

# Local Projections vs. VARs for Structural Parameter Estimation

Juan Castellanos

*European University Institute*

September 1, 2024

- Starting with Jordà (2005), **local projections** (LP) have become a common tool to understanding the dynamic effects of economic shocks
  - \* An alternative to vector autorregresions (VARs) when estimating impulse responses
- Other studies analyze the performance of these two models when estimating IRFs
  - \* VARs and LPs estimate the same impulse responses in population (Plagborg-Møller and Wolf, 2020)
  - \* However, there is a bias-variance trade off in finite samples (Li et al., 2021)
- Our focus is instead on the **structural parameters** of any DSGE model
  - \* Follow Smith (1993) in estimating structural parameters through an indirect inference exercise in which the auxiliary model is a macro-econometric model
- How should we **choose between VARs and LPs** when estimating – via **indirect inference** – the structural parameters of our DSGE model?

- **Data Generating Process** → Smets & Wouters (2007) DSGE model (different sample lengths)
- **Estimation technique** → minimum distance
  - \* Indirect Inference: estimating IRFs on model simulated data
  - \* IRF matching: analytical IRFs from ABCD representation
- **Moment generating / binding functions** → IRF estimators
  - \* *Vector Autoregression (VARs)*
  - \* *Local Projections (LP)*
  - \* Bias correction and various lag length also considered
- **Shocks & Identification**
  - \* Three shocks: technology, fiscal and monetary
  - \* Three identifications: recursive, observed and noisily measured shocks

## - Observed shock case

- \* *IRF matching* → LP responses (low bias)
- \* *Indirect Inference* → robust to misspecification → SVAR responses (low variance)
- \* However, the **lag length  $p$**  used in LP and VAR estimators matters a lot
  - If  $p$  is small, then use LP for IRF matching, while use VAR for Ind. Inf.
  - As  $p$  gets large, bias shrinks for VAR but at the cost of higher variance (Olea et al., 2024)
  - Hence, when  $p$  is large, the LP and SVAR have similar performance
- \* *Ind. Inf.* is robust to **small sample** bias in estimated responses, *IRF matching* benefits from bias correction

## - Recursive identification & shock proxies

- \* When recursive assumptions are incorrect, *IRF matching* struggles but *Ind. Inf.* is robust to it
- \* Both estimation techniques and econometric estimators suffer from miss-measured shocks
- \* Unit normalization seems to be a good fix to deal with it

# DATA GENERATING PROCESS

- The discussion about which binding function to use, VAR or LP, is best made in the context of a specific model, but **which model to use?**
- **Many applications** that estimate their economies by matching impulse responses **concern linearized models**, e.g. Rotemberg and Woodford (1998), Christiano et al. (2005), Iacoviello (2005), etc.
  - \* Indirect inference was initially proposed as a method to estimate non-linear models
  - \* Nonetheless we still need to understand how to choose the binding function in this simpler set up
- The responses to monetary, fiscal and technology shocks are the most widely studied in empirical applications (Ramey, 2016). Hence, we want a model that is able to speak about the responses to these aggregate shocks
- Given the relevance in the academic literature and in policy circles, the **Smets and Wouters (2007) model** seems a sensible choice

- Representative household with **habit formation** and preference for **leisure**

$$c_t = c_1 c_{t-1} + (1 - c_1) \mathbb{E}_t [c_{t+1}] + c_2 (l_t - \mathbb{E}_t [l_{t+1}]) - c_3 (r_t - \mathbb{E}_t [\pi_{t+1}] - \varepsilon_t^b)$$

- Households **invest in capital** given the **capital adjustment cost** they face

$$i_t = i_1 i_{t-1} + (1 - i_1) \mathbb{E} [i_{t+1}] + i_2 q_t + \varepsilon_t^i$$

where

$$q_t = q_1 \mathbb{E} [q_{t+1}] + (1 - q_1) \mathbb{E} r_{t+1}^k - (r_t - \mathbb{E}_t [\pi_{t+1}] - \varepsilon_t^b) \quad : \text{value of capital}$$

$$k_t = k_1 k_{t-1} + (1 - k_1) i_t + k_2 \varepsilon_t^i \quad : \text{installed capital LoM}$$

- **Aggregate production** uses installed capital ( $k_t^S = k_{t-1} + z_t$ ) and labor services

$$y_t = \phi_p (\alpha k_t^S + (1 - \alpha) l_t + \varepsilon_t^a)$$

- **Price stickiness** as in Calvo (1983) and **partial indexation** to lagged inflation gives rise to New-Keynesian Phillips curve

$$\pi_t = \pi_1 \pi_{t-1} + \pi_2 \mathbb{E}[\pi_{t+1}] - \pi_3 \mu_t^p + \varepsilon_t^p$$

- **Nominal wage stickiness** and partial indexation of wages to inflation

$$w_t = w_1 w_{t-1} + (1 - w_1) \mathbb{E}[w_{t+1} + \pi_{t+1}] - w_2 \pi_t + w_3 \pi_{t-1} - w_4 \mu_t^w + \varepsilon_t^w$$

