# Regularization of High-Dimensional Cointegrated Systems

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## Nomenclature

$$\|\cdot\|_{\infty}$$
  $L^{\infty}$ -norm,  $\|x\|_{\infty} = \max\{|x_1|, \dots, |x_n|\}$ 

$$\left\| \cdot \right\|_{\max} \ \operatorname{Max} \ \operatorname{norm}, \, \left\| A \right\|_{\max} = \max_{i,j} \lvert a_{ij} \rvert$$

$$\left\|\cdot\right\|_p ~~L^p\text{-norm},~ \left\|x\right\|_p = \left(\sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|^p\right)^{1/p}$$

$$\left\| \cdot \right\|_{\mathrm{F}} \quad \text{ Frobenius norm, } \left\| A \right\|_{\mathrm{F}} = \left\| A \right\|_{2,2}$$

$$\|\cdot\|_{p,q} \quad L^{p,q}\text{-norm}, \ \|A\|_{p,q} = (\sum_{j=1}^n (\sum_{i=1}^m |a_{ij}|^p)^{q/p})^{1/q}$$

 $\otimes$  Kronecker product

op Transpose operator of a matrix

tr Trace operator of a matrix

vec Vectorization operator

 $\operatorname{vec}_{n\times m}$  Memory vectorization,  $\operatorname{vec}_{n\times m}^{-1}(\operatorname{vec}_{n\times m}(A))=A$ 

### 1 Vector Autoregressive Processes

We consider the k-dimensional Gaussian vector autoregressive process of the p-th order (VAR(p))  $\{X_t\}_{t=1,...,T}$  characterized by

$$X_t = \sum_{i=1}^p A_i X_{t-i} + \epsilon_t, \tag{1}$$

where  $X_t = (X_{1,t}, \dots, X_{k,t})^{\top}$ ,  $X_{-(p-1)}, \dots, X_0$  are deterministic,  $A_i \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times k}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, p$  are called the transition matrices containing the coefficient parameters and  $\epsilon_t$  are i.i.d.  $\mathcal{N}_k(0, \Omega)$  error terms with  $\Omega \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times k}$  being symmetric and positive definite. Note that the process can also be expressed as

$$A(L)X_t = \epsilon_t$$
 or (2)

$$X_t = \Phi^\top \Xi_{t-1} + \epsilon_t \tag{3}$$

with  $A(L) = I_k - \sum_{i=1}^p A_i L^i$  being a matrix polynomial in L, which is defined as the lag operator  $L^i X_t = X_{t-i}, \, \Phi^{\top} := (A_1, A_2, \dots, A_p) \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times kp}$  and see (5) for  $\Xi_t$ .

To discuss the stability of this process, it is useful to consider its first order specification defined for  $t \in [1, \infty)$  and proceed by recursion for  $t = 1, 2, \ldots$ 

$$X_{1} = A_{1}X_{0} + \epsilon_{1}$$

$$X_{2} = A_{1}(A_{1}X_{0} + \epsilon_{1}) + \epsilon_{2} = A_{1}^{2}X_{0} + A_{1}\epsilon_{1} + \epsilon_{2}$$

$$\vdots$$

$$X_{j} = A_{1}^{j}X_{0} + \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} A_{1}^{i}\epsilon_{i} + \epsilon_{j}$$

$$\vdots$$

This shows that  $X_j$  is only determined by the initial value  $X_0$  and the sequence of errors  $\{\epsilon_i\}_{i=1}^j$ . Also, as  $j \to \infty$ , the process involves the infinite stochastic vector series  $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} A_1^i \epsilon_i$  which needs to converge in some sense for the process to be stable. From [5] and [9], we know that the series converges in mean square if  $\{A_1^i\}$  is absolutely summable and if  $\mathbb{E}\left[\epsilon_i^{\top} \epsilon_i\right] < \infty$ . It is easy to see from the Jordan canonical form that a sufficient condition for the absolute summability is that all the moduli of the complex eigenvalues of  $A_1$  are less that 1, since then  $A_1^i \to 0$  as  $i \to \infty$ . This condition is equivalent to  $\det(I_k - A_1 z) \neq 0 \ \forall \ |z| \leq 1, \ z \in \mathbb{C}$ . The second condition is automatically fulfilled by assumption on the error term's covariance structure.

We can naturally generalize these results to the p>1 case by rewriting the VAR(p) in companion form expressing another VAR(1) process

$$\Xi_t = A\Xi_{t-1} + \eta_t \tag{4}$$

where

$$\Xi_{t} = \begin{pmatrix} X_{t} \\ X_{t-1} \\ \vdots \\ X_{t-(p-1)} \\ (kp \times 1) \end{pmatrix}, \quad A = \begin{pmatrix} A_{1} & A_{2} & \cdots & A_{p-1} & A_{p} \\ I_{k} & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I_{k} & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & I_{k} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \eta_{t} = \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon_{t} \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ (kp \times 1) \end{pmatrix}. \quad (5)$$

We have that (4) is in fact

$$\begin{pmatrix} X_t \\ X_{t-1} \\ \vdots \\ X_{t-(p-1)} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{i=1}^p A_i X_{t-i} \\ X_{t-1} \\ \vdots \\ X_{t-(p-1)} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon_t \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Therefore,  $\Xi_t$ , and thus  $X_t$ , is stable if all the eigenvalues of A have a modulus less that 1, which as mentioned above is equivalent to  $\det(I_{kp} - Az) = \det(A(z)) \neq 0 \ \forall \ |z| \leq 1$ . We can also add that all the eigenvalues  $\lambda$  of A satisfy  $\det(I_k\lambda^p - \sum_{i=1}^p A_i\lambda^{p-i}) = 0$  (see Appendix 10.A of [6]). All of these conditions are equivalently known as the stability condition.

At this stage, it is worthwhile to highlight that a VAR process that does not satisfy the stability condition is not necessarily undefined, though it might be explosive or integrated. For the remainder of this article, we will not assume by default that the stability condition is met.

#### 1.1 Estimation of VAR Models

As we will see, we can express a VAR model as a general linear model (not to be mistaken with the generalized linear model or GLM) or simply a multivariate regression. Then we can either estimate the transition matrices by maximum likelihood thanks to the distributional assumption on the error terms or by generalized least squares (GLS). Alternatively, we can infer the distribution of each observation of the sample process conditioned on the past values and get an expression for the conditional joint density of the whole sample. Although these three estimators are identical, it is useful to review them since regularization techniques often involve variants of these three versions, which in general differ from each other unlike their unregularized peers.

#### 1.1.1 Maximum Likelihood

Let  $\{x_t\}_{t\in\mathcal{I}}$  where  $\mathcal{I}=\{-(p-1),-(p-2),\ldots,T\}$  be an observed sample generated from (1). Denoting  $c_{[a,b]}:=\{c_i\}_{i=a}^b$  and  $\theta=\{\{A_i\}_{1\leq i\leq p},\Omega\}$ , we are interested in deriving the following conditional joint density

$$f_{X_{[1,T]}|X_{[-(p-1),0]}} := f_{X_{[1,T]}|X_{[-(p-1),0]}} \left( x_{[1,T]} \mid x_{[-(p-1),0]}; \theta \right), \tag{6}$$

where  $x_{[-(p-1),0]}$  are treated as the initial values on which the sample is conditioned, representing the conditional likelihood of the sample, which for conciseness we will call "likelihood" henceforth.

Since  $\{x_t\}$  is deterministic (realized path of the generating process), by conditioning on all the values  $\{x_i\}$  up to time t noninclusive,  $X_t$  is distributed as a constant plus  $\epsilon_t \sim \mathcal{N}_k(0,\Omega)$ , the only stochastic component, i.e.

$$X_t \mid x_{[-(p-1),t-1]} \sim \mathcal{N}_k(\Phi^{\top} \xi_{t-1}, \Omega),$$
 (7)

where  $\xi_t = (x_t, x_{t-1}, \dots, x_{t-(p-1)})$ . Therefore,

$$f_{X_t|X_{[-(p-1),t-1]}} = (2\pi)^{-k/2} \det(\Omega^{-1})^{1/2} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2} \left(x_t - \Phi^\top \xi_{t-1}\right)^\top \Omega^{-1} \left(x_t - \Phi^\top \xi_{t-1}\right)\right].$$
(8)

We know that

$$f_{X_{[1,t]}|X_{[-(p-1),0]}} = f_{X_{[1,t-1]}|X_{[-(p-1),0]}} \cdot f_{X_t|X_{[-(p-1),t-1]}},$$

so by applying this recursively we can rewrite (6) as

$$f_{X_{[1,T]}|X_{[-(p-1),0]}} = \prod_{t=1}^{T} f_{X_t|X_{[-(p-1),t-1]}},$$
(9)

in which substituting (8) and taking the logarithm yields the sample log likelihood

$$\mathcal{L}(x_{[1,t]}; \theta) = -\frac{Tk}{2} \log 2\pi + \frac{T}{2} \log \left( \det \left( \Omega^{-1} \right) \right) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \left( x_t - \Phi^{\top} \xi_{t-1} \right)^{\top} \Omega^{-1} \left( x_t - \Phi^{\top} \xi_{t-1} \right).$$
 (10)

We find the maximum likelihood estimator (MLE) of  $\Phi^{\top}$  by solving the equation that sets the differentiated log likelihood (10) w.r.t.  $\Phi^{\top}$  to zero, which yields

$$\widehat{\Phi}^{\top} = \left(\sum_{t=1}^{T} x_t \xi_{t-1}^{\top}\right) \left(\sum_{t=1}^{T} \xi_{t-1} \xi_{t-1}^{\top}\right)^{-1}.$$
 (11)

