AUTOMATIC MODEL SELECTION

The linear regression model

Let

$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{y}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{y}_n \end{pmatrix}$$

be an n-dimensional random vector with mean vector μ =Ey and covariance matrix Σ =var(y).

For the standard linear model, we assume that

$$\mu = \begin{pmatrix} Ey_1 \\ \vdots \\ Ey_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \beta_1 x_{11} + \dots + \beta_k x_{1k} \\ \vdots \\ \beta_1 x_{n1} + \dots + \beta_k x_{nk} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_{11} & \cdots & x_{1k} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x_{n1} & \cdots & x_{nk} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \beta_k \end{pmatrix} = X\beta$$
and
$$\Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} Var(y_1) & Cov(y_1, y_2) & \cdots & Cov(y_1, y_n) \\ Cov(y_2, y_1) & Var(y_2) & \cdots & Cov(y_2, y_n) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ Cov(y_n, y_1) & Cov(y_n, y_2) & \cdots & Var(y_n) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} \sigma^2 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma^2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \sigma^2 \end{pmatrix} = \sigma^2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \sigma^2 I,$$

where the k columns of the matrix X (the k regressors) are linearly independent.

Likelihood function of the linear model

If $y=(y_1,...,y_k)^T$ has a multivariate normal distribution with a diagonal covariance matrix, the multivariate normal density $f(y_1,...,y_k)$ factors into n univariate normal densities:

$$f(y_{1},...,y_{k}) = \prod_{t=1}^{n} f_{t}(y_{t})$$
$$= \prod_{t=1}^{n} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi Var(y_{t})}} exp\left(-\frac{(y_{t} - Ey_{t})^{2}}{2Var(y_{t})}\right)$$

Under the assumptions $Ey=X\beta$ and $var(y)=\sigma^2 I$ of the linear model we have

$$f(y_1,...,y_k) = \prod_{t=1}^{n} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(y_t - Ey_t)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$
$$= (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-\frac{n}{2}} \exp(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{t=1}^{n} (y_t - \beta_1 x_{t1} - \dots - \beta_k x_{tk})^2)$$

This density is a function of y_1, \ldots, y_k with fixed model parameters β_1, \ldots, β_k , and σ^2 . When we want to stress the dependence of the density on the model parameters, we write $f(y_1, \ldots, y_k; \beta_1, \ldots, \beta_k, \sigma^2)$ instead of $f(y_1, \ldots, y_k)$. Viewing $f(y_1, \ldots, y_k; \beta_1, \ldots, \beta_k, \sigma^2)$ as a function of β_1, \ldots, β_k , and σ^2 with y_1, \ldots, y_k fixed, we obtain the likelihood function of the linear model:

$$L(\beta_1,\ldots,\beta_k,\sigma^2;y_1,\ldots,y_k)=f(y_1,\ldots,y_k;\beta_1,\ldots,\beta_k,\sigma^2)$$

ML estimators for the model parameters

The maximum likelihood (ML) estimators for the model parameters are obtained by maximizing the likelihood function or equivalently the log likelihood function

$$\log L(\beta_{1},...,\beta_{k},\sigma^{2};y_{1},...,y_{k})$$

= $-\frac{n}{2}\log(2\pi\sigma^{2})-\frac{1}{2\sigma^{2}}\sum_{t=1}^{n}(y_{t}-\beta_{1}x_{t1}-...-\beta_{k}x_{tk})^{2}$

Setting the partial derivatives of the log likelihood with respect to β_1, \ldots, β_k , and σ^2 to zero gives

$$-\frac{1}{2\sigma^{2}}\sum_{t=1}^{n}2(y_{t}-\beta_{1}x_{t1}-\ldots-\beta_{k}x_{tk})(-x_{tj})=0, j=1,\ldots,k,$$

$$-\frac{n}{2}\frac{1}{\sigma^{2}}+\frac{1}{2\sigma^{4}}\sum_{t=1}^{n}(y_{t}-\beta_{1}x_{t1}-\ldots-\beta_{k}x_{tk})^{2}=0,$$

which is equivalent to

$$-\frac{1}{\sigma^2}(\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta})^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{X}=0, -\frac{n}{\sigma^2}+\frac{1}{\sigma^4}(\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta})^{\mathrm{T}}(\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta})=0$$

and also to

$$X^{T}(y-X\beta)=0, -n\sigma^{2}+(y-X\beta)^{T}(y-X\beta)=0$$

and finally also to

$$X^{T}y=X^{T}X\beta$$
, $(y-X\beta)^{T}(y-X\beta)=n\sigma^{2}$.

