

Econometrics Qualifying Exam - Retake  
July 8, 2019

**Answer all 5 questions**

Show work fully and write neatly. Good luck

1. Imagine you estimate a model for farm income:

$$Y_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 Y_{t-1} + \beta_2 G_t + u_t$$

where  $u_t$  is a random shock and  $G_t$  is government farm subsidies. You estimate that  $\beta_2$  is positive and statistically significant at  $\alpha=0.05$ .

What does this say about whether government farm subsidies can be used to boost farm income? Use a combination of statistical theory, mathematics and verbal explanation to fully justify your answer. Provide at least three reasons why this claim might be misleading.

2. For each of the following models, state which of the three classical tests (likelihood ratio test, Lagrange multiplier test, Wald test) would be best for testing the null hypothesis stated next to the model. Then show the steps to performing the test and the form of the test that would be used. Assume  $n = 300$ ,  $\beta$  is  $(k \times 1)$  where  $k > 5$ , and  $\beta_i$  is the  $i$ th element of  $\beta$ .

a)  $y = X\beta + e$        $H_0: \beta_2 \beta_1 = 2$

b)  $y = (X\beta + Z\gamma + e)^\theta$        $H_0: \theta = 1$

c)  $y = X\beta + Z\gamma + e$        $H_0: \beta = 0$

3. The following regression was estimated from 16 quarterly observations (t ratios in parentheses):

$$Y_t = 70.7 \quad -0.90 X_t \quad +0.43 S_{1t} \quad + 6.55 S_{2t} \quad - 2.83 S_{3t}$$
$$(3.7) \quad (0.27) \quad (3.37) \quad (3.40) \quad (3.37)$$

$$R^2 = 0.68 \quad n = 16$$

where  $S_{it} = 1$  in the  $i^{th}$  quarter and is zero otherwise. Explain the implied pattern of seasonal variation and interpret the result in a paragraph.

4. Detail all the steps involved in testing the hypothesis below for the linear regression model  $y = X\beta + e$ , where  $X = (50 \times 6)$  for two cases.

$$H_0: x_3\beta_3 + x_4\beta_4 = 0 \quad H_a: x_3\beta_3 + x_4\beta_4 \neq 0$$

case 1: You can assume that the errors are iid normal with zero mean.

case 2: The errors are not normally distributed.

- 5.
- a. List all the assumptions of the classical linear regression model,
  - b. describe what properties and/or benefits the OLS estimator and econometrician gain from each assumption, and
  - c. describe what happens to the properties or usefulness of the OLS estimator if each of assumptions is violated.

Econometrics Qualifying Exam

May 24, 2019

**Answer all questions.** Show work fully and write neatly. Good luck.

1. Let  $X_1, X_2, X_3$  be independent, identically distributed random variables from a population with mean  $\mu$  and variance  $\sigma^2$ . The average of these three random variables can be denoted

$$\bar{X} = (X_1 + X_2 + X_3)/3$$

- a. Find the expected value and variance of  $\bar{X}$ , in terms of  $\mu$  and  $\sigma^2$ .
  - b. Show that  $\bar{W}$  is also an unbiased estimator of  $\mu$ :
- $$\bar{W} = \frac{X_1}{6} + \frac{X_2}{6} + \frac{2X_3}{3}$$
- c. Show that  $\bar{W}$  is a less efficient estimator of  $\mu$  than  $\bar{X}$ .
  2. You are interested in  $y$ 's data generating process, and you estimate the following model, stated in matrix notation, via OLS:  $y = X\beta + \varepsilon$ . But the true process is:  $y = X\beta + Z\delta + \varepsilon$ 
    - a. Can your OLS estimate generate an unbiased estimator for  $\beta$ ? If so, state the necessary conditions.
    - b. State the expression for any bias in the OLS estimator.
    - c. Is the OLS estimator consistent, if the conditions for unbiasedness in (a) are not met? Show why or why not.
    - d. Can instrumental variables be used to solve the problem in (c)? Show why or why not and state any necessary assumptions. Would the instrumental variables estimator be biased? Show why or why not.

3. You wish to test the causal effect of  $X$  on  $y$  and are worried about two possible confounding variables:  $w_1$  and  $w_2$ . All three variables ( $X$ ,  $w_1$ , and  $w_2$ ) have effects on  $y$ .  $X$  and  $w_1$  are correlated,  $w_1$  and  $w_2$  are correlated, but  $X$  and  $w_2$  are independent. Which regressions will give you the correct statistical inference for your hypothesis:

- a.  $y = [X \ w_1 \ w_2] \beta_I + \varepsilon_I$
- b.  $y = X\beta_2 + \varepsilon_2$
- c.  $y = [X \ w_1] \beta_3 + \varepsilon_3$
- d.  $y = [X \ w_2] \beta_4 + \varepsilon_4$

Explain your answer fully.

4. You have a model  $y = X\theta + v$  where  $X$  is (100 x 7). The error term is likely heteroscedastic.
- If you are unsure of the pattern to the heteroscedasticity what is the best way to proceed?
  - If you correct for the heteroscedasticity using GLS, but incorrectly (with the wrong pattern), what are the properties of the resulting estimator?
  - Is it possible for the wrong heteroscedasticity correction to make things worse than OLS? In your answer make sure you define “worse.”
5. Consider the following linear population regression model  
 $y_i = \beta x_i^* + \epsilon_i$ , where  $y_i$  is the dependent variable,  $x_i^*$  is *true* but unobserved regressor of interest, and  $\epsilon_i$  is the residual. Assume the means of all variables have been subtracted off, so there is no need for an intercept term. The observed variable is  $x_i$  and is related to the true variable  $x_i^*$  by  $x_i \equiv x_i^* + \eta_i$ . The error in observation  $\eta_i$  has mean zero and is uncorrelated with  $x_i^*$  and with  $\epsilon_i$ .
- Show the bias in  $\hat{\beta}_{ols}$  if you use OLS and substitute  $x_i$  for  $x_i^*$  in the above regression.
  - Suppose you are given another variable  $z_i$  that is strongly correlated with  $x_i^*$ , uncorrelated with  $\eta_i$ , and not a determinant of  $y_i$  by itself. Will  $z_i$  help you get a consistent estimate of  $\beta$ ? Please explain.
  - Now, suppose  $x_i^*$  is observed and perfectly measured by the econometrician, but  $y_i$  is measured with an error. What would happen to  $\hat{\beta}_{ols}$  under this new scenario?

Econometrics Qualifying Exam

May 24, 2019

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- a.  $y = [X \ w_1 \ w_2] \beta_I + \varepsilon_I$
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- c.  $y = [X \ w_1] \beta_3 + \varepsilon_3$
- d.  $y = [X \ w_2] \beta_4 + \varepsilon_4$

Explain your answer fully.

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  - Now, suppose  $x_i^*$  is observed and perfectly measured by the econometrician, but  $y_i$  is measured with an error. What would happen to  $\hat{\beta}_{ols}$  under this new scenario?

## **Quantitative Methods Qualifying Exam**

AAEC, UGA

*May 17, 2018*

Instructions:

- Answer all five questions.
- Begin each of the five questions with a new sheet of paper.
- Label your work with your ID number, NOT your name.
- To the extent possible, make your work easy to follow.

Good luck!!!

1. You have a simple, linear regression model,  $y = X\beta + e$ . You “know” that the error term is distributed according to the following process:

$$e_t = \gamma + \rho e_{t-1} + \lambda x_{3t} + u_t$$

where  $u_t \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$ ,  $x_3$  is the third variable in the  $X$  matrix,  $t = 1, 2, \dots, 50$  denotes time-ordered observations, and the regressor matrix  $X$  is full-column rank with 5 columns.

Show detailed steps that should be followed to arrive at consistent estimates of  $\beta$ .

2. Consider the following instrumental variable equation setup:

$$y_i = x_i\beta + \varepsilon_i$$

$$x_i = z_i\delta + \nu_i$$

where we have the following assumptions:

- The vector  $(z_i, \nu_i, \varepsilon_i)$  is i.i.d.
- $E[z_i, \nu_i] = 0$
- $E[z_i^2] = \sigma_z^2 \in (0, \infty)$ .

Define the IV estimator as:

$$b_{IV} = \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n z_i x_i \right)^{-1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n z_i y_i$$

- (a) Is  $b_{IV}$  consistent? Prove your conclusion.
- (b) Is  $b_{IV}$  precisely estimated? Prove your conclusion.

3. For every  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , assume that:

$$y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i + \varepsilon_i$$

Using  $n = 100$  observations of  $\{y_i, x_i\}_{i=1}^n$ , a researcher (Hairy) estimates the following coefficients:

$$(b_0, b_1), (\hat{\sigma}_{b_0}, \hat{\sigma}_{b_1}), R^2, s^2$$

Suppose that another researcher (Dawg), is replicating Hairy's analysis. Dawg attempts to run the same regression that Hairy ran, but accidentally enters each observation twice. The new dataset has 200 observations, with the second  $n = 100$  observations an exact repeat of the first 100 observations. Suppose that Dawg realizes his mistake, but no longer has access to a statistical package to run the regression again. How can Dawg compare his results to the results obtained by Hairy? Obtain closed form solutions for the following estimates that Dawg obtained, based on the esimates that Hairy obtained:

- (a)  $(b_0, b_1)$  (i.e., the coefficient estimates),
- (b)  $s^2$  (i.e., the regression standard error),
- (c)  $(\hat{\sigma}_{b_0}, \hat{\sigma}_{b_1})$  (i.c., the standard errors of the coefficient estimates),
- (d)  $R^2$ .

Note whether the estimates are the same or different. If they are different, state how they are different.

