Autoregressive Order Selection Criteria and their Performances at Different Sizes of Time Series

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Abstract—In the present study, the most popular model selection criteria are used as the autoregressive order selection criteria and the performances of time series model selection criteria at different sizes of the same time series are observed. In time series analysis and forecasting, selecting the most suitable model for a given time series and size of available time series plays a vital role. We verified that Final Prediction Error Criterion and Akaike’s Information Criterion are asymptotically equivalent and Akaike’s Information Criterion and Bias-Corrected Akaike’s Information Criterion are asymptotically equivalent when the size of time series is large with respect to the dimension of the parameters of the autoregressive process using empirical study. All the time series model selection criteria presented in the paper are evaluated by log-likelihood function.

Keywords—FPE, AIC, AICc, BIC, HQC, and MDL.

I. INTRODUCTION

Model section criteria play important role in the selection of most appropriate model or the best model among the candidate models for the given time series. Mainly, we are determining the optimal order of the autoregressive model by these model selection procedures. Selecting the order of autoregressive model is one of the critical issues in time series analysis.

Some model selection procedures for time series data are

A. Final Prediction Error (FPE) Criterion
B. Akaike Information Criterion (AIC)
C. Bias-Corrected Akaike Information Criterion (AICc)
D. Bayes Information Criterion (BIC)
E. Hannan-Quinn Criterion (HQC)
F. Minimum Description Length (MDL)

A review of literature on some time series model selection methods is presented in Section II. A detailed study of the derivation of the above model selection procedures for autoregressive models is presented in Section II given by the different authors. In Section III, the most useful time series model selection procedures by Information Criteria are tabulated and a brief overview of the present study is discussed. In Section IV, we generated the autoregressive process of order 2 and the time series model selection procedures are used for selecting the optimal order of autoregressive process. Mainly, we observed the performance of the time series model selection procedures at different sizes of the same autoregressive process. In the present study, the behaviour of FPE, AIC, AICc, BIC, HQC, and MDL have been studied under standard normal errors. For this study, we used the most popular and powerful R-software. Section V contains the conclusions.

II. SOME TIME SERIES MODEL SELECTION CRITERIA

Most popular and widely used model selection procedures for time series are discussed below

A. Final Prediction Error (FPE) Criterion:

Originally, the FPE was designed for autoregressive time series models. The FPE Criterion was developed by Akaike (1969) to select the appropriate order of the autoregressive process to fit a time series data. The final prediction error (FPE) criterion has been used widely in time series model selection.

Suppose that \( y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_n \) is an observed series from AR (p) process and \( x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n \) is an observed series from the same process which is independent of \( \{y_i\} \) and \( p < n \) [1]. Thus the model is

\[
X_t = \sum_{j=1}^{p} a_j X_{t-j} + u_t
\]  

where \( u_t \) are i.i.d \( \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2) \)

No intercept included in the model.
Akaiae estimated the mean squared prediction error for predicting $x_{n+1}$ by estimating the parameters from the observed series $y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_n$. Then the mean square prediction error is

$$E\left[\left(\hat{x}_{n+1} - \hat{x}_{n+1}\right)^2\right] = E\left[\left(\hat{x}_{n+1} - \hat{a}_1 x_n - \hat{a}_2 x_{n-1} - \cdots - \hat{a}_p x_{n-p+1}\right)^2\right]$$

Where $\hat{a}_1, \hat{a}_2, \ldots, \hat{a}_p$ are the maximum likelihood estimators of the coefficients of the AR (p) model based on $y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_n$.

$$E\left[\left(\hat{x}_{n+1} - \hat{a}_1 x_n - \hat{a}_2 x_{n-1} - \cdots - \hat{a}_p x_{n-p+1}\right)^2\right] \approx \sigma^2 \left(1 + \frac{p+1}{n}\right) \quad (2)$$

For large $n$, $\frac{n \hat{\sigma}^2}{\sigma^2}$ distributed approximately chi-squared with $(n-p-1)$ degrees of freedom. Where $\hat{\sigma}^2$ is the maximum likelihood estimators of $\sigma^2$.

Replace $\sigma^2$ in equation (2) by the estimator $n \hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{n \hat{\sigma}^2}{(n-p-1)}$ to get the estimated mean square prediction error of $x_{n+1}$.

$$FPE = \frac{n \hat{\sigma}^2}{(n-p-1)} \left(1 + \frac{p+1}{n}\right)$$

$$FPE = \sigma^2 \frac{n + p + 1}{n - p - 1}$$

where $n$ is the number of values in the estimation data.

