



## Minimum Absolute Deviation Method of Estimation of Cobb-Douglas Frontier Production Function

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**ABSTRACT:-** This paper contains a number of to measure technical efficiency of Decision Making Units (DMU's). This approach engages the linear programming technique (L.P.P) with parametric and non-parametric production frontiers in easy way. The parametric estimates cannot be subjected to significance tests due to the non-obtainability of standard errors (S.E's). In this Paper we proposed MAD (Minimum Absolute Deviation) method of estimation of Cobb-Douglas frontier production function as a linear programming problem (L.P.P). This method can be stretched in easy way to any parametric frontier production or cost function which is linear in parameters.

**Keywords:-** Decision Making Units, Minimum Absolute Deviation,

### I. INTRODUCTION

Efficiency is critical for organizations that seek to be both environmentally conscious and profitable. Efficiency has implications for a “win-win” situation to arise. Studying and managing organizations from this perspective requires an evaluation of efficiency. To aid researchers and managers develop measures for efficiency we review the use of data envelopment analysis (DEA) for this purpose. DEA theory and application has increased greatly. Its use as a tool for environmental performance evaluation has been limited. In this paper we provide MAD (Minimum Absolute Deviation) method of estimation of Cobb-Douglas frontier production function as a linear programming problem (L.P.P).

### II. INPUT LEVEL SETS

$L(u) = \{x : x \text{ produces } u\}$ , Where  $x, u$ , are input and output vectors respectively. The input level set  $L(u)$  satisfies the following properties.

1.  $L(0) = R_+^n$ ,  $0 \notin L(u)$  for  $u > 0$
2.  $x \in L(u)$ ,  $x' \geq x \Rightarrow x' \in L(u)$
3.  $u_2 \geq u_1 \geq 0 \Rightarrow L(u_2) \subseteq L(u_1)$

### III. FRONTIER PRODUCTION FUNCTION

Let  $\phi(x), x \in R_+^n$  be a frontier production function. As an optimization problem  $\phi(x)$  may be expressed as,

$$\phi(x) = \text{Max}\{u : x \in L(u)\}, \quad 0 \leq u < \infty$$

$\phi(x)$  succeed properties from  $L(u)$

- (i)  $\phi(0) = 0$ , Maximum output produced by a null input vector is zero.

$$\phi(0) = \text{Max}\{u : o \in L(u)\} \Rightarrow 0 \in L(u) \Rightarrow u = 0 \Rightarrow \phi(0) = 0$$

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- (ii)  $x' > x \Rightarrow \phi(x') \geq \phi(x)$ , Maximum output produced by a larger input vector is larger.
- (iii)  $\phi(x)$  is concave function of  $x$

**IV. INPUT LEVEL SETS INDUCED BY A PRODUCTION FRONTIER**

$$\phi(x):$$

$$L_\phi(u) = \{x: D(u, x) \geq 1\} \text{ Where } D(u, x) = \left[ \text{Min} \{ \lambda : \lambda x \in L(u) \} \right]^{-1} = \frac{\phi(x)}{u}$$

$$\text{It can be written } L_\phi(u) = L(u) = \left\{ x : \frac{\phi(x)}{u} \geq 1 \right\} = \{x : \phi(x) \geq u\}$$

**V. THE COBB-DOUGLAS PRODUCTION FRONTIER:**

The Cobb-Douglas production frontier is given by,

$$\hat{y}_i = A \prod_{j=1}^n x_{ij}^{\alpha_j}, \text{ It is the } i^{\text{th}} \text{ decision making unit}$$

Taking logarithms on both sides,

$$\Rightarrow \ln \hat{y}_i = \ln A + \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_j X_{ij} \Rightarrow \hat{Y}_i = a + \sum_{j=1}^n X_{ij} \alpha_j$$

$$\text{If } \hat{Y}_i \geq Y_i \text{ then } a + \sum_{j=1}^n X_{ij} \alpha_j \geq Y_i \quad \dots(1.1)$$

If there are  $k$  decision making units(DMUs), then  $i=1,2,\dots,k$ , Introducing slack variables  $s_i$ , The inequation is converted equation.

$$\Rightarrow a + \sum_{j=1}^n X_{ij} \alpha_j - s_i = Y_i \Rightarrow \left[ a + \sum_{j=1}^n X_{ij} \alpha_j - Y_i \right] = s_i$$

Taking summation on both sides

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^k s_i = ka + \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=1}^n X_{ij} \alpha_j - \sum_{i=1}^k Y_i \quad \dots(1.2)$$

By dividing this equation by  $k$

$$\Rightarrow \bar{s} = a + \sum_{j=1}^n \bar{X}_{.j} \alpha_j - \bar{Y} \quad \dots(1.3)$$

