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# Cointegration and error-correction

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## Outline

- Unit roots and cointegration: motivation
- The problem of spurious regressions
- Cointegration: the long-run
- Estimating and testing single cointegrating relationships
- What happens if there is more than one cointegrating relationship?
- Vector autoregressions and vector error-correction mechanisms
- The Johansen methodology
- Hypothesis testing in cointegrated systems
- Weak exogeneity
- Summary



## Unit roots and cointegration: motivation (1)

- Macroeconomic data often contain one or more **unit roots**
- It turns out that models of data with unit roots require special treatment
- In particular, regressions involving variables containing unit roots or stochastic trends can give rise to **spurious regressions** (Granger and Newbold (1974))
- Regression models with integrated data need to be **cointegrated** to be properly specified – in other words, regressions with  $I(1)$  data only make sense when the data are cointegrated
- An excellent source for this material is Maddala and Kim (1998)
- Many of the original papers on unit roots and cointegration can be found in Engle and Granger (1991)



## Unit roots and cointegration: motivation (2)

- An important implication of the analysis of stochastic trends (unit roots) and unit-root tests is that nonstationary time series can be rendered stationary by differencing the series
- This use of the differencing operator represents a **univariate** approach to achieving stationarity
- In the case of  $n > 1$  nonstationary series  $Y_t = (y_{1t}, y_{2t}, \dots, y_{nt})'$ , an alternative method of achieving stationarity is to form **linear combinations** of the series
- The ability to find stationary linear combinations of nonstationary time series is known as **cointegration** (Granger (1981), Engle and Granger (1987))



## Unit roots and cointegration: motivation (3)

- As we will see, the existence of cointegration among a set of nonstationary time-series variables has three important implications:
  - cointegration implies a set of dynamic long-run equilibria, where the weights used to achieve stationarity in the linear combination represent the parameters of the equilibrium relationship;
  - modelling a system of cointegrated variables allows for the specification of both long- and short-run dynamics in terms of a vector error-correction model (VECM); and
  - the estimates of the weights to achieve stationarity (the long-run parameter estimates) converge to their population values at a super-consistent rate of  $T$  compared to the usual  $\sqrt{T}$  rate of convergence for stationary variables



## The concept of cointegration (1)

- An  $n$ -dimensional vector of time-series variables,  $Y_t = (y_{1t}, y_{2t}, \dots, y_{nt})' = (y_{1t}, Y_{2t}')'$ , is integrated of order  $d$ , denoted  $I(d)$  or  $y_t \sim I(d)$ , if at least one of its components is  $I(d)$
- Furthermore, linear combinations involving  $I(d)$  variables also have  $d$  unit roots, i.e., are distributed as  $I(d)$
- In general, regressing two (or more)  $I(d)$  variables, where  $d > 0$ , leads to the problem of a spurious regression

- Consider the following regression:

$$y_{1t} = \beta_0 + \sum_{j=2}^n \beta_j y_{jt} + \varepsilon_t = \beta_0 + \beta_2 y_{2t} + \dots + \beta_n y_{nt} + \varepsilon_t = \beta_0 + \beta' Y_{2t} + \varepsilon_t \quad (1)$$

where all the variables  $y_{jt}$  ( $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) are  $I(1)$

- This seems a prime candidate for a **spurious regression**



## The concept of cointegration (2)

- Let  $Y_t = (y_{1t}, y_{2t}, \dots, y_{nt})'$  denote an  $(n \times 1)$  vector of  $I(1)$  time series
- $Y_t$  is **cointegrated** if there exists an  $(n \times 1)$  vector  $\beta = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_n)'$  such that:

$$\beta' Y_t = \beta_1 y_{1t} + \dots + \beta_n y_{nt} \sim I(0) \quad (2)$$

- In words, the nonstationary time series in  $Y_t$  are cointegrated if there is a linear combination of them that is stationary or  $I(0)$  (if some elements of  $\beta$  are equal to zero, then only the **subset** of the time series in  $y_t$  with non-zero coefficients is cointegrated)





## The concept of cointegration (3)

- The linear combination  $\beta' Y_t$  is often motivated by economic theory and referred to as a **long-run equilibrium relationship**:
  - the intuition is that I(1) time series with a long-run equilibrium relationship cannot drift too far apart from equilibrium because economic forces will act to restore the equilibrium relationship
- Even though cointegration is a purely statistical concept, it nonetheless provides a basis for interpreting (and validating) a number of models in macroeconomics and finance in terms of long-run relationships



## The concept of cointegration (4)

- But note that the cointegrating vector  $\beta$  in (2) is not unique since for any scalar  $c$  the linear combination  $c\beta' Y_t = \beta^{*'} Y_t$  is also  $I(0)$
- Hence, some **normalisation** assumption is required to uniquely identify  $\beta$
- A typical normalisation is:

$$\beta = (1, -\beta_2, \dots, -\beta_n)'$$

so that the cointegration relationship may be expressed as:

$$\beta' Y_t = y_{1t} - \beta_2 y_{2t} - \dots - \beta_n y_{nt} \sim I(0) \quad (3)$$

or

$$y_{1t} = \beta_2 y_{2t} + \dots + \beta_n y_{nt} + u_t \quad (4)$$

where the error term  $u_t \sim I(0)$  –  $u_t$  is often referred to as the **disequilibrium error** or the **cointegrating residual**



## Equilibrium adjustment (1)

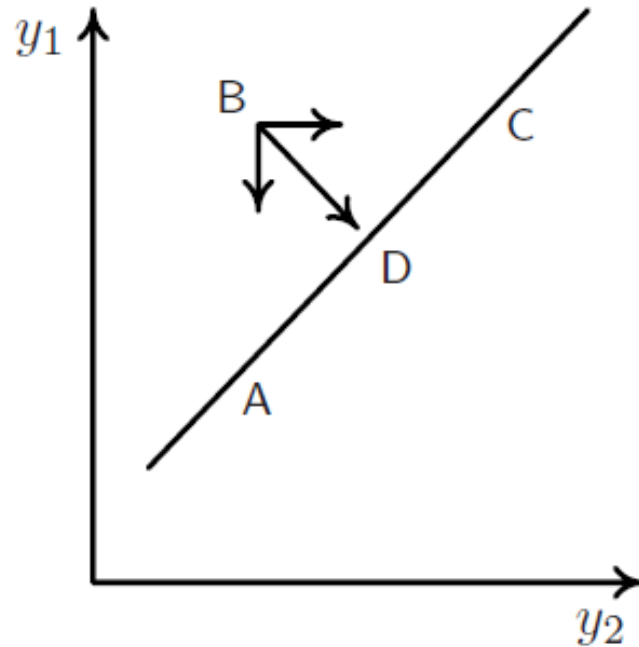
- Assume that we have two variables,  $y_{1t}$  and  $y_{2t}$ , who share a long-run equilibrium relationship given by:

$$y_{1t} = \mu + \beta y_{2t} + \varepsilon_t \quad (5)$$

where  $\varepsilon_t$  is a mean-zero disturbance term and although the equation is normalised with respect to  $y_{1t}$ , the notation is deliberately chosen to reflect the fact that both variables may be endogenously determined



## Equilibrium adjustment (2)



- Phase diagram illustrating the equilibrium adjustment if two variables are cointegrated

