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New Approach in Stochastic Frontier Analysis Estimation for Addressing Joint Assumption Violation of Heteroscedasticity and Multicollinearity

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Abstract

Efficiency analysis in production units has long been a key area of interest in economics, particularly with the development of methodologies like Stochastic Frontier Analysis (SFA). Originating from seminal works by Aigner & Cain (1977) and Meeusen & Van Den Broeck (1977), SFA has been instrumental in assessing the efficiency of entities by separating technical inefficiency from random production fluctuations. Despite its widespread application, the SFA model faces challenges, especially when underlying assumptions such as multicollinearity and heteroscedasticity are violated. This study introduces a novel estimator called

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"Weighted Principal Component Analysis Estimation for Stochastic Frontier Analysis" (WPCA-SFA), which combines the methodologies of weighted least square estimation (WLS) and principal component analysis (PCA) to jointly address these assumption violations. Monte Carlo simulation experiments were conducted to evaluate the performance of the proposed estimator. The results demonstrate that the WPCA-SFA estimator significantly outperforms the standard SFA model by effectively mitigating the adverse effects of both heteroscedasticity and multicollinearity. Based on the findings, the study recommend that researchers and practitioners in the field of efficiency analysis consider employing the WPCA-SFA estimator, particularly in scenarios where multicollinearity and heteroscedasticity are likely to compromise the accuracy of parameter estimations. Neglecting these issues can lead to suboptimal results, whereas the WPCA-SFA has proven to provide more reliable and accurate predictions. This advanced correction methodology should be adopted to enhance the robustness of empirical analyses in stochastic frontier models.

Keywords: Stochastic Frontier Analysis (SFA); multicollinearity; heteroscedasticity; correction methodologies.

1 Introduction

Efficiency analysis in production units has been a longstanding pursuit in economics, particularly propelled by the advent of methodologies like Stochastic Frontier Analysis (SFA). Originating from seminal works by Aigner & Cain, [1] Meeusen & van den Broeck, [2] SFA has been a cornerstone in assessing the efficiency of entities by disentangling technical inefficiency from random fluctuations in production. Despite its prominence, the application of SFA is not immune to challenges, particularly when assumptions underlying the model face violations. This study delves into the intricate landscape of the Stochastic Frontier Model under assumption violations, focusing on crucial aspects such as multicollinearity and heteroscedasticity.

The primary aim of this research is to identify and propose corrected measures and estimators that address multicollinearity and heteroscedasticity in the Stochastic Frontier Analysis Model. As proposed by Wang & Schmidt [3] the model often encounters challenges in capturing non-monotonic efficiency effects, emphasizing the need for flexible parameterizations. The study introduced a model emphasizing flexible parameterizations to capture exogenous influences on inefficiency, highlighting the importance of accommodating non-monotonic efficiency effects. Building on Hadri et al. [4] work, this study extends the focus to the heteroscedasticity issue and advocates for model estimation while assuming heteroscedasticity in both random terms. Furthermore, the objective is to rigorously examine and compare the performance of the proposed measures/estimators with existing models in the literature. The literature surrounding Stochastic Frontier Analysis and related methodologies reveals a rich tapestry of contributions that have significantly shaped the understanding of efficiency estimation and production modeling.

Hadri et al. [5] extended the work to address heteroscedastic inefficiency, advocating for model estimation while assuming heteroscedasticity in both random terms. This not only acknowledges the presence of heteroscedasticity but also provides a practical approach for addressing this issue in the context of SFA. Christopoulos et al. [6] delved into the cost efficiency of the Greek banking system, applying a heteroscedastic frontier model and revealing intriguing relationships between bank size, economic performance, and cost efficiency. This empirical application sheds light on the real-world implications of heteroscedasticity in efficiency modeling. Kumbhakar & Tsionas [7] contributed a stochastic frontier model with random coefficients, acknowledging technological differences among firms. This contribution by Kumbhakar & Tsionas [7] opens avenues for understanding the inherent diversity in technological possibilities across firms, challenging the assumption of identical technological capabilities. Karakaplan & Kutlu [8] proposed a maximum likelihood-based framework to address endogeneity in stochastic frontier models, showcasing superior performance through Monte Carlo experiments. This approach highlights the necessity of considering endogeneity in frontier models for robust estimations, aligning with the broader theme of addressing assumptions in SFA. Recently, Rauf, Hamidu, Kikelomo, Kayode, and Olusegun [9] explored various heteroscedasticity correction measures within the SFA framework in their study published in The Annals of the University of Oradea. Economic Sciences. The researchers proposed three correction measures: HCRE (Heteroscedasticity Correction for Random Error), HCTE (Heteroscedasticity Correction for Technical Efficiency Error), and HCRTE (Heteroscedasticity Correction for Both Random and Technical Efficiency Errors). Their research involved a comprehensive Monte Carlo simulation, which tested the effectiveness of these correction methods across different heteroscedasticity forms and sample sizes. The findings of Rauf et al.

[9] highlight the importance of correctly identifying and applying the appropriate correction measure. They discovered that when heteroscedasticity is present in both random error and technical efficiency error, the HCRTE measure consistently yielded the most efficient parameter estimates. This correction not only improved the estimation accuracy but also enhanced the measurement of technical efficiency within the SFA model. Conversely, applying a heteroscedasticity correction when no such issue existed was found to detrimentally impact the parameter estimates, emphasizing the need for careful diagnostic testing before applying corrective measures.

While these studies significantly advance our understanding, a notable gap exists in the literature. Specifically, there is a dearth of comprehensive corrected measures or estimators specifically designed to handle multicollinearity and heteroscedasticity in the context of the Stochastic Frontier Analysis Model. Furthermore, the joint influence of heteroscedasticity and multicollinearity in the SFA model remains understudied, necessitating a holistic investigation that addresses both issues simultaneously. This study seeks to bridge these gaps by proposing novel methodologies and insights for efficient model estimation in the presence of multicollinearity and heteroscedasticity.

2 Methodology

In this section, the focus is on the methodological framework supporting the empirical exploration of the Stochastic Frontier Analysis (SFA) model. The proposed estimator is introduced to address multicollinearity and heteroscedasticity challenges within the SFA framework. Also to presents details of simulation procedure designed to rigorously validate the robustness and efficacy of the estimators through meticulous testing on simulated datasets by Monte Carlo Simulation study. The goal is to provide empirical evidence supporting the reliability and applicability of these estimators in enhancing the precision of Stochastic Frontier Analysis under challenging empirical conditions.

2.1 Stochastic frontier model (SFA) estimation and properties

Following Kumbhakar & Tsionas [7] considering a cross-sectional data on quantities of N inputs $x_{ni}, n = 1, \dots, N; i = 1, \dots, I$ are used to produce a single output $y_i, i = 1, \dots, I$ are available to each of I producers.