Minimization of (1.2) is same as minimization of (1.3),  $\bar{Y}$  being a constant, minimization of (1.2) is same as minimization of,

$$\Rightarrow a + \sum_{j=1}^n \bar{X}_{.j} \alpha_j \quad \dots(1.4)$$

Combining (1.1) and (1.4) we obtain a linear programming problem (L.P.P) for which decision variables are  $a$  and  $\alpha_j$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Min } & a + \sum_{j=1}^n \bar{X}_{.j} \alpha_j \\ \text{subject to } & \dots (1.5) \end{aligned}$$

$$a + \sum_{j=1}^n X_{ij} \alpha_j \geq Y_i$$

$$\alpha_j \geq 0, \text{ is conditional for sign.}$$

Let  $a = a^+ - a^-$ , the L.P.P can be expressed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Minimize } Z &= a^+ - a^- + \sum_{j=1}^n \bar{X}_j \alpha_j \\ \text{subject to } a^+ - a^- + \sum_{j=1}^n X_{ij} \alpha_j &\geq Y_i \quad \dots(1.6) \\ a^+, a^-, \alpha_j &\geq 0 \\ i &= 1, 2, 3, \dots, k \end{aligned}$$

### VI. MAD METHOD OF ESTIMATION OF COBB-DOUGLAS PRODUCTION FRONTIER:

With two errors u and v, one sided and the two sided disturbance terms, then the model is given by

$$a^+ - a^- + \sum_{j=1}^n X_{ij} \alpha_j = Y_i + u_i + v_i, \text{ where } 0 \leq u_i < \infty, \quad -\infty < v_i < \infty$$

For  $i^{\text{th}}$  Decision making unit(DMU)

$$\Rightarrow a^+ - a^- + \sum_{j=1}^n X_{ij} \alpha_j - Y_i - u_i = v_i$$

Taking Modulus on both sides

$$\Rightarrow \left| a^+ - a^- + \sum_{j=1}^n X_{ij} \alpha_j - Y_i - u_i \right| = |v_i| \Rightarrow a^+ - a^- + \sum_{j=1}^n X_{ij} \alpha_j - Y_i - u_i = v_i^+ + v_i^-$$

where  $v_i = v_i^+ + v_i^-$ ,  $v_i^+ = \text{Max}\{0, v_i\}$ ,  $v_i^- = -\text{Min}\{0, v_i\}$

The optimization problem is equal to MAD estimation model and it is given by

$$\text{Min } \sum_{i=1}^k (v_i^+ + v_i^-)$$

subject to

$$a^+ - a^- + \sum_{j=1}^n X_{ij} \alpha_j - u_i - v_i^+ - v_i^- = Y_i \quad \dots(1.7)$$

$$a^+, a^-, \alpha_j, u_i, v_i^+, \text{ and } v_i^- \geq 0$$

$$i=1, 2, 3, \dots, m, j=1, 2, 3, \dots, n$$

The decision variables of the above Linear Programming are  $A, \alpha_j, u_i, v_i^+$  and  $v_i^-$ . The optimal solution of L.P.P (1.7) tells DMU specific technical efficiency.

### VII. EFFICIENCY ESTIMATION IN COBB-DOUGLAS PRODUCTION FUNCTION USING MODIFIED LEAST SQUARES

Consider the Cobb-Douglas production function,

$$y = A \prod_{i=1}^m x_i^{\alpha_i} u \quad \text{where } 0 \leq u \leq 1 \quad \dots(1.8)$$

$$\text{Define } u = e^{-z}; \quad 0 < z < \infty$$

Let the random variable Z follows Gamma distribution, so that,

$$f(z, \lambda) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\lambda)} z^{\lambda-1} \exp(-z), \text{ where } \Gamma(\lambda) = \int_0^{\infty} z^{\lambda-1} e^{-z} dz$$

$$\ln u = -z \Rightarrow -\ln u = z \Rightarrow dz = -\frac{du}{u} \Rightarrow z = \ln\left(\frac{1}{u}\right)$$

$$z = 0 \Rightarrow u = 1, z = \infty \Rightarrow u = 0$$

$$= \frac{1}{\Gamma(\lambda)} \left( \ln \frac{1}{u} \right)^{\lambda-1} du$$

The probability density function of u is given by,

$$g(u, \lambda) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\lambda)} \left( \ln \frac{1}{u} \right)^{\lambda-1} \quad \dots (1.9)$$

Here

1.  $\lambda$  is shape parameter of the distribution,  $g(u, \lambda)$
2.  $\lambda < 1$  implies that a greater proportion of DMUs are efficient
3.  $\lambda = 1$  implies uniform efficiency
4.  $\lambda > 1$  implies that a greater proportion of DMUs are inefficient