- **Government spending** is exogenous and correlated with technology

$$\varepsilon_t^g = \rho_g \varepsilon_{t-1}^g + \eta_t^g + \rho_{ga} \eta_t^a$$

- The central bank sets the short-term interest rate according to the **monetary policy rule**

$$r_t = \rho_r r_{t-1} + (1 - \rho_r) (r_\pi \pi_t + r_y (y_t - y_t^p)) + r_{\Delta y} \left[ (y_t - y_t^p) - (y_{t-1} - y_{t-1}^p) \right] + \varepsilon_t^r$$



# ESTIMATION STRATEGY

- When estimating a subset of the structural parameters  $\Theta$  of any DSGE model by matching impulse responses, there are two approaches:

- \* **Target empirical** responses but **match model** impulse responses

$$J^{irf} = \min_{\Theta} (\beta - \text{IRF}(\Theta))' W (\beta - \text{IRF}(\Theta)) \quad (1)$$

- It doesn't require a simulated dataset, only structural IRFs

- \* **Target and match** empirical responses

$$J^{smm} = \min_{\Theta} (\beta - \beta(\Theta))' W (\beta - \beta(\Theta)) \quad (2)$$

- It uses the same econometric approach in the real and simulated data

- How does the **choice of the econometric model** affects parameter estimates?

- \*  $J^{irf}$  speaks about potential misspecification of the model economy
- \*  $J^{smm}$  relates to misspecification of both the model and the binding function

# MONTE-CARLO EXPERIMENTS

- The **log-linearized version of the Smets and Wouters (2007)** model is used to generate **S repeated samples** of macroeconomic aggregates
- The model is simulated each time at the estimated values from their paper using a sample of **T observations**
  - \*  $T = 300$  used as baseline
  - \*  $T = 100$  to address the issue of small sample bias of LPs (Herbst & Johansen, 2023)
- We concentrate in **8 structural parameters** of the model:
  - \*  $\sigma_c$  : intertemporal elasticity of substitution
  - \*  $h$  : habit parameter
  - \*  $\sigma_l$  : elasticity of labor supply
  - \*  $\varphi$  : investment adjustment cost parameter
  - \*  $\xi_w, \xi_p$  : Calvo adjustment probabilities
  - \*  $\iota_w, \iota_p$  : Degree of indexation to past inflation
- **Simulated series are 10 times larger** than the sample size during the optimization stage
- The importance of the coefficients used to summarize the data is **weighted** by a squared matrix **W**
  - \* Identity matrix:  $I_m$
  - \* Inverse of the VCM of the moments:  $\Omega^{-1}$
  - \* Diagonal matrix with  $1/h$  elements:  $I_d$

- We focus on the **estimated impulse responses of four variables**: *output, consumption, investment and hours worked* to one of **three main aggregate shocks**: *monetary policy, fiscal policy and technology*
- Shocks are treated by the econometrician as
  - \* *observed*, i.e.  $\tilde{x}_t = \eta_t^i$
  - \* *inferred via recursive ordering*
  - \* *observed with error*, i.e.  $\tilde{x}_t = \eta_t^i + \sigma_v v_t$
- The IRFs are estimated using a **VAR** or a **Local Projections**.
  - \* If the sample size is small ( $T = 100$ ), we also consider the bias-corrected LP (Herbst & Johansen, 2023) or the procedure by Killian (1998) for the SVAR
- In either case, the econometrician still needs to decide on at least two more things:
  - \* The impulse response horizon,  $H$ . We set  $H = 20$ .
  - \* The number of lags,  $p$ . We experiment with various  $p$ 's, i.e.  $p \in \{2, 4, 8, 12\}$ .

# PERFORMANCE METRICS

## - Overall performance

$$J^* = (\text{IRF}(\Theta^*) - \text{IRF}(\hat{\Theta}))' (\text{IRF}(\Theta^*) - \text{IRF}(\hat{\Theta})) \quad (3)$$

$$J^{smm} = (\beta(\Theta^*) - \beta(\hat{\Theta}))' (\beta(\Theta^*) - \beta(\hat{\Theta})) \quad (4)$$

$$J^{irf} = (\beta(\Theta^*) - \text{IRF}(\hat{\Theta}))' (\beta(\Theta^*) - \text{IRF}(\hat{\Theta})) \quad (5)$$

## - Parameter-by-parameter performance

$$\mathcal{L}_\omega(\hat{\Theta}_i, \Theta_i^*) = \omega \times \underbrace{(\mathbb{E}[\hat{\Theta}_i] - \Theta_i^*)^2}_{\text{bias}} + (1 - \omega) \times \underbrace{\text{Var}(\hat{\Theta}_i)}_{\text{variance}} \quad (6)$$

