

# Non-Stationary Time Series, Cointegration and Spurious Regression

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## Motivation: Regression with Non-Stationarity

- What happens to the properties of OLS if variables are non-stationary?
- Consider **two presumably unrelated variables**:

**CONS** Danish private consumption in 1995 prices.

**BIRD** Number of breeding cormorants (skarv) in Denmark.

And consider a static regression model

$$\log(\text{CONS}_t) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot \log(\text{BIRD}_t) + u_t.$$

We would expect (or hope) to get  $\hat{\beta}_1 \approx 0$  and  $R^2 \approx 0$ .

- Applying OLS to yearly data 1982 – 2001 gives the result:

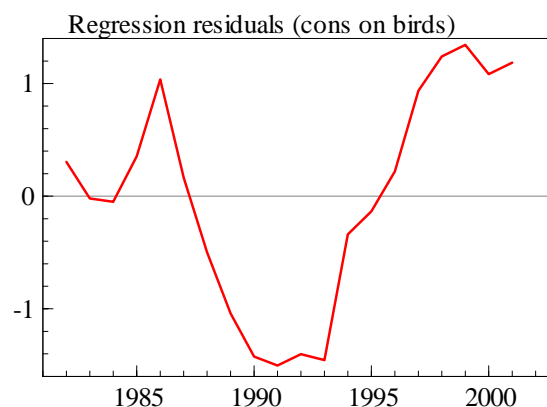
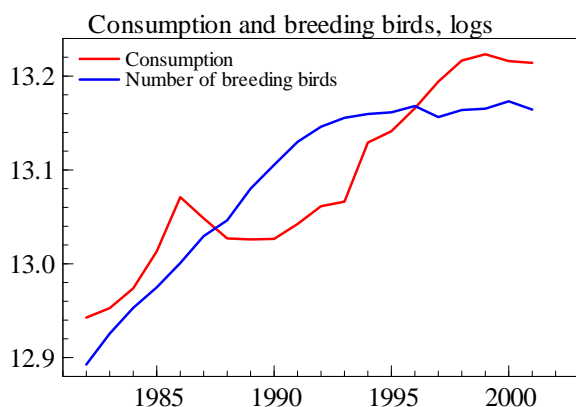
$$\log(\text{CONS}_t) = \underset{(80.90)}{12.145} + \underset{(6.30)}{0.095} \cdot \log(\text{BIRD}_t) + u_t,$$

with  $R^2 = 0.688$ .

- **It looks like a reasonable model. But it is complete nonsense: spurious regression.**

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- The variables are non-stationary.  
The residual,  $u_t$ , is non-stationary and standard results for OLS do not hold.
- In general, regression models for non-stationary variables give spurious results. Only exception is if the model eliminates the stochastic trends to produce stationary residuals: **Cointegration**.
- **For non-stationary variables we should always think in terms of cointegration.** Only look at regression output if the variables cointegrate.



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## Outline

### Definitions and concepts:

- (1) Combinations of non-stationary variables; Cointegration defined.
- (2) Economic equilibrium and error correction.

### Engle-Granger two-step cointegration analysis:

- (3) Static regression for cointegrated time series.
- (4) Residual based test for no-cointegration.
- (5) Models for the dynamic adjustment.

### Cointegration analysis based on dynamic models:

- (6) Estimation in the unrestricted ADL or ECM model.
- (7) PcGive test for no-cointegration.

### What if variables do not cointegrate?

- (8) Spurious regression revisited.

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# Cointegration Defined

- Let  $X_t = (X_{1t} \ X_{2t})'$  be two I(1) variables, i.e. they contain stochastic trends:

$$\begin{aligned} X_{1t} &= \sum_{i=1}^t \epsilon_{1i} + \text{initial value} + \text{stationary process} \\ X_{2t} &= \sum_{i=1}^t \epsilon_{2i} + \text{initial value} + \text{stationary process.} \end{aligned}$$

- In general, a linear combination of  $X_{1t}$  and  $X_{2t}$  will also have a random walk. Define  $\beta = (1 \ -\beta_2)'$  and consider the linear combination:

$$\begin{aligned} Z_t &= \beta' X_t = (1 \ -\beta_2) \begin{pmatrix} X_{1t} \\ X_{2t} \end{pmatrix} = X_{1t} - \beta_2 X_{2t} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^t \epsilon_{1i} - \beta_2 \sum_{i=1}^t \epsilon_{2i} + \text{initial value} + \text{stationary process.} \end{aligned}$$

- Important exception: There exist a  $\beta$ , so that  $Z_t$  is stationary:  
We say that  $X_{1t}$  and  $X_{2t}$  **co-integrate** with **cointegration vector**  $\beta$ .

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## Remarks:

(1) Cointegration occurs if the stochastic trends in  $X_{1t}$  and  $X_{2t}$  are the same so they cancel,  $\sum_{i=1}^t \epsilon_{1i} = \beta_1 \cdot \sum_{i=1}^t \epsilon_{2i}$ . This is called a **common trend**.

(2) You can think of an equation eliminating the random walks in  $X_{1t}$  and  $X_{2t}$ :

$$X_{1t} = \mu + \beta_2 X_{2t} + u_t. \quad (\dagger)$$

If  $u_t$  is I(0) (mean zero) then  $\beta = (1 \ -\beta_2)'$  is a cointegrating vector.

(3) The cointegrating vector is only unique up to a constant factor.

