

# Distributed lag models \*

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# 1. Models with lagged explanatory variables

It is quite common to explain a variable using current and past values of another variable, as in the following equations:

$$I_t = \alpha + \beta_0 V_t + \beta_1 V_{t-1} + \beta_2 V_{t-2} + \cdots + \beta_k V_{t-k} + u_t \quad (1.1)$$

where  $I_t$  represents investment (t time  $t$ ) and  $V_t$  represents sales at time  $t$ ;

$$\hat{p}_t = \alpha + \beta_0 \hat{M}_t + \beta_1 \hat{M}_{t-1} + \cdots + \beta_k \hat{M}_{t-k} + u_t \quad (1.2)$$

where  $\hat{p}_t$  is the rate of inflation and  $\hat{M}_t$  is the growth rate of a monetary aggregate. If we suppose that

$$u_t \stackrel{ind}{\sim} N[0, \sigma^2], \quad t = 1, \dots, T, \quad (1.3)$$

these equations can be estimated by ordinary least squares.

However, if  $k$  is large, one typically has a large number of strongly collinear explanatory variables. Restrictions on the coefficients  $\beta_i, i = 0, 1, \dots, k$ , are typically needed to improve estimation precision. Several approaches have been suggested.

Consider a general equation of the form:

$$y_t = \alpha + \beta_0 X_t + \beta_1 X_{t-1} + \cdots + \beta_k X_{t-k} + u_t = \alpha + \sum_{i=0}^k \beta_i X_{t-i} + u_t.$$

(1) Arithmetic progression (I. Fisher, 1937):

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_i &= (k+1-i)\beta, & 0 \leq i \leq k \\ &= 0, & i > k \end{aligned} \quad (1.4)$$

$$\begin{aligned} y_t &= \alpha + \sum_{i=0}^k \beta_i X_{t-i} + u_t \\ &= \alpha + \left[ \sum_{i=0}^k (k+1-i) X_{t-i} \right] \beta + u_t, \quad t = 1, \dots, T. \end{aligned} \quad (1.5)$$

(2) Inverted  $V$  progression (De Leeuw, 1962):

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_i &= i\beta, & 0 \leq i \leq k/2 \\ &= (k-i)\beta, & k/2 \leq i \leq k \end{aligned} \quad (1.6)$$

$$y_t = \alpha + \beta \left[ \sum_{i=0}^{k/2} X_{t-i} + \sum_{(k/2)+1}^k (k-i) X_{t-i} \right] + u_t. \quad (1.7)$$

(3) Polynomial progression (Almon, 1965):

$$\beta_i = a_0 + a_1 i + a_2 i^2 + \dots + a_r i^r, \quad 0 \leq r < k. \quad (1.8)$$

For example, if  $r = 2$  and  $k = 3$ , we get:

$$y_t = \beta_0 X_t + \beta_1 X_{t-1} + \beta_2 X_{t-2} + \beta_3 X_{t-3} + u_t \quad (1.9)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_t &= a_0 + a_1 t + a_2 t^2, \\ \beta_0 &= a_0, \\ \beta_1 &= a_0 + a_1 + a_2, \\ \beta_2 &= a_0 + 2a_1 + 4a_2, \\ \beta_3 &= a_0 + 3a_1 + 9a_2, \end{aligned}$$

hence

$$y_t = a_0 \left( \sum_{i=0}^3 X_{t-i} \right) + a_1 \left[ \sum_{i=0}^3 i X_{t-i} \right] + a_2 \left[ \sum_{i=0}^3 i^2 X_{t-i} \right]. \quad (1.10)$$

The number of parameters goes from 4 to 3.

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_{-1} &= \beta_{k+1} = 0, \\ \beta_{k+1} &= 0, \\ \beta_{-1} &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

For example,

$$\beta_{-1} = 0 = a_0 - a_1 + a_2 \implies a_2 = a_1 - a_0. \quad (1.11)$$

The Almon method produces very regular patterns for  $\beta_i$ , but we should not forget this is due to the imposed restrictions.