## Equilibrium adjustment (3)

- For  $\beta > 0$ , the two-variable system is in long-run equilibrium anywhere along the line  $ADC$
- Now suppose there is a shock to the system such that  $y_{1,t-1} > \mu + \beta y_{2,t-1}$  or, equivalently,  $\varepsilon_{t-1} > 0$  and the system is displaced to point  $B$
- A long-run equilibrium relationship necessarily implies that any shock to the system will result in an adjustment taking place in such a way that equilibrium will be restored
- There are three cases



## Equilibrium adjustment (4)

- The adjustment is done by  $y_{1t}$ :

$$\Delta y_{1t} = \alpha_1(y_{1,t-1} - \mu - \beta y_{2,t-1}) + \varepsilon_{1t} \quad (6)$$

- Since  $y_{1,t-1} - \mu - \beta y_{2,t-1} > 0$ , inspection of (6) reveals that  $\Delta y_{1t}$  should be negative, which in turn suggests the restriction  $\alpha_1 < 0$
- The adjustment is done by  $y_{2t}$ :

$$\Delta y_{2t} = \alpha_2(y_{1,t-1} - \mu - \beta y_{2,t-1}) + \varepsilon_{2t} \quad (7)$$

- Since  $y_{1,t-1} - \mu - \beta y_{2,t-1} > 0$ , inspection of (7) reveals that  $\Delta y_{2t}$  should be positive, which in turn suggests the restriction  $\alpha_2 > 0$
- Both  $y_{1t}$  and  $y_{2t}$  adjust, in which case both equations (6) and (7) operate with  $y_{1t}$  decreasing and  $y_{2t}$  increasing – the strength of the movements in the two variables is determined by the relative magnitudes of the parameters  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$



## Looking for cointegration (1)

- The only way to test for cointegration is through a careful statistical analysis
- What would be empirical evidence of cointegration?
- An obvious candidate for further analysis are the **cointegrating residuals**
- These are given by:

$$u_t = y_{1t} - \hat{\beta}_0 - \sum_{j=2}^n \hat{\beta}_j y_{jt} \quad (8)$$

and if they are stationary, then the underlying (long-run) relationship is cointegrated

- Any unit-root test can be used for this purpose



## Looking for cointegration (2)

- An important implication of the definition of cointegration is that if we have **two** variables which are integrated of **different** orders then these two series cannot possibly be cointegrated
- It is, however, possible to have a mixture of different order series when there are **three or more** series under consideration
- In this case, a subset of the higher-order series may cointegrate to the order of the lower-order series:
  - suppose  $y_{1t} \sim I(1)$ ,  $y_{2t} \sim I(2)$  and  $y_{3t} \sim I(2)$ ;
  - if  $y_{2t}$  and  $y_{3t}$  cointegrate, then  $v_t = ay_{2t} + by_{3t}$  will be  $I(1)$ , meaning that  $v_t$  is now a potential candidate to cointegrate with the remaining  $I(1)$  series,  $y_{1t}$ ;
  - if so, then  $z_t = cv_t + dy_{1t}$  will be  $I(0)$ , such that  $y_{2t}, y_{3t} \sim CI(2,1)$ ,  $v_t, y_{1t} \sim CI(1,1)$  and  $z_t \sim I(0)$





## Estimating single cointegrating equations

- When looking at single equations it is easy to test for cointegration:
  - Engle and Granger's (1987) two-step residual-based procedure for testing the null of no cointegration (extended to more than two variables by Engle and Yoo (1991));
  - Kremers *et al.*'s (1992) test on the speed of the adjustment parameter in an error-correction model;
  - Saikkonen (1991) and Stock and Watson's (1993) dynamic OLS (DOLS) estimation;
  - Phillips and Hansen's (1990) fully-modified OLS (FMOLS) estimation; and
  - Pesaran *et al.*'s (2001) autoregressive distributed lag (ARDL) bounds testing approach



## OLS as a cointegration estimator

- OLS is a good tool for estimating a cointegrating vector
- It is **superconsistent** because estimates of the cointegrating vector with nonstationary  $I(1)$  variables converge in distribution to the true value faster than for nonintegrated  $I(0)$  regressors, as shown by Stock (1987)
- This is just the same sort of property of the regressors which yield spurious regressions...
- ...in particular, the regressors tend to their asymptotic distributions faster
- A consistent estimator  $\beta$  converges to its true value at rate  $\sqrt{T}$ , while a superconsistent estimator converges at the rate  $T$
- Note, however, that the OLS estimate will be biased and inefficient



## The Engle and Granger two-step procedure (1)

- Static regressions provide a framework for testing cointegration, based on the OLS residuals
- As OLS is superconsistent, Engle and Granger (1987) suggest a two-step estimation procedure for cointegrated models
- We first verify that  $y_{1t}$  and  $y_{2t}$  are both  $I(1)$  and then estimate a bivariate version of (1), i.e.,  $j = 2$ , by OLS, take the estimated residuals,  $u_t$ , and run an ADF test for stationarity ( $\rho \leq 1$ ) using:

$$\Delta u_t = (\rho - 1) u_{t-1} + \sum_{i=1}^k \gamma_i \Delta u_{t-i} + \varepsilon_t \quad (9)$$

- This is a **residual-based** test for cointegration
- In performing the test remember we want to **reject** a unit root ( $\rho = 1$ ) in the residuals for cointegration to be present



## The Engle and Granger two-step procedure (2)

- When performing the unit-root test do not include a constant and/or trend in the first (estimation) step and then **also** in the ADF test (the second step)
- Only do this in **one** of the two steps:
  - since the  $u_t$  are residuals from a regression equation that generally includes a constant, there is no need to include an intercept term in the unit-root test; and
  - since Hansen (1992) demonstrated that including a time trend in the ADF test results in a loss of power, it is better to leave it out in the ADF test
- In other words, we generally do **not** include any deterministic variables (constant and time trend) in the second-stage ADF test



## Critical values (1)

- Any of the standard unit-root tests can be used, but the critical values will be **different**
- If we did not need to estimate the parameters, and hence knew the cointegrating vector exactly, we could simply use the usual Dickey-Fuller table for the unit-root test
- But if the cointegrating vector is unknown then it must be estimated prior to testing for a unit root in the residuals
- The test is therefore based on **estimated** residuals – the procedure is prejudiced toward finding a stationary error process
- This preliminary step makes it necessary to use different critical values for the subsequent unit-root test



## Critical values (2)

- Moreover – and rather unexpectedly – the test now depends on the number of regressors in much the same way that we have to be careful about the use of constants and trends in unit-root tests
- We need to take account of this in determining critical values and therefore correct for the number of regressors
- Engle and Yoo (1991) and MacKinnon (1991) suggested alternative critical values which depend on the number of regressors
- MacKinnon (1991), in particular, gives critical values for cointegration tests which take account of whether the test has been run using a constant and/or a trend and the number of regressors,  $n$  ( $1 \leq n \leq 6$ )



## The Engle and Granger two-step procedure (3)

- Despite its popularity, the Engle-Granger two-step procedure has several weaknesses:
  - the step-wise procedure implies a possible compounding of errors;
  - any of the variables can be selected as the left-hand side variable;
  - the procedure rules out multiple cointegration between more than two variables; and
  - due to the unreliable standard errors, we cannot perform statistical tests on the estimated cointegrating vector (Phillips and Durlauf (1986))
- In fact, the single-equation approach is really only applicable when there is a single unique cointegrating vector and when all the right-hand side variables are weakly exogenous



