# SUPPLEMENTARY for Exploring the departure of Autocorrelation Functions from normality and its consequences in MA(q) modeling.

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# 1 Results for simulated MA(2) processes with $a_2 = \frac{1}{10}$

In our study, we investigate the normality of the sample ACF, and of the SACF. We simulate  $N_S = 5\,000$  MA(2) processes with equation

$$Z_t = \mathcal{E}_t + \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{E}_{t-1} + a_2 \mathcal{E}_{t-2},$$

where  $(\mathcal{E}_t)_t$  is either a Gaussian- or an Exponential-WN, with length n = 500. In the main paper, in Section 3, we simulate MA(2) processes with coefficient  $a_2 = \frac{1}{2}$ . Here, we consider  $a_2 = \frac{1}{10}$ .

### 1.1 Check for the normality of $\hat{\Xi}(h)$ at a fixed lag h

At a given lag h, using Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, we test for the adequacy of  $\Xi(h)$  with the Gaussian distribution  $\mathcal{N}\left(\rho(h), \frac{v_{h,h}}{n}\right)$ , and we also merely test for its normality using Shapiro-Wilk. Figure S1 displays the p-values provided by the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, when applied to either  $N_S = 200$  or  $N_S = 5\,000$  simulations of MA(2) processes with  $a_2 = \frac{1}{10}$ , and with length n = 500, whereas Figure S2 gives the p-values provided by Shapiro-Wilk. Note that, in the main paper, in Section 3, in Figures 1 and 2, the same tests have also been led on MA(2) processes with  $a_2 = \frac{1}{2}$ , and the results were very similar.

The results in Figure S1, top line, show that  $\hat{\Xi}(h)$  behaves roughly like a Gaussian distribution  $\mathcal{N}\left(\rho(h), \frac{w_{h,h}}{n}\right)$ , as it was expected from Theorem 2.2, even for a lag h much greater than  $\sqrt{n}$ . But the graphics in the bottom line show that  $\hat{\Xi}(h)$  deviates from this specific normal distribution when we lead the normality tests on more simulations. We recall that Theorem 2.2provides an asymptotic result, so that  $\hat{\Xi}(h)$  approximately follow the  $\mathcal{N}\left(\rho(h), \frac{v_{h,h}}{n}\right)$  distribution. Its slight departure from this distribution is more easily detectable with a great number of simulations, and is even more pronounced for Exponential-WN, meaning that  $\hat{\Xi}(h)$  distribution may deviate from the  $\mathcal{N}\left(\rho(h), \frac{v_{h,h}}{n}\right)$  theoretical distribution, with a greater extent.

Nevertheless, if we focus on the Gaussian behavior of the ACF estimators  $\Xi(h)$ , Figure S2 shows that the normality behavior is fairly strong, especially when the underlying WN is Gaussian, since Shapiro nearly never rejects the normality hypothesis, whatever the lag h < n - 2, even with a great number of simulations  $N_S = 5\,000$ . But for an underlying Exponential-WN, the normality property is quickly lost when the number of simulations increases.

#### **1.2** Normality of Sacf

At a given lag H, we test for the normality of the  $N_S$  values of  $S_{ACF}(H)$ . Figure S3 displays the p-values provided by the Shapiro-Wilk test, when applied to either  $N_S = 200$  or  $N_S = 5\,000$  simulations of MA(2) processes with  $a_2 = \frac{1}{10}$ , and with length n = 500. Note that, in the main paper, in Section 3, in Figure 3, the same tests have also been led on MA(2) processes with  $a_2 = \frac{1}{2}$ , and the results were very similar.



Figure S1: P-values when testing for the adequacy of the  $N_S$  values of  $\hat{\rho}(h)$  with  $\mathcal{N}\left(\rho(h), \frac{v_{h,h}}{n}\right)$ , for any fixed lag h varying from 1 to n-1. The involved normality test is Kolmogorov-Smirnov's. The left column concerns MA(2) driven by a Gaussian WN whereas the right one deals with Exponential WN process. The length of the simulated WN process is n = 500. In the upper figures, the number of simulated MA(2) processes is  $N_S = 200$ , whereas it is  $N_S = 5\,000$  in the bottom. The red-dotted horizontal line represents 5%, while the blue-dotted vertical line represents  $h = \sqrt{n}$ .

In Figure S3, we observe that the sum of sample ACF departs from normality for almost all the lags H, except maybe for the first lags H when the underlying white noise is Gaussian, and/or when the number of simulations remains low. Of course, Kolmogorov-Smirnov test confirmed the departure of  $S_{ACF}(H)$  from the theoretical distribution  $\mathcal{N}\left(\sum_{h=1}^{H} \rho(h), \frac{w_{H,H}}{n}\right)$ at any lag H, whatever the nature of the underlying WN (Gaussian or Exponential) and even for a low number of simulations (results not shown). The departure of  $S_{ACF}(H)$  from  $\mathcal{N}\left(\sum_{h=1}^{H} \rho(h), \frac{w_{H,H}}{n}\right)$  can be explained by the previous finding that  $\hat{\Xi}(h)$  do not perfectly



Figure S2: P-values when testing for the normality of the  $N_S$  values of  $\hat{\rho}(h)$ , for any fixed lag h varying from 1 to n-1. The involved normality test is Shapiro-Wilk's. The left column concerns MA(2) driven by a Gaussian WN whereas the right one deals with Exponential WN process. The length of the simulated WN process is n = 500. In the upper figures, the number of simulated MA(2) processes is  $N_S = 200$ , whereas it is  $N_S = 5000$  in the bottom. The red-dotted horizontal line represents 5%, while the blue-dotted vertical line represents  $h = \sqrt{n}$ .

converge to a Gaussian distribution with  $\mu = \rho(h)$  and  $\sigma^2 = \frac{v_{h,h}}{n}$ .



Figure S3: P-values when testing for the normality of the  $N_S$  values of  $S_{acf}(H)$ , for any fixed lag H varying from 1 to n-1. The involved normality test is Shapiro-Wilk's. The left column concerns MA(2) driven by a Gaussian WN whereas the right one deals with Exponential WN process. The length of the simulated WN process is n = 500. In the upper figures, the number of simulated MA(2) processes is  $N_S = 200$ , whereas it is  $N_S = 5000$  in the bottom. The red-dotted horizontal line represents 5%, while the blue-dotted vertical line represents  $H = \sqrt{n}$ .