If  $\beta' X_t \sim I(0)$ . Then so is  $\tilde{\beta}' X_t = b\beta' X_t$  for  $b \neq 0$ . We can choose a normalization

$$\beta = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -\beta_2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{or} \quad \tilde{\beta} = \begin{pmatrix} -\tilde{\beta}_1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

This corresponds to different variables on the left hand side of  $(\dagger)$

(4) Cointegration is easily extended to more variables.

The variables in  $X_t = (X_{1t} \ X_{2t} \ \dots \ X_{pt})'$  cointegrate if

$$Z_t = \beta' X_t = X_{1t} - \beta_2 \cdot X_{2t} - \dots - \beta_p \cdot X_{pt} \sim I(0).$$

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# Cointegration and Economic Equilibrium

- Consider a regression model for two I(1) variables,  $X_{1t}$  and  $X_{2t}$ , given by

$$X_{1t} = \mu + \beta_2 X_{2t} + u_t. \quad (*)$$

The term,  $u_t$ , is interpretable as the deviation from the relation in (\*).

- If  $X_{1t}$  and  $X_{2t}$  cointegrate, then the deviation

$$u_t = X_{1t} - \mu - \beta_2 X_{2t}$$

is a stationary process with mean zero.

Shocks to  $X_{1t}$  and  $X_{2t}$  have permanent effects.  $X_{1t}$  and  $X_{2t}$  co-vary and  $u_t \sim I(0)$ .

We can think of (\*) as defining an equilibrium between  $X_{1t}$  and  $X_{2t}$ .

- If  $X_{1t}$  and  $X_{2t}$  do not cointegrate, then the deviation  $u_t$  is I(1).

There is no natural interpretation of (\*) as an equilibrium relation.

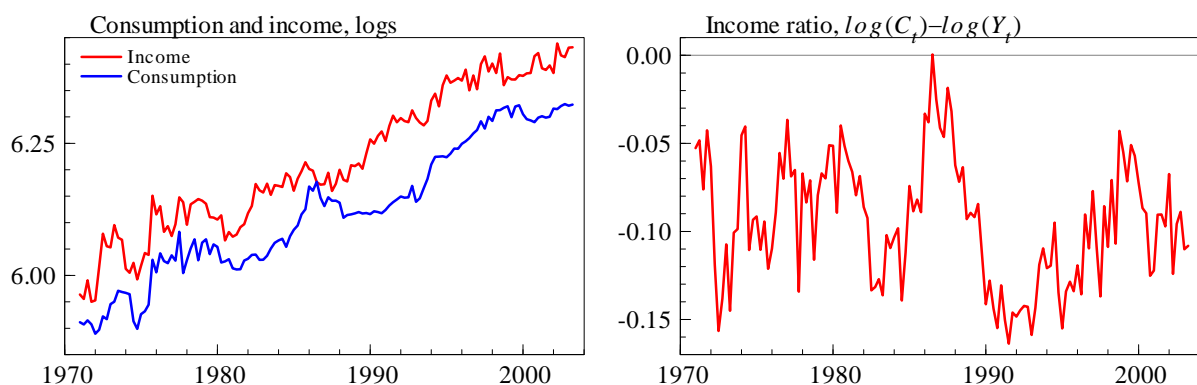
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## Empirical Example: Consumption and Income

- Time series for log consumption,  $C_t$ , and log income,  $Y_t$ , are likely to be I(1). Define a vector  $X_t = (C_t \ Y_t)'$ .
- Consumption and income are cointegrated with cointegration vector  $\beta = (1 \ -1)'$  if the (log-) consumption-income ratio,

$$Z_t = \beta' X_t = (1 \ -1) \begin{pmatrix} C_t \\ Y_t \end{pmatrix} = C_t - Y_t,$$

is a stationary process. The consumption-income ratio is an equilibrium relation.



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# How is the Equilibrium Sustained?

- There must be forces pulling  $X_{1t}$  or  $X_{2t}$  towards the equilibrium.
- **Famous representation theorem:**  $X_{1t}$  and  $X_{2t}$  cointegrate if and only if there exist an **error correction model** for either  $X_{1t}$ ,  $X_{2t}$  or both.
- As an example, let  $Z_t = X_{1t} - \beta_2 X_{2t}$  be a stationary relation between I(1) variables. Then there exists a stationary ARMA model for  $Z_t$ . Assume for simplicity an AR(2):

$$Z_t = \theta_1 Z_{t-1} + \theta_2 Z_{t-2} + \epsilon_t, \quad \theta(1) = 1 - \theta_1 - \theta_2 > 0.$$

This is equivalent to

$$\begin{aligned} (X_{1t} - \beta_2 X_{2t}) &= \theta_1 (X_{1t-1} - \beta_2 X_{2t-1}) + \theta_2 (X_{1t-2} - \beta_2 X_{2t-2}) + \epsilon_t \\ X_{1t} &= \beta_2 X_{2t} + \theta_1 X_{1t-1} - \theta_1 \beta_2 X_{2t-1} + \theta_2 X_{1t-2} - \theta_2 \beta_2 X_{2t-2} + \epsilon_t, \end{aligned}$$

or

$$\Delta X_{1t} = \beta_2 \Delta X_{2t} + \theta_2 \beta_2 \Delta X_{2t-1} - \theta_2 \Delta X_{1t-1} - (1 - \theta_1 - \theta_2) \{X_{1t-1} - \beta_2 X_{2t-1}\} + \epsilon_t.$$

In this case we have a common-factor restriction. That is not necessarily true.