To find the MLE of  $\Omega$ , we first substitute (11) in (10)

$$\mathcal{L}\left(x_{[1,t]}; \widehat{\Phi}, \Omega\right) = -\frac{Tk}{2} \log 2\pi + \frac{T}{2} \log \left(\det \left(\Omega^{-1}\right)\right) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \widehat{\epsilon_t}^{\top} \Omega^{-1} \widehat{\epsilon_t},$$

where  $\hat{\epsilon_t} := x_t - \hat{\Phi}^{\top} \xi_{t-1}$  and differentiated w.r.t.  $\Omega^{-1}$  to get

$$\widehat{\Omega} = T^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \widehat{\epsilon_t} \widehat{\epsilon_t}^{\top}. \tag{12}$$

#### 1.1.2 General Linear Model

We can easily view (1) as a general linear model (GenLM) in which each of the k dependent variables is regressed on the same kp independent variables. The dependent variables are  $\{X_{i,t}\}_{1\leq i\leq k}$  and the independent variables are  $\{X_{i,t-j}\}_{1\leq i\leq k,1\leq j\leq p}$ . If we write a sample drawn from (3) in matrix notation, i.e. we stack the transpose of  $x_t$  for  $t=1,\ldots,T$ , we obtain

$$Y = X\Phi + E \tag{13}$$

where

$$Y = \begin{pmatrix} x_1^\top \\ x_2^\top \\ \vdots \\ x_T^\top \end{pmatrix}, \quad X = \begin{pmatrix} \xi_0^\top \\ \xi_1^\top \\ \vdots \\ \xi_{T-1}^\top \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad E = \begin{pmatrix} e_1^\top \\ e_2^\top \\ \vdots \\ e_T^\top \end{pmatrix}, \tag{14}$$

and  $\xi_t$  is an observation drawn from  $\Xi_t$ .

Note that the coefficient matrix  $\Phi$  in the matrix notation (13) is simply the transpose of that in the observational notation,  $\Phi^{\top}$  (3).

**MLE** Since each row of E is drawn from  $\epsilon_t^{\top} \sim \text{i.i.d. } \mathcal{N}_k(0,\Omega)$ , it follows that  $x_t^{\top} - \xi_{t-1}\Phi \sim \text{i.i.d. } \mathcal{N}_k(0,\Omega)$ . Thus, we know that the likelihood of the sample Y is the likelihood of an i.i.d. multivariate Gaussian sample (as in Section 1.1.1)

$$\mathcal{L}(Y; \Phi, \Omega) = -\frac{Tk}{2} \log 2\pi + \frac{T}{2} \log \left( \det \left( \Omega^{-1} \right) \right)$$
$$-\frac{1}{2} \operatorname{tr} \left[ (Y - X\Phi) \Omega^{-1} (Y - X\Phi)^{\top} \right], \tag{15}$$

since  $\sum_{t=1}^{T} \epsilon_t^{\top} \Omega^{-1} \epsilon_t = \operatorname{tr} \left( \Omega^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \epsilon_t \epsilon_t^{\top} \right) = \operatorname{tr} \left( \Omega^{-1} E^{\top} E \right) = \operatorname{tr} \left( E^{\top} \Omega^{-1} E \right)$ . The first and third equality signs come from the property of the trace (see A.2.2 from [10]) and the second follows from the fact that the rows of E are  $\epsilon_t^{\top}$  (in the same fashion as in Appendix A). Now, the MLEs from the GenLM of  $\Phi$  and  $\Omega$  are given by

$$\Phi^* = \left(X^\top X\right)^{-1} X^\top Y \tag{16}$$

$$\Omega^* = T^{-1} Y^\top P Y \tag{17}$$

with the projection matrix  $P = I_T - X (X^\top X)^{-1} X^\top$ , which effectively resemble to the OLS estimators of a multiple linear regression, in which case Y would be a vector instead of a matrix. We show in Appendix A that  $(\Phi^*)^\top = \widehat{\Phi}^\top$  and  $\widehat{\Omega} = \Omega^*$  in Appendix B.

**GLS** Consider the model (13) written in vectorized form as

$$Y_V = \widetilde{X}\Phi_V + E_V \tag{18}$$

where  $M_V := \text{vec}(M) \in \mathbb{R}^{mn}$ ,  $M \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $\widetilde{X} := I_k \otimes X \in \mathbb{R}^{Tk \times k^2 p}$  and  $E^V \sim \mathcal{N}_{k^2}(0, \Sigma)$ ,  $\Sigma = \Omega \otimes I_T$ . In that case,

$$\widehat{\Phi}_{V} = \underset{\Phi_{V}}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} \left( Y_{V} - \widetilde{X} \Phi_{V} \right)^{\top} \Sigma^{-1} \left( Y_{V} - \widetilde{X} \Phi_{V} \right) 
= \left( \widetilde{X}^{\top} \Sigma^{-1} \widetilde{X} \right)^{-1} \widetilde{X}^{\top} \Sigma^{-1} Y_{V} 
= \left[ I_{k} \otimes \left( X^{\top} X \right)^{-1} X^{\top} \right] Y_{V}.$$
(19)

Again, we see that  $\operatorname{vec}(\Phi^*) = \operatorname{vec}(\widehat{\Phi}) = \widehat{\Phi}_V$ , showing the equivalence between these three estimation frameworks, stemming from the normality assumption on the error terms.

#### 1.2 The High-Dimensional Setting

All of the above estimation methods require the inversion of the  $kp \times kp$  moment matrix  $X^{\top}X$ . However, this matrix might not always be invertible and it could be singular for a variety of reasons. Since it is a product of the same  $T \times kp$  matrix X, the design matrix, we can infer bounds for the rank of the moment matrix from the rank bounds of the design matrix. Since our focus here is on the upper bound (simplest case), we need only look the dimension of X and discriminate between two cases. Here we show that T < kp is a sufficient condition for  $X^{\top}X$  to be singular. On the contrary, if  $T \ge kp$ ,  $X^{\top}X$  is singular only in the special case where the columns of the design matrix are not all linearly independent.

Proof.

Case 1: 
$$T < kp \Rightarrow \operatorname{rank}(X^{\top}X) = \operatorname{rank}(X) \le T < kp \Rightarrow \det(X^{\top}X) = 0$$
  
Case 2:  $T \ge kp \Rightarrow \operatorname{rank}(X^{\top}X) = \operatorname{rank}(X) \le kp \Rightarrow \det(X^{\top}X) = 0$   
 $\iff \dim(\operatorname{colsp}(X)) = \operatorname{rank}(X) < kp$ 

This shows that the classical estimation methods presented above are infeasible when kp > T, i.e. in the high-dimensional setting. It is this realization, in part, that motivates the use of regularization in estimation problems. Indeed, regularization serves two purposes. The first purpose is computational and in this case relates with the above-mentioned problem, where an unregularized estimator is unfeasible but a regularized one is often feasible. The second purpose of regularization is statistical in the sense that it allows to construct estimators that might better exploit subjacent low-dimensional or sparse structure in the true underlying data generating process, which lead to desirable properties of estimators. The focus of this thesis does not lie on the derivation of these properties but rather highlighting the clear computational advantage of regularized estimators in terms of feasibility as well as their capability of uncovering

sparse underlying parametric structures, in turn preventing overfitting and thus yielding better forecasting performances.

In order to better grasp the idea of regularization, we briefly introduce the broad class of regularized M-estimators [13]. We want to estimate a parameter  $\theta_0 \in \mathbb{R}^q$  by minimizing the average of a loss function and a regularizer. Formally, let  $\mathbb{Z}^n := \{z_1, \ldots, z_n\}$  be a set of observations drawn from Z with marginal distribution  $\mathbb{P}$  and  $\theta_0 = \theta_0(\mathbb{P})$ . An M-estimator is defined as

$$\widehat{\theta} \in \operatorname*{arg\,min}_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^q} \ell_n(\theta, \mathcal{Z}^n) := n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell_n(\theta, z_i), \tag{20}$$

where  $\ell_n: \mathbb{R}^q \times \mathcal{Z} \to \mathbb{R}$  is a loss function usually chosen such that

$$\theta_0 = \operatorname*{arg\,min}_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^q} \mathbb{E}[\ell_n(\theta, Z)].$$

A regularized M-estimator combines (20) with a regularizer or penalty  $\rho$ :  $\mathbb{R}^q \to \mathbb{R}^+$  which is what imposes a certain structure to the estimates. The regularizer can be included in two ways; either as a constraint imposed to (20) or with a Lagrange multiplier in (20):

$$\widehat{\theta} \in \underset{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^q}{\operatorname{arg \, min}} \, \ell_n(\theta, \mathcal{Z}^n) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \rho(\theta) \le r \quad \text{or}$$
 (21)

$$\widehat{\theta} \in \operatorname*{arg\,min}_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^q} \ell_n(\theta, \mathcal{Z}^n) + \lambda \rho(\theta), \tag{22}$$

with  $r, \lambda > 0$ . Often however, no analytical solution to (21) or (22) exists rather these must be solved numerically. A case that can be solved analytically, though, is the ridge estimator. Its multivariate extension [2] applied to the model (18) is defined as

$$\widehat{\Phi}_{R}(\lambda) \in \underset{\Phi^{V} \in \mathbb{R}^{k^{2}p}}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} \left\| Y^{V} - \widetilde{X}\Phi^{V} \right\|_{2}^{2} + \lambda \left\| \Phi^{V} \right\|_{2}^{2}$$
(23)

where the loss function corresponds to the much used squared  $L^2$ -norm of the residuals  $E^V$  and the regularizer is a penalty on the squared  $L^2$ -norm of the parameter  $\Phi^V$ . This estimator has the following solution

$$\widehat{\Phi}_R(\lambda) = \left(I_k \otimes X^\top X + \lambda I_{k^2 p}\right)^{-1} \left(I_k \otimes X^\top\right) Y^V. \tag{24}$$

Thus, contrary to the estimators in Section 1.1, (24) is usually feasible even when kp > T. Indeed, the matrix to be inverted is no longer  $X^{\top}X$  but  $M_R := I_j \otimes X^{\top}X + \lambda I_{k^2p}$ . Assuming that  $\operatorname{rank}(X^{\top}X) = r < kp$ ,  $\operatorname{rank}(I_j \otimes X^{\top}X) = kr$  thus  $\operatorname{rank}(M_R) \le k^2p$  and  $\det(M_R) \ne 0 \iff \operatorname{rank}(M_R) = k^2p$ .