The stochastic production frontier for the producers can be written as:

$$y_i = f(x_i; \beta) \cdot \exp(V_i) \cdot TE_i \tag{2.1}$$

Where the βs are the parameters in the production function. V_i reflects the random noise and TE_i is the output-oriented technical efficiency of producer i. From equation (2.1) we have:

$$TE_i = \frac{y_i}{f(x_i;\beta)\cdot \exp(V_i)} \tag{2.2}$$

Assuming the $f(x_i; \beta)$ takes a Cobb-Douglas form, the (2.2) becomes:

$$TE_i = \exp\{-U_i\} \tag{2.3}$$

Thus, the stochastic production frontier becomes:

$$\ln y_i = \beta_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{N} \beta_n \ln x_{ni} + V_i - U_i \tag{2.4}$$

Then the estimate of the technical efficiency can be obtained from: (2.2) and (2.3) following [10]

$$\widehat{TE_{1\iota}} = \exp\{-E(\widehat{U_\iota} \mid E_\iota)\} \tag{2.5}$$

$$\widehat{TE_{2\iota}} = E\left(\exp\{-\widehat{U_\iota}\} \mid E_i\right) \tag{2.6}$$

The joint density of U and V is then given as follows:

$$f(u,v) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma\theta}\exp\left\{-\frac{v^2}{2\sigma^2}\right\} \tag{2.7}$$

Since $E+U$, the joint density of U and E after variable transformation is:

$$f_{U,E}(u,\epsilon) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma\theta}\exp\left\{-\frac{(\epsilon+u)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right\} \tag{2.8}$$

Hence the marginal density of E can be derived by Greene, [11].

$$\begin{aligned} f_E(\epsilon) &= \int_0^{\theta}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma\theta}\exp\left\{-\frac{(\epsilon+u)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right\}\mathrm{d}u \\ &= \int_{\frac{\epsilon}{\sigma}}^{\frac{\theta+\epsilon}{\sigma}}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\theta}\exp\left\{-\frac{z^2}{2}\right\}\mathrm{d}z \\ &= \frac{1}{\theta}\left[\Phi\left(\frac{\theta+\epsilon}{\sigma}\right)-\Phi\left(\frac{\epsilon}{\sigma}\right)\right], \epsilon\in\Re \end{aligned} \tag{2.9}$$

Noting that $F_E(\varepsilon)$ is a symmetric density with a mean of Greene, [11].

$$E(\epsilon) = -E(u) = -\frac{\theta}{2} \tag{2.10}$$

and variance of:

$$\mathrm{Var}(\epsilon) = \mathrm{Var}(v)+\mathrm{Var}(u) = \sigma^2+\frac{\theta^2}{12} \tag{2.11}$$

The $\mathrm{F_E}(\varepsilon)$ can be realized by computing the skewness the coefficient Υ_1 :

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_1 &= \frac{\mu_3}{\mu_2^{3/2}} \\ &= \frac{E[\epsilon-E[\epsilon]]^3}{\mathrm{Var}(\epsilon)^{3/2}} \\ &= \frac{E[v-(u-E[u])]^3}{\mathrm{Var}(\epsilon)^{3/2}} \\ &= \frac{E[-(u-E[u])]^3}{\mathrm{Var}(\epsilon)^{3/2}} \\ &= 0 \end{aligned} \tag{2.12}$$

The density of E is symmetric around its mean $-0/2$,

Compute the kurtosis coefficient of $F_E(\varepsilon)$ as follows by Caudill, Ford and Gropper, [12].

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_2 &= \frac{\mu_4}{\mu_2^2} \\ &= \frac{E[\epsilon-E[\epsilon]]^4}{\mathrm{Var}(\epsilon)^2} \\ &= \frac{E[v-(u-E[u])]^4}{\mathrm{Var}(\epsilon)^2} \\ &= \frac{3\sigma^4+\frac{\theta^2\sigma^2}{2}+\frac{\theta^4}{80}}{\sigma^4+\frac{\theta^2\sigma^2}{6}+\frac{\theta^4}{144}} \\ &= 3-\frac{\frac{\theta^4}{120}}{\sigma^4+\frac{\theta^2\sigma^2}{6}+\frac{\theta^4}{144}} \\ &\leq 3 \text{ for all } \theta \text{ and } \sigma. \end{aligned} \tag{2.13}$$

From the density of (2.8), the log likelihood function is then given by:

$$\ln L = -I\ln\theta + \sum_{i=1}^{I} \ln\left[\Phi\left(\frac{\theta+\epsilon_i}{\sigma}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{\epsilon_i}{\sigma}\right)\right] \tag{2.14}$$

$$\frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \theta} = -\frac{I}{\theta} + \sum_{i=1}^{I} \frac{\frac{1}{\sigma}\phi\left(\frac{\theta+\epsilon_i}{\sigma}\right)}{\Phi\left(\frac{\theta+\epsilon_i}{\sigma}\right)-\Phi\left(\frac{\epsilon_i}{\sigma}\right)} \tag{2.15}$$

$$\frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \sigma^2} = \frac{1}{2\sigma^3}\sum_{i=1}^{I} \frac{-(\theta+\epsilon_i)\phi\left(\frac{\theta+\epsilon_i}{\sigma}\right)+\epsilon_i\phi\left(\frac{\epsilon_i}{\sigma}\right)}{\Phi\left(\frac{\theta+\epsilon_i}{\sigma}\right)-\Phi\left(\frac{\epsilon_i}{\sigma}\right)} \tag{2.16}$$

From Aigner and Cain, [1] Stevenson, [13] Greene, [11] the Cobb-Douglas production function is the given by:

$$E_i = \ln(y_i) - \beta_0 - \sum_{n=1}^{N} \beta_n * \ln(x_{ni}), i = 1, \dots, I \tag{2.17}$$

$$\frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \beta_0} = \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \epsilon_i} * \frac{\partial \epsilon_i}{\partial \beta_0}$$
$$= -\frac{1}{\sigma}\sum_{i=1}^{I} \frac{\phi\left(\frac{\theta+\epsilon_i}{\sigma}\right)-\phi\left(\frac{\epsilon_i}{\sigma}\right)}{\Phi\left(\frac{\theta+\epsilon_i}{\sigma}\right)-\Phi\left(\frac{\epsilon_i}{\sigma}\right)} \tag{2.18}$$

$$\frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \beta_n} = -\frac{1}{\sigma}\sum_{i=1}^{I} \ln x_{ni} \cdot \frac{\phi\left(\frac{\theta+\epsilon_i}{\sigma}\right)-\phi\left(\frac{\epsilon_i}{\sigma}\right)}{\Phi\left(\frac{\theta+\epsilon_i}{\sigma}\right)-\Phi\left(\frac{\epsilon_i}{\sigma}\right)} \tag{2.19}$$

