

Erling Berge
POL3507 IMPLEMENTERING OG
EVALUERING AV OFFENTLEG
POLITIKK

Regression and quasi-experiments

Ref.: L. B. Mohr 1995 Chapter 7-9

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Literature

- Breen, Richard 1996 "Regression Models. Censored, Sample Selected, or Truncated Data", Sage University Paper: QASS 111, London, Sage
- Hamilton, Lawrence C. 1992 "Regression with graphics", Belmont, Duxbury, Kap. 1-7
- Hardy, Melissa A. 1992 "Regression with dummy variables" Sage University Paper: QASS 93, London, Sage,
- Mohr, Lawrence B. 1995 "Impact Analysis for Program Evaluation", Sage, London
- Winship, Christopher, and Robert D. Mare 1992 «Models for sample selection bias», Annual Review of Sociology, 18:327-350
- Winship, Chrisopher, and Stephen L. Morgan 1999 "The Estimation of Causal Effects from Observational Data", Annual Review of Sociology Vol 25: 659-707

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The comparative change design

- Selection: centralised and autonomous or controlled (not random and not by assignment variable)
- Any known or suspected difference between treatment group and control group should be measured in a suitable variable

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Causes of a change

- Treatment come before measures of effect
 - Assignment to treatment/ control done to maximise chance fluctuations in causes other than treatment
 - Unmeasured causal variables may lead to a spurious causal relation between effect and treatment
- Effects explained by
 - Treatment
 - Spuriousness
 - Chance

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Statistical tests

- How many “independent” observations are there if we compare
 - One school with treatment T and one school without treatment T?
- Subjective judgements are involved
 - Random assignments – assessing contamination
 - Regression-discontinuity – functional form of connection A-Y
 - Comparative change – number of independent observations

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Internal validity

- Usually threats to internal validity come from the selection process
- There is little one can do at the analysis stage except in some cases to
 - Model the selection process

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SKEIVE UTVAL OG MANGLANDE DATA

- I alle ikkje-tilfeldige utval er det eit potensiale for feil i konklusjonane på grunn av skeive utval
- Datainnsamlingsprosedyrer og manglande svar kan gi opphav til trunkerte, selekterte eller sensurerte utval
 - eks: “missing” på avhengig variabel gir eit selektert utval basert på Z : gir svar eller ikkje

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Trunkering

- Ein variabel, X , vert kalla trunkert dersom vi for $X < c$ eller for $X > c$ ikkje veit meir enn at $X < c$ eller $X > c$
- Dette kan omtalast som venstre eller høgretrunkering
- Vi kan også ha multipel trunkering, t.d. samtidig venstre og høgretrunkering

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Sensurerte og selekterte utval

- Sensurerte utval (eksplisitt seleksjon på Y)
 - Y er ukjent når Y har verdiar over eller under c
 - x er kjent for heile utvalet
- Selekterte utval (usystematisk seleksjon)
 - Y er ukjent dersom t.d. $Z=1$ og kjent når $Z=0$
 - x er kjent for heile utvalet

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Selektert eller sensurert utval ?

- Generelt er dette eit spørsmål om tolking og teoretisk fornuft
 - Når manglande observasjon av Y skuldast målemetode eller data innsamling er utvalet sensurert
 - Når manglande observasjon av Y skuldast atferd hos individa er utvalet selektert

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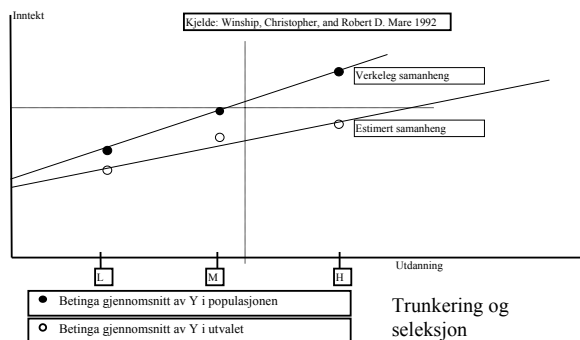
Trunkerte utval og seleksjon på uavhengig variabel

- Trunkert utval (eksplisitt seleksjon på Y)
 - Y er kjent når Y har verdiar over eller under c
 - x er kjent når Y er kjent
- Seleksjon på uavhengig variabel
 - Y er kjent når x har verdiar anten over eller under c
 - x er kjent når Y er kjent

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Kva er problematisk?

- Seleksjon på uavhengig variabel er uproblematisk
- Trunkerte, selekterte og sensurerte utval fører til at restleddet er korrelert med dei uavhengige variablane. Både ekstern og intern validitet er kompromitert.

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Kva kan gjerast?

