

Slides

# The Method of Instrumental Variables for Generalized Linear Models

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## Abstract

The method of *in rumental variable* (IVs) has been developed historically and used extensively in econometrics for estimating the structural parameters in statistical models where some regressors are correlated with the model's error. Thus, as discussed by Bowden and Turkington (1984, pp. 3-10), the IV estimation method has four important applications: (1) the error-in-variable problem, (2) the simultaneous equation problem, (3) the simultaneous equations model, and (4) the time series problem. In this study, we generalize the current IV method for linear and nonlinear equations to allow the structural equations to be in a *generalized linear model* (GLM) form so that the response variables of those equations can be different kinds of measurements such as continuous, binary, and count. However, when the structural equation is of a GLM form, some additional difficulties arise for the IV method because the *link function* of a GLM makes the measurement of the response variable nonlinear in regression coefficients and the *variance function* of the response variable in a GLM usually depends on its mean. Thus, in general, the IV estimator for a GLM equation derived by minimizing a quadratic form like the one found for a linear or nonlinear equation (see, e.g., Amemiya 1985, p. 246, Eq. (8.1.2)) would be inconsistent. However, by applying the theory of estimating functions (Godambe and Kalbfleisch 1991, ch. 1, pp. 9-10, Dismantle 1991, p. 140, and McCullagh 1991, ch. 11.3, sp., Eq. (3.2), pp. 269-271), we develop a general IV methodology for GLMs, which has an applicability especially in the measurement error problem and the simultaneous equations bias of GLMs. The statistical properties of our IV estimator are examined. The simulation studies show promising results when it is applied to estimate the structural parameters in our generalized factor analysis and generalized path analysis (or generalized simultaneous equations model).

### Keywords:

Error-in-variable problem, measurement error problem, Factor analysis, simultaneous equations model, structural equation model, Nonlinear model, Discrete response.

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# **1 Review**

## **1.1 Generalized Linear Models (GLMs)**

### **... Specification**

Let  $i$  index observations,  $i = 1, 2, \dots$

**2. Logistic Regression Model:**

### .3 Estimation

As shown by Dobson (1990, Chap. 4 and Appendix B, pp. 36-46 and 141-146) and McCullagh and Nelder (1989, Ch. 2, pp. 40-43), the *maximum likelihood estimator* (MLEs) of the unknown regression coefficients in a GLM can be obtained by a unified *iterative reweighted least square* (IRLS) algorithm.

### .4 Inference

As discussed in Dobson (1990, Chap. 5, pp. 49-66), the key to the statistical inference for GLMs is the sampling distribution of the score vector  $U(\hat{\beta})$ , which is asymptotically multivariate normal based on the *central limit theorem* (CLT). Then, the inference on the regression coefficients is based on the first-order Taylor expansion of  $U(\hat{\beta})$  for  $\hat{\beta}$ .

## 1.2 Instrumental Variables (IVs)

### 1.2.1 Definition

The method of *instrumental variable* (IVs) has been developed historically and used extensively in econometrics for estimating the structural parameters in statistical models where the regressor is correlated with the error term. For easy computation, let the "convergence in probability" (i.e.,  $\xrightarrow{p}$ ) be denoted by "plim" hereinafter.

### 1. The IV Estimators for a Linear Equation:

A *linear* equation is specified as

$$Y = X\beta + u$$

where  $Y$  is an  $n \times 1$  vector of response variables,  $X$  is an  $n \times p$  matrix of covariates,  $\beta$  is a  $p \times 1$  vector of parameters, and  $u$  is an  $n \times 1$  vector of errors. Suppose that

$$\text{plim} \left( \frac{1}{n} X^T X \right) = Q$$

so that the

## 2. The IV Estimators for a Nonlinear Equation:

Next, a *nonlinear* equation can be specified as

$$Y = f(X; \beta) + \epsilon.$$

One way to generalize the IV estimators from linear equations to nonlinear ones is to replace  $(Y - X\beta)$  by  $(Y - f(X; \beta))$  in the minimization of the corresponding quadratic form. Thus, given an instrument  $Z$  for  $X$ , a consistent IV estimator  $\tilde{\beta}_{IV}$  is the value of  $\beta$  that minimizes the following quadratic form

$$S_2(\beta/W) =$$



## **.2.2 Applications**

As discussed by Bowden and Turkington (1984, pp. 3-10), the IV estimation method has four important applications:

- 1. The endogenous variable problem.**
- 2. The self-selection problem.**
- 3. The simultaneous equations model.**
- 4. The time series problem.**

We are particularly interested in the first and third ones.