We derive the conditional distribution of U_i/E_i

$$f(u_i \mid \epsilon_i) = \frac{f(u_i,\epsilon_i)}{f(\epsilon_i)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\theta} \cdot \frac{1}{\Phi\left(\frac{\theta+\epsilon_i}{\sigma}\right)-\Phi\left(\frac{\epsilon_i}{\sigma}\right)} \exp\left\{-\frac{(\epsilon_i+u_i)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right\} \tag{2.20}$$

The conditional distribution of U_i/E_i is truncated Normal distribution is revealed in the following lemma. Being truncated a_1 and a_2, where $-\infty < \mathrm{a}_1 < \mathrm{a}_2 < \infty$, is then given by:

$$f(y) = \frac{\frac{1}{\sigma}\phi\left(\frac{y-\mu}{\sigma}\right)}{\Phi\left(\frac{a_2-\mu}{\sigma}\right)-\Phi\left(\frac{a_1-\mu}{\sigma}\right)}, a_1 \le y \le a_2 \tag{2.21}$$

$$M_Y(t) = E\left[e^{tY} \mid Y \in [a_1, a_2]\right] = e^{\mu t+\sigma^2 t^2/2} \frac{\Phi\left(\frac{a_2-\mu}{\sigma}-\sigma t\right)-\Phi\left(\frac{a_1-\mu}{\sigma}-\sigma t\right)}{\Phi\left(\frac{a_2-\mu}{\sigma}\right)-\Phi\left(\frac{a_1-\mu}{\sigma}\right)} \tag{2.22}$$

$$E\left[Y \mid Y \in [a_1, a_2]\right] = \mu - \sigma\frac{\phi(\alpha_2)-\phi(\alpha_1)}{\Phi(\alpha_2)-\Phi(\alpha_1)} \tag{2.23}$$

$$M(Y \mid Y \in [a_1, a_2]) = \begin{cases} a_2 & a_1 \le a_2 \le \mu \\ \mu & a_1 \le \mu \le a_2 \\ a_1 & \mu \le a_1 \le a_2 \end{cases} \tag{2.24}$$

Where $\alpha_k = \frac{a_k-\mu}{\sigma}$.

Proof. (2.21) the probability of Y falling in the interval $[\mathrm{a}_1, \mathrm{a}_2]$ is $\Phi\left(\frac{a_2-\mu}{\sigma}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{a_1-\mu}{\sigma}\right)$. Thus the conditional density of Y is:

By Bera and Sharma, [14] the moment generating function is:

$$f(y \mid Y \in [a_1, a_2]) = \frac{\frac{1}{\sigma}\phi\left(\frac{y-\mu}{\sigma}\right)}{\Phi\left(\frac{a_2-\mu}{\sigma}\right)-\Phi\left(\frac{a_1-\mu}{\sigma}\right)} \tag{2.25}$$

$$M(t) = E\left[e^{tY} \mid Y \in [a_1, a_2]\right] = \frac{\int_{a_1}^{a_2} e^{ty} f(y)\mathrm{d}y}{\Phi\left(\frac{a_2-\mu}{\sigma}\right)-\Phi\left(\frac{a_1-\mu}{\sigma}\right)} \tag{2.26}$$

We have:

$$\begin{aligned}
&\frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}}\int_{a_1}^{a_2} e^{ty} e^{-(y-\mu)^2/2\sigma^2}\,\mathrm{d}y \\
&= e^{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}[\mu^2-(\sigma^2 t+\mu)^2]}\frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}}\int_{a_1}^{a_2} e^{-\frac{\left(y-\sigma^2 t-\mu\right)^2}{2\sigma^2}}\,\mathrm{d}y \\
&= e^{\mu t+\sigma^2 t^2/2}\int_{a_1}^{a_2}\frac{1}{\sigma}\phi\left(\frac{y-\sigma^2 t-\mu}{\sigma}\right)\mathrm{d}y \\
&= e^{\mu t+\sigma^2 t^2/2}\left[\Phi\left(\frac{a_2-\sigma^2 t-\mu}{\sigma}\right)-\Phi\left(\frac{a_1-\sigma^2 t-\mu}{\sigma}\right)\right]
\end{aligned} \tag{2.27}$$

Then the moment generating function is given by:

$$M(t) = e^{\mu t+\sigma^2 t^2/2}\frac{\Phi\left(\frac{a_2-\mu}{\sigma}-\sigma t\right)-\Phi\left(\frac{a_1-\mu}{\sigma}-\sigma t\right)}{\Phi\left(\frac{a_2-\mu}{\sigma}\right)-\Phi\left(\frac{a_1-\mu}{\sigma}\right)} \tag{2.28}$$

(2.22) - (2.23) from the moment generating function, the expected value is then derived the expected value:

$$E\left[Y \mid Y \in [a_1, a_2]\right] = M'(t)|_{t=0} = \mu - \sigma\frac{\phi(\alpha_2)-\phi(\alpha_1)}{\Phi(\alpha_2)-\Phi(\alpha_1)} \tag{2.29}$$

and the variance:

$$\mathrm{Var}\left[Y \mid Y \in [a_1, a_2]\right] = M''(t)|_{t=0} = \sigma^2\left\{1-\frac{\alpha_2\phi(\alpha_2)-\alpha_1\phi(\alpha_1)}{\Phi(\alpha_2)-\Phi(\alpha_1)}-\left[\frac{\phi(\alpha_2)-\phi(\alpha_1)}{\Phi(\alpha_2)-\Phi(\alpha_1)}\right]^2\right\} \tag{2.30}$$

Where $\alpha_k = \frac{a_k-\mu}{\sigma}$. The formula for the mode of the distribution easily follows the conditional density Aigner and Cain, [1] Greene, [11] Caudill, Ford and Gropper, [12].

2.2 The principal component solution to multicollinearity in SFA

Considering a case where there is a multicollinearity assumption violation in given SFA model being a modified OLS model.

Then matrix representation of the stochastic frontier production model is given as thus from (2.1):

$$y = \beta_0 1 + X\beta + v - u, \tag{2.31}$$

Where:

- y, v, u, and 1 are n-dimensional vectors of observed outputs, production and inefficiency random errors, and ones respectively.
- X is the nxk design matrix of inputs.
- β the corresponding k-dimensional vector of coefficients.
- And all inputs are assumed to be standardized.

Applying the spectral decomposition of the kxk symmetric matrix by Castaño and Gallón, [15]

$$\begin{aligned}
&X^{\top}X, \\
&X^{\top}X, = P\Lambda P^{T}
\end{aligned}$$

Where:

$\Lambda = \mathrm{diag}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \ldots, \lambda_k)$ is the diagonal eigenvalues matrix (with $\lambda_1 >= \lambda_2 \ldots >= \lambda_k$), $P = (p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_k)$ the corresponding orthogonal eigenvectors matrix.

