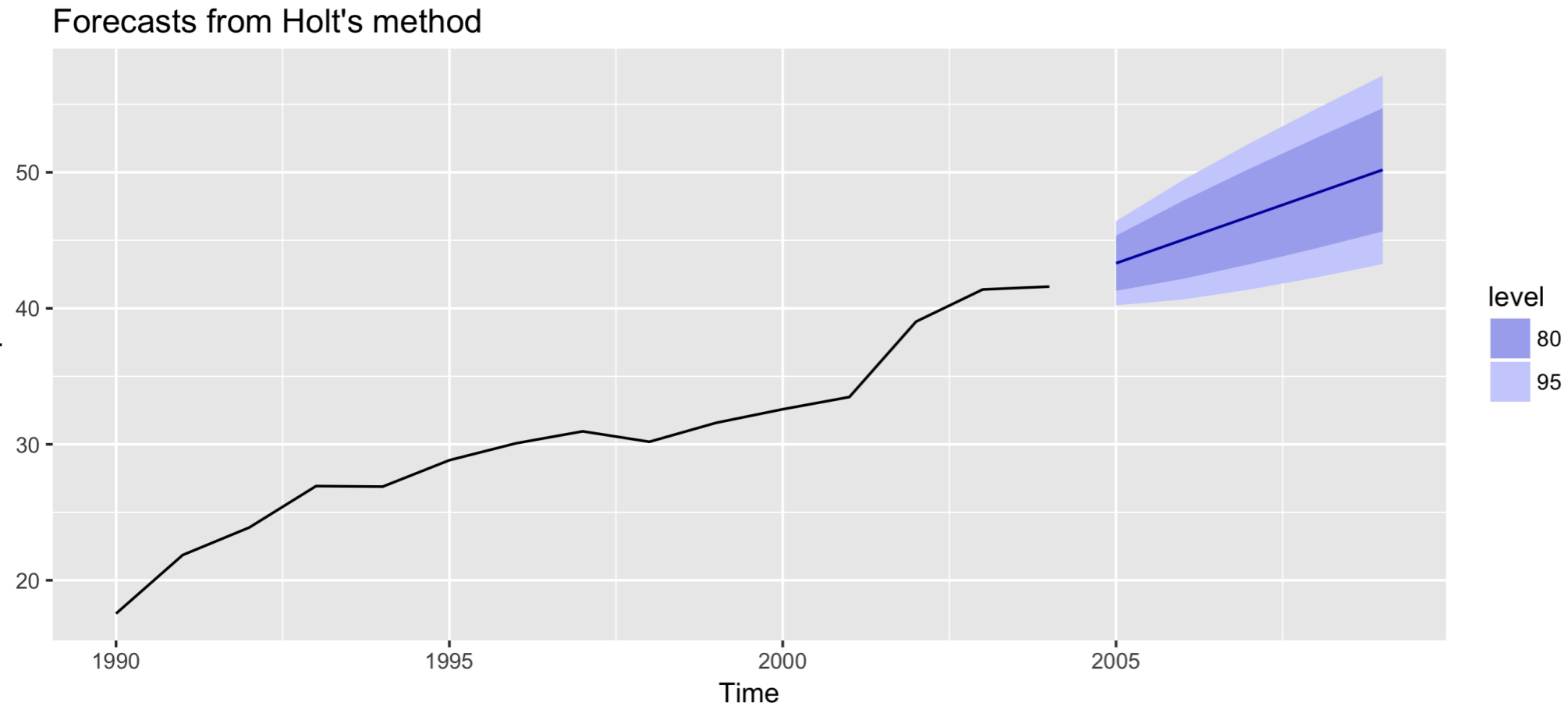
# Holt's linear trend

	Holt's linear trend
Forecast	$\hat{y}_{t+h t} = l_t + hb_t$
Level	$l_t = \alpha y_t + (1 - \alpha)(l_{t-1} + b_{t-1})$
Trend	$b_t = \beta^*(l_t - l_{t-1}) + (1 - \beta^*)b_{t-1}$

- Two smoothing parameters  $\alpha$  and  $\beta^*$  where  $0 \leq \alpha$  and  $\beta^* \leq 1$
- Choose  $\alpha, \beta^*, l_0, b_0$  to minimize SSE