The average level of efficiency of the industry comprised of several DMU is,

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{u} = E(u) &= \int_0^{\infty} \exp(-z) \frac{1}{\Gamma(\lambda)} z^{\lambda-1} \exp(-z) dz \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(\lambda)} \int_0^{\infty} \exp(-2z) z^{\lambda-1} dz && [put 2z = v, 2dz = dv \quad dz = \frac{1}{2} dv] \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(\lambda)} \int_0^{\infty} \exp(-v) \left( \frac{v}{2} \right)^{\lambda-1} 2^{-1} dv \\ &= \frac{2^{-\lambda}}{\Gamma(\lambda)} \int_0^{\infty} \exp(-v) (v)^{\lambda-1} dv \\ &= \frac{2^{-\lambda}}{\Gamma(\lambda)} \Gamma(\lambda) \\ \Rightarrow \bar{u} &= 2^{-\lambda} \end{aligned}$$

### VIII. THE METHOD OF MODIFIED LEAST SQUARES

Consider the Cobb-Douglas production function specification

$$y_i = A \prod_{j=1}^m x_{ij}^{\beta_j} u_i, \quad i=1,2,3,\dots,k$$

$$\ln y_i = \ln A + \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_j \ln x_{ij} + \ln u_i$$

$$\Rightarrow Y_i = a + \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_j X_{ij} - z_i \quad \dots (1.10)$$

We have,

$$\begin{aligned} E(z_i) &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(\lambda)} \int_0^{\infty} z_i z_i^{\lambda-1} \exp(-z_i) dz_i \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(\lambda)} \int_0^{\infty} z_i^{\lambda+1-1} \exp(-z_i) dz_i \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\Gamma(\lambda)} \Gamma(\lambda + 1)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\Gamma(\lambda)} \Gamma(\lambda + 1)$$

$$E(z_i) = \lambda, \quad \forall \lambda$$

$$E(z_i^2) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\lambda)} \int_0^{\infty} z_i^{\lambda+2-1} \exp(-z_i) dz_i$$

$$= \frac{\Gamma(\lambda + 2)}{\Gamma(\lambda)} = \frac{(\lambda + 1)\lambda \Gamma(\lambda)}{\Gamma(\lambda)}$$

$$= \lambda(\lambda + 1)$$

$$V(z_i) = E(z_i^2) - [E(z_i)]^2 = \lambda(\lambda + 1) - \lambda^2$$

$$V(z_i) = \lambda, \quad \forall i$$

We shall assume that  $\text{Cov}(z_j, z_l) = 0 \quad j \neq l$

Define  $\alpha_0 = a - \lambda, \quad v_i = \lambda - z_i$  ..... (1.11)

Combine (1.10) and (1.11) to obtain,

$$\hat{y}_i = \alpha_0 + \sum_{j=1}^m \alpha_j X_{ij} + v_i$$

where  $Y_i = \ln y_i, \quad X_{ij} = \ln x_{ij}$

Let  $v_i$  be an disturbance term that satisfies the following properties:

1.  $E(v_i) = 0, \quad \forall i$
2.  $V(v_i) = E(v_i^2) = \lambda$
3.  $\text{Cov}(v_i, v_j) = 0, \quad i \neq j$
4.  $E(v_i/X) = 0$

Under above conditions the OLS estimators are BLUEs of  $\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ . Since  $\hat{\lambda}$  is variance of  $v_i$ , the OLS estimator of  $\lambda$  is,

$$\hat{\lambda} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^k \left( Y_i - \hat{\alpha}_0 - \sum_{j=1}^m \hat{\alpha}_j X_{ij} \right)}{k - m - 1} \quad \dots (1.12)$$

$$E(\hat{\alpha}_0) = \alpha_0 = a - \lambda \quad \dots (1.13)$$

$$E(\hat{\alpha}_i) = \alpha_i, i = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

$$E(\hat{\lambda}) = \lambda$$

$$E(\hat{\alpha}_0) = a - E(\hat{\lambda}) \quad \dots (1.14)$$

$$E(\hat{\alpha}_0 + \hat{\lambda}) = a$$

$\hat{\alpha}_0 + \hat{\lambda}$  is an unbiased estimator of  $a$ ,  $2^{-\hat{\lambda}}$  is a consistent but upward biased estimator of average technical efficiency.

$$\hat{u} = 2^{-\hat{\lambda}} \quad \dots (1.15)$$

In Gamma distribution, we can estimate the proportion of DMUs with efficiency level at least equal to  $\alpha$

$$P[u \geq d] = P[e^{-z} \geq d] \quad \dots (1.16)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= P[z \leq -\ln d] \\ &= \int_0^{-\ln d} \frac{1}{\Gamma(\lambda)} z^{\lambda-1} \exp(-z) dz \quad \dots (1.17) \end{aligned}$$

## IX. CONCLUSION

In this study we proposed MAD (Minimum Absolute Deviation) method of Cobb-Douglas frontier production function as a linear programming problem (L.P.P). In this research study Cobb-Douglas production frontier is proposed under certain assumptions that the two sided disturbance term follows normal distribution and one sided disturbance term follows truncated normal distribution with certain assumptions. The production frontier is estimated employing the maximum likelihood method of estimation. Finally Stochastic efficiency is estimated for all the DMUs.

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