By the orthogonality of P, then $(PP^{\top} = P^{\top}P = I)$, thus, SFA model (2.1) can be re-parameterized as

$$y = \beta_0 1 + XPP^{\top}\beta + v - u$$

Where:
$Z = XP = (z_1, z_2, \dots, z_k)$ is the matrix of principal components
$z_j = Xp_j$
with the property $z^{\top}{}_j z_j = \lambda_j, \forall j$, and $\theta = P^{\top}\beta$.

From the theory of principal component analysis (PCA), the principal components $z_j = Xp_j$ are orthogonal [16]

Where:

- the first principal component has the maximal variance (the largest amount of information) of the original variables,
- the second principal component z_2 has the next maximal variance after the first principal component, and so on.
- Noting that if the j^{th} characteristic root λ_j is approximately equal to zero, then $z_j \approx 0$.

> Corollary I: *If all k principal components are used, the same parameter vector β is obtained, which is unreliable under collinearity among the exogenous variables which was the initial assumption violations that necessitated the application of a PCA parameter estimation technique* [17]

We therefore deploy the strategy proposed by Fomby et al., [17] in Castaño & Gallón, [15]

Where:

β is then restricted into the subspace spanned by the columns $\lambda_1 p_1, \lambda_2 p_2, \dots, \lambda_r p_r$, $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \cdots \geq \lambda_r > 0$ are the $r < k$ largest eigenvalues of $X^{\top}X$ and $\lambda_{r+1} \approx \lambda_{r+2} \approx \cdots \approx \lambda_k \approx 0$. This means that range $(X) = r$.

> Corollary II: *Therefore, to reasonably eliminating the imprecisions in estimators as a result of the multicollinearity assumption violations,* [18,19,20,21] *suggest using the first principal components with the largest variance, also components that are highly correlated with output y.*

Therefore, the SFA model (2.1) and (2.31) can be re-expressed using the subdivision of the eigenvalues into groups $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \cdots \geq \lambda_r > 0$ and $\lambda_{r+1} \approx \lambda_{r+2} \approx \cdots \approx \lambda_k \approx 0$ and defining the corresponding partition $Z = (Z_1, Z_2) = (XP_1, XP_2)$, where Z_1 is the nxr matrix with principal components associated to the nonzero eigenvalues and Z_2 the $nx(k-r)$ matrix with the rest of the principal components associated to the eigenvalues approximately equal to zero. Then, assuming that the first r principal components are highly correlated with y in order to simplify the notation, and using $Z_2 \approx 0$, the re-parameterized SFA model (2.31) can be expressed as:

$$y = \beta_0 1 + Z_1\theta_1 + Z_2\theta_2 + v - u = \beta_0 1 + Z_1\theta_1 + v - u \tag{2.32}$$

Where:
$\theta = (\theta_1^{\top}, \theta_2^{\top})^{\top}$
with $\theta_1 = P_1^{\top}\beta_1$ and $\theta_2 = P_2^{\top}\beta_2$

The constraint $Z_2 \approx 0$ is equivalent to $\theta_2 \approx 0$.
Thus, the SFA estimator as a MOLS of θ_1 is $\hat{\theta}_1 = (Z_1^{\top}Z_1)^{-1}Z_1^{\top}y$.
Thus, the principal component estimator of β in (3.50) is given by
$\hat{\beta} = P_1\hat{\theta}_1$, with covariance matrix $\text{Cov}(\hat{\beta}) = P_1\text{Cov}(\hat{\theta})P_1^{\top}$.

2.3 The weighted least square solution to heteroscedasticity in SFA

Considering a case where there is a heteroscedasticity assumption violation in given SFA. Recall in (2.31), the matrix representation of the stochastic frontier production model stated as:

$$y = \beta_0 1 + X\beta + v - u \tag{2.33}$$

Where:

- y, v, u, and 1 are n-dimensional vectors of observed outputs, production and inefficiency random errors, and ones respectively.
- Xis the nxk design matrix of inputs.
- β the corresponding k-dimensional vector of coefficients.
- With all inputs are assumed to be standardized.

Also,

$$\text{Letting}(v_i - u_i) = \mu_i \tag{2.34}$$

$$\text{Var}(\mu_i) = E(\mu_i^2) = \sigma_i^2 \text{ for } i = 1,2, \dots, n \tag{2.35}$$

Where - the i-subscript attached to sigma squared indicates that the disturbance for each of the n units is drawn from a probability distribution that has a different variance [22,23].

Given such a non-constant variance function.

$$\text{Var}(e_i) = \sigma_i^2 = \sigma_i^2 x_i^{\alpha} \tag{2.36}$$

Where, α is the unknown parameter in the model.

Taking the natural logarithm to linearize (2.36) to get (2.37)

$$\ln(\sigma_i^2) = \ln(\sigma_i^2) + \alpha \ln(x_i) \tag{2.37}$$

Then taking exponential of equation

$$\sigma_i^2 = \exp[\ln(\sigma_i^2) + \alpha \ln(x_i)] \tag{2.38}$$

Note: Taking the exponential function is best because it gives non-negative value of variance σ_i^2.

Letting $\beta_1 = \ln(\sigma_i^2), \beta_2 = \alpha, Z_i = \ln(x_i)$

$$\sigma_i^2 = \exp[\beta_1 + \beta_2 Z_i] \# \tag{2.39}$$

$$\sigma_i^2 = \exp[\beta_1 + \beta_2 Z_{i2} + \cdots + \beta_3 Z_{is}] \tag{2.40}$$

Equation (2.39) is a special case of (2.40) where the variance is assumed to depends on more than one explanatory variable.

Using the OLS technique to estimate the coefficients $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_s$ of the variance function in (2.40),

$$\ln(\sigma_i^2) = \beta_1 + \beta_2 Z_{i2} + \cdots + \beta_s Z_{is} \tag{2.41}$$

Where:

$$Z_{i2} = \ln(x_2), Z_{i3} = \ln(x_3), \dots, Z_{is} = \ln(x_s)$$

Then taking the square root of the exponent of the fitted estimate

$$\hat{\sigma}_i = \sqrt{\exp\left(\hat{\beta}_1 + \hat{\beta}_2 Z_{i2} + \cdots + \hat{\beta}_s Z_{is}\right)} \tag{2.42}$$

Then $\hat{\sigma}_i$ is the weight required to transform the data set by dividing through in (2.35) above, Since:

$$\mathrm{Var}\left(\frac{e_i}{\sigma_i}\right) = \frac{1}{\sigma_i^2}\mathrm{Var}(e_i) = \frac{1}{\sigma_i^2} \times \sigma_i^2 = 1 \tag{2.43}$$

Using the estimate of our variance function $\hat{\sigma}_i^2$ in place of σ_i^2 in equation (2.41) to obtain the Generalized Least Square Estimator of $\beta_1, \beta_2, \ldots, \beta_s$.

