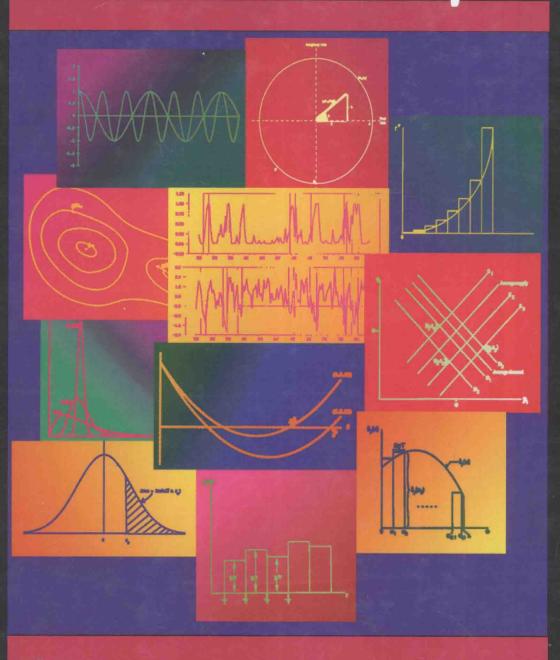
# Time Series Analysis



James D. Hamilton

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### Preface

Much of economics is concerned with modeling dynamics. There has been an explosion of research in this area in the last decade, as "time series econometrics" has practically come to be synonymous with "empirical macroeconomics."

Several texts provide good coverage of the advances in the economic analysis of dynamic systems, while others summarize the earlier literature on statistical inference for time series data. There seemed a use for a text that could integrate the theoretical and empirical issues as well as incorporate the many advances of the last decade, such as the analysis of vector autoregressions, estimation by generalized method of moments, and statistical inference for nonstationary data. This is the goal of *Time Series Analysis*.

A principal anticipated use of the book would be as a textbook for a graduate econometrics course in time series analysis. The book aims for maximum flexibility through what might be described as an integrated modular structure. As an example of this, the first three sections of Chapter 13 on the Kalman filter could be covered right after Chapter 4, if desired. Alternatively, Chapter 13 could be skipped altogether without loss of comprehension. Despite this flexibility, state-space ideas are fully integrated into the text beginning with Chapter 1, where a state-space representation is used (without any jargon or formalism) to introduce the key results concerning difference equations. Thus, when the reader encounters the formal development of the state-space framework and the Kalman filter in Chapter 13, the notation and key ideas should already be quite familiar.

Spectral analysis (Chapter 6) is another topic that could be covered at a point of the reader's choosing or skipped altogether. In this case, the integrated modular structure is achieved by the early introduction and use of autocovariance-generating functions and filters. Wherever possible, results are described in terms of these rather than the spectrum.

Although the book is designed with an econometrics course in time series methods in mind, the book should be useful for several other purposes. It is completely self-contained, starting from basic principles accessible to first-year graduate students and including an extensive math review appendix. Thus the book would be quite suitable for a first-year graduate course in macroeconomics or dynamic methods that has no econometric content. Such a course might use Chapters 1 and 2, Sections 3.1 through 3.5, and Sections 4.1 and 4.2.

Yet another intended use for the book would be in a conventional econometrics course without an explicit time series focus. The popular econometrics texts do not have much discussion of such topics as numerical methods; asymptotic results for serially dependent, heterogeneously distributed observations; estimation of models with distributed lags; autocorrelation- and heteroskedasticity-consistent

standard errors; Bayesian analysis; or generalized method of moments. All of these topics receive extensive treatment in *Time Series Analysis*. Thus, an econometrics course without an explicit focus on time series might make use of Sections 3.1 through 3.5, Chapters 7 through 9, and Chapter 14, and perhaps any of Chapters 5, 11, and 12 as well. Again, the text is self-contained, with a fairly complete discussion of conventional simultaneous equations methods in Chapter 9. Indeed, a very important goal of the text is to develop the parallels between (1) the traditional econometric approach to simultaneous equations and (2) the current popularity of vector autoregressions and generalized method of moments estimation.

Finally, the book attempts to provide a rigorous motivation for the methods and yet still be accessible for researchers with purely applied interests. This is achieved by relegation of many details to mathematical appendixes at the ends of chapters, and by inclusion of numerous examples that illustrate exactly how the theoretical results are used and applied in practice.

