Partial Least Squares, Three-Pass Regression Filters and Reduced Rank Regularized Regression

The Econometrics of Predictability

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Beyond DFM



- DFMs are an important innovation both supported by economic theory and statistical evidence
- From a forecasting point of view, they have some limitations
- Alternatives
 - Partial Least Squares Regression
 - Focuses attention on forecasting problem
 - Three-pass Regression Filter
 - Allows focus on factors through proxies
 - Regularized Reduced Rank Regression
 - Improve DFM factor selection for forecasting problem
 - Theoretically more sound than using variable selection using BIC



- Partial Least Squares uses the predicted variable when selecting factors
- PCA/DFM only look at x_t when selecting factors
- The difference means that PLS may have advantages
 - ightharpoonup If the factors predicting \mathbf{y}_t are not excessively pervasive
 - If the rotation implied by PCA requires many factors to extract the ideal factor

$$y_{t+1} = \beta f_{1t} + \epsilon_t$$

Suppose two estimated factors with the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} \tilde{f}_{1t} \\ \tilde{f}_{2t} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} & \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} \\ \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} & -\sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} f_{1t} \\ f_{2t} \end{bmatrix}$$

ullet Correct forecasting model for y_{t+1} requires both $ilde{f}_{t1}$ and $ilde{f}_{2t}$

$$\begin{array}{lll} y_{t+1} & = & \gamma_1 \tilde{f}_{1t} + \gamma_2 \tilde{f}_{2t} + \epsilon_t \\ & = & \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} \gamma_1 f_{1t} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} \gamma_2 f_{1t} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} \gamma_1 f_{2t} - \sqrt{2} \gamma_2 f_{2t} + \epsilon_t \\ & = & (\gamma_1 + \gamma_2) \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} f_{1t} + (\gamma_1 - \gamma_2) \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} f_{2t} + \epsilon_t \end{array}$$

- ► Implies $\sqrt{\frac{1}{2}}(\gamma_1 + \gamma_2) = \beta$ and $\sqrt{\frac{1}{2}}(\gamma_1 \gamma_2) = 0$ $(\gamma_1 = \gamma_2, \gamma_1 = \beta / (2\sqrt{\frac{1}{2}}))$
- ► Without this knowledge, 2 parameters to estimate, not 1



- Partial least squares (PLS) uses only bivariate building blocks
- Never requires inverting k by k covariance matrix
 - Computationally very simple
 - Technically no more difficult than PCA
- Uses a basic property of linear regression

$$y_t = \beta_1 x_{1t} + \beta_2 x_{2t} + \beta_3 x_{3t} + \epsilon_t$$

- Define $(\hat{\eta}_t) = y_t \hat{\gamma}_1 x_{1t}$ where $\hat{\gamma}_1$ is from OLS of y on x_1
- ► Immediate implication is $\sum \hat{\eta}_t x_{1t} = 0$ Define $\hat{\xi}_t = \hat{\eta}_t \hat{\gamma}_2 x_{2t}$ where $\hat{\gamma}_2$ is from OLS of $\hat{\eta}$ on x_2
 - Will have $\sum \hat{\xi}_t x_{2t} = 0$ but also $\sum \hat{\xi}_t x_{1t} = 0$



- Ingredients to PLS are different from PCA
- Assumed model

$$\mathbf{y}_{t} = (\mu_{y} + \Gamma \mathbf{f}_{1t} + \epsilon_{t})$$

$$\mathbf{x}_{t} = \Lambda_{1} \mathbf{f}_{1t} + \Lambda_{2} \mathbf{f}_{2t} + \xi_{t}$$

$$\mathbf{f}_{t} = \Psi \mathbf{f}_{t-1} + \eta_{t}$$

- Variable to predict is now a key component
 - **y**_t, *m* by 1
 - ► Often *m* = 1
 - ► Not studentized (important if *m* > 1)
- Same set of predictors
 - x_t, k by 1
 - Assumed studentized
 - \mathbf{y}_t can be in \mathbf{x}_t if \mathbf{y}_t is really in the future, so that the values in \mathbf{x}_t are lags
 - Normally \mathbf{y}_t is excluded



