

# Estimation of Dynamic Causal Effects

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Dynamic Causal Effects

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Orange Juice Prices and Cold Weather

Is Exogeneity Plausible?

# Dynamic Causal Effect

A **dynamic causal effect** is the effect on  $Y$  of a change in  $X$  **over time**.

For example,

- The effect of an increase in cigarette taxes on cigarette consumption this year, next year, **in 5 years**.
- The effect of a change in the Fed Funds rate on inflation, this month, in 6 months, and **1 year**.
- The effect of a freeze in Florida on the price of orange juice concentrate **in 1 month, 2 months, 3 months ...**.

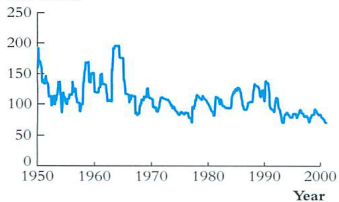
## The Orange Juice Data

- Monthly, Jan. 1950 - Dec. 2000 ( $T = 612$ ).
- Price = price of **frozen OJ concentrate** (a sub-component of the producer price index; US Bureau of Labor Statistics)
- $\%ChgP$  = percentage change in price at an annual rate, so  $\%ChgP_t = 12 \cdot 100 \cdot \Delta \ln(Price_t)$ .
- $FDD$  = sum of the number of degrees in the "freezing degree-days" that the minimum temperatures falls below  $32^{\circ}$  during the month, recorded in Orlando, FL.
  - Example: If November has 2 days with low temp  $< 32^{\circ}$ , one at  $30^{\circ}$  and at  $25^{\circ}$ , then

$$FDD_{Nov} = 2 + 7 = 9.$$

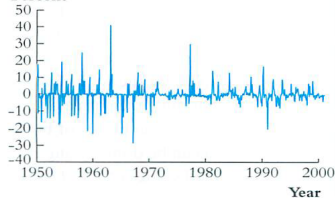
**FIGURE 16.1** Orange Juice Prices and Florida Weather, 1950–2000

**Price index**



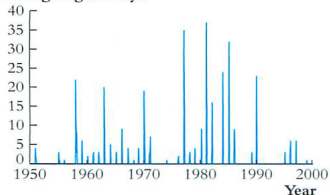
(a) Price index for frozen concentrated orange juice

**Percent**



(b) Percentage change in the price of frozen concentrated orange juice

**Freezing degree days**



(c) Monthly freezing degree days in Orlando, Florida

There have been large month-to-month changes in the price of frozen concentrated orange juice. Many of the large movements coincide with freezing weather in Orlando, home of many orange groves.

## Initial OJ regression

$$\%ChgP_t = -.40 + .47 FDD_t$$

(.22)    (.13)

- Statistically **significant** positive relation.
- More/deeper freezes, price goes **up**.
- Standard errors: not the usual OLS s.e., but rather are heteroskedasticity- and **autocorrelation**-consistent (*HAC*)SE's - *more on this later*.
- But what is the effect of FDD **over time**?

# Dynamic Causal Effects

Example: What is the effect of fertilizer on tomato yield?

An ideal randomized controlled experiment.

- Fertilize some plots, not others (random assignment).
- Measure yield *over time* - *over repeated harvests* - to estimate causal effect of fertilizer on
  - Yield in year 1 of experiment
  - Yield in year 2, etc.
- The result is the causal effect of fertilizer on yield *k years later*.

In time series applications, we **can't** conduct this ideal randomized controlled experiment:

- We only have **one** U.S. OJ market.
- We can't randomly assign FDD to different replicates of the U.S. OJ market.
- So we can't estimate the causal effect at different times using the differences estimator.



## An alternative **thought experiment**:

- Randomly give the same subject different treatments ( $FDD_t$ ) *at different times*.
- Measure the outcome variable ( $\%ChgP_t$ )
- The “population” of subjects consists of the **same subject** (OJ market) but at **different dates**.
- If the “different subjects” are drawn from the **same distribution** - that is, if  $Y_t, X_t$  are stationary - then the dynamic causal effect can be deduced by OLS regression of  $Y_t$  on **lagged** values of  $X_t$ .
- This estimator (regression of  $Y_t$  on  $X_t$  **and** lags of  $X_t$ 's) called the *distributed lag estimator*.