- Ein bør i analysen ta utgangspunkt i det foregåande og bruke modellar som korrigerer for bias dersom ein ikkje kan argumentere for at problemet er lite.
- Løysinga er
 - 1) lage ein modell som predikerer seleksjonen
 - 2) bruke dette i ein modell som predikerer y gitt at personen er selektert

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Best practice

- Select cases for treatment centrally. Self selection is the worst threat to internal validity
- All known or suspected factors affecting selection needs to be avoided, controlled or measured
- Minimize unexplained variance by using pre-tests or good causal predictors
- Maximise number of observations (n)

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Formalisation

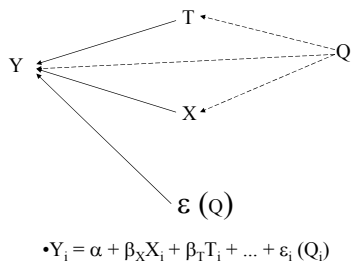
- Design
 - (A)/C: $X_{1E} \rightarrow Y_E$
 - A / C: $X_{1C} \rightarrow Y_C$
- Selection Q-bias: Unmeasured cause of Y not captured by the pretest (P)
- Regression model
- $Y_i = \alpha + \beta_X X_i + \beta_T T_i + \dots + \varepsilon_i$

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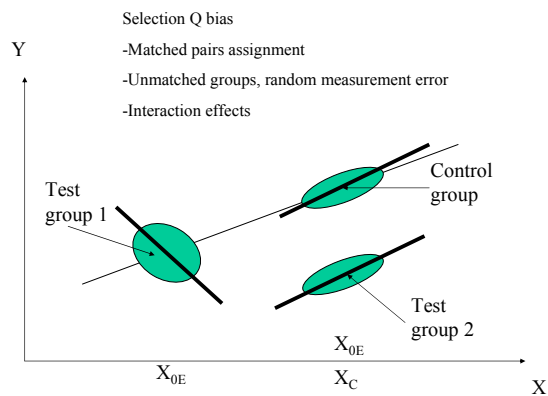
Selection Q bias



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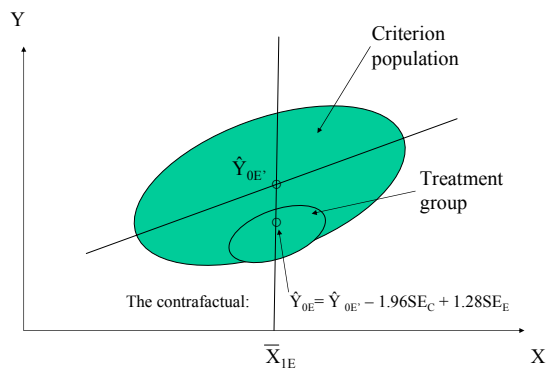
The Criterion Population Design

- The treatment group is embedded in a population called the criterion population.
Or: the population is designed to contain the treatment group.
- A pretest is available for all subjects both treatment and criterion population

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Estimating treatment effect

- In this design the impact of treatment can be estimated in an ordinary regression model
- $Y_i = \alpha + \beta_X X_i + \beta_T T_i + \epsilon_i$
- Where $T=1$ if treatment is given and 0 otherwise, X is pretest score
- Selection bias may be tested by means of the distribution of ϵ_i
- Interaction effects and other control variables may be introduced in ordinary fashion
- SE_{β_T} will give confidence intervals for β_T

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Time series design

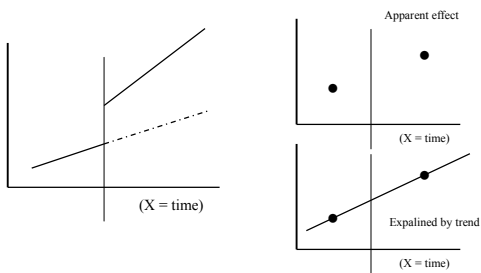
- This is the same design as the before – after design or the comparative change design except that there are a series of pretests and posttests
- Analyse by
 - Visual inspection
 - OLS regression
 - ARIMA models (Autoregressive integrated moving average models)

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Visual inspection

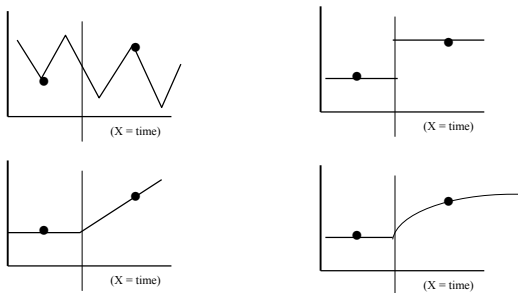


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Explaining time series: transfer functions



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Regression analysis

- Interactions and curvilinear elements can be included to mimic transfer functions
- Problems:
 - Autocorrelation makes estimates problematic: tests based on variances are biased
 - Clustering of treatment makes causal interpretations problematic

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ARIMA models

- All regressions of post-test on pre-test are autoregressive
- Used to remove the "noise" moving averages are used
- No "causal" variables are included, just the time series of the test variable

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Example of autoregressive model (not ARIMA)

Dependent Variable: Summer 1981 Water Use	Unstandardized Coefficients		t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error		
(Constant)	242,220	206,864	1,171	,242
Income in Thousands	20,967	3,464	6,053	,000
Summer 1980 Water Use	,492	,026	18,671	,000
Education in Years	-41,866	13,220	-3,167	,002
head of house retired?	189,184	95,021	1,991	,047
# of People Resident 1981	248,197	28,725	8,641	,000
Increase in # of People	96,454	80,519	1,198	,232

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Comparative time series

- Comparisons based on units other than individuals are nearly always theoretically problematic (see Fig 9.5 in Mohr)
- But probably no worse than most studies in comparative studies where municipalities or states or occupations or organisations are the units studied
- Theoretically sound models is the best tool!