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## More on Error-Correction

- Cointegration is a system property. Both variables could error correct, e.g.:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta X_{1t} &= \delta_1 + \Gamma_{11} \Delta X_{1t-1} + \Gamma_{12} \Delta X_{2t-1} + \alpha_1 (X_{1t-1} - \beta_2 X_{2t-1}) + \epsilon_{1t} \\ \Delta X_{2t} &= \delta_2 + \Gamma_{21} \Delta X_{1t-1} + \Gamma_{22} \Delta X_{2t-1} + \alpha_2 (X_{1t-1} - \beta_2 X_{2t-1}) + \epsilon_{2t}, \end{aligned}$$

- We may write the model as the so-called **vector error correction model**,

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Delta X_{1t} \\ \Delta X_{2t} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \delta_1 \\ \delta_2 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \Gamma_{11} & \Gamma_{12} \\ \Gamma_{21} & \Gamma_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Delta X_{1t-1} \\ \Delta X_{2t-1} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_2 \end{pmatrix} (X_{1t-1} - \beta_2 X_{2t-1}) + \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon_{1t} \\ \epsilon_{2t} \end{pmatrix},$$

or simply

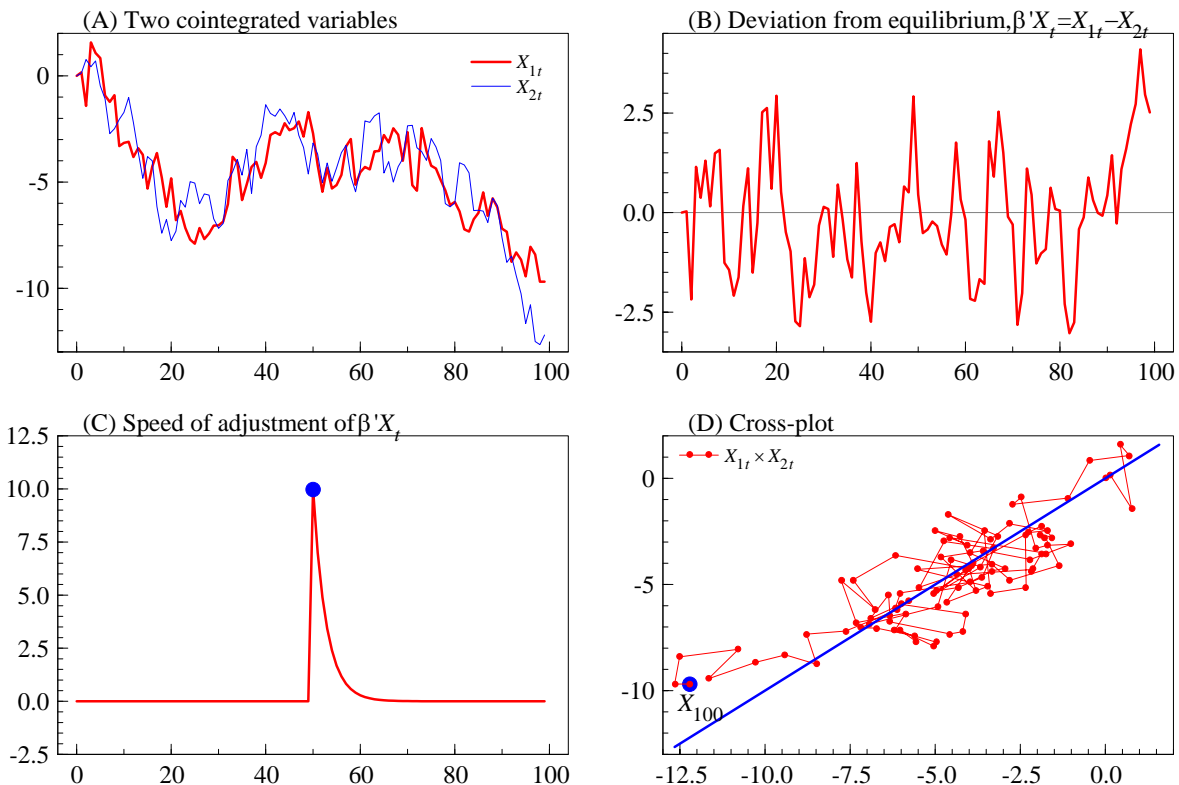
$$\Delta X_t = \delta + \Gamma \Delta X_{t-1} + \alpha \beta' X_{t-1} + \epsilon_t.$$

- Note that  $\beta' X_{t-1} = X_{1t-1} - \beta_2 X_{2t-1}$  appears in both equations.
- For  $X_{1t}$  to error correct we need  $\alpha_1 < 0$ .  
For  $X_{2t}$  to error correct we need  $\alpha_2 > 0$ .

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Consider a simple model for two cointegrated variables:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Delta X_{1t} \\ \Delta X_{2t} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -0.2 \\ 0.1 \end{pmatrix} (X_{1t-1} - X_{2t-1}) + \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon_{1t} \\ \epsilon_{2t} \end{pmatrix}.$$



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## OLS Regression with Cointegrated Series

- In the cointegration case there exists a  $\beta_2$  so that the error term,  $u_t$ , in

$$X_{1t} = \mu + \beta_2 X_{2t} + u_t. \quad (**)$$

is stationary.