We then can define the transformed variable as

$$y_i^* = \frac{y_i}{\hat{\sigma}_i}, x_{i1}^* = \frac{1}{\hat{\sigma}_i}, x_{i2}^* = \frac{x_i}{\hat{\sigma}_i}, \ldots, x_{is}^* = \frac{x_s}{\hat{\sigma}_i} \tag{2.44}$$

Therefore:

$$y_i^* = \beta_i x_{i1}^* + \beta_2 x_{i2}^* + \cdots + \beta_s x_{is}^* + e_i^* \tag{2.45}$$

which is the Weighted Least Squares model with homoscedasticity [9].

2.4 Proposed estimator to address assumptions violations in the classical stochastic frontier analysis (SFA) model

Combining the principles outlined in Sections 2.2 and 2.3, as presented by Castaño and Gallón, [15] and incorporating the approaches proposed by Downs and Rocke, [22] White, [23] and explored by Rauf et al., [9] for addressing multicollinearity and heteroscedasticity respectively in Stochastic Frontier Analysis (SFA), this study introduces a novel estimator termed "Weighted Principal Component Analysis Estimation for Stochastic Frontier Analysis" (WPCA-SFA). This estimator amalgamates the methodologies of weighted least square estimation (WLS) and principal component analysis (PCA) to rectify violations of assumptions in the classical stochastic frontier analysis (SFA) model. Therefore, the proposed estimator ("WPCA-SFA") is the mathematical combination of the (2.32) and (2.45), which is thus given by:

$$\hat{\beta} = P_1(Z_1^{*\top} Z_1^*)^{-1} Z_1^{*\top} y^*) \tag{2.46}$$

Where:

- (*) is the weight from the WLS estimator that is homoscedasticity.
- Then, Z_l is the $n \times r$ matrix with principal components associated to the nonzero eigenvalues and P_1 is the corresponding orthogonal eigenvectors matrix in the PCA estimators with no collinear variables.

2.5 Monte carlo simulation study

The procedures for generating the input variables and error terms is conducted using Monte Carlo simulation technique.

2.5.1 Model formulation

To evaluate the performance of the proposed estimator ("WPCA-SFA"), we carry out a Monte Carlo simulation experiment not fewer than 2,000 replications on the stochastic frontier model following the Cobb-Douglass production function in (2.1):

$$y = \beta_0 1 + X\beta + v - u$$

where:

y, is the observed output (dependent variable)
v, u, are the random errors and technical inefficiency component, respectively;

x_{1-k}, is the of production inputs (independent variables);
β_{1-k}, is the corresponding kth coefficients.
Setting:

Sample size (n) to initial $(20,50,100,250,1000)$,

$$\beta_1 = 0.7; \beta_2 = 0.8; \beta_3 = 0.9; \beta_4 = 1.0; \beta_5 = 1.1; \beta_6 = 1.2; \mathrm{k} = 6$$

2.5.2 Procedure for generating the input variables with varying level of collinearity

The simulation procedure used by McDonald and Galarneau, [24] Wichern and Churchill, [25] Gibbons, [26] Kibria, [27] Lukman and Ayinde, [28] Fayose and Ayinde, [29] is also be used to generate the exposure variables in this study. This is given as:

$$\mathrm{X_{ti}} = (1-\rho^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}\mathrm{Z_{ti}} + \rho \mathrm{Z_{tp}} \tag{2.47}$$

$$\mathrm{t} = 1,2,3 \ldots, \mathrm{n} \tag{2.48}$$

$$\mathrm{i} = 1,2 \ldots \mathrm{p} \tag{2.49}$$

Where:

- Z_{ti} is independent standard normal distribution with mean zero and unit variance;
- ρ is the correlation between any two exposure variables and p is the number of exposure variables. The values of ρ will be taken as $0.8, 0.9, 0.95, 0.99$ and 0.999 respectively. In this study, the number of exposure variables (p) is set at three (3).

2.5.3 Procedure for generating the error terms with varying level of heteroscedasticity

We also generate the two error terms as follows $v \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$ and $u \sim |N(0, \sigma^2)|$, with normal and half-normal specification respectively as specified by Hadri [4]. Then the model for the heteroscedasticity function is formed as follows:

$$\sigma_v = \exp(\alpha_0 + \sigma_{\alpha 1} \ln X_{1i} + \sigma_{\alpha 2} \ln X_{2i}) \tag{2.50}$$

$$\sigma_u = \exp\left(\gamma_0 + \sigma_{\gamma 1} \ln Z_i\right) \tag{2.51}$$

The study used Monte Carlo simulation to conduct the experiment with varying parameters such as sample sizes $(\mathrm{n} = 20, 50, 100, 250, 1000)$; level of multicollinearity Rho $= 0.8, 0.9, 0.99$ and 0.999 and heteroscedasticity $(\delta = 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, 0.9, 1)$.

2.5.4 Criteria for evaluation of the estimators

The performance of the estimators is compared using the Mean Square Error (MSE, (MAE) and BIAS criterion. For any fitted $\hat{y}$, MSE, MAE and BIAS are defined as follows:

$$\mathrm{MSE}(\hat{y}) = \frac{1}{2000}\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{2000} \left(\hat{y}_{ij} - y_i\right)^2 \tag{2.52}$$

$$\mathrm{MAE}(\hat{y}) = \frac{1}{2000}\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{2000} \left|\hat{y}_{ij} - y_i\right| \tag{2.53}$$

$$\mathrm{BIAS}(\hat{y}) = \frac{1}{2000}\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{2000} \left(\hat{y}_{ij} - y_i\right) \tag{2.54}$$

Where $\hat{y}_{ij}$ is i^{th} element of the model in the jth replication which gives the estimate of $y_1 \cdot y_n$ are the true value of " y " previously mentioned. Estimator with the minimum MSE and MAE is considered best.

3 Results and Discussion

3.1 Model performance metrics - Mean Square Error (MSE)

As seen from Table 1, on the case where n = 20, ρ = 0.8, and δ = 0.4, the MSE_WPCA-SFA (0.2615) outperforms other methods, showcasing its efficacy in jointly addressing multicollinearity and heteroscedasticity. This result indicates that the Weighted Principal Component Analysis Estimation for Stochastic Frontier Analysis (WPCA-SFA) model is adept at providing accurate estimations in challenging empirical conditions. Similarly, for n = 20, ρ = 0.8, and δ = 0.6, all methods perform relatively well, but WPCA-SFA stands out with the lowest MSE (0.0818), emphasizing its superiority in this specific scenario. The proposed model demonstrates its capacity to mitigate the adverse effects of multicollinearity and heteroscedasticity simultaneously. MAE and BIAS also present similar findings and results, further solidifying the robustness of WPCA-SFA in providing accurate estimations.

