

Lecture 5

Multiple Choice Models

Part I – MNL, Nested Logit

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DCM: Different Models

- Popular Models:

1. Probit Model
2. Binary Logit Model
3. Multinomial Logit Model
4. Nested Logit model
5. Ordered Logit Model

- Relevant literature:

- Train (2003): **Discrete Choice Methods with Simulation**
- Franses and Paap (2001): **Quantitative Models in Market Research**
- Hensher, Rose and Greene (2005): **Applied Choice Analysis**

Multinomial Logit (MNL) Model

- In many of the situations, discrete responses are more complex than the binary case:
 - Single choice out of more than two alternatives: Electoral choices and interest in explaining the vote for a particular party.
 - Multiple choices: “Travel to work in rush hour,” and “travel to work out of rush hour,” as well as the choice of bus or car.
- The distinction should not be exaggerated: we could always enumerate travel-time, travel-mode choice combinations and then treat the problem as making a single decision.
- In a few cases, the values associated with the choices will themselves be meaningful, for example, number of patents: $y = 0; 1, 2, \dots$ (count data). In most cases, the values are meaningless.

Multinomial Logit (MNL) Model

- In most cases, the value of the dependent variable is merely a coding for some qualitative outcome:
 - Labor force participation: we code “yes” as 1 and “no” as 0 (qualitative choices)
 - Occupational field: 0 for economist, 1 for engineer, 2 for lawyer, etc. (categories)
 - Opinions are usually coded with scales, where 1 stands for “strongly disagree”, 2 for “disagree”, 3 for “neutral”, etc.
- Nothing conceptually difficult about moving from a binary to a multi-response framework, but numerical difficulties can be big.
- A simple model to generalized: The Logit Model.

Multinomial Logit (MNL) Model

- Now, we have a choice between J (greater than 2) categories
- Dependent variable $y_n = 1, 2, 3, \dots, J$
- Explanatory variables
 - z_n , different across individuals, not across choices (*standard MNL model*). The MNL specifies for choice $j = 1, 2, \dots, J$:

$$P(y_n = j | z_n = z) = \frac{\exp(z' \alpha_j)}{1 + \sum_l \exp(z' \alpha_l)}$$

- x_n , different across (individuals and) choices (*conditional MNL model*). The conditional logit model specifies for choice j :

$$P(y_n = j | x_n) = \frac{\exp(x_n' \beta_j)}{\sum_l \exp(x_n' \beta_l)}$$

- Both models are easy to estimate.

Multinomial Logit (MNL) Model

- The MNL can be viewed as a special case of the conditional logit model. Suppose we have a vector of individual characteristics Z_i of dimension K , and J vectors of coefficients α_j , each of dimension K . Then define

$$X_{i1} = \begin{pmatrix} Z_i \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \dots, X_{iJ} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ Z_i \end{pmatrix}, \text{ and } X_{i0} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

and define the common parameter vector β as $\beta' = (\gamma'_1, \dots, \gamma'_J)$.

- We are back in the conditional logit model.

MNL – Link with Utility Maximization

- The modeling approach (McFadden's) is similar to the binary case.

- Random Utility for individual n , associated with choice j :

$$U_{nj} = V_{nj} + \epsilon_{nj} = \alpha_j + z_n' \delta_j + w_j' y_j + \epsilon_{nj} \quad \text{- utility from decision } j$$

- same parameters for all n .

Then, if $y_n = j$ if $(U_{nj} - U_{ni}) > 0$ (n selects j over i .)

- Like in the binary case, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} P_{ni} &= \text{Prob}[y_n = j | i, j] = \text{Prob}(\epsilon_{ni} - \epsilon_{nj} < V_{nj} - V_{ni} \quad \forall j \neq i) \\ &= \int I(\xi_n < V_{nj} - V_{ni} \quad \forall j \neq i) f(\xi_n) d\xi_n \end{aligned}$$

- Specify *i.i.d.* Gumbel distribution for $f(\epsilon)$ \Rightarrow Logit Model.