## 2 Problem: IV for GLMs

In this study, we generalize the current IV method for linear and nonlinear equations to allow the structural equations to be in a *generalized linear model* (GLM) form so that the response variables of such equations can be various kinds of measurements such as continuous, binary, or counts.

### 2.1 Problem

However, when the structural equation is of a GLM form, some additional difficulties arise for the IV method because

1. the *link function* of a GLM makes it "nonlinear" and
2. the *variance function* of the response variable in a GLM usually depends on its mean.

Thus, in general, the IV estimator for a GLM equation derived by minimizing a quadratic form like that one defined for a linear or nonlinear equation (see, e.g., Amemiya 1983, p. 246, Eq. (8.1.2)) would be inconsistent.

### 2.2 Solution

Yet, by applying

1. the *minimization approach* of the IV method and
2. the theory of *expectation function* for GLMs (Godambe and Kalbfleisch 1991, ch. 1, pp. 9-10 and McCullagh 1991, p. 269, Eq. (3.2)),

we develop a general IV for GLMs toward a general IV methodology, which has an applicability especially in the error-in-variable problem and the simultaneous equations of GLMs.

### **3 Estimation: The IRIV Algorithm**

By modifying the iterative weighted least squares (IRLS) algorithm, we develop the *iterative reweighted instrumental variable* (IRIV) algorithm for GLS.

#### **3.1**

Then, the score function is

$$U(\boldsymbol{\mu}) = \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{g}'(\boldsymbol{\mu})^{-1} \mathbf{A} (\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{V} \mathbf{A})^{-1} [\mathbf{A}^T (\mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\mu}(\boldsymbol{\mu}))].$$

Notice that the "-1" can not be directly applied to the matrices  $\mathbf{A}^T$ ,  $\mathbf{V}$ , and  $\mathbf{A}$  inside the "()" since  $\mathbf{A}$  is not a square matrix.

It can be shown that the mean of  $U$  is

$$E(U) = 0$$

and the variance of  $U$ , called the information, is

$$\text{Var}(U) = E(U^2) = -E(U')$$

where

$$U' = \frac{dU}{d\boldsymbol{\mu}}$$

and the elements of the information matrix  $I$  are

$$I = \text{Var}(U(\boldsymbol{\mu})) = \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{g}'(\boldsymbol{\mu})^{-1} \mathbf{A} (\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{V} \mathbf{A})^{-1} \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{g}'(\boldsymbol{\mu})^{-1} \mathbf{X}$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} -E(U') &= -E\left(\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{g}'(\boldsymbol{\mu})^{-1} \mathbf{A} (\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{V} \mathbf{A})^{-1} \mathbf{A}^T \frac{d}{d\boldsymbol{\mu}} [ \mathbf{A}^T (\mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\mu}(\boldsymbol{\mu})) ]\right) \\ &\quad - E\left(\frac{d}{d\boldsymbol{\mu}} [ \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{g}'(\boldsymbol{\mu})^{-1} \mathbf{A} (\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{V} \mathbf{A})^{-1} ] [ \mathbf{A}^T (\mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\mu}(\boldsymbol{\mu})) ]\right) \\ &= \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{g}'(\boldsymbol{\mu})^{-1} \mathbf{A} (\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{V} \mathbf{A})^{-1} \mathbf{A}^T \frac{d\boldsymbol{\mu}}{d\boldsymbol{\mu}} \\ &= \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{g}'(\boldsymbol{\mu})^{-1} \mathbf{A} (\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{V} \mathbf{A})^{-1} \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{g}'(\boldsymbol{\mu})^{-1} \mathbf{X} \\ &= \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{W}^* \mathbf{X} \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\mathbf{W}^* = \mathbf{g}'(\boldsymbol{\mu})^{-1} \mathbf{A} (\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{V} \mathbf{A})^{-1} \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{g}'(\boldsymbol{\mu})^{-1}.$$