# Holt's method in R

```
airpassengers %>% holt(h = 5) %>% autoplot
```



# Damped trend method

## Component form

$$\hat{y}_{t+h|t} = l_t + (\phi + \phi^2 + \dots + \phi^h)b_t$$

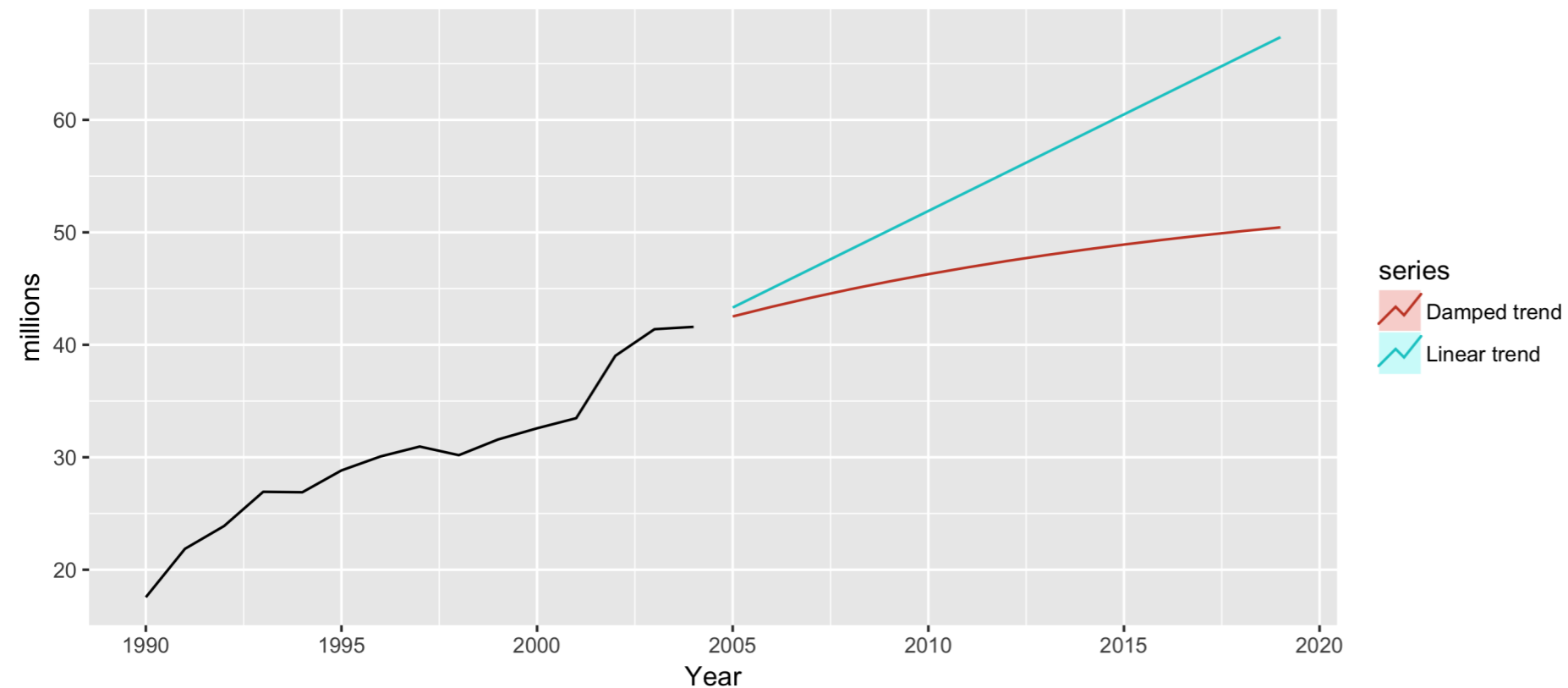
$$l_t = \alpha y_t + (1 - \alpha)(l_{t-1} + \phi b_{t-1})$$

$$b_t = \beta^*(l_t - l_{t-1}) + (1 - \beta^*)\phi b_{t-1}$$

- Damping parameter  $0 < \phi < 1$
- If  $\phi = 1$ , identical to Holt's linear trend
- Short-run forecasts trended, long-run forecasts constant

# Example: air passengers

```
fc1 <- holt(airpassengers, h = 15, PI = FALSE)
fc2 <- holt(airpassengers, damped = TRUE, h = 15, PI = FALSE)
autoplot(airpassengers) + xlab("Year") + ylab("millions") +
  autolayer(fc1, series="Linear trend") +
  autolayer(fc2, series="Damped trend")
```