- independence across utility functions

- identical variances (means absorbed in constants)

MNL Model - Identification

- If we add a constant to a parameter ($\beta_i + c$), given the Logistic distribution, $\exp(c)$ will cancel out. Cannot distinguish between ($\beta_i + c$) and β_i . Need a normalization \Rightarrow select a reference category, say i , and set coefficients equal to 0 –i.e., $\beta_i = \mathbf{0}$. (Typically, $i=J$.)

$$P(y_n = j | x_n) = \frac{\exp(\beta_j' x_n)}{\sum_l \exp(\beta_l' x_n)}$$

$$P(y_n = i | x_n) = \frac{1}{1 + \sum_{l \neq i} \exp(\beta_l' x_n)}$$

$$P(y_n = j | x_n) = \frac{\exp(\beta_j' x_n)}{1 + \sum_{l \neq i} \exp(\beta_l' x_n)} \quad \forall j \neq i$$

- Conditional MNL model (x_n : different across (individuals and) choices)

$$P(y_n = j | x_n) = \frac{\exp(\beta_j' x_{nj})}{\sum_l \exp(\beta_l' x_{nl})}$$

MNL Model – Interpretation & Effects

- The interpretation of parameters is based on partial effects:
 - Derivative (marginal effect)

$$\frac{\partial P(y_n = j | x_n)}{\partial x_{nk}} = P_{nj}(1 - P_{nj})\beta_k$$

- Elasticity (proportional changes)

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \log P_{nj}}{\partial \log x_{nk}} &= \frac{x_{nk}}{P_{nj}} P_{nj}(1 - P_{nj})\beta_k \\ &= x_{nk}(1 - P_{nj})\beta_k \end{aligned}$$

Note: The elasticity is the same for all choices “j.” A change in the cost of air travel has the same effect on all other forms of travel. (This result is called *independence from irrelevant alternatives* (IIA). Not a realistic property. Many experiments reject it.)

MNL Model – Interpretation & Effects

- Interpretation of parameters
 - Probability-ratio

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{P(y_n = j | x_n)}{P(y_n = i | x_n)} &= \frac{\exp(\beta' x_{nj})}{\exp(\beta' x_{ni})} \\ \ln \left(\frac{P(y_n = j | x_n)}{P(y_n = i | x_n)} \right) &= \beta' (x_{nj} - x_{ni}) \end{aligned}$$

- Does not depend on the other alternatives! A change in attribute x_{nk} does not affect the log-odds ratio between choices j and i . This result is called *independence from irrelevant alternatives* (IIA). Implication of MNL models pointed out by Luce (1959).

Note: The log-odds ratio of each response follow a linear model. A regression can be used for the comparison of two choices at a time.

MNL Model – Estimation

- Estimation
 - ML estimation

$$L(\beta) = \prod_n \prod_j P(y_n = j | x_n)^{D_{nj}}$$

$$\text{Log}L(\beta) = \sum_n \sum_j D_{nj} \ln P(y_n = j | x_n)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Log}L(\beta) &= \sum_n \sum_j D_{nj} \ln \left(\frac{\exp(x_{nj}'\beta)}{\sum_k \exp(x_{nj}'\beta)} \right) \\ &= \sum_n \sum_j D_{nj} (\ln(\exp(x_{nj}'\beta)) - \ln(\sum_k \exp(x_{nj}'\beta))) \\ &= \sum_n (\sum_j D_{nj} (x_{nj}'\beta)) - \ln(\sum_k \exp(x_{nj}'\beta)) \end{aligned}$$

where $D_{nj}=1$ if j is selected, 0 otherwise)

MNL Model – Estimation

- Estimation
 - ML:
 - A lot of *f.o.c.* equations, with a lot of unknowns (parameters).
 - Each covariate has $J-1$ coefficients.
 - We use numerical procedures, G-N or N-R often work well.
 - Alternative estimation procedures
 - Simulation-assisted estimation (Train, Ch.10)
 - Bayesian estimation (Train, Ch.12)

MNL Model – Application - PIM

- Example (from Bucklin and Gupta (1992)):

$$P_t^h(i | inc) = \frac{\exp(U_{it}^h)}{\sum_j \exp(U_{jt}^h)}$$

$$U_{it}^h = u_i + \beta_1 BL_i^h + \beta_2 LBP_{it}^h + \beta_3 SL_i^h + \beta_4 LSP_{it}^h + \beta_5 \text{Price}_{it} + \beta_6 \text{Promo}_{it}$$

