

Adversarial Method of Moments

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Introduction

GMM/SMM

- Many economic models are defined by moment conditions

$$\mathbb{E} [g(x, \theta_0)] = 0$$

- Two main reasons
 - ① Transparent/Derived from theoretical models
 - ② Do not rely on strong distributional assumptions
- GMM/SMM methods are a natural estimation strategy
- Bias arise when number of moments is moderate or when estimating higher orders of the data (Altonji & Segal, 1996)

This paper

- Introduce **Adversarial Method of Moments (AMM)**
 - Based on adversarial estimation (GAN)
 - For models defined by moment conditions/matching moments
- AMM features
 - 1 Efficiency: Incorporates optimal weighting as OW-GMM/SMM
 - 2 Smaller finite sample bias
- **Tight connection between adversarial estimation and GEL estimators**

Related Literature

GMM Hansen (1982), Hansen & Singleton (1982), Arellano & Bond (1991), Hansen, Heaton & Yaron (1996)

GAN Goodfellow et al (2014), **Kaji, Manresa & Pouliot (2020)**

GEL Owen (1988), Qin & Lawless (1994), Imbens (1997), **Newey & Smith (2004)**, Evdokimov, Kitamura & Otsu (2014)

ML Bennett & Kallus (2021), Lewis, Syrgankis et al (2020).

A Preview – Arellano Bond

- Dynamic panel data model

$$Y_{it} = \rho Y_{it-1} + \alpha_i + \epsilon_{it}$$

- Difference out FE

$$\Delta Y_{it} = \rho \Delta Y_{it-1} + \Delta \epsilon_{it}$$

and use lagged levels/differences as instruments

$$g_L(Y_i, t, \theta) = Y_i^{t-2} \cdot (\Delta Y_{it} - \theta \Delta Y_{it-1})$$

$$g_D(Y_i, t, \theta) = \Delta Y_i^{t-2} \cdot (\Delta Y_{it} - \theta \Delta Y_{it-1})$$

- Have $K \simeq (T - 1)(T - 2)/2$ moment conditions

Arellano Bond – Bias

		$T = 5$	$T = 10$	$T = 15$	$T = 20$
$\rho = 0.7$	GMM 1-step	-0.061	-0.130	-0.176	-0.217
	GMM 2-step	-0.030	-0.048	-0.082	-0.134
	GMM D	-0.069	-0.133	-0.180	-0.227
	GMM CUE	-0.003	0.000	0.000	0.000
	AMM	0.000	0.001	0.001	-0.002
$\rho = 0.9$	GMM 1-step	-0.317	-0.338	-0.377	-0.419
	GMM 2-step	-0.247	-0.200	-0.242	-0.310
	GMM D	-0.319	-0.387	-0.432	-0.478
	GMM CUE	-0.168	-0.012	-0.001	0.000
	AMM	-0.108	-0.007	0.000	0.001

Table: Bias based on 500 simulations, $N = 500$.

Arellano Bond – SD

		$T = 5$	$T = 10$	$T = 15$	$T = 20$
$\rho = 0.7$	GMM 1-step	0.170	0.089	0.080	0.078
	GMM 2-step	0.119	0.048	0.044	0.051
	GMM D	0.132	0.071	0.063	0.062
	GMM CUE	0.134	0.039	0.024	0.021
	AMM	0.130	0.038	0.023	0.053
$\rho = 0.9$	GMM 1-step	0.393	0.239	0.188	0.167
	GMM 2-step	0.285	0.168	0.140	0.138
	GMM D	0.278	0.168	0.134	0.118
	GMM CUE	0.386	0.099	0.048	0.037
	AMM	0.258	0.081	0.043	0.032

Table: SD based on 500 simulations, $N = 500$.