One can test whether a lagged variable is present (given  $k$ ). If

$$y_t = \alpha + \sum_{i=0}^k \beta_i X_{t-i} + \sum_{j=0}^{\ell} \gamma_j Z_{t-j} + u_t,$$

one can assume two different polynomials for  $\beta_i$  and  $\gamma_j$ .

Another possibility consists in assuming that

$$\beta_i = \alpha_i + \gamma_i W_{t-i}$$

hence

$$y_t = \alpha + \sum_{i=0}^k \alpha_i X_{t-i} + \sum_{i=0}^k \gamma_i W_{t-i} X_{t-i} + u_t$$

with two different on  $\alpha_i$  and  $\gamma_j$ .

(4) Geometric progression (Koyck, 1954)

$$y_t = \alpha + \beta \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} W_i X_{t-i} + u_t$$

where

$$W_i = (1 - \lambda) \lambda^i, \quad 0 < \lambda < 1, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots \quad (1.12)$$

This leads to the following model:

$$\begin{aligned} y_t &= \alpha + \beta (1 - \lambda) \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \lambda^i X_{t-i} + u_t \\ &= \alpha + \beta (1 - \lambda) \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \lambda^i L^i X_t + u_t \end{aligned} \quad (1.13)$$

where the lag operator  $L$  is defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} LX_t &= X_{t-1}, \\ L^2 X_t &= L(LX_t) = L(X_{t-1}) = X_{t-2}, \\ L^n X_t &= X_{t-n}. \end{aligned}$$

The model then becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} y_t &= \alpha + \beta (1 - \lambda) \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} (\lambda L)^i X_t + u_t \\ &= \alpha + \beta (1 - \lambda) \left[ \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} (\lambda L)^i \right] X_t + u_t \\ &= \alpha + \beta (1 - \lambda) \frac{1}{1 - \lambda L} X_t + u_t \end{aligned} \quad (1.14)$$

hence

$$\begin{aligned}(1 - \lambda L) y_t &= (1 - \lambda L) \alpha + \beta (1 - \lambda) X_t + (1 - \lambda L) u_t \\ y_t - \lambda y_{t-1} &= (1 - \lambda) \alpha + \beta (1 - \lambda) X_t + u_t - \lambda u_{t-1}\end{aligned}$$

or

$$y_t = (1 - \lambda) \alpha + \lambda y_{t-1} + \beta (1 - \lambda) X_t + \underbrace{(u_t - \lambda u_{t-1})}_{\text{Moving average}} \quad t = 2, \dots, T.$$

This provides a considerable reduction of the number of parameters. However there is a lagged dependent variable on the right-hand side with autocorrelated errors:

$Y_{t-1}$  is not independent of  $u_t - \lambda u_{t-1}$ .

We may also wish not to impose the geometric scheme on the first  $\beta_i$  coefficients. For example, if we do this for the first two coefficients, we get:

$$\begin{aligned}y_t &= \alpha + \beta_0 X_t + \beta_1 X_{t-1} + \beta_2 \sum_{i=2}^{\infty} \lambda^i X_{t-i} + u_t \\ &= \alpha + \beta_0 X_t + \beta_1 X_{t-1} + \beta_2 \frac{\lambda^2}{1 - \lambda L} X_{t-2} + u_t\end{aligned} \quad (1.15)$$

or

$$y_t = \alpha (1 - \lambda) + \lambda y_{t-1} + \beta_0 X_t + (\beta_1 - \lambda \beta_0) X_{t-1} + (\beta_2 - \lambda \beta_1) X_{t-2} + u_t. \quad (1.16)$$

Another possibility consists in considering geometric progressions on two explanatory variables:

$$\begin{aligned}y_t &= \alpha + \frac{\beta (1 - \lambda)}{1 - \lambda L} X_t + \frac{\gamma (1 - \lambda)}{1 - \lambda L} Z_t + u_t, \\ y_t &= \alpha (1 - \lambda) + \beta (1 - \lambda) X_t + \gamma (1 - \lambda) Z_t + (u_t - \lambda u_{t-1}).\end{aligned}$$

Other proposed schemes include: Pascal, rational (Jorgenson), Gamma.