4. Consider the following regression model:  $y_i = \beta x_{1i} + \gamma x_{2i} + \varepsilon_i$ , where  $y$ ,  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$ , and  $\varepsilon$  are random variables (scalars) with the following properties:

- $E[x_{1i}] = 0$  and  $E[x_{2i}] = 0$
- $0 < E[x_{1i}^2] < 1$  and  $0 < E[x_{2i}^2] < 1$
- $E[x_{1i}x_{2i}] = 0$
- $E[\varepsilon_i|x_{1i}; x_{2i}] = 0$
- $E[\varepsilon_i^2|x_{1i}; x_{2i}] = \sigma^2$

Suppose you have drawn an i.i.d. sample of size  $n$  from the model above.

- (a) Consider  $b_{OLS,full}$ , the OLS estimator of  $\beta$  obtained from the regression of  $y_i$  on  $x_{1i}$  and  $x_{2i}$ . Prove that  $b_{OLS,full}$  is a consistent estimator for  $\beta$ .
- (b) Now consider  $b_{OLS,small}$ , the OLS estimator of  $\beta$  obtained from the regression of  $y_i$  on just  $x_{1i}$ . Prove that  $b_{OLS,small}$  is a consistent estimator for  $\beta$ .
- (c) Find the correct expressions for the variance of both  $b_{OLS,full}$  and  $b_{OLS,small}$ .
- (d) Show that  $Var(b_{OLS,full}) < Var(b_{OLS,small})$ .
- (e) How should your result from part (d) be interpreted?

5. For decades, it had been assumed that addictions or habits are myopic in the sense that the consumer does not recognize the impact of his or her current decision on future health and preferences. The theory of rational addiction by Gary Becker and Kevin Murphy breaks from this tradition and hypothesizes that consumers can be forward-looking (i.e., rational) even when consuming addictive or habit-forming goods such as cigarettes and alcohol. This theory, if supported by data, has important implications for public policies such as tobacco control and war on drugs.

Using cigarettes as an example, the model of rational addiction suggests the following demand relationship:

$$y_t = \alpha + \beta_1 y_{t+1} + \beta_2 p_t + \beta_3 y_{t-1} \quad (1)$$

where  $y_t$ ,  $y_{t+1}$ , and  $y_{t-1}$  are the number of cigarettes smoked at time  $t$ ,  $t + 1$ , and  $t - 1$ , respectively;  $p_t$  is cigarette price at  $t$ . The parameters  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_3$  measure the degree of forward-looking behavior and the degree of habits, respectively. There is no residual in the theoretical relationship shown in the model above because it assumes perfect foresight such that the level of  $y_{t+1}$  is known with certainty at time  $t$ . In the United States, state and federal excise taxes account for 43% of cigarette retail price. In addition, the level of state cigarette tax varies substantially across states and tax changes are known months before they are effective.

- (a) When applying equation 1 to longitudinal data on smoking, a residual term must be added, and  $y_{t+1}$  is no longer known with certainty at  $t$ . How would you estimate the parameters of equation 1?
- (b) Next, assume you estimate  $\beta_1$  to be near-zero and statistically insignificant. Derive the short-run and long-run price elasticity of cigarette smoking.
- (c) How is the consistency of the OLS estimator dependent on the time-series property of the residual? Explain using math and intuition.

Econometrics Qualifying Exam  
May 18, 2017

Answer all questions. Show work fully and write neatly. Good luck.

1. Answer the following questions.
  - a. What does it mean for an estimator to be BLUE?
  - b. Under what data generating process is OLS BLUE?
  - c. Generalized Least Squares (GLS) extends the OLS estimator to be BLUE in what setting?
  - d. True, Partly True, or False: GLS is to OLS as the Generalized Method of Moments is to the Method of Moments. Explain.
2. You have a simple linear demand model for cigarette at the product level:

$$\ln Q_{ijt} = \alpha_i + \beta_i \ln p_{ijt} + \varepsilon_{ijt},$$

where  $Q_{ijt}$  and  $p_{ijt}$  are the quantity and per pack price of cigarette product  $i$  (e.g., full strength Marlboro in pack, light Marlboro in carton, etc.) in state  $j$  in year  $t$ , respectively. You have sales data on 121 products from 48 contiguous states for 10 years. You also have data on the attributes of each cigarette product (e.g., tar level, whether it is mentholated, premium vs. generic, etc.). Suppose you have applied the proper econometric technique to obtain consistent estimates of the coefficients. Let  $\hat{\beta}$  be the  $121 \times 1$  column vector of slope coefficient estimates whose  $i$ th element is  $\hat{\beta}_i$ ; and  $\Omega$  be the  $121 \times 121$  matrix of variance-covariance matrix for  $\hat{\beta}$ .

With the above empirical results in hand, you are asked to investigate whether the product-level price elasticities are statistically associated with product attributes. Describe how you would proceed with your analysis? Would OLS work best in this case? If not, what is a better alternative estimator and why?

3. Assume a linear regression model that accurately represents the true data generating process:

$$y_t = \beta_0 + x_1\beta_1 + x_2\beta_2 + x_3\beta_3 + \varepsilon_t \quad \text{where } \varepsilon_t \sim N(0, \sigma^2).$$

You have some information, from economic theory, that guides you toward likely values of  $\beta_2$  and  $\beta_3$ .

- a) Show how to estimate the model if the values of  $\beta_2$  and  $\beta_3$  are restricted to  $b_2$  and  $b_3$ .
- b) Compare the restricted estimator to the OLS estimator and describe fully when one is preferable to the other and how you propose to measure “preferable.”

4. Consider two non-nested models:

$$(M1) \quad y_1 = X\beta + \varepsilon \quad \text{and} \quad (M2) \quad y_2 = Z\theta + \omega$$

- a) How would you go about choosing between these two non-nested models if they had the same dependent variable ( $y_1 = y_2$ )?
- b) What would you do if  $y_1 = \ln(y_2)$ ?

5. Consider the model

$$\begin{aligned} y_i &= y_i^* \times \mathbb{I}\{y_i^* \geq 0\} \\ y_i^* &= \alpha + \beta x_i + \varepsilon_i \\ \varepsilon_i &\sim N(0, \sigma^2) \end{aligned}$$

where you observe i.i.d. realizations of  $(y_i, x_i)$  and  $\mathbb{I}$  is an indicator function that equals 1 when the term in the  $\{\}$ s is true. Assume that  $x_i$  has full support.

- a. Which of  $(\alpha, \beta, \sigma)$  are identified? Explain.
- b. How would the answer to part a change if we only observed  $(\mathbb{I}\{y_i^* \geq 0\}, x_i)$ ?
- c. A researcher attempts to estimate  $(\alpha, \beta)$  by running an OLS regression of  $y_i$  on  $x_i$ . Explain why the estimator is biased. What is the sign of the bias?

Econometrics Qualifying Exam Retake

July 20, 2016

**Answer all questions.** Show work fully and write neatly. Good luck.

1. For the model  $y = X\beta + \varepsilon$ ,
  - a. list all the assumptions that make it the classic linear model.
  - b. of those assumptions, explain which one if violated causes the fewest problems and how would you address the violation of that assumption (provide full details).
  - c. of those assumptions, explain which one if violated causes the most or hardest problems and how would you address the violation of that assumption (provide full details).
2. You want to estimate a demand model for a consumer good with several substitutes. You have data on the quantity purchased each week for three years for the good to be modeled, along with prices for that good and four substitutes. You also have consumer income data. Economic theory tells us that the sum of the own and cross price elasticities plus the income elasticity should be zero (i.e., if all prices and incomes double, demand is unchanged). Describe in detail how to specify a demand model and test this restriction implied by economic theory.
3. An experiment was performed in the Georgia State Prison in which inmates in one cell block were randomly assigned to a vocational program or not. In another cell block inmates were allowed to voluntarily enroll in the vocational program. The inmates were followed for three years after release and those inmates in the mandatory vocational program had similar recidivism rates as those in the general prison population whereas those in the voluntary vocational program had much lower rates of recidivism. Explain.
4. Consider the estimated regression model  $y = X\hat{\beta} + \hat{u}$  where  $y$  is  $(nx1)$ ,  $X$  is  $(nxk)$ ,  $\hat{\beta}$  is  $(kx1)$  and  $\hat{u}$  is  $(nx1)$ . Given that  $y_o$  is the (scalar) value to be taken by  $y$  given  $x_o$   $(1xk)$ ,  $\hat{y}_o = x_o\hat{\beta}$  is the predicted value of  $y$  given  $x_o$ , and  $\hat{u}_o = y_o - \hat{y}_o$ :
  - a) Show that  $E[\hat{u}_o] = 0$ ,
  - b) Derive  $\text{Var}[\hat{u}_o]$ ,
  - c) Identify any necessary assumptions and then show how the above can be used to construct a  $(1-\alpha)$  confidence interval for  $y_o$ ,
  - d) Identify the value of  $x_o$  at which that confidence interval would be the narrowest.
5. Suppose that the regression model is:  $y_i = \mu + u_i$ , where  $y_i$  and  $u_i$  are random variables,  $\mu$  is a constant parameter,  $E[u_i|x_i] = 0$ ,  $\text{cov}[u_i, u_j | x_i, x_j] = 0$  for  $i \neq j$ , and  $\text{var}[u_i | x_i] = \sigma^2 x_i^{-2}$ ,  $x_i > 0$ .
  - a) Given a sample of observations on  $Y_i$  and  $X_i$ , what is the most efficient estimator of  $\mu$ ? What is its variance?
  - b) What is the OLS estimator of  $\mu$ ? What is its variance?
  - c) Prove that the estimator in part a) is at least as efficient as the estimator in part b).
  - d) Discuss and compare the asymptotic properties of these two alternative estimators of  $\mu$ .