## The Engle and Granger two-step procedure (4)

- The estimation of the long-run equilibrium regression requires that the researcher place **one** variable on the left-hand side and use the other(s) as regressor(s)
- For example, in the case of two variables  $y_{1t}$  and  $y_{2t}$ , it is possible to run the Engle and Granger test for cointegration by using the estimated residuals from either of the two following 'equilibrium' regressions:

$$y_{1t} = \beta_{10} + \beta_{12}y_{2t} + u_{1t} \quad (10)$$

$$y_{2t} = \beta_{20} + \beta_{22}y_{1t} + u_{2t} \quad (11)$$





## The Engle and Granger two-step procedure (5)

- As the sample size grows infinitely large, asymptotic theory indicates that the test for a unit root in the  $\{u_{1t}\}$  sequence becomes equivalent to the test for a unit root in the  $\{u_{2t}\}$  sequence
- In practice, it is possible to find that one regression indicates that the variables are cointegrated, whereas reversing the order indicates no cointegration



## Engle and Granger with more than two variables (1)

- When there are only two variables it is possible to show that the cointegrating vector is unique
- When one moves beyond the two-variable case the possibility immediately arises of there being more than one cointegration relation
- A cointegration relation is a linear combination of  $I(1)$  variables that is  $I(0)$
- With  $k (> 2)$  variables, all of which are  $I(1)$ , there may be 0, 1, 2, ... ,  $k-1$  cointegration relations...
- ...and there will thus be problems with the (bivariate) Engle-Granger regression approach



## Engle and Granger with more than two variables (2)

- Assume three I(1) variables:  $y_{1t}$ ,  $y_{2t}$  and  $y_{3t}$
- Technically, in order to test for cointegration between  $y_{1t}$ ,  $y_{2t}$  and  $y_{3t}$ , we have to run the following **three** regressions:

$$y_{1t} = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 y_{2t} + \alpha_3 y_{3t} + u_{1t} \quad (12)$$

$$y_{2t} = \beta_1 + \beta_2 y_{1t} + \beta_3 y_{3t} + u_{2t} \quad (13)$$

$$y_{3t} = \gamma_1 + \gamma_2 y_{1t} + \gamma_3 y_{2t} + u_{3t} \quad (14)$$

and determine whether the **three** estimated residual series  $u_{1t}$ ,  $u_{2t}$  and  $u_{3t}$  from the equilibrium regressions are stationary



## Engle and Granger with more than two variables (3)

- In many circumstances, only a subset of variables is cointegrated
- Suppose that  $y_{1t}$ ,  $y_{2t}$  and  $y_{3t}$  are three I(1) variables and that  $y_{1t}$  and  $y_{2t}$  are cointegrated such that  $y_{1t} - \alpha_2 y_{2t}$  is stationary;
  - a regression of  $y_{1t}$  on the other two variables – as in (12) – should yield the stationary relationship  $y_{1t} = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 y_{2t} + (0)y_{3t}$ ;
  - similarly, a regression of  $y_{2t}$  on the other two variables  $y_{1t}$  and  $y_{3t}$  as in (13), should yield the stationary relationship  $y_{2t} = \beta_1 + \beta_2 y_{1t} + (0)y_{3t} = y_{2t} = -(\alpha_1/\alpha_2) + (1/\alpha_2)y_{1t} + (0)y_{3t}$ ; but
  - a regression of  $y_{3t}$  on  $y_{1t}$  and  $y_{2t}$  – as in (14) – cannot reveal the cointegrating relationship (as it does not involve a transform of  $\alpha_2$ )



## Engle and Granger with more than two variables (4)

- In performing the ADF test on the estimated residuals, there is no presumption that any one of the residual series is preferable to any of the others
- But not all three equilibrium regressions may yield the same conclusion
- We should therefore be wary of a result indicating that the variables are cointegrated using one variable for normalisation, but are not cointegrated using another variable for normalisation



## Alternative testing methodologies (1)

- The single two-step estimator of Engle and Granger is **not** asymptotically efficient
- The econometric problems with the Engle-Granger two-step procedure arise from the potential endogeneity of  $y_{2t}$  and autocorrelation in the disturbances  $u_t$  when simply estimating:

$$y_{1t} = \mu + \beta y_{2t} + u_t \quad (15)$$

by ordinary least squares

- Thus, while it is not necessary to take into account the short-run dynamics from the error-correction model to obtain superconsistent estimates of the long-run parameters, it is necessary to model the short-run dynamics to obtain an efficient estimator with  $t$ -statistics that have the standard distribution



## Alternative testing methodologies (2)

- The ordinary least squares estimator of  $\beta$  is superconsistent but inefficient
- Solutions to the efficiency problem and bias introduced by possible endogeneity of the right-hand side variable and serial correlation have been addressed within single-equation frameworks
- Other **efficient** estimators are the three-step estimator by Engle and Yoo (1991), the dynamic OLS (DOLS) estimator due to Saikkonen (1991) and Stock and Watson (1993), the fully-modified OLS (FMOLS) estimator of Phillips and Hansen (1990), the nonlinear single-equation least-squares estimator due to Phillips and Loretan (1991) and Park's (1992) canonical cointegrating regression



## Alternative testing methodologies (3)

- In addition, Johansen's (1988, 1991) maximum-likelihood procedure – to be discussed below – also falls in this category
- For all these **efficient** estimators, the  $t$ - and Wald-statistics for hypotheses about the cointegrating coefficient,  $\beta$ , correctly rescaled if necessary, have **standard** asymptotic distributions





## Alternative testing methodologies (4)

- A very general specification that controls for the possible endogeneity of the right-hand side variable and serial correlation contains lag polynomials, allowing for different lag orders and also leads as well as lags
- In other words, this general specification will allow for both the leads and the lags of the cointegrating relationship,  $(y_{1t} - \beta y_{2t})$ , and leads and lags of  $\Delta y_{2t}$
- A reduced-form version of this general specification is:

$$y_{1t} = \beta y_{2t} + \sum_{i=-q, i \neq 0}^r \gamma_i (y_{1,t-i} - \beta y_{2,t-i}) + \sum_{j=-s}^t \delta_j \Delta y_{2,t-j} + \eta_t \quad (16)$$

- The intuition behind this approach is that improved estimates of the long-run parameters,  $\beta$ , can be obtained by using information in the short-run dynamics



## Phillips and Loretan (1991)

- The Phillips and Loretan (1991) estimator excludes the leads of the cointegrating vector from (16)
- The equation is:

$$y_{1t} = \beta y_{2t} + \sum_{i=1}^r \gamma_i (y_{1,t-i} - \beta y_{2,t-i}) + \sum_{j=-s}^t \delta_j \Delta y_{2,t-j} + \eta_t \quad (17)$$

which needs to be estimated by **nonlinear** least squares

- This procedure yields (super) consistent and asymptotically efficient estimates of the cointegrating vector if all the (exclusion) restrictions are satisfied



## Dynamic ordinary least squares

- The dynamic ordinary least squares (DOLS) due to Saikkonen (1991) and Stock and Watson (1993) excludes the lags and leads of the cointegrating vector from (16)
- The equation is:

$$y_{1t} = \beta y_{2t} + \sum_{j=-s}^t \delta_j \Delta y_{2,t-j} + \eta_t \quad (18)$$

which can be quite easily estimated by ordinary least squares

- This procedure yields (super) consistent and asymptotically efficient estimates of the cointegrating vector if all the (exclusion) restrictions are satisfied
- This approach is available in EViews 7