- OLS applied to  $(**)$  gives **consistent** results, so that  $\widehat{\beta}_2 \rightarrow \beta_2$  for  $T \rightarrow \infty$ .
- Note that consistency is obtained even if potential dynamic terms are neglected. This is because the stochastic trends in  $X_{1t}$  and  $X_{2t}$  dominate. We can even get consistent estimates in the reverse regression

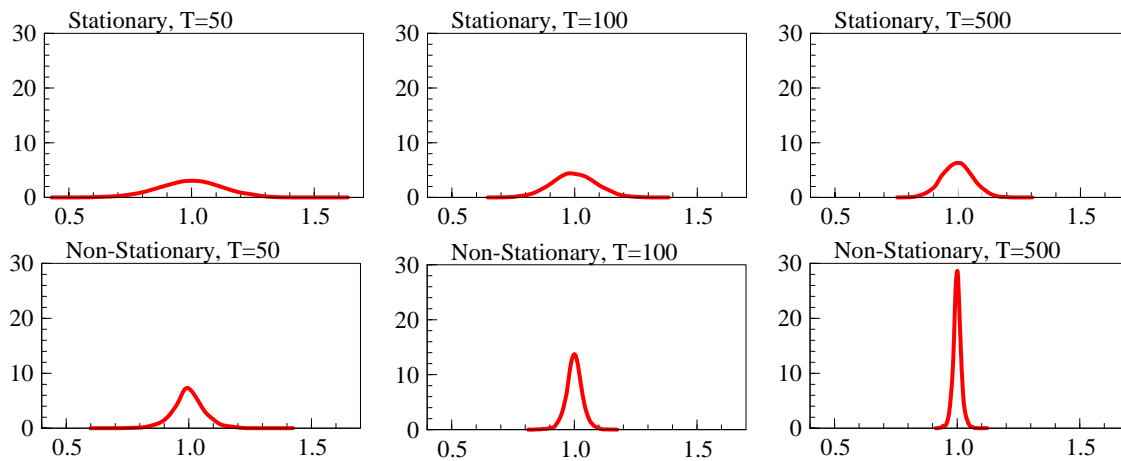
$$X_{2t} = \delta + \gamma_1 X_{1t} + v_t.$$

- Unfortunately, it turns out that  $\widehat{\beta}_2$  is not asymptotically normal in general. **The normal inferential procedures do not apply to  $\widehat{\beta}_2$ !** We can use  $(**)$  for estimation—not for testing.

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# Super-Consistency

- For **stationary series**, the variance of  $\hat{\beta}_1$  declines at a rate of  $T^{-1}$ .
- For **cointegrated I(1) series**, the variance of  $\hat{\beta}_1$  declines at a faster rate of  $T^{-2}$ .
- **Intuition**: If  $\hat{\beta}_1 = \beta_1$  then  $u_t$  is stationary. If  $\hat{\beta}_1 \neq \beta_1$  then the error is I(1) and will have a large variance. The 'information' on the parameter grows very fast.



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## Test for No-Cointegration, Known $\beta_1$

- Suppose that  $X_{1t}$  and  $X_{2t}$  are I(1).  
Also **assume that**  $\beta = (1 \quad -\beta_2)'$  is known.

- The series cointegrate if

$$Z_t = X_{1t} - \beta_2 X_{2t}$$

is stationary.

- This can be tested using an ADF unit root test, e.g. the test for  $H_0 : \pi = 0$  in

$$\Delta Z_t = \delta + \sum_{i=1}^k \Delta Z_{t-i} + \pi Z_{t-1} + \eta_t.$$

The usual DF critical values apply to  $t_{\pi=0}$ .

- **Note**, that the null,  $H_0 : \pi = 0$ , is a unit root, i.e. no cointegration.

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# Test for No-Cointegration, Estimated $\beta_1$

- Engle-Granger (1987) two-step procedure.
- If  $\beta = (1 \quad -\beta_2)'$  is unknown, it can be (super-consistently) estimated in

$$X_{1t} = \mu + \beta_2 X_{2t} + u_t. \quad (***)$$

$\hat{\beta}$  is a cointegration vector if  $\hat{u}_t = X_{1t} - \hat{\mu} - \hat{\beta}_2 X_{2t}$  is stationary.

- This can be tested using a DF unit root test, e.g. the test for  $H_0 : \pi = 0$  in

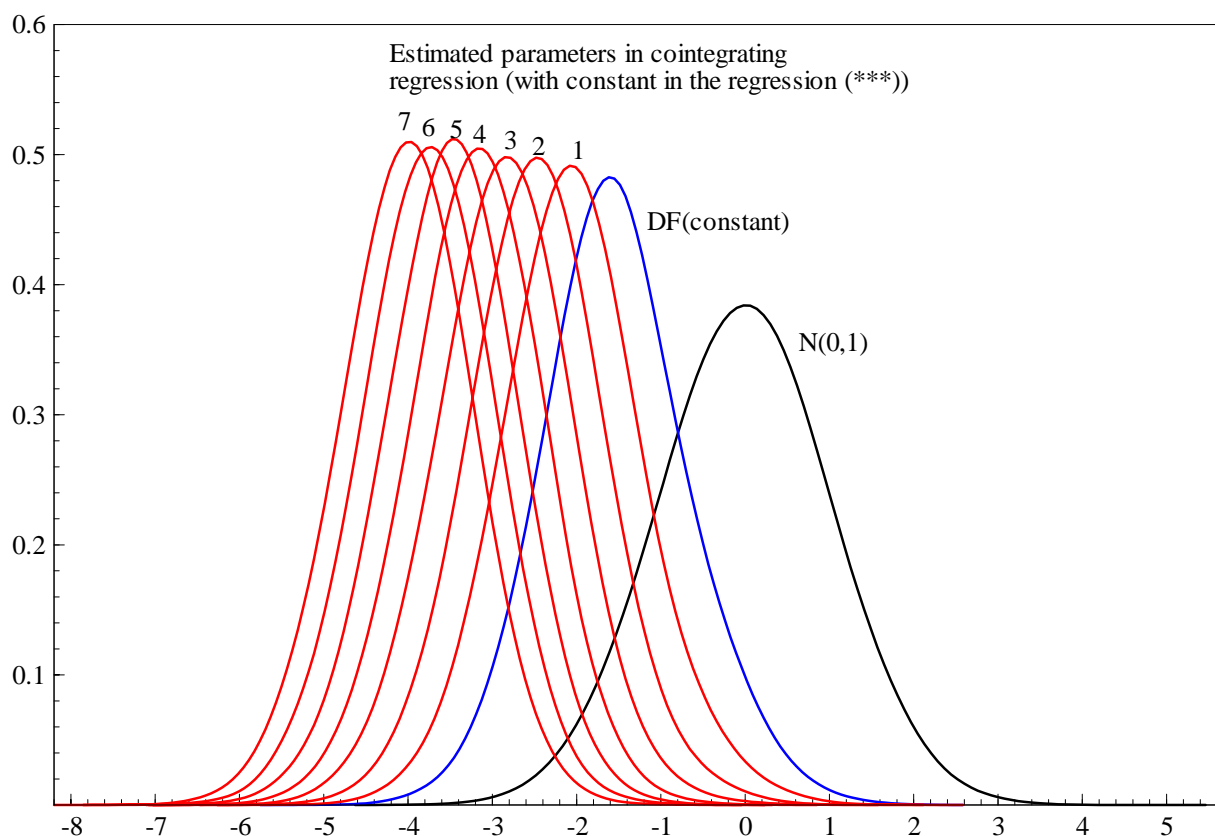
$$\Delta \hat{u}_t = \sum_{i=1}^k \Delta \hat{u}_{t-i} + \pi \hat{u}_{t-1} + \eta_t.$$