**B. Akaike Information Criterion (AIC):**

AIC is probably the most commonly used model selection criterion for time series data. The most fundamental model in time series analysis is autoregressive model [2]. In the autoregressive model, the present value of the time series is expressed as a linear combination of past values of the time series and the random component. The AR (p) model is

$$y_t = \sum_{j=1}^{p} a_j y_{t-j} + \varepsilon_t$$

where $\varepsilon_t$ are i.i.d $N(0, \sigma^2)$

Where $p$ is called the order of the AR model and $a_j$’s are called the AR coefficients.

$$y_t|y_{t-p}, \ldots, y_{t-1} \sim N\left(\sum_{j=1}^{p} a_j y_{t-j}, \sigma^2\right).$$

Then the conditional density of $y_t$ given $y_{t-p}, \ldots, y_{t-1}$ is given by

$$f\left(y_t|y_{t-p}, \ldots, y_{t-1}\right) = \frac{1}{\sigma \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \left(y_t - \sum_{j=1}^{p} a_j y_{t-j}\right)^2\right)$$

The Likelihood of the AR model with order $p$ can be written as

$$L(a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_p, \sigma^2) = \left(\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}\right)^{\frac{n}{2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{t=1}^{n} \left(y_t - \sum_{j=1}^{p} a_j y_{t-j}\right)^2\right)$$

The log-likelihood of the model can be expressed as

$$l(a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_p, \sigma^2) = -\frac{n}{2} \log(2\pi\sigma^2) - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{t=1}^{n} \left(y_t - \sum_{j=1}^{p} a_j y_{t-j}\right)^2$$

The maximum likelihood estimators of $a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_p$ and $\sigma^2$ are obtained by solving the system of equations.

$$\frac{\delta l}{\delta a_1} = \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum_{t=1}^{n} y_{t-1} (y_t - \sum_{j=1}^{p} a_j y_{t-j}) = 0$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\frac{\delta l}{\delta a_p} = \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum_{t=1}^{n} y_{t-p} (y_t - \sum_{j=1}^{p} a_j y_{t-j}) = 0$$

and

$$\frac{\delta l}{\delta \sigma^2} = -\frac{n}{2\sigma^2} + \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{t=1}^{n} \left(y_t - \sum_{j=1}^{p} a_j y_{t-j}\right)^2 = 0$$

The maximum likelihood estimators $\hat{a}_1, \hat{a}_2, \ldots, \hat{a}_p$ are obtained as the solution to the normal equation.

$$\begin{pmatrix} C(1,1) & \cdots & C(1,p) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ \vdots \\ a_p \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} C(1,0) \\ \vdots \\ C(p,0) \end{pmatrix}$$

where $C(\alpha, \beta) = \sum_{t=1}^{n} y_{t-\alpha} y_{t-\beta}$.

The maximum likelihood estimator of $\sigma^2$ is

$$\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^{n} (y_t - \hat{\beta})^2 = \frac{1}{n} \left( C(0,0) - \sum_{j=0}^{p} a_j C(j,0) \right)$$

After substitution of this results in equation (3), the maximum log-likelihood is
In derivation, Akaike made an assumption that the true model belongs to the set of candidate models.

Akaike (1973) showed that the selection of the best model is determined by AIC score.

\[ AIC = -2 \log (\text{likelihood}) + 2 \times \text{number of parameters} \]

Since the autoregressive model with order \( p \) has \( p+1 \) free parameters, the AIC is given by

\[ AIC = -2 I(\hat{a}_1, \hat{a}_2, \ldots, \hat{a}_p, \hat{\sigma}^2) + 2(p+1) \]

\[ AIC = n(\log 2\pi + 1) + n\log(\hat{\sigma}^2) + 2(p+1) \]

The constant \( n(\log 2\pi + 1) \) play no practical role in the model selection and can be ignored.

\[ AIC = n\log(\hat{\sigma}^2) + 2(p+1) \]

Where \( \hat{\sigma}^2 \) is the estimated error or innovation variance for the fitted \( p \)th order candidate model.

### C. Bias-Corrected Akaike Information Criterion (AICc):

The true auto regressive model with true order \( p \) is

\[ y_t = \mu + \epsilon_t \]

(i.e. \( y_t = a_1 y_{t-1} + a_2 y_{t-2} + \ldots + a_p y_{t-p} + \epsilon_t \))

where \( \epsilon_t \) are \( i.i.d. \ N(0, \sigma^2) \).

Let \( a = (a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_p, \sigma^2) \) be the set of parameters for the true model.

Under the assumption of normality, the likelihood function of the true model is

\[ L(a) = \left(2\pi\right)^{-\frac{n}{2}} \left(\sigma^2\right)^{-\frac{n}{2}} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \mu_i)^2 \right] \]

The log-likelihood function of the true model is

\[ l(a) = -\frac{n}{2} \log\left(2\pi\right) - \frac{n}{2} \log(\sigma^2) - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \mu_i)^2 \]

The AR (p) models is

\[ y_t = a_1 y_{t-1} + a_2 y_{t-2} + \ldots + a_p y_{t-p} + \epsilon_t \]

where \( \epsilon_t \) are \( i.i.d. \ N(0, \sigma^2) \)

Let \( a = (a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_p, \sigma^2) \) be the set of parameters for a candidate model.