## - Model fit

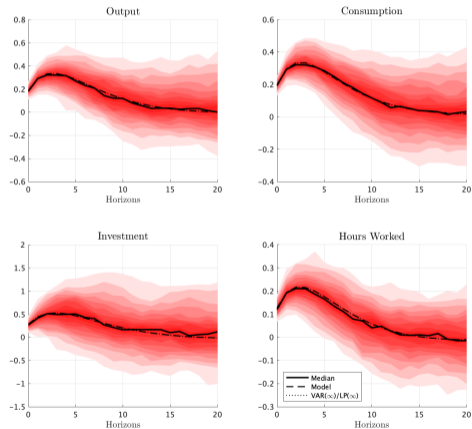
- \* Similar to (3), compute the unweighted distance between the structural IRFs but to other non-targeted shocks in the economy
- \* For example, if targeting monetary policy shocks, look at fiscal and technology

# MONTE-CARLO RESULTS (OBSERVED SHOCK)

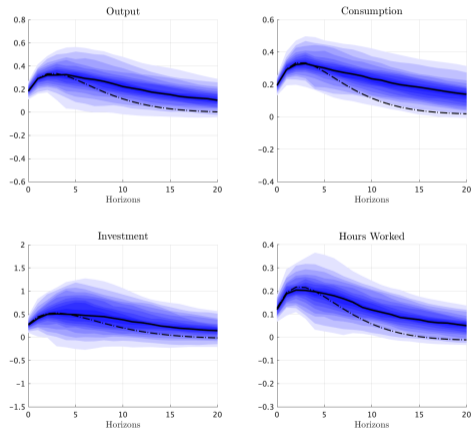


# Targeted Impulse Responses ( $S=100$ , $T=300$ , $p=4$ )

## Local Projection

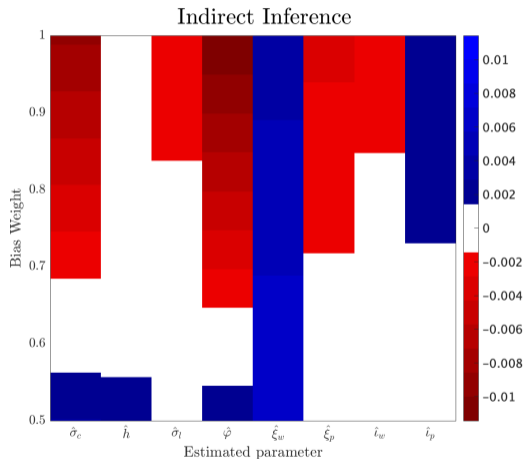
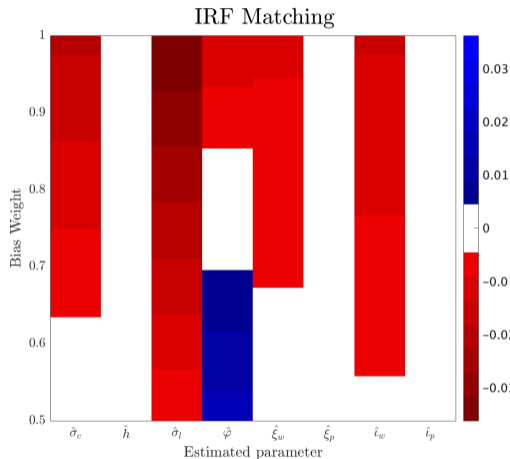


## SVAR



- Simplifying assumptions for comparison:
  - \* Target IRFs estimated with a LP or SVAR model and  $T = 300$  observations
  - \* Weight all responses equally during the estimation stage, i.e.  $W = I$
- **Overall performance measures** are averaged across estimations using different lag lengths ( $p \in \{2, 4, 8, 12\}$ ) and shocks (TFP, fiscal, monetary)

	IRF matching				Indirect Inference			
	$J_{irf}$	$J^*$	Time	$J_{unt}^*$	$J_{smm}$	$J^*$	Time	$J_{unt}^*$
<i>Local Projection</i>	35.10	0.27	3.49 min	18.70	32.54	0.39	42.88 min	17.91
<i>Structural VAR</i>	35.23	0.41	3.93 min	17.93	33.87	0.33	14.47 min	18.39



$$z = \left( \mathcal{L}_\omega(\hat{\Theta}_i^{LP}, \Theta_i^*) - \mathcal{L}_\omega(\hat{\Theta}_i^{SVAR}, \Theta_i^*) \right) / \Theta_i^*$$

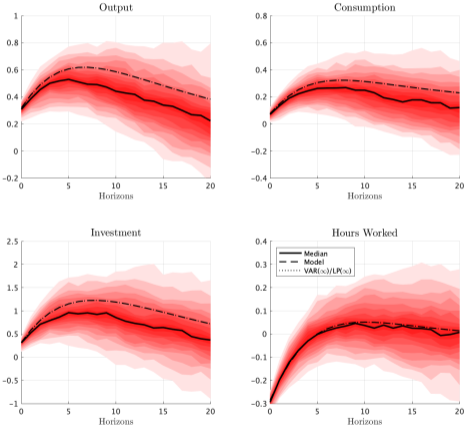
# MONTE-CARLO RESULTS (RECURSIVE IDENTIFICATION)