# Let's practice!

FORECASTING IN R

# Exponential smoothing methods with trend and seasonality

FORECASTING IN R

**Rob J. Hyndman**

Professor of Statistics at Monash  
University



# Holt-Winters' additive method

## Holt-Winters additive method

$$\hat{y}_{t+h|t} = l_t + hb_t + s_{t-m+h_m^+}$$

$$l_t = \alpha(y_t - s_{t-m}) + (1 - \alpha)(l_{t-1} + b_{t-1})$$

$$b_t = \beta^*(l_t - l_{t-1}) + (1 - \beta^*)b_{t-1}$$

$$s_t = \gamma(y_t - l_{t-1} - b_{t-1}) + (1 - \gamma)s_{t-m}$$

- $s_{t-m+h_m^+}$  = seasonal component from final year of data
- Smoothing parameters:  
 $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1, 0 \leq \beta^* \leq 1, 0 \leq \gamma \leq 1 - \alpha$
- $m$  = period of seasonality (e.g.  $m = 4$  for quarterly data)
- Seasonal component averages **zero**



# Holt-Winters' multiplicative method

## Holt-Winters multiplicative method

$$\hat{y}_{t+h|t} = (\ell_t + hb_t)s_{t-m+h_m^+}$$

$$\ell_t = \alpha\left(\frac{y_t}{s_{t-m}}\right) + (1 - \alpha)(\ell_{t-1} + b_{t-1})$$

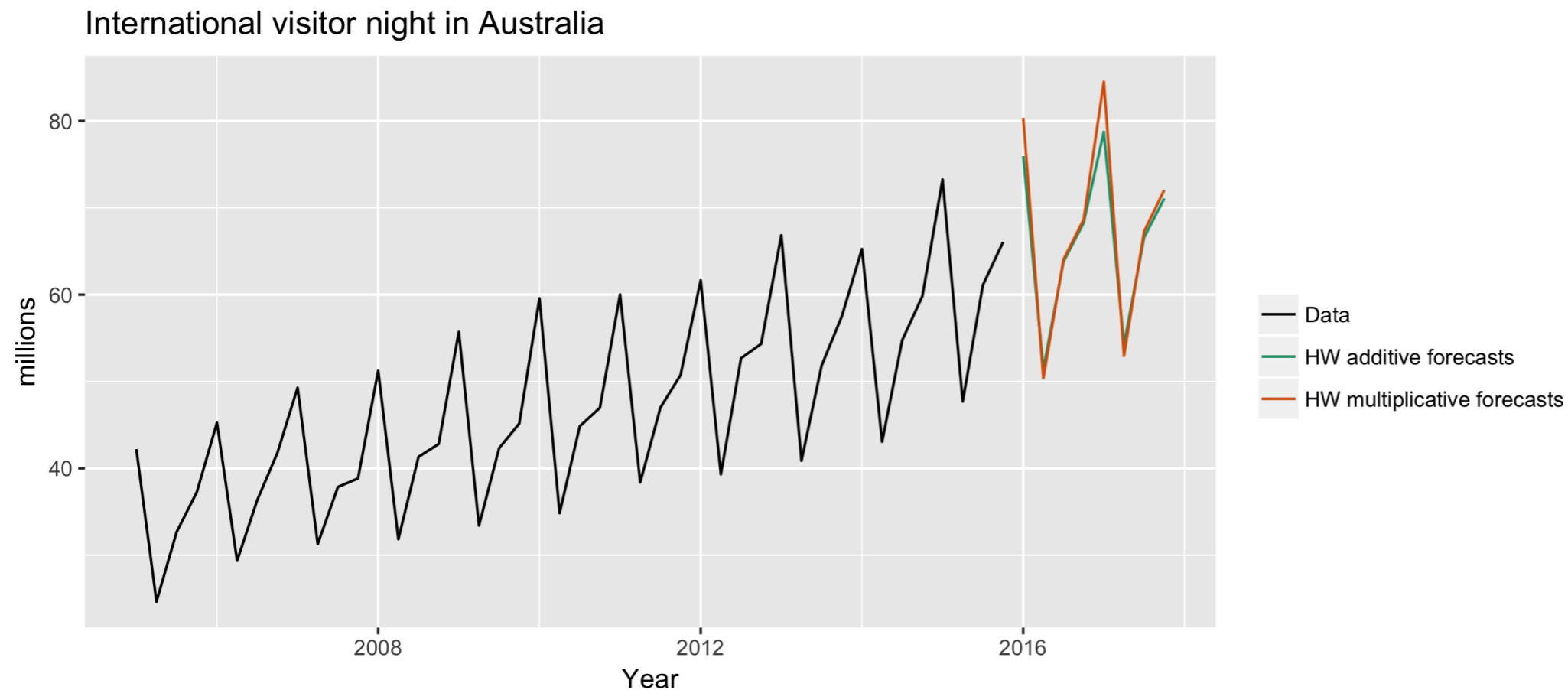
$$b_t = \beta^*(\ell_t - \ell_{t-1}) + (1 - \beta^*)b_{t-1}$$