Under the assumption of normality, the likelihood function of the candidate model is

\[ L(a) = \left(2\pi\right)^{-\frac{n}{2}} \left(\sigma^2\right)^{-\frac{n}{2}} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \sum_{j=1}^{p} a_j y_{t-j})^2 \right] \]

The log-likelihood function of the candidate model is

\[ l(a) = -\frac{n}{2} \log\left(2\pi\right) - \frac{n}{2} \log(\sigma^2) - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \sum_{j=1}^{p} a_j y_{t-j})^2 \]

A useful measure of the discrepancy between the true and candidate model is the Kullback-Leibler information.

The discrepancy between the true model and the candidate model is

\[ d(a, a_\hat{c}) = E_\epsilon \left[ -2l(a) \right] \]

Where \( E_\epsilon(.) \) denotes expectation under the true model and \( l(a) \) be the log-likelihood corresponding to the candidate model.

The discrepancy between the true model and the fitted model is

\[ d(\hat{a}, a) = \left[ E_\epsilon \left[ -2l(a) \right] \right]_{a=\hat{a}} \]

Yet evaluation of \( d(\hat{a}, a) \) is not possible, since doing so requires knowledge of \( a \).

Akaike (1973) noted that \(-2l(\hat{a}) \) is a biased estimator of \( d(\hat{a}, a) \).

Bias adjustment made to obtain unbiased estimator of \( d(\hat{a}, a) \)

\[ E_\epsilon \left[ \left[ E_\epsilon \left[ -2l(a) \right] \right]_{a=\hat{a}} \right] - E_\epsilon \left[ -2l(\hat{a}) \right] \] (4)
Equation (4) can be asymptotically estimated by twice of the dimension of \( \hat{a} \).

In derivation, Akaike made an assumption that the true model belongs to the set of candidate models.

Under the appropriate conditions, the expected value of

\[
AIC = -2l(\hat{a}) + 2(p + 1)
\]

should be asymptotically nearer to the expected value of \( d(\hat{a}, a_0) \).

where \( \hat{a} = (\hat{a}_1, \hat{a}_2, \ldots, \hat{a}_p, \sigma^2) \) are the parameter values that maximize the likelihood function.

When \( n \) is large and the dimension of \( \hat{a} \) is comparatively small, AIC is approximately unbiased estimator for \( E \{ d(\hat{a}, a_0) \} \).

Twice of the dimension of \( \hat{a} \) may be much smaller than the bias adjustment (4), so AIC is negatively biased estimator of \( E \{ d(\hat{a}, a_0) \} \). To correct this negative bias, Hurvich and Tsai (1989) proposed AICc for linear regression and autoregressive modeling [3].

Hurvich and Tsai (1989) defined AICc as

\[
AICc = n \log(\sigma^2_p) + \frac{n(n + p)}{n - p - 2}
\]  

For convenience, we will use the operationally equivalent definition

\[
AICc = n \log(\sigma^2_p) + n \log(2\pi) + \frac{n(n + p)}{n - p - 2}
\]

(5)

(6) is differ from (5), but it has no impact on selection behavior of criterion, by including additive constant.

**Derivation of AICc for Autoregressive Models**

Expectation of \(-2 \log(\text{likelihood})\) of the true model is

\[
E, \{-2l(a_0)\} = E, \left\{ n \log(2\pi) + n \log(\sigma^2_p) + \frac{1}{\hat{\sigma}^2_p} \sum_{j=1}^{p} (y_j - \hat{\sum}_{j=1}^{p} a_j y_{-j})^2 \right\}
\]

(7)

Expectation of \(-2 \log\text{likelihood}\) of the fitted model is

\[
E, \{-2l(\hat{a})\} = n \log(2\pi) + n \log(\hat{\sigma}^2_p) + n
\]

(8)

(7) – (8) implies that

\[
E, \{-2l(a_0)\} - E, \{-2l(\hat{a})\} = n \log(\sigma^2_p) - E, \{ n \log(\hat{\sigma}^2_p) \}
\]

(9)

From equation (9), we have

\[
E, \{-2l(a_0)\} - E, \{-2l(\hat{a})\} - E, \{ \log(\hat{\sigma}^2_p) \} = E, \{ \log(\sigma^2_p) \}
\]

