

Asymptotic Convergence Properties of Autoregressive Moving Average (Arma) Model Estimators

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ABSTRACTS

This study investigates the empirical convergence thresholds of the Gaussian Estimation Procedure (GEP), Generalised Least Squares (GLS), and Exact Maximum Likelihood (EML) for ARMA processes. While large-sample asymptotic equivalence is theoretically established, the specific data requirements for numerical reconciliation in higher-order models remain under-researched. Using a generalised Fibonacci-based sampling recurrence ($T_i = T_{i-1} + T_{i-2}$) to determine the non-linear sample interval from $T = 75$ to 850, estimator stability across six distinct data-generating processes was evaluated. The findings demonstrated a ‘complexity-dependent convergence’: while lower-order processes achieved numerical reconciliation at $T = 75$, higher-order ARMA (2,2) specifications require $T \geq 525$ to achieve harmonization. These results identify a critical transition zone where estimator choice become neural, providing a structural blueprint for selection based on modal dimensionality and available sample size.

Keywords: ARMA Models, Likelihood, Asymptotic Theory, Stationarity, Score, Approximation

INTRODUCTION

Several existing procedures exhibit distinctive asymptotic properties while estimating the parameters of time series models. This study examines the comparative asymptotic convergence properties of alternative estimation procedures for estimating the parameters of an Autoregressive Moving Average (ARMA) process.

$$\phi_0 x_t - \phi_1 x_{t-1} - \dots - \phi_p x_{t-p} = \theta_0 \varepsilon_t + \theta_1 \varepsilon_{t-1} + \dots + \theta_q \varepsilon_{t-q}, \quad [1.1]$$

Where $\phi_0 = \theta_0 = 1$, and ε_t is a white noise process, typically assumed to be independent and identically distributed (i.i.d.) with mean zero and variance δ^2 . If the backshift operator B , is considered $B^k x_t$ denotes the random variable $\{x_t\}$ at lag k , such that, $B^k x_t = x_{t-k}$, then [1.1] can compactly be written as:

$$\Phi(B)x_t = \Theta(B)\varepsilon_t \quad [1.2]$$

The asymptotic properties of the parameter estimators of [1,1] are intimately tied to the concepts of stationarity and invertibility in time series analysis. A process is strictly stationary if the joint distribution of (X_{t1}, \dots, X_{tk}) is identical to that of $(X_{t1+h}, \dots, X_{tk+h})$ for all h . In the context of linear ARMA models, however, weak stationarity (or covariance stationarity) is usually sufficient, requiring that the first two moments are time-invariant. This condition is met iff all roots of the characteristic equation $\Phi(z) = 0$, lie outside the unit circle in the complex plane. Where:

$$\Phi(z) = 1 - \phi_1 z - \dots - \phi_p z^p, \quad [1.3]$$

and

$$\Theta(z) = 1 + \theta_1 z + \theta_q z^q. \quad [1.4]$$

Conversely, invertibility requires that the innovations, ε_t admit a convergent linear combination of current and past observations of $\{x_t\}$, which requires that all roots of the moving average polynomial $\Theta(z) = 0$, lie outside the unit circle. An ARMA process is stable if the AR polynomial satisfies $\phi(z) \neq 0$ for all $|z| \leq 1$; equivalently, in state-space (companion) form, stability holds if all eigenvalues of the companion matrix lie strictly inside the unit circle, i.e., formally, if ϕ is the companion matrix, $\rho(\phi) = \max|\lambda_i(\phi)| < 1$.

Generally, patterns in a random set of data can be modelled to draw inferences about the process or population being observed. The science that deals with the collection and interpretation of these patterns is popularized in time series. As conceptualised in the recent literature on stochastic processes (Montgomery et al., 2024), a time series is not merely a data sequence but a realisation of a generating mechanism where temporary dependency dictates the information value of each successive observation. In a discrete-time series, these observations are recorded at a specified time interval, where $t = 1, 2, \dots$, the continuous-time series, on the other hand, observations are recorded continuously over some time interval, e.g., $t_0 = [0, 1]$.

The analysis of random variables, $\{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$ as outlined in (Kitagawa, 2020), is captured in the selection of a suitable probability model for the data. A complete probabilistic time series model for the sequential x_t would specify all the joint distributions of the random vector (X_{t1}, \dots, X_{tk}) , $k = 1, 2, \dots, \infty$ or equivalently, all the probabilities $p[X_1 \leq x_1, \dots, X_n \leq x_n]$.

Exact Maximum Likelihood (EML) has long been the gold standard for ARMA estimation (Wei, 2006). Recent studies by Shumway, Robert H., and Stoffer (2025) have highlighted its computational limitations in high-dimensional settings. Consequently, there has been a resurgence in investigating Generalised Estimation Procedure (GEP), as seen in the work of (Athanasopoulos et al., 2024). An ARMA (p, q) process is a sequence of random variables $\{x_t\}$, capturing the present and future dynamics.

Several existing procedures exhibit distinctive asymptotic properties; recent comparative studies have focused primarily on large-scale datasets, often overlooking the nuanced transition from small to moderate sample sizes Chen & Yao, (2024). The focus of this research is to bridge this gap by examining the comparative asymptotic convergence properties of GEP, GLS, and EML estimators specifically within the Fibonacci sequential framework. By identifying the precise thresholds where these estimators achieve numerical reconciliation, particularly in higher-order ARMA (2, 2) specifications, this study establishes a structural blueprint for estimator selection in environments characterised by varying data availability.

The use of finitely parameterized models to characterize the behaviours of time series data assumed to be generated by a stochastic process has received a wide coverage in both statistical and engineering literature (Salau, 2000). An important class of such stochastic models is the autoregressive moving average (ARMA) models. One reason for the great empirical importance of ARMA models is that every regular stationary process can be approximated with arbitrary accuracy by an ARMA process, and that only a finite number of (real-valued) parameters is needed to describe (up to second moment) an ARMA process.

Arma Representation

In modelling applications, such as forecasting and control, it is commonplace to represent such a process using a stationary and invertible autoregressive moving average (ARMA) model of the form:

$$\sum_{j=0}^p \Theta_j x_{t-j} = \sum_{j=0}^q \Phi_j \varepsilon_{t-j} \quad [1.5]$$

Where ε_t is an unobservable stochastic disturbance, assumed to be white noise or more generally, a sequence of stationary martingale differences, so that, almost surely

$$\mathbb{E}\{\varepsilon_t / F_{t-1}\} = 0, \mathbb{E}\{\varepsilon_t^2 / F_{t-1}\} = \delta^2, \delta > 0 \quad [1.6]$$

And symbol \mathbb{E} is the expectation operator. Here, F_t is the σ -algebra of events determined by the $\{\varepsilon_s\}$, $s < t$ and δ^2 is the prediction variance. The condition in [1.6] provides a natural relaxation of the model assumption that the innovation sequence, $\{\varepsilon_s\}$, are serially independent. For a complete exposition of these moment assumptions, see, for example, (Box et. al., 1994), (Tsay, 2019). The essential feature of [1.6] in our

context is that the classical theory still goes through, even though the innovation sequence, $\{\varepsilon_s\}$, is no longer serially independent and identically distributed. Thus, [1.6] is a natural condition with which the linear model [2.4] has little meaning.

