


| OLS ASSUMPTION | EFFECT OF VIOLATION | PROPERTIES LOST | PROPERTIES REMAINING | CORRECTION MEASURES |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| 1) Normality $\varepsilon_i \sim N$ | 1) OLS is no longer maximum likelihood. 2) Statistical tests are no longer strictly valid. | 1) Efficiency | 1) Unbiased 2) BLUE 3) Consistent 4) Asymptotically Efficient if variance is finite via Central Limit Theorem. | a. Maximum likelihood based on true distribution. b. Robust estimation methods such as least absolute value. c. Bootstrap. d. GMM e. Ignore if sample is large. |
| 2) Zero mean of error term | | | | |
| i) $E(\varepsilon_i) = \mu$ | 1) Biases intercept (α) $E(\alpha) = \alpha + \mu$ 2) Estimate of variance unbiased. Significance tests still valid. | All for α None for slope parameters (β) | None for α All for β | No problem if only concerned about estimates of slope coefficients. |
| ii) $E(\varepsilon_i) = \mu_i$ | | | | |
| a) $\text{cov}(X_i, \varepsilon_i) = 0$ | Increases variance and, therefore, lowers power of significance tests. | All efficiency properties for β . All properties for α . | 1) Unbiased 2) Consistent | Usually means model is misspecified, therefore the solution is to specify the correct model. |
| b) $\text{cov}(X_i, \varepsilon_i) \neq 0$ | | All | None | Same as above. |
| 3) Homoskedasticity $\text{var}(\varepsilon_i) = \sigma^2$ | 1) Estimate of variance is biased, therefore statistical tests are biased. | All 3 efficiency properties: 1) BLUE 2) Efficient 3) Asymptotically Efficient | 1) Unbiased 2) Consistent | 1) If you know σ_i^2 or know $\sigma_i^2 = f(X_i)$ you can regain all properties with weighted least squares (GLS). 2) If $\sigma_i^2 = f(X_i)$ must be estimated then you can use FGLS or maximum likelihood. 3) Follow White <i>Econometrica</i> (1980): 817-838 to get consistent estimates of standard errors. |
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| 4) No autocorrelation $E(\varepsilon_i \varepsilon_j) = 0 \quad i \neq j$ | 1) Estimate of variance is biased, therefore statistical tests are biased. | All 3 efficiency properties | 1) Unbiased 2) Consistent | 1) If you know ρ then apply GLS (rarely the case). 2) Use FGLS or maximum likelihood. 3) Autocorrelation is often a sign of misspecification, so the solution may be to respecify the model. 4) Newey-West covariance matrix |
| 5) Non-stochastic X | | | | |
| i) X is random and independent of ε . | 1) Statistical tests are valid only given the particular X 's in the sample. | None | All | No problem. |
| ii) X is not independent, but is uncorrelated with ε , i.e., $\text{cov}(X_i, \varepsilon_i) = 0$. | | Lose all small sample properties. | 1) Consistent 2) Asymptotically Efficient | Make sure your sample is large enough that asymptotic properties are appropriate. |
| iii) $\text{cov}(X_i, \varepsilon_i) \neq 0$ (simultaneity is a common example) | | All | None | Instrumental variables such as in 2SLS or 3SLS. Other alternatives are FIML and GMM. |

SPECIAL CASES (Continued)

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| 1) Multicollinearity | 1) Coefficients are imprecise. 2) Increases variances. | None | All | 1) Increase sample size. 2) Make a tradeoff between bias and decreased variance. 3) Ignore it. |
| 2) Omit Relevant Variable | Violates assumption 2. | | | |
| i) Omitted variable is uncorrelated with RHS variables. | $E(\varepsilon_i) = \mu_i$ $\text{cov}(\varepsilon_i, X_i) = 0$ | All efficiency properties for β . All properties for α . | 1) Unbiased 2) Consistent | Include relevant variable. |
| ii) Omitted variable is correlated with RHS variables. | $E(\varepsilon_i) = \mu_i$ $\text{cov}(\varepsilon_i, X_i) \neq 0$ | All | None | Include relevant variable. |
| 3) Inclusion of irrelevant variable. | 1) Estimators of variance unbiased, tests of significance still valid. | Lose all efficiency properties. | 1) Unbiased 2) Consistent | Drop the irrelevant variable (restricted least squares). |
| 4) Lagged dependent variable.  | 1) Violates assumption 5 (ii) Lagged Endogenous . 2) Biases Durbin-Watson statistic towards 2. | Lose all small sample properties. | 1) Consistent 2) Asymptotically Efficient | Use Durbin's H-statistic or Godfrey test to test for autocorrelation. Use a large sample size. |
| 5) Lagged dependent variable and autocorrelation | Violates assumption 5 (iii) Simultaneity | All | None | 1) Use maximum likelihood. Cochrane-Orcutt is <u>not</u> acceptable. 2) Use instrumental variables. |
| 6) Errors in the dependent variable. | 1) Increases variance | None, if errors are random. | All | |
| 7) Errors in an independent variable. | Violates assumption 5 (iii) Simultaneity | All | None | 1) Be extremely careful to prevent any data errors. 2) Instrumental variables. |
| 8) Do not know true model. | | | | 1) Estimate a model that includes all possible models as special cases. Thus only lose efficiency properties. 2) Use restricted least squares or pretest and thus introduce possibility of losing all properties. 3) Examine fragility. 4) Better theory. 5) Misspecification testing. |