- Shocks are not observable in applied work. Thus, there is a need for **identification**
- The most commonly used identification method in macroeconomics imposes **recursive zero restrictions on contemporaneous coefficients**
- As shown by Ramey (2016), there are two widely used alternatives:
  - \* *Policy variable does not respond within the period to the other endogenous variable*
    - We use this assumption to identify **technology shocks** and **government spending shocks** within the Smets and Wouters model
    - TFP and government spending are the policy variables, ordered first. Output, consumption, investment and hours worked are included in the VAR or as lagged controls in the LP
  - \* *Other endogenous variables do not respond to the policy shock within the period*
    - We use this assumption to identify **monetary policy shocks** within the Smets and Wouters model
    - We order the policy rate last in a VAR that also includes output, consumption, investment, hours worked, wages, and inflation. Similarly, these variables are added as contemporaneous controls in the LP

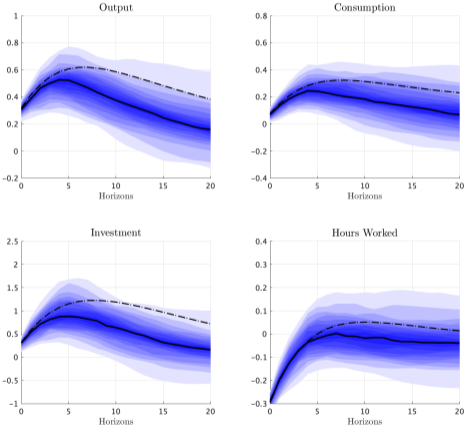
# TECHNOLOGY SHOCKS

# Recursive assumption is correct in Sm & Wo (2007)

### Local Projection



### SVAR

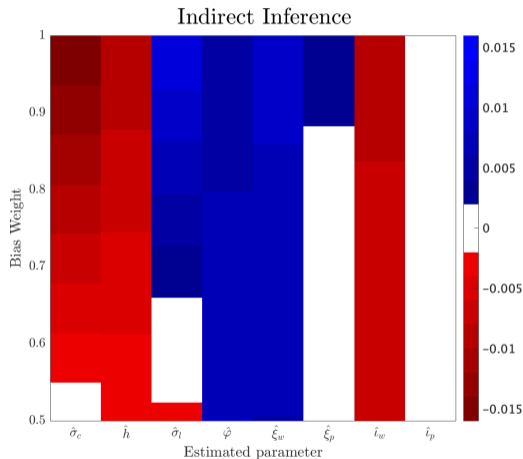
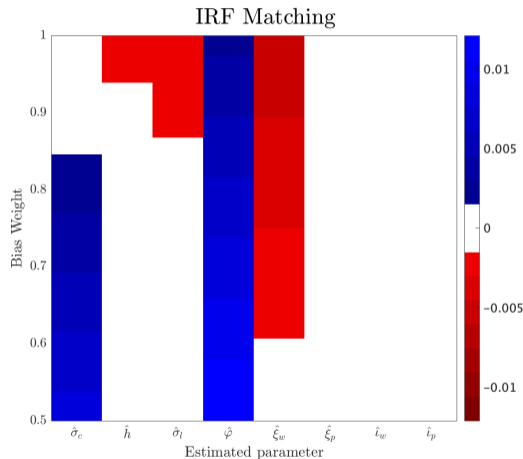


- If *recursive assumptions are correct*, the identification strategy does not play a role in the estimation
- **Main lesson still holds:** use LPs for *IRF matching* exercises and VARs for *Ind. Inf.*
- **Model fit:**  $J_{unt}^*$  is large  $\implies$  not great idea to target just TFP shocks in the Smets-Wouters model

	IRF matching				Indirect Inference			
	$J_{irf}$	$J^*$	Time	$J_{unt}^*$	$J_{smm}$	$J^*$	Time	$J_{unt}^*$
Local Projection	1.05	0.67	2.87 min	37.30	0.70	0.84	42.41 min	35.92
Structural VAR	2.53	1.07	3.11 min	35.74	0.97	0.66	14.34 min	37.31



# It is all about the investment adjustment cost $\hat{\phi}$

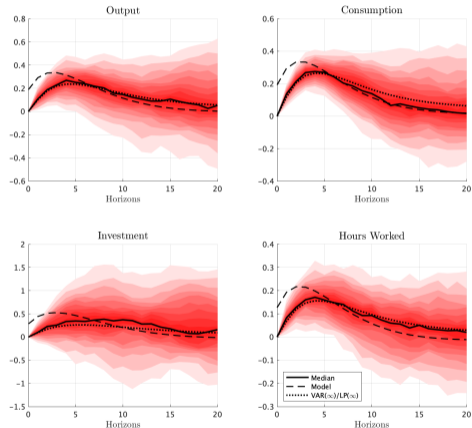


$$z = \left( \mathcal{L}_\omega(\hat{\Theta}_i^{LP}, \Theta_i^*) - \mathcal{L}_\omega(\hat{\Theta}_i^{SVAR}, \Theta_i^*) \right) / \Theta_i^*$$

