

Lecture 3: Linear Model with Panel Data: Random Effects and Hausman Test

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Plan for Lectures on Classical Linear Models

Lecture 1: Recap, Cross section, Least squares (W.4)

Lecture 2: Panel, Fixed effects, First differences (W.10)

Lecture 3: Panel, Random effects, Hausman test (W.10)

Next: *Non-linear methods* (W.12+13)

Empirical Strategies

Worry about whether $E[\mathbf{x}'_i c_i] \neq \mathbf{0}$? Different approaches.

Fixed effects (FE) approach:

- ▶ Eliminate c_i from system via transformation.
- ▶ No need for model relating c_i and \mathbf{x}_i .

Random effects (RE) approach:

- ▶ Model (features of) distribution of (c_i, \mathbf{x}_i) .
 - ▶ E.g. specify $E[c_i | \mathbf{x}_i]$, $\text{var}(c_i | \mathbf{x}_i)$, entire $D(c_i | \mathbf{x}_i)$.
- ▶ May/may not transform data (efficiency)

Today: Restrictive but simple (“classical RE”) model.

Outline

Pooled OLS

(Classical) Random Effects

Identifying Assumptions

Error Structure

Estimator

Quasi Time-Demeaning

Implementation

Alternative implementation

Asymptotic Normality, Inference, Variance Estimation

Hausman Test

Pooled OLS

Identification and Consistency

Let $v_{it} := c_i + u_{it}$ denote composite error.

- POLS.1:** $E[\mathbf{x}'_{it} v_{it}] = \mathbf{0}, \quad t = 1, 2, \dots, T,$
- POLS.2:** $\text{rank } E(\mathbf{X}'_i \mathbf{X}_i) = K$

POLS.1: (Unconditional) contemporaneous exogeneity

- ▶ Suffices that $E[u_{it} | \mathbf{x}_{it}] = 0$ all t
- ▶ ... and $E[c_i | \mathbf{x}_i] = 0$.

POLS.2: A mild rank condition.

Under POLS.1–2, β identified + $\hat{\beta}_{POLS}$ consistent. (Check!)

Asymptotic Normality

Under POLS.1–2, $\widehat{\beta}_{POLS}$ \sqrt{N} -asymptotically normal (check!),

$$\sqrt{N}(\widehat{\beta}_{POLS} - \beta) \xrightarrow{d} N(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{A}^{-1}),$$

where $\mathbf{A} := E[\mathbf{X}_i' \mathbf{X}_i]$,

$$\mathbf{B} := E[\mathbf{X}_i' \mathbf{v}_i \mathbf{v}_i' \mathbf{X}_i],$$

$$\mathbf{v}_i := (v_{i1}, v_{i2}, \dots, v_{iT})'.$$

Note: “Meat” \mathbf{B} panel version of $E(u^2 \mathbf{x}' \mathbf{x})$ from cross section.

Robust variance estimation takes into account panel structure.

Variance Estimation

Under POLS.1–2, asymptotic variance is

$$\text{Avar}(\widehat{\beta}_{POLS}) = (\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{X}'_i \mathbf{X}_i])^{-1} \mathbf{E}[\mathbf{X}'_i \mathbf{v}_i \mathbf{v}'_i \mathbf{X}_i] (\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{X}'_i \mathbf{X}_i])^{-1} / N.$$

Consistent estimator thereof:

$$\widehat{\text{Avar}}(\widehat{\beta}_{POLS}) = (\mathbf{X}' \mathbf{X})^{-1} \left(\sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{X}'_i \widehat{\mathbf{v}}_i \widehat{\mathbf{v}}'_i \mathbf{X}_i \right) (\mathbf{X}' \mathbf{X})^{-1},$$
$$\widehat{v}_{it} := y_{it} - \mathbf{x}_{it} \widehat{\beta}_{POLS}.$$

No assumptions placed on $\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{v}_i \mathbf{v}'_i | \mathbf{x}_i]$ \Rightarrow robust towards

- ▶ heteroskedasticity (cond'l)
- ▶ and serial correlation (cond'l)

Discussion

Under contemporaneous exogeneity + rank condition,

POLS.1: $E[\mathbf{x}'_{it} v_{it}] = \mathbf{0}, \quad t = 1, 2, \dots, T,$

POLS.2: $\text{rank } E(\mathbf{X}'_i \mathbf{X}_i) = K,$

then $\widehat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{POLS}$ \sqrt{N} -asymptotically normal.