## Fully modified ordinary least squares

- The fully modified ordinary least squares (FMOLS) due to Phillips and Hansen (1990) excludes the lags and leads of the cointegrating vector from (16) and limits the terms in  $\Delta y_{2t}$  to the contemporaneous difference with coefficient  $\delta$
- The equation is:

$$y_{1t} = \beta y_{2t} + \delta \Delta y_{2t} + \eta_t \quad (19)$$

- The FMOLS methodology is implemented in three steps described in the original paper
- The approach is available in EViews 7



## Engle and Yoo (1991)

- The Engle and Yoo (1991) estimator starts by formulating the error-correction version of (15) by adding and subtracting  $y_{1,t-1}$  and adding and subtracting  $\beta y_{2,t-1}$  from the right-hand side and rearranging to yield:

$$\Delta y_{1t} = -(y_{1,t-1} - \beta y_{2,t-1}) + (\beta + \delta)\Delta y_{2t} + \eta_t \quad (20)$$

- Given an estimate  $\hat{\beta}$ , a reduced-form version of (20) is:

$$\Delta y_{1t} = -\rho(y_{1,t-1} - \hat{\beta}y_{2,t-1}) + \alpha\Delta y_{2t} + w_t \quad (21)$$

where:

$$w_t = \alpha\rho y_{2,t-1} + \eta_t \quad \alpha = \beta - \hat{\beta}$$

- The Engle and Yoo (1991) estimator is implemented in three steps described in the original paper



## Cointegration with more than two variables (1)

- Return to our  $n$ -dimensional vector of potentially endogenous time-series variables,  $Y_t = (y_{1t}, y_{2t}, \dots, y_{nt})'$
- Assume that all variables in  $y_t$  are integrated of the same order, and that this order of integration is either  $I(0)$  or at most  $I(1)$
- We frequently model the vector  $Y_t$  by assuming the following (unrestricted) VAR( $p$ ) relationship in levels:

$$Y_t = A_1 Y_{t-1} + \dots + A_p Y_{t-p} + \Phi D_t + \varepsilon_t \quad \varepsilon_t \sim N(0, \Sigma) \quad (22)$$

where  $D_t$  contains deterministic terms

- VARs constitute a useful class of model for modelling:
  - they are a natural generalisation of the AR model as a method for representing multiple time series; and
  - VARs are often used as a means of imposing minimal restrictions (cointegration being one of those) whilst saying something useful



## Cointegration with more than two variables (2)

- A **vector error-correction mechanism** (VECM) is a more appropriate model as it distinguishes between stationary variables with transitory (temporary) effects and nonstationary variables with persistent (permanent) effects
- Based on the Granger representation theorem, we can re-parameterise the VAR( $p$ ) in (22) as a VECM( $p-1$ ):

$$Y_t = A_1 Y_{t-1} + \dots + A_p Y_{t-p} + \Phi D_t + \varepsilon_t \quad (23)$$

- We can re-write the above as a VECM (see the next two slides):

$$\Delta Y_t = \Pi Y_{t-1} + \Gamma_1 \Delta Y_{t-1} + \Gamma_2 \Delta Y_{t-2} + \dots + \Gamma_p \Delta Y_{t-p+1} + \Phi D_t + \varepsilon_t \quad (24)$$

where:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi &= -I_n + A_1 + \dots + A_p \\ \Gamma_i &= -(A_{i+1} + \dots + A_p), \quad i = 1, \dots, p-1 \end{aligned}$$



## From a VAR( $p$ ) to a VECM( $p-1$ ) (1)

- Start by subtracting  $Y_{t-1}$  from both sides of the VAR:

$$\Delta Y_t = -(I_n - A_1) Y_{t-1} + A_2 Y_{t-2} + \dots + A_p Y_{t-p} + \Phi D_t + \varepsilon_t \quad (23')$$

- Add and subtract  $A_2 Y_{t-1}$  on the right-hand side:

$$\Delta y_t = -(I_n - A_1 - A_2) Y_{t-1} - A_2 \Delta Y_{t-1} + A_3 Y_{t-3} + \dots + A_p Y_{t-p} + \Phi D_t + \varepsilon_t \quad (23'')$$

- Now add and subtract  $A_3 Y_{t-1}$  as well as  $A_3 Y_{t-2}$  from the right-hand side:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta Y_t = & -(I_n - A_1 - A_2 - A_3) Y_{t-1} - (A_2 + A_3) \Delta Y_{t-1} \\ & + A_3 \Delta Y_{t-2} + A_4 Y_{t-4} + \dots + A_p Y_{t-p} + \Phi D_t + \varepsilon_t \end{aligned} \quad (23''')$$

- In the next step, we add and subtract  $A_4 Y_{t-1}$ ,  $A_4 Y_{t-2}$  and  $A_4 Y_{t-3}$  from the right-hand side



## From a VAR( $p$ ) to a VECM( $p-1$ ) (2)

- By repeating this procedure until  $p-1$ , we end up with the following specification:

$$\Delta Y_t = \Pi Y_{t-1} + \Gamma_1 \Delta Y_{t-1} + \Gamma_2 \Delta Y_{t-2} + \dots + \Gamma_{p-1} \Delta Y_{t-p+1} + \Phi D_t + \varepsilon_t \quad (24)$$

$$= \Pi Y_{t-1} + \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} \Gamma_i \Delta Y_{t-i} + \Phi D_t + \varepsilon_t \quad (24')$$

where:

$$\Pi = -I_n + \sum_{j=1}^p A_j$$

$$\Gamma_i = -\sum_{j=i+1}^p A_j$$

are the **long-run impact matrix** and the **short-run impact matrices** respectively

## A bivariate cointegrated VAR(2) model (1)

- Consider the bivariate VAR(2) model for  $Y_t = (y_{1t}, y_{2t})'$  without an explicit term for deterministic variables:

$$Y_t = A_1 Y_{t-1} + A_2 Y_{t-2} + \varepsilon_t \quad (25)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} y_{1t} \\ y_{2t} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11,1} & a_{12,1} \\ a_{21,1} & a_{22,1} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_{1,t-1} \\ y_{2,t-1} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} a_{11,2} & a_{12,2} \\ a_{21,2} & a_{22,2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_{1,t-2} \\ y_{2,t-2} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_{1t} \\ \varepsilon_{2t} \end{pmatrix}$$

- The VECM is:

$$\Delta Y_t = (-I_2 + A_1 + A_2) Y_{t-1} - A_2 \Delta Y_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t \quad (26)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Delta y_{1t} \\ \Delta y_{2t} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 + a_{11,1} + a_{11,2} & a_{12,1} + a_{12,2} \\ a_{21,1} + a_{21,2} & -1 + a_{22,1} + a_{22,2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_{1,t-1} \\ y_{2,t-1} \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} a_{11,2} & a_{12,2} \\ a_{21,2} & a_{22,2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Delta y_{1,t-1} \\ \Delta y_{2,t-1} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_{1t} \\ \varepsilon_{2t} \end{pmatrix}$$

## A bivariate cointegrated VAR(2) model (2)

- An equivalent representation of the VECM is given by:

$$\Delta Y_t = \Pi Y_{t-1} + \Gamma_1 \Delta Y_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t \quad (27)$$

where  $\Pi = -I_2 + A_1 + A_2$  and  $\Gamma_1 = -A_2$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Delta y_{1t} \\ \Delta y_{2t} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \pi_{11} & \pi_{12} \\ \pi_{21} & \pi_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_{1,t-1} \\ y_{2,t-1} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_{11} & \gamma_{12} \\ \gamma_{21} & \gamma_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Delta y_{1,t-1} \\ \Delta y_{2,t-1} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_{1t} \\ \varepsilon_{2t} \end{pmatrix}$$