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Time-Series Designs

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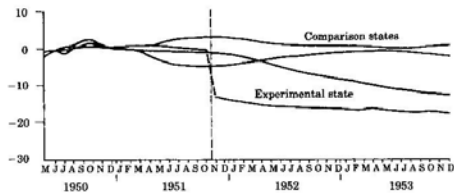


Figure 9.5. Effect of Introducing a Law in the Experimental State Requiring Repayment of Welfare Costs From the Deceased Recipient's Estate on the Old-Age Assistance Caseloads
SOURCE: Balduz (1973, p. 204). Copyright 1973 by the Board of Trustees of the Leland Stanford Junior University. Reprinted by permission.
NOTE: Monthly data have all values expressed as a percentage of the caseload 18 months prior to the change of the law.

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Some footnotes on time series and autoregression

- Based on Hamilton 1992
- Autocorrelation causes biased estimates of error variances (similar to heteroscedasticity)
- Can often be countered by a better causal model (correct model specification)

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Autokorrelasjon (1)

- Korrelasjon mellom variabelverdier på same variabel over ulike case (t.d. mellom ε_i og ε_{i-1})
- Autokorrelasjon gir større varians og skeive estimat av standardfeil slik som heteroskedastisitet
- Når vi har enkelt tilfeldig utval frå ein populasjon, er autokorrelasjon usannsynleg

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Autokorrelasjon (2)

- Autokorrelasjon kjem frå feilspekifikasjon av modellen
- Ein finn det typisk i tidsseriar og ved geografisk ordna case
- Testar (t.d. Durbin-Watson) er basert på sorteringsrekkefølga av casa. Derfor:
- Ei hypotese om autokorrelasjon må spesifisere korleis casa skal sorterast

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Durbin-Watson testen (1)

$$d = \frac{\sum_{i=2}^n (e_i - e_{i-1})^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n e_i^2}$$

Bør ikkje nyttast for autoregressive modellar, dvs. modellar der y-variabelen også finst som forklaringsvariabel (x-variabel) jfr tabell 3.2

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Glatting med 3 punkt

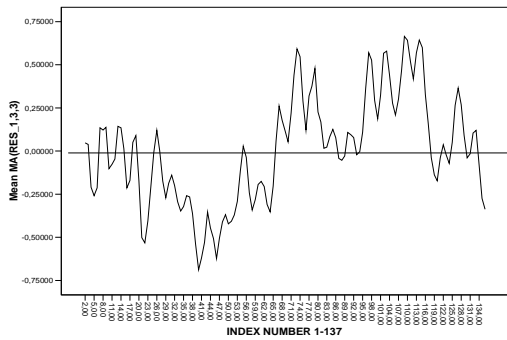
- Glidande gjennomsnitt $e_t^* = \frac{e_{t-1} + e_t + e_{t+1}}{3}$
- "Hanning" $e_t^* = \frac{e_{t-1}}{4} + \frac{e_t}{2} + \frac{e_{t+1}}{4}$
- Glidande median $e_t^* = \text{median}\{e_{t-1}, e_t, e_{t+1}\}$

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Residual, glatta ein gong

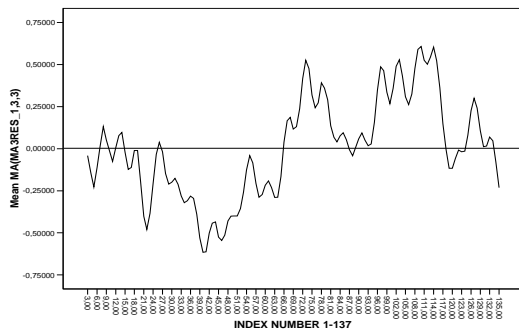


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Residual, glatta to gonger

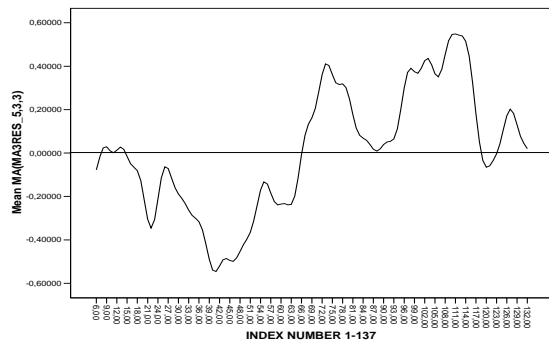


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Residual, glatta fem gonger



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Konsekvensar av autokorrelasjon

- Hypotesetestar og konfidensintervall er upålitelege. Regresjon kan likevel gi ein god beskrivelse av utvalet. Parametrane er forventningsrette
- Spesialprogram kan estimere standardfeil konsistent
- Ta inn i analysen variablar som påverkar ”hosliggjande” case
- Ta i bruk teknikkar frå tidsserieanalyse (t.d.: analyser differansen mellom to tidspunkt) (Δy)

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