## 2 Johansen's Cointegration Framework

The theory developed by Søren Johansen to estimate cointegrating relationships is based on the estimation of a reduced form vector error correction model

(VECM), which is an equivalent way of writing a VAR process. The VECM form equivalent of a VAR(p) process (1) is defined as

$$\Delta X_{t} = \Pi X_{t-1} + \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} \Gamma_{i} \Delta X_{t-i} + \epsilon_{t}, \tag{25}$$

where  $\Pi = -I_k + \sum_{i=1}^p A_i$  and  $\Gamma_i = -\sum_{j=i+1}^p A_j$ .

Cointegration is then formulated as a condition on the (reduced) rank of  $\Pi$ . If rank( $\Pi$ ) = r < k, it can be rewritten as

$$\Pi = \alpha \beta^{\top}, \tag{26}$$

where  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times r}$ . The unrestricted VECM (25) becomes the reduced form VECM

$$\Delta X_t = \alpha \beta^{\top} X_{t-1} + \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} \Gamma_i \Delta X_{t-i} + \epsilon_t.$$
 (27)

The cointegrating vectors are the columns of  $\beta$ , meaning that  $\beta^{\top}X_t$  is an r-dimensional covariance stationary process conditional on a suitable choice of the initial values of  $X_t$ . To see why  $\beta$  is a cointegrating matrix, we briefly state Theorem 4.2 of [8], also known as the Johansen-Granger representation theorem, which first needs some notation. For any  $m \in \mathbb{R}^{l \times n}$ , let  $m_{\perp} \in \mathbb{R}^{l \times (l-n)}$  with  $\operatorname{rank}(m_{\perp}) = l - n$  be such that  $m^{\top}m_{\perp} = 0$ . Also, we call the characteristic polynomial of (25)  $A'(z) = (1-z)I_k - \Pi z - \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} \Gamma_i (1-z)z^i$  and let  $\Gamma = I_k - \sum_{i=1}^p \Gamma_i$ ,  $C = \beta_{\perp}(\alpha_{\perp}^{\top}\Gamma\beta_{\perp})^{-1}\alpha_{\perp}^{\top}$  and  $P_m = m(m^{\top}m)^{-1}m^{\top}$ . The theorem states that if  $\det(A(z)) = 0 \Rightarrow |z| > 1$  or z = 1, and  $\operatorname{rank}(\Pi) = r < k$ , then  $X_t$  can be represented as

$$X_t = C \sum_{i=1}^t \epsilon_i + C(L)\epsilon_t + P_{\beta_\perp} X_0$$
 (28)

if and only if  $\operatorname{rank}(\alpha_{\perp}^{\top}\Gamma\beta_{\perp}) = k - r$ . In this case, (28) describes a cointegrated I(1) process since both  $\Delta X_t$  and  $\beta^{\top} X_t$  can be made stationary given a suitable choice of the initial value  $X_0$ . Indeed,  $X_t$  contains both a stochastic trend and a stationary component. The stochastic trend  $C\sum_{i=1}^t \epsilon_i$  becomes stationary after differencing once  $(C\epsilon_t)$  or completely disappears by multiplying by  $\beta^{\top}$  ( $\beta^{\top}C=0$ ). The stationary component is  $C(L)\epsilon_t$ , where  $C(z)=\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} C_i z^i$ , with  $C_i \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times k}$ , converges for  $|z| \leq 1 + \delta$  for some  $\delta > 0$ .

The I(1) model (25) is called H(r) for  $r=0,\ldots,k$  such as it expresses the hypothesis that  $\operatorname{rank}(\Pi) \leq r$ . Consequently, the H(r) models are a nested sequence of models

$$H(0) \subset \cdots \subset H(r) \subset \cdots \subset H(k).$$
 (29)

 $\mathrm{H}(0)$  corresponds to the restriction  $\Pi=0$ , i.e. the non-cointegrated I(1) since  $\Delta X_t$  is an I(0) VAR(p-1) and  $\mathrm{H}(k)$  represents the unrestricted VAR

since it is just a VAR rewritten in VECM. Thus, H(r) for r = 1, ..., k-1 are the models that guarantee cointegration.

It is important to note that the cointegrating vectors  $\beta$  and the adjustment coefficients  $\alpha$  (forces pushing the cointegrated relationships back to equilibrium) are not uniquely identified, since for any non-singular  $m \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times r}$  we can find  $\alpha' = \alpha m^{-1}$  and  $\beta' = m\beta$  such that  $\Pi' = \alpha'\beta' = \Pi$ .

#### Johansen's Direct Cointegration Estimation 2.1

The goal of this section is to derive the direct cointegration estimator (DiCE) developed by Johansen to estimate in a direct manner the cointegrating vectors  $\beta$  for a given cointegrating rank r, as well as its one-tailed test statistic for the hypothesis on the latter. To that end, we introduce the following notation. Let  $Z_{0,t} = \Delta X_t, \ Z_{1,t} = X_{t-1}, \ Z_{2,t} = \text{vec}(\Delta X_{t-1}, \dots, \Delta X_{t-(p-1)})$  and  $G = \sum_{t=0}^{n} (1 - t)^{n-1} \sum_{t=0}^{n} (1 - t)^$  $(\Gamma_1, \ldots, \Gamma_{p-1})$  such that (27) can be written as

$$Z_{0,t} = \alpha \beta^{\top} Z_{1,t} + G Z_{2,t} + \epsilon_t. \tag{30}$$

Also, for any  $m_{i,t} \in \mathbb{R}^{d_i}$ , we denote the corresponding product-moment matrices by  $M_{ij} = T^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^{T} m_{i,t} m_{j,t}^{\top}$ , noting that  $M_{ij} = M_{ji}^{\top}$ . As in (15), the log-likelihood of the VECM sample  $\{z_{0,t}\}$ , aside from the

first constant, is straightforwardly given by

$$\log \mathcal{L}(\alpha, \beta, G, \Omega) = \frac{T}{2} \log \left[ \det \left( \Omega^{-1} \right) \right] - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^{T} (z_{0,t} - \alpha \beta^{\top} z_{1,t} - G z_{2,t})^{\top} \Omega^{-1} (z_{0,t} - \alpha \beta^{\top} z_{1,t} - G z_{2,t}).$$
(31)

The autoregressive coefficients G can at this stage only be estimated conditionally on the cointegration parameters  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , with the first order conditions

$$\sum_{t=1}^{T} (z_{0,t} - \alpha \beta^{\top} z_{1,t} - \widehat{G} z_{2,t}) z_{2,t}^{\top} = 0$$

yielding the estimator

$$\widehat{G}(\alpha, \beta) = M_{02} M_{22}^{-1} - \alpha \beta^{\top} M_{12} M_{22}^{-1}.$$
(32)

Since the transition matrices are not the main parameter of interest in this problem, we wish to profile out G to obtain the profile likelihood, function of the other parameters. To do so, we use the residuals that we would have obtained by regressing both  $Z_{0,t}$  and  $Z_{1,t}$  on  $Z_{2,t}$ . Written as a GenLM, we get

$$Z_0 = Z_2 \theta_0^{\top} + E_0$$
  
and  $Z_1 = Z_2 \theta_1^{\top} + E_1$ ,

where  $Z_i = (Z_{i,1}, \dots, Z_{i,T})^{\top}$ , i = 0, 1, 2. Thus, from (16), we know that for i = 0, 1

$$\widehat{\theta}_i^{\top} = \left( Z_2^{\top} Z_2 \right)^{-1} Z_2^{\top} Z_i = M_{22}^{-1} M_{2i},$$

such that in the observational notation we get

$$\widehat{\theta}_i = M_{i2} M_{22}^{-1}.$$

This leads to the following residuals in the observational notation

$$R_{0,t} = Z_{0,t} - \widehat{\theta}_0 Z_{2,t} = Z_{0,t} - M_{02} M_{22}^{-1} Z_{2,t}$$
  

$$R_{1,t} = Z_{1,t} - \widehat{\theta}_1 Z_{2,t} = Z_{1,t} - M_{12} M_{22}^{-1} Z_{2,t}$$

with which we can write the profile likelihood equivalent to (31)

$$\log \mathcal{L}(\alpha, \beta, \Omega) = \frac{T}{2} \log \left[ \det \left( \Omega^{-1} \right) \right] - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \left( R_{0,t} - \alpha \beta^{\top} R_{1,t} \right)^{\top} \Omega^{-1} \left( R_{0,t} - \alpha \beta^{\top} R_{1,t} \right).$$
(33)