## Dynamic causal effects and the distributed lag model

The **distributed lag model** is:

$$Y_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_t + \cdots + \beta_{r+1} X_{t-r} + u_t$$

- $\beta_1$  = impact effect of change in  $X$  = effect of change in  $X_t$  on  $Y_t$ , holding past  $X_t$  constant.
- $\beta_2$  = 1-period dynamic multiplier = effect of change in  $X_{t-1}$  on  $Y_t$ , holding constant  $X_t, X_{t-2}, X_{t-3}, \dots$ .
- $\beta_3$  = 2-period dynamic multiplier (etc.) = effect of change in  $X_{t-2}$  on  $Y_t$ , holding constant  $X_t, X_{t-1}, X_{t-3}, \dots$ .
- *Cumulative dynamic multipliers*
  - Ex: the 2-period cumulative dynamic multiplier =  $\beta_1 + \beta_2 + \beta_3$

## Exogeneity in time series regression

- **Exogeneity** (past and present)  
 $X$  is **exogenous** if  $E(u_t | X_t, X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}, \dots) = 0$ .
- **Strict Exogeneity** (past, present, and **future**)  $X$  is **strictly exogenous** if  $E(u_t | \dots, X_{t+1}, X_t, X_{t-1}, \dots) = 0$ .
- Strict exogeneity **implies** exogeneity.
- For now we suppose that  $X$  is exogenous - we'll return (briefly) to the case of strict exogeneity later.
- **If  $X$  is exogenous**, then OLS estimates the dynamic causal effect on  $Y$  of a change in  $X$ .

## Estimation of Dynamic Causal Effects with **Exogenous** Regressors

$$Y_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_t + \dots + \beta_{r+1} X_{t-r} + u_t$$

### The Distributed Lag Model **Assumptions**

1.  $E(u_t | X_t, X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}, \dots) = 0$  ( $X$  is exogenous).
2. (a)  $Y$  and  $X$  have **stationary** distributions.  
(b)  $(Y_t, X_t)$  and  $(Y_{t-j}, X_{t-j})$  become **independent** as  $j$  gets **large**.
3.  $Y$  and  $X$  have eight nonzero finite moments.
4. There is no perfect multicollinearity.

- Assumptions 1 and 4 are familiar.
- Assumption 3 is familiar, except for 8 (not four) finite moments - this has to do with HAC estimators.
- Assumption 2 is different - before it was  $(X_i, Y_i)$  are i.i.d. - this now becomes more complicated.

Assumption 2(a):  $Y$  and  $X$  have stationary distributions.

- If so, the coefficients don't change within the sample (internal validity),
- and the results can be extrapolated outside the sample (external validity).
- This is the time series counterpart of the "identically distributed" part of i.i.d.

Assumption 2(b):  $(Y_t, X_t)$  and  $(Y_{t-j}, X_{t-j})$  become independent as  $j$  gets large.

- Intuitively, this says that we have separate experiments for time periods that are widely separated.
- In cross-sectional data, we assumed that  $Y$  and  $X$  were i.i.d., a consequence of simple random sampling - this led to the CLT.
- A version of the CLT holds for time series variables that become independent as their temporal separation increases - assumption 2(b) is the time series counterpart of the "independently distributed" part of i.i.d.

## Under the Distributed Lag Model Assumptions:

- OLS yields **consistent** estimators of  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_r$  (of the dynamic multipliers).
- The sampling distribution of  $\hat{\beta}_1$ , etc., is **normal**.
- *However*, the formula for the variance of this sampling distribution is not the usual one from cross-sectional (i.i.d.) data, because  $u_t$  is not i.i.d. - it is **serially correlated**.
- This means that the usual OLS standard errors (usual STATA printout) are **wrong**.
- We need to use, instead, *SEs* that are **robust** to **autocorrelation** as well as to **heteroskedasticity**.



# Heteroskedasticity and Autocorrelation-Consistent (HAC) Standard Errors

- When  $u_t$  is serially correlated, the **variance** of the sampling distribution of the OLS depends on this serial correlation.
- Consequently, we need to use a **different formula** for the standard errors.
- This is easy to do using STATA and most other statistical **software**.

