

Lecture 6B: General Method of Moments (GMM) in Practice

Vitor Possebom

EESP-FGV

Econometrics 2

- Recommended Reading: Hamilton's Chapter 14
- Soft Reading: Chaussé (2021)
- Optional Reading: Hayashi's Chapters 3 and 4
- Problem Set 5 - Deadline: June 20th at 9:00 am (Be careful with deadlines here.)

Outline

1. Recap
2. Example 0: OLS, IV and MLE
3. Example 1: Heteroscedasticity as a Source of Identification
4. Example 2: Infinite Horizon Consumption Problem under Uncertainty
5. Example 3: CAPM Model
6. Example 4: Nonlinear System of Simultaneous Equations
7. Optimal Weighting Matrix May Be Problematic

Recap

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- W_t : $h \times 1$ vector of variables observed at date t .
- θ : unknown $a \times 1$ vector of coefficients
- $h : \mathbb{R}^a \times \mathbb{R}^h \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^r$: $h(\theta, W_t)$ is a vector-valued function.

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True value θ_0 satisfies the **orthogonality conditions**

$$\mathbb{E}[h(\theta_0, W_t)] = 0.$$

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GMM estimator $\hat{\theta}_T$ satisfies

$$\hat{\theta}_T := \underset{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^a}{\operatorname{argmin}} [g(\theta, Y_T)]' W_T [g(\theta, Y_T)],$$

where $\{W_T\}_{T=1}^{+\infty}$ is a sequence of $(r \times r)$ positive definite weighting matrices.

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We need to understand how can we find those identifying conditions!

Moment Restrictions in the Wild



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MLE: Your functional form assumptions are correct. You may use the score function (MLE's first-order conditions) as your moment condition.

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$$\mathbb{P}[Y_t = 1 | X_{t,-k} = x_{-k}, X_{t,k} = 1] - \mathbb{P}[Y_t = 1 | X_{t,-k} = x_{-k}, X_{t,k} = 0] = G(x_{-k} \cdot \beta_{-k} + \beta_k) - G(x_{-k} \cdot \beta_{-k})$$

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Example 1: Heteroscedasticity as a Source of Identification

Example 1: Heteroscedasticity as a Source of Identification [Lewbel, 2012]

Consider the linear triangular model:

$$Y_1 = X'\beta_{10} + Y_2\gamma_{10} + \epsilon_1$$

$$Y_2 = X'\beta_{20} + \epsilon_2$$

Assume that:

1. $Y = (Y_1, Y_2)'$ and X are random vectors. $\mathbb{E}[XY']$, $\mathbb{E}[XY_1Y']$, $\mathbb{E}[XY_2Y']$ and $\mathbb{E}[XX']$ are finite and identified from the data. $\mathbb{E}[XX']$ is nonsingular.
2. $\mathbb{E}[X\epsilon_1] = 0$, $\mathbb{E}[X\epsilon_2] = 0$ and, for some random vector Z , $\text{cov}(Z, \epsilon_1\epsilon_2) = 0$.
 - Some or all of the elements of Z can also be elements of X .
3. $\text{cov}(Z, \epsilon_2^2) \neq 0$.

Example 1: Heteroscedasticity as a Source of Identification [Lewbel, 2012]

Then, the moment conditions

$$\mathbb{E} \begin{bmatrix} X(Y_2 - X'\beta_{20}) \\ X(Y_1 - X'\beta_{10} + Y_2\gamma_{10}) \\ (Z - \mathbb{E}[Z])(Y_2 - X'\beta_{20})(Y_1 - X'\beta_{10} + Y_2\gamma_{10}) \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

identify β_{10} , β_{20} and γ_{10} .

Intuition: The assumption that Z is uncorrelated with $\epsilon_1\epsilon_2$ means that $(Z - \mathbb{E}[Z])\epsilon_2$ is a valid instrument for Y_2 . This instrument's strength (its correlation with Y_2 after controlling for the other instruments X) is proportional to the covariance of $(Z - \mathbb{E}[Z])\epsilon_2$ with ϵ_2 , which corresponds to the degree of heteroscedasticity of ϵ_2 with respect to Z .

