

EMPIRICAL STUDY AND FORECASTING II

Spring 2011

Problem Set 1

March 11, 2011

Due: March 25, 2010

1. Exercise 12.2.
2. Exercise 12.8.
3. Exercise 12.10.
4. E12.2.
5. Consider the following model to estimate the effects of several variables, including cigarette smoking, on the weight of newborns:

$$\ln(bwght)_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 packs_i + \beta_2 male_i + \beta_3 parity_i + \beta_4 \ln(faminc)_i + u_i \quad (1)$$

where *male* is a binary indicator equal to one if the child is male; *parity* is the birth order of this child; *faminc* is family income; and *packs* is the average number of packs of cigarettes smoked per day during pregnancy.

- (a) Why might we expect *packs* to be correlated with *u*?
- (b) Suppose that you have data on average cigarette price in each woman's state of residence in the United States. Discuss whether this information is likely to satisfy the properties of a good instrumental variables for *packs*?
- (c) Use the data in **bwght.dta** to estimate equation (1). First, run an OLS estimation. Then, run the 2SLS estimation **without** correcting the standard errors in the second stage, where *cigprice* is an instrument for *packs*. Discuss any important differences in the OLS and 2SLS estimates.
- (d) Do the 2SLS estimation by the stata command **ivreg**, compare the standard errors with those from 2SLS in (c). Where does the difference in standard error come from?