

# Lab: VAR

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## 1 VAR Slides

$$E[\epsilon_t] = E \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{1t} \\ \epsilon_{2t} \\ \vdots \\ \epsilon_{kt} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} E\epsilon_{1t} \\ E\epsilon_{2t} \\ \vdots \\ E\epsilon_{kt} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

$$\Sigma_\epsilon = \text{Var}(\epsilon_t) = E[(\epsilon_t - E[\epsilon_t])(\epsilon_t - E[\epsilon_t])'] = E[\epsilon_t \epsilon_t'] \quad (2)$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \text{Var}(\epsilon_{1t}) & \text{Cov}(\epsilon_{1t}, \epsilon_{2t}) & \dots & \text{Cov}(\epsilon_{1t}, \epsilon_{kt}) \\ & \text{Var}(\epsilon_{2t}) & \dots & \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \\ \text{Cov}(\epsilon_{kt}, \epsilon_{1t}) & & & \text{Var}(\epsilon_{kt}) \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

$$\text{Cov}(\epsilon_{it}, \epsilon_{jt}) \neq 0$$

$$y_t = \beta_1 y_{t-1} + \epsilon_t, \quad \epsilon_t \sim i.i.d.(0, \sigma^2) \quad (4)$$

$$y_{t+1} = \beta_1 y_t + \epsilon_{t+1} \quad (5)$$

$$E_t y_{t+1} = \beta_1 E_t y_t + E_t \epsilon_{t+1} = \beta_1 y_t \quad (6)$$

Notice that  $E_t \epsilon_{t+1} \underset{\text{indep}}{\equiv} E(\epsilon_{t+1}) = 0$

## 2 Some Derivations

Consider AR(p):

$$y_t = \beta_1 y_{t-1} + \dots + \beta_p y_{t-p} + \epsilon_t, y_t \in \mathcal{R} \quad (7)$$

In particular AR(1)

$$y_t = \beta_1 y_{t-1} + \epsilon_t, y_t \in \mathcal{R} \quad (8)$$

Consider VAR(p):

$$y_t = \Phi_1 y_{t-1} + \dots + \Phi_p y_{t-p} + \epsilon_t, y_t \in \mathcal{R}^k \quad (9)$$

$$y_t = \begin{bmatrix} y_{1t} \\ y_{2t} \\ \vdots \\ y_{kt} \end{bmatrix} \quad (10)$$

$$\Phi_j = \begin{bmatrix} \Phi_j^{11} & \Phi_j^{12} & \dots & \Phi_j^{1k} \\ \Phi_j^{21} & \Phi_j^{22} & \dots & \Phi_j^{2k} \\ \vdots & & & \\ \Phi_j^{k1} & \Phi_j^{k2} & \dots & \Phi_j^{kk} \end{bmatrix} \quad (11)$$

$$\epsilon_t = \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{1t} \\ \epsilon_{2t} \\ \vdots \\ \epsilon_{kt} \end{bmatrix} \quad (12)$$

where  $y_{jt} \in \mathcal{R}, \Phi_j^{mn} \in \mathcal{R}, \epsilon_{jt} \in \mathcal{R}$

Particularly, consider Bivariate VAR(1)

$$y_t = \begin{bmatrix} q_t \\ m_t \end{bmatrix}, y_t \in \mathcal{R}^2 \quad (13)$$

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} q_t \\ m_t \end{bmatrix}}_{y_t} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \Phi_1^{11} & \Phi_1^{12} \\ \Phi_1^{21} & \Phi_1^{22} \end{bmatrix}}_{\Phi_1} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} q_{t-1} \\ m_{t-1} \end{bmatrix}}_{y_{t-1}} + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{qt} \\ \epsilon_{mt} \end{bmatrix}}_{\epsilon_t} \quad (14)$$

Write out the matrix, we have

$$\begin{cases} q_t = \Phi_1^{11} q_{t-1} + \Phi_1^{12} m_{t-1} + \epsilon_{qt} \\ m_t = \Phi_1^{21} q_{t-1} + \Phi_1^{22} m_{t-1} + \epsilon_{mt} \end{cases}$$

$$\frac{\partial q_{t+s}}{\partial \epsilon_{qt}} = ? \quad \frac{\partial m_{t+s}}{\partial \epsilon_{mt}} = ? \quad \frac{\partial q_{t+s}}{\partial \epsilon_{mt}} = ? \quad \frac{\partial m_{t+s}}{\partial \epsilon_{qt}} = ?$$