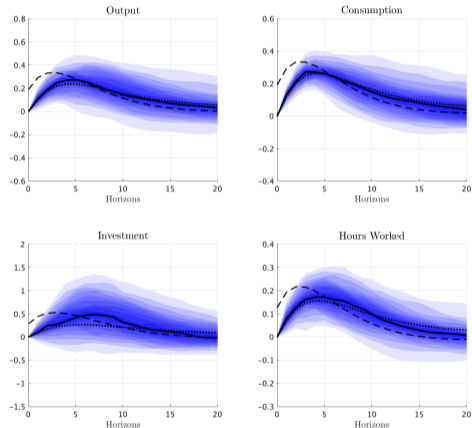
# MONETARY POLICY SHOCKS

# Real variables respond at $t = 0$ in the Sm & Wo model

## Local Projection

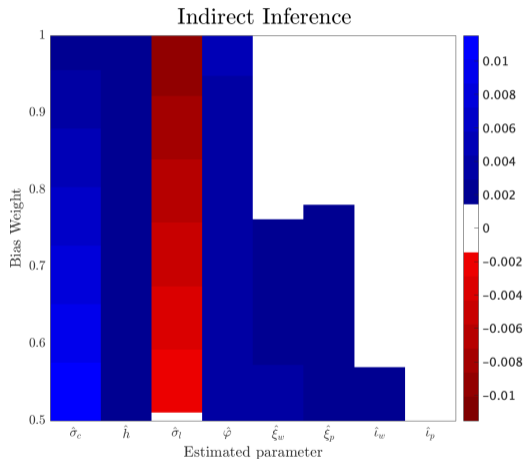
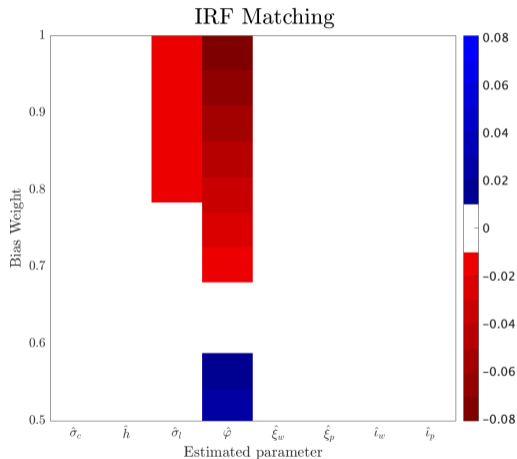


## SVAR



- Main results still hold when targeting IRFs to monetary policy shock and it is a **better idea** in the Smets-Wouters world: lower  $J_{unt}^*$
- When *identification assumption are incorrect*, then **Ind. Inf. is robust to such misspecification**
  - \* Targeting consistently wrong responses helps with parameter identification as long as they have low variance

	IRF matching				Indirect Inference			
	$J_{irf}$	$J^*$	Time	$J_{unt}^*$	$J_{smm}$	$J^*$	Time	$J_{unt}^*$
	<i>Observed Shock</i>							
Local Projection	50.65	0.07	3.46 min	9.36	48.46	0.31	41.39 min	9.40
Structural VAR	54.07	0.11	4.38 min	9.26	53.60	0.30	14.65 min	9.44
	<i>Recursive Shock</i>							
Local Projection	48.11	0.29	3.34 min	9.60	56.91	0.18	78.57 min	9.34
Structural VAR	47.09	0.34	3.78 min	9.31	58.70	0.12	11.44 min	9.34

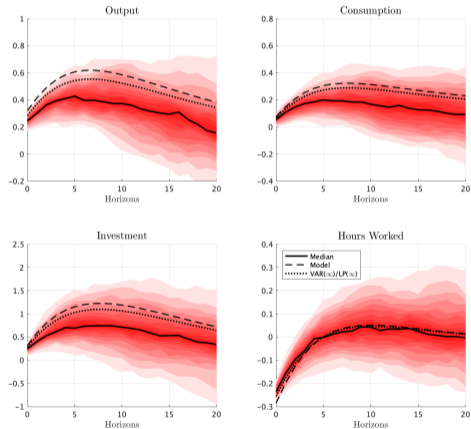


$$z = \left( \mathcal{L}_\omega(\hat{\Theta}_i^{LP}, \Theta_i^*) - \mathcal{L}_\omega(\hat{\Theta}_i^{SVAR}, \Theta_i^*) \right) / \Theta_i^*$$

