

1. Leontief Expansion

$$(I - \rho W)^{-1} = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} (\rho W)^i \quad (1)$$

multiplying both sides with $(I - \rho W)$, we can prove the Leontief expansion

$$(I - \rho W)^{-1}(I - \rho W) = I = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} (\rho W)^i (I - \rho W) \quad (2)$$

given

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} (\rho W)^i (I - \rho W) &= ((\rho W)^0 + (\rho W)^1 + (\rho W)^2 + \dots + (\rho W)^i)(I - \rho W) \\ &= (I + (\rho W)^1 + (\rho W)^2 + \dots + (\rho W)^i)(I - \rho W) \\ &= I - (\rho W) + (\rho W) - (\rho W)^2 + (\rho W)^2 - (\rho W)^3 + \dots - (\rho W)^{i+1} \\ &= I - (\rho W)^{i+1} \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where $(\rho W)^{i+1}$ converges to 0 with $|\rho| < 1$ and W being row standardised.

2. OLS Bias

$$\begin{aligned} y &= \rho W y + \epsilon \\ &= (I - \rho W)^{-1} \epsilon \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Substituting $X = W y$, the OLS estimator becomes

$$\hat{\beta}_{OLS} = ((W y)'(W y))^{-1} (W y)' y \quad (5)$$

Using 4, we obtain

$$\hat{\beta}_{OLS} = ((W y)'(W y))^{-1} (W y)' (\rho W y + \epsilon) \quad (6)$$

$$\mathbb{E}[\hat{\beta}_{OLS}] = \rho + \mathbb{E}[(Wy)'(Wy)]^{-1} \mathbb{E}[(Wy)'\epsilon] \quad (7)$$

Using 4, substituting $C = W(I - \rho W)^{-1}$ and using trace's cyclic property, among others, we can rearrange the second term to

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[(Wy)'\epsilon] &= \mathbb{E}[(W(I - \rho W)^{-1}\epsilon)'\epsilon] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[(C\epsilon)'\epsilon] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[\epsilon' C' \epsilon] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[tr(\epsilon' C' \epsilon)] \\ &= tr(C) \mathbb{E}[\epsilon \epsilon'] \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

where $tr(C)$ can be rearranged to the following using the Leontief expansion as follows

$$\begin{aligned} tr(C) &= tr(W(I - \rho W)^{-1}) \\ &= tr(W \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} (\rho W)^i) \\ &= tr(W(I + (\rho W)^1 + (\rho W)^2 + \dots + (\rho W)^i)) \\ &= tr(W + \rho W^2 + \rho^2 W^3 + \dots + \rho^i W^{i+1}) \\ &= tr(W) + \rho tr(W^2) + \rho^2 tr(W^3) + \dots + \rho^i tr(W^{i+1}) \\ &= \frac{1}{\rho} \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \rho^i tr(W^i) \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$