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Durbin-Watson Type Unit Root Test Statistics [†]

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Abstract

In the analysis of time series it is an important issue to determine whether a time series under study is stationary. For the test of the stationarity of the time series the Dickey-Fuller (DF) type tests have been mainly used. In this paper, we consider the regular unit root tests and seasonal unit root tests based on the generalized Durbin-Watson (DW) statistics when the errors are independent. The limiting distributions of the proposed DW-type test statistics are the functionals of standard Brownian motions. We also obtain the finite distributions and powers of the DW-type test statistics and compare the performances with the DF-type tests. It is observed that the DW-type test statistics have good behaviors against the DF-type test statistics especially in the nonzero (seasonal) mean model.

KEY WORDS : Durbin-Watson statistics; Regular unit root; Seasonal unit root; Brownian motions; Imhof routine.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Let $\{Y_t\}$ be a univariate time series under consideration satisfying

$$Y_t = \mathbf{x}_t' \beta + u_t, \quad (1.1)$$

where $\{\mathbf{x}_t\}$ is a deterministic sequence. If $\{u_t\}$ satisfies

$$u_t = \phi u_{t-1} + \epsilon_t, \quad (1.2)$$

where ϵ_t 's are independently and identically distributed (i.i.d.) random variables with mean zero and variance σ_ϵ^2 , the models (1.1) and (1.2) are jointly represented by

$$Y_t = \phi Y_{t-1} + (\mathbf{x}_t - \phi \mathbf{x}_{t-1})' \beta + \epsilon_t. \quad (1.3)$$

The traditional Dickey-Fuller (DF) regular unit root test procedures test whether $\phi = 1$ or $|\phi| < 1$ in (1.3). For the seasonal unit root tests, the model of $\{u_t\}$ is given by

$$u_t = \Phi u_{t-s} + \epsilon_t.$$

We test whether $\Phi = 1$ or $|\Phi| < 1$.

Since Durbin and Watson (1950, 1951) proposed the Durbin-Watson (DW) statistic, it has long been used to detect the first order autocorrelation of the disturbances in the regression model (1.1). The test has been generalized for the autocorrelation of any order by Vinod (1973). The generalized DW statistics are

$$d_k = \frac{\sum_{t=k+1}^n (\hat{u}_t - \hat{u}_{t-k})^2}{\sum_{t=1}^n \hat{u}_t^2}, \quad k = 1, \dots, n-1,$$

where \hat{u}_t are the residuals of the regression model (1.1). Dickey and Fuller (1981) considered various statistics including the DW statistic for the test of unit roots. Sargan and Bhargava (1983), Bhargava (1986), and Nabeya and Tanaka (1990) developed DW-type test statistics for the unit root tests.

In this paper we develop the unit root tests based on the generalized DW statistics. The advantages of the DW-type test statistics against DF-type test statistics for unit root tests are that the former is easier to calculate the exact distributions and powers and is readily extended to the general model and wide class of tests.

2. REGULAR UNIT ROOT TESTS

Imhof (1961) provided a method to obtain the distribution of the quadratic form

$$Q = \sum_{r=1}^m \lambda_r \chi_{h_r; \delta_r^2}^2, \quad (2.1)$$

where λ_r 's are distinct and non-zero, and $\chi_{h_r; \delta_r^2}^2$ are independent χ^2 -variables with h_r degrees of freedom and the non-centrality parameter δ_r^2 .

Let $\{Y_t\}$ satisfy the following univariate time series model

$$Y_t = u_t, \quad u_t = \phi u_{t-1} + \epsilon_t, \quad (2.2)$$

or

$$Y_t = \mu + u_t, \quad u_t = \phi u_{t-1} + \epsilon_t, \quad (2.3)$$

where $\epsilon_t \sim i.i.d.(0, \sigma_\epsilon^2)$. For the test of

$$H_0 : \phi = 1 \quad vs \quad H_1 : |\phi| < 1,$$

we define DW-type test statistics for models (2.2) and (2.3), respectively,

$$R_1 = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^n (Y_t - Y_{t-1})^2}{\sum_{t=1}^n Y_t^2}, \quad R_2 = \frac{\sum_{t=2}^n (Y_t - Y_{t-1})^2}{\sum_{t=1}^n (Y_t - \bar{Y})^2},$$

where $Y_0 = 0$ and $\bar{Y} = n^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^n Y_t$. Note that R_2 is independent of Y_1 under H_0 .