The book developed out of my lectures at the University of Virginia. I am grateful first and foremost to my many students over the years whose questions and comments have shaped the course of the manuscript. I also have an enormous debt to numerous colleagues who have kindly offered many useful suggestions, and would like to thank in particular Donald W. K. Andrews, Jushan Bai, Peter Bearse, Stephen R. Blough, John Cochrane, George Davis, Michael Dotsey, John Elder, Robert Engle, T. Wake Epps, Marjorie Flavin, John Geweke, Eric Ghysels, Carlo Giannini, Clive W. J. Granger, Alastair Hall, Bruce E. Hansen, Kevin Hassett, Tomoo Inoue, Ravi Jagannathan, Kenneth F. Kroner, Jaime Marquez, Rocco Mosconi, Edward Nelson, Masao Ogaki, Adrian Pagan, Peter C. B. Phillips, Peter Rappoport, Glenn Rudebusch, Raul Susmel, Mark Watson, Kenneth D. West, Halbert White, and Jeffrey M. Wooldridge. I would also like to thank Pok-sang Lam and John Rogers for graciously sharing their data. Thanks also go to Keith Sill and Christopher Stomberg for assistance with the figures, to Rita Chen for assistance with the statistical tables in Appendix B, and to Richard Mickey for a superb job of copy editing.

James D. Hamilton

Difference Equations

PREFACE xiii

1

1.1. 1.2.			
	References 24	25	
2.1. 2.2. 2.3. 2.4. 2.5.	Second-Order Difference Equations 29 pth-Order Difference Equations 33	25	
3	Stationary ARMA Processes	43	
3.1. 3.2. 3.3. 3.4. 3.5.	Expectations, Stationarity, and Ergodicity 43 White Noise 47 Moving Average Processes 48 Autoregressive Processes 53 Mixed Autoregressive Moving Average Processes 59		V

1

3.6.	The	Autocov	ariance-	Genera	ting	Function	61
0.0.		· racoco.	4114114	O	5222		01

#### 3.7. Invertibility 64

APPENDIX 3.A. Convergence Results for Infinite-Order Moving Average Processes 69

Exercises 70 References 71

#### 4 Forecasting

72

- 4.1. Principles of Forecasting 72
- 4.2. Forecasts Based on an Infinite Number of Observations 77
- 4.3. Forecasts Based on a Finite Number of Observations 85
- 4.4. The Triangular Factorization of a Positive Definite Symmetric Matrix 87
- 4.5. Updating a Linear Projection 92
- 4.6. Optimal Forecasts for Gaussian Processes 100
- 4.7. Sums of ARMA Processes 102
- 4.8. Wold's Decomposition and the Box-Jenkins Modeling Philosophy 108

APPENDIX 4.A. Parallel Between OLS Regression and Linear Projection 113

APPENDIX 4.B. Triangular Factorization of the Covariance Matrix for an MA(1) Process 114

Exercises 115 References 116

#### 5 Maximum Likelihood Estimation

117

- 5.1. Introduction 117
- 5.2. The Likelihood Function for a Gaussian AR(1) Process 118
- 5.3. The Likelihood Function for a Gaussian AR(p)Process 123
- 5.4. The Likelihood Function for a Gaussian MA(1) Process 127
- 5.5. The Likelihood Function for a Gaussian MA(q) Process 130
- 5.6. The Likelihood Function for a Gaussian ARMA(p, q) Process 132
- 5.7. Numerical Optimization 133

	APPENDIX 5.A. Proofs of Chapter 5 Propositions 148 Exercises 150 References 150	
6	Spectral Analysis	152
6.1. 6.2. 6.3. 6.4.	The Population Spectrum 152 The Sample Periodogram 158 Estimating the Population Spectrum 163 Uses of Spectral Analysis 167  APPENDIX 6.A. Proofs of Chapter 6 Propositions 172 Exercises 178 References 178	
7	Asymptotic Distribution Theory	180
7.1. 7.2.	Review of Asymptotic Distribution Theory 180 Limit Theorems for Serially Dependent Observations 186  APPENDIX 7.A. Proofs of Chapter 7 Propositions 195 Exercises 198 References 199	
8	Linear Regression Models	200
8.1.	Review of Ordinary Least Squares with Deterministic Regressors and i.i.d. Gaussian Disturbances 200	
8.2. 8.3.	Ordinary Least Squares Under More General Conditions 207 Generalized Least Squares 220	
	APPENDIX 8.A. Proofs of Chapter 8 Propositions 228 Exercises 230 References 231	
9	Linear Systems of Simultaneous Equations	233
9.1. 9.2.	Simultaneous Equations Bias 233 Instrumental Variables and Two-Stage Least Squares 238	

Statistical Inference with Maximum Likelihood

5.8.

