

Two referees have now sent their reports on the paper, and the open discussion of the paper has been closed. The authors have been asked to post their responses to the referees' comments by 17 Jan 2023.

Referee 1 has let his name known, and is Ricardo Todling. He considers that the work presented in the paper *is sound, mathematically meaningful and represents an important contribution to the field*. He asks for minor revisions, and gives a number of suggestions to that end, some of which are rather broad, while others bear on editing aspects of the paper (in particular on the English).

Referee 2, who has remained anonymous, is more critical. He writes that he has not fully understood the very logic of the paper. What is the problem, beyond solving an underdetermined system of linear equations by *a priori* specification of the values of a sufficient number of unknowns ? He also raises the question of the symmetric non-negative character of the variance-covariance matrices produced by the estimation process described in the paper. He asks for major revision of the paper.

As Editor, I suggest to the authors to prepare of course their responses to the referees, and also (if they have not already done so) to prepare a revised version of their paper. This new version must take into account the questions, comments and suggestions of both referees. In case the authors disagree with a particular referee comment, or decide not to follow a particular suggestion, they will have to give explicitly their reasons for that in their responses.

As Editor, I will in any case not take any decision until the authors have responded to the referees' comments. The authors can in the meantime get in touch with me if they wish, either directly or through the public discussion.