The limiting distributions of nR_1 and nR_2 under H_0 are given by Tanaka (1996).

Theorem 2.1 (Tanaka, 1996) Under $H_0 : \phi = 1$, nR_1 and nR_2 have the limiting distributions, respectively,

$$\begin{aligned} nR_1 &\Rightarrow \frac{1}{\int W^2(r) dr}, \\ nR_2 &\Rightarrow \frac{1}{\int \{W(r) - \int W(r)\}^2 dr}, \end{aligned}$$

where $W(r)$ is a standard Brownian motion.

Since both the denominators and the numerators of R_1 and R_2 are $O_p(n)$ under H_1 , these statistics are $O_p(1)$. More precisely, R_1 and R_2 converge

Table 1. Distributions of nR_1 and nR_2 for the regular unit root tests^a

n	Probability of a smaller value									
	0.01	0.025	0.05	0.10	0.20	0.80	0.90	0.95	0.975	0.99
nR_1										
25	.374	.473	.595	.806	1.232	7.825	11.579	15.363	19.104	23.909
50	.366	.470	.599	.820	1.268	8.221	12.287	16.471	20.693	26.267
100	.362	.469	.602	.828	1.286	8.431	12.666	17.073	21.572	27.593
200	.361	.469	.603	.832	1.296	8.539	12.864	17.386	22.034	28.296
500	.359	.469	.603	.835	1.302	8.605	12.985	17.581	22.319	28.721
nR_2										
25	1.421	1.761	2.164	2.814	3.975	14.354	18.884	23.143	27.162	32.139
50	1.381	1.740	2.165	2.846	4.059	15.176	20.231	25.115	29.846	35.889
100	1.362	1.731	2.166	2.862	4.102	15.614	20.962	26.195	31.340	38.013
200	1.354	1.726	2.167	2.871	4.123	15.841	21.341	26.763	32.128	39.141
500	1.348	1.724	2.167	2.876	4.136	15.979	21.575	27.114	32.615	39.844

^a The entries are obtained using the Imhof routine.

Table 2. Powers of the DW-type^a and the DF-type^b tests for the regular unit root at the 5% level^c

n	$\phi =$	zero mean						nonzero mean						
		.995	.99	.98	.95	.90	.80	.995	.99	.98	.95	.90	.80	
25	nR_1	.053	.056	.063	.087	.143	.326	nR_2	.051	.053	.056	.068	.095	.187
	$\hat{\rho}$	.053	.056	.063	.088	.145	.333	$\hat{\rho}_\mu$	.051	.053	.056	.067	.092	.176
50	nR_1	.056	.063	.078	.141	.313	.765	nR_2	.053	.056	.064	.095	.184	.501
	$\hat{\rho}$	.056	.063	.079	.144	.323	.781	$\hat{\rho}_\mu$	.053	.056	.063	.092	.174	.471
100	nR_1	.063	.078	.116	.307	.749	.999	nR_2	.056	.064	.083	.182	.488	.966
	$\hat{\rho}$	.063	.079	.119	.319	.768	.999	$\hat{\rho}_\mu$	.056	.063	.081	.173	.459	.954
200	nR_1	.078	.116	.229	.740	.999	1.00	nR_2	.064	.083	.141	.481	.962	1.00
	$\hat{\rho}$	.079	.119	.238	.762	.999	1.00	$\hat{\rho}_\mu$	.063	.081	.135	.453	.949	1.00
500	nR_1	.139	.301	.735	1.00	1.00	1.00	nR_2	.095	.181	.477	.996	1.00	1.00
	$\hat{\rho}$	.143	.315	.758	1.00	1.00	1.00	$\hat{\rho}_\mu$	.092	.172	.450	.994	1.00	1.00

^a nR_1 and nR_2 . ^b $\hat{\rho}$ and $\hat{\rho}_\mu$. ^c The entries are obtained using the Imhof routine.

to $2(1 - \phi)$ almost surely. These properties of nR_1 and nR_2 under H_0 and H_1 can be used to construct the test statistics for a regular unit root. After some algebra we may rewrite R_1 and R_2 as quadratic forms of (2.1) under the assumption that ϵ_t 's follow normal distribution, so we can obtain the exact distributions and powers of nR_1 and nR_2 using the Imhof routine.