(10)

\[
\left[ E, \{-2l(a_0)\} \right]_{a_0 = \hat{a}}
\]

\[
= E, \left\{ n \log(2\pi) + n \log(\sigma^2_p) + \frac{1}{\hat{\sigma}^2_p} \sum_{j=1}^{p} (y_j - \hat{\sum}_{j=1}^{p} a_j y_{-j})^2 \right\}_{a_0 = \hat{a}}
\]
\[ n \log (2\pi) + n \log (\hat{\sigma}_p^2) + \left[ E_n \left\{ \frac{1}{\hat{\sigma}_p^2} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \left( \mu_j + e_j - \left( \sum_{j=1}^{p} \hat{\alpha}_j y_{i,j} \right) \right)^2 \right\} \right]_{a=0} \]

\[ = n \log (2\pi) + n \log (\hat{\sigma}_p^2) + \frac{n \sigma^2}{\hat{\sigma}_p^2} + \frac{1}{\hat{\sigma}_p^2} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \left( \sum_{j=1}^{p} \hat{\alpha}_j y_{i,j} \right)^2 \]

\[ = n \log (2\pi) + n \log (\hat{\sigma}_p^2) + \frac{n \sigma^2}{\hat{\sigma}_p^2} + \frac{\sigma^2}{n \hat{\sigma}_p^2} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \left( \sum_{j=1}^{p} \hat{\alpha}_j y_{i,j} \right)^2 \]

The quadratic form \( \frac{1}{\hat{\sigma}_p^2} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \left( \sum_{j=1}^{p} \hat{\alpha}_j y_{i,j} \right)^2 \sim \chi^2_p \)

\[ E_n \left\{ E_n \{-2l(a)\} \right\} = n \log (2\pi) + n E_n \left\{ \log (\hat{\sigma}_p^2) \right\} + n \frac{1}{(n-p-2)} + \frac{1}{(n-p-2)} np \]

\[ = n \log (2\pi) + n E_n \left\{ \log (\hat{\sigma}_p^2) \right\} + n \frac{2}{(n-p-2)} + \frac{np}{(n-p-2)} \]  

From equation (13), we have

\[ E_n \left\{ E_n \{-2l(a)\} \right\} = n \log (2\pi) + n E_n \left\{ \log (\hat{\sigma}_p^2) \right\} + 2n \frac{p+1}{(n-p-2)} \]

Substituting (10) in the above equation, we have

\[ = E_n \{-2l(\hat{a})\} + n E_n \left\{ \log (\hat{\sigma}_p^2) \right\} + 2n \frac{p+1}{(n-p-2)} \]

Under the appropriate conditions, the expected value of

\[ AICc = -2l(\hat{a}) + 2n \frac{p+1}{(n-p-2)} \]

is exactly unbiased to the expected value of \( d(\hat{a}, a) \).

The relationship between AIC and AICC is

\[ AICc = AIC + \frac{2(n+1)(p+2)}{n-p-2} \]

When n is large with respect to the dimension of \( \hat{a} \), AICc and AIC are asymptotically equivalent and hence AICc is asymptotically efficient but not consistent.
D. Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC):

BIC has been widely used for model identification in time series and linear regression analysis.

Schwarz (1978) developed a model selection criterion that was derived from a Bayesian modification of the AIC. It is also known as Schwarz Bayesian information criterion (SBC).

Let $M_1, M_2, \ldots, M_r$ be $r$ candidate models and assume that each model $M_i$ is characterized by a parametric distribution $f(y|\theta_i)$ and the prior distribution of parameter vector $\theta_i$ [4].

The marginal likelihood of the $i^{th}$ model (when the data $y = \{y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_n\}$ is given) is

$$p_i(y) = \int f(y|\theta_i) \pi_i(\theta) \, d\theta_i$$  (14)

where $\theta_i$ is the vector of parameters in the $i^{th}$ model.

Applying Bayes theorem to calculate the posterior probability of the $i^{th}$ model given the data $y = \{y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_n\}$ is

$$P(M_i|y) = \frac{p_i(y|M_i) P(M_i)}{\sum_{i=1}^{r} p_i(y|M_i) P(M_i)} ; \; i = 1, 2, \ldots, r$$

Bayes factor $B_{12}(y)$ is used to choose between two models 1 and 2.

$$B_{12}(y) = \frac{P(M_1|y)}{P(M_2|y)} = \frac{p_1(y)P(M_1)}{p_2(y)P(M_2)}$$

If all the candidate models are equally likely then the Bayes factor $B_{12}(y)$ is

$$B_{12}(y) = \frac{\int f_1(y|\theta_1) \pi_1(\theta_1) \, d\theta_1}{\int f_2(y|\theta_2) \pi_2(\theta_2) \, d\theta_2}$$

Laplace approximation of integrals: let $q(\theta)$ be a real valued function of a $p$-dimensional parameter vector $\theta$ and $\hat{\theta}$ be the mode of $q(\theta)$ [5]. Then the Laplace approximation of the integral is

$$\int \exp\{nq(\theta)\} \, d\theta \approx \frac{(2\pi)^{p/2}}{n^{p/2}} \left[ J_q(\hat{\theta}) \right]^{1/2} \exp\{nq(\theta)\}$$

Where $J_q(\hat{\theta}) = -\frac{\partial^2 q(\theta)}{\partial \theta \partial \theta'} |_{\theta = \hat{\theta}}$

The marginal likelihood or the marginal distribution of data $y = \{y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_n\}$ can be approximated by using Laplace’s method for integrals.