## Remarks:

- (1) The residual  $\hat{u}_t$  has mean zero. No deterministic terms in DF regression.
- (2) The critical value for  $t_{\pi=0}$  still depends on the deterministic regressors in (\*\*\*) .
- (3) **The fact that  $\hat{\beta}_1$  is estimated also changes the critical values.**

OLS minimizes the variance of  $\hat{u}_t$ . Look 'as stationary as possible'.

Critical value depends on the number of regressors.





- Critical values for the **Dickey-Fuller test for no-cointegration** are given by:

Case 1: A constant term in (\*\*\*)).

Number of estimated parameters	Significance level		
	1%	5%	10%
0	-3.43	-2.86	-2.57
1	-3.90	-3.34	-3.04
2	-4.29	-3.74	-3.45
3	-4.64	-4.10	-3.81
4	-4.96	-4.42	-4.13

Case 2: A constant and a trend in (\*\*\*)).

Number of estimated parameters	Significance level		
	1%	5%	10%
0	-3.96	-3.41	-3.13
1	-4.32	-3.78	-3.50
2	-4.66	-4.12	-3.84
3	-4.97	-4.43	-4.15
4	-5.25	-4.72	-4.43

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## Dynamic Modelling

- Given the estimated cointegrating vector we can define the error correction term

$$\text{ecm}_t = \hat{u}_t = X_{1t} - \hat{\mu} - \hat{\beta}_2 X_{2t},$$

which is, per definition, a stationary stochastic variable.

- Since  $\hat{\beta}_2$  converges to  $\beta_2$  very fast we can treat it as a fixed regressor and formulate an error correction model conditional on  $\text{ecm}_{t-1}$ , i.e.

$$\Delta X_{1t} = \delta + \lambda_1 \Delta X_{1t-1} + \kappa_0 \Delta X_{2t} + \kappa_1 \Delta X_{2t-1} - \alpha \cdot \text{ecm}_{t-1} + \epsilon_t,$$

where  $\alpha > 0$  is consistent with error-correction.

- Given cointegration, all terms are stationary, and normal inference applies to  $\delta$ ,  $\lambda$ ,  $\kappa_0$ ,  $\kappa_1$ , and  $\alpha$ .

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# Outline of an Engle-Granger Analysis

- (1) Test individual variables, e.g.  $X_{1t}$  and  $X_{2t}$ , for unit roots.
- (2) Run the static cointegrating regression

$$X_{1t} = \mu + \beta_2 X_{2t} + u_t.$$

Note that the  $t$ -ratios cannot be used for inference.

- (3) Test for no-cointegration by testing for a unit root in the residuals,  $\hat{u}_t$ .
- (4) If cointegration is not rejected estimate a dynamic (ECM) model like

$$\Delta X_{1t} = \delta + \lambda_1 \Delta X_{1t-1} + \kappa_0 \Delta X_{2t} + \kappa_1 \Delta X_{2t-1} - \alpha \hat{u}_{t-1} + \epsilon_t.$$

All terms are stationary. Remaining inference is standard.

## Empirical Example: Danish Interest Rates

- Consider two Danish interest rates:

$r_t$  : Money market interest rate  
 $b_t$  : Bond Yield

for the period  $t = 1972 : 1 - 2003 : 2$ .