... but not necessarily efficient.

Main motivation for random effects estimator (below):

Efficiency.

(Classical) Random Effects

Identifying Assumptions

(Stronger) Identifying Assumptions

Assumption RE.1:

RE.1(a): $E[u_{it} | \mathbf{x}_i, c_i] = 0, \quad t = 1, 2, \dots, T,$

RE.1(b): $E[c_i | \mathbf{x}_i] = E[c_i] = 0.$

RE.1(a) implies $E[c_i u_{it}] = 0$ and $E[\mathbf{x}'_{it} u_{it}] = \mathbf{0}$ all t

- ▶ ... also maintains *strict exogeneity*

RE.1(b) imposes c_i mean independent of $\{\mathbf{x}_{it}\}_{t=1}^T$

- ▶ This feature distinguishes RE from FE.

RE.1 implies $\{v_{it} = c_i + u_{it}\}_{t=1}^T$ uncorrelated with $\{\mathbf{x}_{it}\}_{t=1}^T$.

More restrictive than needed for pooled OLS.

Identifying Assumptions

Stack $\mathbf{v}_i := (v_{i1}, v_{i2}, \dots, v_{iT})'$ ($T \times 1$)

Denote unconditional composite error variance

$$\boldsymbol{\Omega} := \text{E} [\mathbf{v}_i \mathbf{v}_i'] . \quad (T \times T)$$

Rank condition:

RE.2: $\text{rank E} [\mathbf{X}_i' \boldsymbol{\Omega}^{-1} \mathbf{X}_i] = K.$

As opposed to FE/D estimators, no time-variance restriction.

- ▶ Could (and should) include model intercept
- ▶ ... along w/ time-invariant regressors (e.g. ethnic origin)

Error Structure

Error Structure

- ▶ Could do [feasible] generalized least squares ([F]GLS).
- ▶ Consistent under mild additional conditions.
- ▶ Idea: View panel as linear system

$$\mathbf{y}_i = \mathbf{X}_i \boldsymbol{\beta} + \mathbf{v}_i, \quad \mathbf{v}_i := c_i \mathbf{j}_T + \mathbf{u}_i. \quad (T \times 1)$$

- ▶ Apply general results for system OLS.
 - ▶ Details in W. Ch. 7.
- ▶ But wouldn't be exploiting composite error structure.
- ▶ Classical RE analysis restricts Ω form. (Next.)

Error Variance Structure

Assumption RE.3:

$$\text{RE.3(a): } E[\mathbf{u}_i \mathbf{u}'_i | \mathbf{x}_i, c_i] = \sigma_u^2 \mathbf{I}_T, \quad (T \times T)$$

$$\text{RE.3(b): } E[c_i^2 | \mathbf{x}_i] = \sigma_c^2.$$

- ▶ RE.3(a) implies $\{u_{it}\}_{t=1}^T$ (conditionally) homoskedastic + serially uncorrelated.
- ▶ RE.3(b) implies c_i conditionally homoskedastic.
- ▶ RE.1 + RE.3 imply *conditional* variance independence

$$E[\mathbf{v}_i \mathbf{v}'_i | \mathbf{x}_i] = E[\mathbf{v}_i \mathbf{v}'_i]. \quad (= \boldsymbol{\Omega})$$

Error Variance Structure

Under RE.1 and RE.3,

$$\Omega = E[\mathbf{v}_i \mathbf{v}_i'] = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_c^2 + \sigma_u^2 & \sigma_c^2 & \dots & \sigma_c^2 \\ \sigma_c^2 & \sigma_c^2 + \sigma_u^2 & \dots & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \sigma_c^2 \\ \sigma_c^2 & \dots & \sigma_c^2 & \sigma_c^2 + \sigma_u^2 \end{bmatrix},$$
$$= \sigma_u^2 \mathbf{I}_T + \sigma_c^2 \mathbf{j}_T \mathbf{j}_T' \quad (T \times T)$$

We say Ω has random effects structure.