These later assumptions ensure that x_t is realized from a stationary and invertible ARMA (p,q) process. Thus, [1.5] can be represented as an infinite autoregression.

$$\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \varphi_j x_t = \varepsilon_t, \varphi_0 = 1 \quad [1.7]$$

Where the generating polynomial $\varphi(z) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \varphi_j z^j \neq 0, |z| \leq 1, \varphi(z) = \Theta(z)^{-1} \Phi(z)$ and that $\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} |\varphi_j| < \infty$ since φ_j decreases to zero at a geometric rate. The significance of [2.5] in the analysis of linear time series has been thoroughly discussed in the literature, see for example, (Koreisha & Pukkila, 1990). The assumption $\mathbb{E}\{\varepsilon_t\} = 0$ means that in practice, the data will need to be mean-corrected; however, since that adjustment will not affect the asymptotic results we shall obtain later, it is ignored for simplicity. The integers, p, q (or other integers introduced to replace them), will be called the order of the system. The coefficients, $\Phi_j, j = 1, 2, \dots, p; \Theta_j, j = 1, 2, \dots, q$, specifying model [2.4] will be, called system parameters.

Interpreting B as a unit backshift operator, that is $Bx_t = x_{t-1}$ and $B\varepsilon_t = \varepsilon_{t-1}$, [2.4] can be succinctly rewritten in the form of [1.2], where $\Phi(B) = \sum_{j=0}^p \phi_j B^j$ and $\Theta(B) = \sum_{j=0}^q \theta_j B^j, \phi_j = \theta_j = 1$. The generating polynomial (or z-transforms), that is, $\Phi(z) = \sum_{j=0}^p \phi_j z^j$ and $\Theta(z) = \sum_{j=0}^q \theta_j z^j$ defined in the convention of Box, Jenkins & Reinsel (1994), are assumed to be relatively prime and also satisfy:

$$\Phi(z) \neq 0, \Theta(z) \neq 0, |z| \leq 1 \quad [1.8]$$

LITERATURE REVIEW

The estimation of Autoregressive Moving Average (ARMA) models is grounded in classical asymptotic theory. Foundational results by Whittle, (1953) and Walker, (1964) established that, under regularity conditions, likelihood-based and Least Squares type estimators are consistent and asymptotically normal, and converge to the same probability limit. This asymptotic equivalence underpins the conventional preference for Exact Maximum Likelihood (EML), which fully exploits the innovation covariance structure (See William W. S. Wei 2006).

However, asymptotic equivalence does not imply finite-sample equivalence. In moderate samples, particularly in higher-order ARMA specifications, the curvature of the likelihood surface may exhibit multinormality or near-flat regions, especially when parameters approach the boundary of invertibility or stationarity regions. As discussed in Time Series and Its Applications, numerical evaluation of the likelihood function becomes increasingly sensitive to nonlinear root configurations.

This distinction between asymptotic theory and finite-sample realization is critical. While asymptotic efficiency rankings are well established, the rate at which estimators reconcile numerically as sample size increases remains less precisely characterized. In practice, forecasters operate in finite samples, and the transition from estimator divergence to effective equivalence may be nonlinear and model-dependent.

Monte Carlo investigation of ARMA estimation traditionally evaluates performance at a small set of discrete sample sizes. Early simulation studies, such as Ansley & Newbold, (1980) and Burnside, (1994), provide important comparative insights, yet their experimental designs typically contrast widely spaced values of T . Such binary or coarse benchmarking implicitly assumes smooth convergence toward asymptotic equivalence.

For higher-order models such as ARMA (2, 2), this assumption may be restrictive. The parameter-to-sample bias analytical treatments of finite-sample properties (e.g., M. O. Salau 2001; Zinde-walsh, (1994) indicate that estimator dispersion may decay at a rate slower than asymptotic approximations suggest, particularly when roots lie close to the unit circle.

METHODOLOGY

This section presents some procedures for estimating the parameters of the postulated ARMA model. For our exposition, the integers (order) p and q in [2.1] are assumed known, and after observing $x_t, t = 1, 2, \dots, T$, the system parameters, Φ_j , and δ^2 are to be estimated. Thus, this section is devoted to the straightforward part of the modelling procedure, namely, the estimations, for fixed values p and q of the parameters $\Phi = (\phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_p)$; $\theta = (\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_q)$ are white noise variance δ^2 . It will be assumed throughout that the data have been adjusted for the means. A variety of estimation procedures have been suggested in the literature (Wei, 2006). For ease of presentation, we have organized our discussion in this section into three subsections: the Gaussian Estimation procedure, the Generalised Least Squares method, and the Exact Maximum Likelihood technique. First, we introduce some notations, employing the conventions adopted in Salau (1998), we set for any integer $\xi_r(B)' = (B^1, B^2, \dots, B^r)$ are the symbol \otimes has been used (Kronecker) matrix product. To fix ideas, we introduce α as a general parameter vector, so that:

$$\alpha = (\phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_p; \theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_q). \quad [3.1]$$

Gaussian Estimation Procedure

In ARMA theory, the Gaussian Estimation Procedure refers to conditional Gaussian Likelihood, where initial observations are conditional upon. In R, the procedure is implemented as conditional Sum of Squares (CSS) or CSS-ML.

Under the standard assumption that the innovations ε_t of an ARMA process, are independently distributed as Gaussian random variables with mean zero and variance δ^2 , the probability density function of each innovation is given by

$$g(\varepsilon_t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\delta^2}} \exp\left\{-\frac{(\varepsilon_t^2)^2}{2\delta^2}\right\}, -\infty < x < \infty \quad [3.2]$$

This assumption provides a natural justification for least squares and likelihood-based estimation procedures, since minimizing the sum of squared residuals is equivalent to maximizing the Gaussian likelihood. Hardin & Hilbe (2021) has very reliable discussion on GEP.

Generalised Least Squares Method

In the standard linear model, estimating the parameters of an ARMA process may be approached via least squares or likelihood-based procedures under the assumption of Gaussian innovations. Let the linear model be given as:

$$y = X\beta + \varepsilon, \varepsilon \sim N_n(0, \delta^2 I_n), \quad [3.3]$$

For which the ordinary least squares estimation procedure is obtainable

$$\beta = (X'X)^{-1}X'Y. \quad [3.4]$$

More generally, when the distribution vector satisfies $\varepsilon \sim N_n(0, \Sigma)$, with a symmetric positive definite covariance matrix Σ , the Generalised Least Squares estimator provides an efficient gain by accounting for the covariance structure included by serial dependence.

In-depth discussion on this subject can be seen in the approaches of (Hamilton, 1994), (Koutsoyiannis, 2009), (Greene, 2024), among others.

