





independent, real valued, nondegenerate random variables with unknown distributions. The unknown constant  $c$  is real valued, finite, and nonzero.

ASSUMPTION A3: Either the median or the mean of  $U$ ,  $V$ , or  $W$  is zero. The characteristic functions of  $U$ ,  $V$ , and  $W$  do not vanish.

Assumption A3 is mainly used for identification of the distributions of  $U$ ,  $V$ , and  $W$ , not for the identification of  $c$ . Kotlarski's Lemma requires some location normalization, as in Assumption A3. Evdokimov and White (2012) provide alternative conditions under which Kotlarski's Lemma holds even when the characteristic functions of  $U$ ,  $V$ , and/or  $W$  can have zeros.

Kotlarski's Lemma assumes  $c \neq 0$ . We assume  $c \neq 0$  because, if  $c = 0$  then trivially we can only identify the distributions of  $W$  and of  $V \subset U$ . Moreover, we can immediately tell if  $c = 0$ , because in that case the distributions of  $X$  and  $Y$  will be independent.

For any random variables  $R$  and  $S$ , let  $\sigma_R^2 = \text{var}[R]$  if this variance exists, and let  $\sigma_{RS} = \text{cov}[R, S]$  if this covariance exists. Also let  $\psi_R(t) = \ln E[\exp(itR)]$ , the log characteristic function (also known as the cumulant generating function) of  $R$ , and similarly  $\psi_{RS}(t_1, t_2) = \ln E[\exp(it_1R + it_2S)]$ .

We begin with a tiny Lemma:

LEMMA 1: Let Assumptions A1, A2, and A3 hold. If the constant  $c$  is point identified, then the distributions of  $U$ ,  $V$ , and  $W$  are all also point identified.

equations give a bound on  $c$  (it must lie between zero and the coefficient of  $t_1 t_2$ ), but this bound is tightened below.

Lemma 1 and Theorem 1 together show how to tell if  $V$  is normal or not, and show that Kotlarski's Lemma extends to point identification with an unknown factor loading  $c$  as long as  $V$  is non-normal.

Now consider the case where  $V$  is normal. For this case, we need some more notation. For a random variable  $R$ , define  $R$ 's "largest normal factor" to be the variable  $\tilde{R}$  having the maximum variance such that  $R \stackrel{D}{=} \tilde{R} \overset{C}{\bar{R}}$ , where  $\tilde{R}$  and  $\bar{R}$  are independently distributed and  $\tilde{R}$  is normally distributed. Without loss of generality, assume  $\tilde{R}$  has mean zero. Call  $\bar{R}$  the non-normal factor. If no normal  $\tilde{R}$  exists, then  $R$  does not have a normal factor, and in this case we can let  $\tilde{R} \stackrel{D}{=} 0$  and  $\bar{R} \stackrel{D}{=} R$ . If  $R$  is normal then  $\tilde{R} \stackrel{D}{=} R \overset{E}{\square} R/$  and  $\bar{R} \stackrel{D}{=} E \square R/$ . See Schennach and Hu (2013) and Lewbel, Schennach, and Zhang (2020) for a similar use of normal factors. Reiersøl (1950) calls a normal factor a normal divisor.

Given a random variable  $R$ , the variance of  $\tilde{R}$  can be determined by

$$\sigma_{\tilde{R}}^2 \stackrel{D}{=} \sup \left\{ \sigma^2 \in \mathbb{R}^C : \sigma_{\tilde{R}} \square t / C t^2 \square \sigma^2 \text{ is a log characteristic function} \right\}$$

If  $\sigma_{\tilde{R}}^2 \stackrel{D}{=} 0$  then  $R$  does not have a normal factor, otherwise,  $\sigma_{\tilde{R}}^2$  given by this expression is the variance of the largest normal factor  $\tilde{R}$ . This follows immediately from the definition of a characteristic function, since a positive  $\sigma_{\tilde{R}}^2$  means by construction that  $R$  equals the convolution of two independent random variables, one of which has the log characteristic function of a mean zero normal.<sup>2</sup> This means that if  $R$  has a known distribution, and hence a known characteristic function, we can determine if it has a normal factor or not, and we can point identify the distributions of  $\tilde{R}$  and  $\bar{R}$ .

**THEOREM 2:** Let Assumptions A1, A2, and A3 hold. Assume  $V$  is normally distributed. Then  $\sigma_{\tilde{X}\tilde{Y}}$ ,  $\sigma_{\tilde{X}}^2$ , and  $\sigma_{\tilde{Y}}^2$  are identified. If  $\sigma_{\tilde{X}\tilde{Y}} \square \sigma_{\tilde{X}}^2 \stackrel{D}{=} \sigma_{\tilde{Y}}^2 \square \sigma_{\tilde{X}\tilde{Y}}$  then  $c$  is point identified by  $c \stackrel{D}{=} \sigma_{\tilde{X}\tilde{Y}} \square \sigma_{\tilde{X}}^2 \stackrel{D}{=} \sigma_{\tilde{Y}}^2 \square \sigma_{\tilde{X}\tilde{Y}}$  and in this case neither  $W$  nor  $U$  have a normal factor. Otherwise,  $c$  is interval identified by  $c \in \left[ \sigma_{\tilde{X}\tilde{Y}} \square \sigma_{\tilde{X}}^2, \sigma_{\tilde{Y}}^2 \square \sigma_{\tilde{X}\tilde{Y}} \right]$ , and for each value of  $c$  in this interval, there is a corresponding, identified unique distribution for  $U$ ,  $V$ , and  $W$ . This interval bound on  $c$  is sharp.