Estimator

Estimator

Sps. (for now) access to some consistent estimators $\widehat{\sigma}_u^2$ and $\widehat{\sigma}_c^2$.

May then form

$$\widehat{\Omega} := \widehat{\sigma}_u^2 \mathbf{I}_T + \widehat{\sigma}_c^2 \mathbf{j}_T \mathbf{j}'_T.$$

Slutsky's thm. $\Rightarrow \widehat{\Omega} \rightarrow_p \Omega$ (i.e., \rightarrow_p coordinatewise)

Random-effects estimator = FGLS with RE structured $\widehat{\Omega}$,

$$\widehat{\beta}_{RE} := \left(\sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{x}'_i \widehat{\Omega}^{-1} \mathbf{x}_i \right)^{-1} \left(\sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{x}'_i \widehat{\Omega}^{-1} \mathbf{y}_i \right).$$

Estimator

$$\hat{\beta}_{RE} = \left(\sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{X}'_i \hat{\Omega}^{-1} \mathbf{X}_i \right)^{-1} \left(\sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{X}'_i \hat{\Omega}^{-1} \mathbf{y}_i \right).$$

Special case: $\sigma_c^2 = 0$

- ▶ Follows from no c_i 's [under RE.1(b)]
- ▶ Then $\Omega = \sigma_u^2 \mathbf{I}_T$
- ▶ ... and asymptotically, RE collapses to POLS. (Check!)

Quasi Time-Demeaning

Quasi Time-Demeaning

Define fraction

$$\lambda := 1 - \sqrt{\frac{\sigma_u^2}{\sigma_u^2 + T\sigma_c^2}}. \quad (\in [0, 1])$$

Linear algebra shows (check!)

$$\Omega^{-1/2} = \frac{1}{\sigma_u} (\mathbf{I}_T - \lambda \mathbf{P}_T),$$

where

$$\mathbf{P}_T := \frac{1}{T} \mathbf{j}_T \mathbf{j}'_T = \begin{bmatrix} 1/T & 1/T & \cdots & 1/T \\ 1/T & 1/T & & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \\ 1/T & \cdots & & 1/T \end{bmatrix}. \quad (T \times T)$$

Let

$$\mathbf{C}_T := \mathbf{I}_T - \lambda \mathbf{P}_T.$$

Quasi Time-Demeaning

$$\mathbf{C}_T = \mathbf{I}_T - \lambda \mathbf{P}_T, \quad \mathbf{P}_T = \frac{1}{T} \mathbf{j}_T \mathbf{j}'_T.$$

Assume λ known (for now) \Rightarrow GLS w/ \mathbf{C}_T weighting possible.

RE estimator arises from estimation of transformed system

$$\mathbf{C}_T \mathbf{y}_i = \mathbf{C}_T \mathbf{X}_i \boldsymbol{\beta} + \mathbf{C}_T \mathbf{v}_i.$$

New errors have variance $E[(\mathbf{C}_T \mathbf{v}_i)(\mathbf{C}_T \mathbf{v}_i)'] = \sigma_u^2 \mathbf{I}_T$. (Check!)

Writing out system,

$$y_{it} - \lambda \bar{y}_i = (\mathbf{x}_{it} - \lambda \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i) \boldsymbol{\beta} + (v_{it} - \lambda \bar{v}_i), \quad t = 1, 2, \dots, T.$$

Quasi Time-Demeaning

Let

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\lambda} &:= 1 - \sqrt{\hat{\sigma}_u^2 / (\hat{\sigma}_u^2 + T \hat{\sigma}_c^2)}, \\ \hat{\mathbf{C}}_T &:= \mathbf{I}_T - \hat{\lambda} \mathbf{P}_T.\end{aligned}$$

RE estimator takes form

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\beta}_{RE} &= \left(\sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{x}'_i \hat{\mathbf{C}}'_T \hat{\mathbf{C}}_T \mathbf{x}_i \right)^{-1} \left(\sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{x}'_i \hat{\mathbf{C}}'_T \hat{\mathbf{C}}_T \mathbf{y}_i \right) \\ &= \left(\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T \check{\mathbf{x}}'_{it} \check{\mathbf{x}}_{it} \right)^{-1} \left(\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T \check{\mathbf{x}}'_{it} \check{y}_{it} \right)\end{aligned}$$

where $\check{\mathbf{x}}_{it} := \mathbf{x}_{it} - \hat{\lambda} \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i$, $\check{y}_{it} := y_{it} - \hat{\lambda} \bar{y}_i$.