Algorithm (r-Factor Partial Least Squares Regression)

- 1. Studentize \mathbf{x}_j , set $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_j^{(0)} = \mathbf{x}_j$ and $\mathbf{f}_{0t} = \mathbf{t}_j$
- 2. For i = 1, ..., r

a. Set
$$\mathbf{f}_{it} = \sum_{j} c_{ij} \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{t}^{(i-1)}$$
 where $c_{ij} = \sum_{t} \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{jt}^{(i-1)} \tilde{\mathbf{y}}_{t}$

b. Update $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{i}^{(i)} = \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{i}^{(i-1)} - \kappa_{ij}\mathbf{f}_{t}$ where

$$F_{i+} = \sum_{i} C_{i,j} \widetilde{X}_{+}^{(o)}$$

$$\kappa_{ij} = \frac{\mathbf{f}_{i}^{r} \mathbf{x}_{j}^{(i-1)}}{\mathbf{f}_{i}^{r} \mathbf{f}_{i}}$$

$$oldsymbol{\kappa_{ij}} = rac{\mathbf{f}_i' ilde{\mathbf{x}}_j^{(i-1)}}{\mathbf{f}_i' \mathbf{f}_i}$$

- Output is a set of uncorrelated factors $\mathbf{f}_1, \mathbf{f}_2, \dots, \mathbf{f}_r$
- Forecasting model is then $\mathbf{y}_t = \beta_0 + \boldsymbol{\beta}' \mathbf{f}_t + \epsilon \boldsymbol{\xi}$
- Useful to save $\mathbf{C} = [\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_r]$ and $\mathbf{K} = [\boldsymbol{\kappa}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{\kappa}_r]$ and $(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}')$
 - Numerical issues may produce some non-zero covariance for factors far apart
 - Normally only interested in a small number, so not important

Factors in PLS



- Factors are just linear combinations of original data
- Obvious for first factor, which is just $\mathbf{f_1} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{c}_1 = \tilde{\mathbf{X}}^{(0)}\mathbf{c}_1$
- Second factors is $\mathbf{f}_2 = \tilde{\mathbf{X}}^{(1)} \mathbf{c}_2$

ectors is
$$\mathbf{I}_2 = \mathbf{X}^{(1)} \mathbf{c}_2$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{X}}^{(1)} = \mathbf{X} \left(\mathbf{I}_k - \mathbf{c}_1 \kappa_1' \right)$$

$$= \mathbf{X} - (\mathbf{X} \mathbf{c}_1) \kappa_1'$$

$$= \widetilde{\mathbf{X}} - \mathbf{f}_1 \kappa_1'$$

$$= \widetilde{\mathbf{X}}^{(1)} \mathbf{c}_2 = \widetilde{\mathbf{X}}^{(0)} (\mathbf{I}_k - \mathbf{c}_1 \kappa_1) \mathbf{c}_2$$

$$= \mathbf{X} \boldsymbol{\beta}_2$$

Same logic holds for any factor

$$\begin{split} \tilde{\mathbf{X}}^{(j-1)}\mathbf{c}_{j} &= \tilde{\mathbf{X}}^{(j-2)}\left(\mathbf{I}_{k} - \mathbf{c}_{j-1}\boldsymbol{\kappa}_{j-1}^{\prime}\right)\mathbf{c}_{j} \\ &= \tilde{\mathbf{X}}^{(j-3)}\left(\mathbf{I}_{k} - \mathbf{c}_{j-2}\boldsymbol{\kappa}_{j-2}^{\prime}\right)\left(\mathbf{I}_{k} - \mathbf{c}_{j-1}\boldsymbol{\kappa}_{j-1}^{\prime}\right)\mathbf{c}_{j} \\ &= \mathbf{X}\left(\mathbf{I}_{k} - \mathbf{c}_{1}\boldsymbol{\kappa}_{1}^{\prime}\right)\ldots\left(\mathbf{I}_{k} - \mathbf{c}_{j-1}\boldsymbol{\kappa}_{j-1}^{\prime}\right)\mathbf{c}_{j} \\ &= \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}_{j} \end{split}$$