Exact Maximum Likelihood Technique

The Exact Maximum Likelihood estimation of ARMA models is derived by constructing the joint density of the conditional innovations on initial observations. Under the assumption of Gaussian and independent innovations, the conditional likelihood for observations $t = k + 1, \dots, T$. is given as:

$$f(\varepsilon_{k+1}, \dots, \varepsilon_T) = \left(\frac{1}{2\pi\delta_\varepsilon^2}\right)^{(T-k)/2} \text{Exp}\left(-\frac{1}{2\delta_\varepsilon^2}(\sum_{t=k+1}^T \varepsilon_t^2)\right) \quad [3.5]$$

Maximization of this likelihood yields the exact maximum likelihood estimators of the ARMA parameters, see (Olajide et al., 2012), (Box et al., 2015), and (Shumway & Stoffer, 2025).

Stability Consideration in Arma

To introduce the notion of invertibility (stability), consider the MA (1) process,

$$y_t = \varepsilon_t + \theta\varepsilon_{t-1} \quad [3.6]$$

The only non-zero autocorrelation associated with this process is

$$\rho_1 = \frac{\theta}{(1+\theta^2)}. \quad [3.7]$$

Suppose that θ is replaced with θ^{-1} , then [3.4] becomes

$$\rho_1 = \frac{\theta^{-1}}{(1+\theta^{-2})}. \quad [3.8]$$

Defining [3.3] in terms of the back shift operator, B ,

$$y_t = (1 + \theta B)\varepsilon_t \quad [3.9]$$

By inverting [3.6], we have:

$$\varepsilon_t = (1 + \theta B)^{-1}y_t \quad [3.10]$$

Expressing ε_t as a linear filter of y_t and taking a formal power series expansion of the term, $(1 + \theta B)^{-1}$, gives :

$$\varepsilon_t = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \theta^j y_{t-j} \quad [3.11]$$

The easiest way to obtain the autocorrelation function in a specific class is to express y_t as a general linear process.

$$y_t = \{\phi(B)\}^{-1}\theta(B)\varepsilon_t \quad [3.12]$$

$$y_t = \left(\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} a_j\theta_j\right)\varepsilon_t \quad [3.13]$$

The coefficient a_j being determined by a formal power series expansion of $\{\phi(B)\}^{-1}$.

Thus if ε_t is thought of as being determined by the present and the past y_t , it is noticeable that the remote past has a vanishingly small influence if and only if $-1 < \theta < 1$.

In a similar discussion to (Salau, 2000), a simple adaptation of the technique in spectral analysis can be used to derive the second-order properties of an ARMA process y_t defined equivalently by [2.4] or [1.2]. It can immediately be deduced from [3.8] that the spectrum, $f(\omega)$, must satisfy:

$$|\phi(e^{i\omega})|^2 f(\omega) = \frac{\delta^2}{2\pi} |\theta(e^{i\omega})|^2 \quad [3.14]$$

Thus,

$$f(\omega) = \frac{\delta^2}{2\pi} |\theta(e^{i\omega})|^2 |\phi(e^{i\omega})|^{-2} \quad [3.15]$$

$$f(\omega) = \frac{\delta^2}{2\pi} \left[\left\{ 1 + \sum_{i=1}^p \theta_i \cos(i\omega) \right\}^2 + \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^p \theta_i \sin(i\omega) \right\}^2 \right] X \left[\left\{ 1 - \sum_{j=1}^q \phi_j \cos(j\omega) \right\}^2 + \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^q \phi_j \sin(j\omega) \right\}^2 \right]^{-1} \quad [3.16]$$

Assuming that y_t is stationary, the form of $f(\omega)$ suggests that the values of ϕ_j are critical in determining stationarity, and this is indeed the case. The precise condition is the same as for the autoregressive process $\phi(B)y_t = \varepsilon_t$, that all roots of $\phi(z) = 0$ must be greater than 1 in absolute value. More specifically, from [4.10], the stationarity condition follows from the requirement that $|\phi(e^{i\omega})|^2$ be bounded away from zero for all $\omega \in [-\pi, \pi]$, which equivalently satisfies that all roots of $\phi(z) = 0$ lying outside the unit circle.

Theorem I:

Let $f(\omega) = \frac{\delta^2}{2\pi} |k_0(e^{i\omega})|^2$ be the true spectral density of y_t and, $k_0(z) = \alpha_0 z^{-1} \beta_0(z)$ under the stationarity and invertibility conditions, $k_0(z)^{-1} y_t = \sum_{j \geq 0} \phi_{0,j} y_{t-1}$. Then there exists an integer N and a constant k dependent on $f(\omega)$ such that $h \geq N(T) = \frac{\log T}{-2 \log \rho_0}$, and the truncated autoregressive estimator satisfies: $\sum_{k=1}^h |\hat{\phi}_{h,k} - \phi_{0k}| = o\left(T^{-\frac{1}{2}}\right)$, where ρ_0 is the modulus of the zeros of $\beta_0(z)$ nearest $|z| = 1$.

Proof:

By Baxter's inequality (Baxter, 1962), $\sum_{k=1}^h |\phi_{h,k} - \phi_{0,k}| \leq \sum_{k \geq h+1} |\phi_{0,k}| \quad [3.17]$

Obtaining the bound for the term on the RHS of [4.12], and by the invertibility property of the stationary ARMA process, ρ_0 satisfies the inequality $0 < \rho_0^{-1} < 1$. The roots of the power series expansion of $\alpha_0(z)^{-1}$ shows that $|\phi_{0,j}|$ decreases geometrically at a rate determined by ρ_0 . That is $|\phi_{0,j}| \leq k \rho_0^j$. For large T however, $h \geq N(T)$. We may now write that:

$$\rho_0^h = \exp(h \log \rho_0) \quad [3.18]$$

$$\rho_0^h = \exp \left\{ \frac{\log T}{-2 \log \rho_0} X \log \rho_0 \right\} \quad [3.19]$$

$$\rho_0^h = T^{-\frac{1}{2}} \quad [3.20]$$

Hence, it is concluded that [4.12] above is bounded by $kT^{-\frac{1}{2}}$.

Model Selection

Correct specification of the ARMA (p, q) order is a prerequisite for meaningful estimator comparison. Following the iterative model identification procedure described in (Box et al., 2015), and recent developments in automated order selection (Lin et al., 2024), the determination of p and q precedes parameter estimation.

Underfitting induces asymptotic misspecification bias, as estimators converge to pseudo-true values that fail to represent the full dynamic structure. Overfitting, by contrast, increases estimators variance and may introduce near-cancellation between autoregression and moving average roots, compromising numerical stability through weak identification.

Information criteria, such as the Akaike Information Criterion (AIC) and Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC) provide a likelihood-based selection rule.

$$AIC = -2\ell(\hat{\Theta}) + 2k \quad [3.21]$$

$$BIC = -2\ell(\hat{\Theta}) + k\ln(n) \quad [3.22]$$

Where $k = p + q$. The asymptotic properties of these criteria diverge significantly. The BIC is a consistent selector when the true model is contained within the candidate set (the probability of selection approaches 1 as $n \rightarrow \infty$), whereas AIC is asymptotically efficient for prediction but not consistent, whether the maintained specification reflects the true data-generating process.