Thus

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = (\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_1, \dots, \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_k)^{\mathrm{T}} = (\boldsymbol{X}^{\mathrm{T}} \boldsymbol{X})^{-1} \boldsymbol{X}^{\mathrm{T}} \boldsymbol{y}, \ \hat{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}^2 = \frac{1}{n} (\boldsymbol{y} - \boldsymbol{X} \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}})^{\mathrm{T}} (\boldsymbol{y} - \boldsymbol{X} \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}).$$

Geometrical interpretation

 $X\hat{\beta}=X(X^TX)^{-1}X^Ty$ is the projection of y onto the subspace of \mathbb{R}^n spanned by the columns x_1, \dots, x_k of X because

$$\mathbf{X}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{1}\mathbf{x}_{11} + \dots + \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{k}\mathbf{x}_{1k} \\ \vdots \\ \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{1}\mathbf{x}_{n1} + \dots + \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{k}\mathbf{x}_{nk} \end{pmatrix} = \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{1} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}_{11} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}_{n1} \end{pmatrix} + \dots + \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{k} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}_{1k} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}_{nk} \end{pmatrix}$$

is an element of $span(x_1,...,x_k)$ and

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1^T \\ \vdots \\ x_k^T \end{pmatrix} (y - X\hat{\beta}) = X^T (y - X\hat{\beta}) = X^T y - X^T X (X^T X)^{-1} X^T y = 0,$$

which implies that $y-X\hat{\beta}$ is an element of the orthogonal complement of span $(x_1,...,x_k)$.

Analogously, $y-X\hat{\beta}=(I-X(X^TX)^{-1}X^T)y$ is the projection of y onto the orthogonal complement of $span(x_1,...,x_k)$ because

$$y-X\hat{\beta}\in(\operatorname{span}(x_1,\ldots,x_k))^{\perp}$$

and

$$y-(y-X\hat{\beta})=X\hat{\beta}\in \operatorname{span}(x_1,\ldots,x_k)=((\operatorname{span}(x_1,\ldots,x_k))^{\perp})^{\perp}.$$

Exercise: Show that the matrices

$$P_X = X(X^T X)^{-1} X^T, P_{X^{\perp}} = I - X(X^T X)^{-1} X^T$$

are symmetric and idempotent.

Expected values of the ML estimators

 $\hat{\beta} = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T y$ is an unbiased estimator for β because

$$E\hat{\beta} = (X^{T}X)^{-1}X^{T}Ey = (X^{T}X)^{-1}X^{T}X\beta = \beta.$$

Furthermore, using

$$EP_{X^{\perp}}y = E(y - X\hat{\beta}) = Ey - EX\hat{\beta} = X\beta - XE\hat{\beta} = X\beta - X\beta = 0$$

we obtain

$$\begin{split} E(y-X\hat{\beta})^{T}(y-X\hat{\beta}) &= E(P_{X^{\perp}}y)^{T}(P_{X^{\perp}}y) = Etr(P_{X^{\perp}}y)^{T}P_{X^{\perp}}y \\ &= Etr P_{X^{\perp}}y(P_{X^{\perp}}y)^{T} = tr E P_{X^{\perp}}y(P_{X^{\perp}}y)^{T} \\ &= tr Var(P_{X^{\perp}}y) = tr P_{X^{\perp}}var(y)P_{X^{\perp}}^{T} \\ &= tr P_{X^{\perp}}\sigma^{2}I P_{X^{\perp}} = \sigma^{2}tr P_{X^{\perp}}P_{X^{\perp}} \\ &= \sigma^{2}tr P_{X^{\perp}} = \sigma^{2}tr(I-X(X^{T}X)^{-1}X^{T}) \\ &= \sigma^{2}(tr I-tr X(X^{T}X)^{-1}X^{T}) \\ &= \sigma^{2}(tr I I - tr X(X^{T}X)^{-1}X^{T}) \\ &= \sigma^{2}(tr I - tr X(X^{T}$$

Thus

$$E\hat{\sigma}^2 = E\frac{1}{n}(y-X\hat{\beta})^T(y-X\hat{\beta}) = \frac{n-k}{n}\sigma^2.$$

Exercise: Show that

$$Cov(X\hat{\beta},y-X\hat{\beta})=0.$$

The final prediction error criterion

Let y and z be independent and identically distributed (i.i.d.) normal random vectors with mean vector X β and covariance matrix $\sigma^2 I$.