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Possible applications:

- Classical Measurement Error
- Supply and Demand
- Returns to Schooling
- Engel Curves: Food Consumption as a function of Total Consumption
 - Y_1 = Food budget share
 - Y_2 = Log real total expenditures (classical measurement error)
 - $X = Z$ = age, spouse's age, squared ages, seasonal dummies, spouse working, gas central heating, washing machine, cars

Example 2: Infinite Horizon Consumption Problem under Uncertainty

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Example 2: Infinite Horizon Consumption Problem under Uncertainty

In Macroeconomics, you analyzed the Infinite Horizon Consumption Problem under Uncertainty:

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\{c_t\}_{t=0}^{+\infty}} \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t=0}^T \beta_0^t u(c_t) \right] \\ \text{s.t. } b_{t+1} = (w_t + b_t - c_t) \cdot R_t \end{aligned}$$

where labor income w_t is uncertain, c_t is consumption at time t , β_0 is the discounting factor, $u(\cdot)$ is the utility function, b_t is the amount of savings and R_t is the gross ex-post rate of return.

Example 2: Infinite Horizon Consumption Problem under Uncertainty

Solving this model, we find the Euler equation:

$$\mathbb{E} \left[R_{t+1} \frac{\beta_0 u'(c_{t+1})}{u'(c_t)} \middle| I_t \right] = 1,$$

where I_t is the information available at date t .

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Assuming that $u(c) = \frac{c^{1-\alpha_0}}{1-\alpha_0}$, the Euler equation simplifies to:

$$\mathbb{E} \left[R_{t+1} \cdot \beta_0 \cdot \left(\frac{c_{t+1}}{c_t} \right)^{-\alpha_0} \middle| I_t \right] = 1.$$

Example 2: Infinite Horizon Consumption Problem under Uncertainty

Assuming that X_t is a vector of variables whose values are known at date t , we have that

$$\mathbb{E} \left[X_t \cdot \left(R_{t+1} \cdot \beta_0 \cdot \left(\frac{c_{t+1}}{c_t} \right)^{-\alpha_0} - 1 \right) \right] = 0.$$

For example, X_t may be a vector of lagged values of consumption and rates of return.

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Example 3: CAPM Model

The CAPM model implies that

$$\mu_i - R_f = \beta_i (\mu_m - R_f),$$

where i indexes different stocks, μ_i is the expected value of stock i 's return, R_f is the risk-free rate and μ_m is the expected value of the market portfolio's return.

Example 3: CAPM Model

We can rewrite the CAPM model in terms of moment conditions:

$$\mathbb{E} [\{ (R_{i,t} - R_{f,t}) - \alpha_i - \beta_i \cdot (R_{m,t} - R_{f,t}) \} \cdot (R_{m,t} - R_{f,t})] = 0,$$

where $\alpha_i = 0$ for every stock i if the CAPM model is valid.

- Legend: $R_{i,t}$ is the return of stock i in day t ; $R_{f,t}$ is the risk-free rate in day t ; $R_{m,t}$ is the market portfolio's return in day t .

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- The C-CAPM still did not explain the equity premium puzzle and a few extensions were proposed:
 - Long-run risk, recursive preferences, habit formation, and limiting participation
- These extensions did a better job at explaining the equity premium puzzle, but they did not explain Euler Equation Errors.

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 - They allowed for low-probability events that cause infrequent but sharp contractions in aggregate consumption.
 - Allowing for rare disasters rationalizes the large pricing errors found empirically.
- This new model is also estimated via GMM.

Example 4: Nonlinear System of Simultaneous Equations

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Example 4: Nonlinear System of Simultaneous Equations

The CAPM Moment Conditions are a particular case of a (linear) system of simultaneous equations.

We can generalize this type of model to a nonlinear system of simultaneous equations.

We want to estimate a system of n nonlinear equations of the form

$$Y_t = f(\theta, Z_t) + U_t.$$

Example 4: Nonlinear System of Simultaneous Equations

Suppose that X_{it} is a vector of instruments that are uncorrelated with the i -th element of U_t .

The following moment conditions hold

$$\mathbb{E} \begin{bmatrix} \{Y_{1t} - f_1(\theta, Z_t)\} X_{1t} \\ \{Y_{2t} - f_2(\theta, Z_t)\} X_{2t} \\ \vdots \\ \{Y_{nt} - f_n(\theta, Z_t)\} X_{nt} \end{bmatrix} = 0.$$

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Take-home Lesson: When working with more complicated estimators, running a few Monte Carlo simulation can help you sleep better. [Ferman, 2021]

Thank you!

Contact Information:

Vitor Possebom

E-mail: vitor.possebom@fgv.br

Website: sites.google.com/site/vitorapossebom/

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