Sampling Framework

To trace estimator reconciliation across increasing sample sizes, this study employs a Fibonacci-type sequential sampling selection defined recursively by:

$$T_i = T_{i-1} + T_{i-2} \quad [3.23]$$

This nonlinear expression produces dense convergence in smaller samples, where bias and curvature effects are strongest, while gradually widening intervals as convergence stabilizes. Such adaptive spacing enables more precise identification of the transition region between finite-sample divergence and effective asymptotic equivalence.

Recent discussions in stochastic process and time series estimation literature (e.g., Franq & Zakoian, 2024; Zhang and Ling, 2024; Shumway & Stoffer, 2025) emphasized the importance of examining convergence behaviour beyond fixed sample benchmarks. The present design operationalizes this principle within a structural framework.

Law of Large Numbers

The most fundamental requirement for an estimator, as discussed in (Hamilton, 1994), is the property that the estimator converges to the true parameter value as more data are collected (consistency). Specifically, for a stationary and ergodic ARMA process $\{x_t\}$ with mean μ .

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T x_t = \mu \text{ a.s.} \quad [3.24]$$

The consistency of an estimator is typically established using the concept of uniform convergence. See more on uniform convergence in (Sanchez, 2010).

The normalized log-likelihood $T^{-1}\ell(\theta)$ converges uniformly in probability to a non-stochastic function $L(\theta)$. For ARMA models, the compactness of the parameter space Θ is usually satisfied by restricting the roots of $\phi(z)$ and $\theta(z)$ to lie in a closed set outside the unit circle, ensuring stationarity and invertibility.

Equivalence of Estimators

Theorem II

Let $\{x_t\}$ be a causal and invertible ARMA (p, q) process with true parameter vector

$$\alpha = (\phi_1, \dots, \phi_p, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_q)', \quad [3.25]$$

where the autoregressive and moving-average polynomials $\phi(z)$ and $\theta(z)$ have no common zeros, and $\{\varepsilon_t\} \sim iid(0, \delta^2)$. Supposed that $\hat{\alpha}$ is a preliminary estimator of $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{p+q})'$ such that $\sqrt{T}\|\hat{\alpha} - \alpha\| = o_p(1)$, and that $\hat{\alpha}$ is the estimator constructed from α_0 as outlined in the estimation procedures of Section Three earlier.

If $\hat{\alpha}_{GEP}$, $\hat{\alpha}_{GLS}$, and $\hat{\alpha}_{EML}$ denote the estimators obtainable via the Gaussian Estimation Procedure, Generalized Least Squares, and Exact Maximum Likelihood, respectively, then

- i. $T^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\hat{\phi}_{GEP} - \hat{\phi}_{GLS}\| = o_p(1) \text{ a. s.}$
- ii. $T^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\hat{\phi}_{GLS} - \hat{\phi}_{EML}\| = o_p(1) \text{ a. s.}$ [3.26]
- iii. $T^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\hat{\phi}_{EML} - \hat{\phi}_{GEP}\| = o_p(1) \text{ a. s.}$

Here $\|\cdot\|$ denotes the Euclidean norm. Since all norms on a finite-dimensional space are equivalent, the choice of norm does not affect the asymptotic order.

Proof:

Each of the estimators $\hat{\alpha}_{GEP}$, $\hat{\alpha}_{GLS}$, and $\hat{\alpha}_{EML}$ may be expressed as a solution to estimating equations of the form

$$S_T(\alpha) = 0 \tag{3.27}$$

Where $S_T(\alpha)$ denotes the corresponding score or normal equations.

By construction, these estimating equations coincide up to terms of order $o_p\left(T^{-\frac{1}{2}}\right)$ when evaluated in a $T^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ -neighbourhood of the true parameter α . Expanding each estimator around the preliminary estimator $\hat{\alpha}$ using a first-order Taylor expansion yields

$$\sqrt{T}\|\hat{\alpha} - \alpha\| = \left[\frac{1}{T} \frac{\partial S_T(\alpha)}{\partial \alpha'}\right]^{-1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{T}} S_T(\alpha) + o_p(1) \tag{3.28}$$

Under the assumed regularity conditions (i.e., causality, invertibility, finite fourth moment and non-singularity of information matrix), the leading terms of the expressions are identical for GEP, GLS, and EML. Consequently, their pairwise differences satisfy:

$$\sqrt{T}\|\hat{\alpha}_i - \hat{\alpha}_j\| = o_p(1). \tag{3.29}$$

$i, j \in \{GEP, GLS, EML\}$, which establishes asymptotic equivalence.

Numerical Application

The procedure for various estimation procedures for the investigation is applied to the simulated data points. For each of these processes, the sample size T was determined via the Fibonacci sequence, $T_i = T_{i-1} + T_{i-2}, \forall i \geq 3$, the range of $T_i = 75, 125, \dots, 850$. Replication for each T is given by the relation $R = \frac{10,000}{T}$ for the integer part of the relation.

; As a measure of convergence, the average squared differences between GEP and GLS, GLS and EML, and GEP and EML were captured by:

$$C_R = \frac{1}{R} \sum_{r=1}^R \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^{h_T} (\hat{\alpha}_{js}^r - \hat{\alpha}_{j\lambda}^r)^2 \right\}, R = p + q \tag{4.1}$$

And is compared with the criterion measure $C_T = T^{-1}$, where, for convenience, we have used s and λ to denote the pair of estimates used in the evaluation of C_R while $\hat{\alpha}_{(j)}^r, j = 1, \dots, h_T$, as before, denotes the parameter estimates at the r th replication.

Data-Generating Process

The data-generating process used in the simulation study is presented in **Error! Reference source not found.**

Table 1: Data Structure

| Process | Structure | Parameter Value |
|---------|-------------|---------------------|
| P1 | ARMA (1, 0) | (0.7; 0.0) |
| P2 | ARMA (0, 1) | (0.0; 0.4) |
| P3 | ARMA (1,1) | (0.7; 0.4) |
| P4 | ARMA (2,1) | (0.5, 0.2; 0.4) |
| P5 | ARMA (1,2) | (0.7; 0.3, 0.1) |
| P6 | ARMA (2,2) | (0.5, 0.2; 0.3,0.1) |