Forecasting with Partial Least Squares



• When forecasting y_{t+h} , use

n forecasting
$$y_{t+h}$$
, use
$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} y_{1+h} \\ \vdots \\ y_t \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}_{t-h} \end{bmatrix}$$

- When studentizing **X** save $\hat{\mu}$ and $\hat{\sigma}^2$, the vectors of means and variance
 - Alternatively studentize all t observations of X, but only use $1, \ldots, t-h$ in PLS
- Important inputs to preserve:
 - \mathbf{c}_i and $\boldsymbol{\kappa}_i$, $i=1,2,\ldots,r$

Algorithm (Out-of-sample Factor Reconstruction)

1. Set
$$f_{0t} = 1$$
 and $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_t^{(0)} = (\mathbf{x}_t - \hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}) \oslash \hat{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}$

2. For
$$i = 1, ..., r$$

a. Compute
$$f_{it} = \mathbf{c}'_i \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_t^{(i-1)}$$

b. Set
$$\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_t^{(i)} = \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_t^{(i-1)} - f_{it} \boldsymbol{\kappa}_i'$$

• Construct forecast from \mathbf{f}_t and $(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}})$

Comparing PCA and PLS



- There is a non-trivial relationship between PCA and PLS
- PCA iteratively solves the following problem to find $\mathbf{f}_i = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}_i$

$$\max_{\boldsymbol{\beta}_i} V\left[\mathbf{X} \underline{\boldsymbol{\beta}_i} \right] \text{ subject to } \boldsymbol{\beta}_i' \boldsymbol{\beta}_i = 1 \text{ and } \mathbf{f}_i' \mathbf{f}_j = 0, \ j < i$$

- PLS solves a similar problem to find \mathbf{f}_i
 - Different in one important way

$$\max_{\pmb{\beta}_i} \operatorname{Corr}^2 \left[\mathbf{X} \pmb{\beta}_i, \mathbf{y} \right] \operatorname{V} \left[\mathbf{X} \pmb{\beta}_i \right] \text{ subject to } \mathbf{f}_i' \mathbf{f}_j = 0, \ j < i$$
 Assumes single $y \ (m = 1)$

- Implications:
 - PLS can only find factors that are common to \mathbf{x}_t and \mathbf{y}_t due to Corr term
 - PLS also cares about the factor space in \mathbf{x}_t , so more repetition of one factor in x, will affect factor selected
- When $\mathbf{x}_t = \mathbf{y}_t$, PLS is equivalent to PCA

The Three-pass Regression Filter

Three-pass Regression Filter



- Generalization of PLS to incorporate user (forecast proxizes, \mathbf{z}_t
- When proxies are not specified, proxies can be automatically generated, very close to PLS
- Model structure

$$x_{t} = \lambda + \Lambda \mathbf{f}_{t} + \epsilon_{t}$$

$$y_{t+1} = \beta_{0} + \widehat{\boldsymbol{\beta}'} \mathbf{f}_{t} + \eta_{t}$$

$$\mathbf{z}_{t} = \phi_{0} + \widehat{\boldsymbol{\Phi}} \mathbf{f}_{t} + \xi_{t}$$

$$\mathbf{f}_t = \left[\mathbf{f}'_{1t}, \mathbf{f}'_{2t} \right]' \\
\mathbf{\Lambda} = \left[\mathbf{\Lambda}_1, \mathbf{\Lambda}_2 \right], \boldsymbol{\beta} = \left[\boldsymbol{\beta}_1, \mathbf{0} \right], \boldsymbol{\Phi} = \left[\boldsymbol{\Phi}_1, \boldsymbol{\Phi}_2 \right]$$

- $oldsymbol{eta}$ can have 0's so that some factors are not important for y_{t+1}
- Most discussion is on a single scalar y, so m = 1
- \mathbf{z}_t is l by 1, with $0 < l \ll \min(k, T)$
 - ▶ 1 is finite
 - Number of factors used in forecasting model

Three-pass Regression Filter



Algorithm (Three-pass Regression Filter)

