

Chapter 11 Discussion Problems

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ECON 104 – UCLA

Outline

1 Problem 11.12

2 Problem 11.20

3 Problem 11.28

Problem 11.12: Wage Equation for Married Women

Suppose you want to estimate a wage equation for married women:

$$\log(WAGE) = \beta_1 + \beta_2 HOURS + \beta_3 EDUC + \beta_4 EXPER + \beta_5 EXPER^2 + e_1$$

where $WAGE$ is the hourly wage, $HOURS$ is number of hours worked per week, $EDUC$ is years of education, and $EXPER$ is years of experience.

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where $WAGE$ is the hourly wage, $HOURS$ is number of hours worked per week, $EDUC$ is years of education, and $EXPER$ is years of experience.

Your classmate observes that there may be an auxiliary relationship:

$$HOURS = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 \log(WAGE) + \alpha_3 KIDS + \alpha_4 \log(HWAGE) + e_2$$

where $KIDS$ is the number of children under age six and $HWAGE$ is the husband's wage rate.

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- But in the wage equation, *HOURS* is a regressor
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The problem: $Cov(HOURS, e_1) \neq 0$ because wages affect hours, which means the error term is correlated with the regressor.

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What does “identification” mean?

- We need at least one instrument that shifts *HOURS* without directly affecting *WAGE*
- The instrument must be correlated with *HOURS* (relevance)
- The instrument must be uncorrelated with e_1 (exogeneity)

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Our instruments:

- *KIDS* – affects hours worked (childcare) but not hourly wage directly
- $\log(HWAGE)$ – husband's wage affects wife's labor supply but not her wage rate

Problem 11.12 (c): Alternative Estimation Procedure

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Step 1: Estimate the reduced-form equation for *HOURS*:

$$HOURS = \theta_1 + \theta_2 EDUC + \theta_3 EXPER + \theta_4 EXPER^2 + \theta_5 KIDS + \theta_6 \log(HWAGE) + u$$

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Step 3: Estimate the wage equation replacing *HOURS* with \widehat{HOURS} :

$$\log(WAGE) = \beta_1 + \beta_2 \widehat{HOURS} + \beta_3 EDUC + \beta_4 EXPER + \beta_5 EXPER^2 + e_1$$

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- Test whether θ_5 and θ_6 are **jointly significant** in the first-stage regression
- Compute the F -statistic for joint significance
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Why does this matter?

- If instruments are weak, they don't shift *HOURS* enough
- 2SLS estimates will be biased toward OLS
- Standard errors and test statistics will be unreliable

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Problem 11.20: Chicken (Broiler) Demand

This exercise examines a supply and demand model for edible chicken (“broilers”).

Demand equation:

$$\log(Q_t) = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 \log(P_t) + \alpha_3 \log(Y_t) + \alpha_4 \log(PB_t) + \alpha_5 POPGRO_t + e_t^d$$

where:

- Q = per capita consumption of chicken (pounds)
- P = real price of chicken
- Y = real per capita income
- PB = real price of beef
- $POPGRO$ = rate of population growth

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- Real price of beef PB
- Population growth $POPGRO$

Key insight: P and Q are jointly determined – this is why OLS will be biased.

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OLS Results:

- $\log(P)$: coefficient is **negative** but **not significant**
- $\log(Y)$: coefficient is **positive** and **significant** (income elasticity)
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Problem: The price coefficient should be negative and significant for demand. The insignificance suggests endogeneity bias is masking the true relationship.

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Breusch-Godfrey $T \times R^2$ test:

- Regress \hat{e}_t on \hat{e}_{t-1} , \hat{e}_{t-2} , and original regressors
- Test statistic: $N \times R^2$ is much greater than $\chi_{0.95,2}^2 = 5.99$

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Conclusion: Reject the null hypothesis of no serial correlation. The residuals are autocorrelated.

Problem 11.20 (d): 2SLS Estimation

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Why did this help? The instruments shift the supply curve, allowing us to trace out the demand curve and identify the true price-quantity relationship.

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- ④ Estimate the first-stage equation and test the joint significance of the instruments. Can we conclude that at least one instrument is strong?

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Conclusion: The instruments are **weak**. While statistically significant, they may not shift price enough to produce reliable 2SLS estimates.

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Solution:

- HAC (Newey-West) standard errors are larger than OLS SEs
- Some coefficients lose significance
- The F -test for instrument strength is unchanged (based on coefficients, not SEs)

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Implication: After properly accounting for serial correlation, the price elasticity estimate becomes more uncertain.

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Warning: Even though 2SLS gave “better” results than OLS, we should be cautious about their validity.

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Problem 11.28: Truffle Supply and Demand

Supply and demand curves traditionally have price (P) on the vertical axis and quantity (Q) on the horizontal axis.

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Rewritten equations with P on LHS:

Demand:

$$P_i = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 Q_i + \alpha_3 PS_i + \alpha_4 DI_i + e_{di}$$

Supply:

$$P_i = \beta_1 + \beta_2 Q_i + \beta_3 PF_i + e_{si}$$

where PS = price of substitute, DI = disposable income, PF = price of truffle-pigs.

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Demand equation:

- $\alpha_2 < 0$: Higher quantity \Rightarrow lower price (demand curve slopes down)
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Supply equation:

- $\beta_2 > 0$: Higher quantity \Rightarrow higher price needed (supply curve slopes up)
- $\beta_3 > 0$: Higher input costs \Rightarrow higher output price

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Key insight: 2SLS successfully identifies both curves by using variables that shift one curve to trace out the other.

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Substituting the estimates and sample means gives the elasticity.

Problem 11.28 (d): Graphing Supply and Demand

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Solution:

Substitute the fixed exogenous values into the estimated equations:

Demand: $P = \hat{\alpha}_1 + \hat{\alpha}_2 Q + \hat{\alpha}_3(22) + \hat{\alpha}_4(3.5)$

Supply: $P = \hat{\beta}_1 + \hat{\beta}_2 Q + \hat{\beta}_3(23)$

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Graph characteristics:

- Demand curve slopes downward ($\alpha_2 < 0$)
- Supply curve slopes upward ($\beta_2 > 0$)
- Intersection gives equilibrium (Q^*, P^*)

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$$Q_{EQM} = 18.25, \quad P_{EQM} = 62.84$$

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Conclusion: The results are **nearly identical**, confirming internal consistency of the model.

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Key takeaway: OLS fails badly for demand (simultaneity bias flips the sign), but works reasonably for supply in this case.

Thank you!
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