- Test for unit roots in  $r_t$  and  $b_t$  (5% critical value is  $-2.89$ ):

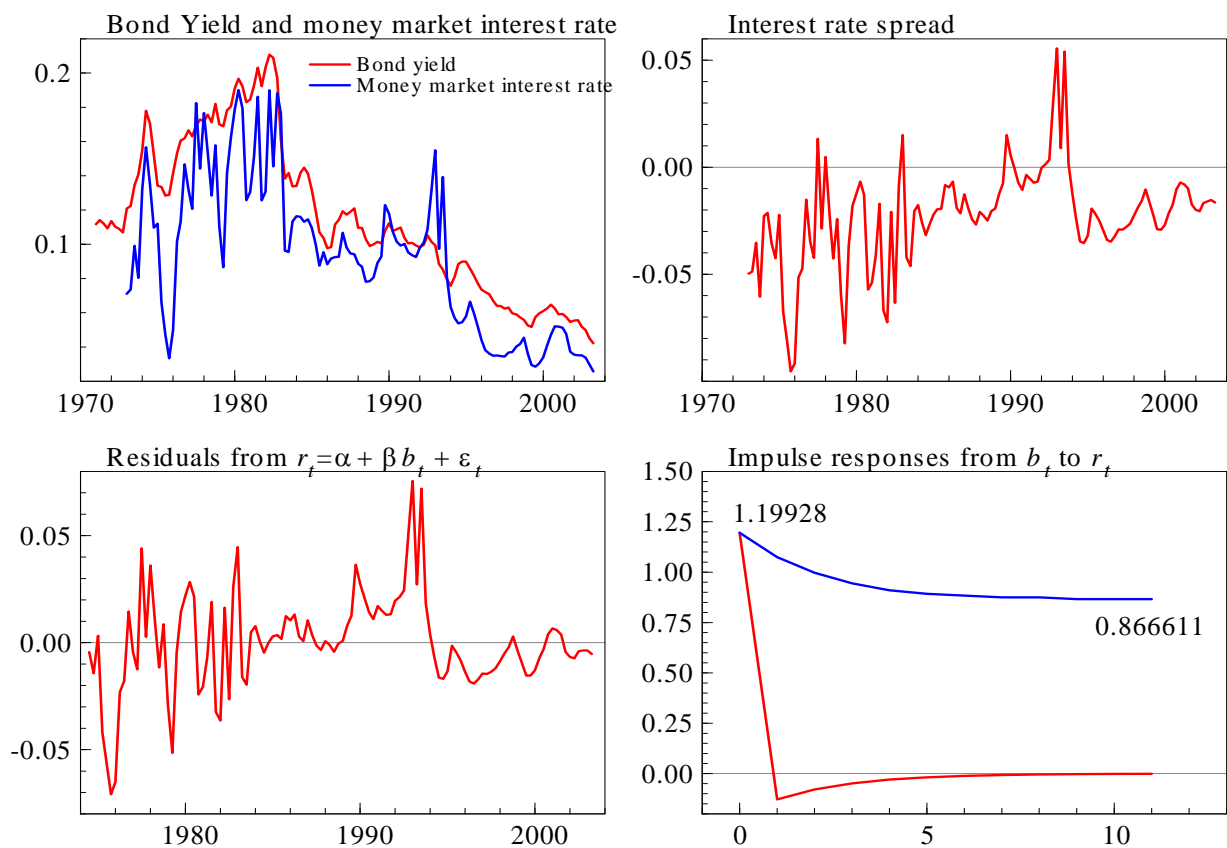
$$\widehat{\Delta r}_t = \underset{(1.35)}{0.00638118} - \underset{(-1.39)}{0.126209} \cdot \Delta r_{t-1} - \underset{(-2.70)}{0.234330} \cdot \Delta r_{t-4} - \underset{(-1.80)}{0.0826987} \cdot r_{t-1}$$

$$\widehat{\Delta b}_t = \underset{(0.658)}{0.00116558} + \underset{(4.67)}{0.395115} \cdot \Delta b_{t-1} - \underset{(-0.909)}{0.0128941} \cdot b_{t-1}$$

- We cannot reject unit roots. Test if  $s_t = r_t - b_t$  is I(1) (5% crit. value is  $-2.89$ ):

$$\widehat{\Delta s}_t = \underset{(-3.71)}{-0.00848594} + \underset{(2.56)}{0.207606} \cdot \Delta s_{t-3} - \underset{(-5.35)}{0.379449} \cdot s_{t-1}.$$

It is easily rejected that  $b_t$  and  $r_t$  are not cointegrating.



- Instead of assuming  $\beta_1 = 1$  we could estimate the coefficient

Modelling IMM by OLS (using PR0312.in7)

The estimation sample is: 1974 (3) to 2003 (2)

	Coefficient	Std.Error	t-value	t-prob	Part.R <sup>2</sup>
Constant	-0.00468506	0.005545	-0.845	0.400	0.0062
IBZ	0.845524	0.04495	18.8	0.000	0.7563
sigma	0.0224339	RSS		0.0573738644	
R <sup>2</sup>	0.756314	F(1,114) =	353.8	[0.000]**	
log-likelihood	276.885	DW		0.82	
no. of observations	116	no. of parameters		2	
mean(IMM)	0.0919727	var(IMM)		0.00202967	

- We could test for a unit root in the residuals (5% crit. value is  $-3.34$ ):

$$\Delta \widehat{\epsilon}_t = \underset{(2.95)}{0.230210} \cdot \Delta \widehat{\epsilon}_{t-3} - \underset{(-6.77)}{0.499443} \cdot \widehat{\epsilon}_{t-1}.$$

Again we reject no-cointegration.

- Finally we could estimate the error correction models based on the spread:

$$\widehat{\Delta r}_t = \underset{(-3.23)}{-0.00774026} + \underset{(4.55)}{1.17725} \cdot \Delta b_t - \underset{(5.22)}{0.406456} \cdot (r_{t-1} - b_{t-1})$$

$$\widehat{\Delta b}_t = \underset{(-2.11)}{-0.00181602} + \underset{(4.16)}{0.438970} \cdot \Delta b_{t-1} - \underset{(-2.01)}{0.0673997} \cdot \Delta r_t - \underset{(2.22)}{0.0638286} \cdot (r_{t-1} - b_{t-1})$$

Note that the short-rate,  $r_t$ , error corrects, while the bond-yield,  $b_t$ , does not.