5.9.

Estimation 142

Inequality Constraints 146

9.3. 9.4. 9.5. 9.6.	Identification 243 Full-Information Maximum Likelihood Estimation 247 Estimation Based on the Reduced Form 250 Overview of Simultaneous Equations Bias 252  APPENDIX 9.A. Proofs of Chapter 9 Proposition 253 Exercise 255 References 256		
10	Carrier Station and Vactor Branch	257	
10	Covariance-Stationary Vector Processes	257	
10.1. 10.2.	Autocovariances and Convergence Results		
10.3.	for Vector Processes 261 The Autocovariance-Generating Function		
	for Vector Processes 266		
10.4.			
10.5.			
	APPENDIX 10.A. Proofs of Chapter 10 Propositions 285 Exercises 290 References 290		
11	Vector Autoregressions	291	
11.1.	Maximum Likelihood Estimation and Hypothesis Testing for an Unrestricted Vector Autoregression 291		
11.2.			
	Maximum Likelihood Estimation of Restricted Vector Autoregressions 309		
11.4.			
11.5.	Variance Decomposition 323		
11.6.	Vector Autoregressions and Structural Econometric Models 324		
11.7.	Standard Errors for Impulse-Response		

APPENDIX 11.A. Proofs of Chapter 11 Propositions 340 APPENDIX 11.B. Calculation of Analytic Derivatives 344 References 349

Functions 336

Exercises 348

12	Bayesian Analysis	351
12.1. 12.2. 12.3.	Bayesian Analysis of Vector Autoregressions 360	
	APPENDIX 12.A. Proofs of Chapter 12 Propositions 366 Exercise 370 References 370	
13	The Kalman Filter	372
		5, <b>2</b>
13.1.	The State-Space Representation of a Dynamic System 372	
13.2	Derivation of the Kalman Filter 377	
13.3.		
	Representation 381	
13.4.		
40.5	of Parameters 385	
13.5.	The Steady-State Kalman Filter 389	
13.6. 13.7.	The state of the s	
13.8.	The second secon	
	,	
	APPENDIX 13.A. Proofs of Chapter 13 Propositions 403	
	Exercises 406 References 407	
		100
14	Generalized Method of Moments	409
14.1.	Estimation by the Generalized Method	
	of Moments 409	
14.2.		
14.3.		
14.4.	GMM and Maximum Likelihood Estimation 427	
	APPENDIX 14.A. Proofs of Chapter 14 Propositions 431	
	Exercise 432 References 433	
15	Models of Nonstationary Time Series	435
15.1.	Introduction 435	
15.2.	Why Linear Time Trends and Unit Roots? 438	

15.4.	Comparison of Trend-Stationary and Unit Root Processes 438 The Meaning of Tests for Unit Roots 444 Other Approaches to Trended Time Series 447	
	APPENDIX 15.A. Derivation of Selected Equations for Chapter 15 451 References 452	
16	Processes with Deterministic Time Trends	454
16.1.	Asymptotic Distribution of <i>OLS</i> Estimates of the Simple Time Trend Model 454	
16.2.	Hypothesis Testing for the Simple Time Trend Model 461	
16.3.	Asymptotic Inference for an Autoregressive Process Around a Deterministic Time Trend 463	
	APPENDIX 16.A. Derivation of Selected Equations for Chapter 16 472	
	Exercises 474 References 474	
17	Univariate Processes with Unit Roots	475
17.1.	Introduction 475	
17.2.	Brownian Motion 477	
17.3. 17.4.	The Functional Central Limit Theorem 479 Asymptotic Properties of a First-Order	
17.4.	Autoregression when the True Coefficient Is Unity 486	
17.5.	Asymptotic Results for Unit Root Processes with General Serial Correlation 504	
17.6.	Phillips-Perron Tests for Unit Roots 506	
17.7.	Asymptotic Properties of a pth-Order Autoregression and the Augmented Dickey-Fuller	
17.8.	Tests for Unit Roots 516 Other Approaches to Testing for Unit Roots 531	
17.9.	Bayesian Analysis and Unit Roots 532	
	APPENDIX 17.A. Proofs of Chapter 17 Propositions 534	
	Exercises 537 References 541	