Table 2: Estimated Parameter Values and Sample Sizes

| | Process | Parameter | True Value | Estimator | T=75(Mean) | T=125(Mean) | T=200(Mean) | T=325(Mean) | T=525(Mean) | T=850(Mean) |
|----|-------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 | $P_1(1, 0)$ | ϕ_1 | 0.7 | GEP | 0.66117944 | 0.676854126 | 0.67973859 | 0.6884713 | 0.6955236 | 0.6972699 |
| 2 | | | | GLS | 0.6854949 | 0.69131673 | 0.6886923 | 0.69327329 | 0.6994132 | 0.6990736 |
| 3 | | | | EML | 0.66253758 | 0.67763406 | 0.6801831 | 0.68805141 | 0.6961638 | 0.69707419 |
| 4 | $P_2(0, 1)$ | θ_1 | 0.4 | GEP | 0.41646304 | 0.405868294 | 0.39195877 | 0.4005283 | 0.4022999 | 0.3966196 |
| 5 | | | | GLS | 0.4299250 | 0.41097835 | 0.3955579 | 0.40263239 | 0.4035263 | 0.3973998 |
| 6 | | | | EML | 0.42044837 | 0.40604285 | 0.3924096 | 0.40072115 | 0.4023788 | 0.39668798 |
| 7 | $P_3(1, 1)$ | ϕ_1 | 0.7 | GEP | 0.65555884 | 0.672510009 | 0.68838887 | 0.6976498 | 0.6904089 | 0.6947891 |
| 8 | | | | GLS | 0.6778366 | 0.68728898 | 0.6977506 | 0.70272793 | 0.6937755 | 0.6970958 |
| 9 | | | | EML | 0.65085997 | 0.67112715 | 0.6877177 | 0.69660846 | 0.6900087 | 0.69476456 |
| 10 | | θ_1 | 0.4 | GEP | 0.42870028 | 0.412090866 | 0.3982597 | 0.3994185 | 0.4088747 | 0.4026696 |
| 11 | | | | GLS | 0.4258462 | 0.40883597 | 0.3958234 | 0.39798633 | 0.4086827 | 0.4018921 |
| 12 | | | | EML | 0.43581313 | 0.41481648 | 0.3994608 | 0.4001733 | 0.4099883 | 0.40272220 |
| 13 | $P_4(2, 1)$ | ϕ_1 | 0.5 | GEP | 0.74729542 | 0.698346975 | 0.60270501 | 0.5830821 | 0.5800875 | 0.5607545 |
| 14 | | | | GLS | 0.6196919 | 0.6257646 | 0.5579713 | 0.52206532 | 0.5218179 | 0.5303176 |
| 15 | | | | EML | 0.60268130 | 0.59386990 | 0.5185011 | 0.52503356 | 0.5116059 | 0.53424541 |
| 16 | | ϕ_2 | 0.2 | GEP | -0.0608097 | 0.005661657 | 0.09550125 | 0.1154162 | 0.1298494 | 0.1496292 |
| 17 | | | | GLS | 0.0682709 | 0.07761254 | 0.1428440 | 0.16994660 | 0.1800150 | 0.1773297 |
| 18 | | | | EML | 0.05731817 | 0.08893925 | 0.1643769 | 0.16104726 | 0.1843502 | 0.17161058 |
| 19 | | θ_1 | 0.4 | GEP | 0.15279453 | 0.182474081 | 0.29494190 | 0.3126248 | 0.3114914 | 0.3414853 |
| 20 | | | | GLS | 0.3021933 | 0.27480916 | 0.3454526 | 0.37795349 | 0.3718250 | 0.3719911 |
| 21 | | | | EML | 0.29957737 | 0.29616436 | 0.3788311 | 0.37155445 | 0.3793551 | 0.36674232 |
| 22 | $P_5(1, 2)$ | ϕ_1 | 0.7 | GEP | 0.64209803 | 0.663612821 | 0.66949443 | 0.6887492 | 0.6822076 | 0.6949135 |
| 23 | | | | GLS | 0.6925140 | 0.68811499 | 0.6832942 | 0.69550947 | 0.6863627 | 0.6978062 |
| 24 | | | | EML | 0.63586773 | 0.65627115 | 0.6677945 | 0.68712898 | 0.6811649 | 0.69461578 |
| 25 | | θ_1 | 0.3 | GEP | 0.33374164 | 0.324440565 | 0.32626738 | 0.3138208 | 0.3201734 | 0.3007742 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-------------|------------|-----|-----|------------|-------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| 26 | | | | GLS | 0.1292696 | 0.12299916 | 0.1279157 | 0.11972310 | 0.1207768 | 0.1067530 |
| 27 | | | | EML | 0.33863283 | 0.33260504 | 0.3282570 | 0.31479910 | 0.3212135 | 0.30141462 |
| 28 | | θ_2 | 0.1 | GEP | 0.13942311 | 0.110499635 | 0.11607845 | 0.1097090 | 0.1116613 | 0.1006137 |
| 29 | | | | GLS | 0.4437183 | 0.48081055 | 0.4582843 | 0.43088931 | 0.4347899 | 0.4006575 |
| 30 | | | | EML | 0.14393842 | 0.11573372 | 0.1176162 | 0.11068653 | 0.1124858 | 0.10109678 |
| 31 | $P_6(2, 2)$ | ϕ_1 | 0.5 | GEP | 0.49919022 | 0.553030094 | 0.60742611 | 0.5883734 | 0.6044689 | 0.5754640 |
| 32 | | | | GLS | 0.4564667 | 0.58491049 | 0.4726875 | 0.49454986 | 0.4823419 | 0.5400178 |
| 33 | | | | EML | 0.38451568 | 0.45953029 | 0.3591297 | 0.40020291 | 0.4468448 | 0.46238272 |
| 34 | | ϕ_2 | 0.2 | GEP | 0.08642173 | 0.114701816 | 0.09719208 | 0.1188177 | 0.1127602 | 0.1339194 |
| 35 | | | | GLS | 0.1719496 | 0.11220136 | 0.2124507 | 0.19773765 | 0.2161714 | 0.1636760 |
| 36 | | | | EML | 0.18640371 | 0.19629044 | 0.2921534 | 0.26858634 | 0.2408711 | 0.22552130 |
| 38 | | θ_1 | 0.3 | GEP | 0.27921655 | 0.235098686 | 0.18571668 | 0.2101895 | 0.1876904 | 0.2198918 |
| 39 | | | | GLS | 0.3271343 | 0.20466686 | 0.3244308 | 0.30773466 | 0.3121061 | 0.2561541 |
| 40 | | | | EML | 0.38603628 | 0.32275311 | 0.4341254 | 0.39867916 | 0.3453440 | 0.33223466 |
| 41 | | θ_2 | 0.1 | GEP | 0.18842684 | 0.139641002 | 0.11858267 | 0.1000197 | 0.1022251 | 0.1034287 |
| 42 | | | | GLS | 0.1640100 | 0.14500102 | 0.1174242 | 0.09987044 | 0.1005205 | 0.1029733 |
| 43 | | | | EML | 0.17013016 | 0.14333271 | 0.1084024 | 0.09977264 | 0.1000577 | 0.09989274 |