This would be the likelihood of  $\{\tilde{\epsilon}_t\}$  in

$$R_{0,t} = \alpha \beta^{\top} R_{1,t} + \tilde{\epsilon}_t$$

which is effectively a reduced rank regression. Then we can estimate  $\alpha$  and  $\Omega$  conditional on  $\beta$  by regressing  $R_{0,t}$  on  $\beta^{\top}R_{1,t}$ , thereby obtaining

$$\widehat{\alpha}(\beta) = S_{01}\beta \left(\beta^{\top} S_{11}\beta\right)^{-1} \tag{34}$$

$$\widehat{\Omega}(\beta) = S_{00} - S_{01}\beta \left(\beta^{\top} S_{11}\beta\right)^{-1} \beta^{\top} S_{10}$$

$$= S_{00} - \widehat{\alpha}(\beta) \left(\beta^{\top} S_{11}\beta\right) \widehat{\alpha}(\beta)^{\top},$$
(35)

where  $S_{ij} = T^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^{T} R_{i,t} R_{j,t}^{\top} = M_{ij} - M_{i2} M_{22}^{-1} M_{2j}$  for i, j = 0, 1. Now, substituting (34) and (35) into (33), we obtain the maximized likelihood (leaving out the first constant and taking the exponential) solely depending on  $\beta$ 

$$\mathcal{L}_{max}^{-2/T}(\beta) = \det\left(\widehat{\Omega}(\beta)\right) = \det\left(S_{00} - S_{01}\beta\left(\beta^{\top}S_{11}\beta\right)^{-1}\beta^{\top}S_{10}\right). \tag{36}$$

To maximize (36) with respect to  $\beta$ , we first rewrite it using an identity on the determinant of block matrices (see Theorem A.3.2 of [1])

$$\det \left( S_{00} - S_{01} \beta \left( \beta^{\top} S_{11} \beta \right)^{-1} \beta^{\top} S_{10} \right) = \det(S_{00}) \frac{\det \left( \beta^{\top} \left( S_{11} - S_{10} S_{00}^{-1} S_{01} \right) \beta \right)}{\det \left( \beta^{\top} S_{11} \beta \right)}. \quad (37)$$

Therefore, maximizing (36) amounts to maximizing the right-hand side fraction of (37), which is of the form

$$h(x) = \det\left(x^{\top} M x\right) / \det\left(x^{\top} N x\right) \tag{38}$$

with  $x \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times r}$  and  $M, N \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times k}$  both symmetric, positive semi-definite and positive definite, respectively. By Lemma A.8 of [8], the maximum of (38) is reached for  $\widehat{x} = (v_1, \dots, v_r)$  with  $h(\widehat{x}) = \prod_{i=1}^r \lambda_i$  where  $\lambda_i$  and  $v_i$  are solutions to the following generalized eigenvalue problem

$$\det(\lambda N - M) = 0, (39)$$

furthermore assuming that the eigenvectors  $v_i$  in  $\hat{x}$  are arranged such that their associated eigenvalues  $\lambda_i$  are in decreasing order;  $1 > \lambda_1 > \ldots > \lambda_r > 0$ .

In our case, we need to solve the following generalized eigenvalue problem

$$\det \left( \rho S_{11} - \left( S_{11} - S_{10} S_{00}^{-1} S_{01} \right) \right) = 0$$

$$\iff \det \left( \lambda S_{11} - S_{10} S_{00}^{-1} S_{01} \right) = 0, \tag{40}$$

where  $\lambda = 1 - \rho$  and  $\hat{v}_i$  are the eigenvectors associated to  $\hat{\lambda}_i$  for i = 1, ..., k. Therefore, under the hypothesis H(r), the Johansen's estimator of  $\beta$  is

$$\widehat{\beta} = (\widehat{v}_1, \dots, \widehat{v}_r), \tag{41}$$

for which the maximized likelihood takes value

$$\mathcal{L}_{max}^{-2/T}(r) = \det(S_{00}) \prod_{i=0}^{r} (1 - \hat{\lambda}_i).$$
(42)

Note that all the models H(r) for  $r=0,\ldots,k$  are solved by the same generalized eigenvalue problem. Indeed, all the eigenvectors and eigenvalues are computed once from one problem and then eigenvectors are added as cointegrating vectors in decreasing order of their corresponding eigenvalue. In fact, this is motivated by the fact that these eigenvalues are equal to the squared canonical correlations between  $R_{0,t}$  and  $R_{1,t}$ . This implies that the r first columns of  $\beta$  are such that the linear combination process  $\beta^{\top}X_{t-1}$  is the most correlated with the differentiated process  $\Delta X_t$ , after correcting for the lags  $\Delta X_{t-1},\ldots,\Delta X_{t-(p-1)}$ . Therefore, Johansen's DiCE method aims at finding the cointegrating relationships that are the most likely to be stationary, with this likelihood decreasing in the columns of the cointegrating matrix.

We can naturally obtain a likelihood ratio test statistic for H(r) by dividing (42) by the same function but evaluated at r = k

$$Q(H(r) \mid H(k))^{-2/T} = \frac{\det(S_{00}) \prod_{i=1}^{r} (1 - \hat{\lambda}_i)}{\det(S_{00}) \prod_{i=1}^{k} (1 - \hat{\lambda}_i)}$$

which leads to Johansen's trace statistic

$$\tau(r \mid k) = -2\log Q(H(r) \mid H(k)) = -T \sum_{i=r+1}^{k} \log(1 - \hat{\lambda}_i).$$
 (43)

The trace statistic weakly converges to the trace of the product of matrix stochastic integrals

$$\tau(r \mid k) \stackrel{d}{\to} \operatorname{tr} \left[ \left( \int_0^1 dB \right) B^{\top} \left( \int_0^1 B_u B_u^{\top} du \right) \int_0^1 B dB^{\top} \right], \tag{44}$$

where B is a (k-r)-dimensional Brownian motion.

### 2.2 Infeasibility in High Dimensions

As we know from Section 1.2, the infeasibility of an estimator can arise from the singularity of matrices needed in the computation of the estimator. In the high-dimensional setting, i.e. when the number of variables exceeds the number of available observations, in our case kp > T, the structure of the data has a direct impact on the rank of certain matrices that need to be inverted in the derivation of an estimator.

In Johansen's DiCE problem, there are three square matrices that need to be inverted to compute the estimators of G,  $\alpha$ ,  $\Omega$  as well as of  $\beta$ ; namely,  $M_{22}$ ,  $\beta^{\top}S_{11}\beta$  and  $S_{00}$ . However, the latter two matrices both depend on  $M_{22}$ . Thus, if  $M_{22}$  is singular, none of the estimators can be computed. Here, we show that Johansen's estimation method is even more restrictive in terms of the feasibility space of the dimensionality of the process. Indeed, the k-dimensional VAR(p) estimation is not feasible if T < kp, whereas Johansen's estimation is not feasible if T < k(p-1).

Recall that  $M_{22} = T^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^{T} Z_{2,t} Z_{2,t}^{\top}$  where  $Z_{2,t} \in \mathbb{R}^{k(p-1)}$ . Thus,  $M_{22}$  involves a sum of outer products of the same vectors. This implies that  $\operatorname{rank}\left(Z_{2,t} Z_{2,t}^{\top}\right) = 1$ , which means that  $\operatorname{rank}\left(\sum_{t=1}^{T} Z_{2,t} Z_{2,t}^{\top}\right) = \operatorname{rank}(M_{22}) \leq T$ . However,  $M_{22} \in \mathbb{R}^{k(p-1) \times k(p-1)}$ , such that T < k(p-1) automatically implies that  $\det(M_{22}) = 0$ .

#### 2.3 Trace Statistic Limit Distribution Approximation

Since the limit random variable in (44)

$$W(k-r) = \operatorname{tr}\left[\left(\int_0^1 dB\right) B^{\top} \left(\int_0^1 B_u B_u^{\top} du\right) \int_0^1 B dB^{\top}\right]$$
(45)

is a complicated function of Brownian motions, an analytical distribution does not seem to possibly be derived. Instead, we need to find another discrete approximation that also weakly converges to W(k-r). Then, we use simulation to draw an empirical distribution of that new random variable, which in turn will serve as an approximation for the true distribution of W(k-r).

As Johansen pointed out, the distribution of W(k-r) mainly depends on the dimension of the problem, namely the number of possibly non-stationary components k of the system. As it is implicitly summed up in (44), the limit distribution of  $\tau(r \mid k)$  is the same as that of  $\tau(0 \mid k - r)$ . That is, testing  $H(r) \subset H(k)$  amounts to testing  $H(0) \subset H(k - r)$ , meaning testing  $\Pi = 0$  in

$$\Delta X_t = \Pi X_{t-1} + \epsilon_t$$

where  $\Pi \in \mathbb{R}^{(k-r)\times(k-r)}$ . Thus, under the null, the (k-r)-dimensional system is described by  $\Delta X_t = \epsilon_t$ .

We approximate W(k-r) by

$$\widehat{W}(k-r) = \operatorname{tr}\left[\sum_{t=1}^{T} \epsilon_t X_{t-1}^{\top} \left(\sum_{t=1}^{T} X_{t-1} X_{t-1}^{\top}\right)^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^{T} X_{t-1} \epsilon_t^{\top}\right], \quad (46)$$

where  $\epsilon_t \sim \text{i.i.d.} \ \mathcal{N}_{k-r}(0, I_{k-r})$  and  $X_t = X_0 + \sum_{i=1}^t \epsilon_i$  with  $X_0 = 0$ . For our simulation, we choose T = 2000 for  $k-r=1,\ldots,200$  and proceed to 5000 iterations. Prior simulations that we are aware of all used smaller sample sizes and iterations, with the highest dimension k-r only reaching 11 [12]. Our tabulated quantiles resulting from this simulation can be found on https://jonkq.github.io/research.