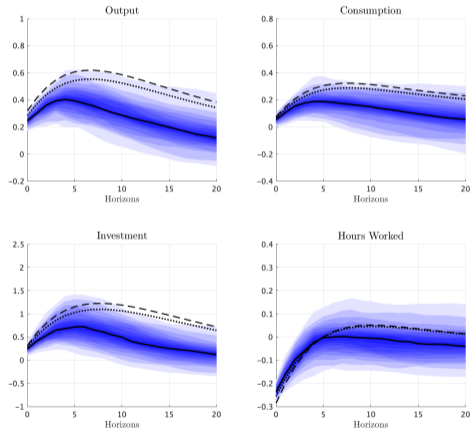
# MONTE-CARLO RESULTS (MEASUREMENT ERROR)

- A popular identification approach consist of constructing a series from historical documents to identify policy shocks, e.g.
  - \* Romer and Romer (2004) monetary shock series based on FOCM meetings
  - \* Ramey (2011) defense news series based on *Business Week* articles
- These series are used in dynamic single equation regressions or embedded in a Choleski decomposition, as we have done for the observed shock scheme
- In practice, there are good reasons to expect that these shocks suffer from **measurement error** or capture only part of the shock. Hence, I distinguish 3 cases:
  1. Study classical measurement error case,  $\eta_t^{obs} = \eta_t + \sigma_v v_t$
  2. Proxy is correlated with other shocks, e.g. government spending with technology shock
  3. Unit normalization (Stock & Watson, 2018)

## Local Projection



## SVAR





- The **estimation outcome is significantly worse** for both LPs and VARs as well as for the *IRF matching* and *Ind. Inf.* estimators relative to the observed shock case.
- These findings also apply to other sources of variation such as monetary or fiscal policy shocks.
- Does it get worse when the proxy is correlated with other shocks? Does unit normalization of the IRFs help in identifying responses?

	IRF matching				Indirect Inference			
	$J_{irf}$	$J^*$	Time	$J_{unt}^*$	$J_{smm}$	$J^*$	Time	$J_{unt}^*$
<i>True technology shock (<math>\eta_t^a</math>)</i>								
<i>Local Projection</i>	1.05	0.67	2.87 min	37.30	0.70	0.84	42.41 min	35.92
<i>Structural VAR</i>	2.53	1.07	3.11 min	35.74	0.97	0.66	14.34 min	37.31
<i>Proxied technology shock (<math>\eta_t^{a,obs} = \eta_t^a + \sigma_v v_t</math>)</i>								
<i>Local Projection</i>	1.79	1.25	3.05 min	34.30	1.35	1.40	40.23 min	33.31
<i>Structural VAR</i>	3.41	1.70	2.80 min	33.47	1.70	1.18	13.74 min	34.39

- The  $J^*$  is again much larger than in the observed shock case or in the proxy measure with classical measurement error, and for both estimation approaches.
  - \* *Ind. Inf.* is not robust to this type of misspecification, unlike for (misspecified) recursive shocks
- The model fit,  $J_{unt}^*$ , improves in the *IRF matching* because the IRF with the shock (not just the innovation) captures some information about technology shocks.

	IRF matching				Indirect Inference			
	$J_{irf}$	$J^*$	Time	$J_{unt}^*$	$J_{smm}$	$J^*$	Time	$J_{unt}^*$
<i>Government spending innovation (<math>\eta_t^g</math>)</i>								
<i>Local Projection</i>	53.59	0.07	4.14 min	9.43	48.45	0.02	44.82 min	8.40
<i>Structural VAR</i>	49.09	0.05	4.32 min	8.79	47.03	0.03	14.42 min	8.42
<i>A correlated government spending proxy (<math>\varepsilon_t^{g,obs}</math>)</i>								
<i>Local Projection</i>	30.82	0.34	4.09 min	7.80	39.05	0.35	46.13 min	10.15
<i>Structural VAR</i>	31.45	0.34	4.19 min	7.78	42.42	0.40	14.20 min	10.53

- Unit normalization corrects the bias in estimated responses through rescaling.
- Great fix for the structural estimation as well, specially for *IRF matching*.

	IRF matching				Indirect Inference			
	$J_{irf}$	$J^*$	Time	$J_{unt}^*$	$J_{smm}$	$J^*$	Time	$J_{unt}^*$
<i>True Monetary policy shock (<math>\eta_t^m</math>)</i>								
<i>Local Projection</i>	50.65	0.07	3.46 min	9.36	48.46	0.31	41.39 min	9.40
<i>Structural VAR</i>	54.07	0.11	4.38 min	9.26	53.60	0.30	14.65 min	9.44
<i>Proxied monetary policy shock (<math>\eta_t^{a,obs} = \eta_t^a + \sigma_v v_t</math>)</i>								
<i>Local Projection</i>	1.79	1.25	3.05 min	34.30	1.35	1.40	40.23 min	33.31
<i>Structural VAR</i>	3.41	1.70	2.80 min	33.47	1.70	1.18	13.74 min	34.39
<i>A 1% increase in <math>r_0</math> (Stock and Watson (2018) normalization)</i>								
<i>Local Projection</i>	50.77	0.08	3.83 min	19.34	49.49	0.52	49.84 min	17.85
<i>Structural VAR</i>	53.41	0.32	4.04 min	18.86	51.23	0.42	12.49 min	17.93