- 1. (Time series regression) Regress \mathbf{x}_i on \mathbf{Z} for $i=1,\ldots,k$, $x_{it}=p_{i0}+\mathbf{z}_i \boldsymbol{\phi}_i + v_{it}$
- 2. (Cross section regression) Regress \mathbf{x}_t on $\hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}_i$ for $t=1,\ldots,T$, $x_{it}=\gamma_{i0}+\hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}_i\mathbf{f}_t+\upsilon_{it}$. Estimate is $\hat{\mathbf{f}}_t$.
- 3. (Predictive regression) Regress y_{t+1} on $\hat{\mathbf{f}}_t$, $y_{t+1} = \beta_0 + \boldsymbol{\beta}' \hat{\mathbf{f}}_t + \eta_t$
 - Final forecast uses out-of-sample data but is otherwise identical
 - Trivial to use with an imbalanced panel
 - Run step 1 when x_i is observed
 - Include x_{it} and $\hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}_i$ whenever observed in step 2



Imbalanced panel may no produce accurate forecasts though

Forecasting with Three-pass Regression Filter



Use data

$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} y_{1+h} \\ y_{2+h} \\ \vdots \\ y_t \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_1 \\ \mathbf{x}_2 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}_{t-h} \end{bmatrix}$$

to estimate 3PRF

- Retain $\hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}_i$ for i = 1, ..., k
- Retain $\hat{oldsymbol{eta}}_0$ and $\hat{oldsymbol{eta}}$
- To forecast $y_{t+h|t}$
 - Compute $\hat{\mathbf{f}}_t$ by regressing \mathbf{x}_t on $\hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}_i$ and a constant
 - Construct $\hat{y}_{t+h|t}$ using $\hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}\hat{\mathbf{f}}_t$

Automatic Proxy Variables



z_t are potentially useful but not required

Algorithm (Automatic Proxy Selection)

- 1. Initialize $\mathbf{w}^{(i)} = \mathbf{y}$ 2. For i = 1, 2, ... L







- a. Set $\mathbf{z}_i = \mathbf{w}$
- a. Set $\mathbf{z}_i = \mathbf{w}^{(i)}$ b. Compute 3PRF forecast $\mathbf{\hat{y}}^{(i)}$ using proxies $1, \dots, i$ c. Update $\mathbf{w}^{(i+1)} = \mathbf{v} - \hat{\mathbf{v}}^{(i)}$







- Proxies are natural since forecast errors
- Automatic algorithm finds factor most related to y, then the 1-factor residual, then the 2-factor residual and so on
- Nearly identical to the steps in PLS
- Possibly easier to use 3PRF with missing data

Theory Motivated Proxies



- One of the strengths of 3PRF is the ability to include theory motivated proxies
- Kelly & Pruit show that money growth and output growth can be used to improve inflation proxies over automatic proxies
- The use of theory motivated proxies effectively favors some factors over others
- Potentially useful for removing factors that might be unstable, resulting in poor OOS performance
- When will theory motivated proxies help?
 - Proxies contain common, persistent components
 - ► Some components in *y* that are not in **z** have unstable relationship

Exact Relationship between 3PRF and PLS



- 3PRF and PLS are identical under the following conditions
 - X has been studentized
 - The 2-first stages do not include constants
- Factors that come from 3PRF and PLS differ by a rotation
- PLS factors are uncorrelated by design
- Equivalent factors can be constructed using

$$\boldsymbol{\Sigma_f^{-1/2}F^{3PRF}}$$

- $\Sigma_{\mathbf{f}}$ is the covariance matrix of \mathbf{F}^{3PRF}
- Will stiff differ by scale and possibly factor of ± 1
- Order may also differ

Forecasting from DFM and PLS/3PRF



- Forecast
 - ► GDP growth
 - Industrial Production
 - ► Equity Returns
 - Spread between Baa and 10 year rate
- All data from Stock & Watson 2012 dataset
- Dataset split in half
 - ▶ 1959:2 1984:1 for initial estimation
 - ► 1985:1 2011:2 for evaluation
- Consider horizons from 1 to 4 quarters
- Entire procedure is conducted out-of-sample

