## **Accepted Manuscript**

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Abhimanyu Gupta



| PII:            | \$0304-4076(17)30240-3                        |
|-----------------|---|
| DOI:            | https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeconom.2017.11.008 |
| Reference:      | ECONOM 4455                                   |
| To appear in:   | Journal of Econometrics                       |
| Received date : | 25 December 2015                              |
| Revised date :  | 12 July 2017                                  |
| Accepted date : | 13 November 2017                              |

Please cite this article as: Gupta A., Nonparametric specification testing via the trinity of tests. *Journal of Econometrics* (2017), https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeconom.2017.11.008

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## Nonparametric specification testing via the trinity of

tests

Abhimanyu Gupta<sup>\*</sup> Department of Economics University of Essex Wivenhoe Park Colchester CO4 3SQ, UK

December 18, 2017

## Abstract

Tests are developed for inference on a parameter vector whose dimension grows slowly with sample size. The statistics are based on the Lagrange Multiplier, Wald and (pseudo) Likelihood Ratio principles, admit standard normal asymptotic distributions under the null and are straightforward to compute. They are shown to be consistent and possessing non-trivial power against local alternatives. The settings considered include multiple linear regression, panel data models with fixed effects and spatial autoregressions. When a nonparametric regression function is estimated by series we use our statistics to propose specification tests, and in semiparametric adaptive estimation we provide a test for correct error distribution specification. These tests are nonparametric but handled in practice with parametric techniques. A Monte Carlo study suggests that our tests perform well in finite samples. Two empirical examples use them to test for correct shape of an electricity distribution cost function and linearity and equality of Engel curves.

JEL classifications: C12, C14, C31, C33

*Keywords*: Increasingly many parameters; central limit theorem; Lagrange Multiplier test; Wald test; Likelihood Ratio test; nonparametric specification testing; series estimation; adaptive estimation; spatial autoregression

<sup>\*</sup>Email: a.gupta@essex.ac.uk, Telephone: +44 - 120 6872 597

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