## The math

Consider the case of no lags:

$$Y_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_t + u_t$$

Recall that the OLS estimator is:

$$\hat{\beta}_1 = \frac{\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T (X_t - \bar{X})(Y_t - \bar{Y})}{\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T (X_t - \bar{X})^2}$$

so, in large samples,

$$\hat{\beta}_1 - \beta_1 = \frac{\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T (X_t - \bar{X})u_t}{\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T (X_t - \bar{X})^2} \cong \frac{\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T v_t}{\sigma_X^2}$$

where  $v_t = (X_t - \bar{X})u_t$ .

Thus, in large samples,

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_1) &= \frac{\text{Var}(\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T v_t)}{(\sigma_X^2)^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{T^2} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{s=1}^T \frac{\text{Cov}(v_t, v_s)}{(\sigma_X^2)^2}\end{aligned}$$

**In i.i.d. cross sectional data**,  $\text{Cov}(v_t, v_s) = 0$  for  $t \neq s$ , so

$$\text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_1) = \frac{1}{T^2} \frac{T \text{Var}(v_t)}{(\sigma_X^2)^2} = \frac{\sigma_v^2}{T(\sigma_X^2)^2}$$

This is the **usual** cross-sectional result.

## What happens with time series data?

Consider  $T = 2$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Var}\left(\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T v_t\right) &= \text{Var}\left(\frac{1}{2}(v_1 + v_2)\right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{4} (\text{Var}(v_1) + \text{Var}(v_2) + 2\text{Cov}(v_1, v_2)) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2}\sigma_v^2 + \frac{1}{2}\rho_1\sigma_v^2, \quad (\rho_1 = \text{corr}(v_1, v_2)) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2}\sigma_v^2 \times f_2, \quad \text{where } f_2 \equiv (1 + \rho_1)
 \end{aligned}$$

- In i.i.d. (cross-section) data,  $\rho_1 = 0$  and  $f_2 = 1$ , which gives the usual formula.
- In time series data,  $\rho_1 \neq 0$ , so  $\text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_1)$  is not given by the usual formula.

## Expression for $\text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_1)$ , general $T$

$$\text{Var}\left(\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T v_t\right) = \frac{\sigma_v^2}{T} \times f_T$$

$$\text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_1) = \left(\frac{1}{T} \frac{\sigma_v^2}{(\sigma_X^2)^2}\right) \times f_T$$

where

$$f_T = 1 + 2 \sum_{j=1}^{T-1} \left(\frac{T-j}{T}\right) \rho_j$$

- Conventional OLS  $SE$ 's are wrong when  $u_t$  is serially correlated (STATA printout is wrong).
- The OLS  $SE$ 's are off by the factor  $f_T$  (which can be big!)
- We need to use a different  $SE$  formula!!!

## HAC Standard Errors

- Conventional OLS *SEs* (heteroskedasticity-robust or not) are wrong when there is **autocorrelation**.
- So, we need a new formula that produces *SEs* that are robust to autocorrelation as well as heteroskedasticity. **We need Heteroskedasticity and Autocorrelation-Consistent (HAC) standard errors.**
- If we knew the factor  $f_T$ , we could just make the adjustment.
- But we don't know  $f_T$  - it depends on unknown autocorrelations,  $\rho_1, \rho_2$ .
- HAC *SEs* replace  $f_T$  with an **estimator of  $f_T$** .

$$\text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_1) = \left( \frac{1}{T} \frac{\sigma_v^2}{(\sigma_X^2)^2} \right) \times f_T,$$

where

$$f_T = 1 + 2 \sum_{j=1}^{T-1} \left( \frac{T-j}{T} \right) \rho_j$$

The most commonly used estimator of  $f_T$  is

$$\hat{f}_T = 1 + 2 \sum_{j=1}^{m-1} \left( \frac{m-j}{m} \right) \tilde{\rho}_j$$

$$\hat{f}_T = 1 + 2 \sum_{j=1}^{m-1} \left( \frac{m-j}{m} \right) \tilde{\rho}_j$$

- This is sometimes called “Newey-West” weights.
- $\tilde{\rho}_j$  is an estimator of  $\rho_j$ .
- $m$  is called the **truncation parameter**.
- What truncation parameter to use in practice such that  $\hat{f}_T$  is consistent?
  - Try  $m = 0.75T^{1/3}$ , rounded to **an integer**.