**X** Contents

18	Unit Roots in Multivariate Time Series	544
18.1.	Asymptotic Results for Nonstationary Vector Processes 544	
	Vector Autoregressions Containing Unit Roots 5	549
18.3.	Spurious Regressions 557	
	APPENDIX 18.A. Proofs of Chapter 18 Propositions 562  Exercises 568 References 569	
19	Cointegration	571
	Introduction 571	
19.2.	Testing the Null Hypothesis of No Cointegration 582	
19.3.	Testing Hypotheses About the Cointegrating Vector 601	
	APPENDIX 19.A. Proofs of Chapter 19 Propositions 618 Exercises 625 References 627	
20	Full-Information Maximum Likelihood Analysis of Cointegrated Systems	630
20.1.	Canonical Correlation 630	
	Maximum Likelihood Estimation 635	
	Hypothesis Testing 645 Overview of Unit Roots—To Difference	
	or Not to Difference? 651	
	APPENDIX 20.A. Proofs of Chapter 20 Propositions 653  Exercises 655 References 655	
21	Time Series Models of Heteroskedasticity	657
21.1.	Autoregressive Conditional Heteroskedasticity	
21.2.	(ARCH) 657 Extensions 665	
21.2.		
	APPENDIX 21.A. Derivation of Selected Equations for Chapter 21 673	
	References 674	

22	Modeling Time Series with Changes in Regime	677
22.1.		
	Markov Chains 678	
22.3.	Statistical Analysis of i.i.d. Mixture Distributions 685	
22.4.	Time Series Models of Changes in Regime 690	
	APPENDIX 22.A. Derivation of Selected Equations for Chapter 22 699	
	Exercise 702 References 702	
A	Mathematical Review	704
A.1.	Trigonometry 704	
A.2.		
A.3.	-	
A.4.	Matrix Algebra 721	
A.5.	Probability and Statistics 739	
	References 750	
В	Statistical Tables	751
$\overline{\mathbf{C}}$	Answers to Selected Exercises	769
D	Greek Letters and Mathematical Symbols	786
	Used in the Text	, 00
AUTHO	OR INDEX 789	

SUBJECT INDEX 792

### Difference Equations

#### 1.1. First-Order Difference Equations

This book is concerned with the dynamic consequences of events over time. Let's say we are studying a variable whose value at date t is denoted  $y_t$ . Suppose we are given a dynamic equation relating the value y takes on at date t to another variable  $w_t$  and to the value y took on in the previous period:

$$y_t = \phi y_{t-1} + w_t. {[1.1.1]}$$

Equation [1.1.1] is a linear first-order difference equation. A difference equation is an expression relating a variable  $y_t$  to its previous values. This is a first-order difference equation because only the first lag of the variable  $(y_{t-1})$  appears in the equation. Note that it expresses  $y_t$  as a linear function of  $y_{t-1}$  and  $w_t$ .

An example of [1.1.1] is Goldfeld's (1973) estimated money demand function for the United States. Goldfeld's model related the log of the real money holdings of the public  $(m_t)$  to the log of aggregate real income  $(I_t)$ , the log of the interest rate on bank accounts  $(r_{bt})$ , and the log of the interest rate on commercial paper  $(r_{ct})$ :

$$m_t = 0.27 + 0.72 m_{t-1} + 0.19 I_t - 0.045 r_{bt} - 0.019 r_{ct}.$$
 [1.1.2]

This is a special case of [1.1.1] with  $y_t = m_t$ ,  $\phi = 0.72$ , and

$$w_t = 0.27 + 0.19I_t - 0.045r_{bt} - 0.019r_{ct}.$$

For purposes of analyzing the dynamics of such a system, it simplifies the algebra a little to summarize the effects of all the input variables  $(I_t, r_{bt}, \text{ and } r_{ct})$  in terms of a scalar  $w_t$  as here.

In Chapter 3 the input variable  $w_t$  will be regarded as a random variable, and the implications of [1.1.1] for the statistical properties of the output series  $y_t$  will be explored. In preparation for this discussion, it is necessary first to understand the mechanics of difference equations. For the discussion in Chapters 1 and 2, the values for the input variable  $\{w_1, w_2, \ldots\}$  will simply be regarded as a sequence of deterministic numbers. Our goal is to answer the following question: If a dynamic system is described by [1.1.1], what are the effects on y of changes in the value of w?