### 2.4 Cointegrating Rank Test and Estimator

We can use this table to test hypotheses on H(r). From (43), we see that the trace statistic is a decreasing function of r for fixed  $\hat{\lambda}_i$ , meaning for a given realized process. This can also be observed from the quantiles table, where for a fixed k, rows further down the table correspond to smaller ranks r. More importantly, recall from (29) that a model H(r) contains all antecedent models  $H(0), \ldots, H(r-1)$ , since H(r) expresses the one-tailed hypothesis rank( $\Pi$ )  $\leq r$ . Thus, we can test the null hypothesis rank( $\Pi$ )  $\leq r$  against the alternative hypothesis rank( $\Pi$ ) > r. For a significance level  $0 < \alpha < 1$ , we reject the null if  $\tau(r \mid k) > c_{1-\alpha}(k-r)$ , where the latter represents the  $100(1-\alpha)$ -th percentile of  $\widehat{W}(k-r)$ . If we have an informative prior on r, we can proceed exactly this way to test it. Without any prior, we can use this test successively to construct  $\hat{r}$ , an estimator of r, as such

$$\hat{r} \leftarrow 0$$
while  $\tau(\hat{r} \mid k) > c_{1-\alpha}(k-\hat{r})$  do
 $\hat{r} \leftarrow \hat{r} + 1$ 
end while

where in fact H(r) is tested for increasing r as we reject it until we cannot reject it anymore and  $\hat{r}$  is left at its last value.

## 3 Sparse Direct Cointegration Estimation

The method developed in [14] aims at finding a sparse and direct cointegration estimator based on the VECM. The estimator is sparse in the sense that the  $L^0$ -norm of the cointegrating vectors (columns of  $\beta$ ) is reduced compared to

Johansen's DiCE. It also solves the problem of high-dimensionality rendering Johansen's technique impossible, since it uses regularization.

Consider the VECM in (30) written in matrix notation

$$Z_0 = Z_1 \Pi^{\top} + Z_2 G^{\top} + E \tag{47}$$

where  $Z_i = (Z_{i,1}, \dots, Z_{i,T})^{\top}$ , i = 0, 1, 2 and  $E = (\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_T)^{\top}$ . The negative log-likelihood of (47) is given by (see (15))

$$-\mathcal{L}(Z_0; \Pi, G, \Omega) = -\frac{1}{2} \log(\det(\Omega^{-1}))$$
  
+  $\frac{1}{2T} \operatorname{tr} \left[ (Z_0 - Z_1 \Pi^\top - Z_2 G^\top) \Omega^{-1} (Z_0 - Z_1 \Pi^\top - Z_2 G^\top)^\top \right].$ (48)

Consider now adding a regularizer to each  $\beta$ , G and  $\Omega$  to (48) such as

$$Q_s(\Pi, G, \Omega, \lambda) = -\mathcal{L}(Z_0; \Pi, G, \Omega) + (\|\beta\|_{1,1}, \|G\|_{1,1}, \|\Omega\|_{1,1})\lambda, \tag{49}$$

with  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^3$  and  $\lambda_i > 0$ , i = 1, 2, 3.

The optimization problem thus consists of minimizing (49) with respect to  $\beta$ , G and  $\Omega$ , subject to the constraint  $\Pi = \alpha \beta^{\top}$ . Since three estimators must be found, including the sparse DiCE of  $\beta$ , we must decompose this optimization into three optimizations and iteratively solve and substitute each of them into the others (see [14] for the detailed algorithm).

### 4 Sparse VAR Estimation Methods

This section presents some methods that use regularization in the estimation of VAR models. Once again, the objective of these methods is twofold. As we have seen in Section 1.2, regularization is required in the high-dimensional cases just to produce feasible estimators, or so to say regularize ill-posed inference problems. Additionally, as we will see, regularization generally induces shrinkage, in the sense that the resulting coefficients get closer to zero or equivalently that the effect of variables on other variables is reduced. This second feature of regularization has the advantage that the variance of a shrinkage estimator is usually diminished, though bias might be introduced. The ridge estimator in (23) is a typical example of such estimators.

In this thesis though, our interest lies on regularized estimator that induce sparsity, which goes further than mere shrinkage. This is motivated by the hypothesis of underlying parsimonious interdependence structures in very large systems. In other words, each dependent variable is only affected by a possibly different subset of all independent variables. Of course, in inference problems, a very small estimated coefficient might probably not be significantly different from zero in reality. Thus, forcing such coefficients to be exactly zero might result in improved prediction power.

In the case of VAR models, there are k independent variables, the individual processes in the system, and kp dependent variables, the lagged processes. Thus,

a VAR model contains  $k^2p$  coefficients, the number of elements in  $\Phi$ . If we let a given sparse VAR (sVAR) model  $\mathcal{M}_n$  be characterized solely by the set of pairs of row and column of  $\Phi^{\top}$  corresponding to the non-zero coefficients of  $\mathcal{M}_n$ , then this set can be denoted by  $\mathcal{S}_n \subseteq \mathcal{S} = \{1, \ldots, k\} \times \{1, \ldots, kp\}$ . We know that  $|\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{S})| = 2^{k^2p}$ , which therefore represents the number of possible sVAR models  $\mathcal{M}_n$ ,  $n = 1, \ldots, 2^{k^2p}$ .

This shows that there is a computationally prohibitive number of sVAR models to estimate even for moderate k and p if we were to select the best one based on information criteria. Other methods including forward or backward selection or those involving hypothesis tests on coefficients might prove to be computationally less demanding, though they are rarely optimal in selecting the best model. Therefore, another advantage of sparse estimators using regularization is that they perform estimation as well as model selection simultaneously, resulting in computational gains. We present three different existing methods

#### 4.1 Lasso-VAR

One way of applying lasso to a VAR model is to consider the vectorized form (18) [11]. The lasso estimator  $\Phi_V^{\ell_1}$  is then obtained by minimizing the sum of squared residuals

$$\left\|Y_V - \widetilde{X}\Phi_V\right\|_2^2$$

with respect to  $\Phi_V$ , subject to the constraint

$$\|\Phi_V\|_1 < s, \ s > 0.$$

This estimator resulting from this constrained minimizing problem can be equivalently solved as follows

$$\Phi_V^{\ell_1} = \underset{v \in \mathbb{R}^{k^2 p}}{\arg \min} \ Q_{\ell_1}(v, \lambda), \tag{50}$$

where

$$Q_{\ell_1}(v,\lambda) = \|Y_V - \tilde{X}v\|_2^2 + \lambda \|v\|_1$$
 (51)

for a certain value of the tuning parameter  $\lambda$  depending on the other tuning parameter s. Note that for  $\lambda=0$  or for a sufficiently large s, the lasso estimator is identical to the classical least square estimate (19), or  $\Phi_V^{\ell_1}=\widehat{\Phi}_V$ . As  $\lambda$  increases though, coefficients will be shrunk towards zero, with the least significant ones being forced to exactly zero. As the full model is obtained with  $\lambda=0$ , we obtain the empty model, in which all coefficients equal zero, for a sufficiently large  $\lambda$ . The lasso estimator is usually solved by means of the Least Angle Regression (LARS) algorithm (see [4]).

### 4.2 Regularized Yule-Walker

#### 4.2.1 Yule-Walker Setup

Unlike other estimation methods presented so far, this method introduced in [7] is not based on neither least square nor maximum likelihood problems. Instead, it exploits the Yule-Walker equation for VAR(1) processes which implies that a certain matrix is restricted. Indeed, consider (1) with p=1 for which the stability condition is satisfied such that the process is stationary. This implies that  $X_t \sim \mathcal{N}_k(0, \Sigma_X)$  and  $\mathbb{E}[X_t X_{t-i}^{\top}] = Cov(X_t, X_{t-i}) := \Sigma_{X,i}$ . We can calculate its i-th lag autocovariance by multiplying by  $X_{t-i}$  and taking expectations

$$\begin{split} \mathbb{E}[X_{t}X_{t-i}^{\top}] &= A_{1}\mathbb{E}[X_{t-1}X_{t-i}^{\top}] \\ &= A_{1}\mathbb{E}[(A_{1}X_{t-2} + \epsilon_{t-1})X_{t-i}^{\top}] \\ &= A_{1}^{2}\mathbb{E}[X_{t-2}X_{t-i}^{\top}] \\ &\vdots \\ &= A_{1}^{i}\mathbb{E}[X_{t-i}X_{t-i}^{\top}], \end{split}$$

since  $\mathbb{E}[X_{t-i}\epsilon_t^{\top}] = 0$ , i > 0. The Yule-Walker equation for a VAR(1) process is thus given by

$$\Sigma_{X,i} = A_1^i \Sigma_X, \tag{52}$$

which for i = 1 implies

$$A_1 = \Sigma_{X,1} \Sigma_X^{-1}. \tag{53}$$

To generalize this result to VAR processes of higher orders, the same trick used in the beginning of Section 1 can also be used here to transition from a VAR(p) to a VAR(1) process. Indeed, consider the companion form expressed in (4) where  $\Xi_t \sim \mathcal{N}_{kp}(0, \Sigma_{\Xi})$  and  $\eta_t \sim \mathcal{N}_{kp}(0, \Omega_{\Xi})$  with

$$\Sigma_{\Xi} = \begin{pmatrix} \Sigma_{X} & \Sigma_{X,1} & \cdots & \Sigma_{X,p-1} \\ \Sigma_{X,1} & \Sigma_{X} & \cdots & \Sigma_{X,p-2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \Sigma_{X,p-1} & \Sigma_{X,p-2} & \cdots & \Sigma_{X} \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \Omega_{\Xi} = \begin{pmatrix} \Omega & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (54)

Therefore, the Yule-Walker equation for  $\Xi_t$  evaluated at i=1 is given by

$$A = \Sigma_{\Xi, 1} \Sigma_{\Xi}^{-1}. \tag{55}$$

#### 4.2.2 Sparse Yule-Walker Estimator

To construct an estimator for A, we build on a relation involving A implied by (55), specifically

$$A\Sigma_{\Xi} - \Sigma_{\Xi,1} = 0. \tag{56}$$

Since the population parameters  $\Sigma_{\Xi}$  and  $\Sigma_{\Xi,1}$  are presumably not available, we replace them by their sample analog, respectively

$$S := (T - p + 1)^{-1} \sum_{t=p}^{T} \xi_t \xi_t^{\top} \text{ and } S_1 := (T - p)^{-1} \sum_{t=p+1}^{T} \xi_t \xi_{t-1}^{\top},$$
 (57)

with (56) becoming

$$AS - S_1 = 0.$$
 (58)

Since the parameters of interest are the first k rows of A, or  $\Phi^{\top}$ , we can focus on first k rows of both sides of (58), or the equation

$$\Phi^{\top} S - S_{1 \cdot \mathcal{T}} = 0, \tag{59}$$

where  $S_{1;\mathcal{I}}$  corresponds to the submatrix of  $S_1$  indexed by the rows in  $\mathcal{I} = \{1, \ldots, k\}$ . Then, naturally, we might imagine that a good estimate of  $\Phi^{\top}$  would be one that minimizes a certain norm of the left-hand side matrix in (59), since in the case of the population parameters, this matrix equals zero.