Using the ML estimate $\hat{\beta} = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T y$ obtained from y we may predict z by X $\hat{\beta}$. It follows from

$$2\sigma^{2}I=Var(z)+Var(y)=Var(z-y)=Var((z-X\hat{\beta})-(y-X\hat{\beta}))$$

=Var(z-X\hat{\beta})-2Cov(z-X\hat{\beta},y-X\hat{\beta})+Var(y-X\hat{\beta})
=Var(z-X\hat{\beta})-2Cov(z,y-X\hat{\beta})+2Cov(X\hat{\beta},y-X\hat{\beta})+Var(y-X\hat{\beta})
=Var(z-X\hat{\beta})+Var(y-X\hat{\beta})
=E(z-X\hat{\beta})(z-X\hat{\beta})^{T}+E(y-X\hat{\beta})(y-X\hat{\beta})^{T}

that

$$2n\sigma^{2} = tr(2\sigma^{2}I) = Etr(z-X\hat{\beta})(z-X\hat{\beta})^{T} + Etr(y-X\hat{\beta})(y-X\hat{\beta})^{T}$$

= $Etr(z-X\hat{\beta})^{T}(z-X\hat{\beta}) + Etr(y-X\hat{\beta})^{T}(y-X\hat{\beta})$
= $E(z-X\hat{\beta})^{T}(z-X\hat{\beta}) + E(y-X\hat{\beta})^{T}(y-X\hat{\beta})$
= $E(z-X\hat{\beta})^{T}(z-X\hat{\beta}) + (n-k)\sigma^{2}$.

Thus, the mean squared prediction error is given by

$$\frac{1}{n}E(z-X\hat{\beta})^{T}(z-X\hat{\beta})=\frac{n+k}{n}\sigma^{2}$$

and an unbiased estimator for it is

$$FPE(k) = \frac{n+k}{n} \frac{n}{n-k} \hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{n+k}{n-k} \hat{\sigma}^2 = (1 + \frac{2k}{n-k}) \hat{\sigma}^2.$$

The corrected AIC

Let y and z be i.i.d. $N(X\beta,\sigma^2 I)$ and

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = (\mathbf{X}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{y}, \ \hat{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}^{2} = \frac{1}{n}(\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{X}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}})^{\mathrm{T}}(\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{X}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}).$$

A measure that is somehow related to the mean squared prediction error is

$$E(-2\log f(z;\hat{\beta},\hat{\sigma}^2)) = E(n\log(2\pi) + n\log\hat{\sigma}^2 + \frac{(z-X\hat{\beta})^T(z-X\hat{\beta})}{\hat{\sigma}^2}).$$

Here $f(z;\hat{\beta},\hat{\sigma}^2)$ is viewed as a function of z, $\hat{\beta}$, and $\hat{\sigma}^2$. Clearly, the naïve estimator

$$-2\log f(y;\hat{\beta},\hat{\sigma}^2)$$

underestimates E(-2log f(z; $\hat{\beta}, \hat{\sigma}^2$)). It follows from

$$\begin{split} & \operatorname{E}[-2\log f(z;\hat{\beta},\hat{\sigma}^{2})] - \operatorname{E}[-2\log f(y;\hat{\beta},\hat{\sigma}^{2})] \\ &= \operatorname{E}\frac{(z-X\hat{\beta})^{\mathrm{T}}(z-X\hat{\beta})}{\hat{\sigma}^{2}} - \operatorname{E}\frac{(y-X\hat{\beta})^{\mathrm{T}}(y-X\hat{\beta})}{\hat{\sigma}^{2}} \\ &= \operatorname{E}(z-X\hat{\beta})^{\mathrm{T}}(z-X\hat{\beta})\frac{n}{\sigma^{2}}\operatorname{E}(\frac{1}{\frac{n\hat{\sigma}^{2}}{\sigma^{2}}}) - n \\ &= \operatorname{tr}(\operatorname{var}(z) + \operatorname{var}(X\hat{\beta}))\frac{n}{\sigma^{2}}\frac{1}{n-k-2} - n \\ &= (n+k)\sigma^{2}\frac{n}{\sigma^{2}}\frac{1}{n-k-2} - n \\ &= 2(k+1) + \frac{2k^{2}+6k+4}{n-k-2} \end{split}$$

that

AIC_C(k)=-2log f(y;
$$\hat{\beta}, \hat{\sigma}^2$$
)+2(k+1)+ $\frac{2k^2+6k+4}{n-k-2}$

is an unbiased estimator for E[-2log f(z; $\hat{\beta}, \hat{\sigma}^2$)].