Thus, we have shown

$$I = \text{Var}(U(\boldsymbol{\mu})) = -E(U')$$

If the *New on-Rap* on method is used to obtain the LEs  $\hat{\theta}^{(m)}$  of  $\theta$ , then at the  $m$ th iteration,

$$\hat{\theta}^{(m)} = \hat{\theta}^{(m-1)} - \left[ \frac{\partial^2 \ell(\hat{\theta}^{(m-1)})}{\partial \theta^2} \right]^{-1} \frac{\partial \ell(\hat{\theta}^{(m-1)})}{\partial \theta}$$

Then,

$$\hat{I}^{(m-1)} + \mathbf{U}^{(m-1)} = \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{W}^{*(m-1)} \mathbf{Z}^{(m-1)}.$$

Finally, assuming that  $\mu$

### 3.2 Remarks

We find that "the IRL algorithm can be used to linearize GLs" and suggest to use it as a tool in developing the estimation method for more complicated statistical models with responses of a mixed type. The remarks are made in this regard.

1. At each iteration indexed by  $(m)$ , the IRL algorithm takes a special transformation on the original response variable  $Y_i$  to obtain a *pseudo*-response variable  $Z_i$ , no matter what type of  $Y_i$  is, to modify the property of the original response variable such that the original GL

$$g(\mu_i) = \mathbf{x}_i^T \boldsymbol{\beta}$$

becomes a linear regression model

$$E[Z_i^{(m)}] = \mathbf{x}_i^T \boldsymbol{\beta}^{(m)}$$

until the convergence of  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ . In the linear regression case, the IRL algorithm reduces to the usual *weighted least square* (WLS) procedure.

2. Then, instead of writing specific computing programs for a variety of GLs according to their likelihood functions to obtain MLEs, one can just apply one single *unified* IRL algorithm for all GLs. For example, the PROC ENMOD in the SAS for *indow* and the `g1` function in the S-PLUS for *indow*.
3. Most importantly, the derived linear regression model for the pseudo-response variable  $Z_i$  at the *l*th iteration of the IRL algorithm provides an "equivalent" linear regression model for the original GL in the sense that they have the same values of the regression coefficients.

Our IRIV algorithm shares the same properties as the IRL algorithm for GLs.

## **4 Example: The GFA Model**

The statistical properties of our IV estimator are examined in the following simulation



## **4.2 Specification**

A GFA mod I is of th following form

$$g_{X_1}(\mu_{X_1}) = {}_{11}F_1 + {}_{12}F_2 + \cdots + {}_{1m}F_m$$

$$g_{X_2}(\mu_{X_2}) = {}_{21}F_1 + {}_{22}F_2$$

### 4.3 Estimation

We introduce the EM-CFA, IV1, and IV2 methods for estimating the factor loadings of a GFA model in the following simulation, among which the IV2 estimator is obtained through the IRIV algorithm.

#### 1. The EM-CFA Estimator

#### 2. The Instrumental Variable # (IV) Estimator :

Notice that this method is the same as that of Carroll and Tetenski (1994).

Carroll and Tetenski (1994) and Carroll, Rupert, and Tetenski (199 ) for the technical details.

### 3. The Instrumental Variable #2 (IV2) Estimator :

- **Step 0:** Fit the GLS for the response variable  $Y_2$  on the covariate  $Y_1$  using the IRL algorithm to obtain the initial estimate of the factor loadings  $\gamma_2$  which is the GLS's slope coefficient, and fit the GLS for the response variable  $Y_3$  on the covariate  $Y_1$  using the IRL algorithm to obtain the initial estimate of the factor loadings  $\gamma_3$  which is the GLS's slope coefficient, which are the naive estimates of  $\gamma = [1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3]^T$ .
- **Step 1:** Obtain the predicted values of  $Y_{1|2}$  and  $Y_{1|3}$ ,  $\hat{Y}_{1|2}$  and  $\hat{Y}_{1|3}$ , as the IV using the ordinary linear model (OLS).
- **Step 2:** Treat the pseudo-response variables  $Z_i$ 's derived from the indicator variables  $Y_i$ 's in the IRL algorithm of GLS as observed continuous indicator variables to obtain the updated estimates of the factor loadings  $\gamma = [1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3]^T$  using the IRL algorithm through the following formula, and iterate  $Z_i$  and  $\gamma$  until  $\gamma$  converges :