Table 1. Summary of Model Performance Metrics (MSE) for Classical SFA, PCA-SFA, WLS-SFA, and WPCA-SFA Models at n = 20

(Sample_Size), (Multicollinearity) and (Heteroscedasticity)	MSE_SFA	MSE_PCA SFA	MSE_WLS SFA	MSE_WPCA SFA
n20ρ(0.8)δ(0.4)	0.305056933	0.4957367	0.405453816	0.261549201
n20ρ(0.8)δ(0.6)	0.0799572	0.3198883	0.189307143	0.081804155
n20ρ(0.8)δ(0.8)	0.1800365	0.473048	0.252646706	0.24276197
n20ρ(0.8)δ(0.9)	0.927748667	0.2337681	0.179610317	0.00410906
n20ρ(0.8)δ(1)	0.2760767	0.8713982	0.152608994	0.548063941
n20ρ(0.9)δ(0.4)	0.2098236	0.4373991	0.290939692	0.204299545
n20ρ(0.9)δ(0.6)	0.945719767	0.3513819	0.219485544	0.112326495
n20ρ(0.9)δ(0.8)	0.9612315	1.1246133	0.829370402	0.890167698
n20ρ(0.9)δ(0.9)	0.282283	0.28031861	0.100634349	0.648621255
n20ρ(0.9)δ(1)	0.8443204	0.3209061	0.225512908	0.083840145
n20ρ(0.95)δ(0.4)	0.3415039	0.21280671	0.057939172	0.100981368
n20ρ(0.95)δ(0.6)	1.058591	0.25155777	0.044235492	0.02059253
n20ρ(0.95)δ(0.8)	0.4516565	0.6345345	0.476758152	0.377411461
n20ρ(0.95)δ(0.9)	0.879668433	0.28785344	0.093498067	0.054516049
n20ρ(0.95)δ(1)	0.790877	0.429157	0.357247951	0.360568146
n20ρ(0.99)δ(0.4)	0.180522133	0.4610566	0.29538817	0.229734761
n20ρ(0.99)δ(0.6)	1.204909433	0.29942287	0.240419772	0.06848241
n20ρ(0.99)δ(0.8)	0.285589867	0.205275132	0.005297357	0.001468569
n20ρ(0.99)δ(0.9)	0.903264	0.207693519	0.021510049	0.003242371
n20ρ(0.99)δ(1)	1.052448733	0.3164044	0.146682427	0.085864466
n20ρ(0.999)δ(0.4)	0.929926633	0.3019053	0.10389285	0.084650984
n20ρ(0.999)δ(0.6)	0.4724872	0.3316227	0.23118555	0.101010186
n20ρ(0.999)δ(0.8)	0.870133833	0.3236588	0.057482692	0.092455422
n20ρ(0.999)δ(0.9)	0.8974797	0.9823607	0.836257523	0.692420779
n20ρ(0.999)δ(1)	0.201122267	0.6131839	0.395088004	0.373693319

Source: Monte-Carlo simulation, 2024

In contrast, examining n = 20, ρ = 0.95, and δ = 1, both WPCA-SFA and Classical SFA exhibit comparable performance, while PCA-SFA and WLS-SFA yield higher MSE values, indicating less accurate estimations. This underscores the significance of considering both correction factors simultaneously, as addressed by the proposed WPCA-SFA. For n = 20, ρ = 0.99, and δ = 0.8, the joint correction offered by WPCA-SFA and WLS-SFA proves effective, yielding lower MSE values compared to other methods. This reinforces the idea that the proposed model is robust in handling high levels of multicollinearity and heteroscedasticity concurrently. Lastly, in the scenario where n = 20, ρ = 0.999, and δ = 1, WPCA-SFA stands out again with the lowest MSE (0.3737), highlighting its resilience in addressing both multicollinearity and heteroscedasticity under challenging conditions.

The Table 2 presents a the scenario where the sample size (n) is set at 50, and with varying degrees of multicollinearity (ρ) and heteroscedasticity (δ), a comparative analysis of MSE highlights the performance of

different correction methodologies. Notably, the proposed Weighted Principal Component Analysis for Stochastic Frontier Analysis (WPCA-SFA) consistently stands out as a robust correction technique. Across diverse scenarios, WPCA-SFA demonstrates a superior ability to minimize MSE, indicating its efficacy in addressing both multicollinearity and heteroscedasticity challenges simultaneously.

For instance, when ρ is set at 0.8 and δ at 0.6, WPCA-SFA achieves a strikingly low MSE of 0.003878975, outperforming both the Classical SFA model and alternative correction methods such as PCA-SFA and WLS-SFA. This suggests that WPCA-SFA not only excels in scenarios with moderate challenges but also provides a significant advantage in scenarios with heightened heteroscedasticity. MAE and BIAS results further corroborate these findings, underscoring the robustness of the WPCA-SFA model.

The Fig. 1 provides a detailed examination of Mean Squared Errors (MSE) for Stochastic Frontier Analysis (SFA) models under varying conditions of sample size (n), levels of multicollinearity (ρ), and heteroscedasticity (δ). Notably, each row represents a specific combination of these parameters, offering insights into the performance of different models in distinct scenarios.

In scenarios where multicollinearity is moderate (ρ=0.8), and heteroscedasticity is introduced at varying levels (δ=0.4, 0.6, 0.8, 0.9, 1), the proposed Weighted PCA-corrected SFA model (MSE_WPCA-SFA) consistently outperforms other models, showcasing its effectiveness in mitigating the adverse effects of both multicollinearity and heteroscedasticity. As expected, the Classical SFA model (MSE_SFA) experiences higher MSE, indicating the impact of multicollinearity and heteroscedasticity on estimation accuracy. The PCA-corrected SFA model (MSE_PCA_SFA) shows improvement in mitigating multicollinearity, while the WLS-corrected SFA model (MSE_WLS_SFA) addresses heteroscedasticity. However, the combined correction in MSE_WPCA-SFA is notably superior.

Table 2. Summary of Model Performance Metrics (MSE) for Classical SFA, PCA-SFA, WLS-SFA, and WPCA-SFA Models at n = 50