#### Solving a Difference Equation by Recursive Substitution

The presumption is that the dynamic equation [1.1.1] governs the behavior of y for all dates t. Thus, for each date we have an equation relating the value of

y for that date to its previous value and the current value of w:

Date	Equation	
0	$y_0 = \phi y_{-1} + w_0$	[1.1.3]
1	$y_1 = \phi y_0 + w_1$	[1.1.4]
2	$y_2 = \phi y_1 + w_2$	[1.1.5]
÷	<u>:</u>	
ť	$y_t = \phi y_{t-1} + w_t.$	[1.1.6]

If we know the starting value of y for date t=-1 and the value of w for dates  $t=0,1,2,\ldots$ , then it is possible to simulate this dynamic system to find the value of y for any date. For example, if we know the value of y for t=-1 and the value of w for t=0, we can calculate the value of y for t=0 directly from [1.1.3]. Given this value of  $y_0$  and the value of w for t=1, we can calculate the value of y for t=1 from [1.1.4]:

$$y_1 = \phi y_0 + w_1 = \phi(\phi y_{-1} + w_0) + w_1,$$

or

$$y_1 = \phi^2 y_{-1} + \phi w_0 + w_1.$$

Given this value of  $y_1$  and the value of w for t = 2, we can calculate the value of y for t = 2 from [1.1.5]:

$$y_2 = \phi y_1 + w_2 = \phi(\phi^2 y_{-1} + \phi w_0 + w_1) + w_2,$$

or

$$v_2 = \phi^3 v_{-1} + \phi^2 w_0 + \phi w_1 + w_2$$

Continuing recursively in this fashion, the value that y takes on at date t can be described as a function of its initial value  $y_{-1}$  and the history of w between date 0 and date t:

$$y_t = \phi^{t+1}y_{-1} + \phi^t w_0 + \phi^{t-1}w_1 + \phi^{t-2}w_2 + \cdots + \phi w_{t-1} + w_t.$$
 [1.1.7]

This procedure is known as solving the difference equation [1.1.1] by recursive substitution.

#### Dynamic Multipliers

Note that [1.1.7] expresses  $y_t$  as a linear function of the initial value  $y_{-1}$  and the historical values of w. This makes it very easy to calculate the effect of  $w_0$  on  $y_t$ . If  $w_0$  were to change with  $y_{-1}$  and  $w_1, w_2, \ldots, w_t$  taken as unaffected, the effect on  $y_t$  would be given by

$$\frac{\partial y_t}{\partial w_0} = \phi^t. ag{1.1.8}$$

Note that the calculations would be exactly the same if the dynamic simulation were started at date t (taking  $y_{t-1}$  as given); then  $y_{t+j}$  could be described as a

function of  $y_{t-1}$  and  $w_t$ ,  $w_{t+1}$ , ...,  $w_{t+j}$ :

$$y_{t+j} = \phi^{j+1} y_{t-1} + \phi^{j} w_{t} + \phi^{j-1} w_{t+1} + \phi^{j-2} w_{t+2} + \dots + \phi w_{t+j-1} + w_{t+j}.$$
 [1.1.9]

The effect of  $w_i$  on  $y_{i+1}$  is given by

$$\frac{\partial y_{t+j}}{\partial w_t} = \phi^j. ag{1.1.10}$$

Thus the dynamic multiplier [1.1.10] depends only on j, the length of time separating the disturbance to the input  $(w_t)$  and the observed value of the output  $(y_{t+j})$ . The multiplier does not depend on t; that is, it does not depend on the dates of the observations themselves. This is true of any linear difference equation.

As an example of calculating a dynamic multiplier, consider again Goldfeld's money demand specification [1.1.2]. Suppose we want to know what will happen to money demand two quarters from now if current income  $I_t$  were to increase by one unit today with future income  $I_{t+1}$  and  $I_{t+2}$  unaffected:

$$\frac{\partial m_{t+2}}{\partial I_t} = \frac{\partial m_{t+2}}{\partial w_t} \times \frac{\partial w_t}{\partial I_t} = \phi^2 \times \frac{\partial w_t}{\partial I_t}.$$

From [1.1.2], a one-unit increase in  $I_t$  will increase  $w_t$  by 0.19 units, meaning that  $\partial w_t/\partial I_t = 0.19$ . Since  $\phi = 0.72$ , we calculate

$$\frac{\partial m_{t+2}}{\partial I_t} = (0.72)^2 (0.19) = 0.098.$$

Because  $I_t$  is the log of income, an increase in  $I_t$  of 0.01 units corresponds to a 1% increase in income. An increase in  $m_t$  of  $(0.01) \cdot (0.098) \approx 0.001$  corresponds to a 0.1% increase in money holdings. Thus the public would be expected to increase its money holdings by a little less than 0.1% two quarters following a 1% increase in income.