Table 1 shows the exact distributions of nR_1 and nR_2 numerically calculated by the Imhof routine for various sample sizes under $H_0 : \phi = 1$ for models (2.2) and (2.3). Without loss of generality, for the generation of $\{Y_t\}$, we assume that $Y_0 = 0$ for the zero mean model (2.2) and $Y_1 = 0$ for the nonzero mean model (2.3). Table 1 shows the asymmetric nature of the distributions of nR_1 and nR_2 .

We obtain the exact powers of the DW-type test statistics and the DF-type test statistics for the zero mean model (2.2) and the nonzero mean model (2.3) in Table 2. For the power comparisons we consider the DF-type test statistics $\hat{\rho} = n(\hat{\phi} - 1)$ and $\hat{\rho}_\mu = n(\hat{\phi}_\mu - 1)$ due to Dickey and Fuller (1979), where $\hat{\phi}$ and $\hat{\phi}_\mu$ are the OLS estimates of ϕ for models (2.2) and (2.3), respectively, and nR_1 and nR_2 for the DW-type test statistics. $Y_1 \sim N(0, 1)$ is assumed for the zero mean model and $Y_1 \sim N(0, 1/(1 - \phi^2))$ is assumed for the nonzero mean model. The significant level is 0.05 and the sample sizes considered are $n = 25, 50, 100, 200,$ and 500 . The distributions and powers of the DF-type test statistics $\hat{\rho}$ and $\hat{\rho}_\mu$ are also obtained using the Imhof routine. The critical values for the DW-type test statistics are obtained from Table 1. The obtained critical values of the DF-type test statistics are $-7.371, -7.692, -7.862, -7.949,$ and -8.003 for $\hat{\rho}$, and $-12.487, -13.252, -13.663, -13.877,$ and -14.006 for $\hat{\rho}_\mu$, respectively.

For the simulation of the zero mean model we assume $Y_1 \sim N(0, 1)$ instead of $Y_1 \sim N(0, 1/(1 - \phi^2))$. This is because, when we use $Y_1 \sim N(0, 1/(1 - \phi^2))$ for $|\phi| < 1$, the values of Y_t are often too much different from zero, which makes one to use the nonzero mean model instead the zero mean model. Pantula *et al.* (1994) studied the effects of the initial values and observed that $Y_1 \sim N(0, 1)$ and $Y_1 \sim N(0, 1/(1 - \phi^2))$ yield different powers.

It is observed that the DF-type test performs better than the DW-type test for the zero mean model (2.2). But for the nonzero mean model (2.3) the DW-type test performs better than the DF-type test.

It should be remarked that though the OLS estimates are used for the comparison in this paper other types of the DF-type test statistics based on the GLS or ML estimates can also be used for the comparison as indicated in Pantula *et al.* (1994).

3. SEASONAL UNIT ROOT TESTS

Let $\{Y_t\}$ satisfy the following univariate seasonal time series model with seasonal period s ,

$$Y_t = u_t, \quad u_t = \Phi u_{t-s} + \epsilon_t, \quad (3.1)$$

or

$$Y_t = \sum_{j=1}^s \beta_j \delta_{jt} + u_t, \quad u_t = \Phi u_{t-s} + \epsilon_t, \quad (3.2)$$

where $\epsilon_t \sim i.i.d.(0, \sigma_\epsilon^2)$ and δ_{jt} is the indicator function such that $\delta_{jt} = 1$ if t is in the j -th season and 0 otherwise. For the test of

$$H_0 : \Phi = 1 \quad vs \quad H_1 : |\Phi| < 1,$$

we define DW-type test statistics for (3.1) and (3.2), respectively,

$$S_1 = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^n (Y_t - Y_{t-s})^2}{\sum_{t=1}^n Y_t^2}, \quad S_2 = \frac{\sum_{t=s+1}^n (Y_t - Y_{t-s})^2}{\sum_{t=1}^n (Y_t - \sum_{j=1}^s \bar{Y}_j \delta_{jt})^2},$$

where $Y_{-s+1} = \dots = Y_0 = 0$ and $\bar{Y}_j = m^{-1} \sum_{l=1}^m Y_{(l-1)s+j}$'s are the OLS estimates of β_j 's which are the means of Y_t for the j -th seasons. We may assume that $n = ms$ for simplicity, where m is a positive integer. Note that S_2 does not depend on (Y_1, \dots, Y_s) under H_0 .