## Estimation of $\beta$ In the ADL/ECM

- The estimator of  $\beta_2$  from a static regression is super-consistent...but
  - (1)  $\widehat{\beta}_2$  is often biased (due to ignored dynamics).
  - (2) Hypotheses on  $\beta_2$  cannot be tested.
- An alternative estimator is based on an unrestricted ADL model, e.g.

$$X_{1t} = \delta + \theta_1 X_{1t-1} + \theta_2 X_{1t-2} + \phi_0 X_{2t} + \phi_1 X_{2t-1} + \phi_2 X_{2t-2} + \epsilon_t,$$

where  $\epsilon_t$  is IID. This is equivalent to an error correction model:

$$\Delta X_{1t} = \delta + \lambda_1 \Delta X_{1t-1} + \kappa_0 \Delta X_{2t} + \kappa_1 \Delta X_{2t-1} + \gamma_1 X_{1t-1} + \gamma_2 X_{2t-1} + \epsilon_t.$$

An estimate of  $\beta_2$  can be found from the long-run solutions:

$$\widehat{\beta}_2 = \frac{-\widehat{\gamma}_2}{\widehat{\gamma}_1} = \frac{\widehat{\phi}_0 + \widehat{\phi}_1 + \widehat{\phi}_2}{1 - \widehat{\theta}_1 - \widehat{\theta}_2}.$$

- The main advantage is that the analysis is undertaken in a well-specified model. **The approach is optimal if only  $X_{1t}$  error corrects.** Inference on  $\widehat{\beta}_2$  is possible.

# Testing for No-Cointegration

- Due to representation theorem, the null hypothesis of **no-cointegration** corresponds to the null of **no-error-correction**. Several tests have been designed in this spirit.
- The most convenient is the so-called **PcGive test for no-cointegration**.
- Consider the unrestricted ADL or ECM:

$$\Delta X_{1t} = \delta + \lambda_1 \Delta X_{1t-1} + \kappa_0 \Delta X_{2t} + \kappa_1 \Delta X_{2t-1} + \gamma_1 X_{1t-1} + \gamma_2 X_{2t-1} + \epsilon_t. \quad (\#)$$

Test the hypothesis

$$H_0 : \gamma_1 = 0$$

against the cointegration alternative,  $\gamma_1 < 0$ .

- This is basically a unit root test (not a  $N(0,1)$ ). The distribution of the  $t$ -ratio,

$$t_{\gamma_1=0} = \frac{\hat{\gamma}_1}{\text{SE}(\hat{\gamma}_1)},$$

depends on the deterministic terms and the number of regressors in (#).

- Critical values for the **PcGive test for no-cointegration** are given by:

Case 1: A constant term in (#).

Number of variables in $X_t$	Significance level		
	1%	5%	10%
2	-3.79	-3.21	-2.91
3	-4.09	-3.51	-3.19
4	-4.36	-3.76	-3.44
5	-4.59	-3.99	-3.66

Case 2: A constant and a trend in (#).

Number of variables in $X_t$	Significance level		
	1%	5%	10%
2	-4.25	-3.69	-3.39
3	-4.50	-3.93	-3.62
4	-4.72	-4.14	-3.83
5	-4.93	-4.34	-4.03

# Outline of a (One-Step) Cointegration Analysis

- (1) Test individual variables, e.g.  $X_{1t}$  and  $X_{2t}$ , for unit roots.
- (2) Estimate an ADL model

$$\Delta X_{1t} = \delta + \lambda_1 \Delta X_{1t-1} + \kappa_0 \Delta X_{2t} + \kappa_1 \Delta X_{2t-1} + \gamma_1 X_{1t-1} + \gamma_2 X_{2t-1} + \epsilon_t.$$

- (3) Test for no-cointegration with  $t_{\gamma_1=0}$ .  
If cointegration is found, the cointegrating relation is the long-run solution.
- (4) Derive the long-run solution

$$X_{1t} = \hat{\mu} + \hat{\beta}_2 X_{2t}.$$

Inference on  $\beta_2$  is standard (under some conditions).

## Empirical Example: Interest Rates Revisited

Estimation based on a ADL model. The significant terms are:

Modelling IMM by OLS (using PR0312.in7)

The estimation sample is: 1973 (4) to 2003 (2)

	Coefficient	Std.Error	t-value	t-prob	Part.R <sup>2</sup>
IMM_1	0.615152	0.07909	7.78	0.000	0.3447
Constant	-0.00250456	0.004573	-0.548	0.585	0.0026
IBZ	1.19928	0.2347	5.11	0.000	0.1851
IBZ_1	-0.865763	0.2648	-3.27	0.001	0.0851
sigma	0.0182398	RSS		0.0382594939	
R <sup>2</sup>	0.841437	F(3,115) =	203.4	[0.000]**	
log-likelihood	309.674	DW		2.16	
no. of observations	119	no. of parameters		4	
mean(IMM)	0.092754	var(IMM)		0.00202764	

The long-run solution is given in PcGive as

Solved static long-run equation for IMM

	Coefficient	Std.Error	t-value	t-prob
Constant	-0.00650791	0.01184	-0.550	0.584
IBZ	0.866611	0.09491	9.13	0.000

Long-run sigma = 0.0473948

Here the  $t$ -values can be used for testing!  $\beta_2$  is not significantly different from unity. The test for no-cointegration is given by (critical value  $-3.69$ ):

PcGive Unit-root t-test:  $-4.8661$

The impulse responses  $\partial X_{1t}/\partial X_{2t}$ ,  $\partial X_{1t}/\partial X_{2t-1}$ , ... and the cumulated  $\sum \partial X_{1t}/\partial X_{2t-i}$  can be graphed.