Econometrics Qualifying Exam  
May 22, 2015

Please answer all questions, show work fully and write neatly. Good luck.

1. Discuss the properties of the OLS estimator for the model parameters and standard errors in the presence of stochastic regressors (i.e., explanatory variables that are not fixed in repeated sampling). Assume the stochastic regressors are uncorrelated with the error term.

2. Consider the following estimator for a linear model  $y = X\beta + u$ :

$$\hat{B} = (Z'X)^{-1}Z'y$$

where  $Z$  is a conformable matrix of exogenous variables different from but highly correlated with those in  $X$  but uncorrelated with  $u$ .

- a. Compare the properties of this estimator versus OLS.
  - b. Discuss under which conditions this estimator would be preferred to OLS.
  - c. What would be the impact of the level of correlation between  $Z$  and  $X$  on the estimator properties (please explain your answer)?
- 
3. Consider the time series linear regression model  $y=X\beta + u$  where  $y$  is a  $T \times 1$  vector and  $X$  is a  $T \times k$  matrix of conditioning variables. The  $t^{\text{th}}$  observation is given by  $y_t = x_t\beta + u_t$ , where  $x_t$  is a  $1 \times k$  vector. Assume that  $u_t = \rho u_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t$  and that  $\text{var}(u_t) = \sigma_u^2$  for all  $t$ ;  $\text{var}(\varepsilon_t) = \sigma_\varepsilon^2$  for all  $t$ ; and  $E(u_{t-s}\varepsilon_t) = 0$  for all  $s \geq 1$ . Furthermore  $|\rho| < 1$ .
    - a. Write  $V(u)$  in terms of  $\sigma_\varepsilon^2$ .
    - b. Show the general form of  $E(uu')$ .
    - c. Given your result in (a) propose a GLS (generalized least squares) estimator for this model.
    - d. Show that by quasi-differencing the data by  $\rho$  (where the quasi-differenced form of  $z_t$  is given by  $z_t - \rho z_{t-1}$ ) that the autocorrelation problem is fixed.

4. A survey of 200 households each of which had exactly two children in an Indian state recorded the number of boy children. 40 households had no boy child, 100 households had one boy child, and 60 households had two boy children. Let the number of boys in each category be denoted by  $n_0=40$ ,  $n_1=100$ , and  $n_2=60$  and assume that the numbers of boys in a two-child family are binomially distributed. The binomial probability mass function has the general form

$$P(Y = y) = \frac{m!}{y!(m-y)!} \pi^y (1-\pi)^{m-y} \quad \text{where } y=0, 1, \dots, m \text{ and } 0 < \pi < 1$$

Note that in the present context,  $\pi$  is the probability of a boy in any given trial (birth) and that for each household in the data set the number of trials is  $m=2$ .

- a. Write the probability of observing exactly one boy child in a household.

- b. The maximum likelihood estimator of  $\pi$  is

$$\pi^* = \frac{0.5n_1 + n_2}{n_0 + n_1 + n_2} \quad \text{and the observed Hessian is}$$

$$H(\pi^*) = -(1 - \pi^*)^{-2}(2n_0 + n_1) - (\pi^*)^{-2}(n_1 + 2n_2)$$

Calculate and report the maximum likelihood estimator of  $\pi$  and its associated standard error.

- c. Formally set up and provide a Wald test of the hypothesis that  $\pi=0.5$  at the  $\alpha=0.05$  level of significance.
- d. Note that the likelihood function for the 200 household sample can be written

$$\ell = 2n_0 \ln(1 - \pi) + [\ln 2 + \ln \pi + \ln(1 - \pi)]n_1 + 2n_2 \ln \pi$$

Formally set up and provide a likelihood ratio test of the hypothesis that  $\pi=0.5$  at the  $\alpha=0.05$  level of significance.

5. You estimate a linear regression model of the form  $y = X\beta + \varepsilon$  using  $nT$  observations of pooled cross-section time-series data detailing household purchases of food with  $n=1000$  households observed over  $T=20$  years. Explain,

- a. How you would estimate the model, providing specific detail on the methods with special attention to your assumptions about error structure.
- b. What diagnostic test you would want to perform on your estimated models, providing specific detail on how to carry out those tests.

Quantitative Methods Preliminary Examination  
Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics  
July 15, 2014

Answer all parts of all questions. Show intermediate steps where appropriate and make your work easy for the graders to follow. Relax and good luck.

1. An econometrician estimates the following equation for output:

$$Y_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 Y_{t-1} + \beta_2 M_t + u_t$$

where  $u_t$  is a random shock and  $M_t$  is some policy variable, say money growth. The econometrician estimates that  $\beta_2$  is significantly positive.

- a. What does this say about policy effectiveness?
- b. Could  $\beta_2$  be estimated as positive even if the policy is ineffective? Use a combination of statistical theory, mathematics and verbal explanation to fully justify your answer.

2. Consider the linear regression model  $y = X\beta + \varepsilon$  where  $X$  is a  $(t \times k)$  matrix which is fixed in repeated samples and  $\varepsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2 \Omega)$  with  $\Omega$  known. Show that  $\widehat{\beta}_{GLS}$  is the MLE for  $\beta$  and that  $\widehat{\sigma}^2 = (1/T)(y - X\widehat{\beta}_{GLS})\Omega^{-1}(y - X\widehat{\beta}_{GLS})$  is the MLE of  $\sigma^2$ .
3. At your next job, suppose you have estimated a model:

$$y = \beta_1 + \ln(x)\beta_2 + \ln(z)\beta_3 + \varepsilon.$$

Your boss disagrees and suggest running the model without logging the regressors. Describe a formal hypothesis tests of whether your functional form is appropriate, complete with null hypothesis, test statistics, steps involved in computing the test, etc.

Quantitative Methods Preliminary Examination  
Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics  
July 15, 2014

4. The following regression was estimated from 16 quarterly observations (t ratios in parentheses):

$$Y_t = 70.7 - 0.90X_t + 0.43S_{1t} + 6.55 S_{2t} - 2.83 S_{3t}$$
$$(3.7) \quad (0.27) \quad (3.37) \quad (3.40) \quad (3.37)$$

$$R^2 = 0.68 \quad n = 16$$

where  $S_{it} = 1$  in the  $i^{th}$  quarter and is zero otherwise. Explain the implied pattern of seasonal variation and interpret the result in a paragraph.

5. Detail all the steps involved in testing the hypothesis below for the linear regression model  $y = X\beta + e$ , where  $X = (50 \times 6)$  for two cases.

$$H_0: x_3\beta_3 + x_4\beta_4 = 0 \quad H_a: x_3\beta_3 + x_4\beta_4 \neq 0$$

case 1: You can assume that the errors are iid normal with zero mean.  
case 2: The errors are not normally distributed.

**Econometrics Qualifying Exam**  
**Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics**  
**May 31, 2013**

*Please Show work fully and write neatly – unreadable writing could affect your score*

1. The following production function was estimated on a cross-sectional sample of firms:

$$\ln(Y_i) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \ln(L_i) + \beta_2 \ln(K_i) + u_i$$

where  $Y_i$  is output,  $L_i$  is labor input, and  $K_i$  is capital input. Assume that all classical assumptions hold.

Explain two different methods for testing whether there are constant returns to scale. State the adequate null hypotheses and the testing procedures step by step.

2. In deciding the “best” set of explanatory variables for a regression model, some researchers follow the method of stepwise regression. In this method one proceeds either by introducing the X variables one at a time (stepwise forward regression) or by including all the possible X variables in one multiple regression and rejecting them one at a time (stepwise backward regression). The decision to add or drop a variable is usually made on the basis of the contribution of that variable to the explained sum of squares, as judged by the F test. Considering your knowledge of econometrics, would you recommend either procedure? Fully explain with attention to detail why or why not.

3. Consider the model

$$y = X\beta + \epsilon = X\hat{\beta} + e \quad \text{where } \hat{\beta} = (X'X)^{-1}X'y.$$

Here  $X$  is an  $n \times k$  matrix of rank  $k$  and its first column is the unit vector  $i$ ,  $\beta$  is a  $k \times 1$  vector of unknown parameters, and  $y$ ,  $\epsilon$ , and  $e$  are  $n \times 1$  vectors. Also define

$$P = X(X'X)^{-1}X'.$$

- a. Show that  $e = (I - P)y$  where  $I$  is an identity matrix of dimension  $n$ .
- b. Show that  $e'i = 0$ .
- c. Show that  $X'e = 0$ .
- d. Show that  $e'e = y'(I - P)y$ .

The University of Georgia

Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

Ph.D. Qualifying Exam Questions for Econometrics (May 2014)

Answer all questions. Show enough work for readers to clearly follow your answers.

Good luck!

1. Consider the following linear regression model:

$$y = X\beta + u.$$

$X$  is a  $N \times k$  matrix which is fixed in repeated samples with  $\text{rank}(X) = k$ .  $u$  is a  $N \times 1$  random vector with  $u \sim N(0, \sigma^2 I_N)$ . Denote  $\theta = (\beta', \sigma^2)'$ .

