

## Appendix A Variances of the Modified GMC Method

The variance-covariance matrix of the averaging method is discussed in detail by Yun (2008). The same technique can be applied for the modified GMC method with slight modification.

The variance-covariance matrix of the normalized regression coefficients is computed as  $\Sigma_{b^*} = W\Sigma_{B^0}W'$  where  $W$  is a weight matrix and  $\Sigma_{B^0}$  is a reformatted variance-covariance matrix of the original regression coefficients ( $\Sigma_B$ ). The weight matrix  $W$  for the averaging method used in this study is defined as:

$$W = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & (1/J) \cdot \mathbf{1}_{1 \times J} & \mathbf{0}_{1 \times K} & (1/L) \cdot \mathbf{1}_{1 \times L} \\ \mathbf{0}_{J \times 1} & M_{J \times J} & \mathbf{0}_{J \times K} & \mathbf{0}_{J \times L} \\ \mathbf{0}_{K \times 1} & \mathbf{0}_{K \times J} & I_{K \times K} & \mathbf{0}_{K \times L} \\ \mathbf{0}_{L \times 1} & \mathbf{0}_{L \times J} & \mathbf{0}_{L \times K} & M_{L \times L} \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $M_{J \times J} = I_{J \times J} - (1/J) \cdot \mathbf{1}_{J \times J}$  in which  $J$  represents for the number of education variables (i.e., four) and 0 and 1 are a matrix of zeros and a matrix of ones, respectively.  $I_{K \times K}$  refers to the  $K$  by  $K$  identity matrix for two age variables.  $L$  represents the number of marriage variables (i.e., two).

The reformatted variance-covariance matrix of the regression coefficients ( $\Sigma_{B^0}$ ) is attained by adding zero vectors to the variance-covariance matrix of the original regression coefficients, as follows:

$$\Sigma_{B^0} = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_a^2 & 0 & \Sigma_{a,b'_J} & \Sigma_{a,b'_K} & 0 & \Sigma_{a,b'_L} \\ 0 & 0 & \mathbf{0}_{1 \times (J-1)} & \mathbf{0}_{1 \times (K-1)} & 0 & \mathbf{0}_{1 \times (L-1)} \\ \Sigma_{b_J,a} & \mathbf{0}_{(J-1) \times 1} & \Sigma_{b_J,b'_J} & \Sigma_{b_J,b'_K} & \mathbf{0}_{(J-1) \times 1} & \Sigma_{b_J,b'_L} \\ \Sigma_{b_K,a} & \mathbf{0}_{(K-1) \times 1} & \Sigma_{b_K,b'_J} & \Sigma_{b_K,b'_K} & \mathbf{0}_{(K-1) \times 1} & \Sigma_{b_K,b'_L} \\ 0 & 0 & \mathbf{0}_{1 \times (J-1)} & \mathbf{0}_{1 \times (K-1)} & 0 & \mathbf{0}_{1 \times (L-1)} \\ \Sigma_{b_L,a} & \mathbf{0}_{(L-1) \times 1} & \Sigma_{b_L,b'_J} & \Sigma_{b_L,b'_K} & \mathbf{0}_{(L-1) \times 1} & \Sigma_{b_L,b'_L} \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $\sigma_a^2$  is the residual variance and  $\Sigma$  is a partial covariance matrix. For example,  $\Sigma_{b_K, b'_J}$  is a covariance matrix between education coefficients  $b_J$  and age coefficients  $b_K$ ; 0 refers to a zero matrix.

For the modified GMC method, everything except the weighting matrix  $W^*$  is the same as the averaging method. The weighting matrix needs to be rebuilt as follows:

$$W^* = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & G_{1 \times J} & 0_{1 \times K} & G_{1 \times L} \\ 0_{J \times 1} & N_{J \times J} & 0_{J \times K} & 0_{J \times L} \\ 0_{K \times 1} & 0_{K \times J} & I_{K \times K} & 0_{J \times L} \\ 0_{L \times 1} & 0_{L \times J} & 0_{L \times K} & N_{L \times L} \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $G_{1 \times J}$  refers to a  $1 \times J$  column vector of grand means for education variables and  $G_{1 \times L}$  refers to a  $1 \times L$  column vector of grand means for marriage variables.  $N_{J \times J}$  denotes  $I_{J \times J} - 1_{J \times J} \cdot D_{J \times J}$  where  $D_{J \times J}$  refers to a diagonal matrix converted from the column vector of the grand means of education.

The new coefficients for the modified GMC method, ( $B^*$ ) can be obtained by taking diagonal values of  $W^*B$ . The variance-covariance matrix of the new coefficients is computed as  $\Sigma_{b^*} = W^* \Sigma_{B^0} W^{*'}$ . The variance of any predicted value  $X\hat{B}$  is estimated as  $X \Sigma_{\hat{B}} X'$ . Likewise, the variance of  $\bar{X}\hat{B}^*$  can be estimated as  $\bar{X} \Sigma_{\hat{B}^*} \bar{X}'$ .

Once the variance-covariance matrix of the coefficients of the modified GMC method is computed, the standard errors for the detailed decomposition can be obtained relatively easily. Using matrix notation, D1B in Equation 2 can be expressed as  $\bar{X}_B \hat{B}_{D1B}^*$ . The variance of  $\bar{X}_B \hat{B}_{D1B}^*$  is therefore calculated by  $\bar{X} \Sigma_{\hat{C}^*} \bar{X}$ , where  $\Sigma_{\hat{C}^*}$  is an addition of the two variance-covariance matrices of coefficients,  $\Sigma_{\hat{b}_W^*} + \Sigma_{\hat{b}_B^*}$ . The variances of D2 are estimated in the same way. As we estimate the variances of the decomposed components, the t-tests of the estimated decomposition components can be conducted simply; for example, by  $t_{D1B} = \frac{D1B}{\sigma_{D1B}}$ . Note that here we assume the  $\bar{X}$ 's to be fixed. if  $\bar{X}$ 's are stochastic, the estimation of variances should include the variance of  $\bar{X}$  and the interaction effects (Lin 2007; Jann 2008).

## References

- Jann, Ben. 2008. "The BlinderOaxaca Decomposition for Linear Regression Models." *The Stata Journal* 8:453–479.
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