# CONCLUSION

1. *IRF matching* is more **sensitive to bias** in targeted responses and hence using LP-IRFs is preferable, while *Ind. Inf.* is **robust to misspecification** and hence benefits from the lower variance of VAR-IRFs.
2. When the **lag length  $p$  is large**, then IRFs and estimated parameters are **similar** independently of the econometric model. On the other hand, when  **$p$  is small**, **LP-IRFs** are less biased and hence better for *IRF matching*, while **SVAR-IRFs** have a larger bias but lower variance and hence better for *Ind. Inf.*
3. **Small sample bias** worsens the performance of the estimation specially for *IRF matching* when bias correction partly offsets the problem.
4. **Incorrect recursive identifications** are not an issue for parameter estimation when employing *Ind. Inf.*. Not true for *IRF matching*.
5. **Measurement error** worsens the structural estimation outcome and unit normalization only ameliorates the problem.

# APPENDIX

- Some notation:

- \* Let  $\tilde{y}_t \in \{y_t, c_t, i_t, hw_t\}$  denote one of response variables of interest.
- \* Let  $\tilde{x}_t \in \{\eta_t^a, \eta_t^g, \eta_t^m\}$  denote the innovation of one of the three aggregate shocks.
- \* Define the vector of contemporaneous  $r_t$  and lagged controls  $w_t = \{\tilde{x}_t, \tilde{y}_t\}$

- Then, consider for each horizon  $h = 0, 1, 2, \dots, H$  the *linear projections*:

$$\tilde{y}_{t+h} = \mu_h + \beta_h \tilde{x}_t + \gamma_h' r_t + \sum_{\ell=1}^p \delta_{h,\ell}' w_{t-\ell} + \zeta_{h,t} \quad (7)$$

where  $\zeta_{h,t}$  is the projection residual and  $\mu_h, \beta_h, \gamma_h, \{\delta_{h,\ell}'\}_{\ell=1}^p$  are the projection coefficients.

- **Definition.** The LP - IRFs of  $\tilde{y}_t$  with respect to  $\tilde{x}_t$  is given by  $\{\beta_h\}_{h \geq 0}$  in the equation above.

- Consider the multivariate linear VAR( $p$ ) projection:

$$w_t = c + \sum_{\ell=1}^p A_{\ell} w_{t-\ell} + u_t \quad (8)$$

where  $u_t$  is the projection residual and  $c, \{A_{\ell}\}_{\ell=1}^p$  are the projection coefficients.

- Let  $\Sigma_u \equiv \mathbb{E}[u_t u_t']$  and define the Cholesky decomposition  $\Sigma_u = BB'$  where  $B$  is lower triangular with positive diagonal entries.
- Consider the corresponding recursive SVAR representation:

$$A(L)w_t = c + B\eta \quad (9)$$

where  $A(L) = I - \sum_{\ell=1}^p A_{\ell} L^{\ell}$  and  $\eta = B^{-1}u_t$ . Define the lag polynomial  $\sum_{\ell=0}^p C_{\ell} L^{\ell} = C(L) = A(L)^{-1}$ .

- **Definition.** The SVAR - IRFs of  $\tilde{y}_t$  with respect to  $\tilde{x}_t$  is given by  $\{\theta_h\}_{h \geq 0}$  with  $\theta_h \equiv C_{2, \bullet, h} B_{\bullet, 1}$  where  $\{C_{\ell}\}$  and  $B$  are defined above.



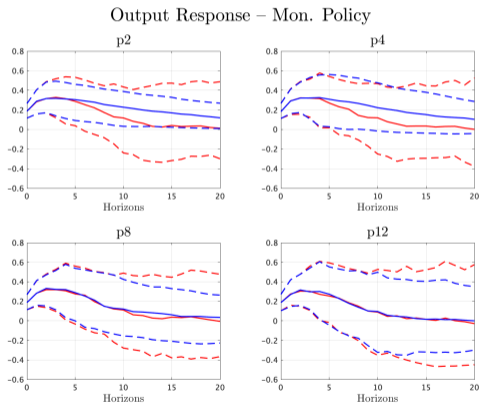
# HYPER-PARAMETER CHOICES: LAG LENGTH

## - Point estimates

- \* Local Projection IRFs are independent of the lag length when the shock is observed
- \* SVAR IRFs approximately agree with LP IRFs up to horizon  $p$ , then extrapolates using the first  $p$  sample autocovariances