## A bivariate cointegrated VAR(2) model (3)

- Assuming  $Y_t$  is cointegrated, there exists a  $(2 \times 1)$  cointegrating vector  $\beta = (\beta_1, \beta_2)'$  such that  $\beta' Y_t = \beta_1 y_{1t} + \beta_2 y_{2t}$  is  $I(0)$
- Using the normalisation  $\beta_1 = 1$  and  $\beta_2 = -\beta_2$  the cointegration relation becomes  $\beta' Y_t = y_{1t} - \beta_2 y_{2t}$
- This normalisation suggests the stochastic long-run equilibrium relation:

$$y_{1t} = \beta_2 y_{2t} + \varepsilon_t$$

where  $\varepsilon_t$  is  $I(0)$  and represents the stochastic deviations from the long-run equilibrium  $y_{1t} = \beta_2 y_{2t}$



## A bivariate cointegrated VAR(2) model (4)

- Imposing the cointegration restriction, we can re-write the VECM equation-by-equation:

$$\Delta y_{1t} = \alpha_{11}(y_{1,t-1} - \beta_2 y_{2,t-1}) + \gamma_{11} \Delta y_{1,t-1} + \gamma_{12} \Delta y_{2,t-1} + \varepsilon_{1t} \quad (28)$$

$$\Delta y_{2t} = \alpha_{21}(y_{1,t-1} - \beta_2 y_{2,t-1}) + \gamma_{21} \Delta y_{1,t-1} + \gamma_{22} \Delta y_{2,t-1} + \varepsilon_{2t} \quad (29)$$

- The first equation relates the change in  $y_{1t}$  to the lagged disequilibrium error ( $y_{1,t-1} - \beta_2 y_{2,t-1}$ ) and the second equation relates the change in  $y_{2t}$  to the lagged disequilibrium error as well
- Notice that the reactions of  $y_{1t}$  and  $y_{2t}$  to the disequilibrium errors are captured by the adjustment coefficients  $\alpha_{11}$  and  $\alpha_{21}$
- In matrix form, (28) and (29) correspond to:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Delta y_{1t} \\ \Delta y_{2t} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{11} & -\alpha_{11}\beta_2 \\ \alpha_{21} & -\alpha_{21}\beta_2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_{1,t-1} \\ y_{2,t-1} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_{11} & \gamma_{12} \\ \gamma_{21} & \gamma_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Delta y_{1,t-1} \\ \Delta y_{2,t-1} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_{1t} \\ \varepsilon_{2t} \end{pmatrix}$$



## A bivariate cointegrated VAR(2) model (5)

- Comparing this to (27), we find that:

$$\Pi = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_{11} & -\alpha_{11}\beta_2 \\ \alpha_{21} & -\alpha_{21}\beta_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

which is of rank 1, since a multiple of the first column yields the second column

- Since the matrix  $\Pi$  has reduced rank ( $\text{rank}(\Pi) = 1$ ),  $\Pi$  can be decomposed as the outer product of a weighting vector,  $\alpha$ , and the cointegrating vector,  $\beta$ , where  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are  $(2 \times 1)$  matrices with rank 1 (i.e., vectors)
- The cointegrated VECM for  $\Delta Y_t$  may therefore be re-written as:

$$\Delta Y_t = \alpha\beta'Y_{t-1} + \Gamma_1\Delta Y_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t \quad (30)$$



## A bivariate cointegrated VAR(2) model (6)

- Thus:

$$\Pi = \begin{pmatrix} \pi_{11} & \pi_{12} \\ \pi_{21} & \pi_{22} \end{pmatrix} = \alpha\beta' = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{11} \\ \alpha_{21} \end{pmatrix} (1 \quad -\beta_2) = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{11} & -\alpha_{11}\beta_2 \\ \alpha_{21} & -\alpha_{21}\beta_2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (31)$$

- $\beta$  is a vector of cointegrating parameters, so that  $\beta'Y_{t-1}$  denotes the  $I(0)$  cointegrating relationship or error-correction mechanism
- $\alpha$  is the vector of adjustment or loading coefficients (weights) with which the cointegrating vector enters the two equations of the VAR – the elements of  $\alpha$  measure how the deviations from equilibrium feed back on the changes  $\Delta Y_t$

## A bivariate cointegrated VAR(2) model (7)

- Equation (31) can now be re-written as:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \begin{pmatrix} \Delta y_{1t} \\ \Delta y_{2t} \end{pmatrix} &= \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{11} \\ \alpha_{21} \end{pmatrix} (1 - \beta_2) \begin{pmatrix} y_{1,t-1} \\ y_{2,t-1} \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_{11} & \gamma_{12} \\ \gamma_{21} & \gamma_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Delta y_{1,t-1} \\ \Delta y_{2,t-1} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_{1t} \\ \varepsilon_{2t} \end{pmatrix} \\
 &= \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{11} \\ \alpha_{21} \end{pmatrix} (y_{1,t-1} - \beta_2 y_{2,t-1}) - \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_{11} & \gamma_{12} \\ \gamma_{21} & \gamma_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Delta y_{1,t-1} \\ \Delta y_{2,t-1} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_{1t} \\ \varepsilon_{2t} \end{pmatrix} \\
 &= \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{11} \\ \alpha_{21} \end{pmatrix} ecm_{t-1} - \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_{11} & \gamma_{12} \\ \gamma_{21} & \gamma_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Delta y_{1,t-1} \\ \Delta y_{2,t-1} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_{1t} \\ \varepsilon_{2t} \end{pmatrix} \tag{32}
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $ecm_{t-1} = y_{1,t-1} - \beta_2 y_{2,t-1}$  is called the **error-correction term** and (32) is the vector-error correction model (VECM)

- A VAR in first differences would be misspecified as it omits the error-correction term





## The Johansen methodology (1)

- We established that the long-run properties of the system are described by the matrix  $\Pi$
- The methodology which originated this type of analysis and is the one most frequently used is due to Johansen (1988, 1991)
- The methodology has four basic steps:
  - specify and estimate a  $VAR(p)$  model for  $Y_t$ ;
  - construct likelihood ratio tests for the rank of  $\Pi$  to determine the number of cointegrating vectors;
  - if necessary, impose normalisation and identifying restrictions on the cointegrating vectors; and
  - given the normalised cointegrating vectors, estimate the resulting cointegrated VECM by maximum likelihood
- Details can be found in Johansen (1995)



## The Johansen methodology (2)

### 1. Rank( $\Pi$ ) = $n$

$\Pi$  is of full rank, which means that all variables in  $Y_t$  are stationary (in other words, our initial assumption that all variables in  $Y_t \sim I(1)$  cannot be valid); there is no problem of a spurious regression; any linear combination of  $Y_t$  is stationary and the appropriate modelling strategy is to estimate a normal VAR in levels:

$$Y_t = A_1 Y_{t-1} + \dots + A_p Y_{t-p} + \Phi D_t + \varepsilon_t$$

### 2. Rank( $\Pi$ ) = 0

This implies that  $\Pi = 0$  which means that the term  $\Pi Y_{t-1}$  in (15) disappears and there is no cointegration at all, implying that there are no linear combinations of the  $Y_t$  that are stationary; the VECM reduces to a VAR( $p-1$ ) and we estimate a normal VAR( $p-1$ ) in first differences:

$$\Delta Y_t = \Gamma_1 \Delta Y_{t-1} + \dots + \Gamma_{p-1} \Delta Y_{t-p+1} + \Phi D_t + \varepsilon_t$$