The proposed sparse Yule-Walker estimator (sYWE) of  $\Phi^{\top}$  is

$$\Phi_{\text{sYWE}}^{\top} = \underset{M \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times k_p}}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} \|M\|_{1,1} \text{ s.t. } \|MS - S_{1;\mathcal{I}}\|_{\max} \le \lambda.$$
 (60)

Note that this regularized estimation problem is sort of an inverted problem compared to how regularized estimators are usually structured. Indeed, generally, the loss function to be minimized is the main part of the parameter estimation problem and it is chosen such that the resulting estimator satisfies sought after properties such as unbiasedness or consistency. On the other hand, the regularizer (or the constraint) is what induces the sparsity of the estimator. In the case of the sYWE, the constraint is the main part of the estimation problem whereas the loss function is the inducer of sparsity.

Furthermore, (60) can be equivalently decomposed into sub-problems. Indeed, let  $\Phi_{\text{sYWE; i}}^{\top}$  be the *i*-th row of  $\Phi_{\text{sYWE}}^{\top}$ . Then, each  $\Phi_{\text{sYWE; i}}^{\top}$  can be solved by

$$\Phi_{\text{sYWE; i}}^{\top} = \underset{B_i \in \mathbb{R}^{k_p}}{\text{arg min}} \|B_i\|_1 \text{ s.t. } \|B_i S - S_{1;i}\|_{\infty} \le \lambda, \quad i = 1, \dots, k$$
 (61)

such that  $\Phi_{sYWE}^\top = (\Phi_{sYWE;\;1}, \ldots, \Phi_{sYWE;\;k})^\top.$ 

#### 4.2.3 Linear Program

We now show that the constrained minimization problem in (61) can be expressed as a linear program that can be solved efficiently by the well-known Simplex algorithm. Recall that any  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  can be written as  $a = a^+ - a^-$  where  $a^+ = a\mathbb{1}(a > 0)$  and  $a^- = -a\mathbb{1}(a < 0)$ , so that  $|a| = a^+ + a^-$ . Then, for any  $v = (v_1, \ldots, v_d) \in \mathbb{R}^d$ , let  $v^+ = (v_1^+, \ldots, v_d^+)$  and  $v^- = (v_1^-, \ldots, v_d^-)$ . Moreover, for  $v, w \in \mathbb{R}^d$ , we say that  $v \ge 0$  if  $v_1, \ldots, v_d \ge 0$ ,  $v \le 0$  if  $v_1, \ldots, v_d \le 0$ ,  $v \ge w$ 

if  $v - w \ge 0$  and  $v \le w$  if  $v - w \le 0$ . Considering these notations, it follows that (61) can be written as

$$\Phi_{\text{sYWE; i}}^{\top} = \underset{B_{i}^{+} - B_{i}^{-} \in \mathbb{R}^{k_{p}}}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} (B_{i}^{+} + B_{i}^{-}) \mathbf{1}_{k_{p}} 
\text{s.t. } \|B_{i}^{+} S - B_{i}^{-} S - S_{1;i}\|_{\infty} \leq \lambda, \ B_{i}^{+}, B_{i}^{-} \geq 0, \ i = 1, \dots, k, \quad (62)$$

where  $\mathbf{1}_d = (1, \dots, 1)^{\top} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ . Moreover, since the constraint  $||v||_{\infty} \leq \lambda$  is equivalent to the constraint imposing that all elements of v be less than  $\lambda$  in absolute value, (62) can be further simplified to

$$\Phi_{\text{sYWE; i}}^{\top} = \underset{B_{i}^{+} - B_{i}^{-} \in \mathbb{R}^{k_{p}}}{\arg \min} (B_{i}^{+} + B_{i}^{-}) \mathbf{1}_{kp}$$
s.t. 
$$(B_{i}^{+} S - B_{i}^{-} S - S_{1,i})^{\top} \leq \lambda \mathbf{1}_{kp}$$

$$(-B_{i}^{+} S + B_{i}^{-} S + S_{1,i})^{\top} \leq \lambda \mathbf{1}_{kp}$$

$$B_{i}^{+}, B_{i}^{-} \geq 0, \ i = 1, \dots, k,$$

which is equivalent to

$$\Phi_{\text{sYWE; i}} = \underset{b_{+}^{+} - b_{-}^{-} \in \mathbb{R}^{k_{p}}}{\operatorname{arg \, min}} \, \mathbf{1}_{2kp}^{\top} \omega \quad \text{s.t. } \Lambda + W\omega \ge 0, \tag{63}$$

where  $b_i^+ = (B_i^+)^\top$ ,  $b_i^- = (B_i^-)^\top$ ,

$$\Lambda = \begin{pmatrix} S_{1;i}^\top + \lambda \mathbf{1}_{kp} \\ -S_{1;i}^\top + \lambda \mathbf{1}_{kp} \end{pmatrix}, \ W = \begin{pmatrix} -S & S \\ S & -S \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \omega = \begin{pmatrix} b_i^+ \\ b_i^- \end{pmatrix}.$$

Indeed, the constrained minimization problem in (63) is a linear program which can be solved by the Simplex algorithm.

#### 4.3 PSC-Based sVAR

Another sVAR estimation method which does not rely on neither a multivariate regression model nor on the Yule-Walker equation was introduced in [3]. This method involves the partial spectral coherence (PSC), a function from the frequency-domain of time series, as a statistic for the conditional correlation between two processes. The idea consists of imputing a zero coefficient to pairs not conditionally correlated according to their PSC. In a subsequent step, a refinement based on the significance of estimates is carried out to eliminate remaining potentially spurious non-zero coefficients.

#### 4.3.1 Multivariate Spectral Analysis and PSC

The autocovariance generating function of a k-dimensional process  $X_t$  with an absolutely summable sequence autocovariances  $\{\Sigma_{X;l}\}, l \in \mathbb{Z}, G_X : \mathbb{C} \to \mathbb{C}^{k \times k}$ , is defined as

$$G_X(z) = \sum_{l=-\infty}^{\infty} \Sigma_{X;l} z^l, \tag{64}$$

where  $\Sigma_{X;l} = \mathbb{E}[X_t X_{t-l}^{\top}]$  and  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ . Moreover, the population spectrum of  $X_t$ ,  $S_X : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{C}^{k \times k}$ , is defined as

$$S_X(\omega) = \frac{1}{2\pi} G_X(e^{-i\omega}) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_{l=-\infty}^{\infty} \Sigma_{X;l} e^{-i\omega l}, \tag{65}$$

which is the autocovariance generating function evaluated at  $z=e^{-i\omega}=\cos\omega-i\sin\omega$ ,  $\omega\in\mathbb{R}$ ,  $i=\sqrt{-1}$ , and divided by  $2\pi$ . It follows, the important result

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} S_X(\omega) e^{i\omega j} d\omega = \Sigma_{X;l},\tag{66}$$

showing that the same information is contained in both the autocovariances and the population spectrum, and implying the special case for j=0

$$\Sigma_{X;0} = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} S_X(\omega) d\omega \tag{67}$$

which effectively shows that  $\operatorname{Cov}(X_{i,t},X_{j,t})$  corresponds to the area under the curve of the (i,j) element of  $S_X(\omega)$  on  $[-\pi,\pi]$ . Thus, the *i*-th diagonal element of the multivariate spectrum  $S_X\omega$  corresponds to the univariate spectrum of the scalar process  $X_{i,t}$ . From the theory of univariate spectral analysis, it follows that every diagonal element of  $S_X(\omega)$  is real valued and positive for all  $\omega$ . This does not necessarily apply to off-diagonal elements of  $S_X(\omega)$  which in general are complex numbers. To that, let us denote the (i,j) element of  $S_X(\omega)$  by  $S_{X;i,j}(\omega)$ , representing the population cross spectrum from  $X_{j,t}$  to  $X_{i,t}$ .