$$s_t = \gamma \frac{y_t}{\ell_{t-1} - b_{t-1}} + (1 - \gamma)s_{t-m}$$

- Seasonal component averages **one**

# Example: Visitor Nights

```
aust <- window(austourists, start = 2005)
fc1  <- hw(aust, seasonal = "additive")
fc2  <- hw(aust, seasonal = "multiplicative")
```



# Taxonomy of exponential smoothing methods

	Seasonal Component		
Trend Component	N (None)	A (Additive)	M (Multiplicative)
N (None)	(N, N)	(N, A)	(N, M)
N (Additive)	(A, N)	(A, A)	(A, M)
A <sub>d</sub> (Additive damped)	(A <sub>d</sub> , N)	(A <sub>d</sub> , A)	(A <sub>d</sub> , M)

# Taxonomy of exponential smoothing methods

	Seasonal Component		
Trend Component	N (None)	A (Additive)	M (Multiplicative)
N (None)	(N, N)	(N, A)	(N, M)
N (Additive)	(A, N)	(A, A)	(A, M)
A <sub>d</sub> (Additive damped)	(A <sub>d</sub> , N)	(A <sub>d</sub> , A)	(A <sub>d</sub> , M)

(N, N):	Simple exponential smoothing	<code>ses()</code>
(A, N):	Holt's linear method	<code>holt()</code>
(A <sub>d</sub> , N):	Additive damped trend method	<code>hw()</code>
(A, A):	Additive Holt-Winters' method	<code>hw()</code>
(A, M):	Damped multiplicative Holt-Winters' method	<code>hw()</code>
(A <sub>d</sub> , M):	Damped multiplicative Holt-Winters' method	<code>hw()</code>

# Let's practice!

FORECASTING IN R

# State space models for exponential smoothing

FORECASTING IN R



**Rob J. Hyndman**

Professor of Statistics at Monash  
University

# Innovations state space models

- Each exponential smoothing method can be written as an **"innovations state space model"**
  - Trend =  $\{N, A, A_d\}$

# Innovations state space models

- Each exponential smoothing method can be written as an **"innovations state space model"**
  - Trend =  $\{N, A, A_d\}$
  - Seasonal =  $\{N, A, M\}$



# Innovations state space models

- Each exponential smoothing method can be written as an **"innovations state space model"**

- Trend = {N, A, A<sub>d</sub>}
  - Seasonal = {N, A, M}
- ← 3 x 3 = 9 possible exponential smoothing methods

# Innovations state space models

- Each exponential smoothing method can be written as an **"innovations state space model"**

- Trend = {N, A, A<sub>d</sub>}
  - Seasonal = {N, A, M}
  - Error = {A, M}
- ← 3 x 3 = 9 possible exponential smoothing methods

# Innovations state space models

- Each exponential smoothing method can be written as an "innovations state space model"
    - Trend = {N, A, A<sub>d</sub>}
    - Seasonal = {N, A, M}
    - Error = {A, M}
- 3 x 3 = 9 possible exponential smoothing methods
- 9 x 2 = 18 possible state space models
- ETS models: Error, Trend, Seasonal

# ETS models

- Parameters: estimated using the "**likelihood**", the probability of the data arising from the specified model
- For models with additive errors, this is **equivalent to minimizing SSE**
- Choose the best model by minimizing a corrected version of Akaike's Information Criterion ( $AIC_c$ )

# Example: Australian air traffic

```
ets(ausair)
```

```
ETS(M,A,N)
```

```
Call:
```

```
ets(y = ausair)
```

```
Smoothing parameters:
```

```
alpha = 0.9999
```

```
beta = 0.0186
```

```
Initial states:
```

```
l = 6.5249
```