## The Johansen methodology (3)

### 3. Rank( $\Pi$ ) = $0 < r < n$

The system is nonstationary, but  $Y_t$  is  $I(1)$  with  $r$  cointegrating relationships (equivalently,  $n - r$  common stochastic trends) among the variables in  $Y_t$  that are stationary ( $r$  rows are linearly independent, thus  $r$  linearly independent combinations of  $Y_t$  are stationary)

Since  $\Pi$  has rank  $r$  it can be written as  $\Pi = \alpha\beta'$ , where  $\alpha$  is an  $(n \times r)$  matrix of weights, showing the amount of changes in the variables required to bring the system back to equilibrium, and  $\beta$  is an  $(n \times r)$  matrix of parameters determining the long-run equilibrium or cointegrating relationships between the levels of the variables in  $Y_t$ . A VAR in levels would be consistent but inefficient (as it ignores the cointegrating relations) and the VAR in differences is misspecified (the lagged cointegrating vector will be a missing regressor)



## Hypothesis testing: overview

- Inference is straightforward in the Johansen procedure
- We are primarily interested in testing hypotheses on:
  - the number of cointegrating relationships,  $r$  (this is the **most** important hypothesis as any other depends on the number of cointegrating relationships)
- Furthermore, given  $r$ , it is easy to formulate simultaneous linear restrictions on  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ :
  - the  $\alpha$  matrix of adjustment coefficients; and
  - the  $\beta$  matrix of long-run, or cointegrating, relationships
- As such, we would like to test for linear hypotheses on cointegrating relations and for unique cointegrating vectors



## The number of cointegrating vectors, $r$

- Since the rank of the long-run impact matrix  $\Pi$  gives the number of cointegrating relationships in  $Y_t$ , Johansen formulates likelihood ratio (LR) statistics for the number of cointegrating relationships, i.e., for determining the rank of  $\Pi$
- These **sequential** tests are based on the estimated eigenvalues  $\lambda_1 > \lambda_2 > \dots > \lambda_n$  of the matrix  $\Pi$
- The Johansen procedure is based on the fact that the rank of the matrix  $\Pi$  is equal to the number of eigenvalues (significantly) different from zero
- If  $\text{rank}(\Pi) = r$ , the  $\lambda_i$  should be approximately zero for  $i > r$



## Hypothesis testing: testing the order of $r$ (1)

- A test of the null hypothesis of **at most**  $n$  cointegrating vectors:

$$H_0(r_0): r = r_0 \quad \text{vs.} \quad H_1(r_0): r > r_0$$

can be based on the **trace statistic**:

$$LR_{trace}(r_0 | n) = -T \sum_{i=r_0+1}^n \log(1 - \hat{\lambda}_i) = 0 \quad (33)$$



## Hypothesis testing: testing the order of $r$ (2)

- A test of the null hypothesis of  $r_0$  against the alternative of  $r_0+1$  cointegrating vectors:

$$H_0(r_0): r = r_0 \quad \text{vs.} \quad H_1(r_0): r > r_0 + 1$$

can alternatively be based on the **maximum eigenvalue statistic**:

$$LR_{\max}(r_0, r_0 + 1) = -T \log(1 - \hat{\lambda}_{r_0+1}) = 0 \quad (34)$$

where the eigenvalues  $\lambda_j$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  of the  $\Pi$  matrix are ordered from largest to smallest



## Hypothesis testing: testing the order of $r$ (3)

- The cointegrating rank specified in the first null hypothesis which **cannot be rejected** is then chosen as the estimate for the true cointegrating rank,  $r$
- Note that:
  - if  $H_0(0)$ , the first null hypothesis in this sequence, cannot be rejected, a VAR process in first differences is considered; and
  - if all the null hypotheses can be rejected including  $H_0(n-1)$ , the process is treated as  $I(0)$  and a VAR model in levels is specified
- Reinsel and Ahn (1992) and Reimers (1992) have suggested that the likelihood-ratio tests perform better in small samples if the factor  $(T - np)$  is used instead of  $T$  in the construction of the LR tests (where  $n$  is the number of variables in  $Y_t$  and  $p$  is the number of lags in the VAR)





## Deterministic terms in the model (1)

- Johansen (1994, 1995) derives estimators for models with a number of different specifications concerning both the underlying VAR and the cointegrating relationships
- For example, there can be trends in the VAR (as well as other exogenous variables) and constants and trends in the cointegrating relationship, i.e.:

$$\Delta Y_t = \alpha(\beta' Y_{t-1} - \beta_0 - \beta_1 t) - \gamma_0 - \gamma_1 t + \sum_{j=1}^{p-1} \Gamma_j \Delta Y_{t-j} + \varepsilon_t \quad (35)$$

- Each model requires special treatment, with different significance levels for the cointegration tests (Johansen (1994, 1995))



## Deterministic terms in the model (2)

- Each model requires special treatment, with different significance levels for the cointegration tests (Johansen (1994, 1995))
- Following Johansen (1995), the deterministic terms in (15) are restricted to the form:

$$\Phi D_t = \mu_t = \mu_0 + \mu_1 t \quad (36)$$



## Deterministic terms in the model (3)

- The trend behaviour of  $Y_t$  can be classified into **five** cases:

- no constant or trend ( $\mu_t = 0$ ) and the restricted VECM is:

$$\Delta Y_t = \alpha\beta'Y_{t-1} + \Gamma_1\Delta Y_{t-1} + \dots + \Gamma_{p-1}\Delta Y_{t-p+1} + \varepsilon_t$$

- restricted constant ( $\mu_t = \mu_0 = \alpha\rho_0$ ) and the restricted VECM is:

$$\Delta Y_t = \alpha(\beta'Y_{t-1} + \rho_0) + \Gamma_1\Delta Y_{t-1} + \dots + \Gamma_{p-1}\Delta Y_{t-p+1} + \varepsilon_t$$

- unrestricted constant ( $\mu_t = \mu_0$ ) and the restricted VECM is:

$$\Delta Y_t = \mu_0 + \alpha\beta'Y_{t-1} + \Gamma_1\Delta Y_{t-1} + \dots + \Gamma_{p-1}\Delta Y_{t-p+1} + \varepsilon_t$$

- restricted trend ( $\mu_t = \mu_0 + \alpha\rho_1 t$ ) and the restricted VECM is:

$$\Delta Y_t = \mu_0 + \alpha(\beta'Y_{t-1} + \rho_1 t) + \Gamma_1\Delta Y_{t-1} + \dots + \Gamma_{p-1}\Delta Y_{t-p+1} + \varepsilon_t$$

- unrestricted constant and trend ( $\mu_t = \mu_0 + \mu_1 t$ ) and the unrestricted VECM is:

$$\Delta Y_t = \mu_0 + \mu_1 t + \alpha\beta'Y_{t-1} + \Gamma_1\Delta Y_{t-1} + \dots + \Gamma_{p-1}\Delta Y_{t-p+1} + \varepsilon_t$$



