Econometric Theory, **19**, 2003, 1195–1198. Printed in the United States of America.
DOI: 10.1017/S0266466603196132

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

PROBLEMS

03.6.1. The Central Limit Theorem for Student's Distribution

Karim Abadir
University of York, UK

Jan Magnus
Tilburg University, The Netherlands

Let $x_1, \ldots, x_n$ be a random sample from Student's $t(\nu)$ distribution, where $\nu \in \mathbb{R}_+$. Investigate whether $z_n := \sum_{i=1}^n x_i/\lambda_n$ is asymptotically N(0,1) for a suitable choice of λ_n.

03.6.2. Unbiasedness of the OLS Estimator with Random Regressors

Michael Jansson
UC Berkeley

Consider the linear regression model

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

where X is an $n \times k$ matrix of random regressors, u is an n-vector of error terms, and β is a k-vector of parameters. Suppose X has full column rank with probability one. It is a standard textbook claim that the ordinary least squares (OLS) estimator $\hat{\beta} = (X'X)^{-1}X'y$ of β is unbiased if $E(u|X) \overset{a.s.}{=} 0$, where $\overset{a.s.}{=}$ signifies almost sure equality. Specifically, it is claimed that unbiasedness follows from the law of iterated expectations and the relation $E(\hat{\beta}|X) \overset{a.s.}{=} \beta + (X'X)^{-1}X'E(u|X)$. As it turns out, this argument is flawed.

(a) Show by example that $E(u|X) \overset{a.s.}{=} 0$ does not imply existence of $E(\hat{\beta})$.
(b) Provide stronger conditions under which $E(\hat{\beta})$ exists (and equals β).

SOLUTIONS

02.6.1. Oblique Projectors[1]—Solution

Götz Trenkler (the poser of the problem)
University of Dortmund, Germany

It is well known that an oblique projector $\mathbf{P}$ can be written as

$$\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{U}\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{I}_r & \mathbf{K} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix}\mathbf{U}^*,$$

© 2003 Cambridge University Press 0266-4666/03 $12.00

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 15 Nov 2026 at 20:38:01, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0266466603236136 Published online by Cambridge University Press

where r denotes the rank of $\mathbf{P}$ and $\mathbf{U}$ is a unitary matrix (cf. Hartwig and Loewy, 1992). Because $\mathbf{K}$ is not Hermitian we have $\mathbf{K} \neq \mathbf{0}$.

Consider the matrix

$$\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{U} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{C} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{D} & \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{U}^*,$$

where $\mathbf{C} = (\mathbf{I}_r + \mathbf{K}\mathbf{K}^*)^{-1}$ and $\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{K}^*\mathbf{C}$. Then

$$\mathbf{PR} = \mathbf{U} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{I}_r & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{U}^*,$$

$$\mathbf{RP} = \mathbf{U} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{C} & \mathbf{CK} \\ \mathbf{K}^*\mathbf{C} & \mathbf{K}^*\mathbf{CK} \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{U}^*$$

are both Hermitian. Furthermore, $\mathbf{RPR} = \mathbf{R}$ and $\mathbf{PRP} = \mathbf{P}$. Thus $\mathbf{R}$ satisfies the four conditions of the Moore–Penrose inverse of $\mathbf{P}$, i.e., $\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{P}^+$.

If $\mathbf{P}^+$ were a projector we would get $\mathbf{C}^2 = \mathbf{C}$, which implies $\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{I}$, and consequently $\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{0}$. This is a contradiction.

NOTE

1. Two solutions are published, proposed independently by Götz Trinkler (the poser of the problem) and by Hans Joachim Werner. Excellent solutions have been independently proposed by G. Dhaene, L. Lauwers, S. Lawford, and H. Neudecker.

REFERENCE

Hartwig, R.E. & R. Loewy (1992) Maximal elements under the three partial orders. *Linear Algebra and Its Applications* 175, 39–61.

02.6.1. Oblique Projectors—Solution

Hans Joachim Werner
University of Bonn, Germany

The claimed result is an immediate consequence of the following more informative characterization.

THEOREM 1. *Let P be an idempotent matrix; i.e., let $P^2 = P$. Then P^+ is idempotent if and only if $P = P^*$, with P^+ and P^* denoting the Moore-Penrose inverse and the conjugate transpose of P, respectively.*

Proof. Let $P^2 = P = P^*$. Then $P = P^3 = (P^2)^*$, which in turn directly implies that the Penrose defining equations of P^+ are satisfied for $P^+ = P$, and so our proof of sufficiency is complete. For proving necessity, let P be such that $P^2 = P$ and $(P^+)^2 = P^+$. If $P = 0$, then trivially $P^+ = 0 = P^*$. Next, let $P \neq 0$

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 15 Nov 2026 at 20:38:01, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0266466603236136 Published online by Cambridge University Press

and let r denote the rank of P. According to the well-known singular value decomposition theorem, P can then be written as $P = UD_rV^*$, where U and V are (column-unitary matrices) such that $U^*U = V^*V = I_r$ and where D_r is an $r \times r$ diagonal matrix with the r positive singular values of P along its main diagonal. In view of this decomposition, clearly

$$P^2 = P \Leftrightarrow D_rV^*U = I_r \Leftrightarrow V^*U = D_r^{-1} = U^*V.$$

Because $P^+ = V(D_r)^{-1}U^*$, which again is easily seen by checking the Penrose defining equations of P^+, we likewise obtain

$$(P^+)^2 = P^+ \Leftrightarrow (D_r)^{-1}U^*V = I_r \Leftrightarrow U^*V = D_r = V^*U.$$

Combining these observations necessarily results in $D_r = I = U^*V = V^*U$. Consequently, $(V - U)^*(V - U) = 0$, or, equivalently, $V = U$. As claimed, we thus arrive at $P = UU^* = P^*$, and so our proof is complete. ■

Further equivalent conditions for an idempotent matrix P to be Hermitian are given in the following theorem.