As  $X_{i,t}$  and  $X_{j,t}$  denote two individual processes of the system  $X_t$ , let  $X_{-ij,t}$  denote the (k-2)-dimensional sub-system of  $X_t$  excluding  $X_{i,t}$  and  $X_{j,t}$ . We are interested in computing a measure of the correlation between  $X_{i,t}$  and  $X_{j,t}$  adjusted for the linear effect of  $X_{-ij,t}$  on the latter two. Removing the effect of  $X_{-ij,t}$  from  $X_{i,t}$  can be done using linear filters. The optimal linear filter for this task is given by

$$\{D_{l,i}^*\} = \underset{\{D_{l,i} \in \mathbb{R}^{k-2}, l \in \mathbb{Z}\}}{\arg\min} \mathbb{E} \left[ \left( X_{i,t} - \sum_{l=-\infty}^{\infty} D_{l,i} X_{-ij,t-l} \right)^2 \right],$$
 (68)

which in fact represents the set of linear combinations of  $X_{-ij,t}$  summed for all t that best explain  $X_{i,t}$ . The residual process resulting from this optimal linear filter is

$$\varepsilon_{i,t} = X_{i,t} - \sum_{l=-\infty}^{\infty} D_{l,i}^* X_{-ij,t-l}.$$
 (69)

The conditional correlation between  $X_{i,t}$  and  $X_{j,t}$  is simply  $\operatorname{Corr}(\varepsilon_{i,t}, \varepsilon_{j,t})$ , and we say that  $X_{i,t}$  and  $X_{j,t}$  are conditionally uncorrelated corrected for  $X_{-ij,t}$  if and only if  $\operatorname{Corr}(\varepsilon_{i,t}, \varepsilon_{j,t+l}) = 0 \ \forall \ l \in \mathbb{Z}$ . This is equivalent to  $s_{\varepsilon;i,j}(\omega) = 0 \ \forall \ \omega \in [-\pi, \pi]$ , where

$$s_{\varepsilon;i,j}(\omega) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_{l=-\infty}^{\infty} \gamma_{\varepsilon;i,j}(l) e^{-i\omega l}$$
 (70)

denotes the population cross spectrum from  $\varepsilon_{j,t}$  to  $\varepsilon_{i,t}$ , with

$$\gamma_{\varepsilon;i,j}(l) = \text{Cov}(\varepsilon_{i,t}, \varepsilon_{j,t-l}).$$

The PSC between  $X_{i,t}$  and  $X_{j,t}$  is defined as the following scaled cross spectrum between  $\varepsilon_{i,t}$  and  $\varepsilon_{j,t}$ 

$$PSC_{i,j}(\omega) = \frac{s_{\varepsilon;i,j}(\omega)}{\sqrt{s_{\varepsilon;i,i}(\omega)s_{\varepsilon;j,j}(\omega)}}$$
(71)

and can be rewritten as

$$PSC_{i,j}(\omega) = -\frac{R_{X;i,j}(\omega)}{\sqrt{R_{X;i,i}(\omega)R_{X;j,j}(\omega)}},$$
(72)

where  $R_{X;i,j}$  denotes the (i,j) element of  $S_X^{-1}$ . The formulation in (72) is computationally more convenient since it requires only the computation of the system's spectrum and its inversion once for all possible (i,j) pairs, whereas the computation of (71) would require finding different residual cross spectrums for each different pair. Obviously,  $X_{i,t}$  and  $X_{j,t}$  are conditionally uncorrelated if and only if  $R_{X;i,j}(\omega) = 0 \ \forall \ \omega \in [-\pi, \pi]$ .

#### 4.3.2 Sparse PSC Estimator

#### Step 1 - PSC Filtering

We follow the rule

$$A_{l:i,j} = A_{l:j,i} = 0, \ i \neq j, \ l = 1, \dots, p$$
  
if  $PSC_{i,j}(\omega) = PSC_{j,i}(\omega) = 0, \ \forall \ \omega \in [-\pi, \pi],$  (73)

where  $A_{l;i,j}$  denotes the (i,j) element of  $A_l$ . Effectively, if  $A_{l:i,j}$  is set to zero, so is  $A_{l:j,i}$ , since  $R_{X;i,j}$  equals  $R_{X;j,i}$ , meaning that zero coefficients in the transition matrices are set symmetrically. Also, since  $R_{X;i,j}(\omega)$  being constant at zero over all frequencies  $\omega$  implies that  $X_{i,t}$  and  $X_{j,t}$  are conditionally uncorrelated at all lags, we set the (i,j) and (j,i) coefficients to zero in all transition matrices.

However, the PSC being a function of the population spectrum of  $X_t$  solely, the latter must be estimated since it depends on the unavailable population parameters  $\Sigma_{X:l}$ . We estimate  $S_X(\omega)$  as

$$\widehat{S}_X(\omega) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \left[ \widehat{\Sigma}_{X;0} + \sum_{l=1}^{T-1} k_l \left( \widehat{\Sigma}_{X;l} e^{-i\omega l} + \widehat{\Sigma}_{X;l}^{\top} e^{-i\omega l} \right) \right], \tag{74}$$

where  $\widehat{\Sigma}_{X;l} = (T-l)^{-1} \sum_{t=l+1}^T X_t X_{t-l}^{\top}$  and  $k_l = \sin(\nu l)/\nu l$ ,  $\nu \in \mathbb{R}$  is a smoothing kernel. The estimated PSC becomes

$$\widehat{PSC}_{i,j}(\omega) = -\frac{\widehat{R}_{X;i,j}(\omega)}{\sqrt{\widehat{R}_{X;i,i}(\omega)\widehat{R}_{X;j,j}(\omega)}},$$
(75)

where  $\widehat{R}_X = \widehat{S}_X^{-1}$ . Of course, due to sampling variability, the estimate of the PSC of a given pair might not be zero over all frequencies even if the pair is in fact conditionally uncorrelated. Therefore, deprived of distributional knowledge that would allow us to conjecture the significance of an estimated PSC, we simply assume that the farther the estimate is from zero, the less likely is the pair to be conditionally uncorrelated. Though, since the PSC is a function of the frequency  $\omega$ , a statistic quantifying its deviance from zero over multiple frequencies is required. The proposed statistic is

$$\widehat{s}_{i,j} = \max_{x} |\widehat{PSC}_{i,j}(x)|^2, \tag{76}$$

where  $x \in \{2\pi l/T : l = 1, ..., T\}$ . Then, a sequence  $\mathcal{Q}_1$  containing the  $\binom{k}{2} = k(k-1)/2$  distinct pairs is constructed by ordering their associated  $\widehat{s}_{i,j}$  increasingly. As a rule, we impute zero coefficients to the m first elements of  $\mathcal{Q}_1$ , with m effectively being a tuning parameter. The other  $k^2p - 2pm$  non-zero coefficients are estimated by a constrained MLE.

Consider the VAR(p) model represented as in (3) where zero and non-zero coefficients are chosen by the above rule. Then, denote  $\phi = \text{vec}_{k \times kp} (\Phi^{\top})$ , which contains  $n = k^2p - 2pm$  freely varying parameters  $A_{l;i,j}$  and 2pm parameters fixed to zero. The goal is to compute the maximum likelihood estimate of the non-zero coefficients subject to the constraint that the other coefficients must be zero. For this, we rewrite  $\phi$  as

$$\phi = R\gamma,\tag{77}$$

where  $R \in \{0,1\}^{k^2p \times n}$  is the constraint matrix and  $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}^n$  contains only the freely varying coefficients in  $\phi$ . Each row of R contains at most one 1 and at a different column, thus R is of full column rank. As an illustration, consider a simple 2-dimensional sVAR(1) characterized by

$$X_{t} = \begin{pmatrix} A_{1;1,1} & 0 \\ A_{1;2,1} & A_{1;2,2} \end{pmatrix} X_{t-1} + \epsilon_{t}. \tag{78}$$

In this case,  $k^2p = 4$ , m = 1 and n = 3, and  $\phi = R\gamma$  would be given by

$$\begin{pmatrix}
A_{1;1,1} \\
0 \\
A_{1;2,1} \\
A_{1;2,2}
\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}
1 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 1 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 1
\end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix}
A_{1;1,1} \\
A_{1;2,1} \\
A_{1;2,2}
\end{pmatrix}.$$
(79)

It turns out that, under the constraint in (77), the MLE of  $\phi$  and that of  $\Omega = \text{Var}(\epsilon_t)$  are given by (see [9] p. 200)

$$\widehat{\phi} = R \left( R^{\top} (X^{\top} X \otimes \widehat{\Omega}^{-1}) R \right)^{-1} R^{\top} (X^{\top} \otimes \widehat{\Omega}^{-1}) \operatorname{vec}(Y^{\top})$$
 (80)

and 
$$\widehat{\Omega} = (T - p)^{-1} \sum_{t=p+1}^{T} (X_t - \widehat{X}_t)(X_t - \widehat{X}_t)^{\top},$$
 (81)

where  $\widehat{X}_t = \widehat{\Phi}_{PSC}^{\top} \Xi_{t-1}$  with  $\widehat{\Phi}_{PSC}^{\top} = \operatorname{vec}_{k \times kp}^{-1}(\widehat{\phi})$ , and X as well as Y are as given in (14). Since (80) appears in (81) and vice versa, we must iteratively update both with the other's last value until either changes are small enough.

#### Step 2 - refinement

Since the PSC can not be applied to pairs (i,j) when i=j and the first step might leave spurious non-zero coefficients, we proceed to a second step to eliminate those coefficients among the  $k^2p-2pm$  remaining non-zero coefficients  $A_{l;i,j}$ . In this step, a sequence is once again constructed, this time using a statistic measuring the significance of the non-zero parameters estimated in step 1. The statistic used is the absolute value of the t-statistic given by

$$|t_{l;i,j}| = \left| \frac{\widehat{A}_{l;i,j}}{\operatorname{SE}(\widehat{A}_{l;i,j})} \right|, \tag{82}$$

where  $SE(\widehat{A}_{l;i,j})$  is approximated from the asymptotic distribution of the constrained MLE of step 1 (see [9] p. 201)

$$\sqrt{T} \left( \widehat{\phi} - \phi \right) \stackrel{d}{\to} \mathcal{N}_{k^2 p} \left( 0, R \left( R^\top (\Sigma_{\Xi;0} \otimes \Omega^{-1}) R \right)^{-1} R^\top \right)$$
 (83)

by replacing  $\Sigma_{\Xi;0}$  and  $\Omega$  by their MLE. The sequence  $Q_2$  is created by ordering the triplets (l, i, j) increasingly according to their t-statistic in (83). Then, the first q triplets are imputed a zero coefficient as their coefficient are considered to be the less significant, with q thus being a tuning parameter.