Table 3: Bias and MSE for Each Estimation Procedure

| T | Process | Bias_GEP | Bias_GLS | Bias_EML | MSE_GEP | MSE_GLS | MSE_EML |
|-----|---------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| 75 | P1 | -0.0488 | -0.0232 | -0.0461 | 0.00239 | 0.000540 | 0.00212 |
| 125 | P1 | -0.0118 | 0.00170 | -0.0120 | 0.000139 | 0.00000291 | 0.000144 |
| 200 | P1 | -0.0124 | -0.00368 | -0.0122 | 0.000154 | 0.0000135 | 0.000149 |
| 325 | P1 | -0.0155 | -0.00942 | -0.0146 | 0.000242 | 0.0000888 | 0.000215 |
| 525 | P1 | -0.00667 | -0.00340 | -0.00664 | 0.0000444 | 0.0000116 | 0.0000441 |
| 850 | P1 | 0.000246 | 0.00217 | 0.000169 | 0.0000000607 | 0.00000472 | 0.000000286 |
| 75 | P2 | 0.00352 | 0.0114 | 0.00282 | 0.0000124 | 0.000131 | 0.00000795 |
| 125 | P2 | -0.00837 | -0.00299 | -0.00805 | 0.0000700 | 0.00000897 | 0.0000647 |
| 200 | P2 | 0.00143 | 0.00505 | 0.00204 | 0.00000204 | 0.0000255 | 0.00000415 |
| 325 | P2 | 0.00272 | 0.00485 | 0.00295 | 0.00000738 | 0.0000235 | 0.00000870 |
| 525 | P2 | -0.00531 | -0.00411 | -0.00529 | 0.0000282 | 0.0000169 | 0.0000280 |
| 850 | P2 | 0.00230 | 0.00312 | 0.00240 | 0.00000528 | 0.00000972 | 0.00000576 |
| 75 | P3 | -0.0539 | -0.0296 | -0.0568 | 0.00290 | 0.000877 | 0.00323 |
| 125 | P3 | -0.0400 | -0.0257 | -0.0417 | 0.00160 | 0.000659 | 0.00174 |
| 200 | P3 | -0.0220 | -0.0135 | -0.0235 | 0.000485 | 0.000182 | 0.000553 |
| 325 | P3 | -0.00526 | 0.000549 | -0.00560 | 0.0000277 | 0.000000302 | 0.0000313 |
| 525 | P3 | 0.00356 | 0.00681 | 0.00304 | 0.0000127 | 0.0000464 | 0.00000921 |
| 850 | P3 | -0.00788 | -0.00604 | -0.00837 | 0.0000621 | 0.0000365 | 0.0000700 |
| 75 | P4 | 0.153 | 0.108 | 0.115 | 0.0235 | 0.0118 | 0.0131 |
| 125 | P4 | 0.166 | 0.0346 | 0.0148 | 0.0274 | 0.00119 | 0.000219 |
| 200 | P4 | 0.153 | 0.0971 | 0.0853 | 0.0235 | 0.00943 | 0.00728 |
| 325 | P4 | 0.144 | 0.0967 | 0.0941 | 0.0209 | 0.00935 | 0.00886 |
| 525 | P4 | 0.0736 | 0.00888 | 0.0113 | 0.00542 | 0.0000788 | 0.000128 |
| 850 | P4 | 0.0830 | 0.0447 | 0.0516 | 0.00689 | 0.00200 | 0.00266 |
| 75 | P5 | -0.0695 | -0.0206 | -0.0855 | 0.00484 | 0.000424 | 0.00731 |
| 125 | P5 | -0.0420 | -0.0211 | -0.0468 | 0.00176 | 0.000444 | 0.00219 |
| 200 | P5 | -0.0312 | -0.0194 | -0.0340 | 0.000974 | 0.000377 | 0.00115 |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----|----------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 325 | P5 | -0.00534 | 0.00147 | -0.00699 | 0.0000285 | 0.00000215 | 0.0000489 |
| 525 | P5 | -0.0208 | -0.0170 | -0.0221 | 0.000431 | 0.000287 | 0.000488 |
| 850 | P5 | -0.00682 | -0.00438 | -0.00756 | 0.0000465 | 0.0000192 | 0.0000571 |
| 75 | P6 | 0.176 | -0.0392 | -0.0446 | 0.0310 | 0.00154 | 0.00199 |
| 125 | P6 | 0.158 | 0.0296 | -0.0632 | 0.0249 | 0.000876 | 0.00400 |
| 200 | P6 | 0.195 | 0.0850 | -0.0142 | 0.0379 | 0.00723 | 0.000201 |
| 325 | P6 | 0.0439 | -0.0245 | -0.0563 | 0.00192 | 0.000601 | 0.00317 |
| 525 | P6 | 0.0951 | 0.0348 | -0.0320 | 0.00904 | 0.00121 | 0.00102 |
| 850 | P6 | 0.0305 | -0.0568 | -0.100 | 0.000931 | 0.00323 | 0.0101 |

Table 4: Convergence Thresholds (D vs C)

| Process | T_val | Param | D | C | Converged |
|---------|-------|-------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| P1 | 75 | ar1 | 1.493106e-04 | 0.0094220126 | YES |
| P1 | 125 | ar1 | 5.289990e-05 | 0.0033124115 | YES |
| P1 | 200 | ar1 | 3.522878e-05 | 0.0025225950 | YES |
| P1 | 325 | ar1 | 1.179219e-05 | 0.0016164380 | YES |
| P1 | 525 | ar1 | 3.422185e-06 | 0.0010587146 | YES |
| P1 | 850 | ar1 | 1.042063e-06 | 0.0006540241 | YES |
| P2 | 75 | ma1 | 1.052965e-04 | 0.0137012959 | YES |
| P2 | 125 | ma1 | 6.452275e-05 | 0.0068361929 | YES |
| P2 | 200 | ma1 | 8.109736e -06 | 0.0052452223 | YES |
| P2 | 325 | ma1 | 4.732902e-06 | 0.0020500065 | YES |
| P2 | 525 | ma1 | 1.333455e-06 | 0.0019661002 | YES |
| P2 | 850 | ma1 | 1.006547e-06 | 0.0008515338 | YES |
| P3 | 75 | ar1 | 2.755184e-04 | 0.0160599796 | YES |
| P3 | 75 | ma1 | 2.889659e-04 | 0.0146185451 | YES |
| P3 | 125 | ar1 | 9.171017e-05 | 0.0071936179 | YES |
| P3 | 125 | ma1 | 2.503606e-04 | 0.0106358788 | YES |
| P3 | 200 | ar1 | 2.879243e-05 | 0.0038605966 | YES |
| P3 | 200 | ma1 | 1.101488e-04 | 0.0053895968 | YES |
| P3 | 325 | ar1 | 1.034999e-05 | 0.0024219560 | YES |
| P3 | 325 | ma1 | 1.490384e-05 | 0.0037135382 | YES |
| P3 | 525 | ar1 | 6.874336e-06 | 0.0011912826 | YES |
| P3 | 525 | ma1 | 1.321776e-05 | 0.0023214317 | YES |
| P3 | 850 | ar1 | 1.646092e-06 | 0.0007264899 | YES |
| P3 | 850 | ma1 | 4.537375e-06 | 0.0010187526 | YES |
| P4 | 75 | ar1 | 3.420026e-01 | 0.3072018256 | NO |
| P4 | 75 | ar2 | 1.996112e-01 | 0.1957135467 | NO |
| P4 | 75 | ma1 | 4.152028e-01 | 0.3028746536 | NO |
| P4 | 125 | ar1 | 2.669891e-01 | 0.2164452655 | NO |
| P4 | 125 | ar2 | 1.726361e-01 | 0.1446557172 | NO |
| P4 | 125 | ma1 | 2.851509e-01 | 0.2042712564 | NO |
| P4 | 200 | ar1 | 2.890677e-01 | 0.2371224787 | NO |
| P4 | 200 | ar2 | 1.883616e-01 | 0.1647818128 | NO |
| P4 | 200 | ma1 | 2.954760e-01 | 0.2473319448 | NO |
| P4 | 325 | ar1 | 4.369652e-02 | 0.1607622777 | YES |
| P4 | 325 | ar2 | 2.694771e-02 | 0.1087164706 | YES |
| P4 | 325 | ma1 | 4.610328e-02 | 0.1496021705 | YES |