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_2 = [\gamma_{20}, \gamma_2]^T &= \left[ Y_1^T g'(\mu)^{-1} \hat{Y}_{1|3} (\hat{Y}_{1|3}^T V \hat{Y}_{1|3})^{-1} \hat{Y}_{1|3}^T g'(\mu)^{-1} Y_1 \right]^{-1} \times \\ & Y_1^T g'(\mu)^{-1} \hat{Y}_{1|3} (\hat{Y}_{1|3}^T V \hat{Y}_{1|3})^{-1} \hat{Y}_{1|3}^T g'(\mu)^{-1} Z_2, \text{ where } V = \text{Var}(Y_2) \\ \gamma_3 = [\gamma_{30}, \gamma_3]^T &= \left[ Y_1^T g'(\mu)^{-1} \hat{Y}_{1|2} (\hat{Y}_{1|2}^T V \hat{Y}_{1|2})^{-1} \hat{Y}_{1|2}^T g'(\mu)^{-1} Y_1 \right]^{-1} \times \\ & Y_1^T g'(\mu)^{-1} \hat{Y}_{1|2} (\hat{Y}_{1|2}^T V \hat{Y}_{1|2})^{-1} \hat{Y}_{1|2}^T g'(\mu)^{-1} Z_3, \text{ where } V = \text{Var}(Y_3). \end{aligned}$$

### 4. The Naive Estimator :

For the purpose of comparison, we also compute the naive estimates of  $\tilde{\gamma}_2$  and  $\tilde{\gamma}_3$  by directly fitting the GLS with the proxy of the latent variable  $F$  to the data, which are also taken as the initial values of the IV2 method.

## 4.4 Simulation

### 4.4. Setup

Recall that the previously specified one-factor threshold indicator GFA model is

$$\begin{aligned} Y_1 &= \mu_1 + 1 \cdot F + \epsilon_{Y_1} \\ \text{logit}(\mu_2) &= \mu_2 + \beta_2 F \\ \log(\mu_3) &= \mu_3 + \beta_3 F \end{aligned}$$

where  $\mu_2$  and  $\mu_3$  are the *mean* of the indicator variables  $Y_2$  and  $Y_3$ , the commonly used "logit" and "log" *link* functions are chosen for  $\mu_{2i}$  and  $\mu_{3i}$ ,  $\epsilon_{Y_1}$  is the measurement error of the indicator variable  $Y_1$ , and the latent variable  $F$  is a continuous variable measured by the indicator variables  $Y_1$ ,  $Y_2$ , and  $Y_3$  of a mixed type — *continuous*, *binary*, and *count* — respectively.

In the following simulations, the sample size ( $n$ ) is 1000 and the number of replications ( $m$ ) is 100. We follow the following steps to generate the simulated data.

1. Firstly, we set the true parameter values.

- (a) For simplicity, we set all the intercepts to

#### 4.4.2 Result

The simulation results are listed in **Table 4**. We find the following interesting results.

1. The naive estimator always seriously underestimates the true values of  $(\beta_2, \beta_3)$ .
2. Generally speaking, the E-CFA, IV1, and IV2 estimators perform well for an "identity" or a "log" link function.
3. For logistic link,

- (a) E-CFA estimator performs well except when the true values of  $\beta_2 = 1.25$ :

$$|\hat{\beta}_2 - \beta_2| = |1.4022 - 1.25| = 0.1522.$$

- (b) IV1 estimator performs well except when the true values of  $\beta_2 = 1.0$  and  $1.25$ :

- $\beta_2 = 1.0$ :  $|1.2453 - 1.0| = 0.2453$
- $\beta_2 = 1.25$ :  $|2.2607 - 1.25| = 1.0107$

- (c) IV2 estimator performs well except when the true values of  $\beta_2 = 0.25$ :

$$|\hat{\beta}_2 - \beta_2| = |0.1882 - 0.25| = 0.0618.$$

Among them, E-CFA estimator always has a larger variance.

4. When the values of  $\beta_2$  and  $\beta_3$  are different such as  $(0.5, 1.0)$  and  $(1.0, 0.5)$ , the performance of IV1 has a larger bias.