Conclude: RE subtracts *fraction* of time-average.

Relationship: RE, FE and Pooled OLS

$$y_{it} - \hat{\lambda}\bar{y}_i = (\mathbf{x}_{it} - \hat{\lambda}\bar{\mathbf{x}}_i)\beta + (v_{it} - \hat{\lambda}\bar{v}_i),$$

$$\text{where } \hat{\lambda} := 1 - \sqrt{\frac{\hat{\sigma}_u^2}{\hat{\sigma}_u^2 + T\hat{\sigma}_c^2}}.$$

RE = pooled OLS after (feasible) quasi time-demeaning

$\hat{\lambda} \approx 1 \Rightarrow$ RE and FE tend to be close.

- ▶ Happens for large T .
- ▶ Follows from $\mathbf{C}_T \rightarrow \mathbf{I}_T - \mathbf{P}_T = \mathbf{Q}_T$ as $\lambda \rightarrow 1$.

$\hat{\lambda} \approx 0 \Rightarrow$ RE and pooled OLS tend to be close.

- ▶ Happens with $\sigma_u^2 \gg \sigma_c^2$.

Implementation

Implementation

We need $\hat{\sigma}_u^2$ and $\hat{\sigma}_c^2$ consistent.

Actually, easier to consistently estimate σ_v^2 and σ_c^2 .

May then obtain $\hat{\sigma}_{\textcolor{blue}{u}}^2 := \hat{\sigma}_v^2 - \hat{\sigma}_c^2$ consistent (using RE.3).

$\hat{\sigma}_v^2$ consistent (using RE.1–2) given by

$$\hat{\sigma}_v^2 := \frac{1}{NT - K} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T \check{v}_{it}^2,$$

where $\check{v}_{it} := y_{it} - \mathbf{x}'_{it} \hat{\beta}_{POLS}$. (pooled OLS residuals)

POLS suitable because $E[\mathbf{x}'_{it} v_{it}] = \mathbf{0}$ under RE.1.

Implementation

Under RE.3, σ_c^2 everywhere off diagonal of Ω .

Sum up $T(T - 1)/2$ non-redundant variance terms,

$$\sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \sum_{s=t+1}^T E[v_{it} v_{is}] = \frac{T(T-1)}{2} \sigma_c^2.$$

Rearrange + analogy principle yield

$$\hat{\sigma}_c^2 := \frac{1}{NT(T-1)/2 - K} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \sum_{s=t+1}^T \check{v}_{it} \check{v}_{is},$$

where $\check{v}_{it} := y_{it} - \mathbf{x}_{it} \hat{\beta}_{POLS}$. (pooled OLS residuals)

Lastly, $\hat{\sigma}_u^2 := \hat{\sigma}_v^2 - \hat{\sigma}_c^2$.

Alternative implementation

Alternative implementation (Within + Between)

Goal: estimate (σ_u^2, σ_c^2) and compute $\widehat{\lambda}$.

Step 1 (Within / FE): reuse FE residual variance estimator

$$\widehat{\sigma}_u^2 := \frac{1}{NT - N - K} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T \widehat{u}_{it}^2, \quad \widehat{u}_{it} := \ddot{y}_{it} - \ddot{\mathbf{x}}_{it} \widehat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{FE}.$$

Step 2 (Between / BE): run OLS on individual means

$$\bar{y}_i = \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i \boldsymbol{\beta} + c_i + \bar{u}_i, \quad \widehat{e}_{i,BE} := \bar{y}_i - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i \widehat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{BE}.$$

Under RE: $\widehat{e}_{i,BE} \approx c_i + \bar{u}_i$ and $\text{Var}(c_i + \bar{u}_i) = \sigma_c^2 + \sigma_u^2/T$.