# Example: OJ and HAC estimators in STATA

```
. gen 10fdd = fdd;           generate lag #0
. gen 11fdd = L1.fdd;       generate lag #1
. gen 12fdd = L2.fdd;       generate lag #2
. gen 13fdd = L3.fdd;       .
. gen 14fdd = L4.fdd;       .
. gen 15fdd = L5.fdd;       .
. gen 16fdd = L6.fdd;

. reg dlpoj fdd if tin(1950m1,2000m12), r;   NOT HAC SEs
```

Linear regression

```
Number of obs =      612
F( 1, 610) =      12.12
Prob > F      =      0.0005
R-squared     =      0.0937
Root MSE     =      4.8261
```

	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
dlpoj						
fdd	.4662182	.1339293	3.48	0.001	.2031998	.7292367
_cons	-.4022562	.1893712	-2.12	0.034	-.7741549	-.0303575

# Example: OJ and HAC estimators in STATA, ctd

Rerun this regression, but with Newey-West *SEs*:

```
. newey dlpoj fdd if tin(1950m1,2000m12), lag(7);
```

```
Regression with Newey-West standard errors      Number of obs =      612
maximum lag: 7                                F( 1, 610) =      12.23
                                                Prob > F      =      0.0005
```

	Coef.	Newey-West Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
dlpoj						
fdd	.4662182	.1333142	3.50	0.001	.2044077	.7280288
_cons	-.4022562	.2159802	-1.86	0.063	-.8264112	.0218987

Uses autocorrelations up to  $m = 7$  to compute the *SEs*

rule-of-thumb:  $0.75 * (612^{1/3}) = 6.4 \square 7$ , rounded up a little.

OK, in this case the difference in *SEs* is small, but not always so!

# Example: OJ and HAC estimators in STATA, ctd.

```
. global lfdd6 "fdd l1fdd l2fdd l3fdd l4fdd l5fdd l6fdd";
. newey dlpoj $lfdd6 if tin(1950m1,2000m12), lag(7);
```

```
Regression with Newey-West standard errors      Number of obs =      612
maximum lag : 7                               F( 7, 604) =      3.56
                                                Prob > F      =      0.0009
```

dlpoj	Coef.	Newey-West Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
fdd	.4693121	.1359686	3.45	0.001	.2022834	.7363407
l1fdd	.1430512	.0837047	1.71	0.088	-.0213364	.3074388
l2fdd	.0564234	.0561724	1.00	0.316	-.0538936	.1667404
l3fdd	.0722595	.0468776	1.54	0.124	-.0198033	.1643223
l4fdd	.0343244	.0295141	1.16	0.245	-.0236383	.0922871
l5fdd	.0468222	.0308791	1.52	0.130	-.0138212	.1074657
l6fdd	.0481115	.0446404	1.08	0.282	-.0395577	.1357807
_cons	-.6505183	.2336986	-2.78	0.006	-1.109479	-.1915578

- `global lfdd6` defines a string which is all the additional lags
- What are the estimated dynamic multipliers (dynamic effects)?

## Do I need to use HAC SEs when I estimate an AR or an ADL model?

NO.

- The problem to which HAC SEs are the solution arises when  $u_t$  is serially correlated.
- If  $u_t$  is serially uncorrelated, then OLS SE's are fine.
- In AR and ADL models, the errors are serially uncorrelated if you have included enough lags of  $Y$ .
  - If you include enough lags of  $Y$ , then the error term can't be predicted using past  $Y$ , or equivalently by past  $u$  - so  $u$  is serially uncorrelated.

# Estimation of Dynamic Causal Effects with Strictly Exogenous Regressors

- $X$  is strictly exogenous if  $E(u_t | \dots, X_{t+1}, X_t, X_{t-1}, \dots) = 0$ .
- If  $X$  is strictly exogenous, there are more **efficient** ways to estimate dynamic causal effects than by a distributed lag regression.
  - Generalized Least Squares (GLS)
  - Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ADL)

- But the condition of strict exogeneity is very strong, so this condition is rarely plausible in practice.
- So we won't cover GLS or ADL estimation of dynamic causal effects— for details, see SW Section 15.5.