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## Spurious Regression Revisited

- Recall that cointegration is a special case where all stochastic trends cancel. From an empirical point of view this an exception.
- **What happens if the variables do not cointegrate?**
- Assume that  $X_{1t}$  and  $X_{2t}$  are two totally unrelated  $I(1)$  variables. Then we would like the static regression

$$X_{1t} = \mu + \beta_2 X_{2t} + u_t, \quad (\$)$$

to reveal that  $\beta_2 = 0$  and  $R^2 = 0$ .

- This turns out not to be the case!  
The standard regression output will indicate a relation between  $X_{1t}$  and  $X_{2t}$ . This is called a **spurious regression** or **nonsense regression** result.
- **With non-stationary data we always have to think in terms of cointegration.**

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# Simulation: Stationary Case

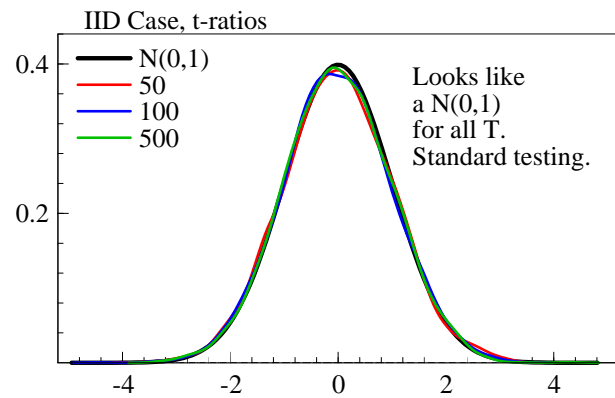
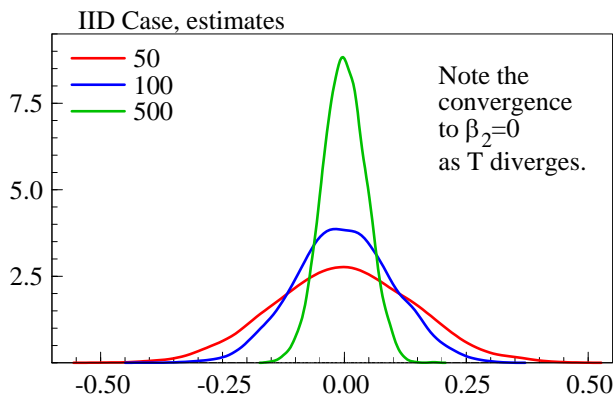
- Consider first two independent IID variables:

$$\begin{aligned} X_{1t} &= \epsilon_{1t} \\ X_{2t} &= \epsilon_{2t} \end{aligned} \quad \text{where} \quad \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon_{1t} \\ \epsilon_{2t} \end{pmatrix} \sim N \left( \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right),$$

for  $T = 50, 100, 500$ .

- Here, we get standard results for the regression model

$$X_{1t} = \mu + \beta_2 X_{2t} + u_t.$$



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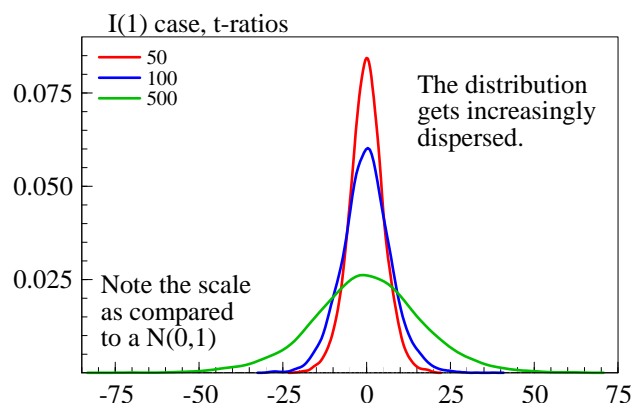
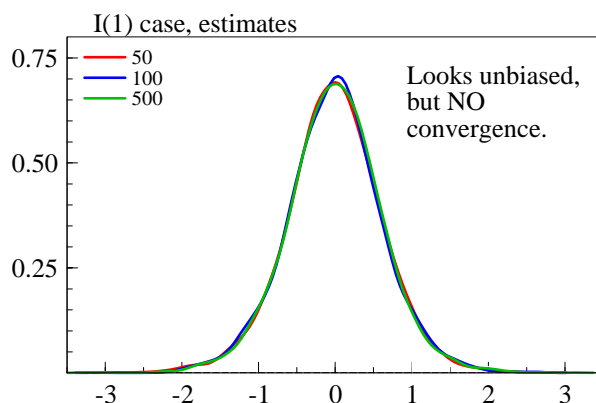
# Simulation: I(1) Spurious Regression

- Now consider two independent random walks

$$\begin{aligned} X_{1t} &= X_{1t-1} + \epsilon_{1t} \\ X_{2t} &= X_{2t-1} + \epsilon_{2t} \end{aligned} \quad \text{where} \quad \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon_{1t} \\ \epsilon_{2t} \end{pmatrix} \sim N \left( \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right),$$

for  $T = 50, 100, 500$ .

- Under the null hypothesis,  $\beta_2 = 0$ , the residual is I(1). The condition for consistency is not fulfilled.



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