Then we can obtain the limiting distributions of nS_1 and nS_2 as follows.

Theorem 3.1 Under $H_0 : \Phi = 1$, nS_1 and nS_2 have the limiting distributions, respectively,

$$\begin{aligned} nS_1 &\Rightarrow \frac{s^2}{\sum_{j=1}^s \int W_j^2(r) dr}, \\ nS_2 &\Rightarrow \frac{s^2}{\sum_{j=1}^s \int \{W_j(r) - \int W_j(r)\}^2 dr}, \end{aligned}$$

where $W_j(r)$ are the mutually independent standard Brownian motions.

The proof can be easily obtained from Theorem 2.1 and the independency of ϵ_t . Under H_1 , S_1 and S_2 are $O_p(1)$, respectively, thus we can construct the test statistics for seasonal unit root. After some algebra we may rewrite S_1 and S_2 as quadratic forms of (2.1) under the assumption that ϵ_t 's follow normal distribution, so we can obtain the finite exact distributions and powers of nS_1 and nS_2 using the Imhof routine.

Table 3 and 4 show the exact distributions of nS_1 and nS_2 for $s = 4$ and $s = 12$ numerically calculated by the Imhof routine for various sample sizes under $H_0 : \Phi = 1$ for the zero mean seasonal model (3.1) and the nonzero seasonal mean model (3.2). Without loss of generality, for the generation of $\{Y_t\}$, we assume that $Y_{-s+1} = \dots = Y_0 = 0$ for model (3.1) and $Y_1 = \dots = Y_s = 0$ for model (3.2). Table 3 and 4 show the asymmetric nature of distributions of nS_1 and nS_2 . It is observed that the percentiles of the distributions of nS_1 and nS_2 for $s = 12$ are larger than those for $s = 4$.

Table 3. Distributions of nS_1 and nS_2 for the seasonal unit root tests and $s = 4^a$

n	Probability of a smaller value									
	0.01	0.025	0.05	0.10	0.20	0.80	0.90	0.95	0.975	0.99
nS_1										
40	2.794	3.198	3.626	4.241	5.211	13.185	17.020	20.854	24.655	29.596
60	2.783	3.214	3.672	4.326	5.359	13.847	17.954	22.090	26.226	31.664
80	2.779	3.225	3.697	4.371	5.436	14.198	18.453	22.753	27.072	32.778
100	2.777	3.231	3.712	4.400	5.484	14.416	18.763	23.167	27.602	33.477
200	2.774	3.246	3.744	4.458	5.583	14.868	19.408	24.034	28.716	34.967
400	2.773	3.253	3.761	4.488	5.634	15.102	19.745	24.487	29.301	35.746
nS_2										
40	10.173	11.393	12.641	14.349	16.875	32.406	38.065	43.175	47.888	53.636
60	10.039	11.364	12.714	14.558	17.283	34.157	40.432	46.174	51.541	58.192
80	9.985	11.359	12.759	14.672	17.497	35.086	41.699	47.795	53.528	60.692
100	9.954	11.360	12.790	14.743	17.630	35.663	42.490	48.806	54.778	62.269
200	9.902	11.366	12.857	14.892	17.902	36.861	44.140	50.939	57.413	65.610
400	9.881	11.374	12.893	14.970	18.043	37.484	45.004	52.059	58.804	67.395

^a The entries are obtained using the Imhof routine.