- U_i = constant for brand-size i
 - BL_i^h = loyalty of household h to brand of brandsize i
 - LBP_{it}^h = 1 if i was last brand purchased, 0 otherwise
 - SL_i^h = loyalty of household h to size of brandsize i
 - LSP_{it}^h = 1 if i was last size purchased, 0 otherwise
 - Price_{it} = actual shelf price of brand-size i at time t
 - Promo_{it} = promotional status of brand-size i at time t

MNL Model – Application - PIM

- Data
 - A.C.Nielsen scanner panel data
 - 117 weeks: 65 for initialization, 52 for estimation
 - 565 households: 300 selected randomly for estimation, remaining hh = holdout sample for validation
 - Data set for estimation: 30,966 shopping trips, 2,275 purchases in the category (liquid laundry detergent)
 - Estimation limited to the 7 top-selling brands (80% of category purchases), representing 28 brand-size combinations (= level of analysis for the choice model)

MNL Model – Application - PIM

- Goodness-of-Fit

Model	# param.	LL	U ² (pseudo R ²)	BIC
Null model	27	-5957.3	-	6061.6
Full model	33	-3786.9	.364	3914.3

- Estimation Results

Parameter	Coefficients (t-statistic)
BL β_1	3.499 (22.74)
LBP β_2	.548 (6.50)
SL β_3	2.043 (13.67)
LSP β_4	.512 (7.06)
Price β_5	-.696 (-13.66)
Promo β_6	2.016 (21.33)

MNL Model – Application – Travel Mode

- Data: 4 Travel Modes: Air, Bus, Train, Car. N=210

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Discrete choice (multinomial logit) model
Dependent variable          Choice
Log likelihood function      -256.76133
Estimation based on N =     210, K =   7
Information Criteria: Normalization=1/N
                        Normalized  Unnormalized
AIC                    2.51201     527.52265
Fin.Smpl.AIC          2.51465     528.07711
Bayes IC              2.62358     550.95240
Hannan Quinn         2.55712     536.99443
R2=1-LogL/LogL* Log-L fncn R-sqrd R2Adj
Constants only        -283.7588   .0951 .0850
Chi-squared[ 4]      =    53.99489
Prob [ chi squared > value ] = .00000
Response data are given as ind. choices
Number of obs.=      210, skipped   0 obs
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Variable| Coefficient      Standard Error  b/St. Er.  P[|Z|>z]
-----+-----
GC|      .03711**      .01484        2.500     .0124
INVC|     -.05480***     .01668       -3.285     .0010
INVT|     -.00896***     .00215       -4.162     .0000
HINCA|    .02922***     .00931        3.138     .0017
A_AIR|    -1.88740***    .69281       -2.724     .0064
A_TRAIN|   .69364***     .25010        2.773     .0055
A_BUS|    -.20307      .24817        -.818     .4132
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MNL Model – Application – Travel Mode

CLOGIT Fit Measure:

- Based on the log likelihood

Log likelihood function -256.76133
 Constants only -283.7588 .0951 .0850
 Chi-squared[4] = 53.99489

Values in parentheses below show the number of correct predictions by a model with only choice specific constants.

- Based on the model predictions

-----+-----
 | Cross tabulation of actual vs. predicted choices. |
 | Row indicator is actual, column is predicted. |
 | Predicted total is F(k,j,i)=Sum(i=1,...,N) P(k,j,i). |
 | Column totals may be subject to rounding error. |
 +-----+-----

Matrix Crosstab has 5 rows and 5 columns.