- (a) Show that the log likelihood function is

$$\text{LLF}(\beta, \sigma^2) = -(N/2) \ln(2\pi) - (N/2) \ln(\sigma^2) - (1/2\sigma^2)(y - X\beta)'(y - X\beta)$$

- (b) You would like to test the null hypothesis that  $H_0 : \sigma^2 = 1$ . Show that, in this case, the restricted maximum likelihood estimator of  $\theta$  becomes  $(\hat{\beta}', 1)'$  where  $\hat{\beta} = (X'X)^{-1}X'y$ .
- (c) Show that the Lagrange Multiplier (LM) test statistic for the above null hypothesis is

$$LM = N(\hat{\sigma}^2 - 1)^2/2.$$

Note that the inverse of the information matrix is

$$\mathbb{I}_\theta^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma^2(X'X)^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & 2\sigma^4/N \end{bmatrix}$$

2. Consider the following linear regression model:

$$y = X\beta + u$$

where  $X$  is a  $N \times 5$  matrix. You would like to test two different hypotheses about the parameters:

$$H_0^A : \beta_2 = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \beta_3 = 0$$

$$H_0^B : \beta_2 = \beta_3 \quad \text{and} \quad \beta_3 = 0$$

- (a) Express both  $H_0^A$  and  $H_0^B$  in the form of  $R\beta = r$ , where  $R$  contains the coefficients in a linear restriction on the coefficient vector and  $r$  contains the restricted values.
  - (b) Suppose that  $R_A$  and  $r_A$  are the appropriate choices for the null  $H_0^A$ , and  $R_B$  and  $r_B$  are the appropriate choices for the null  $H_0^B$ . Show that  $M(R_A\beta - r_A) = R_B\beta - r_B$  where  $M$  is a nonsingular matrix. (Hint: You need to create the  $M$  matrix with real numbers.)
  - (c) Show that the  $F$ -statistic is invariant to nonsingular transformation of  $R\beta = r$ . That is, the test statistic is the same whether the null hypothesis is written as  $H_0^A$  or  $H_0^B$ .
3. The employment in a county is measured by the variable  $y$  which can be explained quite well by the model

$$y = X\beta + \epsilon$$

where  $\beta$  is a  $(10 \times 1)$  vector and the ten variables in  $X$  include a constant. The government changed business tax policy ten years ago in a manner that was hoped to have a positive effect on employment, although the impact might have occurred slowly over several years. Assuming you have time series data on  $(X, y)$  for a number of counties, how would you modify the model above to test a hypothesis about the impact of the tax policy. Be specific in what you assume, what your modified model is, the hypothesis you are testing, and how you would perform the hypothesis test.

4. For a simple linear model,

$$y = X\beta + e,$$

with  $X = (100 \times 6)$  and  $y = (100 \times 1)$ ,

- (a) Show that OLS estimation is inefficient if  $\text{var}(e_i) = \sigma^2 + \tau x_{i3}$ . That is, the model has heteroscedasticity related to the third regressor.
  - (b) Find the properties of the GLS estimator if you wrongly assume the heteroscedasticity follows the pattern  $\text{var}(e_i) = \sigma^2 x_{i3}$ .
  - (c) Derive the conditions under which you have made things better and those for which you have made things worse.
5. Consider four statistical tests used in econometrics: Wald test, Likelihood Ratio Test, F-test, and Lagrange Multiplier Test.
- (a) For each test, describe a hypothesis for each it is used to examine.
  - (b) For each hypothesis in part a, show how to calculate the relevant test statistic.
  - (c) Indicate how each test statistic in part b is distributed and how to calculate the degrees of freedom.

**Second Econometrics Qualifying Exam**  
**Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics**  
**July 31, 2013**

1. Suppose that we are interested in studying the effect of  $x$  on  $y$ . To that effect we collect data for 100,000 individuals and use OLS to estimate the following model:

$$y = \beta_1 + x\beta_2 + e$$

with the estimated model being

$$\begin{aligned} y &= 10 + 0.7x \\ &\quad (2.0) \quad (0.3) \end{aligned}$$

and the standard errors given in parentheses. From the estimated model, we conclude that  $x$  has an important effect on  $y$ . Provide and discuss in detail at least four reasons why this claim might be misleading.

2. In deciding the “best” set of explanatory variables for a regression model, some researchers follow the method of stepwise regression. In this method one proceeds either by introducing the  $X$  variables one at a time (stepwise forward regression) or by including all the possible  $X$  variables in one multiple regression and rejecting them one at a time (stepwise backward regression). The decision to add or drop a variable is usually made on the basis of the contribution of that variable to the explained sum of squares, as judged by the F test. Considering your knowledge of econometrics, would you recommend either procedure? Fully explain with attention to detail why or why not.

3. Consider the following simultaneous equations model:

$$\begin{aligned} y_{1t} &= \beta_{12}y_{2t} + \gamma_{11}x_{1t} + u_{1t}; \\ y_{2t} &= \beta_{21}y_{1t} + \gamma_{22}x_{2t} + \gamma_{23}x_{3t} + u_{2t}; \end{aligned}$$

where  $y_{1t}$  and  $y_{2t}$  are endogenous variables,  $x_{1t}$ ,  $x_{2t}$  and  $x_{3t}$  are exogenous variables, and  $(u_{1t}, u_{2t})$  are normally distributed random disturbances with zero expected value and covariance matrix  $\Sigma$ .

- (a) Discuss the identifiability of each equation of the system in terms of the order and rank conditions for identification.
- (b) What are the Two-Stage Least Squares estimators of the coefficients in the two equations? Describe the procedure step by step.

4. Consider the following time series regression model:

$$y_t = \mathbf{X}_t \boldsymbol{\beta} + u_t \quad \text{with } t = 1, 2, \dots, T \text{ and } \mathbf{X}_t \text{ being a } 1 \times k \text{ vector.}$$

- a. Suppose  $E[u_t^2] = t^{1/2}\sigma^2$  and define the GLS estimator of  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$  as  $(\mathbf{X}'\Omega^{-1}\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}'\Omega^{-1}\mathbf{y}$ . Show the exact form of the matrix  $\Omega$ .
- b. Continuing with the setup in a., show that an equivalent GLS estimator can be obtained by applying least squares to the model  $\frac{y_t}{t^{1/4}} = \frac{\mathbf{X}_t}{t^{1/4}} \boldsymbol{\beta} + \frac{u_t}{t^{1/4}}$ .
- c. Now suppose instead (ignore the supposition in a.) that  $u_t = \rho u_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t$ . Here  $\varepsilon_t$  is a white noise disturbance uncorrelated with  $u_t$  and  $|\rho| < 1$ . Show how and why the model can be “quasi-differenced” (i.e. express all the data in differences rather than levels) and then estimated by OLS to correct for the autocorrelated disturbances.

5. How might you go about choosing between two model specifications such as:

$$\begin{aligned} (\text{M1}) \quad y &= x_1\beta_1 + x_2\beta_2 + x_3\beta_3 + x_4\beta_4 + e \\ (\text{M2}) \quad y &= x_1\beta_1 + \ln(x_2)\beta_2 + (x_3)^2\beta_3 + x_4\beta_4 + e \end{aligned}$$

- a) Explain the steps you would take to make a decision on the best model.
- b) What if the second model was  $\ln(y) = x_1\beta_1 + \ln(x_2)\beta_2 + (x_3)^2\beta_3 + x_4\beta_4 + e$ ? How does that change your answer?

Econometrics Qualifying Exam  
May 18, 2012

**Answer 5 out of 6 questions**

Show work fully and write neatly. Good luck.

1. An econometrician estimates the following equation for the price of beef:

$$P_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 P_{t-1} + \beta_2 M_t + u_t$$

where  $u_t$  is a random shock and  $M_t$  is some policy variable, say money growth. The econometrician estimates that  $\beta_2$  is positive and statistically significant at the  $p=0.07$  level.

- a) What does this say about policy effectiveness?
- b) Could  $\beta_2$  be estimated as positive even if the policy is ineffective? Use a combination of statistical theory, mathematics and verbal explanation to fully justify your answer.

2. Discuss an example of a linear regression model where it is necessary to use an instrumental variable (IV) estimator. Provide the formula for this estimator and thoroughly discuss its asymptotic properties.
3. Consider the standard linear regression model  $y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + u$  with  $x$  being a single regressor and the model satisfying the Gauss-Markov assumptions. The usual OLS estimators  $\hat{\beta}_0$  and  $\hat{\beta}_1$  are unbiased for their respective population parameters. Let  $\tilde{\beta}_1$  be the estimator of  $\beta_1$  obtained by assuming the intercept is zero.
  - a) Find  $E(\tilde{\beta}_1)$  in terms of  $x_i$ ,  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$ , and identify all conditions required for  $\tilde{\beta}_1$  to be unbiased for  $\beta_1$ .
  - b) Find the variance of  $\tilde{\beta}_1$  and compare it to  $\hat{\beta}_1$ .
  - c) Discuss the trade-off one faces when choosing between  $\tilde{\beta}_1$  and  $\hat{\beta}_1$ . Explain when you would advise an analyst to use  $\tilde{\beta}_1$ , and when you would advise him to use  $\hat{\beta}_1$ .

- 11/07
4. A particular heart disease has a prevalence of 1/1000 people. A test to detect this disease has a false positive rate of 5% (meaning 5% of healthy people incorrectly are tested as being ill.) Assume that the test diagnoses correctly every person who has the disease. What is the chance that a randomly selected person found to have a positive result actually has the disease?
5. For the model  $y = X\beta + \varepsilon$ , where  $X = (100 \times 5)$  and  $\varepsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$ ,
- Show all the steps to efficient estimation of the model while imposing the restrictions:  $\beta_2 = \beta_3$  and  $\beta_4 + \beta_5 = 1$ .
  - Show all the steps to testing those joint restrictions.
  - Show all the steps to testing the first restriction ( $\beta_2 = \beta_3$ ) while imposing the second ( $\beta_4 + \beta_5 = 1$ ).
6. Suppose that you need to estimate a system of two simultaneous equations, one of which is just identified and the other being over-identified. Discuss and compare the properties of the instrumental variable, two-stage and three-stage least squares estimator for the parameters of each of those two equations.

**Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics**  
**2010 PhD Econometrics Qualifying Exam**

1. What is multicollinearity? Explain the consequences of the presence of multicollinearity in a multiple regression model. Discuss two alternative procedures commonly used to detect multicollinearity. Outline three actions that can be undertaken to alleviate multicollinearity. Can a model that, according to the commonly used detection procedures suffers from multicollinearity, be reliably used to make statistical inferences (please explain your answer)?
2. Suppose a model suffers from a substantial heteroskedasticity problem, which has proven difficult to address through non-linear (generalized) least squares methods. What alternative course of action would you suggest that will make it possible for the model to be useful for making statistical inferences? Explain in detail the computations involved in this "correction." Also indicate any disadvantages of this approach and under which condition(s) it would not be suitable.
3. Why is OLS such an attractive estimation approach? When is it most appropriate or inappropriate? Explain using both words and math.
4. The economic health of a farm economy is measured by the variable  $y$  which can be explained quite well by the model:  $y = X\beta + \varepsilon$ , where  $\beta$  is a  $(5 \times 1)$  vector and the five variables in  $X$  include a constant. The government changed farm policy ten years ago in a manner that was hoped to have a positive effect on  $y$ , although the impact might have occurred slowly over several years. Assuming you have time series data on  $(X, y)$  how would you modify the model above to test a hypothesis about the impact of the new farm policy. Be specific in what you assume, what your modified model is, the hypothesis you are testing, and how you would perform the hypothesis test.
5. Consider the following model:  $y_t = \beta x_t + u_t$   $t = 1, \dots, T$ , where  $y_t$  is the dependent variable,  $x_t$  is the explanatory variable and  $u_t$  is an error term with mean 0. Assume that the explanatory variable can be described by the following equation:  $x_t = \alpha z_t + \delta u_t + w_t$

Also assume the following:

$$\begin{array}{lll} \alpha \neq 0 & p \lim \frac{1}{T} \sum z_t u_t = 0 & p \lim \frac{1}{T} \sum u_t^2 = \sigma_u^2 \neq 0 \\ & p \lim \frac{1}{T} \sum w_t u_t = 0 & p \lim \frac{1}{T} \sum w_t^2 = \sigma_w^2 \neq 0 \\ & p \lim \frac{1}{T} \sum z_t w_t = 0 & p \lim \frac{1}{T} \sum z_t^2 = \sigma_z^2 \neq 0 \end{array}$$

- a. Is the OLS estimator of equation (1) consistent or inconsistent? Explain your answer.
- b. Show that  $z_t$  is a valid instrument for  $x_t$  and state the auxiliary equation.
- c. Explain how your answer to part a changes if  $\delta=0$ , and explain how one can test the hypothesis  $H_0: \delta=0$ .

## Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics Second 2010 PhD Econometrics Qualifying Exam

1. Discuss the finite sample properties of the OLS estimator when the error term is not normally distributed. Also when working with small samples and non-normally distributed errors, discuss the validity of the usual F-statistic to test restrictions in OLS-estimated models.
2. Consider a linear model with dependent variable  $Y_i$  (Dr. Ramirez's blood pressure on a given day), an intercept, and explanatory variables  $X_{1i}$  (1 if week day, zero otherwise),  $X_{2i}$  (number of meetings to be attended on that day),  $X_{3i}$  (number of emails responded to on that day) and  $X_{4i}$  (number of cups of coffee drank to on that day). Further assume that the model's error term is iid normal with an expected value of zero. Yesterday, Dr. Ramirez had to attend four meetings, respond to 42 emails and drank five cups of coffee. Explain how you would go about computing a 95% confidence interval for what Dr. Ramirez's blood pressure was yesterday. Also explain how this procedure would need to be adjusted to compute a confidence interval for Dr. Ramirez's average blood pressure during all weekdays when he happens to attend four meetings, responds to 42 emails and drinks five cups of coffee. Would such confidence interval be narrower or wider (please explain your answer briefly)?
3. Suppose that you have estimated the following regression:

$$\ln(\text{salary}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \ln(\text{mktval}) + \beta_2 \ln(\text{sales}) + \beta_3 \ln(\text{ceoten}) + u$$

Where:

$\text{Salary}$  = salary of the firm's Chief Executive Officer (CEO)  
 $\text{Mktval}$  = the firm's market value in 1,000s of dollars  
 $\text{Sales}$  = value of sales in 1,000s of dollars  
 $\text{Ceoten}$  = number of years the CEO has been in that job  
 $u \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$

Using 100 cross sectional observations for firms in the US, you get the following estimates for the betas (standard errors in parentheses):

$$\begin{aligned}\ln(\text{salary}) &= 4.504 + 0.11 \ln(\text{mktval}) + 0.16 \ln(\text{sales}) + 0.12 \ln(\text{ceoten}) \\ &\quad (0.33) \quad (0.015) \quad (0.11) \quad (0.08)\end{aligned}$$

$$R^2 = 0.318, \sum \exp(u\text{-hat}) = 113.6, \sum u\text{-hat}^2 = 113.6$$

- a. Detail how you would predict salaries and demonstrate whether or not your predictions would be consistent.
- b. Describe how you would measure how well the model above explains the variation in  $\text{salary}$  (not  $\ln(\text{salary})$ ).

4. Statisticians often estimate models using what is called stepwise-regression. This involves considering a large set of potential regressors, then repeatedly changing the specification to drop variables which are statistically insignificant while adding back candidate regressors to see if they will now be statistically significant. What are the resulting properties of such an estimator, in finite samples and asymptotically?
5. For the model  $y=Xb+e$  where  $y = (100 \times 1)$  and  $b = (6 \times 1)$ , state the minimum assumptions necessary to prove that:
  - a. The OLS estimator for  $b$  is unbiased.
  - b. The OLS estimator for  $b$  is in fact the minimum variance linear unbiased estimator for that parameter vector.

Prove a. and b. above again stating all assumptions used in your proofs when they are needed.

4. In a simultaneous equations model with two endogenous variables, does it matter which variables are placed on the left-hand side of each equation? That is, if you estimate the two models:

$$(M1) \quad y_1 = y_2\delta + X\beta + e_1$$

$$y_2 = y_1\lambda + Z\gamma + e_2$$

$$(M2) \quad y_1 = y_2\delta + X\beta + e_1$$

$$y_1 = y_2\lambda + Z\gamma + e_2$$

will the estimated coefficients, standard errors, and model fit measures (like  $R^2$ ) vary depending on whether you estimate the model as written in a) or in b) (in your answer make sure you address all three points (coefficients, standard errors, and model fit)? In addition, discuss from an empirical perspective whether it would be better to estimate M1 or M2 and why.

5. For a simple linear model,  $y = X\beta + e$ , with  $X = (100 \times 6)$  and  $y = (100 \times 1)$ ,

- Show that OLS estimation is inefficient if  $\text{var}(e_i) = \sigma^2 + \tau x_{i3}$ . That is, the model has heteroscedasticity related to the third regressor.
- Find the properties of the GLS estimator if you wrongly assume the heteroscedasticity follows the pattern  $\text{var}(e) = \sigma^2 x_{i3}$ .
- Have you made things better or worse?

**Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics**  
**2009 PhD Econometrics Qualifying Exam**

Please answer each of the following questions thoroughly:

1. For each of the following models, state which of the three classical tests (likelihood ratio test, Lagrange multiplier test, Wald test) would be easiest for testing the null hypothesis stated next to the model. Then show the steps to performing the test and the form of the test that would be used.

a)  $y = X\beta + e$        $H_0: \beta_3\beta_4 = 1$

b)  $y = (X\beta + e)^{\eta}$        $H_0: \eta = 1$

c)  $y = X\beta + Z\gamma + e$        $H_0: \gamma_1 = \gamma_2 = \gamma_3 = 0$

2. For a simple linear model,  $y = X\beta + e$ , with  $X = (100 \times 6)$  and  $y = (100 \times 1)$ ,

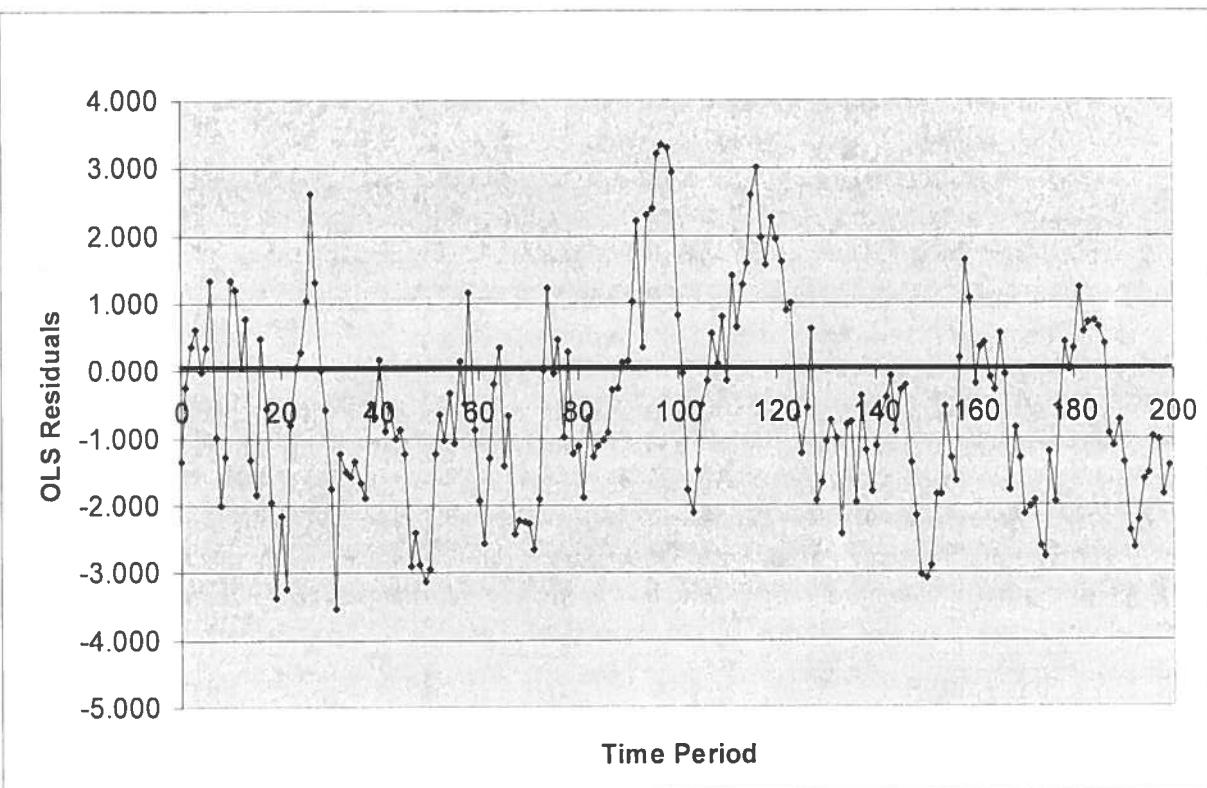
- Show that OLS estimation is inefficient if  $\text{var}(e_i) = \sigma^2 x_{i3}$ . That is, the model has heteroscedasticity related to the third regressor.
- Find the properties of the GLS estimator if you wrongly assume the heteroscedasticity follows the pattern  $\text{var}(e) = \sigma^2 x_{i4}$ .
- Have you made things better or worse?