# Orange Juice Prices and Cold Weather

What is the dynamic causal effect (*what are the dynamic multipliers*) of a unit increase in FDD on OJ prices?

$$\%ChgP_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 FDD_t + \dots + \beta_{r+1} FDD_{t-r} + u_t$$

- What  $r$  to use? How about 18?
- What  $m$  (Newey-West truncation parameter) to use?  
 $m = .75 \times 612^{1/3} = 6.4 \cong 7.$

## Digression: Computation of cumulative multipliers and their standard errors

- The cumulative multipliers can be computed by estimating the distributed lag model, then **adding up** the coefficients. However, you should **also** compute standard errors for the cumulative multipliers and while this can be done directly from the distributed lag model it requires **some modifications**.
- Because cumulative multipliers are linear combinations of regression coefficients, the methods of Section 7.3 can be applied to compute their standard errors.
- A trick in Section 7.3 is to rewrite the regression so that the coefficients in the **rewritten regression** are the coefficients of **interest**— here, the cumulative multipliers.



Rewrite the distributed lag model with **1 lag**:

$$\begin{aligned}
 Y_t &= \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_t + \beta_2 X_{t-1} + u_t \\
 &= \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_t - \beta_1 X_{t-1} + \beta_1 X_{t-1} + \beta_2 X_{t-1} + u_t \\
 &= \beta_0 + \beta_1 (X_t - X_{t-1}) + (\beta_1 + \beta_2) X_{t-1} + u_t \\
 Y_t &= \beta_0 + \beta_1 \Delta X_t + (\beta_1 + \beta_2) X_{t-1} + u_t
 \end{aligned}$$

So, let  $W_{1t} = \Delta X_t$  and  $W_{2t} = X_{t-1}$  and estimate the regression,

$$Y_t = \beta_0 + \delta_1 W_{1t} + \delta_2 W_{2t} + u_i$$

Then

$$\delta_1 = \beta_1 = \textit{impact effect}$$

$$\delta_2 = \beta_1 + \beta_2 = \textit{the first cumulative multiplier}$$

and the (HAC) standard errors on  $\delta_1$  and  $\delta_2$  are the standard errors for the two cumulative multipliers.

In general, the ADL model can be rewritten as,

$$Y_t = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 \Delta X_t + \gamma_2 \Delta X_{t-1} + \dots + \gamma_{q-1} \Delta X_{t-q+1} + \gamma_q X_{t-q} + u_t$$

where  $\gamma_1 = \beta_1$ ,  $\gamma_2 = \beta_1 + \beta_2$ ,  $\gamma_3 = \beta_1 + \beta_2 + \beta_3$ , etc.

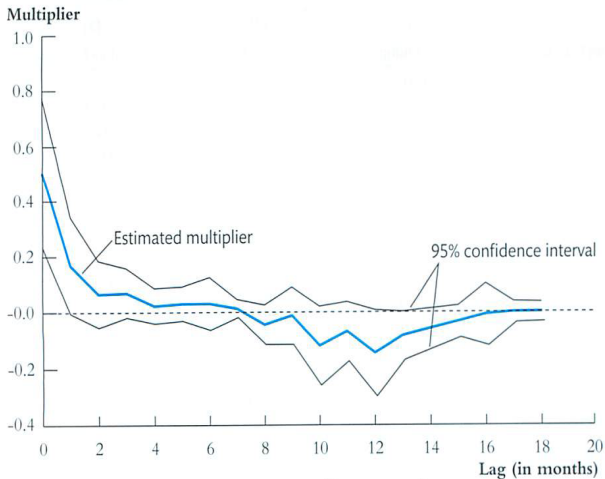
- Cumulative multipliers and their HAC SEs can be computed **directly** using this transformed regression.

**TABLE 16.1** The Dynamic Effect of a Freezing Degree Day (*FDD*) on the Price of Orange Juice: Selected Estimated Dynamic Multipliers and Cumulative Dynamic Multipliers