Estimation

Generative Adversarial Networks (GAN)

- AMM is inspired in GAN (Goodfellow et al 2016)
- GAN involves 2 models
 - A generative model which creates synthetic observations
 - A discriminative model which takes as inputs real and simulated data, and tries to predict the provenance of each observation
 - The estimator is defined as the value of θ for which the discriminator cannot tell apart real from simulated data.
- AMM is a GAN estimator where the discriminator is a logistic regression.
- **Can use adversarial estimation even when models are defined uniquely by moment restrictions!**

GAN Framework

- Models D and G play a zero-sum game
 - D : Distinguish real from synth
 - G , parametrized by $F(\theta)$: Make both samples as similar as possible
- Loss function

$$\min_{\theta \in \Theta} \max_{D \in \mathcal{D}} \mathcal{L} = \mathbb{E}_{X \sim P_{data}} [\log(1 - D(X))] + \mathbb{E}_{Z \sim F(\theta)} [\log D(Z)]$$

- Why choose D to be logistic? It ensures...
 - 1 Inner maximization to be concave
 - 2 D will use only selected moments to distinguish between samples

Adversarial estimation with moment conditions

- How to 'generate' a synthetic sample from the model?
- Note that for any θ :

$$g(x_i, \theta) = \mathbb{E}[g(x, \theta)] + \varepsilon_i,$$

where $\mathbb{E}[\varepsilon_i] = 0$.

- For $\theta = \theta_0$, since $\mathbb{E}[g(x_i, \theta_0)] = 0$, we have:

$$g(x_i, \theta_0) = \varepsilon_i$$

- We use draws from a mean-zero random variable as 'synthetic' data, and compare them to $\{g(x_i, \theta)\}_{i=1}^N$

AMM Framework

- Logistic function: $\Lambda(x) = (1 + e^{-x})^{-1}$
- Objective function

$$\min_{\theta \in \Theta} \max_{\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^{k+1}} \left\{ n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n \log(1 - \Lambda(\lambda' g(x_i, \theta))) + m^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^m \log \Lambda(\lambda' \epsilon_j) \right\}$$

- FOC (inner maximization)

$$n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(1 - \Lambda(\hat{\lambda}' g(x_i, \theta)) \right) g(x_i, \theta) = m^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^m \Lambda(\hat{\lambda}' \epsilon_j) \epsilon_j$$

AMM Framework

- FOC (inner maximization)

$$n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n \Lambda \left(\hat{\lambda}' g(x_i, \theta) \right) g(x_i, \theta) = m^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^m \left(1 - \Lambda \left(\hat{\lambda}' \epsilon_j \right) \right) \epsilon_j$$

- At θ_0 we have $\mathbb{E}[g(x_i, \theta_0)] = 0$, thus...

- $\lambda(\theta_0) = 0$ is a solution
- Concavity of \mathcal{L} w.r.t. λ ensures uniqueness

- $\left[\lambda(\theta_0) = 0 \Rightarrow \hat{\Lambda} = 1 - \hat{\Lambda} = 1/2 \right]$ so inner FOC yields

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n g(x_i, \theta_0) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \epsilon_i \simeq 0$$

AMM Computation

Algorithm

- 1 Fix random draw $\varepsilon = \{\varepsilon_i\}_{i=1}^m$
- 2 Initialize with $\theta = \theta^{(0)}$
- 3 At each step $s...$
 - 1 Compute $\mathbf{g}(\theta) = \{g(x_i, \theta)\}_{i=1}^n$
 - 2 Run logistic regression using $(\mathbf{g}(\theta), \varepsilon)$ to obtain predicted probabilities $\hat{\Lambda}^{(s)}$
 - 3 Use $\hat{\Lambda}^{(s)}$ to compute numerical gradient $\nabla Q(\theta)$
 - 4 Update $\theta^{(s+1)} = \theta^{(s)} - \eta \nabla Q(\theta^{(s)})$
 - 5 Repeat till convergence

AMM Example – OLS

- OLS moment condition

$$\mathbb{E} [x_i(y_i - \beta' x_i)] = 0$$

- Yields the following *dataset*

$$(\mathbf{X}(\theta) | \mathbf{d}) = \left[\begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & x_1 & (y_1 - \beta' x_1) & 1 \\ 1 & x_2 & (y_2 - \beta' x_2) & 1 \\ \vdots & & \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_n & (y_n - \beta' x_n) & 1 \\ \hline 1 & & \nu \varepsilon_1 & 0 \\ 1 & & \nu \varepsilon_2 & 0 \\ \vdots & & \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & & \nu \varepsilon_m & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

Statistical Properties

Main Results

- 1 Asymptotic equivalence between AMM and optimally-weighted GMM/SMM
- 2 $\text{Bias}(\hat{\theta}_{AMM}) \leq \text{Bias}(\hat{\theta}_{GMM})$