| | | | | | |
|----|-----|-----|--------------|--------------|-----|
| P4 | 525 | ar1 | 4.239244e-02 | 0.1283222189 | YES |
| P4 | 525 | ar2 | 2.787307e-02 | 0.0843635641 | YES |
| P4 | 525 | ma1 | 4.102681e-02 | 0.1213877662 | YES |
| P4 | 850 | ar1 | 2.741151e-02 | 0.0738167978 | YES |
| P4 | 850 | ar2 | 1.784693e-02 | 0.0482923042 | YES |
| P4 | 850 | ma1 | 2.822225e-02 | 0.0729458484 | YES |
| P5 | 75 | ar1 | 6.425307e-03 | 0.0298653266 | YES |
| P5 | 75 | ma1 | 9.198733e-03 | 0.0379876074 | YES |
| P5 | 75 | ma2 | 7.442244e-03 | 0.0287535307 | YES |
| P5 | 125 | ar1 | 8.004057e-04 | 0.0199091435 | YES |
| P5 | 125 | ma1 | 1.063077e-03 | 0.0245159348 | YES |
| P5 | 125 | ma2 | 8.476869e-04 | 0.0241792397 | YES |
| P5 | 200 | ar1 | 1.566959e-04 | 0.0104618020 | YES |
| P5 | 200 | ma1 | 1.727998e-04 | 0.0127901935 | YES |
| P5 | 200 | ma2 | 1.315822e-04 | 0.0100145274 | YES |
| P5 | 325 | ar1 | 4.386340e-05 | 0.0048297281 | YES |
| P5 | 325 | ma1 | 4.971498e-05 | 0.0054908511 | YES |
| P5 | 325 | ma2 | 4.027359e-05 | 0.0048265603 | YES |
| P5 | 525 | ar1 | 1.031019e-05 | 0.0028525433 | YES |
| P5 | 525 | ma1 | 2.028162e-05 | 0.0042154993 | YES |
| P5 | 525 | ma2 | 1.549325e-05 | 0.0038667733 | YES |
| P5 | 850 | ar1 | 4.793569e-06 | 0.0017050822 | YES |
| P5 | 850 | ma1 | 7.854964e-06 | 0.0021204804 | YES |
| P5 | 850 | ma2 | 7.187170e-06 | 0.0023276628 | YES |
| P6 | 75 | ar1 | 4.470805e-01 | 0.3292313312 | NO |
| P6 | 75 | ar2 | 2.654512e-01 | 0.2334360308 | NO |
| P6 | 75 | ma1 | 5.138451e-01 | 0.3924679603 | NO |
| P6 | 75 | ma2 | 2.264582e-02 | 0.0442964111 | YES |
| P6 | 125 | ar1 | 2.239885e-01 | 0.2488812293 | YES |
| P6 | 125 | ar2 | 1.436606e-01 | 0.1743962483 | YES |
| P6 | 125 | ma1 | 2.460867e-01 | 0.2861316257 | YES |
| P6 | 125 | ma2 | 1.041010e-02 | 0.0222345687 | YES |
| P6 | 200 | ar1 | 3.270347e-01 | 0.2290212239 | NO |
| P6 | 200 | ar2 | 2.175085e-01 | 0.1550506697 | NO |
| P6 | 200 | ma1 | 3.389386e-01 | 0.2484301869 | NO |
| P6 | 200 | ma2 | 2.724779e-03 | 0.0128367576 | YES |
| P6 | 325 | ar1 | 1.811885e-01 | 0.1784909371 | NO |
| P6 | 325 | ar2 | 1.160543e-01 | 0.1189935996 | YES |
| P6 | 325 | ma1 | 1.849996e-01 | 0.1811415612 | NO |
| P6 | 325 | ma2 | 9.926453e-04 | 0.0058761309 | YES |
| P6 | 525 | ar1 | 1.839834e-01 | 0.1838276324 | NO |
| P6 | 525 | ar2 | 1.203909e-01 | 0.1214142733 | YES |
| P6 | 525 | ma1 | 1.885004e-01 | 0.1914593077 | YES |

Table 5: Convergence Thresholds (D vs C)