3. Consider the following models:

- $y = \beta_0 + X_1\beta_1 + X_2\beta_2 + \varepsilon$
- $y = \beta_0 + X_1\beta_1 + X_2\beta_2 + X_3\beta_3 + \varepsilon$
- $y = \beta_0 + X_1\beta_1 + X_2\beta_2 + X_3\beta_3 + X_4\beta_4 + \varepsilon$

- If you estimate (i) but the correct model is (ii) and  $X_3$  is correlated with  $X_1$ , what are the consequences for your estimates of the coefficients and their variances in model (i)? Would you be comfortable with the results of hypothesis tests based on model i? Why or why not?
- If you estimate (i) but the correct model is (ii) and  $X_3$  is uncorrelated with  $X_1$  and  $X_2$ , what are the consequences for your estimates of the coefficients and their variances in model (i)? Would you be comfortable with the results of hypothesis tests based on model i? Why or why not?

- c. If you estimate (iii) but the correct model is (ii), what are the consequences for your estimates of the coefficients and their variances in model (iii)? Would you be comfortable with the results of hypothesis tests based on model iii? Why or why not?
4. You have estimated the model  $y = \beta_1 + X_2\beta_2 + X_3\beta_3 + X_4\beta_4 + \varepsilon$  using 103 observations via OLS and found that the maximum eigenvalue associated with the  $X'X$  matrix is 6000; the minimum eigenvalue is 0.006. What problem do you have? How does this affect your estimates of the coefficients, their variances, and your hypothesis tests? What can you do about this problem?
5. Below is a graph of the OLS residuals of a regression model. What major OLS assumption is likely violated in that model? Describe the details of a formal test that should allow you to ascertain whether this assumption is in fact being violated. Indicate any limitations associated with this test. Suggest possible error-term specifications that might, through GLS estimation, alleviate this problem. Generally describe (i.e. outline the basic steps of) how you would go about selecting the proper error-term specification.



Econometrics Prelim Examination  
Ag and Applied Economics Dept.  
University of Georgia

May 20, 2008

Please answer each of the following questions. You have until 4:00 pm.  
GOOD LUCK!!

1. How are the problems caused by measurement error and omitted variables different and/or the same? Which is a more severe problem? What would you do to correct each one?
2. For the model  $y = X\beta + \varepsilon$  where  $X$  is  $(50 \times 4)$  answer the following:
  - a. If  $E(\varepsilon_i^2) = \sigma_i^2 = \delta_0 + \delta_1 X_{i2}$  explain what the properties of a least squares estimator for  $\beta$  will be if you correct for heteroscedasticity using the wrong pattern (perhaps,  $\sigma_i^2 = \lambda_1 X_{i3}$ ).
  - b. Compare this outcome to the properties of a least squares estimator that is corrected for the presence of an AR(1) error term when autoregression is not actually present in the model.
3. When can you use an exact F-test to test a multiple hypothesis and when must you rely on asymptotic tests? Also discuss when it is advantageous to use each of the three asymptotic tests (likelihood ratio test, LaGrange multiplier test, and the Wald test).
4. In addition to causing flood damage, El Nino has created social costs by interfering with Southern Californians' enjoyment of their public beaches. Suppose the Department of Beaches has asked you to assess the welfare effects of beach closures due to storm-drain runoff from El Nino events. To do this, you need to estimate a model of local demand for public beaches, and then see how consumer's surplus from beach trips changes as this demand function shifts according to the number of days of beach closures (CLOSURES) each month. You collected survey data each month from a different random sample of Angelenos concerning the number of beach trips (TRIPS) they have made in that month as a function of the distance (DIST) they live from the beach. (Since beach access is free in most of Southern California, you will use this distance times average-travel-cost-per-mile as a rough proxy for the price of access). In the process of analyzing the effects of closures, you model demand by regressing TRIPS on DIST and CLOSURES and a set of sociodemographic characteristics such as age, income, and gender. Suppose a 1% change in DIST corresponds roughly to a 1% change in the "price" of a beach visit. Why should you be cautious about taking the results from this regression at face value (especially those concerning the price elasticity of demand for beach visits)?

5. Suppose you have been hired by a large national recreational equipment cooperative to assess individual consumer expenditures on the types of products sold by the cooperative. You are provided with some survey data on individual expenditures (EXP) by AGE, gender (FEM=1 if female) and income (INC, in thousands of dollars per year). The best-fitting model you discover is displayed below.

- a.) Based on the point estimates, provide a formula that would give expected expenditures for a randomly selected female. (Two significant digits will be adequate.)
- b.) Explain how you would go about testing whether expected expenditures differ by gender.
- c.) What appears to be the main difference between the male and female age profiles of expenditure on recreational equipment in this sample?
- d.) Does an extra \$1000 of annual income have any statistically discernible effect on recreational equipment expenditures? Explain carefully.

```

|_sample 1 50
|_read(recre.dat) exp age inc fem

|_stat / pcor
NAME      N    MEAN      ST. DEV      VARIANCE      MINIMUM      MAXIMUM
EXP      50  175.70     66.647     4441.9       58.336     290.47
AGE      50   47.144    16.882     284.99       17.355     72.648
INC      50   39.511    21.061     443.57       2.3366     85.351
FEM      50   0.52000   0.50467     0.25469      0.00000     1.0000

|_genr age2=age*age
|_genr inc2=inc*inc
|_genr femage=fem*age
|_genr femage2=fem*age2
|_genr ageinc=age*inc

|_ols exp age fem inc age2 femage femage2 ageinc

R-SQUARE = 0.9463      R-SQUARE ADJUSTED = 0.9373
VARIANCE OF THE ESTIMATE-SIGMA**2 = 278.36
STANDARD ERROR OF THE ESTIMATE-SIGMA = 16.684
SUM OF SQUARED ERRORS-SSE= 11691.
MEAN OF DEPENDENT VARIABLE = 175.70
LOG OF THE LIKELIHOOD FUNCTION = -207.311

VARIABLE      ESTIMATED      STANDARD      T-RATIO      PARTIAL      STANDARDIZED      ELASTICITY
      NAME      COEFFICIENT      ERROR      42 DF      P-VALUE      CORR.      COEFFICIENT      AT MEANS
      AGE        4.9635       1.458       3.404      0.001      0.465      1.2573      1.3318
      FEM       -39.113       45.82      -0.8536     0.398-0.131      -0.2962      -0.1158
      INC       -0.57530      0.5049      -1.140      0.261-0.173      -0.1818      -0.1294
      AGE2      -0.63225E-01  0.1844E-01     -3.429      0.001-0.468      -1.4807      -0.9003
      FEMAGE     -6.0847       2.109      -2.885      0.006-0.407      -2.6707      -0.9700
      FEMAGE2    0.78749E-01  0.2295E-01     3.432      0.001      0.468      2.2651      0.7275
      AGEINC    0.26949E-01  0.9574E-02     2.815      0.007      0.398      0.5965      0.3174
      CONSTANT   129.80       26.40      4.916      0.000      0.604      0.0000      0.7387

```

Econometrics Prelim Examination  
Ag and Applied Economics Dept.  
University of Georgia

May 16, 2007

Please answer each of the following questions. You have until 4:00 pm.  
GOOD LUCK!!

1. Suppose that classical OLS can be applied to a data set but that the true value of the constant is zero. Compare the variance of the slope estimator computed without a constant term with that of the estimator computed with an unnecessary constant term.
2. For the model  $y = X\beta + \varepsilon$ , where  $X = (100 \times 5)$  and  $\varepsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2 I_{100})$ ,
  - a. Show all the steps to efficient estimation of the model while imposing the restrictions:  $\beta_2 = \beta_3$  and  $\beta_4 + \beta_5 = 1$
  - b. Show all the steps to testing those joint restrictions.
  - c. Show all the steps to testing the first restriction ( $\beta_2 = \beta_3$ ) while imposing the second ( $\beta_4 + \beta_5 = 1$ ).
3. A multiple regression of  $y$  on an intercept,  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  produces the following results:  
 $y\text{-hat} = 4 + 0.4x_1 + 0.9x_2$ ,  $R^2 = 8/60$ ,  $\mathbf{e}'\mathbf{e} = 520$ ,  $n = 29$   
the matrix  $\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} 29 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 50 & 10 \\ 0 & 10 & 80 \end{pmatrix}$

$$t_{\text{stat}} = \frac{\hat{\beta}}{\text{se}(\hat{\beta})}$$
$$\text{se}(\hat{\beta}) = \sqrt{\frac{\sigma^2}{\sum \varepsilon (x - \bar{x})^2}}$$

- a. separately test the individual hypotheses that each slope is equal to zero.
- b. Test the joint hypothesis that the two slopes sum to zero.