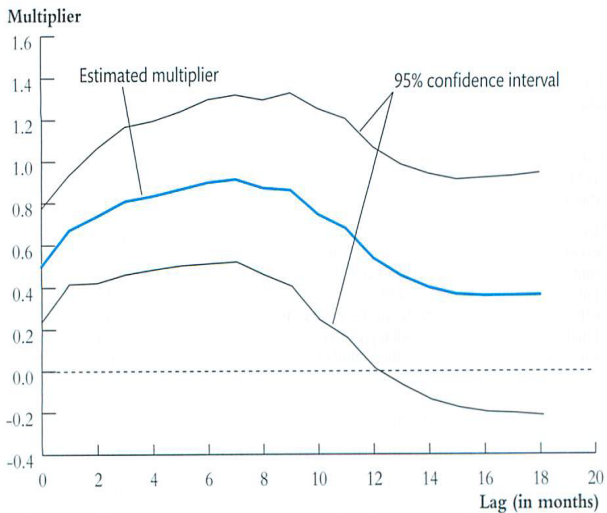
Lag Number	(1) Dynamic Multipliers	(2) Cumulative Multipliers	(3) Cumulative Multipliers	(4) Cumulative Multipliers
0	0.50 (0.14)	0.50 (0.14)	0.50 (0.14)	0.51 (0.15)
1	0.17 (0.09)	0.67 (0.14)	0.67 (0.13)	0.70 (0.15)
2	0.07 (0.06)	0.74 (0.17)	0.74 (0.16)	0.76 (0.18)
3	0.07 (0.04)	0.81 (0.18)	0.81 (0.18)	0.84 (0.19)
4	0.02 (0.03)	0.84 (0.19)	0.84 (0.19)	0.87 (0.20)
5	0.03 (0.03)	0.87 (0.19)	0.87 (0.19)	0.89 (0.20)
6	0.03 (0.05)	0.90 (0.20)	0.90 (0.21)	0.91 (0.21)
.				
.				
12	-0.14 (0.08)	0.54 (0.27)	0.54 (0.28)	0.54 (0.28)
.				
.				
18	0.00 (0.02)	0.37 (0.30)	0.37 (0.31)	0.37 (0.30)
Monthly indicators?	No	No	No	Yes $F = 1.01$ ( $p = 0.43$ )
HAC standard error truncation parameter ( $m$ )	7	7	14	7

**FIGURE 16.2** The Dynamic Effect of a Freezing Degree Day (FDD) on the Price of Orange Juice

The estimated dynamic multipliers show that a freeze leads to an immediate increase in prices. Subsequent price rises are much smaller than the initial impact. The cumulative multiplier shows that freezes have a persistent effect on the level of orange juice prices, with prices peaking seven months after the freeze.



(a) Estimated dynamic multipliers and 95% confidence interval



(b) Estimated cumulative dynamic multipliers and 95% confidence interval

## Are the OJ dynamic effects stable?

Compute QLR for **regression (1)** in Table 15.1:

- Do you need HAC *SEs*?
- How specifically would you compute the Chow statistic?
- How would you compute the QLR statistic?
- What are the d.f.  $q$  of the QLR statistics?  
 $q = 20$ ,  $FDD_t$ , 18 lags and intercept.
- **Result** QLR = **21.19**.
  - Is this significant?
  - At what significance level?
  - The 1% critical value in Table 14.6 is 2.43.
- Estimate the dynamic multipliers on **subsamples** and see how they have changed over time.

## OJ: Do the breaks matter substantively?

**TABLE 15.5** Critical Values of the QLR Statistic with 15% Trimming

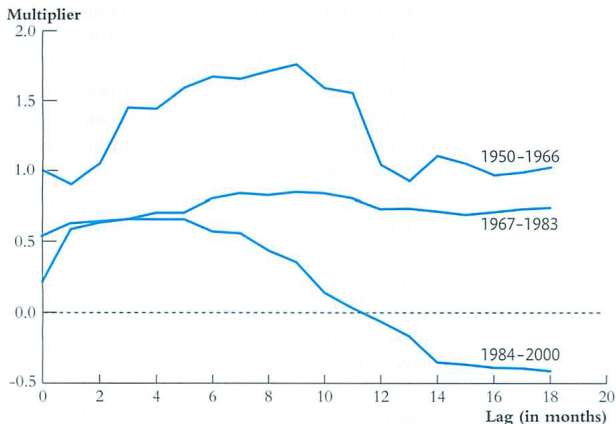
Number of Restrictions ( $q$ )	10%	5%	1%
1	7.12	8.68	12.16
2	5.00	5.86	7.78
3	4.09	4.71	6.02
4	3.59	4.09	5.12
5	3.26	3.66	4.53
6	3.02	3.37	4.12
7	2.84	3.15	3.82
8	2.69	2.98	3.57
9	2.58	2.84	3.38
10	2.48	2.71	3.23
11	2.40	2.62	3.09
12	2.33	2.54	2.97
13	2.27	2.46	2.87
14	2.21	2.40	2.78
15	2.16	2.34	2.71
16	2.12	2.29	2.64
17	2.08	2.25	2.58
18	2.05	2.20	2.53
19	2.01	2.17	2.48
20	1.99	2.13	2.43

*Note:* These critical values apply when  $\tau_0 = 0.15T$  and  $\tau_1 = 0.85T$  (rounded to the nearest integer), so the  $F$ -statistic is computed for all potential break dates in the central 70% of the sample. The number of restrictions  $q$  is the number of restrictions tested by each individual  $F$ -statistic. Critical values for other trimming percentages are given in Andrews (2003).