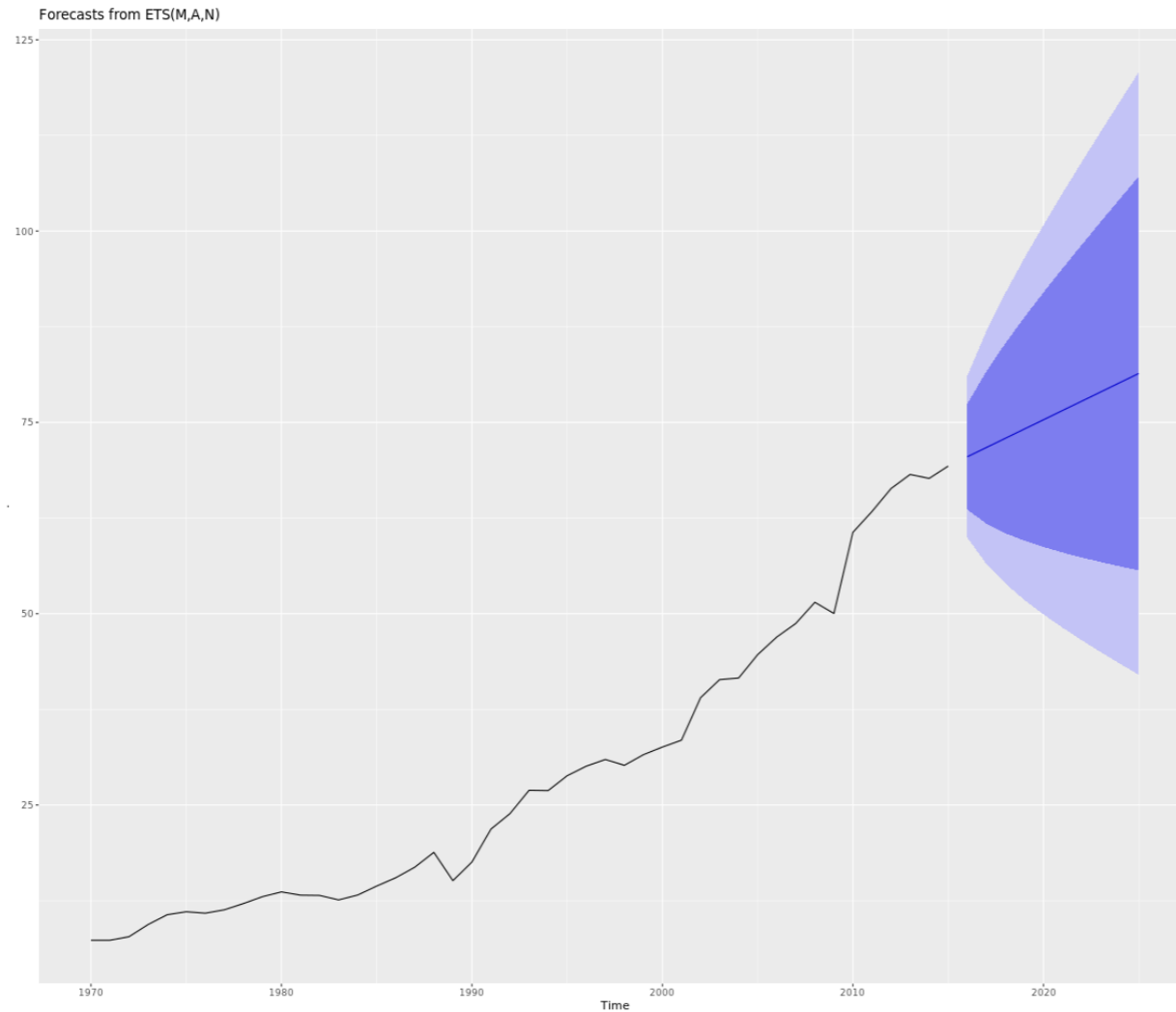
```
b = 0.7562
```

```
sigma: 0.0763
```