	AIR	TRAIN	BUS	CAR	Total
AIR	35.0000 (16)	7.0000	4.0000	13.0000	58.0000
TRAIN	7.0000	41.0000 (19)	4.0000	11.0000	63.0000
BUS	5.0000	4.0000	16.0000 (4)	4.0000	30.0000
CAR	11.0000	11.0000	6.0000	31.0000 (17)	59.0000
Total	58.0000	63.0000	30.0000	59.0000	210.0000

MNL Model – Scaling

- Scale parameter

- Variance of the extreme value distribution $\text{Var}[\epsilon] = \pi^2/6$

- If true utility is $U_{nj}^* = \beta^* x_{nj} + \epsilon_{nj}^*$ with $\text{Var}(\epsilon_{nj}^*) = \sigma^2 (\pi^2/6)$, the estimated representative utility $V_{nj} = \beta x_{nj}$ involves a rescaling of β^*
 $\Rightarrow \beta = \beta^* / \sigma$

- β^* and σ can not be estimated separately

\Rightarrow Take into account that the estimated coefficients indicate the variable's effect *relative to* the variance of unobserved factors

\Rightarrow Include scale parameters if subsamples in a pooled estimation (may) have different error variances

MNL Model – Scaling

- Scale parameter in the case of pooled estimation of subsamples with different error variance
- For each subsamples, multiply utility by μ_s , which is estimated simultaneously with β
- Normalization: set μ_s equal to 1 for 1 subs.
- Values of μ_s reflect diff's in error variation
 - $\mu_s > 1$: error variance is smaller in s than in the reference subsample
 - $\mu_s < 1$: error variance is larger in s than in the reference subsample

MNL Model – Application

- Example (from Breugelmans et al (2005), based on Andrews and Currim (2002); Swait and Louvière (1993)):
- Data from online experiment, 2 product categories
- Three different assortments, assigned to different respondent groups
 - Assortment 1: small assortment
 - Assortment 2 = ass.1 extended with additional brands
 - Assortment 3 = ass.1 extended with add types
- Explanatory variables are the same (hh char's, MM), with exception of the constants
- A scale factor is introduced for assortment 2 and 3 (assortment 1 is reference with scale factor =1)

MNL Model – Application

Table 1: Descriptive stats for each assortment (margarine and cereals)

MARGARINE			
Attribute	Assortment 1 (limited)	Assortment 2 (add new flavors of existing brands)	Assortment 3 (add new brands of existing flavors)
Brand	Common ^a	Common	Common
			Add new brands
Flavor	Common	Common	Common
		Add new flavors	
# alternatives	11	19	17
# respondents	105	116	100
# purchase occasions	275	279	278
# screens needed	< 1	> 1	> 1
CEREALS			
Attribute	Assortment 1 (limited)	Assortment 2 (add new flavors of existing brands)	Assortment 3 (add new brands of existing flavors)
Brand	Common	Common	Common
			Add new brands
Flavor	Common	Common	Common
		Add new flavors	
# alternatives	21	32	46
# respondents	81	97	87
# purchase occasions	271	261	281
# screens needed	> 1	> 1	> 1

MNL Model – Application

- MNL-model – Pooled estimation

$$p_{itla}^h = \frac{\exp[\mu_a(u_{itla}^h)]}{\sum_{j \in C_a^h} \exp[\mu_a(u_{jila}^h)]}$$

- $p_{it,a}^h$ = the probability that household h chooses item i at time t, facing assortment a
- $u_{it,a}^h$ = the choice utility of item i for household h facing assortment a
= f(household variables, MM-variables)
- C_a^h = set of category items available to household h within assortment a
- μ_a = Gumbel scale factor

MNL Model – Application

Estimation results

- Goodness-of-Fit
 - (average) LL: -0.045 (M), -0.040 (C)
 - BIC: 2929 (M), 4763 (C)
 - CAIC: 2871 (M), 4699 (C)
- Scale factors:
 - M: 1.2498 (ass2), 1.2627 (ass3)
 - C: 1.0562 (ass2), 0.7573 (ass3)

MNL Model – Application

Margarine				Cereals			
Variable	Assortment 1	Assortment 2	Assortment 3	Variable	Assortment 1	Assortment 2	Assortment 3
Scale factor	[1.00] ^b	1.2498***	1.2627***	Scale factor	[1.00] ^b	1.0562***	0.7573***
Mean	2.0675***	[2.5840***] ^c	[2.6106***] ^c	Mean	0.6441***	[0.6803***] ^c	[0.4888***] ^c
Last purchase	2.8310***	[3.5382***] ^c	[3.5747***] ^c	Last purchase	5.2011***	[5.4934***] ^c	[3.9109***] ^c
Item preference	0.2805	0.4228**	0.5400*	Item preference	0.0077	0.6130	0.0969
Brand asymmetry	-0.0841	-0.0880	0.0169	Brand asymmetry	-0.0260	0.2938**	-0.1596
Size asymmetry	-. ^d	0.3672**	-0.1190	Taste asymmetry	0.3119	-0.0614	0.3816**
Sequence	0.8332	1.0303***	0.6235	Type asymmetry	-0.3311	-0.0695	0.6190***
Proximity				Sequence	2.0041***	0.7214	4.1140***
				Proximity			