<u>Exercise</u>: Check each step in the derivation of AIC_C . You may use the following facts:

- (i) The statistics $\hat{\beta}$ and $\hat{\sigma}^2$ are independent.
- (ii) $\hat{\beta} \sim N(\beta, \sigma^2(X^T X)^{-1}), n\hat{\sigma}^2/\sigma^2 \sim \chi^2(n-k)$

(iii)
$$X \sim \chi^2(j) \Longrightarrow E_{\frac{1}{X}} = \frac{1}{j-2}$$

Up to now we have never questioned the assumption that the design matrix X containing the regressors is given. In practice, we rarely know a priori which regressors should be included in a regression model and must therefore select the design matrix from a set of candidate matrices. A possible strategy is to select that n×k matrix which minimizes FPE(k) or AIC_C(k).

While $\hat{\sigma}^2$ can only decrease if additional variables are included, the terms

$$1 + \frac{2k}{n-k}$$

and

$$2(k+1)+\frac{2k^2+6k+4}{n-k-2}$$

occurring in FPE(k) and $AIC_C(k)$, respectively, increase as the number of regressors k increases and therefore serve as penalty terms to prevent overparametrization.

An apparent flaw of this model selection approach is that FPE(k) and $AIC_C(k)$ have been derived under the assumption that the mean of y can be written as a linear combination of the columns of X. Why should all candidate matrices satisfy this assumption?

At second glance, model selection with FPE(k) or $AIC_C(k)$ is not so absurd after all, because the chances of selecting a too small (misspecified) model disappear as n increases. So the real challenge is to avoid choosing a too large model. But FPE(k) and $AIC_C(k)$ are particularly suitable for comparing the correct model with larger models, because all of these models are correctly specified.

Exercise: Show that the minimization of

AIC_C(k)=-2log f(y;
$$\hat{\beta},\hat{\sigma}^2$$
)+2(k+1)+ $\frac{2k^2+6k+4}{n-k-2}$

is equivalent to the minimization of

$$n\log\hat{\sigma}^{2}+2(k+1)+\frac{2k^{2}+6k+4}{n-k-2}$$

If we ignore the last term occurring in $AIC_C(k)$, which vanishes as n increases, we obtain

AIC(k) =
$$-2\log f(y;\hat{\beta},\hat{\sigma}^2) + 2(k+1)$$
.

Here the penalty term is just two times the number of model parameters. (The parameters in the linear regression model are β_1, \dots, β_k , and σ^2 .)

Exercise: Show that the minimization of

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

is roughly equivalent to the minimization of AIC(k). Hint: $log(1+\epsilon) \approx \epsilon$ We might expect that

AIC(k)=-2log f(y;
$$\hat{\beta},\hat{\sigma}^2$$
)+2(k+1)

which has been derived as an asymptotically unbiased estimator for

$$\mathsf{E}[-2\log f(z;\hat{\beta},\hat{\sigma}^2)]$$

in the framework of the linear regression model

$$\mathbf{y}_t = \beta_1 \mathbf{x}_{t1} + \ldots + \beta_k \mathbf{x}_{tk} + \mathbf{u}_t,$$

can also be used when $y=(y_1,...,y_n)^T$ comes from a Gaussian AR(p) model

$$y_t = \phi_1 y_{t\text{-}1} + \ldots + \phi_p y_{t\text{-}p} + u_t$$

with parameters ϕ_1, \dots, ϕ_p , and $\sigma^2 = var(u_t)$.

Indeed, if $\hat{\phi} = (\hat{\phi}_1, \dots, \hat{\phi}_p)^T$ and $\hat{\sigma}^2$ are the ML estimators for the model parameters and $z = (z_1, \dots, z_n)^T$ is an independent series from the same AR(p) model, then

AIC(p)=-2log f(y;
$$\hat{\phi}, \hat{\sigma}^2$$
)+2(p+1)

is an approximately unbiased estimator for

$$E[-2\log f(z;\hat{\phi},\hat{\sigma}^2)].$$

Analogously, in the case of an ARMA(p,q) model

$$y_t = \phi_1 y_{t-1} + \ldots + \phi_p y_{t-p} + u_t + \theta_1 u_{t-1} + \ldots + \theta_q u_{t-q}$$

we may use

AIC(p,q)=-2log f(y;
$$\hat{\phi}, \hat{\theta}, \hat{\sigma}^2$$
)+2(p+q+1).