How do we do it

- Link between AMM and GEL (Newey & Smith (2004))
- Derive finite sample bias from stochastic expansion
- Results draw from smoothness of the Logit and g

Generalized Empirical Likelihood

- Let $\rho(v)$ be a function of a scalar v that is concave on its domain, an open interval \mathcal{V} containing zero,

$$\hat{\mathcal{B}}_n(\theta) = \{\lambda : \lambda' g_i(\theta) \in \mathcal{V}, i = 1, \dots, n\}$$

- θ_0 is unique value such that $\mathbb{E}[g(x, \theta_0)] = 0$
- $\hat{\theta}_{\text{GEL}}$ is the solution to saddle point problem

$$\min_{\theta \in \Theta} \sup_{\lambda \in \hat{\mathcal{B}}_n(\theta)} \sum_{i=1}^n \rho(\lambda' g_i(\theta))$$

- EL, ET and CUE are special cases. In particular, **EL estimator is a special case**
with: $\rho(v) = \log(1 - v)$ and $\mathcal{V} = (-\infty, 1)$

AMM as GEL estimator

- $\hat{\theta}_{GEL}$ is the solution to saddle point problem

$$\min_{\theta \in \Theta} \sup_{\lambda \in \hat{\mathcal{B}}_n(\theta)} \sum_{i=1}^n \rho(\lambda' g_i(\theta))$$

- Choose $\rho(v) = \log(1 - \Lambda(v))$ and degenerate $\{\epsilon_i\}_{i=1}^m = \mathbf{0}$

$$\hat{\theta}_{AMM} = \arg \min_{\theta \in \Theta} \max_{\lambda \in \mathbf{R}^{k+1}} \left\{ \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \log(1 - \Lambda(\lambda' g_i(\theta))) \right\} - 1/2$$

AMM Asymptotics

Assumptions

- In general, parametrize $\epsilon \sim \tilde{F}(0, \nu^2 I)$
- Define the following

$$\Omega = \mathbb{E} [g(x, \theta_0) g(x, \theta_0)']$$

$$G = \mathbb{E} [\partial g(x, \theta) / \partial \theta |_{\theta_0}]$$

$$\Omega_{\kappa} = \Omega + \kappa I$$

$$\Sigma_{\kappa} = (G' \Omega_{\kappa}^{-1} G)^{-1}$$

- Standard assumptions on $g(\cdot)$ yield

$$\sqrt{n} (\hat{\theta} - \theta_0) \longrightarrow \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma_{\nu^2})$$

Finite Sample Bias

- Main results in Newey & Smith (2004) are bias expressions Bias

$$\text{Bias}(\hat{\theta}_{GMM}) = B_I + B_G + B_\Omega + B_W$$

$$\text{Bias}(\hat{\theta}_{GEL}) = B_I + (1 + \rho_3/2) B_\Omega$$

- Derive analogous expression for AMM

$$\text{Bias}(\hat{\theta}_{AMM}) = B_I + B_{\Omega,2}$$

Monte Carlo

Testing AMM performance

- We consider 2 models with many moment conditions
 - 1 Arellano & Bond (1991): Use of lagged levels/differences as instruments in FE models provide large number of moments
 - 2 Altonji & Segal (1996): 2-step GMM ill-behaved when estimating 2nd moments

Arellano & Bond

- Consider the dynamic panel data model

$$Y_{it} = \rho Y_{it-1} + \alpha_i + \epsilon_{it}$$

where $\alpha_i \sim \mathcal{N}$, $\epsilon_{it} \sim t_3$

- Moments involve differencing out FE

$$\Delta Y_{it} = \rho \Delta Y_{it-1} + \Delta \epsilon_{it}$$

and use lagged levels/differences as instruments

$$g_L(Y_i, t, \theta) = Y_i^{t-2} \cdot (\Delta Y_{it} - \theta \Delta Y_{it-1})$$

$$g_D(Y_i, t, \theta) = \Delta Y_i^{t-2} \cdot (\Delta Y_{it} - \theta \Delta Y_{it-1})$$