The marginal likelihood (14) can be written as

$$p(y) = \int \exp(\log f(y|\theta)) \pi(\theta) \, d\theta$$

$$p(y) = \int \exp(l(\theta)) \pi(\theta) \, d\theta$$  (15)

where $l(\theta)$ is the log-likelihood function.

The Taylor expansion of the log-likelihood $l(\theta)$ around $\hat{\theta}$ is

$$l(\theta) = l(\hat{\theta}) - \frac{n}{2}(\theta - \hat{\theta})' J(\hat{\theta})(\theta - \hat{\theta}) + \ldots$$  (16)

Where $\hat{\theta}$ is the solution of $\frac{\delta l(\theta)}{\delta \theta} = 0$ (i.e. $\hat{\theta}$ is maximum likelihood estimator for $\theta$) and $J_q(\hat{\theta}) = -\frac{\partial^2 q(\theta)}{\partial \theta \partial \theta'} |_{\theta = \hat{\theta}}$

The Taylor expansion of the prior distribution $\pi(\theta)$ around $\hat{\theta}$ is

$$\pi(\theta) = \pi(\hat{\theta}) - \frac{n}{2}(\theta - \hat{\theta})' \frac{\delta l(\theta)}{\delta \theta} |_{\theta = \hat{\theta}} + \ldots$$  (17)

Substituting equations (16) & (17) in equation (15) and simplifying the result leads to the approximation of the marginal likelihood.

$$p(y) \approx \exp\left[l(\hat{\theta})\right] \pi(\hat{\theta}) \exp\left\{-\frac{n}{2}(\theta - \hat{\theta})' J(\hat{\theta})(\theta - \hat{\theta})\right\} \, d\theta$$  (18)

Where $p$-dimensional parameter vector $\theta$ follows $p$-variate
normal distribution with mean vector $\hat{\theta}$ and variance-covariance matrix $\frac{1}{n J(\hat{\theta})}$.

Using Laplace approximation of the integral to the integral in equation (18), we get

$$ \int \exp \left[ -\frac{n}{2} \left( \theta - \hat{\theta} \right)^T J(\hat{\theta}) \left( \theta - \hat{\theta} \right) \right] d\theta = (2\pi)^{n/2} n^{-n/2} J(\hat{\theta})^{-1/2} \quad (19) $$

When sample size $n$ is large, the marginal likelihood can be approximated as follows

Substituting equation (19) in equation (18), we get

$$ p(y) \approx \exp \left[ l(\hat{\theta}) \right] \pi(\hat{\theta}) (2\pi)^{n/2} n^{-n/2} J(\hat{\theta})^{-1/2} $$

Taking logarithm and multiplying with $-2$, we get

$$ -2 \log p(y) = -2 \log \left[ \int f(y/\theta) \pi(\theta) d\theta \right] $$

$$ = -2 l(\hat{\theta}) + (p+1) \log n + \log J(\hat{\theta}) - p \log (2\pi) - n \log \pi(\hat{\theta}) $$

$$ \log J(\hat{\theta}) - p \log (2\pi) - n \log \pi(\hat{\theta}) \text{ play no practical role in model selection and can be ignored.} $$

Then the Bayesian information criterion BIC is given by

$$ BIC = -2 l(\hat{\theta}) + (p+1) \log n $$

$$ BIC = -2 \log f(y/\hat{\theta}) + (p+1) \log n $$

where $f(y/\hat{\theta})$ is the statistical model estimated by maximum likelihood method.

Several authors have pointed out AIC’s inconsistency that may lead to an overestimate of the true order. To overcome this inconsistency, the BIC was introduced with the penalty term on the sample size and it is a consistent estimator for large samples [6].

**E. Hannan-Quinn’s Criterion (HQC):**

The autoregressive time series model for order $p$ is

$$ y_t = \sum_{i=1}^{p} a_i y_{t-i} + \varepsilon_t ; \text{ where } \varepsilon_t \text{ are i.i.d } N(0, \sigma^2) $$

They made the assumptions about $\varepsilon_t$ are

(i). $E(\varepsilon_t^2 / F_{n-1}) < \infty$

(ii). $E(\varepsilon_t^4 / F_{n-1}) < \infty$

$F_n$ is the $\sigma -$ algebra generated by $\{\varepsilon_n, \varepsilon_{n-1}, \ldots, \varepsilon_1\}$ [7]. Hannan-Quinn (1979) proposed an order selection criterion of the form

$$ \log \hat{\sigma}_p^2 + n^{-1} 2(p+1) \ c \log (\log n) $$

It provides a consistent estimator of order $p$.

Where $n$ is the number of observations (large) and $c$ is an arbitrary real number greater than 1.