Alternative implementation (Within + Between)

Hence estimate

$$\widehat{\sigma}_{e,BE}^2 := \frac{1}{N-K} \sum_{i=1}^N \widehat{e}_{i,BE}^2, \quad \widehat{\sigma}_c^2 := \max \left\{ 0, \widehat{\sigma}_{e,BE}^2 - \widehat{\sigma}_u^2/T \right\}.$$

Then compute the quasi-demeaning parameter

$$\widehat{\lambda} := 1 - \sqrt{\frac{\widehat{\sigma}_u^2}{\widehat{\sigma}_u^2 + T\widehat{\sigma}_c^2}}.$$

Implementation: run OLS on quasi-demeaned variables

$$y_{it} - \widehat{\lambda} \bar{y}_i = (\mathbf{x}_{it} - \widehat{\lambda} \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i) \boldsymbol{\beta} + \text{error}.$$

RE as GLS: weighted within + weighted between

Under RE.1–RE.3 (balanced panel), GLS can be written as a weighted combination of within and between fit.

Define

$$S_W(\beta) := \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T (\ddot{y}_{it} - \ddot{\mathbf{x}}_{it}\beta)^2, \quad S_B(\beta) := \sum_{i=1}^N (\bar{y}_i - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i\beta)^2.$$

Then

$$\hat{\beta}_{RE} = \underset{\beta}{\operatorname{argmin}} \left\{ \frac{1}{\sigma_u^2} S_W(\beta) + \frac{T}{\sigma_u^2 + T\sigma_c^2} S_B(\beta) \right\}.$$

- ▶ FE uses only \ddot{y}_{it} and $\ddot{\mathbf{x}}_{it}$ (pure within variation).
- ▶ BE uses only \bar{y}_i and $\bar{\mathbf{x}}_i$ (pure between variation),
- ▶ RE optimally weights **within** and **between** variation.
- ▶ The weights are driven by (σ_u^2, σ_c^2) (hence by λ).

Within and between variation: role of λ

The RE transformation uses quasi-demeaning

$$y_{it} - \lambda \bar{y}_i = (\mathbf{x}_{it} - \lambda \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i) \boldsymbol{\beta} + (u_{it} - \lambda \bar{u}_i) + (1 - \lambda)c_i.$$

$$\lambda = 1 - \sqrt{\frac{\sigma_u^2}{\sigma_u^2 + T\sigma_c^2}}.$$

- ▶ λ is increasing in σ_c^2 , and decreasing in σ_u^2 .
- ▶ If σ_c^2 is large $\Rightarrow \lambda \approx 1$:
 - ▶ quasi-demeaning is close to *within* demeaning,
 - ▶ $(1 - \lambda)c_i$ is (almost) removed,
 - ▶ RE \approx FE and mainly uses within-variation.
- ▶ If σ_c^2 is small $\Rightarrow \lambda \approx 0$:
 - ▶ little demeaning,
 - ▶ RE \approx pooled OLS and puts relatively more weight on between/levels variation.

Asymptotic Normality, Inference, Variance Estimation

Asymptotic Normality (Sketch Only)

- ▶ Since $\widehat{\Omega} \rightarrow_p \Omega$, may ignore Ω estimation.
- ▶ Now proceed *as if*

$$\sqrt{N}(\widehat{\beta}_{RE} - \beta) = \left(\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{x}'_i \Omega^{-1} \mathbf{x}_i \right)^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{x}'_i \Omega^{-1} \mathbf{v}_i \right)$$

- ▶ Under RE.1–3, RE asymptotically normal:

$$\sqrt{N}(\widehat{\beta}_{RE} - \beta) \xrightarrow{d} N(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{A}^{-1}),$$

with $\mathbf{A} := E[\mathbf{x}'_i \Omega^{-1} \mathbf{x}_i]$.