## 2. Models with lagged dependent variables: economic examples

### 2.1. Partial adjustment model (Nerlove, 1958)

$$Y_t^* = \alpha + \beta X_t \quad \text{Equilibrium equation} \quad (2.1)$$

$$Y_t - Y_{t-1} = \gamma (Y_t^* - Y_{t-1}) + u_t, \quad \text{Adjustment equation} \quad (2.2)$$

$$0 < \gamma \leq 1$$

$$u_t \stackrel{ind}{\sim} N [0, \sigma_u^2]$$

$$\begin{aligned} Y_t &= Y_{t-1} + \gamma [\alpha + \beta X_t - Y_{t-1}] + u_t \\ Y_t &= \alpha\gamma + (1 - \gamma) Y_{t-1} + \gamma\beta X_t + u_t \end{aligned} \quad (2.3)$$

Equation (2.2) can be obtained as the solution a cost minimization problem:

$$C_t = \underbrace{a(Y_t - Y_t^*)}_{\text{Disequilibrium cost}} + \underbrace{b(Y_t - Y_{t-1})^2}_{\text{Adjustment cost}}, \quad a \geq 0, b \geq 0, \quad a + b \neq 0. \quad (2.4)$$

Differentiating (2.4) with respect to  $Y_t$ , we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial C_t}{\partial Y_t} &= 2a(Y_t - Y_t^*) + 2b(Y_t - Y_{t-1}) = 0 \\ \implies (a + b)Y_t - aY_t^* - bY_{t-1} &= 0 \\ (a + b)Y_t - (a + b)Y_{t-1} + aY_{t-1} - aY_t^* &= 0 \\ Y_t - Y_{t-1} &= \frac{a}{a+b}(Y_t^* - Y_{t-1}) \\ &= \gamma(Y_t^* - Y_{t-1}) \end{aligned}$$

$$0 \leq \frac{a}{a+b} \leq 1.$$

### 2.2. Adaptive expectations

$$\begin{aligned} Y_t &= \alpha + \beta X_t^* + u_t, \quad t = 1, \dots, T \\ u_t &\stackrel{ind}{\sim} N [0, \sigma_u^2] \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
X_t^* - X_{t-1}^* &= \delta (X_{t-1} - X_{t-1}^*) && \text{Expectation equation} && (2.6) \\
0 &< \delta < 1 \\
X_t^* &= \text{expected level of } X_t
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
X_t^* - (1 - \delta) X_{t-1}^* &= \delta X_{t-1} && B = L \\
[1 - (1 - \delta) B] X_t^* &= \delta X_{t-1} \\
X_t^* &= \frac{\delta}{1 - (1 - \delta) B} X_{t-1} \\
Y_t &= \alpha + \beta \frac{\delta}{1 - (1 - \delta) B} X_{t-1} + u_t \\
[1 - (1 - \delta) B] Y_t &= [1 - (1 - \delta) B] \alpha + \beta \delta X_{t-1} + [1 - (1 - \delta) B] u_t \\
Y_t - (1 - \delta) Y_{t-1} &= \alpha \delta + \beta \delta X_{t-1} + u_t - (1 - \delta) u_{t-1} \\
\\ \\
Y_t &= \alpha \delta + \lambda Y_{t-1} + \beta \delta X_{t-1} + (u_t - \lambda u_{t-1}) && (2.7) \\
\lambda &= 1 - \delta.
\end{aligned}$$

### 3. Estimation of models with lagged dependent variables

Consider an equation of the type:

$$Y_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 Y_{t-1} + \underset{\substack{\downarrow \\ \text{Non-stochastic}}}{\beta_2} X_t + v_t, \quad t = 0, 1, \dots, T,$$

with three alternative hypotheses on the errors:

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{(I)} \quad v_t &\overset{\text{ind}}{\sim} N[0, \sigma_v^2] \\
\text{(II)} \quad v_t &= u_t - \lambda u_{t-1} \\
&\quad (a) \quad u_t \overset{\text{ind}}{\sim} N[0, \sigma_u^2] \\
&\quad (b) \quad u_t = \rho u_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t \\
\text{(III)} \quad v_t &= \rho v_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t
\end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$



### 3.1. Hypothesis I

$$L = P(Y_1, \dots, Y_T | Y_0, X) = \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma_v^2)^{T/2}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2\sigma_v^2} \sum_{t=1}^T (Y_t - \beta_0 - \beta_1 Y_{t-1} - \beta_2 X_t)^2 \right\}$$

$$\text{Max } L \implies \text{Min} \sum_{t=1}^T (Y_t - \beta_0 - \beta_1 Y_{t-1} - \beta_2 X_t)^2$$

$\rightarrow$  MCO are valid  $\langle$  Consistent  
Asymptotically normal, efficient

(Tests and confidence intervals are only approximate).

The problem gets more complicated when  $v_t$  and  $Y_{t-1}$  are correlated. Consider:

$$Y_t = \beta Y_{t-1} + v_t$$

$$v_t = \rho v_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t, \quad \varepsilon_t \stackrel{\text{ind}}{\sim} N[0, \sigma_\varepsilon^2], \quad |\rho| < 1$$

$$\hat{\beta} = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^T Y_t Y_{t-1}}{\sum_{t=2}^T Y_{t-1}^2}$$

$$Y_t = \beta Y_{t-1} + \rho v_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t$$

$$v_{t-1} = Y_{t-1} - \beta Y_{t-2}$$

$$Y_t = \beta Y_{t-1} + \rho(Y_{t-1} - \beta Y_{t-2}) + \varepsilon_t$$

$$= (\beta + \rho) Y_{t-1} - \beta \rho Y_{t-2} + \varepsilon_t$$

$$\sum_{t=2}^T Y_t Y_{t-1} = (\beta + \rho) \sum_{t=2}^T Y_{t-1}^2 - \beta \rho \sum_{t=2}^T Y_{t-1} Y_{t-2} + \sum_{t=1}^T \varepsilon_t Y_{t-1}$$

$$\hat{\beta} = (\beta + \rho) - \beta \rho \frac{\sum_{t=2}^T Y_{t-1} Y_{t-2}}{\sum_{t=2}^T Y_{t-1}^2} + \frac{\sum_{t=1}^T \varepsilon_t Y_{t-1}}{\sum_{t=2}^T Y_{t-1}^2}$$

$$p \lim \frac{\sum_{t=1}^T \varepsilon_t Y_{t-1}}{\sum_{t=2}^T Y_{t-1}^2} = 0$$

$$p \lim \hat{\beta} = (\beta + \rho) - \beta \rho p \lim \hat{\beta}$$

$$p \lim \hat{\beta} = \frac{\beta + \rho}{1 + \beta \rho}$$

$$p \lim \hat{\beta} - \beta = \rho(1 - \beta^2) / (1 + \beta \rho)$$

The bias  $p \lim \hat{\beta} - \beta$  can be large when  $\beta \simeq 0.5$  or  $\rho \simeq 0.5$ . Similarly, the Durbin-Watson

test is not valid:

$$\begin{aligned}
d &= \frac{\sum_{t=2}^T (\hat{v}_t - \hat{v}_{t-1})^2}{\sum_{t=1}^T \hat{v}_t^2} \\
&= \frac{1}{\sum_{t=1}^T \hat{v}_t^2} \left[ \sum_{t=2}^T \hat{v}_t^2 + \sum_{t=2}^T \hat{v}_{t-1}^2 - 2 \sum_{t=1}^T \hat{v}_t \hat{v}_{t-1} \right] \\
p \lim d &= 2 - 2 p \lim \frac{\sum_{t=2}^T \hat{v}_t \hat{v}_{t-1}}{\sum_{t=1}^T \hat{v}_t^2}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
r_1 &= \frac{\sum_{t=2}^T \hat{v}_t \hat{v}_{t-1}}{\sum_{t=1}^T \hat{v}_t^2} \\
\hat{v}_t &= Y_t - \hat{\beta} Y_{t-1} \quad (\text{if } Y_t = \beta Y_{t-1} + v_t) \\
\hat{v}_{t-1} &= Y_{t-1} - \hat{\beta} Y_{t-2}.
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
p \lim r_1 &= \frac{\beta \rho (\beta + \rho)}{1 + \beta \rho} = \rho - \frac{\rho (1 - \beta^2)}{1 + \beta \rho} \\
&= \frac{\rho (1 + \beta \rho) - \rho (1 - \beta^2)}{1 + \beta \rho} = \frac{\beta \rho^2 - \rho \beta^2}{1 + \beta \rho} \\
p \lim d &= 2 \left[ 1 - \frac{\beta \rho (\beta + \rho)}{1 + \beta \rho} \right].
\end{aligned}$$

If we knew the true errors  $v_t$ , we could compute:

$$\begin{aligned}
d^* &= \frac{\sum_{t=2}^T (v_t - v_{t-1})^2}{\sum_{t=1}^T v_t^2} \\
&= \frac{\left[ \sum_{t=2}^T v_t^2 + \sum_{t=2}^T v_{t-1}^2 - 2 \sum_{t=2}^T v_t v_{t-1} \right]}{\sum_{t=1}^T v_t^2} \\
p \lim d^* &= 2(1 - \rho) \\
p \lim (d - d^*) &= \frac{2\rho(1 - \beta^2)}{1 + \beta\rho} = 2p \lim (\hat{\beta} - \beta) \\
&\quad d \text{ is biased upward (NS)}.
\end{aligned}$$

A possible solution consists in using Durbin's test:

$$r = \frac{\sum_{t=2}^T \hat{v}_t \hat{v}_{t-1}}{\sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \hat{v}_t^2} \simeq 1 - \frac{1}{2} d$$

$$h = r \sqrt{\frac{n}{1 - n \hat{V}(b_1)}}$$

where  $n = T - 1$  and  $\hat{V}(b_1)$  is the estimator of the variance of  $b_1$ , and  $\beta_1$  is the coefficient de  $Y_{t-1}$ . Then

$$h \sim N[0, 1] \text{ under } H_0.$$

This test is applicable even if  $Y_{t-2}, Y_{t-3}, \dots$  also appear in the equation. The test is not applicable if  $n \hat{V}(b_1) \geq 1$ .

In view of then latter fact, an alternative test is based on considering a regression of the type:

$$\hat{v}_t = \gamma \hat{v}_{t-1} + \text{other regressors}, t = 2, \dots, T.$$

We then test  $\gamma = 0$  using a standard  $t$  standard, e.g.

$$\hat{v}_t = \gamma \hat{v}_{t-1} + \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 Y_{t-1} + \gamma_2 X_t + e_t, t = 2, \dots, T.$$

### 3.2. Hypothesis IIa

$$v_t = u_t - \lambda u_{t-1} \quad \text{Koyck scheme}$$

$$u_t \stackrel{ind}{\sim} N[0, \sigma_u^2] \quad \text{Adaptive expectations}$$

$$E(v_t) = 0, \forall t$$

$$E(v_t^2) = \sigma_u^2 (1 + \lambda^2), \forall t$$

$$E[v_t v_{t+s}] = -\lambda \sigma_u^2, s = \pm 1, \forall t$$

$$= 0, \text{ pour } |s| \geq 2, \forall t$$

$$V = E[v v'] = \sigma_u^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 + \lambda^2 & -\lambda & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ -\lambda & 1 + \lambda^2 & -\lambda & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 + \lambda^2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