(Sample_Size), (Multicollinearity) and (Heteroscedasticity)	MSE_SFA	MSE_PCA SFA	MSE_WLS SFA	MSE_WPCA SFA
n50ρ(0.8)δ(0.4)	0.2398937	0.3536298	0.197390292	0.121662525
n50ρ(0.8)δ(0.6)	0.9559107	0.23743835	0.035838337	0.003878975
n50ρ(0.8)δ(0.8)	1.0877362	0.21050836	0.007849276	0.006810715
n50ρ(0.8)δ(0.9)	0.9622574	0.3279155	0.117215178	0.094621951
n50ρ(0.8)δ(1)	0.1424763	0.3314403	0.114416717	0.093213706
n50ρ(0.9)δ(0.4)	0.135308767	0.22947921	0.021104492	0.009511035
n50ρ(0.9)δ(0.6)	0.369043	0.24205851	0.038935143	0.005336462
n50ρ(0.9)δ(0.8)	1.042073167	0.23060287	0.029721337	0.07107559
n50ρ(0.9)δ(0.9)	0.951569267	0.22184533	0.028070182	0.015191357
n50ρ(0.9)δ(1)	0.206483967	0.482375	0.255775256	0.609473058
n50ρ(0.95)δ(0.4)	0.213904	0.28659019	0.097123472	0.005064085
n50ρ(0.95)δ(0.6)	0.198039567	0.27531365	0.03187637	0.035354379
n50ρ(0.95)δ(0.8)	0.153382033	0.3170867	0.091761559	0.080842526
n50ρ(0.95)δ(0.9)	0.801966467	0.269522	0.141845435	0.130815995
n50ρ(0.95)δ(1)	0.118816533	0.29244744	0.09192304	0.052598584
n50ρ(0.99)δ(0.4)	1.033364833	0.21002909	0.069938565	0.021503828
n50ρ(0.99)δ(0.6)	0.343385533	0.23598764	0.031184208	0.002544153
n50ρ(0.99)δ(0.8)	0.244843433	0.4030905	0.224362919	0.169809011
n50ρ(0.99)δ(0.9)	0.9780804	0.26627877	0.070161556	0.033933744
n50ρ(0.99)δ(1)	0.897158367	0.5944385	0.365900273	0.354416882
n50ρ(0.999)δ(0.4)	0.1805521	0.340716	0.136951417	0.091516023
n50ρ(0.999)δ(0.6)	0.8569634	0.25339741	0.038637237	0.020803966
n50ρ(0.999)δ(0.8)	0.3602467	0.3372525	0.071461036	0.107121653
n50ρ(0.999)δ(0.9)	0.202188867	0.24722338	0.05370995	0.177376421
n50ρ(0.999)δ(1)	0.2483264	0.28936189	0.069639389	0.000285279

Source: Monte-Carlo simulation, 2024

Fig. 1. Summary of Model Performance Metrics (MSE) for Classical SFA, PCA-SFA, WLS-SFA, and WPCA-SFA Models at n = 100

Source: Monte-Carlo simulation, 2024

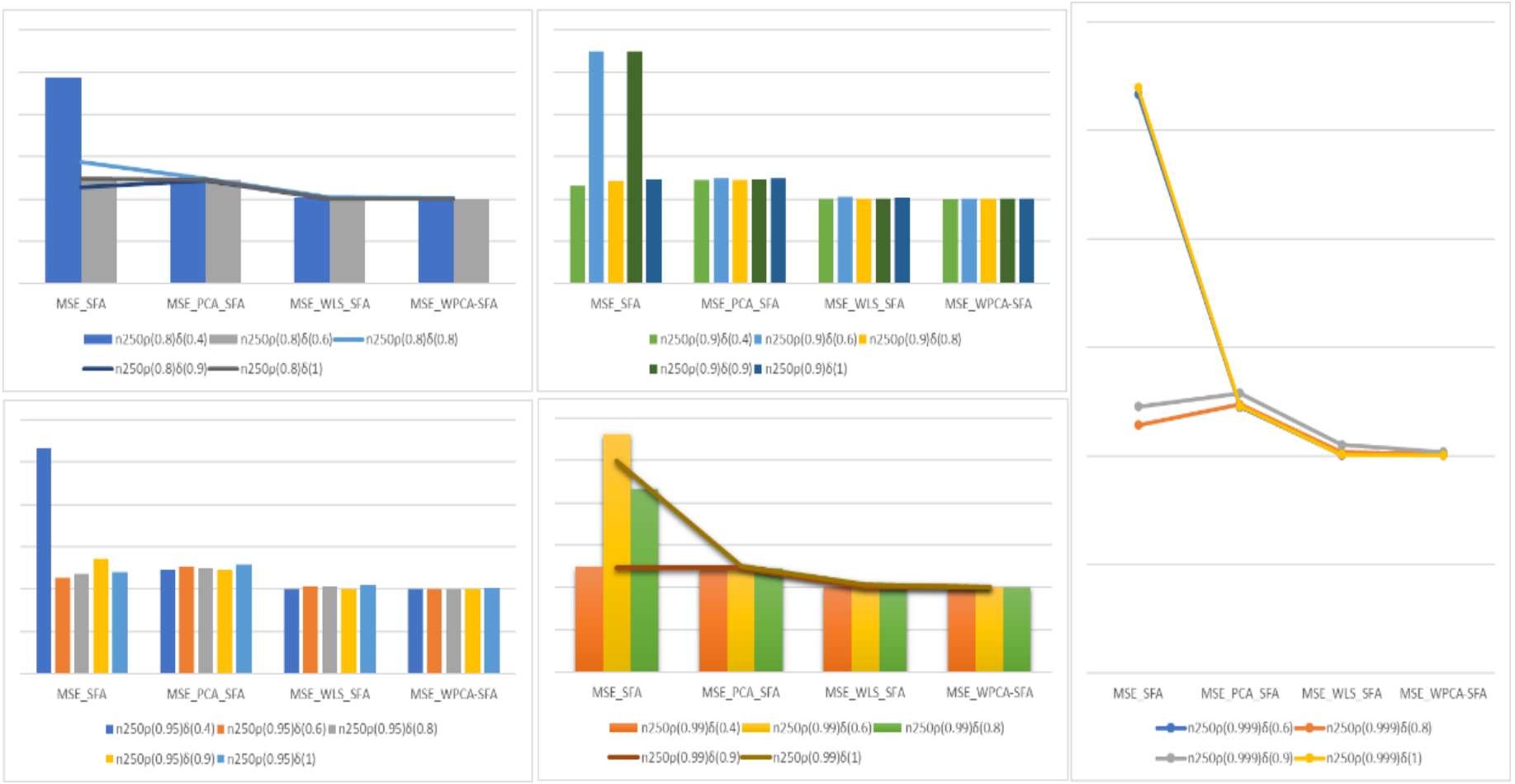

Fig. 2. Summary of Model Performance Metrics (MSE) for Classical SFA, PCA-SFA, WLS-SFA, and WPCA-SFA Models at n = 250

Source: Monte-Carlo simulation, 2024

The Fig. 2 presents values, representing the classical SFA model, are consistently high across scenarios, indicating suboptimal parameter estimation when both multicollinearity and heteroscedasticity are present. For instance, in the scenario n250ρ(0.8)δ(0.4), MSE_SFA is notably elevated at 0.8916, underscoring the challenges associated with the uncorrected SFA model.

The introduction of PCA correction (MSE_PCA_SFA) consistently leads to improved performance, successfully mitigating the impact of multicollinearity. Notably, in the scenario n250ρ(0.8)δ(0.9), MSE_PCA_SFA drops significantly to 0.2001, highlighting the efficacy of PCA in reducing multicollinearity-related errors and enhancing parameter estimation.