(Excluding brand/size constants)

MNL Model – Limitations

- Limitations of the MNL model:
 - Independence of Irrelevant Alternatives or IIA (proportional substitution pattern): the relative odds between any two outcomes are independent of the number and nature of other outcomes being simultaneously considered.
 - Order (where relevant) is not taken into account
 - Systematic taste variation can be represented, not random taste variation
 - No correlation between error terms (*i.i.d.* errors)

MNL Model – IIA

- This is the big weakness of the model. The choice between any two alternatives does not depend upon a third one -i.e., the ratio of choice probabilities for alternatives i and j does not depend on characteristics of other alternatives, say, x_{i3} .

$$\frac{P(y_n = j | x_n)}{P(y_n = i | x_n)} = \frac{\exp(x_{nj}'\beta_j)}{\exp(x_{ni}'\beta_i)}$$

- Implications: Proportional substitution patterns (or unrealistic substitution patterns!). It is possible to ignore third alternatives in estimation.
- But, it clashes with data

MNL Model – IIA

Example (McFadden (1974)): Blue Bus – Red Bus:

Suppose we have three equally distributed transportation categories:

- T1: Blue bus (P=33%), Car (P=33%), Red bus (P=33%)

Now, we paint the red busses blue. Then, we have two choices.

Assuming IIA, we have: Blue bus (P=50%), Car (P=50%).

But, a more likely distribution: Blue bus (P=66%), Car (P=33%).

Note: Debreu (1960) has a similar example with Beethoven/Debussy.

- MNL model assumes that none of the categories can serve as substitutes (no correlation). If they can serve as substitutes, then the results of MNL may not be very realistic.

MNL Model – IIA - Testing

- We want to test IIA.
Hausman-McFadden specification test (*Econometrica*, 1983)
- Basic idea: If a subset of the choice set is truly irrelevant, omitting it should not significantly affect the estimates. Two estimators: one efficient, one inefficient => encompassing test.

Steps for Wald test:

- Estimate logit model twice:
 - (a) on full set of alternatives (with “irrelevant” variables)
 - (b) on subset of alternatives (and subsamples with choices from this set)
- Compute the Wald test
- Under H_0 (IIA is true): $(\beta_a - \beta_b)'(\Omega_b - \Omega_a)^{-1}(\beta_a - \beta_b) \sim \chi^2(k)$

MNL Model – IIA - Testing

Steps for LR test:

- Estimate logit model twice:
 - a. on full set of alternatives
 - b. on subset of alternatives
(and subsample with choices from this set)
- Compute LogL for subset (b) with parameters obtained for set (a)
- Compare with LogL_b : Goodness of fit should be similar

Model – IIA: Alternative Models

- In the MNL model we assumed independent ϵ_{nj} with extreme value distributions. This essentially created the IIA property.
- This is not completely correct, because other distributions for the unobserved, say with normal errors, we would not get IIA exactly, but something pretty close to it.
- The solution to the IIA problem is to relax the independence between the unobserved components of the latent utility, ϵ_i .
- There are a number of ways to go.

Model – IIA: Alternative Models

- Solutions to IIA
 - Nested Logit Model, allowing correlation between some choices.
 - Models that allow for correlation among the error terms, such as Multinomial Probit Models
 - Mixed or random coefficients Logit, where the marginal utilities associated with choice characteristics are allowed to vary between individuals.

All of these originate in some form or another in McFadden's work (1981, 1982, and 1984).