- Note: We have $K \simeq (T-1)(T-2)/2$ moment conditions

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$\rho = 0.7$	GMM 1-step	-0.061	-0.130	-0.176	-0.217
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	GMM D	-0.069	-0.133	-0.180	-0.227
	GMM CUE	-0.003	0.000	0.000	0.000
	AMM $\nu = 0.5$	0.000	0.001	0.001	-0.002
	AMM $\nu = 1$	-0.001	0.000	0.002	-0.003
	EL	0.002	0.000	0.000	0.001
$\rho = 0.9$	GMM 1-step	-0.317	-0.338	-0.377	-0.419
	GMM 2-step	-0.247	-0.200	-0.242	-0.310
	GMM D	-0.319	-0.387	-0.432	-0.478
	GMM CUE	-0.168	-0.012	-0.001	0.000
	AMM $\nu = 0.5$	-0.108	-0.007	0.000	0.001
	AMM $\nu = 1$	-0.109	-0.010	-0.003	-0.002
	EL	N/A	0.002	-0.002	0.002

Table: Bias based on 500 simulations, $N = 500$. ν denotes dispersion in AMM estimator

Arellano Bond – SD

		$T = 5$	$T = 10$	$T = 15$	$T = 20$
$\rho = 0.7$	GMM 1-step	0.170	0.089	0.080	0.078
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	GMM D	0.132	0.071	0.063	0.062
	GMM CUE	0.134	0.039	0.024	0.021
	AMM $\nu = 0.5$	0.130	0.038	0.023	0.053
	AMM $\nu = 1$	0.129	0.038	0.022	0.052
	EL	0.137	0.038	0.023	0.020
$\rho = 0.9$	GMM 1-step	0.393	0.239	0.188	0.167
	GMM 2-step	0.285	0.168	0.140	0.138
	GMM D	0.278	0.168	0.134	0.118
	GMM CUE	0.386	0.099	0.048	0.037
	AMM $\nu = 0.5$	0.258	0.081	0.043	0.032
	AMM $\nu = 1$	0.257	0.080	0.043	0.031
	EL	N/A	0.112	0.047	0.036

Table: SD based on 500 simulations, $N = 500$. ν denotes dispersion in AMM estimator

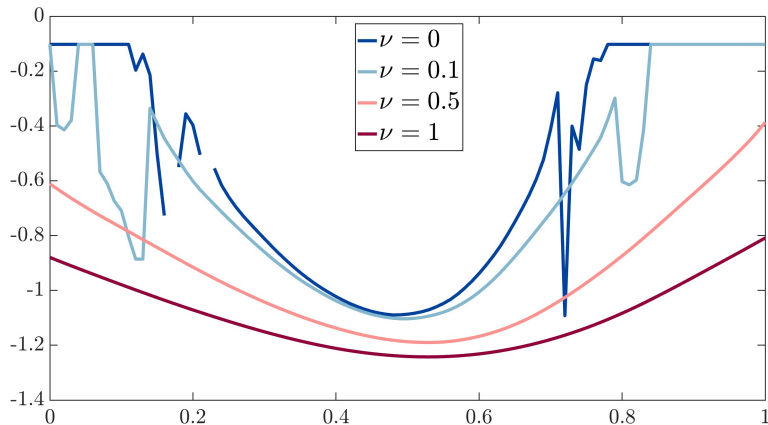
ν smoothes the loss

Figure: Realization for $\rho = 0.5$, with $(N, T) = (500, 20)$

Altonji & Segal (1996)

- Panel of individuals ($i = 1, \dots, n$) observed across ($t = 1, \dots, T$)
- Observations $x_{it} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} F$, $\mathbb{E}[x_{it}] = 0$, $\mathbb{V}[x_{it}] = \sigma^2$
- Stacked observations $x_i = (x_{i1}, \dots, x_{iT})$
- Parameter of interest is $\theta = \sigma^2$ and moment of the data to consider are

$$g(\sigma^2, x_i) = (x_{i1}^2 - \sigma^2, \dots, x_{iT}^2 - \sigma^2)$$

- Consider $F = t_\eta, \log \mathcal{N}$
- Note: 1-step GMM is efficient in this case