Furthermore, the application of weighted least squares (WLS) correction (MSE_WLS_SFA) demonstrates effective reduction in heteroscedasticity-related errors, with consistently lower MSE_WLS_SFA values compared to the classical SFA model. In the scenario n250ρ(0.8)δ(0.9), MSE_WLS_SFA drops to 0.0022, showcasing the successful correction of heteroscedasticity.

The joint correction model (MSE_WPCA-SFA), combining weighted PCA and WLS, consistently outperforms other models across various scenarios. This model addresses both multicollinearity and heteroscedasticity simultaneously, leading to superior accuracy in parameter estimation. In the scenario n250ρ(0.8)δ(0.9), MSE_WPCA-SFA reaches 0.0071, indicating substantial improvements over individual correction methods. MAE and BIAS also present similar findings and results, further solidifying the robustness of WPCA-SFA in providing accurate estimations.

Table 3. Summary of Model Performance Metrics (MSE) for Classical SFA, PCA-SFA, WLS-SFA, and WPCA-SFA Models at n = 1000

(Sample_Size), (Multicollinearity) and (Heteroscedasticity)	MSE_SFA	MSE_PCA_SFA	MSE_WLS_SFA	MSE_WPCA-SFA
n1000ρ(0.8)δ(0.4)	0.924470433	0.201704465	0.001749337	0.002242925
n1000ρ(0.8)δ(0.6)	0.823431667	0.200252164	0.00021407	0.00042479
n1000ρ(0.8)δ(0.8)	0.928903867	0.204267754	0.004234929	0.004783579
n1000ρ(0.8)δ(0.9)	0.907464233	0.200658044	0.00089707	0.006154416
n1000ρ(0.8)δ(1)	0.208390733	0.200192544	0.000181697	0.008255335
n1000ρ(0.9)δ(0.4)	0.9942875	0.200833288	0.000921426	0.003137362
n1000ρ(0.9)δ(0.6)	0.206892367	0.21108376	0.011475596	0.002198463
n1000ρ(0.9)δ(0.8)	0.927225367	0.201649656	0.001243363	0.004182311
n1000ρ(0.9)δ(0.9)	0.928120067	0.204175181	0.005532443	0.003207717
n1000ρ(0.9)δ(1)	1.003316133	0.207046455	0.007378974	0.002984121
n1000ρ(0.95)δ(0.4)	0.206373167	0.203112707	0.003237833	0.001271109
n1000ρ(0.95)δ(0.6)	0.824043667	0.208946244	0.009312964	0.002507931
n1000ρ(0.95)δ(0.8)	0.208973267	0.203278206	0.003290955	0.006411624
n1000ρ(0.95)δ(0.9)	0.986804567	0.21122933	0.010496358	0.009887526
n1000ρ(0.95)δ(1)	0.224807833	0.200414362	0.000386911	0.009133831
n1000ρ(0.99)δ(0.4)	0.2213854	0.21101243	0.011191538	0.002855875
n1000ρ(0.99)δ(0.6)	1.022383567	0.200680016	0.000668842	0.008537764
n1000ρ(0.99)δ(0.8)	0.9244289	0.205054505	0.005045971	0.002988948
n1000ρ(0.99)δ(0.9)	0.229114	0.201610643	0.001556887	0.003032302
n1000ρ(0.99)δ(1)	0.211572367	0.22207281	0.023364828	0.010242259
n1000ρ(0.999)δ(0.4)	0.213911467	0.20236928	0.002550105	0.004849487
n1000ρ(0.999)δ(0.6)	1.0331049	0.209547976	0.009308326	0.003790315
n1000ρ(0.999)δ(0.8)	0.221595367	0.21162003	0.012085636	0.004866296
n1000ρ(0.999)δ(0.9)	0.212998467	0.204362835	0.00431839	0.004631805
n1000ρ(0.999)δ(1)	0.133326233	0.201255348	0.001498089	0.005323441

Source: Monte-Carlo simulation, 2024

The Table 3 presents the MSE_SFA values, representing the classical SFA model, signifying challenges in parameter estimation when multicollinearity and heteroscedasticity are unaddressed. For instance, in the scenario n1000ρ(0.8)δ(0.4), MSE_SFA is notably high at 0.9245, underscoring the limitations of the uncorrected SFA model.

The introduction of PCA correction (MSE_PCA_SFA) consistently leads to improved performance, particularly in scenarios with higher levels of multicollinearity. Notably, in the scenario n1000ρ(0.8)δ(0.6), MSE_PCA_SFA drops significantly to 0.2003, demonstrating the effectiveness of PCA in reducing multicollinearity-related errors and enhancing parameter estimation. MAE and BIAS results also support this finding, showing parallel improvements in accuracy.

The application of weighted least squares (WLS) correction (MSE_WLS_SFA) proves effective in reducing heteroscedasticity-related errors, with consistently lower MSE_WLS_SFA values compared to the classical SFA model. For instance, in the scenario n1000ρ(0.8)δ(0.8), MSE_WLS_SFA drops to 0.0012, indicating successful correction of heteroscedasticity. Similar trends are observed in the MAE and BIAS results, which reflect the effectiveness of WLS in improving estimation accuracy.

The joint correction model (MSE_WPCA-SFA), which combines weighted PCA and WLS, consistently outperforms other models across various scenarios. This model addresses both multicollinearity and heteroscedasticity simultaneously, resulting in superior accuracy in parameter estimation. In the scenario n1000ρ(0.8)δ(0.9), MSE_WPCA-SFA reaches 0.0062, highlighting substantial improvements over individual correction methods. MAE and BIAS further reinforce the efficacy of the WPCA-SFA model, demonstrating its ability to provide the most accurate estimations under challenging conditions.

4 Conclusion

In conclusion, our investigation into the impact of heteroscedasticity and multicollinearity on the efficiency of fitting the Stochastic Frontier Analysis (SFA) model has provided insightful findings. The extensive simulation study presented in Section 2 has shed light on the performance of various correction methodologies under different conditions, revealing the challenges posed by unaddressed heteroscedasticity and multicollinearity in classical SFA models.

The Weighted Principal Component Analysis Estimation for Stochastic Frontier Analysis (WPCA-SFA) consistently emerged as a robust correction technique, demonstrating its efficacy in mitigating the adverse effects of both multicollinearity and heteroscedasticity simultaneously. This indicates its superior ability to provide accurate estimations in challenging empirical conditions, as showcased through the Mean Square Error (MSE) metrics across different scenarios.

Our study corroborates the significance of considering both correction factors simultaneously, as neglecting either heteroscedasticity or multicollinearity can lead to suboptimal parameter estimation and biased results. The findings underscore the importance of utilizing advanced correction methodologies, such as WPCA-SFA, to enhance the accuracy and reliability of empirical predictions in the realm of stochastic frontier analysis.

Disclaimer (Artificial intelligence)

Author(s) hereby declare that NO generative AI technologies such as Large Language Models (ChatGPT, COPILOT, etc) and text-to-image generators have been used during writing or editing of manuscripts.

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Competing Interests

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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