## The Johansen methodology: example (1)

- Assume a VECM(1) with three variables  $Y_t = (y_{1t}, y_{2t}, y_{3t})'$  ( $n = 3$ ) and two cointegrating vectors ( $r = 2$ ):

$$\begin{aligned}
 \begin{bmatrix} \Delta y_{1t} \\ \Delta y_{2t} \\ \Delta y_{3t} \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_{11} & \alpha_{12} \\ \alpha_{21} & \alpha_{22} \\ \alpha_{31} & \alpha_{32} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \beta_{11} & \beta_{21} & \beta_{31} \\ \beta_{12} & \beta_{22} & \beta_{32} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_{1,t-1} \\ y_{2,t-1} \\ y_{3,t-1} \end{bmatrix} + \Gamma_1 \begin{bmatrix} \Delta y_{1,t-1} \\ \Delta y_{2,t-1} \\ \Delta y_{3,t-1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_{1t} \\ \varepsilon_{2t} \\ \varepsilon_{3t} \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_{11} & \alpha_{12} \\ \alpha_{21} & \alpha_{22} \\ \alpha_{31} & \alpha_{32} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \beta_{11}y_{1,t-1} + \beta_{21}y_{2,t-1} + \beta_{31}y_{3,t-1} \\ \beta_{12}y_{1,t-1} + \beta_{22}y_{2,t-1} + \beta_{32}y_{3,t-1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_{11} & \gamma_{12} & \gamma_{13} \\ \gamma_{21} & \gamma_{22} & \gamma_{23} \\ \gamma_{31} & \gamma_{32} & \gamma_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta y_{1,t-1} \\ \Delta y_{2,t-1} \\ \Delta y_{3,t-1} \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_{11}ecm_{1,t-1} + \alpha_{12}ecm_{2,t-1} \\ \alpha_{21}ecm_{1,t-1} + \alpha_{22}ecm_{2,t-1} \\ \alpha_{31}ecm_{1,t-1} + \alpha_{32}ecm_{2,t-1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_{11} & \gamma_{12} & \gamma_{13} \\ \gamma_{21} & \gamma_{22} & \gamma_{23} \\ \gamma_{31} & \gamma_{32} & \gamma_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta y_{1,t-1} \\ \Delta y_{2,t-1} \\ \Delta y_{3,t-1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_{1t} \\ \varepsilon_{2t} \\ \varepsilon_{3t} \end{bmatrix} \quad (37)
 \end{aligned}$$



## The Johansen methodology: example (2)

- The two cointegrating vectors,  $ecm_{1t}$  and  $ecm_{2t}$ , are given by:

$$ecm_{1,t-1} = \beta_{11}y_{1,t-1} + \beta_{21}y_{2,t-1} + \beta_{31}y_{3,t-1} \quad (38)$$

and:

$$ecm_{2,t-1} = \beta_{12}y_{1,t-1} + \beta_{22}y_{2,t-1} + \beta_{32}y_{3,t-1} \quad (39)$$

or, after normalisation:

$$ecm_{1,t-1} = y_{1,t-1} + \beta_{21}/\beta_{11}y_{2,t-1} + \beta_{31}/\beta_{11}y_{3,t-1} \quad (38')$$

and:

$$ecm_{2,t-1} = \beta_{12}/\beta_{22}y_{1,t-1} + y_{2,t-1} + \beta_{32}/\beta_{22}y_{3,t-1} \quad (39')$$



## The Johansen methodology: example (3)

- As we can see from (37), the ECM terms  $\beta'Y_{t-1}$  may enter more than one equation:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \alpha_{11} ecm_{1,t-1} + \alpha_{12} ecm_{2,t-1} \\ \alpha_{21} ecm_{1,t-1} + \alpha_{22} ecm_{2,t-1} \\ \alpha_{31} ecm_{1,t-1} + \alpha_{32} ecm_{2,t-1} \end{bmatrix}$$



## The Johansen methodology: example (4)

- Under the assumption of **two** cointegrating vectors ( $r = 2$ ), estimation of a single-equation ECM, say, the first one with  $\Delta y_{1t}$  on the left-hand side, yields:

$$\Delta y_{1t} = (\alpha_{11} ecm_{1,t-1} + \alpha_{12} ecm_{2,t-1}) + \gamma_{11} \Delta y_{1,t-1} + \gamma_{12} \Delta y_{2,t-1} + \gamma_{13} \Delta y_{3,t-1} + \varepsilon_{1t}$$

- Thus, by estimating a single-equation ECM with  $\Delta y_{1t}$  on the left-hand side we would not be able to recover the two cointegrating vectors; instead, we get a linear combination of the two cointegrating vectors...
- ...which is again a cointegrating vector
- This result applies whichever element of  $Y_t = (y_{1t}, y_{2t}, y_{3t})'$  is used as the left-hand side variable in the single-equation model



## The Johansen methodology: example (5)

- On the other hand, when there really is only one cointegrating relationship ( $\beta_{11}y_{1,t-1} + \beta_{21}y_{2,t-1} + \beta_{31}y_{3,t-1}$ ) rather than two entering into all three ECMs with differing speeds of adjustment ( $\alpha_{11}, \alpha_{21}, \alpha_{31}$ )', then using the single-equation approach will obtain an estimate of the single cointegrating vector
- Writing out just the error-correction part of, say, the first equation, gives:

$$\alpha_{11}(\beta_{11}y_{1,t-1} + \beta_{21}y_{2,t-1} + \beta_{31}y_{3,t-1}) \quad (40)$$

- But even if there is only one cointegrating vector, there is information to be gained from estimating the other two equations in the system, since  $\alpha_{21}$  and  $\alpha_{31}$  are not zero – more efficient estimates of the cointegrating vector  $\beta$  can be obtained by using all the information the model has to offer (Johansen (1992))





## The Johansen methodology: example (6)

- Only when, say,  $\alpha_{21} = \alpha_{31} = 0$ , will a single-equation estimator of the unique cointegrating vector be efficient
- Then the cointegration relationship does not enter the other two equations (i.e.,  $\Delta y_{2t}$  and  $\Delta y_{3t}$  do not depend on the disequilibrium changes represented by  $(\beta_{11}y_{1,t-1} + \beta_{21}y_{2,t-1} + \beta_{31}y_{3,t-1})$ )
- This means that when estimating the parameters of the model (i.e.,  $\Gamma_1, \Pi, \alpha, \beta$ ) there is no loss of information from **not** modelling the determinants of  $\Delta y_{2t}$  and  $\Delta y_{3t}$ ; so, these variables can enter on the right-hand side of a single-equation ECM
- This therefore also means that  $\alpha_{21} = \alpha_{31} = 0$  amounts to  $y_{2t}$  and  $y_{3t}$  being **weakly exogenous**



## Weak exogeneity (1)

- Engle *et al.* (1983) refer to a variable as exogenous **with respect to a particular parameter** if knowledge of the process generating the exogenous variable contains no information about that parameter
- We are interested in **weak exogeneity**, which is required for efficient inference (i.e., estimation and hypothesis testing)
- The loading coefficients in the matrix  $\alpha$  can be used to assess whether the cointegrating relations enter a specific equation significantly – thereby allowing us to model partial systems with exogenous variables
- Weak, strong and super exogeneity are the relevant concepts for estimation, forecasting and policy analysis respectively (Ericsson *et al.* (1998))



