

More IVs

Alessandro Caggia

June 2025

Abstract

1. Shift-Share Instruments (Bartik IVs)

Classic Endogeneity Problem

- Recall the standard endogeneity issue in market equilibrium models: prices and quantities (e.g., wages and employment) are determined simultaneously.
- To identify the slope of the supply curve, we need valid demand shifters (i.e., instruments that shift demand but are exogenous to supply).

Estimation Equation

- The equation of interest is:

$$w_\ell = \beta N_\ell + \gamma X_\ell + \varepsilon_\ell \quad (1)$$

- Where:

- w_ℓ : wages in region ℓ
- N_ℓ : employment in region ℓ
- X_ℓ : controls (e.g., demographics, amenities)
- ε_ℓ : unobserved error term

- Endogeneity arises because N_ℓ is jointly determined with w_ℓ , so we instrument N_ℓ with $z_\ell \rightarrow$ jointly deteried by demand and supply. We are creating now an exogenous shock in demand.

The Bartik Instrument

- Bartik (1991) constructs a shift-share IV by predicting local demand shocks using national industry growth, weighted by local industrial composition.
- The instrument is:

$$z_\ell = \sum_k s_{\ell k} g_k \quad (2)$$

- Where:

- ℓ : index for local or regional labor markets
- k : index for industries/sectors
- $s_{\ell k}$: the share of industry k in local market ℓ , typically measured at a baseline year (e.g., initial period)
- g_k : the national growth rate of industry k , optionally leave-one-out to avoid local endogeneity: $g_{k,-\ell}$

- Key interpretation:** The Bartik IV is a weighted sum of national industry shocks (g_k), where the weights are the initial shares of each sector in the local economy ($s_{\ell k}$). This generates region-specific shocks even though the national shocks are common across regions.

Validity Conditions

To be a valid IV, z_ℓ must satisfy two conditions:

- Relevance:** z_ℓ must be correlated with N_ℓ
- Exogeneity:** z_ℓ must be uncorrelated with ε_ℓ

For Bartik IV, this means: IT HAS TO BE AN EXOGENOUS DEMAND SHOCK

- 1. National shocks** g_k must be exogenous to local shocks:

$$g_k \perp \varepsilon_\ell \quad \text{for all } \ell$$

- 2. Local past distribution of employment across sector** $s_{\ell k}$ exogenous to local contemporaneous shocks:

$$s_{\ell k} \perp \varepsilon_\ell$$

Exclusion Restriction?

- Key question: Do either the shares $s_{\ell k}$ or the shocks g_k affect outcomes directly, outside of their effect on N_ℓ ?
- If, for instance, local shares $s_{\ell k}$ were chosen in anticipation of future shocks, or g_k reflects national trends influenced by local economic conditions, the exclusion restriction would be violated.

1.1. Applications of Shift-Share IVs

- Bartik IVs became more popular after:
 - Autor et al. (2013):** Study of the *China shock*: they exploit heterogeneity in industrial composition across US regions and interact it with national growth in Chinese imports.
 - Card** on immigrants

1.2. Identification: Goldsmith-Pinkham et al. (2020)

- Their key insight: identification depends not just on exogeneity of g_k , but also on exogeneity of $s_{\ell k}$
- Each $s_{\ell k}$ can be seen as generating a separate instrument for ℓ . Each sector (defined by its share) experiences a different change in global demand (global migration) = different local evolution in demand (first stage: predicted change in migration, first stage setting wrt actual change in migration). The total Bartik IV estimate is a weighted average of these sector-level IV estimates (Roemberg weight).

$$\hat{\beta}^{\text{Bartik}} = \sum_k \hat{\alpha}_k \hat{\beta}_k, \quad \text{where} \quad \sum_k \hat{\alpha}_k = 1$$

- Robustness: estimate separate IV regressions using each k -level component.
- Each k -level IV contributes to the total estimate with a **Rotemberg weight** α_k , defined as:

$$\alpha_k = \frac{g_k Z'_k N}{\sum_k g_k Z'_k N} \quad (3)$$

where Z_k is the vector of shares of sector k across all regions. The larger the global shock, the more the industry is **heterogeneously** present across the regions (Z_k varies a lot), and the more variation in Z_k is correlated with variation in employment N (component of the first stage) the greater the weight

• Diagnostics:

- Negative Rotemberg weights are problematic. Negative weight depend on the sign of the product $g_k Z'_k N$. You have a negative weight if g_k (global expansion in export for sector k) and $Z'_k N$ move in opposite directions: g_k is saying: there was a positive shock for sector k (manufacturing), $g > 0$. $Z'_k N$ is saying (if < 0): there is a negative relationship between the local PREDICTED exposure to industry

k (manufacturing) and employment in the area (the endogenous areas). The more the exposure to industry k the lower employment

The sectors shock says: employment should go up. But: regions more exposed to that sector actually have lower employment.

We have an underlying assumption that global g_k is positively or negatively (but one of the two) correlated with global N . Check fraction of negative weights is not too high

- Identification narrative and F-statistics (weak instruments?) for the k dimensions with largest Rotemberg weights
- **Sectors with large weights** should have $\hat{\beta}_k$ close to $\hat{\beta}^{bartik}$; otherwise, result is sensitive to few sectors.
- Borusyak et al. (2021) offer an alternative: focus on exogeneity of the shocks g_k instead of shares s_{ek} .

2. IV in Randomized Trials

- The instrument is a dummy for being assigned to treatment.
- The effect of assignment (the instrument) on outcomes is the **ITT**, an effect of interest in many cases (e.g., effect of being offered a free bank account).
- That is all we can get if the exclusion restriction does not hold. Note, A comparison between treated and control is not valid if the sample opening the bank account is not random.
- The IV estimate, $ivregress 2sls y (D = Z)$, is equal to the ratio between the ITT and the difference in compliance rates between treatment and control (recall previous lecture slides on IV and LATE):

$$LATE = \frac{ITT}{Pr(D = 1 | Z = 1) - Pr(D = 1 | Z = 0)}$$

- If compliance among the controls is perfect (no single control is treated), then the IV is the ATT. Recall ex. 3 of interpretation of LATE! LATE is ATT if all people being offered the treatment take it up (I mean **recall the first set of notes on Rubin model, compliers are those that are treated! (those that when treated react by taking up the treatment! here the two correspond!)**

Example: IV in Randomized Trials

- Impact of having a bank account, using as instrument the assignment to being offered a free savings account.
- **Data:**
 - Average savings for those offered a free savings account: \$2,500
 - Average savings for those not offered a free savings account: \$1,500
 - Proportion of those offered who opened the account: 50%
 - Proportion of those not offered who opened the account: 20%
- **Calculations:**
 - $ITT = \$2,500 - \$1,500 = \$1,000$
 - $LATE =$

$$\frac{2,500 - 1,500}{0.5 - 0.2} = \frac{1,000}{0.3} = 3,333.33$$

- **Special case (perfect compliance in control group):**
 - If proportion of those **not offered** who opened an account is 0%, then:

$$LATE = \frac{2,500 - 1,500}{0.5} = \frac{1,000}{0.5} = 2,000$$

- In this case: $LATE = ATT$