THEOREM 2. *Let P be an idempotent matrix. The following conditions are then equivalent:*

(a) $P = P^*$*; i.e., P is Hermitian.*
(b) $P = PP^*P$*; i.e., P is a partial isometry.*
(c) $\mathcal{R}(P) = \mathcal{R}(P^*)$*; i.e., P is an EP matrix.*
(d) $(P^+)^2 = P^+$.
(e) $P^+ = P$.
(f) $P^+ = P^*$.

That (a) ⇔ (b) ⇔ (c) has been shown recently in Werner (2002). That (a) ⇔ (e) ⇔ (f) can be shown on similar lines and is therefore left to the reader.

REFERENCE

Werner, H.J. (2002) Partial isometry and idempotent matrices. Solution 28-7.5 to Problem 28-7 (by Götz Trenkler). *IMAGE: The Bulletin of the International Linear Algebra Society* 29 (October 2002), 31–32.

02.6.2. Autoregression and Redundant Instruments—Solution

Stanislav Anatolyev (the poser of the problem)
New Economic School, Moscow

The vector of regressors is $x_t = (y_{t-1}\, y_{t-2} \ldots y_{t-k})'$. Let $\gamma_j = \gamma_{-j} = \mathrm{E}[y_t y_{t-j}]$ and $\Gamma_j = (\gamma_j\ \gamma_{j-1} \ldots \gamma_{j-\ell+1})'$. The matrix of cross-covariances of x_t and z_t is

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 15 Nov 2026 at 20:38:01, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0266466603236136

$$\mathrm{Q}_{xz} = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_{p-1} & \gamma_p & \cdots & \gamma_{p+k-2} & \cdots & \gamma_{p+\ell-2} \\ \gamma_{p-2} & \gamma_{p-1} & \cdots & \gamma_{p+k-3} & \cdots & \gamma_{p+\ell-3} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \gamma_{p-k} & \gamma_{p-k+1} & \cdots & \gamma_{p-1} & \cdots & \gamma_{p+\ell-k-1} \end{pmatrix}$$
$$= (\mathrm{I}_k \, \mathrm{O}_{k\times(\ell-k)})(\Gamma_{p-1} \, \Gamma_p \cdots \Gamma_{p+\ell-2}),$$

where I_m denotes $m \times m$ identity matrix and $\mathrm{O}_{m_1\times m_2}$ – zero $m_1 \times m_2$ matrix. The covariance matrix of $z_t\varepsilon_t$ is

$$\mathrm{V}_{z\varepsilon} = \sigma^2 \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_0 & \gamma_1 & \cdots & \gamma_{\ell-1} \\ \gamma_1 & \gamma_0 & \cdots & \gamma_{\ell-2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \gamma_{\ell-1} & \gamma_{\ell-2} & \cdots & \gamma_0 \end{pmatrix} = \sigma^2(\Gamma_0 \, \Gamma_1 \ldots \Gamma_{\ell-1}).$$

The efficient generalized method of moments estimator based on the instrumental vector z_t effectively uses the instrument optimal in the class of linear transformations of z_t. This optimal instrument is $\mathrm{Q}_{xz}\mathrm{V}_{z\varepsilon}^{-1}z_t$ (see, e.g., West, 2001). We will show that in the matrix $\mathrm{Q}_{xz}\mathrm{V}_{z\varepsilon}^{-1}$ the right $k \times (\ell - k)$ submatrix is zero, so that the optimal combination of elements of z_t involves only the first k entries.

Recall that the Yule–Walker equations for an AR(k) model contain the following recursion:

$$\gamma_j = \rho_1\gamma_{j-1} + \rho_2\gamma_{j-2} + \cdots + \rho_k\gamma_{j-k}, \qquad j \geq 1.$$

This implies that

$$\begin{aligned}(\Gamma_{p-1} \, \Gamma_p \ldots \Gamma_{p+\ell-2}) &= \mathrm{P}(\Gamma_{p-2} \, \Gamma_{p-1} \ldots \Gamma_{p+\ell-3}) \\ &= \ldots \\ &= \mathrm{P}^{p-1}(\Gamma_0 \, \Gamma_1 \ldots \Gamma_{\ell-1}),\end{aligned}$$

where

$$\mathrm{P} = \begin{pmatrix} \rho' & 0'_{\ell-1-k} & \\ & \mathrm{I}_{\ell-1} & 0_\ell \end{pmatrix}$$

and 0_m denotes zero $m \times 1$ vector. Thus

$$\mathrm{Q}_{xz} = (\mathrm{I}_k \, \mathrm{O}_{k\times(\ell-k)})(\Gamma_{p-1} \, \Gamma_p \ldots \Gamma_{p+\ell-2}) = \sigma^{-2}(\mathrm{I}_k \, \mathrm{O}_{k\times(\ell-k)})\mathrm{P}^{p-1}\mathrm{V}_{z\varepsilon}.$$

It follows that $\mathrm{Q}_{xz}\mathrm{V}_{z\varepsilon}^{-1}$ equals $\sigma^{-2}(\mathrm{I}_k \, \mathrm{O}_{k\times(\ell-k)})\mathrm{P}^{p-1}$, a matrix whose right $k \times (\ell - k)$ submatrix is indeed zero.

REFERENCE

West, K.D. (2001) On optimal instrumental variables estimation of stationary time series models. *International Economic Review* 42, 1043–1050.

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 15 Nov 2026 at 20:38:01, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0266466603236136 Published online by Cambridge University Press