The likelihood function for an AR(1) model

Suppose that $y=(y_1,...,y_n)^T$ comes from a Gaussian AR(1) model represented by

$$y_t = \phi y_{t-1} + u_t$$

or, equivalently, by

$$y_{t} = \phi(\phi y_{t-2} + u_{t-1}) + u_{t} = \phi(\phi(\phi y_{t-3} + u_{t-2}) + u_{t-1}) + u_{t} = \dots = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \phi^{j} u_{t-j}$$

where $|\phi| < 1$ and the errors u_t are i.i.d. $N(0,\sigma^2)$. Then

$$Ey_t = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \phi^j Eu_{t-j} = 0$$

and for $h \ge 0$

$$\begin{split} \gamma(h) &= \operatorname{cov}(y_{t}, y_{t-h}) = Ey_{t}y_{t-h} \\ &= E(u_{t} + \varphi u_{t-1} + \varphi^{2}u_{t-2} + \dots)(u_{t-h} + \varphi u_{t-h-1} + \varphi^{2}u_{t-h-2} + \dots) \\ &= \sigma^{2}(\varphi^{h}\varphi^{0} + \varphi^{h+1}\varphi^{1} + \varphi^{h+2}\varphi^{2} + \dots) = \sigma^{2}\varphi^{h}\sum_{j=0}^{\infty}(\varphi^{2})^{j} = \frac{\sigma^{2}}{1 - \varphi^{2}}\varphi^{h}. \end{split}$$

The ML estimates are obtained by finding the values of ϕ and σ^2 which maximize

f(y₁,...,y_n;φ,σ²)=(2π)^{$$-\frac{n}{2}$$}(det Γ) ^{$-\frac{1}{2}$} exp($-\frac{1}{2}y^{T}\Gamma^{-1}y$),

where $\Gamma = Eyy^{T}$ depends on ϕ and σ^{2} . This maximization problem can only be solved numerically but not analytically. Exercise: Show that

$$\Gamma = \frac{\sigma^2}{1 - \phi^2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \phi & \cdots & \phi^{n-1} \\ \phi & 1 & \cdots & \phi^{n-2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \phi^{n-1} & \phi^{n-2} & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$\Gamma^{-1} = \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\phi & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ -\phi & 1 + \phi^2 & -\phi & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & -\phi & 1 + \phi^2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

<u>Exercise</u>: Show that $\Gamma^{-1} = L^{T}L$, where

$$L = \frac{1}{\sigma} \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{1 - \phi^2} & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ -\phi & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & -\phi & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

<u>Exercise</u>: Show that det $\Gamma = \frac{\sigma^{2n}}{1-\phi^2}$.

The conditional likelihood function

The joint density of a sample $y=(y_1,...,y_n)^T$ from a Gaussian AR(1) model represented by

$$y_t = \phi y_{t-1} + u_t$$

can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} f(y_1, \dots, y_n) &= f(y_n | y_1, \dots, y_{n-1}) f(y_1, \dots, y_{n-1}) \\ &= f(y_n | y_1, \dots, y_{n-1}) f(y_{n-1} | y_1, \dots, y_{n-2}) f(y_1, \dots, y_{n-2}) \\ &\vdots \\ &= f(y_n | y_1, \dots, y_{n-1}) \dots f(y_2 | y_1) f(y_1). \end{aligned}$$

If $u_t \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$, y_{t-1} is fixed, and $y_t = \phi y_{t-1} + u_t$, then $y_t \sim N(\phi y_{t-1}, \sigma^2)$.

Thus,

$$f(y_t|y_1,...,y_{t-1}) = f(y_t|y_{t-1})$$

= $(2\pi\sigma^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \exp(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(y_t - \phi y_{t-1})^2)$

and

$$f(y_{n},...,y_{2}|y_{1}) = f(y_{n}|y_{1},...,y_{n-1})...f(y_{2}|y_{1})$$

= $f(y_{n}|y_{n-1})...f(y_{2}|y_{1})$
= $(2\pi\sigma^{2})^{-\frac{n-1}{2}} \exp(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^{2}}\sum_{t=2}^{n}(y_{t}-\phi y_{t-1})^{2}).$

Exercise: Show that maximizing

$$\log f(y_{n},...,y_{2}|y_{1}) = -\frac{n-1}{2}\log(2\pi\sigma^{2}) - \frac{1}{2\sigma^{2}}\sum_{t=2}^{n}(y_{t} - \phi y_{t-1})^{2}$$

gives the ordinary least squares (OLS) estimate

$$\widehat{\phi} = \frac{\sum_{t=2}^{n} y_t y_{t-1}}{\sum_{t=2}^{n} y_{t-1}^2}.$$

Multiplying the conditional likelihood function by $f(y_1)$ we obtain the full likelihood function, i.e.,

$$f(y_1,...,y_n)=f(y_n,...,y_2|y_1)f(y_1).$$

It follows from $Var(y_1) = \frac{\sigma^2}{1-\phi^2}$ that

$$f(y_1) = (2\pi \frac{\sigma^2}{1-\phi^2})^{-\frac{1}{2}} \exp(-\frac{1-\phi^2}{2\sigma^2}y_1^2).$$