## 5 Indirect Cointegration Estimation

As seen so far, all cointegration estimation methods based on Johansen's reduced VECM representation, sparse or non-sparse, are used to estimate the cointegrating matrix  $\beta$  directly. In other words, the cointegrating matrix appears explicitly in the estimation problem and an optimization problem is solved directly with respect to the cointegrating matrix, leading to a direct estimate of it. Indeed, the non-sparse Johansen's DiCE bases itself on the maximization of the likelihood of a reduced rank VECM, in which the long term effect matrix  $\Pi$  is already decomposed as  $\alpha\beta^{\top}$ . Then, as we have seen, the  $\beta$  maximizing this likelihood are the eigenvectors solution to a generalized eigenvalue problem. In the sparse setting, Wilms' DiCE maximizes a constrained penalized likelihood in which the VECM is unrestricted and an  $L^1$  penalty is applied to  $\beta$ , under the constraint  $\Pi = \alpha\beta^{\top}$ . This has the effect that some elements of the cointegrating vectors will be estimated as zero.

In this thesis, we introduce a new technique to estimate the cointegrating matrix indirectly. The indirect cointegration estimation (ICE) consists of first estimating a VAR model and then rewriting it as VECM with the estimated VAR transition matrices. This gives an estimate for  $\Pi$ , which due to sampling

variability, will not necessarily be of the rank of interest r < k. For this reason, we proceed to a low-rank approximation of  $\Pi$ , for a chosen rank r,  $\widetilde{\Pi}$ , such that rank( $\widetilde{\Pi}$ ) = r. Then, to obtain the cointegrating matrix,  $\widetilde{\Pi}$  is factorized as  $AB^{\top}$  such that B corresponds to the cointegrating matrix.

The ICE technique can be applied to both the sparse or the non-sparse setting. In the non-sparse setting, this technique would be an indirect analogue to Johansen's DiCE. In the sparse setting though, the ICE is not an analogue of Wilms' DiCE since there is no guarantee that the ICE cointegrating vectors contain zero coefficients. Indeed, the inherent hypothesis of the ICE is that the underlying VAR structure is sparse, meaning that the transition matrices contain zero coefficients. This does not imply that zero coefficients are present in the cointegrating matrix.

### 5.1 Low-Rank Approximation

Consider the VAR(p) in (1) and the estimated transition matrices  $\widehat{A}_1, \ldots, \widehat{A}_p$ , from any estimator. The estimated VECM (as in (25)) resulting from this VAR estimation is characterized by the following parameters

$$\widehat{\Pi} = -I_k + \sum_{i=1}^p \widehat{A}_i, \quad \widehat{\Gamma}_i = -\sum_{j=i+1}^p \widehat{A}_j.$$
(84)

We wish to find a matrix  $\widetilde{\Pi}_r \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times k}$  of rank r which is the closest to  $\widehat{\Pi}$  in the sense of some matrix norm. One way to formulate this problem can be as follows

$$\widetilde{\Pi}_r = \underset{D \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times k}}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} \left\| \widehat{\Pi} - D \right\|_{\mathcal{F}} \text{ s.t. } \operatorname{rank}(D) = r.$$
(85)

The Frobenius norm is convenient in this case since this constrained optimization has an explicit solution, provided by the Eckart-Young-Mirsky theorem. The theorem tells us that the solution of (85) stems directly from the singular value decomposition of the matrix we want to approximate,  $\widehat{\Pi}$ . Indeed, let

$$\widehat{\Pi} = U \Sigma V^{\top} \tag{86}$$

be the singular value decomposition of  $\widehat{\Pi}$ . We know that  $\Sigma = \operatorname{diag}(\sigma_1, \ldots, \sigma_k)$  with  $\sigma_1 > \ldots > \sigma_k$  being the singular values of  $\widehat{\Pi}$ . Also, the number of non-zero singular values corresponds to the rank of  $\widehat{\Pi}$ . The theorem states that

$$\widetilde{\Pi}_r = U\widetilde{\Sigma}V^{\top},\tag{87}$$

where

$$\widetilde{\Sigma} = \begin{pmatrix} \Sigma_r & 0\\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \tag{88}$$

with  $\Sigma_r = \operatorname{diag}(\sigma_1, \ldots, \sigma_r)$ , is such that

$$\left\|\widehat{\Pi} - \widetilde{\Pi}_r\right\|_{F} = \min_{\text{rank}(D)=r} \left\|\widehat{\Pi} - D\right\|_{F} = \sqrt{\sum_{i=r+1}^{k} \sigma_i}.$$
 (89)

#### 5.2 Rank Factorization

Now that we have an approximation of  $\widehat{\Pi}$  which is of rank r, we can easily decompose it as the reduced VECM form of Johansen requires to retrieve the cointegrating matrix. Indeed,  $\operatorname{rank}(\widetilde{\Pi}_r) = r$  so that it permits the factorization of the form  $\widetilde{\Pi}_r = AB^{\top}$ , where  $A, B \in R^{k \times r}$ .

To do so, let F be the reduced row echelon form of  $\widetilde{\Pi}_r$ . Then, A is the submatrix of  $\widetilde{\Pi}_r$  that does not contain the columns which are not pivot columns of F, and  $B^{\top}$  is the sub-matrix of F that does not contain the rows comprised of only zeros. Therefore, B is the cointegrating matrix stemming from the ICE.

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### A 1

We show here that  $(\Phi^*) = \widehat{\Phi}$  where

$$\left(\Phi^*\right)^{\top} = \left(\left(X^{\top}X\right)^{-1}X^{\top}Y\right)^{\top} = Y^{\top}X\left(X^{\top}X\right)^{-1} \quad \text{and}$$

$$\widehat{\Phi}^{\top} = \left(\sum_{t=1}^{T} x_t \xi_{t-1}^{\top}\right) \left(\sum_{t=1}^{T} \xi_{t-1} \xi_{t-1}^{\top}\right)^{-1}.$$

Indeed,

$$Y = \begin{pmatrix} x_1^\top \\ x_2^\top \\ \vdots \\ x_T^\top \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad X = \begin{pmatrix} \xi_0^\top \\ \xi_1^\top \\ \vdots \\ \xi_{T-1}^\top \end{pmatrix},$$

$$T \times k$$

$$T \times kp$$

such that

$$Y^{\top}X = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & \cdots & x_T \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \xi_0^{\top} \\ \xi_1^{\top} \\ \vdots \\ \xi_{T-1}^{\top} \end{pmatrix} = \sum_{t=1}^{T} x_t \xi_{t-1}^{\top} \quad \text{and} \quad$$

$$X^{\top}X = \begin{pmatrix} \xi_0 & \xi_1 & \cdots & \xi_{T-1} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \xi_0^{\top} \\ \xi_1^{\top} \\ \vdots \\ \xi_{T-1}^{\top} \end{pmatrix} = \sum_{t=1}^{T} \xi_{t-1} \xi_{t-1}^{\top}$$

### B 2

We show here that  $\widehat{\Omega} = \Omega^*$  where

$$\widehat{\Omega} = T^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \widehat{\epsilon_t} \widehat{\epsilon_t}^{\top}, \quad \Omega^* = T^{-1} Y^{\top} P Y$$
(90)

with

$$\widehat{\epsilon_t} = x_t - \widehat{\Phi}^\top \xi_{t-1}, \quad P = I_T - X \left( X^\top X \right)^{-1} X^\top,$$

$$Y = \begin{pmatrix} x_1^\top \\ x_2^\top \\ \vdots \\ x_T^\top \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad X = \begin{pmatrix} \xi_0^\top \\ \xi_1^\top \\ \vdots \\ \xi_{T-1}^\top \end{pmatrix}.$$

Indeed,

$$\Omega^* = T^{-1}Y^{\top}PY = T^{-1}[Y^{\top}Y - Y^{\top}X(X^{\top}X)^{-1}X^{\top}Y]$$

and

$$\begin{split} \widehat{\Omega} &= T^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \widehat{\epsilon_{t}} \widehat{\epsilon_{t}}^{\top} \\ &= T^{-1} \left[ \sum_{t=1}^{T} \left( x_{t} - \widehat{\Phi}^{\top} \xi_{t-1} \right) \left( x_{t}^{\top} - \xi_{t-1}^{\top} \widehat{\Phi} \right) \right] \\ &= T^{-1} \left[ \sum_{t=1}^{T} x_{t} x_{t}^{\top} - \left( \sum_{t=1}^{T} x_{t} \xi t - 1^{\top} \right) \widehat{\Phi} - \widehat{\Phi}^{\top} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \xi_{t-1} x_{t}^{\top} \right. \\ &+ \left. \widehat{\Phi}^{\top} \left( \sum_{t=1}^{T} \xi_{t-1} \xi_{t-1}^{\top} \right) \widehat{\Phi} \right] \\ &= T^{-1} \left[ Y^{\top} Y - Y^{\top} X \widehat{\Phi} - \widehat{\Phi}^{\top} X^{\top} Y + \widehat{\Phi}^{\top} X^{\top} X \widehat{\Phi} \right] \\ &= T^{-1} \left[ Y^{\top} Y - Y^{\top} X \left( X^{\top} X \right)^{-1} X^{\top} Y - Y^{\top} X \left( X^{\top} X \right)^{-1} X^{\top} Y \right. \\ &+ Y^{\top} X \left( X^{\top} X \right)^{-1} X^{\top} X \left( X^{\top} X \right)^{-1} X^{\top} Y \right] \\ &= T^{-1} \left[ Y^{\top} Y - Y^{\top} X \left( X^{\top} X \right)^{-1} X^{\top} Y \right] \end{split}$$