The information criteria suggested by Hannan-Quinn is

$$ IC_{HQ} = n \log \hat{\sigma}_p^2 + 2(p+1) \ c \log (\log n) \quad (20) $$

Levinson’s formula for estimating the variance $\hat{\sigma}_2^2$ of the AR model is

$$ \hat{\sigma}_p^2 = \hat{\sigma}_{p-1}^2 \left( 1 - \hat{b}_p^2 \right) $$

Where $\hat{b}_p = \hat{a}_{p,p}$

$$ \hat{a}_{p,j} = j^{th} \text{ AR coefficient of the fitted AR}(p) \text{ model} $$

$$ a_{p,p} = \left[ \gamma(p) - \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} a_{n-k} \gamma(n-k) \right] (\hat{\sigma}_{p-1}^2)^{-1} $$

and $\hat{\sigma}_0^2 = \gamma(0)$

$\hat{\sigma}_p^2$ is the noise variance of the fitted AR$(p)$ model.

Levinson’s formula is

$$ \hat{\sigma}_p^2 = (1 - \hat{b}_p^2) \hat{\sigma}_{p-1}^2 $$

$$ = (1 - \hat{b}_p^2)(1 - \hat{b}_{p-1}^2) \hat{\sigma}_{p-2}^2 $$

$$ = (1 - \hat{b}_p^2)(1 - \hat{b}_{p-1}^2)(1 - \hat{b}_{p-2}^2) \hat{\sigma}_{p-3}^2 $$

Finally, we get by repeating the recurrence relation of variance

$$ \hat{\sigma}_p^2 = (1 - \hat{b}_p^2)(1 - \hat{b}_{p-1}^2)(1 - \hat{b}_{p-2}^2) \cdots (1 - \hat{b}_1^2) \hat{\sigma}_0^2 \quad (21) $$

Substituting equation (21) in equation (20), we obtain Hannan-Quinn Information Criteria

$$ IC_{HQ} = n \log \hat{\sigma}_0^2 + n \sum_{j=1}^{p} \log (1 - \hat{b}_j^2) + 2(p+1) \ c \log (\log n) $$
Where $\hat{\sigma}^2_0$ is the variance of the AR model of order 0 (i.e. the variance of the time series $\{y_i\}$.)

Hannan and Quinn wanted a model selection criterion of a form similar to AIC yet still strongly consistent for the order $p$ [8].

$$IC_{HQ} = n \log \hat{\sigma}^2_p + 2(p+1)c \log (\log n); c > 1$$

Strong consistency hold for $c = 1$, then we obtain Hannan and Quinn Criterion.

$$HQC = n \log \hat{\sigma}^2_p + 2(p+1) \log (\log n)$$

For convenience, we will use the operationally equivalent definition

$$HQC = \{n \log \hat{\sigma}^2_p + n(1+\log 2\pi)\} + 2(p+1) \log (\log n)$$

$$HQC = -2l(\hat{\theta}) + 2(p+1) \log (\log n)$$

Hannan and Quinn criterion is not asymptotically efficient and is strongly consistent. The behavior of HQC is asymptotically very well.

Of these criteria, HQC and BIC are consistent, and AICc, AIC, FPE are asymptotically efficient [9].

**F. Minimum Description Length (MDL):**

Minimum Description Length (MDL) was introduced by Rissanen in 1978. Let $\{f(y/\theta); \theta \in \Theta \subset R^p\}$ is a family of probability models. Assume that the data $y = \{y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_n\}$ are obtained from $f(y/\theta)$.

The Total Description Length (TDL) is defined as

$$TDL = -\log f(y/\hat{\theta}) + DL(\text{probability distribution model})$$

The probability distribution model that minimizes this total description length is such a model that can encode the data $y = \{y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_n\}$ in minimum length.

Dividing the parametric space $\Theta \subset R^p$ into infinitesimal cubes of size $\delta$. Then the TDL depends on $\delta$ and its minimum can be approximated as

$$l(y) = -\log f\left(y/\hat{\theta}\right) + \frac{p+1}{2} \log n - \frac{p+1}{2} \log 2\pi + \log \int [J(\theta)] d\theta + O(n^{-1/2})$$

Where $J(\theta)$ is Fisher’s information matrix [5, 10].

The Minimum Description length is defined as

$$MDL = -\log f\left(y/\hat{\theta}\right) + \frac{p+1}{2} \log n$$

$$MDL = -\log f\left(y/\hat{\theta}\right) + (p+1) \log \sqrt{n}$$

Where $\hat{\theta}$ is maximum likelihood estimator for $\theta$.

**III. METHODOLOGY**

The true auto regressive model with true order $p_*$ is

$$y_t = a_1 y_{t-1} + a_2 y_{t-2} + \ldots + a_p y_{t-p} + \epsilon_t$$

Where $\epsilon_t$ are i.i.d $N(0, \sigma^2)$

The candidate models are

$$M_1: y_t = a_1 y_{t-1} + \epsilon_t$$

$$M_2: y_t = a_1 y_{t-1} + a_2 y_{t-2} + \epsilon_t$$

$$M_3: y_t = a_1 y_{t-1} + a_2 y_{t-2} + a_3 y_{t-3} + \epsilon_t$$

$$M_4: y_t = a_1 y_{t-1} + a_2 y_{t-2} + a_3 y_{t-3} + a_4 y_{t-4} + \epsilon_t$$

The main objective of the study is to determine the true order $p_*$ of the true auto regressive model using autoregressive order selection criterion like FPE, AIC, AICc, BIC, HQC, and MDL.