The fact that  $c$  is point identified when neither  $W$  nor  $U$  have a normal factor also appears in Reiersøl (1950). The identified sets in Theorem 2 are new, but are closely related to the Frisch (1934) bounds on mismeasured linear regressions. Taken together, Lemma 1, Theorem 1, and Theorem 2 completely characterize the identification of our model.

**Proof of Theorem 2:** Separating  $Y$  and  $X$  into their normal and non-normal factors, we have  $Y \stackrel{D}{=} \tilde{Y} \overset{C}{\bar{Y}}$  and  $X \stackrel{D}{=} \tilde{X} \overset{C}{\bar{X}}$ . Similarly, Separating  $W$  and  $U$  into normal and non-normal factors, we also have  $Y \stackrel{D}{=} cV \overset{C}{\bar{W}}$  and  $X \stackrel{D}{=} V \overset{C}{\bar{U}}$ . When  $V$  is normal, this implies  $\tilde{Y} \stackrel{D}{=} cV \overset{C}{\bar{W}}$ ,  $\bar{Y} \stackrel{D}{=} \bar{W}$ ,  $\tilde{X} \stackrel{D}{=} V \overset{C}{\bar{U}}$  and  $\bar{X} \stackrel{D}{=} \bar{U}$ . This in turn means that, with  $V$

<sup>2</sup>An explicit mathematical expression for "being a characteristic function" and hence defining  $\sigma_{\tilde{R}}^2$  can be obtained from Bochner's Theorem, e.g., Theorem 4.2.2 in Lukacs (1970).

normal,  $\bar{X}$  and  $\bar{Y}$  are independent of each other and of the joint distribution of  $\tilde{Y}$  and  $\tilde{X}$ . Since the marginal distributions of  $\bar{Y}$  and  $\bar{X}$  are identified, we can identify the left side of

$$\sigma_{Y|X}^2(t_1, t_2) / \sigma_{\bar{Y}}^2(t_1) / \sigma_{\bar{X}}^2(t_2) / D = \sigma_{\tilde{Y}\tilde{X}}^2(t_1, t_2) /$$

And therefore the joint normal distribution of the mean zero variables  $\tilde{Y}$  and  $\tilde{X}$  is identified. In particular, this means that  $\sigma_{\tilde{Y}}^2$ ,  $\sigma_{\tilde{X}}^2$ , and  $\sigma_{\tilde{X}\tilde{Y}}^2$  are identified.

The remaining step now borrows heavily from the Frisch (1934) bounds on mismeasured linear regression. From the identified second moments of  $\tilde{Y}$  and  $\tilde{X}$ , we have  $\sigma_{\tilde{Y}}^2 = c^2 \sigma_V^2 + \sigma_W^2$ ,  $\sigma_{\tilde{X}}^2 = \sigma_U^2 + c \sigma_V^2$ , and  $\sigma_{\tilde{X}\tilde{Y}}^2 = c \sigma_V^2$ , which provides three equations in the four unknown constants  $\sigma_U^2$ ,  $\sigma_W^2$ ,  $\sigma_V^2$ , and  $c$ . The only constraints on these parameter values are that  $c \neq 0$ ,  $\sigma_U^2$  and  $\sigma_W^2$  must be non-negative (either can be zero if the corresponding normal factor doesn't exist), and  $\sigma_V^2$  must be positive. These being the only constraints is what makes the corresponding bounds be sharp. The equation  $\sigma_{\tilde{X}\tilde{Y}}^2 = c \sigma_V^2$  means that the sign of  $c$  equals the sign of  $\sigma_{\tilde{X}\tilde{Y}}^2$  to ensure  $\sigma_V^2 > 0$ . Then  $\sigma_U^2 = 0$  requires  $\sigma_{\tilde{X}}^2 = \sigma_{\tilde{X}\tilde{Y}}^2 / c = 0$  and  $\sigma_W^2 = 0$  requires  $\sigma_{\tilde{Y}}^2 = c \sigma_{\tilde{X}\tilde{Y}}^2 = 0$ . Therefore, either  $\sigma_{\tilde{X}\tilde{Y}}^2 > 0$  and  $\sigma_{\tilde{X}\tilde{Y}}^2 \sigma_{\tilde{X}}^2 = c \sigma_{\tilde{Y}}^2 \sigma_{\tilde{X}\tilde{Y}}^2$ , or  $\sigma_{\tilde{X}\tilde{Y}}^2 < 0$  and  $\sigma_{\tilde{Y}}^2 \sigma_{\tilde{X}\tilde{Y}}^2 = c \sigma_{\tilde{X}\tilde{Y}}^2 \sigma_{\tilde{X}}^2$ . Either way  $c$  lies in the interval between  $\sigma_{\tilde{X}\tilde{Y}}^2 \sigma_{\tilde{X}}^2$  and  $\sigma_{\tilde{Y}}^2 \sigma_{\tilde{X}\tilde{Y}}^2$ .

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