5. In all these values of  $(\beta_2, \beta_3)$ , IV2 always has less bias and smaller variance except when  $(\beta_2, \beta_3) = (0.25, 0.25)$ ,

- $\beta_2 = 0.25$ :  $|0.1882 - 0.25| = 0.0618$
- $\beta_3 = 0.25$ :  $|0.1830 - 0.25| = 0.067$

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## **6 Tables**

**Table 4: The Simulation Results for a One-Factor Three-Indicator GFA Model**

$Var(\gamma_1) = 0.25$ .      sample size ( $n$ ) = 1000.      Number of replications ( $m$ ) = 500.

Estimators		2	3
True value		0.2	0.2
EM-CFA	an	0.2 092649693187	0.2 077280393814
	D	(0.271889178046 1)	(0.2 77981 4 1420)
I	an	0.23917803 9980	0.2417 813023387
	D	(0.2 016339007073)	(0.2639 946298 6)
I 2	an	<b>0.18820484324 42</b>	<b>0.182964732324 0</b>
	D	(0.189622230030 8)	(0.18430 1690413 )
Naive	an	0.2038 240382896	0.19896037286348
	D	(0.0 616941128867)	(0.028291328 4139)
True value		0.	0.
EM-CFA	an	0. 062624 6399002	0. 27893368 0906
	D	(0.169496397921747)	(0.164492467426 08)
I	an	0.47994800902810	0.49864687709039
	D	(0.143898300631222)	(0.14016649068670 )
I 2	an	0.491471 72991417	0. 2893813710281
	D	(0.1469 3098636 2)	(0.1402797363997 )
Naive	an	0.394203707107843	0.39879624899906
	D	(0.06049646 011727)	(0.02688417 697182)
True value		0.7	0.7
EM-CFA	an	0.77080 776916108	0.803 664 3 4 486
	D	(0.148 48 12 32787)	(0.112 0796094448)
I	an	0.7 992332797742	0.7 170694969821
	D	(0.12 16 60084339)	(0.1013 1033826447)
I 2	an	0.741 2313269 77	0.7 20347218 432
	D	(0.122236971276649)	(0.1014 3 948 326)
Naive	an	0. 840 3624312387	0. 98897441281704
	D	(0.061932729997401)	(0.02890 63024 148)
True value		1.0	1.0
EM-CFA	an	1.06302978 40374	1.03714873348 6
	D	(0.18 30767078 744)	(0.090 2921306 184)
I	an	<b>1.24 2880 940761</b>	1.0088181997 644
	D	(0.23 194 141 4233)	(0.094960013209768 )
I 2	an	0.977987102 82031	1.01 3413 67 28
	D	(0.139790973079 0 )	(0.08842 6048 614)
Naive	an	0.76 614819012 9	0.799832361822084
	D	(0.071004841008492)	(0.033 06419 148907)

Estimato s		2	3
T ue alue		1.2	1.2
EM-CFA	an D	1.40220449 09103 (0.222178890668 4)	1.16619704621377 (0.14 73630432616)
I	an D	2.260721 2841269 (0. 9010017172323)	1.2491914 13 0 7 (0.0936 18799 617)
I 2	an D	1.2399 9 06800 7 (0.183196647808 1)	1.27412203789911 (0.13824740378273)
Naive	an D	0.93681694772132 (0.070 0462839213)	0.9898706 901224 (0.04 1823 18 069)
T ue alue		0.	1.0
EM-CFA	an D	0. 1 016 018093 (0.12144 617446 2)	1.0183028 9130 2 (0.1272447814200)
I	an D	0. 7788827699316 (0.160 6702818 23)	1.00381246264769 (0.16801078221817)
I 2	an D	0.499 039773 1 2 (0.111 8406617320)	1.06309367337369 (0.26484241789319)
Naive	an D	0.39673 43 6 992 (0.06377698891446)	0.7999871 2 9196 (0.0348113 326788)
T ue alue		1.0	0.
EM-CFA	an D	1.02781 23803823 (0.232 44 8669213 )	0. 2 066319497778 (0.0894179464868 79)
I	an D	0.881 8911810 2	0. 02297498691286