

Discussion of
“Many Terms in a Series Estimator of the
Partially Linear Model”

by **M. Cattaneo**, **M. Jansson**, and **W. Newey**

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2. Identifies a problem with the variance of this estimator under “classical” asymptotics
 - Importantly, this problem also permeates to OLS with many covariates!!
3. **Proposes solutions to the problem, allowing improved inference**

New Asymptotic Approximation

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- **Tension:**

Need to assume K is large (in nonparametric estimation)... but “not too large” relative to the sample size such that $K/n \rightarrow 0$

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 - a better approximation to the actual finite sample behavior!

Insights about the Variance

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 - So, use this one with OLS when the number of regressors is large...

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 - Account for the extra noise introduced by letting K grow with the sample size
 - Both “fix” the number of terms (K) in the given sample (e.g., selecting K using cross-validation)
- The authors show that these two solutions perform well in (preliminary) simulations, relative to the use of classical robust std. errors

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- An empirical implementation with a well known data set will also shed light on the results and implications
- **Another solution on the works...**
 - Does it work better in simulations? What is the proportional improvement?

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 - Etc.
- As of now: lots of room for applied econometricians to be creative in the implementation of these procedures
 - The “art” of applied econometrics !!