## Weak exogeneity (2)

- If there are  $r \leq (n - 1)$  cointegrating vectors in  $\beta$ , then this implies that the last  $(n - r)$  columns of  $\alpha$  are zero
- Thus the typical problem faced, that of determining how many  $r \leq (n - 1)$  cointegrating vectors exist in  $\beta$ , amounts to equivalently testing which columns of  $\alpha$  are zero
- Another natural question to ask about the adjustment matrix is whether the coefficients in  $\alpha$  are zero for a certain subset of equations – these hypotheses can be formulated as linear restrictions on the rows of  $\alpha$
- This hypothesis means that the subset of variables is **weakly exogenous** for the long-run parameters and the remaining adjustment parameters, i.e., disequilibrium in the cointegrating relationship, does not feed back directly onto the corresponding variables



## Testing weak exogeneity (1)

- Suppose that  $Y_t = (y_{1t}, y_{2t}, y_{3t})'$  ( $n = 3$ ) and  $r = 1$ , which means that  $\alpha = (\alpha_{11}, \alpha_{21}, \alpha_{31})'$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Delta y_{1t} \\ \Delta y_{2t} \\ \Delta y_{3t} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_{11} \\ \alpha_{21} \\ \alpha_{31} \end{bmatrix} [\beta_{11} \quad \beta_{12} \quad \beta_{13}] \begin{bmatrix} y_{1,t-1} \\ y_{2,t-1} \\ y_{3,t-1} \end{bmatrix} + \Gamma_1 \begin{bmatrix} \Delta y_{1,t-1} \\ \Delta y_{2,t-1} \\ \Delta y_{3,t-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

- The first term in  $\alpha$  represents the speed at which  $\Delta y_{1t}$ , the dependent variable in the first equation of the VECM, adjusts towards the single long-run cointegrating relationship  $(\beta_{11}y_{1,t-1} + \beta_{21}y_{2,t-1} + \beta_{31}y_{3,t-1})$ , while  $\alpha_{21}$  represents the speed at which  $\Delta y_{2t}$  adjusts and  $\alpha_{31}$  shows how fast  $\Delta y_{3t}$  responds to the disequilibrium changes represented by the cointegrating vector

## Testing weak exogeneity (2)

- More generally, each of the  $r$  non-zero columns of  $\alpha$  contain information on which cointegrating vector enters which short-run equation and on the speed of adjustment
- Taking things a step further, the presence of **all** zeros in row  $i$  of  $\alpha_{ij}$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, r$ , indicates that the cointegrating vectors in  $\beta$  do not enter the equation determining  $\Delta y_{it}$
- A variable is weakly exogenous for the cointegrating parameters if none of the cointegration relations enter the equation for that variable
- $s$  linear restrictions on the loading matrix  $\alpha$  of the type  $\alpha = G\psi$ , with  $G$  a given fitted  $n \times s$  matrix and  $\psi$  an  $s \times r$  parameter matrix with  $s \geq r$ , can be easily imposed



## Testing weak exogeneity (3)

- For instance, in our three-variable system ( $n = 3$ ) with two cointegration relations ( $r = 2$ ), we may wish to consider the hypothesis that the third variable,  $y_{3t}$ , is weakly exogenous:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Delta y_{1t} \\ \Delta y_{2t} \\ \Delta y_{3t} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_{11} & \alpha_{12} \\ \alpha_{21} & \alpha_{22} \\ \alpha_{31} & \alpha_{32} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \beta_{11} & \beta_{21} & \beta_{31} \\ \beta_{12} & \beta_{22} & \beta_{32} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_{1,t-1} \\ y_{2,t-1} \\ y_{3,t-1} \end{bmatrix} + \Gamma_1 \begin{bmatrix} \Delta y_{1,t-1} \\ \Delta y_{2,t-1} \\ \Delta y_{3,t-1} \end{bmatrix} \quad (41)$$

- Testing the weak exogeneity of  $y_{3t}$  amounts to testing  $\alpha_{31} = \alpha_{32} = 0$ :

$$\alpha = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_{11} & \alpha_{12} \\ \alpha_{21} & \alpha_{22} \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_{11} & \alpha_{12} \\ \alpha_{21} & \alpha_{22} \end{bmatrix} = G\psi \quad (42)$$

## Testing weak exogeneity (4)

- If the restriction cannot be rejected:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \begin{bmatrix} \Delta y_{1t} \\ \Delta y_{2t} \\ \Delta y_{3t} \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_{11} & \alpha_{12} \\ \alpha_{21} & \alpha_{22} \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \beta_{11} & \beta_{21} & \beta_{31} \\ \beta_{12} & \beta_{22} & \beta_{32} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_{1,t-1} \\ y_{2,t-1} \\ y_{3,t-1} \end{bmatrix} + \Gamma_1 \begin{bmatrix} \Delta y_{1,t-1} \\ \Delta y_{2,t-1} \\ \Delta y_{3,t-1} \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_{11} ecm_{1,t-1} + \alpha_{12} ecm_{2,t-1} \\ \alpha_{21} ecm_{1,t-1} + \alpha_{22} ecm_{2,t-1} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \Gamma_1 \begin{bmatrix} \Delta y_{1,t-1} \\ \Delta y_{2,t-1} \\ \Delta y_{3,t-1} \end{bmatrix} \tag{43}
 \end{aligned}$$

## Testing weak exogeneity (5)

- If  $\alpha_{3j} = 0$  ( $j = 1, 2$ ), then the equation for  $\Delta y_{3t}$  contains no information about the long-run  $\beta$  since the cointegration relationships do not enter into this equation, and it is therefore valid to condition on the weakly exogenous variable  $y_{3t}$  and proceed with the following partial version of the VECM:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Delta y_{1t} \\ \Delta y_{2t} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{11} & \alpha_{12} \\ \alpha_{21} & \alpha_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \beta_{11} & \beta_{12} & \beta_{13} \\ \beta_{21} & \beta_{22} & \beta_{23} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_{1,t-1} \\ y_{2,t-1} \\ y_{3,t-1} \end{pmatrix} + \Gamma_1 \begin{pmatrix} \Delta y_{1,t-1} \\ \Delta y_{2,t-1} \\ \Delta y_{3,t-1} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} Y_{10} \\ Y_{20} \end{pmatrix} \Delta y_{3t} + \varepsilon_t$$

- Note that the weakly exogenous variable,  $y_{3t}$ , remains in the long-run model (i.e., the cointegrating vectors) although its short-run behaviour is not modelled because of its exclusion from the vector on the left-hand side of the equation





## Summary (1)

- Cointegrating relationships resemble long-run relationships and can be used to **validate** economic hypotheses – when carefully applied, it allows for the analysis of long-run economic relationships
- It is therefore important to be able to test for the existence of cointegration and the number of cointegrating vectors
- Depending on the number of variables, it is important to figure out whether this is done in an ECM or VECM
- Except in the case when only two variables are involved, the analysis of cointegration should really begin by using a multivariate framework and not by using a single-equation approach



## Summary (2)

- Modified single-equation approaches can help to improve inference in cointegrating regressions...
- ...although the limitation of these approaches remains that the dimension of the cointegration space is always limited to unity
- The Johansen methodology is only one of several for dealing with more than one cointegrating relationship, but it is the most natural extension to the simple VAR – as such, it has become an essential tool for applied economists who wish to estimate time-series models
- It is a very flexible tool for modelling systems where we expect more than one cointegrating vector



## Summary (3)

- It can be used as a tool for both estimating the number of cointegrating relationships and the relationships themselves
- But note that it is quite a 'fragile' method and needs to be used with care



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