Information Criterion to choose the best model amongst the candidate model is defined as

$$IC = -2l(\hat{\theta}) + 2f(n, p)$$

Where $l(\hat{\theta})$ is the maximized log-likelihood function.

$\hat{\theta}$ is the $(p+1)$-vector of unknown free parameters.
\( f(n, p) \) is the penalty function.

The model with the smallest value of IC is the chosen model [11]. The penalty functions of commonly used information criteria are as follows:

Table 1. Penalty Functions of Some Commonly Used IC

| Criterion | Penalty function \( f(n, p) \) |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| FPE       | \( n \log (n + p + 1) - n \log (n - p - 1) \) |
| AIC       | \( (p + 1) \) |
| AICc      | \( \frac{n(p + 1)}{n - p - 2} \) |
| BIC       | \( \frac{(p + 1)}{2} \log n \) |
| HQC       | \( (p+1) \log (\log n) \) |

The Minimum Description length is

\[
MDL = -l(\hat{\theta}) + \frac{(p + 1)}{2} \log n
\]

The selected model \( M_p \) can be obtained by minimizing the value of the autoregressive order selection criterion.

**IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The true autoregressive model used in the present study is

\[ y_i = 0.58 y_{i-1} - 0.65 y_{i-2} + \epsilon_i \]  

where \( \epsilon_i \) are \( i.i.d \) \( N(0,1) \).

We generated different sizes of the same time series (i.e. AR (2) model with coefficients 0.58 and -0.65). Then autoregressive models with orders 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 are constructed.

Autoregressive order selection criterion like FPE, AIC, AICc, BIC, HQC, and MDL is used to select the best model. To fit the models and to find the optimal order of autoregressive model, we used packages “fpp”, “forecast”, “lmtest”, “zoo”, “fma”, “expsmooth”, “tseries” in R-Software.

The model with the minimum FPE, AIC, AICc, BIC, HQC, and MDL is highlighted with gray colour in Table 2 to 7.

FPE for each candidate model is determined by the following formula

\[ FPE = -2 \log(likelihood) + 2 \times \frac{n \log(n + p + 1) - n \log(n - p - 1)}{2} \]

using R Software and these values are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Final Prediction Error

| Size of Time Series | Order of AR Model |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1                   | 2                 | 3                 | 4                 | 5                 |
| 15                  | 53.702            | 54.608            | 56.614            | 53.312            | 54.757            |
| 30                  | 97.905            | 96.813            | 98.618            | 98.718            | 100.481           |
| 50                  | 157.817           | 144.544           | 146.184           | 144.669           | 145.854           |
| 70                  | 228.470           | 205.687           | 207.654           | 206.283           | 208.291           |
| 100                 | 337.534           | 289.534           | 291.429           | 292.466           | 294.296           |
| 200                 | 651.020           | 563.014           | 564.731           | 566.610           | 568.595           |
| 400                 | 1318.666          | 1120.588          | 1122.403          | 1124.091          | 1125.040          |
| 800                 | 2630.590          | 2289.880          | 2291.812          | 2291.356          | 2292.550          |
| 1600                | 5347.701          | 4592.093          | 4594.086          | 4594.327          | 4595.140          |

Akaike’s final prediction error criterion is not performing well for \( n = 15 \).

AIC for each candidate model for different sizes of the same time series are obtained using R Software and these values are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Akaike’s Information Criterion

| Size of Time Series | Order of AR Model |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1                   | 2                 | 3                 | 4                 | 5                 |
| 15                  | 53.678            | 54.526            | 54.614            | 52.915            | 54.048            |
| 30                  | 97.900            | 96.793            | 98.570            | 98.624            | 100.317           |
| 50                  | 157.815           | 144.537           | 146.167           | 144.635           | 145.796           |
| 70                  | 228.469           | 205.683           | 207.645           | 206.266           | 208.261           |
| 100                 | 337.533           | 289.532           | 291.424           | 292.457           | 294.282           |
| 200                 | 651.020           | 563.014           | 564.730           | 566.608           | 568.592           |
| 400                 | 1318.666          | 1120.588          | 1122.403          | 1124.091          | 1125.039          |
| 800                 | 2630.590          | 2289.880          | 2291.812          | 2291.356          | 2292.550          |
| 1600                | 5347.701          | 4592.093          | 4594.086          | 4594.327          | 4595.140          |

Akaike’s information criterion is not performing well for \( n = 15 \). FPE and AIC values are approximately equal for \( n \) exceeding 100. We observed that FPE and AIC are asymptotically equivalent from Table 2 and 3.