Nested Logit Model

- We have J choices. We allow correlations between the choices through nesting them.
- We group together or cluster sets of choices into S sets: B_1, B_2, \dots, B_S . We allow correlations between the choices through nesting them.
- Choices are correlated inside the nest (B_1 (Bus nest) = red bus, blue bus). But, we force independence between the nests.
- Preferences as before: Individuals choosing the option with the highest utility, where the utility of choice j in set B_s for individual n is

$$U_{nj} = x_{nj}'\beta + Z_s'\alpha + \epsilon_{nj}$$

where Z_s represents characteristics of the nests and ϵ follows a generalized extreme value (GEV).

Nested Logit Model

- ϵ_{nj} have a the joint cumulative distribution function of error terms is

$$F(\epsilon_{n1}, \epsilon_{n2}, \dots, \epsilon_{nJ}) = \exp \left(- \sum_{s=1}^S \left(\sum_{j \in B_s} e^{-\epsilon_{nj} / \lambda_s} \right)^{\lambda_s} \right)$$

- Within the sets the correlation coefficient for the ϵ_{nj} is approximately equal to $1 - \lambda$. Between the sets choices i & j are independent.
- Example: Transportation mode, with 4 choices: Bus, Train, Carpool & Car. We allow correlation among Bus & Train ($\epsilon_{\text{Bus}}, \epsilon_{\text{Train}}$ correlated) and among Car (alone) & Carpool ($\epsilon_{\text{Car}}, \epsilon_{\text{Carpool}}$ correlated)

Nested Logit Model - Probability

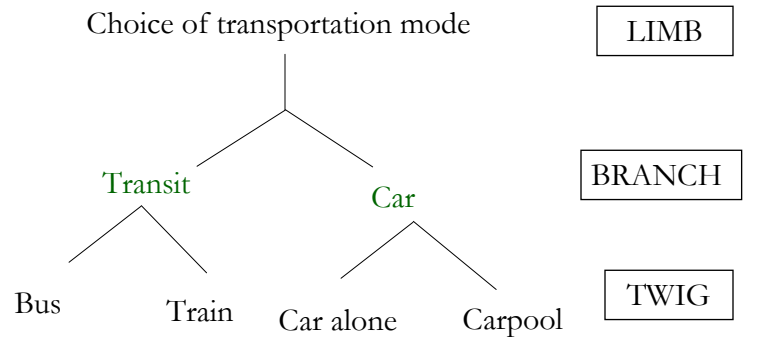
- The key in this model is how we form the nests. Different nest structures will produce different result.
- We choose the choices that are potentially close, with the data being used to estimate the amount of correlation.

Nested Logit Model - Example

Example: Transportation mode choice.

Choices: Bus, Train, Car (alone) & Carpool $\Rightarrow J = 4$.

- Nests: - **Transit**: Bus and Train
- **Car**: Car (alone) and Carpool

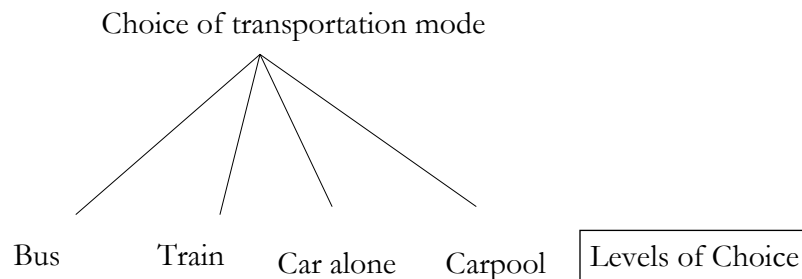


Nested Logit Model - Example

- Example: Transportation mode choice.

Choices: Bus, Train, Car (alone) & Carpool $\Rightarrow J = 4$.

- No Nesting



Note: We are not assuming that individuals choose sequentially. The diagrams simply represents nesting patterns and structure of system of logit models.

Nested Logit Model – Structure

- We cluster similar choices in nests or branches.
- The RUM as usual: $U_{nj} = V_{nj} + \varepsilon_{nj}$.
- But, it gets complicated. Now, we compound utility:
$$U(\text{Choice}) = U(\text{Choice} | \text{Branch}) + U(\text{Branch})$$
 - $U(\text{Branch})$ = function of some variables Z (characteristics of the branch, say comfort of ride, speed, price, etc).
 - $U(\text{Choice} | \text{Branch})$ = function of some variables X (age, education, income). These variables vary across choices.

