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Exercise 4: UNIT ROOT Processes

Due day announced in the web page.

1. (This problem is adapted from Oxford M.Phil 1987) Consider the following generation process for a random variable y_t :

 $y_t = \beta y_{t-1} + e_t$ where $e_t \sim IN(0, 1)$, $\beta = 1$ and $y_o = 0$.

- (a) Show that $\operatorname{Var}(y_t) = t$ and $\operatorname{corr}^2(y_t, y_{t-k}) = 1-(k/t)$, and deduce the equivalent expression for k < 0.
- (b1) Derive the $E[\sum y_{t-1}e_t/T]$
- (b2) Derive the $E[\sum y_t^2/T]$
- (b3) Derive the $E[\sum y_{t-1}y_{t-1}/T]$
- (b4) Derive the $\operatorname{Var}[\sum y_t^2/T]$
- (c) What is the order of integration of y_t ?
- (d) Derive the limiting distribution of the sample mean.
- (e) Obtain the limiting distribution of the least squares estimator of β .
- (f) Derive the corresponding results in (a)-(e) when $|\beta| < 1$ and $y_o \sim N(0, (1 \beta^2)^{-1})$.
- (g) Undertake a Monte Carlo study of the finite sample behavior of the least squares estimator of β for T=100 when (i) $\beta = 1.0$; (ii) $\beta = 0.9$; and (iii) $\beta = 0.5$. Pay attention to the distribution of the t-statistics in all the three cases. Do they follow a t-distribution (you can use a Q-Q plot)?

2. The Brownian Bridge process B(t) on [0, 1] is defined from the Brownian process W as

$$B(t) = W(t) - tW(1), t \in [0, 1].$$

Let ξ_n be an i.i.d. sequence with mean zero and variance 1, and define the array

$$\xi_{ni}^* = \xi_i - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \xi_j, i = 1, ..., n, n = 1, 2, ...,$$

i.e., the deviation of ξ_i from their sample mean for *n* observations. Finally, define de process

$$X_n(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^{[tn]} \xi_{ni}^*$$

in the functional space D; show the weak convergence of $X_n \to B$.

3. Generate the CVs (1%, 5%, 10%) of the t-stat DF test in the three cases discussed in class. For each case consider sample sizes of T = 100 and T = 300, initial conditions $Y_0 = 0$ and $Y_0 = 10$ and constant term values under the null of $\alpha = 0$ and $\alpha = 10$. Which conclusions do you obtain?

4. Generate a random walk X_t (T=100) with no drift. Now regress X_t on a deterministic trend. What do you find?

5. The same as problem (2) but now with drift.

6. Generate $X_t = a + b t + e_t$ where $e_t \sim IN(0, 1)$. Regress X_t on a constant and X_{t-1} . How many times do you reject that X_t follows a random walk with drift (use the Cvs obtained in problem 2)?

7. Design a Monte-Carlos experiment to show that when the DGP is an AR(1) with a coefficient very close to one, and we want to use our model for forecasting it is better to assume that the coefficient is equal one.

8. Suppose X_t is generated as $X_t = D_t + \epsilon_t$ with $t = 1, ..., 200, \epsilon_t \sim IN(0, 1)$ and

$$D_t = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } t > 100, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Analyze the power of the DF t-test. What do you conclude?

Note: For all the Monte-Carlo experiments run 1000 simulations

I HOPE YOU HAVE A GOOD TRIP INTO THE WONDERFUL UNIT ROOT-LAND