Efficiency

- ▶ $\text{Avar}(\hat{\beta}_{RE}) = \mathbf{A}^{-1}/N.$
- ▶ Thus using $\Omega^{-1/2} = \sigma_u^{-1}\mathbf{C}_T$,

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Avar}(\hat{\beta}_{RE}) &= (\mathbb{E} [\mathbf{X}'_i \Omega^{-1} \mathbf{X}_i])^{-1} / N \\ &= (\mathbb{E} [\mathbf{X}'_i \sigma_u^{-2} \mathbf{C}'_T \mathbf{C}_T \mathbf{X}_i])^{-1} / N \\ &= \sigma_u^2 \{ \mathbb{E} [(\mathbf{C}_T \mathbf{X}_i)' (\mathbf{C}_T \mathbf{X}_i)] \}^{-1} / N.\end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Gauss-Markov form.

Conclude: Under RE.1–**3**, $\hat{\beta}_{RE}$ asymptotically efficient.

Variance Estimation

Under RE.1–3, consistent estimator

$$\widehat{\text{Avar}}(\widehat{\beta}_{RE}) := \left(\sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{x}'_i \widehat{\Omega}^{-1} \mathbf{x}_i \right)^{-1}$$

If RE.3 in doubt, robust asymptotic variance estimator

$$\left(\sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{x}'_i \widehat{\Omega}^{-1} \mathbf{x}_i \right)^{-1} \left(\sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{x}'_i \widehat{\Omega}^{-1} \widehat{\mathbf{v}}_i \widehat{\mathbf{v}}'_i \widehat{\Omega}^{-1} \mathbf{x}_i \right) \left(\sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{x}'_i \widehat{\Omega}^{-1} \mathbf{x}_i \right)^{-1},$$

with $\widehat{\mathbf{v}}_i := \mathbf{y}_i - \mathbf{x}_i \widehat{\beta}_{RE}$ being the RE residuals.

- ▶ RE residuals b/c RE.1–2 suffice for $\widehat{\beta}_{RE}$ consistency.
- ▶ But w/o RE.3, $\widehat{\beta}_{RE}$ need not be efficient.

Hausman Test

Hausman Test: Testing the RE Hypothesis

Under RE.1–3 and FE.2,

- ▶ Both RE and FE estimators **consistent**
- ▶ And RE asymptotically **efficient**.

But if $E[\mathbf{x}'_i c_i] \neq \mathbf{0}$ [\Rightarrow RE.1(b) fails],

- ▶ FE **consistent**
- ▶ ... while RE **inconsistent**.

Compare $\hat{\beta}_{FE}$ and $\hat{\beta}_{RE}$. Significantly different?

If yes, (could) interpret as evidence against RE.1(b).

Hausman Test

Null hypothesis

H_0 : RE.1–3 and FE.2 hold.

Hausman test statistic:

$$H_N := (\widehat{\beta}_{FE} - \widehat{\beta}_{RE})' [\widehat{\text{Avar}}(\widehat{\beta}_{FE}) - \widehat{\text{Avar}}(\widehat{\beta}_{RE})]^{-1} (\widehat{\beta}_{FE} - \widehat{\beta}_{RE}).$$

- Under H_0 : $H_N \xrightarrow{d} \chi_K^2$.

Test: Reject at level α iff $H_N > (1 - \alpha)$ -quantile of χ_K^2 .

- A quadratic form in $\widehat{\beta}_{FE} - \widehat{\beta}_{RE}$.
- Under H_0 , $\text{Avar}(\widehat{\beta}_{FE}) - \text{Avar}(\widehat{\beta}_{RE})$ positive semi-definite.
 - ⇒ interpret as weighting matrix.

Discussion

Only coefficients on time-varying regressors can be contrasted.

- ▶ No within variation \Rightarrow no FE estimate.
- ▶ Strictly speaking, K now # time-varying reg's

May use usual (nonrobust) Avar estimates.

But should use same σ_u^2 estimate for both $\widehat{\text{Avars}}$.

- ▶ Otherwise variance difference may be *negative* (definite).

If we drop RE.3, $\widehat{\text{Avar}}(\widehat{\beta}_{FE}) - \widehat{\text{Avar}}(\widehat{\beta}_{RE})$ to be replaced by

$$\widehat{\text{Avar}}(\widehat{\beta}_{FE} - \widehat{\beta}_{RE}).$$