Table 4. Distributions of nS_1 and nS_2 for the seasonal unit root tests and $s = 12^a$

n	Probability of a smaller value									
	0.01	0.025	0.05	0.10	0.20	0.80	0.90	0.95	0.975	0.99
nS_1										
60	11.435	12.381	13.307	14.526	16.254	26.472	30.415	34.168	37.814	42.513
120	11.771	12.905	14.012	15.466	17.524	29.665	34.364	38.851	43.228	48.905
180	11.906	13.108	14.282	15.822	18.001	30.875	35.870	40.649	45.320	51.389
240	11.980	13.216	14.424	16.008	18.251	31.512	36.664	41.600	46.428	52.719
300	12.026	13.282	14.511	16.123	18.405	31.905	37.155	42.188	47.112	53.538
600	12.119	13.420	14.692	16.360	18.723	32.717	38.171	43.406	48.536	55.243
1200	12.168	13.492	14.785	16.482	18.886	33.136	38.697	44.037	49.274	56.129
nS_2										
60	40.258	42.653	44.938	47.856	51.823	71.878	78.399	84.131	89.330	95.597
120	40.529	43.654	46.613	50.369	55.453	81.118	89.568	97.088	103.991	112.448
180	40.773	44.132	47.317	51.360	56.835	84.600	93.819	102.066	109.677	119.047
240	40.919	44.396	47.696	51.885	57.560	86.432	96.064	104.702	112.697	122.574
300	41.010	44.564	47.932	52.210	58.007	87.562	97.452	106.336	114.575	124.774
600	41.217	44.917	48.425	52.881	58.928	89.897	100.326	109.729	118.476	129.340
1200	41.333	45.102	48.680	53.228	59.403	91.103	101.815	111.493	120.510	131.726

^a The entries are obtained using the Imhof routine.

Table 5 and 6 compare the exact powers of the DW-type test statistics, nS_1 and nS_2 , and the DF-type test statistics, $\hat{\rho}_s = n(\hat{\Phi} - 1)$ and $\hat{\rho}_{\mu s} = n(\hat{\Phi}_{\mu} - 1)$ due to Dickey *et al.* (1984), where $\hat{\Phi}$ and $\hat{\Phi}_{\mu}$ are the OLS estimates of Φ for models (3.1) and (3.2) for various sample sizes. As in the regular unit root tests case, we assume that for $1 \leq j \leq s$, $Y_j \sim i.i.d. N(0, 1)$ for the zero mean model and that for $1 \leq j \leq s$, $Y_j \sim i.i.d. N(0, 1/(1 - \Phi^2))$ for the nonzero seasonal mean model. The significant level is 0.05 and the sample sizes con-

Table 5. Powers of the DW-type^a and the DF-type^b tests for the seasonal unit root at the 5% level for $s = 4$ ^c

n	$\Phi =$	zero mean						nonzero seasonal mean						
		.995	.99	.98	.95	.90	.80	.995	.99	.98	.95	.90	.80	
40	nS_1	.054	.058	.067	.101	.187	.465	nS_2	.052	.053	.057	.070	.098	.188
	$\hat{\rho}_s$	.054	.059	.068	.105	.200	.500	$\hat{\rho}_{\mu s}$	.052	.053	.057	.068	.093	.170
60	nS_1	.056	.062	.077	.138	.305	.754	nS_2	.053	.055	.061	.084	.139	.336
	$\hat{\rho}_s$	.056	.063	.080	.148	.335	.797	$\hat{\rho}_{\mu s}$	.052	.055	.060	.080	.128	.298
80	nS_1	.058	.067	.088	.183	.448	.927	nS_2	.054	.057	.066	.100	.192	.523
	$\hat{\rho}_s$	.059	.069	.092	.200	.495	.950	$\hat{\rho}_{\mu s}$	.053	.057	.064	.095	.174	.464
100	nS_1	.060	.072	.100	.237	.598	.987	nS_2	.054	.059	.071	.119	.259	.708
	$\hat{\rho}_s$	.061	.074	.106	.262	.656	.992	$\hat{\rho}_{\mu s}$	.054	.059	.069	.111	.231	.641
200	nS_1	.072	.100	.181	.588	.984	1.00	nS_2	.060	.071	.101	.260	.701	.999
	$\hat{\rho}_s$	.074	.106	.200	.652	.992	1.00	$\hat{\rho}_{\mu s}$	.059	.069	.095	.232	.636	.996
400	nS_1	.100	.180	.432	.983	1.00	1.00	nS_2	.071	.101	.194	.698	.999	1.00
	$\hat{\rho}_s$	.106	.200	.490	.992	1.00	1.00	$\hat{\rho}_{\mu s}$	.069	.096	.176	.633	.996	1.00

^a nS_1 and nS_2 . ^b $\hat{\rho}_s$ and $\hat{\rho}_{\mu s}$. ^c The entries are obtained using the Imhof routine.