In Koyck models or with adaptive expectations, we have:

$$\beta_1 = \lambda$$

$$Y_t = \beta_0 + \lambda Y_{t-1} + \beta_2 X_t + v_t$$

$$y_t = Y_t - \lambda Y_{t-1} = \beta_0 + \beta_2 X_t + v_t$$

$$\hat{\beta} = (X'V^{-1}X)^{-1} X'V^{-1}y \quad y = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_t \end{pmatrix}.$$

From a more practical viewpoint,

$$W_t = Y_t - u_t$$

$$W_t = \lambda W_{t-1} + \beta_0 + \beta_2 X_t$$

$$W_t = \lambda [\lambda W_{t-2} + \beta_0 + \beta_2 X_{t-1}] + \beta_0 + \beta_2 X_t$$

$$= \lambda^2 W_{t-2} + \beta_0 (1 + \lambda) + \beta_2 (X_t + \lambda X_{t-1})$$

$$Y_t = \lambda^t W_0 + \beta_0 (1 + \lambda + \lambda^2 + \dots + \lambda^{t-1})$$

$$+ \beta_2 (X_t + \lambda X_{t-1} + \lambda^2 X_{t-2}$$

$$+ \dots + \lambda^{t-1} X_1) + u_t.$$

$W_0$  is a parameter.

We choose a grid of values of  $\lambda$  over the admissible interval  $0 \leq \lambda < 1$ . Then we compute a linear regression and select the value of  $\lambda$  which minimizes the residual sum of squares [Zellner and Geisel (1968)]. This is asymptotically equivalent to applying maximum likelihood.

### 3.3. Hypothesis IIb

$$v_t = u_t - \lambda u_{t-1}$$

$$u_t = \rho u_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t \quad |\rho| < 1, \quad \varepsilon_t \stackrel{ind}{\sim} N[0, \sigma^2]$$

$$Y_t = \beta_0 + \lambda Y_{t-1} + \beta_2 X_t + u_t - \lambda u_{t-1}$$

$$\rho Y_{t-1} = \rho \beta_0 + \lambda \rho Y_{t-2} + \beta_2 \rho X_{t-1} + \rho u_{t-1} - \lambda \rho u_{t-2}$$

$$Y_t - \rho Y_{t-1} = \beta_0 (1 - \rho) + \lambda [Y_{t-1} - \rho Y_{t-2}] + \beta_2 [X_t - \rho X_{t-1}] + \varepsilon_t - \lambda \varepsilon_{t-1}$$

$$Y_t(\rho) = \beta_0 (1 - \rho) + \lambda Y_{t-1}(\rho) + \beta_2 X_t(\rho) + \varepsilon_t - \lambda \varepsilon_{t-1}.$$

Proceeding as for IIa, we define:

$$Y_t(\rho) = Y_t - \rho Y_{t-1}$$

$$X_t(\rho) = X_t - \rho X_{t-1}$$

$$W_t(\rho) = W_t - \rho W_{t-1}$$

$$Y_t(\beta) = \lambda^t W_0(\rho) + \beta_0(1 - \rho)[1 + \lambda + \dots + \lambda^{t-1}] \\ + \beta_2[X_t(\rho) + \lambda X_{t-1}(\rho) + \dots + \lambda^{t-1} X_1(\rho)] + \varepsilon_t.$$

We select a grid over

$$\begin{aligned} -1 &\leq \rho \leq 1 \\ 0 &\leq \lambda < 1. \end{aligned}$$

### 3.4. Hypothesis III

$$\begin{aligned} v_t &= \rho v_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t \quad |\rho| < 1, \quad \varepsilon_t \sim N[0, \sigma^2] \\ Y_t &= \beta_0 + \beta_1 Y_{t-1} + \beta_2 X_t + v_t \\ Y_t - \rho Y_{t-1} &= \beta_0(1 - \rho) + \beta_1(Y_{t-1} - \rho Y_{t-2}) + \beta_2(X_t - \rho X_{t-1}) + \varepsilon_t. \end{aligned}$$

This can be estimated by applying Cochrane-Orcutt or the Hildreth-Lu algorithm. Without such transformations, least squares estimators would be inconsistent.