DFM Components



- Forecasts computed using different methods:
 - 3 components
 - 3 components and 4 lags with Global BIC search
 - IP_{p2} selected components only
- X recursively studentized
 - Only use series that have no missing data
- Cheating: some macro data-series are not available in real-time, but all forecasts benefit

PLS/3PRF Components and Benchmark



- Consider 1, 2 and 3 factor forecasts
- Automatic proxy selection only
- Always studentize X
- Benchmark is AR(4)

Out-of-sample R^2



h,		2		
	1	ΙP	3	4
PCA(3)	0.6038	0.4255	0.3125	0.2667
AR(4)	0.5521	0.3695	0.2699	0.2031
BIC	0.5671	0.3676	0.3047	0.2936 🦝
PCA-IC	0.5380	0.4089	0.3235	0.2773 ∽
3PRF-1	0.4653	0.3728	0.2999	0.2601 🥥
3PRF-2	0.5351	0.4081	0.3095	0.2494
3PRF-3	0.5230	0.3619	0.2294	0.1600
		GDP		
PCA(3)	0.6031	0.4204	0.2483	0.1485
AR(4)	0.5239	0.3578	0.2601	0.1860
BIC	0.6210	0.4573	0.2790	0.1669
PCA-IC	0.6010	0.435	0.3046	0.2246
3PRF-1	0.5385	0.4371	0.3444	0.2848
3PRF-2	0.5205	0.3759	0.2665	0.1922
3PRF-3	0.4637	0.2918	0.1796	0.1189

Out-of-sample R^2



BAA-GS10 (Diff)



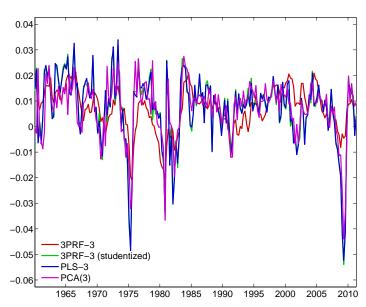
DAA 3310 (DIII)							
PCA(3)	-0.0754	-0.2065	-0.178	-0.0484			
AR(4)	-0.0464	-0.0914	-0.0865	-0.0097			
BIC	0.0232	-0.1253	-0.0036	-0.0380			
PCA-IC	0.0390	-0.0698	-0.0711	0.0242			
3PRF-1	-0.0072	-0.1735	-0.1367	-0.0240			
3PRF-2	0.0303	-0.1887	-0.1283	-0.0564			
3PRF-3	-0.1909	-0.4024	-0.3301	-0.1710			

S&P 500 Return

PCA(3)	0.0442	-0.1133	-0.1870	-0.2149
AR(4)	0.0677	-0.0095	-0.0546	-0.0725
BIC	0.0232	-0.1281	-0.1895	-0.1950
PCA-IC	0.0070	-0.0929	-0.0949	-0.0982
3PRF-1	-0.0245	-0.1575	-0.1764	-0.1863
3PRF-2	0.0903	-0.1488	-0.2122	-0.2165
3PRF-3	0.0055	-0.2029	-0.3885	-0.3833