## OJ: Do the breaks matter substantively?

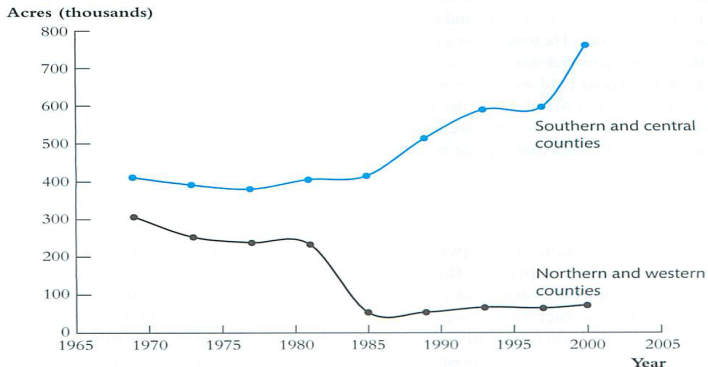
**FIGURE 16.3** Estimated Cumulative Dynamic Multipliers from Different Sample Periods

The dynamic effect on orange juice prices of freezes changed significantly over the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A freeze had a larger impact on prices during 1950-1966 than later, and the effect of a freeze was less persistent during 1984-2000 than earlier.



- The cumulative effect of a FDD **declines** over time? Why?



**FIGURE 16.4** Orange Grove Acreage in Regions of Florida

- After losing many trees to freezes in northern Florida, Florida orange growers planted farther south. *How does this relate to the change in the cumulative impulse responses?*

These dynamic multipliers were estimated using a **distributed lag model**. Should we attempt to obtain more **efficient estimates** using GLS or an ADL model?

- Is  $FDD$  strictly exogenous in the distributed lag regression?

$$\%ChgP_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 FDD_t + \dots + \beta_{r+1} FDD_{t-r} + u_t$$

- OJ commodity traders can't change the weather.
- So this implies that  $\text{Corr}(u_t, FDD_{t+1}) = 0$ , right?
- **No.** Although traders can not change the weather, they can **predict** it. Therefore, price today will be affected by **weather in the future**.  $\text{Corr}(u_t, FDD_{t+1}) \neq 0$ .

# Is Exogeneity Plausible?

**When can you estimate dynamic causal effects? That is, when is exogeneity plausible?**

In the following examples,

- is  $X$  exogenous?
- is  $X$  strictly exogenous?

## Examples:

1.  $Y$  = OJ prices,  $X$  = FDD in Orlando.
2.  $Y$  = Australian exports,  $X$  = US GDP (effect of US income on demand for Australian exports)

## Examples, ctd.

3.  $Y =$  EU exports,  $X =$  US GDP (effect of US income on demand for EU exports)
4.  $Y =$  US rate of inflation,  $X =$  percentage change in world oil prices (as set by OPEC) (effect of OPEC oil price increase on inflation)
5.  $Y =$  GDP growth,  $X =$  Federal Funds rate (the effect of monetary policy on output growth)
6.  $Y =$  change in the rate of inflation,  $X =$  unemployment rate on inflation (the Phillips curve)

## Exogeneity, ctd.

- You must evaluate exogeneity and strict exogeneity on a **case by case** basis.
- Exogeneity is often not plausible in time series data because of simultaneous causality.
- Strict exogeneity is **rarely plausible** in time series data **because of feedback**.

## Estimation of Dynamic Causal Effects: Summary

- Dynamic causal effects are measurable in theory using a randomized controlled experiment with repeated measurements over time.
- When  $X$  is exogenous, you can estimate dynamic causal effects using a distributed lag regression.
- If  $u_t$  is serially correlated, conventional OLS  $SE$ s are incorrect. You must use HAC  $SE$ s.
- To decide whether  $X$  is exogenous, think hard!