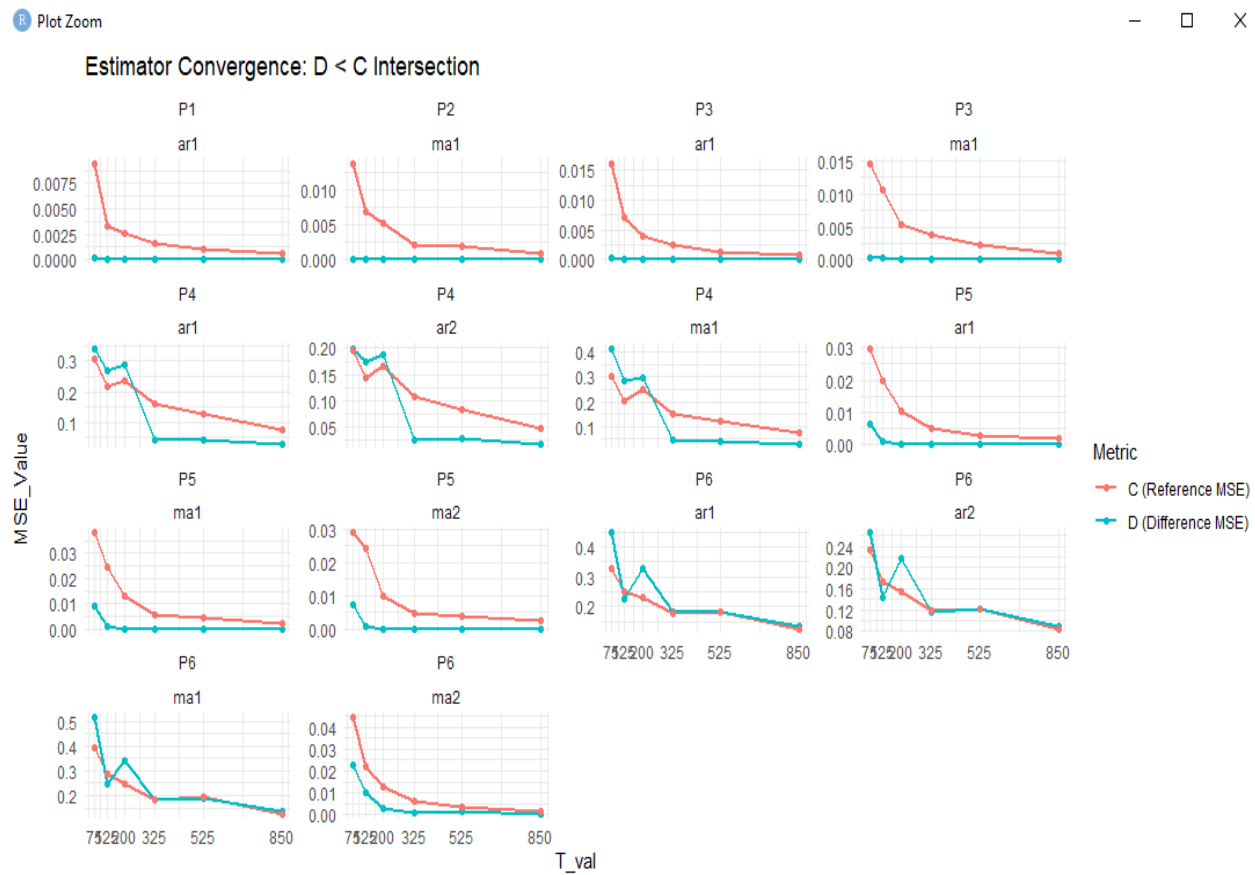


Figure 1: Estimator Convergence: D < C intersection

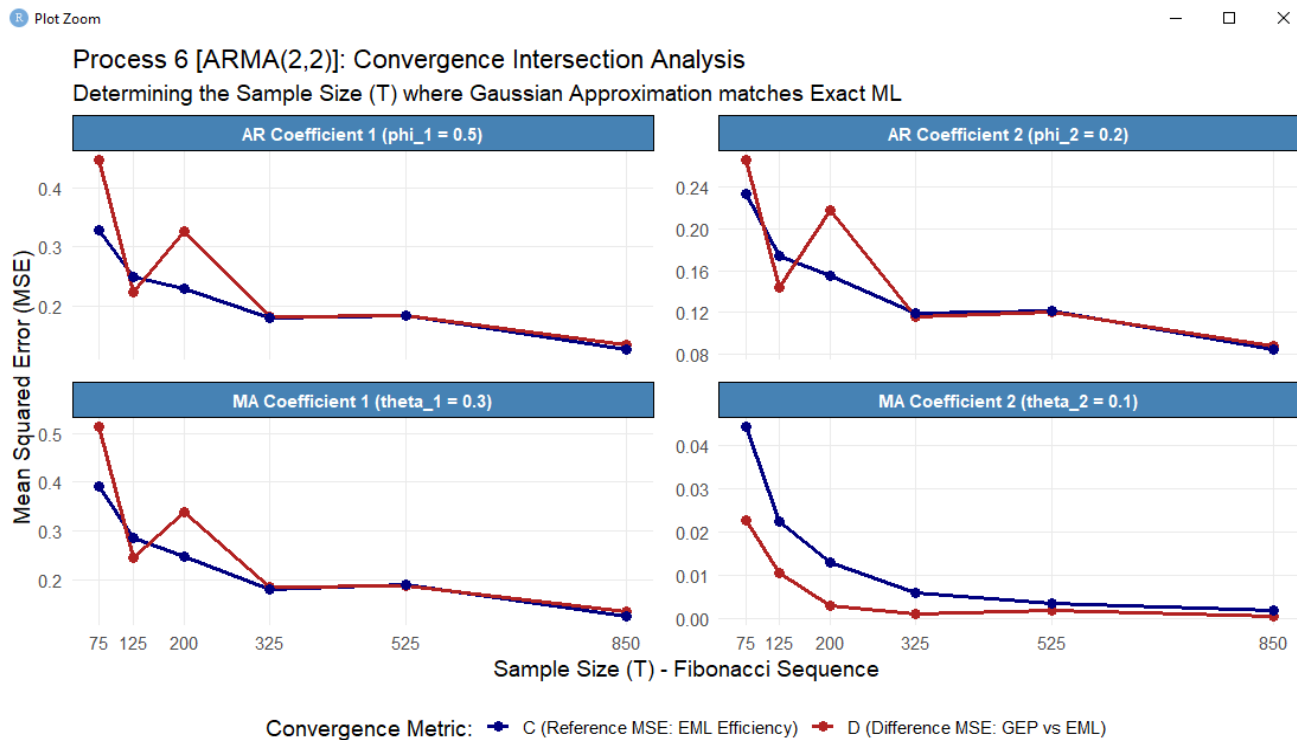


Figure 2: ARMA (2,2) Convergence Intersection Analysis

Design of Experiment

For each estimator, the sample size, parameter estimates, standard error, bias, and mean square error were obtained by averaging the estimates over the number of replications, where $\delta(\hat{\phi}_h) = \left\{ \frac{1}{R} \sum_{r=1}^R (\hat{\phi}_h^r - \phi_0)^2 \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}}$ with $\hat{\phi}_h^r$ denoting the estimate of ϕ_h in the r^{th} replication. Following the standard practise, the accuracy of the parameter estimate is judged by the mean square error. The outcomes of this investigation are summarized in Error! Reference source not found. Table 2 and Error! Reference source not found., respectively.

As a measure of convergence, the average square differences between GEP and GLS, GEP and EML, GLS and EML were computed by:

$$C_R = \frac{1}{R} \sum_{r=1}^R \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^{p+q} (\hat{\phi}_{js}^r - \hat{\phi}_{j\lambda}^r)^2 \right\} \quad [4.2]$$

And is compared with the criterion measure $C_T = T^{-1}$ where, for instance, we have used S and λ to denote the pair of estimates used in the evaluation of C_R while $\hat{\phi}_{(j)}^r, j = 1, \dots, h_T$ as before, denotes the parameter estimates at the r^{th} replication.

CONCLUSION

The ARMA (2, 2) process (P_6) constitutes the upper bound of structural complexity in the simulation study, comprising four parameters ($\phi_1, \phi_2, \theta_1, \theta_2$), and provided a stringent test of asymptotic approximation. While the autoregressive components exhibited stable and accurate estimation even at small sample sizes, the moving average parameters displayed pronounced finite sample instability, characterized by elevated variance and delayed convergence. The convergence diagnostics showed that the Difference MSE (D) exceeded the Reference MSE (C) through $T = 200$, with consistent interaction achieved for all parameters, only at $T \geq 525$. This identified a clear “indifference threshold,” beyond which the Gaussian Estimation Procedure (GEP) became numerically indistinguishable from the Exact Likelihood Estimator (EML). More broadly, the results revealed a systematic complexity lag: as model dimensionality increased, the $D < C$ intersection shifted markedly to the right, indicating that estimator choice depends jointly on sample size and the parameter-to-sample ratio rather than on T alone.

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