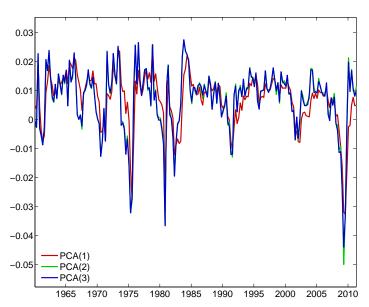
Alternative Fits of GDP





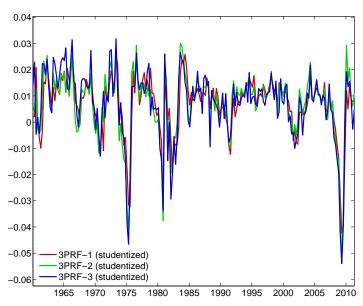
Number of PC and Fit of GDP





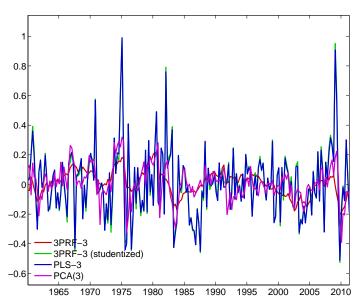
Number of 3PRF Factors and Fit of GDP





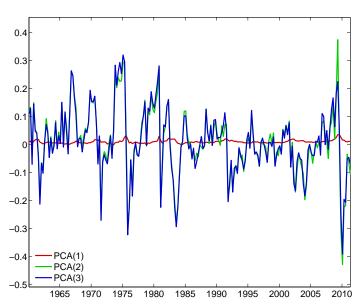
Alternative Fits of Baa-10 year spread





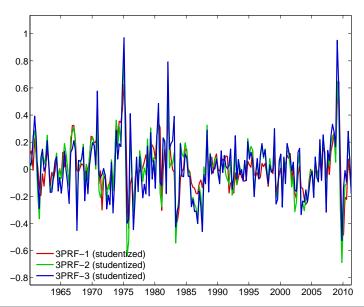
Number of PC and Fit of Spread





Number of 3PRF Factors and Fit of Spread





Regularized Reduced Rank Regression

Regularized Reduced Rank Regression



- When k is large, OLS will not produce useful forecasts
- Reduced rank regression places some restrictions on the coefficients on \mathbf{x}_t

Is targe, OLS with not produce useful forecasts dirank regression places some restrictions on the coefficients on a
$$y_{t+1} = \gamma_0 + \alpha \beta' \mathbf{x}_t + \epsilon_t$$

$$= \gamma_0 + \alpha (\beta' \mathbf{x}_t) + \epsilon_t$$

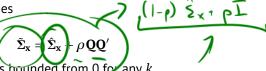
$$= \gamma_0 + \alpha \mathbf{f}_t + \epsilon_t$$
So it by r – factor loadings so by t – selects the factors

- α is 1 by r factor loadings
- β is by k selects the factors
- When $k \approx T$, even this type of restriction does not produce well behaved forecasts

Regularizing Covariance Matrices



- Regularization is a common method to ensure that covariance matrices are invertible when $k \approx T$, or even when k > T
- Many regularization schemes
- Tikhonov



where $\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{Q}'$ has eigenvalues bounded from 0 for any k

- Common choice of \mathbf{QQ}' is \mathbf{I}_k , $\tilde{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{x}} = \Sigma_{\mathbf{x}} / \rho \mathbf{I}_k$
- ightharpoonup Makes most sense when \mathbf{x}_t has been studentized
- Eigenvalue cleaning

$$\hat{\Sigma}_x = V \Lambda V'$$

- For $i \leq r$, $\tilde{\lambda}_i = \lambda_i$ is unchanged
- For i > r, $\tilde{\lambda}_i = (k r)^{-1} \sum_{i > c} \lambda_i$

$$\tilde{\Sigma}_x = V\tilde{\Lambda}V'$$

Effectively imposes a r-factor structure

Combining Reduced Rank and Regularization



- These two methods can be combined to produce RRRR
- In small *k* case,

$$y_{t+1} = \gamma_0 + \mathbf{0} \mathbf{\beta}' \mathbf{x}_t + \epsilon_t$$

normalized $oldsymbol{eta}$ can be computed as as solution to generalized eigenvalue problem

► Normal eigenvalue problem

$$|\mathbf{A} - \lambda \mathbf{I}| = 0$$
 $\left[\mathbf{V}_{1} \mathbf{D} \right] = e_{15} \left(\mathbf{A}_{1} \mathbf{I} \right)$

Generalized Eigenvalue Problem

Reduced Rank LS
$$\begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{A} - \lambda \mathbf{B} | = 0 \\ \sum_{\mathbf{x}\mathbf{y}} \mathbf{W} \Sigma_{\mathbf{x}\mathbf{y}}' - \lambda \sum_{k \times k} \\ k \times m & m \times k \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

 β are the r generalized eigenvectors associated with the r largest generalized eigenvalues of this problem

• **W** is a weighting matrix, either \mathbf{I}_m or a diagonal GLS version using variance of y_{it} on ith diagonal