Bias Student-t

	ν	$T = 1$	$T = 5$	$T = 10$	$T = 15$	$T = 20$	$T = 30$
AMM	0	0.006	-0.011	-0.014	-0.015	-0.016	-0.016
	0.05	0.006	-0.009	0.008	0.004	-0.002	-0.003
	0.1	0.006	-0.009	-0.012	-0.011	-0.013	-0.010
	0.5	0.006	-0.01	-0.012	-0.014	-0.014	-0.014
	1	0.007	-0.007	-0.009	-0.010	-0.011	-0.011
GMM	1-step	-0.003	0.001	0	0	-0.001	0
	2-step	-0.003	-0.038	-0.042	-0.044	-0.046	-0.045
	IT	-0.003	-0.038	-0.042	-0.044	-0.046	-0.045
	CUE	-0.003	-0.039	-0.042	-0.044	-0.046	-0.045
	Diagonal W	-0.003	-0.039	-0.042	-0.044	-0.046	-0.045

Table: Bias based on 500 simulations, sample size = 500. Student-t with 3 degrees of freedom. ν denotes the noise coefficient of the AMM estimator

RMSE Student-t

	ν	$T = 1$	$T = 5$	$T = 10$	$T = 15$	$T = 20$	$T = 30$
AMM	0	0.059	0.026	0.022	0.021	0.021	0.019
	0.05	0.059	0.048	0.133	0.113	0.084	0.070
	0.1	0.059	0.047	0.047	0.051	0.040	0.048
	0.5	0.059	0.025	0.021	0.020	0.019	0.019
	1	0.059	0.024	0.019	0.017	0.016	0.015
GMM	1-step	0.121	0.054	0.038	0.032	0.028	0.024
	2-step	0.121	0.060	0.053	0.052	0.052	0.049
	IT	0.121	0.060	0.053	0.052	0.052	0.049
	CUE	0.121	0.060	0.053	0.052	0.052	0.050
	Diagonal W	0.121	0.060	0.053	0.052	0.052	0.050

Table: RMSE based on 500 simulations, sample size = 500. Student-t with 3 degrees of freedom. ν denotes the noise coefficient of the AMM estimator

Bias Log-Normal

	ν	$T = 1$	$T = 5$	$T = 10$	$T = 15$	$T = 20$	$T = 30$
AMM	0	-0.006	-0.058	-0.236	-0.324	-0.28	-0.159
	0.05	-0.006	-0.049	-0.097	-0.088	-0.063	0.039
	0.1	-0.006	-0.017	-0.091	-0.110	-0.073	-0.048
	0.5	-0.006	0.003	-0.088	-0.110	-0.117	-0.112
	1	-0.006	-0.052	-0.096	-0.108	-0.111	-0.116
GMM	1-step	-0.003	-0.002	-0.013	-0.006	-0.007	-0.006
	2-step	-0.003	-0.209	-0.236	-0.238	-0.243	-0.247
	IT	-0.003	-0.209	-0.236	-0.238	-0.243	-0.247
	CUE	-0.003	-0.211	-0.240	-0.242	-0.247	-0.253
	Diagonal W	-0.003	-0.211	-0.240	-0.242	-0.247	-0.253

Table: Bias based on 500 simulations, sample size = 500. Log-Normal distribution. ν denotes the noise coefficient of the AMM estimator

RMSE Log-Normal

	ν	$T = 1$	$T = 5$	$T = 10$	$T = 15$	$T = 20$	$T = 30$
AMM	0	0.169	0.203	0.348	0.415	0.36	0.197
	0.05	0.169	0.222	0.181	0.22	0.267	0.282
	0.1	0.169	0.261	0.186	0.171	0.247	0.263
	0.5	0.169	0.296	0.185	0.154	0.151	0.159
	1	0.169	0.214	0.159	0.128	0.13	0.127
GMM	1-step	0.369	0.198	0.133	0.104	0.099	0.093
	2-step	0.369	0.238	0.250	0.247	0.25	0.252
	IT	0.369	0.238	0.250	0.247	0.25	0.252
	CUE	0.369	0.241	0.254	0.251	0.255	0.258
	Diagonal W	0.369	0.241	0.254	0.251	0.255	0.258

Table: RMSE based on 500 simulations, sample size = 500. Log-Normal distribution. ν denotes the noise coefficient of the AMM estimator

Conclusion

Conclusion

- AMM is based on adversarial estimation
 - Contribution: Adapt adversarial estimation to models defined by moment conditions
 - The discriminator looks for patterns in the moment of g to distinguish true to simulated data
- AMM is a GEL estimator:
 - Use results similar to Newey & Smith (2004)
 - Derive finite sample bias
- Properties of AMM
 - Asymptotically equivalent to SMM/GMM
 - Better finite sample performance in terms of smaller bias
 - Computationally more tractable than other GEL estimators

Thanks!