## - Confidence Intervals

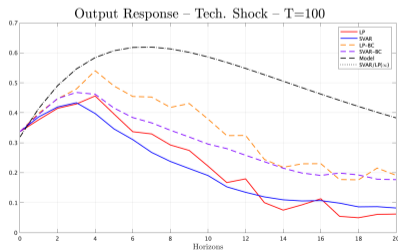
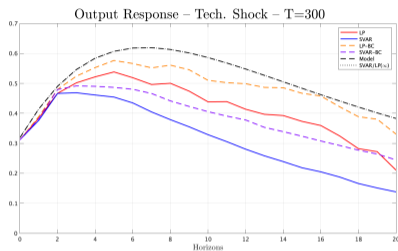
- \* Local Projection IRFs have a much wider bands, specially at long horizons
- \* SVAR IRFs converge towards the sample uncertainty of LPs as  $p$  gets large



	IRF matching				Indirect Inference			
	$J_{irf}$	$J^*$	Time	$J_{unt}^*$	$J_{smm}$	$J^*$	Time	$J_{unt}^*$
p=2								
<i>Local Projection</i>	35.75	0.24	3.30 min	18.97	25.47	0.34	18.93 min	18.02
<i>Structural VAR</i>	34.61	0.61	4.32 min	17.00	26.25	0.16	11.88 min	19.32
p=4								
<i>Local Projection</i>	35.68	0.25	3.40 min	18.74	30.26	0.37	28.99 min	17.95
<i>Structural VAR</i>	36.01	0.39	3.89 min	17.75	31.49	0.26	15.35 min	18.26
p=8								
<i>Local Projection</i>	34.69	0.28	3.83 min	18.47	35.91	0.44	45.06 min	17.69
<i>Structural VAR</i>	34.92	0.34	3.85 min	18.36	37.26	0.49	13.35 min	18.01
p=12								
<i>Local Projection</i>	34.27	0.29	3.44 min	18.63	38.52	0.41	78.53 min	17.98
<i>Structural VAR</i>	35.39	0.30	3.67 min	18.61	40.47	0.41	17.29 min	17.98

# HYPER-PARAMETER CHOICES: SAMPLE SIZE

- P-M & W (2023) show that  $LP(p)$  exactly agree with true responses and that  $SVAR(p)$  agrees up to lag  $p$
- However, **sample uncertainty** matters!
  - \* In finite samples, e.g.  $T = 300$ , both LP and SVAR are biased after horizon  $p$ , with SVARs having a more severe bias as long as the response is persistent
  - \* The sample size typically found in empirical applications is even shorter and around  $T=100$  (H&J, 2023), which makes these biases worse.
- **Bias correction** partially offsets the small sample bias, but two questions arise in our context
  - \* Q1: Does Indirect Inference improves upon IRF matching when this bias is severe?
  - \* Q2: Does targeting bias corrected responses improve the model estimation?



- Higher sample uncertainty associated with fewer observations ( $T = 100$ ) leads to a **worse fit** of the model for **both estimation strategies**
- IRF matching suffers more its consequences as **Ind. Inf. is robust to misspecification** of the binding function
- For the same reason, applying **bias correction** to the targeted IRFs is more useful for IRF matching

	IRF matching				Indirect Inference			
	$J_{irf}$	$J^*$	Time	$J^*_{unt}$	$J_{smm}$	$J^*$	Time	$J^*_{unt}$
T=300								
<i>Local Projection</i>	35.10	0.27	3.49 min	18.70	32.54	0.39	42.88 min	17.91
<i>Structural VAR</i>	35.23	0.41	3.93 min	17.93	33.87	0.33	14.47 min	18.39
T=100								
<i>Local Projection</i>	29.71	0.53	3.56 min	18.13	22.00	0.46	18.46 min	19.03
<i>Structural VAR</i>	31.62	0.47	3.33 min	17.98	25.16	0.36	9.78 min	19.50
<i>Bias Corrected LP</i>	31.55	0.32	3.26 min	19.18	23.29	0.35	20.48 min	19.50
<i>Bias Corrected SVAR</i>	33.48	0.32	3.42 min	18.65	26.06	0.33	11.02 min	20.11

# HYPER-PARAMETER CHOICES: WEIGHTING MATRIX

	IRF matching				Indirect Inference			
	$J_{irf}$	$J^*$	Time	$J_{unt}^*$	$J_{smm}$	$J^*$	Time	$J_{unt}^*$
	Identity Matrix							
<i>Local Projection</i>	35.10	0.27	3.49 min	18.70	32.54	0.39	42.88 min	17.91
<i>Structural VAR</i>	35.23	0.41	3.93 min	17.93	33.87	0.33	14.47 min	18.39
	Diagonal Matrix							
<i>Local Projection</i>	34.44	0.22	3.61 min	18.87	32.82	0.35	40.56 min	18.22
<i>Structural VAR</i>	34.87	0.27	3.85 min	18.20	34.17	0.31	11.55 min	18.62
	Optimal Weighting Matrix							
<i>Local Projection</i>	33.63	0.04	3.07 min	21.56	32.69	0.06	35.56 min	21.41
<i>Structural VAR</i>	34.17	0.05	3.20 min	20.80	34.26	0.08	10.69 min	20.90