RRRR-Tikhonov



 β are the r generalized eigenvectors associated with the r largest generalized eigenvalues of

$$\left| \Sigma_{xy} \mathbf{W} \Sigma_{xy}' - \lambda \left(\Sigma_{x} + \rho \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{Q}' \right) \right| = 0$$

- X is studentized
- \mathbf{QQ}' is typically set to \mathbf{I}_k
- ps a tuning parameter, usually set using 5- or 10-fold cross validation
- r also need to be selected
 - Cross validation
 - Model-based IC
 - r will always be less than m, the number of y series: When there is only 1 series, the first eigenvector selects the optimal linear combination which will predict that series the best. Only tension if more than 1 series.

RRRR-Spectral Cutoff



 β are the r generalized eigenvectors associated with the r largest generalized eigenvalues of

$$\left| \Sigma_{\mathbf{f}\mathbf{y}} \mathbf{W} \Sigma_{\mathbf{f}\mathbf{y}}' - \lambda \Sigma_{\mathbf{f}} \right| = 0$$



- $\Sigma_{\mathbf{f}}$ is the covariance of the first r_f principal components
 - r_f to distinguish from r (the number of columns in β)
 - $ightharpoonup \Sigma_{\mathrm{fy}}$ is the covariance between the PCs and the data to be predicted
 - ullet r_f must be chosen using another criteria Scree plot or Information Criteria
- The spectral cutoff method essentially chooses a set of r factors from the set of r_f PCs
- This is not a trivial exercise since factors are always identified only up to a rotation
- ullet For example, allows a 1-factor model to be used for forecasting even when the factor can only be reconstructed from all r_f PCs
- Partially bridges the gap between PCA and PLS/3PRF

Forecasting in RRRR



- Once $\hat{m{\beta}}$ was been estimated using generalized eigenvalue problem, run regression

$$y_{t+1} = \phi_0 + \boldsymbol{\alpha} \left(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}' \mathbf{x}_t \right) + \epsilon_t$$

to estimate $\hat{\pmb{\alpha}}$

• Can also include lags of y

$$\mathbf{y}_{t+1} = \phi_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{p} \phi_i \mathbf{y}_{t-i+1} + \boldsymbol{\alpha} \left(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}' \mathbf{x}_t \right) + \epsilon_t$$

- ullet When using spectral cutoff, regressions use ${f f}_t$ in place of ${f x}_t$
- Forecasts are simple since \mathbf{x}_t , $\hat{m{\beta}}$ and other parameters are known at time t
 - When using spectral cutoff, \mathbf{f}_t is also known at time t
- r can be chosen using a normal IC such as BIC or using t-stats in the forecasting regression

General Setup for Forecasting



- When forecasting with the models, it is useful to setup some matrices so that observations are aligned
- Assume interest in predicting $y_{t+1|t}, \ldots, y_{t+h|t}$
 - Can also easily use cumulative versions, $\mathrm{E}_t \left[\sum_{i=1}^h y_{t+i} \right]$
- All matrices will have t rows
- Leads (max h) and lags (max P)

$$\mathbf{Y}^{\text{leads}} = \begin{bmatrix} y_2 & y_3 & \cdots & y_{h+1} \\ y_3 & y_4 & \cdots & y_{h+2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ y_{t-h+1} & y_{t-h+2} & \cdots & y_t \\ y_{t-1} & y_t & \cdots & - \\ y_t & - & \cdots & - \end{bmatrix}, \ \mathbf{Y}^{\text{lags}} = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 & - & \cdots & - \\ y_2 & y_1 & \cdots & - \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ y_p & y_{p-1} & \vdots & y_1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ y_{t-1} & y_{t-2} & \vdots & y_{t-P} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_1 \\ \mathbf{x}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}_{t-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

- denotes a missing observation (nan)
- When forecasting at horizon h, use column h of $\mathbf{Y}^{\text{leads}}$ and rows $1, \ldots t h$ of \mathbf{Y}^{lags} and \mathbf{X}
 - Remove any rows that have missing values
- When using PCA methods, extract PC (C) from all of X and use rows $1, \ldots t h$ of C



$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{2i} \frac{1}{2i$$