AMM Asymptotics – General Case

Back

- Define the following

$$\Omega = \mathbb{E} [g(x, \theta_0) g(x, \theta_0)'], \quad G = \mathbb{E} [\partial g(x, \theta) / \partial \theta] |_{\theta_0}$$
$$\Omega_\kappa = \Omega + \kappa I_m, \quad \Sigma_\kappa = (G' \Omega_\kappa^{-1} G)^{-1}, \quad H_\kappa = \Sigma_\kappa G' \Omega_\kappa^{-1}$$

- Asymptotic Normality

$$\sqrt{n} (\hat{\theta} - \theta_0) \longrightarrow \mathcal{N} (0, H_{\nu^2} \Omega_{\tau \nu^2} H_{\nu^2}')$$

where $\tau = n/m$

AMM Asymptotics – Matching Moments

SMM

- Define the following

$$\Omega = \mathbb{E} [g_i(\theta) g_i(\theta)'] , G = \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{\partial g_i(\theta)}{\partial \theta} \right]$$
$$\Sigma = (G' \Omega^{-1} G)^{-1}$$

- Under regularity conditions, AMM is asymptotically equivalent to SMM

$$\sqrt{n}(\hat{\theta} - \theta_0) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} \mathcal{N}(0, (1 + \tau)\Sigma)$$

where $\tau = \frac{n}{m}$

Assumptions

Back

Assumption (Consistency)

(a) $\theta_0 \in \Theta$ is the unique solution to $\mathbb{E}[g(x, \theta)] = \mathbb{E}[g(x^\theta, \theta)]$ (b) Θ is compact; (c) $g(x, \theta)$ is continuous at each $\theta \in \Theta$ with probability one; (d) $\mathbb{E}[\sup_{\theta \in \Theta} \|g(x, \theta)\|^\alpha] < \infty$ for some $\alpha > 2$; (e) Ω is nonsingular.

Assumption (Asymptotic Normality)

(a) $\theta_0 \in \text{int}(\Theta)$; (b) $g(x, \theta)$ is continuously differentiable in a neighborhood \mathcal{N} of θ_0 and $\mathbb{E}[\sup_{\theta \in \mathcal{N}} \|\partial g_i(\theta) / \partial \theta'\|] < \infty$; (c) $\text{rank}(G) = p$.

Assumptions (cont'd)

Assumption (Stochastic Expansions)

There is $b(x)$ with $\mathbb{E} [b(x)^6] < \infty$ such that for $0 \leq j \leq 4$ and all x , $\nabla^j g(x, \theta)$ exists on a neighborhood \mathcal{N} of θ_0 , $\sup_{\theta \in \mathcal{N}} \|\nabla^j g(x, \theta)\| \leq b(x)$, and for each $\theta \in \mathcal{N}$, $\|\nabla^4 g(x, \theta) - \nabla^4 g(x, \theta_0)\| \leq b(x) \|\theta - \theta_0\|$

Bias terms

Back

- Terms for GEL estimators

$$B_I = n^{-1} H (-a + \mathbb{E} [G_i H g_i])$$

$$B_G = -n^{-1} \Sigma \mathbb{E} [G_i' P g_i]$$

$$B_\Omega = n^{-1} H \mathbb{E} [g_i g_i' P g_i]$$

$$B_W = -n^{-1} H \sum \bar{\Omega}_{\theta_j} (H_W - H)' e_j$$

- ...and AMM estimators

$$B_{I,\nu^2} = n^{-1} H_{\nu^2} (-a_{\nu^2} + \mathbb{E} [G_i H_{\nu^2} g_i])$$

$$B_{\Omega,\nu^2} = n^{-1} H_{\nu^2} \mathbb{E} [g_i g_i' P_{\nu^2} g_i]$$

where $M_\nu = \mathbb{E} [\partial m(x, \varphi, \nu) / \partial \varphi]$, $A_\nu = \partial m(x, \varphi, \nu) / \partial \varphi - M_\nu$, $a_\nu = \text{vec}(A_\nu)$