Back to VAR(1),

$$\begin{aligned} y_t &= \Phi_1 y_{t-1} + \epsilon_t, y_t \in \mathcal{R}^k \\ &= \Phi_1 [\Phi_1 y_{t-2} + \epsilon_{t-1}] + \epsilon_t \\ &= \epsilon_t + \Phi_1 \epsilon_{t-1} + \Phi_1^2 y_{t-2} \\ &= \epsilon_t + \Phi_1 \epsilon_{t-1} + \Phi_1^2 \epsilon_{t-2} + \dots + \Phi_1^s \epsilon_{t-s} + \Phi_1^{s+1} y_{t-s-1} \end{aligned}$$

$$y_{t+s} = \epsilon_{t+s} + \Phi_1 \epsilon_{t+s-1} + \Phi_1^2 \epsilon_{t+s-2} + \dots + \Phi_1^s \epsilon_t + \Phi_1^{s+1} y_{t-1}$$

$$\frac{\partial y_{1t+s}}{\partial \epsilon_{2t}} = \begin{bmatrix} \underset{1st}{1} & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{bmatrix} \Phi_1^s \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \underset{2nd}{1} \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (15)$$

In general,

$$\frac{\partial y_{jt+s}}{\partial \epsilon_{it}} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \dots & 0 & \underset{jth}{1} & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{bmatrix} \Phi_1^s \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ \underset{ith}{1} \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (16)$$

Back to example,

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} q_t \\ m_t \end{bmatrix}}_{y_t} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \Phi_1^{11} & \Phi_1^{12} \\ \Phi_1^{21} & \Phi_1^{22} \end{bmatrix}}_{\Phi_1} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} q_{t-1} \\ m_{t-1} \end{bmatrix}}_{y_{t-1}} + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{qt} \\ \epsilon_{mt} \end{bmatrix}}_{\epsilon_t} \quad (17)$$

$$\frac{\partial q_{t+s}}{\partial \epsilon_{mt}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \Phi_1^s \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \frac{\partial m_{t+s}}{\partial \epsilon_{qt}} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \Phi_1^s \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

However, there exists a problem (correlation !!!).

$$\epsilon_t \sim \left( \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \Sigma_\epsilon \right) \quad (18)$$

Notice  $E(\epsilon_{qt}) = E(\epsilon_{mt}) = 0$

$$\Sigma_\epsilon = E(\epsilon_t \epsilon_t') \quad (19)$$

$$= E \left[ \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{qt} \\ \epsilon_{mt} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{qt} & \epsilon_{mt} \end{bmatrix} \right] \quad (20)$$

$$= E \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{qt}\epsilon_{qt} & \epsilon_{qt}\epsilon_{mt} \\ \epsilon_{mt}\epsilon_{qt} & \epsilon_{mt}\epsilon_{mt} \end{bmatrix} \quad (21)$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} E(\epsilon_{qt}^2) & E(\epsilon_{qt}\epsilon_{mt}) \\ E(\epsilon_{mt}\epsilon_{qt}) & E(\epsilon_{mt}^2) \end{bmatrix} \quad (22)$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} Var(\epsilon_{qt}) & Cov(\epsilon_{qt}, \epsilon_{mt}) \\ Cov(\epsilon_{mt}, \epsilon_{qt}) & Var(\epsilon_{mt}) \end{bmatrix} \quad (23)$$

Notice that  $Cov(\epsilon_{qt}, \epsilon_{mt}) = Cov(\epsilon_{mt}, \epsilon_{qt}) \neq 0$ . Hence  $\frac{\partial q_{t+s}}{\partial \epsilon_{mt}}$  becomes meaningless as the condition “other things being equal” fails.

Therefore, our goal is

$$\underbrace{Cov(\epsilon_{qt}, \epsilon_{mt}) \neq 0}_{(reduced-form)VAR} \rightarrow \underbrace{Cov(e_{qt}, e_{mt}) = 0}_{SVAR}$$

where  $e_t$  is structural shock. In such cases,  $\frac{\partial q_{t+s}}{\partial e_{mt}}$  possesses economic meanings.