Table 6. Powers of the DW-type^a and the DF-type^b tests for the seasonal unit root at the 5% level for $s = 12$ ^c

n	$\Phi =$	zero mean						nonzero seasonal mean						
		.995	.99	.98	.95	.90	.80	.995	.99	.98	.95	.90	.80	
60	nS_1	.054	.058	.068	.105	.199	.501	nS_2	.052	.053	.057	.069	.094	.167
	$\hat{\rho}_s$	.055	.059	.070	.112	.220	.553	$\hat{\rho}_{\mu s}$	.052	.053	.056	.068	.090	.155
120	nS_1	.059	.068	.091	.198	.491	.955	nS_2	.054	.058	.066	.099	.184	.475
	$\hat{\rho}_s$	.060	.071	.099	.227	.567	.976	$\hat{\rho}_{\mu s}$	.053	.057	.065	.094	.166	.413
180	nS_1	.063	.079	.120	.327	.789	1.00	nS_2	.056	.062	.077	.140	.320	.812
	$\hat{\rho}_s$	.065	.084	.134	.389	.864	1.00	$\hat{\rho}_{\mu s}$	.055	.061	.074	.128	.278	.732
240	nS_1	.068	.091	.155	.484	.949	1.00	nS_2	.058	.067	.089	.191	.492	.969
	$\hat{\rho}_s$	.071	.099	.178	.572	.978	1.00	$\hat{\rho}_{\mu s}$	.057	.065	.084	.170	.423	.932
300	nS_1	.074	.105	.196	.643	.993	1.00	nS_2	.060	.072	.102	.254	.670	.998
	$\hat{\rho}_s$	.078	.116	.231	.741	.998	1.00	$\hat{\rho}_{\mu s}$	.059	.070	.095	.221	.584	.991
600	nS_1	.105	.195	.478	.993	1.00	1.00	nS_2	.072	.103	.194	.674	.998	1.00
	$\hat{\rho}_s$	.117	.232	.575	.998	1.00	1.00	$\hat{\rho}_{\mu s}$	.070	.096	.172	.587	.991	1.00

^a nS_1 and nS_2 . ^b $\hat{\rho}_s$ and $\hat{\rho}_{\mu s}$. ^c The entries are obtained using the Imhof routine.

considered are $n = 40, 60, 80, 100, 200,$ and 400 for $s = 4$ and $n = 60, 120, 180, 240, 300,$ and 600 for $s = 12$. The distributions and powers of the DF-type test statistics are also obtained using the Imhof routine. The critical values for the DW-type test statistics are obtained from Table 3 and 4. The obtained critical values of the DF-type test statistics are $-8.719, -8.829, -8.887, -8.923, -8.997,$ and -9.036 for $\hat{\rho}_4,$ $-11.681, -11.609, -11.595, -11.590, -11.587,$ and -11.583 for $\hat{\rho}_{12},$ $-25.255, -26.059, -26.485, -26.747, -27.286,$ and -27.562 for $\hat{\rho}_{\mu 4},$ and $-54.494, -56.561, -57.387, -57.815, -58.078,$ and -58.609 for $\hat{\rho}_{\mu 12},$ respectively.

From the power comparisons of two types of test statistics, we conclude that in the zero seasonal mean model (3.1) the DF-type test statistics perform better than the DW-type statistics, and in the nonzero seasonal mean model (3.2) the DW-type statistics are more powerful than the DF-type test statistics.

4. CONCLUSIONS

We develop the DW-type unit root test statistics for regular unit root tests and also for seasonal unit root tests as well. The exact finite distributions and powers are obtained using the Imhof routine.

Power comparisons with the traditional DF-type test statistics show that in the zero (seasonal) mean models the DF-type tests perform better than the DW-type tests, but in the nonzero (seasonal) mean models the relations are reversed.

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