AIC	AICc	BIC
234.5273	236.0273	243.6705

# Example: Australian air traffic

```
ausair %>% ets() %>% forecast() %>% autoplot()
```



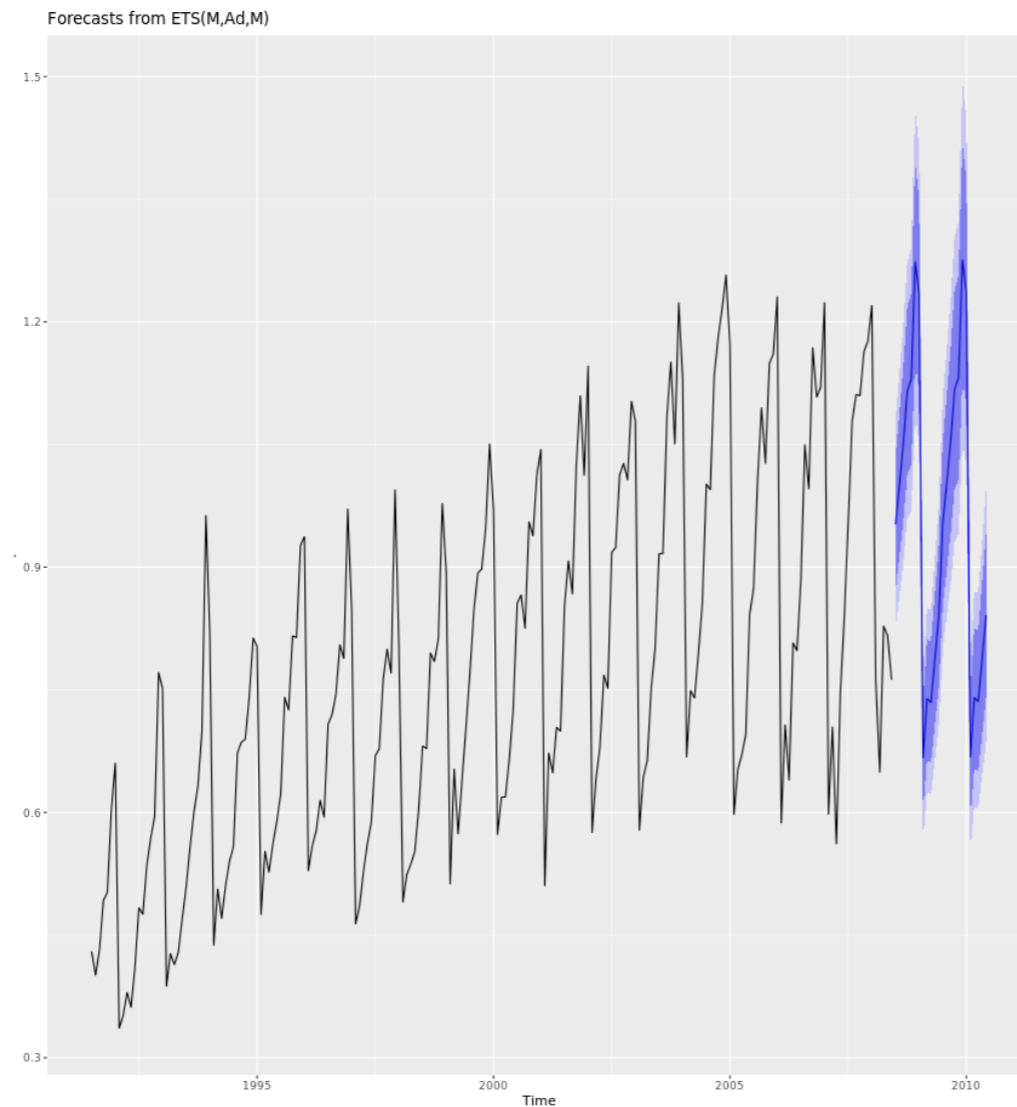
# Example: Monthly cortecosteroid drug sales

```
ets(h02)
```

```
ETS(M,Ad,M)
Call:
ets(y = h02)
Smoothing parameters:
  alpha = 0.1953
  beta  = 1e-04
  gamma = 1e-04
  phi   = 0.9798
Initial states:
  l = 0.3945
  b = 0.0085
  s=0.874 0.8197 0.7644 0.7693 0.6941 1.2838
      1.326 1.1765 1.1621 1.0955 1.0422 0.9924
sigma: 0.0676
      AIC      AICc      BIC
-122.90601 -119.20871 -63.17985
```

# Example: Monthly cortecosteroid drug sales

```
h02 %>% ets() %>% forecast() %>% autoplot()
```





# Let's practice!

FORECASTING IN R