4. Consider two possible models:

(M1)  $y = X\beta + \varepsilon$ , where  $X = (50 \times 3)$  and  $\varepsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2 I_{50})$

(M2)  $y = X\beta + Z\gamma + \varepsilon$ , where  $Z = (50 \times 2)$  and  $\varepsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2 I_{50})$ ,

- a. Discuss the effect on the estimators of using (M1) when (M2) is the correct model.
- b. Discuss the effect on the estimators of using (M2) when (M1) is the correct model.
- c. Discuss which model specification mistake is better to make and why.

*omitted var  
 $\beta$  biased  
 $\text{cov}(X, Z) \neq 0$   
irrelevant  
var(s) inefficient  
B (M2) is better*

5. For the model  $y = X\beta + \varepsilon$ , where  $X = (80 \times 4)$

- a. Show all the steps to efficient estimation when  $\varepsilon_i \sim N(0, \sigma^2 \ln(x_{i3}))$ ,  $i = 1, 80$ .
- b. Discuss the properties of your estimator if you assume  $\varepsilon_i \sim N(0, \sigma^2 \ln(x_{i3}))$ ,  $i = 1, 80$ , but the true error distribution is  $\varepsilon_i \sim N(0, \sigma^2 x_{i3})$ ,  $i = 1, 80$

Quantitative Methods Preliminary Examination  
 Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics  
 May 19, 2006

Answer all parts of all 5 questions. Show intermediate steps where appropriate and make your work easy for the graders to follow. Relax and good luck.

1. We are interested in studying the effect of  $x$  on  $y$ . We collect data for 100,000 individuals. We use a typical regression procedure in our computer package to estimate the model

$$y = \beta_1 + x\beta_2 + e$$

using ordinary least squares (OLS). We find that the fitted model is

$$y = 10 + 0.7x$$

(2.0) (0.3)

with the standard errors given in parentheses. We conclude that  $x$  has an important effect on  $y$ . Provide at least four reasons why this claim might be misleading.

2. Discuss the nature of the heteroscedasticity problem in terms of its theoretical and practical consequences. What diagnostic tools are available to deal with this problem? You should discuss at least two test measures of your choice and comment on their relative strengths and weaknesses. How would you remedy the situation, if you tested and found evidence of heteroscedasticity in your regression model?

3. Discuss and contrast the implications and consequences of model misspecification with respect to omitted variables and inclusion of irrelevant variables.

4. Estimation of the model  $Y_t = \beta_1 X_{1t} + \beta_2 X_{2t} + \beta_3 X_{3t} + e_t$ , from a sample of 103 observations yields (note there is no intercept):

$$\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 5.0 & -1.4 & -2.0 \\ -1.4 & 20.0 & -7.5 \\ -2.0 & -7.5 & 45.0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{e}'\mathbf{e} = 20 \quad \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = \begin{bmatrix} 4.8 \\ 4.0 \\ 3.6 \end{bmatrix}$$

- a. Which of the explanatory variables has a statistically significant impact on  $Y$ , using a significance level of 0.05. Show how you arrive at your conclusions.
- b. Test the hypothesis that  $\beta_2 = \beta_3$
- c. With the information provided, is it possible to test  $H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = 0$ ? Explain.

5. For the two equation model

$$y_1 = X\beta + \varepsilon \text{ and } y_2 = Z\gamma + \omega, \text{ where } X \text{ (100 x 5)} \text{ and } Z = (100 \times 6),$$

- a. Show all the steps to SUR estimation
- b. Show how to modify your answer in part (a) to impose the two cross-equation restrictions  $\beta_3 = \gamma_2$  and  $\beta_4 = \gamma_3$ .

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL AND APPLIED ECONOMICS  
ECONOMETRICS QUALIFYING EXAM

May 20, 2005  
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Answer all parts of all questions. Use the paper provided. Write clearly. Use separate pages for each part of each question. Write your student id and the question number and letter at the top of each page. Relax. Be thorough. Good luck.

1. For each of the following models, state which of the three classical tests (likelihood ratio test, Lagrange multiplier test, Wald test) would be best for testing the null hypothesis stated next to the model. Explain why that test is best. Then show the steps to perform the test and the form of the test that would be used.

a)  $y = X\beta + e$        $H_0: \beta_2\beta_1 = 2$

b)  $y = (X\beta + Z\gamma + e)^{\eta}$        $H_0: \eta = 1$

c)  $y = X\beta + Z\gamma + e$        $H_0: \gamma = 0$

2. For a simple linear model,  $y = X\beta + e$ , with  $X = (100 \times 6)$  and  $y = (100 \times 1)$ ,

a) Show that OLS estimation is inefficient if  $\text{var}(e_i) = \sigma^2 + \tau x_{i3}$ . That is, the model has heteroscedasticity related to the third regressor.

b) Find the properties of the GLS estimator if you wrongly assume the heteroscedasticity follows the pattern  $\text{var}(e) = \sigma^2 x_{i3}$ .

c) Have you made things better or worse?

3. An OLS estimation of the regression model,  $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \varepsilon$ , produced the following results:

$$\hat{Y} = 4.5 + 0.4X_1 + 0.9X_2, \quad R^2 = 0.13, \quad \hat{\sigma}^2 = 20, \quad n = 29$$

The variance-covariance matrix of the estimated coefficients is:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0.7 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.42 & -0.06 \\ 0 & -0.06 & 0.26 \end{bmatrix}$$

- a. Show in as much details as you can how you would test the hypothesis that the two slope coefficients sum to one at the 5% significance level.
- b. How would you test for the overall significance of the estimated regression equation at the 5% significance level? In so doing, state the null hypothesis, carry out the test and state your conclusion based on the available information provided.
  
- 4. In a study of infant mortality rate, a researcher collected data for each of the 50 states in 2004 on the following variables:

$Y$  = infant mortality rate, defined as the number of deaths of infants under 1 year old per 1,000 live births (excluding fetal deaths)  
 $X_1$  = percentage of births to teenage mothers  
 $X_2$  = percentage of persons below poverty level  
 $X_3$  = per capita income in thousands of dollars  
 $X_4$  = number of doctors per 100,000 civilian population  
 $X_5$  = dummy variable, = 1 if a southern state, 0 otherwise.

The researcher reported the results as the following:

$$\hat{Y} = 6.586 - 0.028X_1 + 0.101X_2 + 0.033X_3 + 0.001X_4 + 0.908X_5, \quad \bar{R}^2 = 0.346,$$

$$t = (3.282) (-1.855) \quad (1.349) \quad (0.342) \quad (0.279) \quad (1.965)$$

- a. Interpret and comment on the model results.
- b. Given that the estimation was based on cross-sectional data, you suspect the estimated model may suffer the problem of heteroscedasticity. Discuss the nature of the problem and the statistical consequences of ignoring heteroscedasticity.
- c. What would be your recommendations to the researcher in terms of how to test for or detect the existence of heteroscedasticity and what remedial measures should be taken to correct the problem?

5. a. Discuss the nature of the multicollinearity problem in terms of its theoretical and practical consequences.
- b. What diagnostic methods are available for detecting it or measuring the severity of multicollinearity in a regression model? You should discuss at least two diagnostic measures of your choice and comment on the usefulness of each method in terms of its strengths as well as weaknesses.
- c. What would you do if you encounter a multicollinearity problem that is deemed "serious?"

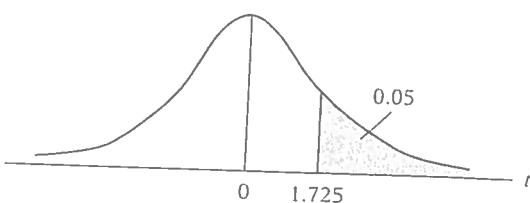
TABLE D.2 PERCENTAGE POINTS OF THE  $t$  DISTRIBUTION