Different values of  $\phi$  in [1.1.1] can produce a variety of dynamic responses of y to w. If  $0 < \phi < 1$ , the multiplier  $\partial y_{t+j}/\partial w_t$  in [1.1.10] decays geometrically toward zero. Panel (a) of Figure 1.1 plots  $\phi^j$  as a function of j for  $\phi = 0.8$ . If  $-1 < \phi < 0$ , the multiplier  $\partial y_{t+j}/\partial w_t$  will alternate in sign as in panel (b). In this case an increase in  $w_t$  will cause  $y_t$  to be higher,  $y_{t+1}$  to be lower,  $y_{t+2}$  to be higher, and so on. Again the absolute value of the effect decays geometrically toward zero. If  $\phi > 1$ , the dynamic multiplier increases exponentially over time as in panel (c). A given increase in  $w_t$  has a larger effect the farther into the future one goes. For  $\phi < -1$ , the system [1.1.1] exhibits explosive oscillation as in panel (d).

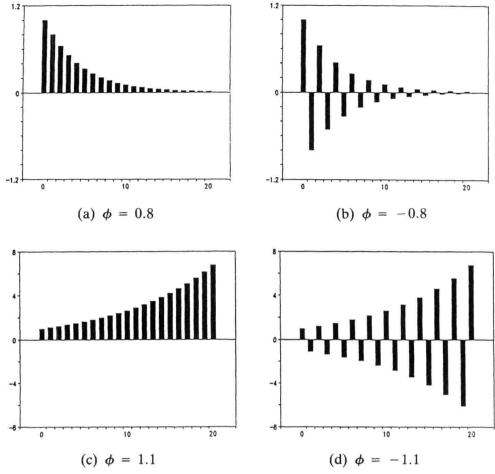
Thus, if  $|\phi| < 1$ , the system is stable; the consequences of a given change in  $w_i$ , will eventually die out. If  $|\phi| > 1$ , the system is explosive. An interesting possibility is the borderline case,  $\phi = 1$ . In this case, the solution [1.1.9] becomes

$$y_{t+j} = y_{t-1} + w_t + w_{t+1} + w_{t+2} + \cdots + w_{t+j-1} + w_{t+j}$$
. [1.1.11]

Here the output variable y is the sum of the historical inputs w. A one-unit increase in w will cause a permanent one-unit increase in y:

$$\frac{\partial y_{t+j}}{\partial w_t} = 1 \qquad \text{for } j = 0, 1, \dots.$$

We might also be interested in the effect of w on the present value of the stream of future realizations of y. For a given stream of future values  $y_t$ ,  $y_{t+1}$ ,



**FIGURE 1.1** Dynamic multiplier for first-order difference equation for different values of  $\phi$  (plot of  $\partial y_{t+j}/\partial w_t = \phi^j$  as a function of the lag j).

 $y_{t+2}$ , ... and a constant interest rate<sup>1</sup> r > 0, the *present value* of the stream at time t is given by

$$y_t + \frac{y_{t+1}}{1+r} + \frac{y_{t+2}}{(1+r)^2} + \frac{y_{t+3}}{(1+r)^3} + \cdots$$
 [1.1.12]

Let  $\beta$  denote the discount factor:

$$\beta \equiv 1/(1 + r).$$

Note that  $0 < \beta < 1$ . Then the present value [1.1.12] can be written as

$$\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \beta^{j} y_{t+j}.$$
 [1.1.13]

Consider what would happen if there were a one-unit increase in  $w_t$  with  $w_{t+1}, w_{t+2}, \ldots$  unaffected. The consequences of this change for the present value of y are found by differentiating [1.1.13] with respect to  $w_t$  and then using [1.1.10]

<sup>1</sup>The interest rate is measured here as a fraction of 1; thus r = 0.1 corresponds to a 10% interest rate.

#### 4 Chapter 1 | Difference Equations