

Siblings paper

Exploded logit

Javiera Gazmuri

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1 Model

1.1 Utility

$$u_{ijk} = \omega_y u_{y_{ij}} + (1 - \omega_y) u_{o_i k} + \gamma \mathbb{1}[j = k] + \varepsilon_{ijk} \quad (1)$$

where j is the school-assignment of the younger children y in family i , and k is the school-assignment of the older children o . ω_y is the weight that the family places on the utility of the younger children.

$$u_{y_{ij}} = \beta_y dist_{y_{ij}} + \delta_y quality_j + \varepsilon_{y_{ij}} \quad (2)$$

$$u_{o_i k} = \beta_o dist_{o_i k} + \delta_o quality_k + \varepsilon_{o_i k} \quad (3)$$

where β_y , β_o , δ_y and δ_o are the parameters that govern preferences of the younger and older siblings respectively, and ε_y and ε_o are idiosyncratic i.i.d. preference shocks.

I'm ignoring the distance between schools for now.

Assumptions:

- When families report marginal applications, it is like they were only applying to one child.
- ε_{ijk} are i.i.d. type-I extreme value.

1.2 Probabilities

Families with more than one common-school applied were asked between,

- a) Worst-joint (WJ)
- b) Best-older-solo (BOS) and best-younger-solo (BYS)

Families with only one common-school applied were asked between,

- a) “Best”-joint (BJ)
- b) BOS & BYS

Let's define,

$$V_{ijk} \equiv \omega_y u_{yij} + (1 - \omega_y) u_{oik} + \gamma \mathbb{1}[j = k]$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} V_i^J &\equiv V_{ijj} && (\text{Assigned together}) \\ V_i^S &\equiv V_{ilk} && (\text{Split assignment}) \end{aligned}$$

The probability that family i prefers being assigned together is,

$$P_i \equiv \Pr [V_i^J + \varepsilon_{ijj} > V_i^S + \varepsilon_{ilk}] = \frac{\exp(V_i^J)}{\exp(V_i^J) + \exp(V_i^S)}$$

1.3 Log-likelihood

Let $y_i \in \{0, 1\}$ be the observed answer (1 is prefer joint, 0 is prefer split),

$$L_i(\theta) = P_i^{y_i} (1 - P_i)^{1-y_i}, \theta = (\beta_y, \beta_o, \delta_y, \delta_o, \omega_y, \gamma)$$

Assuming independent families $i = 1, \dots, N$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(\theta) &= \prod_{i=1}^N L_i(\theta) \\ \ell(\theta) &= \sum_{i=1}^N y_i \log P_i + (1 - y_i) \log(1 - P_i) \end{aligned}$$

2 Data

From survey responses, we have 4 types of schools:

1. Best-joint (BJ)
2. Worst-joint (WJ)
3. Best-older-solo (BOS)
4. Best-younger-solo (BYS)

From application data, we can say:

- survey showed 10 options max for each, so some lists were trimmed (0,5% sample approx).
- BOS and BYS: 6% selected schools were not found in application data.

Characteristics of schools:

- Specific for each sibling, even for BJ/WJ (since lat-long not always the same between siblings and between campus, quality depends on grade).
- 3% - 6% schools without info of school quality.
- 6% we don't have information of distance for BOS/BYS

3 Results

$N = 9,231$ (from original 12,917).