AICc for each candidate model for different sizes of the same time series are obtained using R Software and these values are presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Bias-Corrected Akaike’s Information Criterion

| Size of Time Series | Order of AR Model |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1                   | 2                 | 3                 | 4                 | 5                 |
| 15                  | 54.078            | 56.708            | 60.416            | 59.581            | 64.548            |
| 30                  | 98.344            | 97.716            | 100.170           | 101.124           | 103.969           |
| 50                  | 158.070           | 145.058           | 147.056           | 145.999           | 147.749           |
| 70                  | 228.648           | 206.047           | 208.260           | 207.204           | 209.595           |
| 100                 | 337.657           | 289.782           | 291.845           | 293.096           | 295.185           |
| 200                 | 651.081           | 563.136           | 564.935           | 566.918           | 569.027           |
| 400                 | 1318.696          | 1120.648          | 1122.504          | 1124.242          | 1125.253          |
| 800                 | 2630.605          | 2289.911          | 2291.862          | 2291.431          | 2292.656          |
| 1600                | 5347.709          | 4592.108          | 4594.111          | 4594.364          | 4595.193          |
Bias-Corrected Akaike’s information criterion is not performing well for n =15. AIC and AICc values are approximately equal for n exceeding 100. We observed that AIC and AICc are asymptotically equivalent from table 3 and 4. We observed that AICc values are slightly higher than AIC.

BIC for each candidate model for different sizes of the same time series are obtained using R Software and these values are presented in table 5.

### Table 5. Bayesian Information Criterion

| Size of Time Series | Order of AR Model |
|---------------------|-------------------|
|                     | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 15                  | 55.094            | 56.650 | 59.248 | 56.455 | 58.296 |
| 30                  | 100.502           | 100.997 | 104.175 | 105.630 | 108.724 |
| 50                  | 161.639           | 150.273 | 153.815 | 154.195 | 157.268 |
| 70                  | 232.966           | 212.429 | 216.639 | 217.509 | 221.752 |
| 100                 | 342.743           | 297.347 | 301.845 | 305.483 | 309.913 |
| 200                 | 657.616           | 572.909 | 577.923 | 583.100 | 588.382 |
| 400                 | 1326.649          | 1132.562 | 1138.369 | 1144.047 | 1148.988 |
| 800                 | 2639.950          | 2303.934 | 2310.550 | 2314.779 | 2320.658 |
| 1000                | 5358.457          | 4608.226 | 4615.597 | 4621.215 | 4627.407 |

Bayesian information criterion is not performing well for n =15 and 30.

HQC for each candidate model for different sizes of the same time series are obtained using R Software and these values are presented in table 6.

### Table 6. Hannan-Quinn Criterion

| Size of Time Series | Order of AR Model |
|---------------------|-------------------|
|                     | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 15                  | 53.663            | 54.503 | 56.385 | 52.877 | 54.002 |
| 30                  | 98.796            | 98.138 | 100.363 | 100.865 | 103.006 |
| 50                  | 159.271           | 146.721 | 149.079 | 148.276 | 150.165 |
| 70                  | 230.255           | 208.362 | 211.217 | 210.732 | 213.620 |
| 100                 | 339.642           | 292.695 | 295.642 | 297.729 | 300.608 |
| 200                 | 657.616           | 576.018 | 570.069 | 573.282 | 576.600 |
| 400                 | 1326.827          | 1125.330 | 1128.726 | 1131.993 | 1134.523 |
| 800                 | 2634.189          | 2295.279 | 2299.010 | 2300.354 | 2303.348 |
| 1000                | 5351.695          | 4598.084 | 4602.073 | 4604.311 | 4607.122 |

Hannan-Quinn criterion is not performing well for n =15.

MDL for each candidate model for different sizes of the same time series are obtained using R Software and these values are presented in table 7.

### Table 7. Minimum Description Length

| Size of Time Series | Order of AR Model |
|---------------------|-------------------|
|                     | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 15                  | 27.547            | 28.325 | 29.624 | 28.228 | 29.148 |
| 30                  | 50.351            | 50.498 | 52.088 | 52.815 | 52.661 |
| 50                  | 80.819            | 75.136 | 76.908 | 77.098 | 78.343 |
| 70                  | 116.483           | 106.214 | 108.319 | 108.754 | 110.876 |
| 100                 | 171.372           | 148.674 | 150.923 | 152.742 | 154.956 |

Minimum description length is not performing well for n =15, 30. The performance of minimum description length is similar as the performance of Bayesian information criterion in model selection.

V. CONCLUSION and Future Scope

In the present work, we have investigated the use of autoregressive order selection criteria for determining the order of autoregressive model. These autoregressive order selection procedures useful for obtaining best model among the candidate models in time series and forecasting. Final Prediction Error (FPE) Criterion, Akaike Information Criterion (AIC), Bias-Corrected Akaike Information Criterion (AICc), Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC), Hannan and Quinn Criterion (HQc) and Minimum Description Length (MDL) are also useful for determining best ARMA model among the candidate ARMA models.

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