## Example

$\Pr(t > 2.086) = 0.025$

$\Pr(t > 1.725) = 0.05 \quad \text{for } df = 20$

$\Pr(|t| > 1.725) = 0.10$



df	Pr	0.25	0.10	0.05	0.025	0.01	0.005	0.001
		0.50	0.20	0.10	0.05	0.02	0.010	0.002
.09								
0359	1	1.000	3.078	6.314	12.706	31.821	63.657	318.31
0753	2	0.816	1.886	2.920	4.303	6.965	9.925	22.327
1141	3	0.765	1.638	2.353	3.182	4.541	5.841	10.214
1517	4	0.741	1.533	2.132	2.776	3.747	4.604	7.173
1879	5	0.727	1.476	2.015	2.571	3.365	4.032	5.893
2224	6	0.718	1.440	1.943	2.447	3.143	3.707	5.208
2549	7	0.711	1.415	1.895	2.365	2.998	3.499	4.785
2852	8	0.706	1.397	1.860	2.306	2.896	3.355	4.501
3133	9	0.703	1.383	1.833	2.262	2.821	3.250	4.297
3389	10	0.700	1.372	1.812	2.228	2.764	3.169	4.144
3621	11	0.697	1.363	1.796	2.201	2.718	3.106	4.025
3830	12	0.695	1.356	1.782	2.179	2.681	3.055	3.930
4015	13	0.694	1.350	1.771	2.160	2.650	3.012	3.852
4177	14	0.692	1.345	1.761	2.145	2.624	2.977	3.787
4319	15	0.691	1.341	1.753	2.131	2.602	2.947	3.733
4441	16	0.690	1.337	1.746	2.120	2.583	2.921	3.686
4545	17	0.689	1.333	1.740	2.110	2.567	2.898	3.646
4633	18	0.688	1.330	1.734	2.101	2.552	2.878	3.610
4706	19	0.688	1.328	1.729	2.093	2.539	2.861	3.579
4767	20	0.687	1.325	1.725	2.086	2.528	2.845	3.552
4817	21	0.686	1.323	1.721	2.080	2.518	2.831	3.527
4857	22	0.686	1.321	1.717	2.074	2.508	2.819	3.505
4890	23	0.685	1.319	1.714	2.069	2.500	2.807	3.485
4916	24	0.685	1.318	1.711	2.064	2.492	2.797	3.467
4936	25	0.684	1.316	1.708	2.060	2.485	2.787	3.450
4952	26	0.684	1.315	1.706	2.056	2.479	2.779	3.435
4964	27	0.684	1.314	1.703	2.052	2.473	2.771	3.421
4974	28	0.683	1.313	1.701	2.048	2.467	2.763	3.408
4981	29	0.683	1.311	1.699	2.045	2.462	2.756	3.396
4986	30	0.683	1.310	1.697	2.042	2.457	2.750	3.385
4990	40	0.681	1.303	1.684	2.021	2.423	2.704	3.307
nding	60	0.679	1.296	1.671	2.000	2.390	2.660	3.232
0.95.	120	0.677	1.289	1.658	1.980	2.358	2.617	3.160
	$\infty$	0.674	1.282	1.645	1.960	2.326	2.576	3.090

Note: The smaller probability shown at the head of each column is the area in one tail; the larger probability is the area in both tails.

Source: From E. S. Pearson and H. O. Hartley, eds., *Biometrika Tables for Statisticians*, vol. 1, 3d ed., table 12, Cambridge University Press, New York, 1966. Reproduced by permission of the editors and trustees of *Biometrika*.

**Table D-5A**  
**Durbin - Watson Statistics**  
**5% Significance Points**  
 $d_L$  and  $d_U$

$k'$  is the number of regressors excluding the intercept.

Table D-3 Values of  $\chi^2_{\alpha, v}$ 

$v$	$\alpha = 0.995$	$\alpha = 0.99$	$\alpha = 0.975$	$\alpha = 0.95$	$\alpha = 0.05$	$\alpha = 0.025$	$\alpha = 0.01$	$\alpha = 0.005$	$v$
1	0.0000393	0.000157	0.000982	0.00393	3.841	5.024	6.635	7.879	1
2	0.0100	0.0201	0.0506	0.103	5.991	7.378	9.210	10.597	2
3	0.0717	0.115	0.216	0.352	7.815	9.348	11.345	12.838	3
4	0.207	0.297	0.484	0.711	9.488	11.143	13.277	14.860	4
5	0.412	0.554	0.831	1.145	11.070	12.832	15.086	16.750	5
6	0.676	0.872	1.237	1.635	12.592	14.449	16.812	18.548	6
7	0.989	1.239	1.690	2.167	14.067	16.013	18.475	20.278	7
8	1.344	1.646	2.180	2.733	15.507	17.535	20.090	21.955	8
9	1.735	2.088	2.700	3.325	16.919	19.023	21.666	23.589	9
10	2.156	2.558	3.247	3.940	18.307	20.483	23.209	25.188	10
11	2.603	3.053	3.816	4.575	19.675	21.920	24.725	26.757	11
12	3.074	3.571	4.404	5.226	21.026	23.337	26.217	28.300	12
13	3.565	4.107	5.009	5.892	22.362	24.736	27.688	29.819	13
14	4.075	4.660	5.629	6.571	23.685	26.119	29.141	31.319	14
15	4.601	5.229	6.262	7.261	24.996	27.488	30.578	32.801	15
16	5.142	5.812	6.908	7.962	26.296	28.845	32.000	34.267	16
17	5.697	6.408	7.564	8.672	27.587	30.191	33.409	35.718	17
18	6.265	7.015	8.231	9.390	28.869	31.526	34.805	37.156	18
19	6.844	7.633	8.907	10.117	30.144	32.852	36.191	38.582	19
20	7.434	8.260	9.591	10.851	31.410	34.170	37.566	39.997	20
21	8.034	8.897	10.283	11.591	32.671	35.479	38.932	41.401	21
22	8.643	9.542	10.982	12.338	33.924	36.781	40.289	42.796	22
23	9.260	10.196	11.689	13.091	35.172	38.076	41.638	44.181	23
24	9.886	10.856	12.401	13.848	36.415	39.364	42.980	45.558	24
25	10.520	11.524	13.120	14.611	37.652	40.646	44.314	46.928	25
26	11.160	12.198	13.844	15.379	38.885	41.923	45.642	48.290	26
27	11.808	12.879	14.573	16.151	40.113	43.194	46.963	49.645	27
28	12.461	13.565	15.308	16.928	41.337	44.461	48.278	50.993	28
29	13.121	14.256	16.047	17.708	42.557	45.722	49.588	52.336	29
30	13.787	14.953	16.791	18.493	43.773	46.979	50.892	53.672	30

Based on Table 8 of *Biometrika Tables for Statisticians, Volume I*. By permission of the *Biometrika* trustees.

## APPENDIX

$\alpha = 0.005$	$v$
7.879	1
10.597	2
12.838	3
14.860	4
16.750	5
18.548	6
20.278	7
21.955	8
23.589	9
25.188	10
26.757	11
28.300	12
29.819	13
31.319	14
32.801	15
34.267	16
35.718	17
37.156	18
38.582	19
39.997	20
41.401	21
42.796	22
44.181	23
45.558	24
46.928	25
48.290	26
49.645	27
50.993	28
52.336	29
53.672	30

Biometrika trustees.

Table D-4A Values of  $F_{0.05, v_1, v_2}$ 

$v_1 = \text{degrees of freedom for numerator}$											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	15
1	1.61	2.00	2.16	2.25	2.30	2.34	2.37	2.39	2.41	2.42	2.46
2	18.5	19.0	19.2	19.3	19.3	19.4	19.4	19.4	19.4	19.4	19.4
3	10.1	9.55	9.28	9.12	9.01	8.94	8.89	8.85	8.81	8.79	8.74
4	7.71	6.94	6.59	6.39	6.26	6.16	6.09	6.04	6.00	5.96	5.91
5	6.61	5.79	5.41	5.19	5.05	4.95	4.88	4.82	4.77	4.74	4.68
6	5.99	5.14	4.76	4.53	4.39	4.28	4.21	4.15	4.10	4.06	4.00
7	5.59	4.74	4.35	4.12	3.97	3.87	3.79	3.73	3.68	3.64	3.57
8	5.32	4.46	4.07	3.84	3.69	3.58	3.50	3.44	3.39	3.35	3.28
9	5.12	4.26	3.86	3.63	3.48	3.37	3.29	3.23	3.18	3.14	3.07
10	4.96	4.10	3.71	3.48	3.33	3.22	3.14	3.07	3.02	2.98	2.91
11	4.84	3.98	3.59	3.36	3.20	3.09	3.01	2.95	2.90	2.85	2.77
12	4.75	3.89	3.49	3.26	3.11	3.00	2.91	2.85	2.80	2.75	2.70
13	4.67	3.81	3.41	3.18	3.03	2.92	2.83	2.77	2.71	2.67	2.60
14	4.60	3.74	3.34	3.11	2.96	2.85	2.76	2.70	2.65	2.60	2.53
15	4.54	3.68	3.29	3.06	2.90	2.79	2.71	2.64	2.59	2.54	2.46
16	4.49	3.63	3.24	3.01	2.85	2.74	2.66	2.59	2.54	2.49	2.42
17	4.45	3.59	3.20	2.96	2.81	2.70	2.61	2.55	2.49	2.42	2.35
18	4.41	3.55	3.16	2.93	2.77	2.66	2.58	2.51	2.46	2.39	2.34
19	4.38	3.52	3.13	2.90	2.74	2.63	2.54	2.48	2.42	2.38	2.34
20	4.35	3.49	3.10	2.87	2.71	2.60	2.51	2.45	2.39	2.33	2.29
21	4.32	3.47	3.07	2.84	2.68	2.57	2.49	2.42	2.37	2.32	2.25
22	4.30	3.44	3.05	2.82	2.66	2.55	2.46	2.40	2.34	2.30	2.23
23	4.28	3.42	3.03	2.80	2.64	2.53	2.44	2.37	2.32	2.27	2.21
24	4.26	3.40	3.01	2.78	2.62	2.51	2.42	2.38	2.31	2.23	2.16
25	4.24	3.39	2.99	2.76	2.60	2.49	2.40	2.34	2.28	2.20	2.12
30	4.17	3.32	2.92	2.69	2.53	2.42	2.33	2.27	2.21	2.16	2.09
40	4.08	3.23	2.84	2.61	2.45	2.34	2.25	2.18	2.12	2.08	2.01
60	4.00	3.15	2.76	2.53	2.37	2.25	2.17	2.10	2.04	1.99	1.92
120	3.92	3.07	2.68	2.45	2.29	2.18	2.09	2.02	1.96	1.91	1.84
$\infty$	3.84	3.00	2.60	2.37	2.21	2.10	2.01	1.94	1.88	1.83	1.75

 $v_2 = \text{degrees of freedom for denominator}$ 

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