Nested Logit Model – Structure

- Within a branch
 - Identical variances (IIA applies)
 - Covariance (all same) = variance at higher level
 - Branches have different variances (scale factors)
 - Nested logit probabilities: Generalized Extreme Value
 - $\text{Prob}[\text{Choice}, \text{Branch}] = \text{Prob}(\text{Branch}) * \text{Prob}(\text{Choice} | \text{Branch})$
- => We need two models:
- 1) Model of branch selection
 - 2) Model of Choice, given branch selection

Nested Logit Model - Probability

- Let Z_s be branch/set-specific characteristics. (It may be empty, an indicator variable for set S , etc.). **This set influences your choice of branch.**

- Let the conditional probability of choice j given that your choice is in the set B_s , or $Y_n \in B_s$ (“twig level probability”) be equal to:

$$P[Y_n = j \mid X_n, Y_n \in B_s] = \frac{\exp(V_{nj} / \lambda_s)}{\sum_{k \in B_s} \exp(V_{nk} / \lambda_s)}$$

for $j \in B_s$, and 0 otherwise.

This probability describes the *lower level model*—describes choice within the nest or at twig level, given a branch.

Unusual notation: Correlation inside the nest = $1 - \lambda$, $\lambda \in [0,1]$.

Nested Logit Model - Probability

- Suppose the marginal probability of each choice in the set B_s :

$$P_{nBs} = P[Y_n \in B_s \mid X_n] = \frac{\exp(Z_s' \alpha) \left(\sum_{k \in B_s} \exp(V_{nk} / \lambda_s) \right)^{\lambda_s}}{\sum_{l=1}^S \exp(Z_l' \alpha) \left(\sum_{k \in B_l} \exp(V_{nk} / \lambda_l) \right)^{\lambda_l}}$$

This is the *upper level model*—describes choices between nests (probability of a branch).

- If $\lambda_s = 1$ for all s —i.e., no correlation within the nest—, then

$$P_{nj} = \frac{\exp(V_{nj} + Z_s' \alpha)}{\sum_{l=1}^S \left(\sum_{k \in B_l} \exp(V_{nk} + Z_l' \alpha) \right)}$$

- We are back to the conditional logit model.

Nested Logit Model - Summary

- The nested logit probability can be decomposed into 2 logit models:

$$P_j = \text{Prob}[\text{nest containing } j] \times \text{Prob}[j, \text{ given nest containing } j]$$

$$P_{ni} = P_{ni|B_k} P_{n,B_k}$$

with

$$P_{ni|B_k} = \frac{\exp(V_{ni} / \lambda_k)}{\sum_{j \in B_k} \exp(V_{nj} / \lambda_k)} \quad (1) \text{ Lower level model}$$

$$P_{n,B_k} = \frac{\exp(Z_{nk}' \alpha + \lambda_k IV_{nk})}{\sum_l \exp(Z_{nl}' \alpha + \lambda_l IV_{nl})} \quad (2) \text{ Upper level model}$$

$$IV_{nk} = \ln \sum_{j \in B_k} \exp(V_{nj} / \lambda_k) \quad (3) \text{ Inclusive value}$$

- There is a link between $P_{ni|B_k} * P_{n,B_k}$ (upper and lower level): the inclusive value IV_{nk} --the log of the denominator of lower level model.

Nested Logit Model - Summary

- IV_s is also called the log-sum for nest B_s . It represents the expected utility for the choice of alternatives within nest B_s .

$$IV_{Bs} = E[\max_{j \in B_s} U_j] = E[\max_{j \in B_s} (V_j + \epsilon_j)]$$

- For consistency with RUM, λ_k must be in the [0,1] interval (*sufficient condition*) –see McFadden (1981). The value of λ_k can serve as a check on the nested logit model.

- IIA within, not across nests.

$$\frac{P_{ni}}{P_{nj}} = \frac{\exp(V_{ni} / \lambda_k) \left(\sum_{m \in B_k} \exp(V_{nm} / \lambda_k) \right)^{\lambda_k - 1}}{\exp(V_{nj} / \lambda_l) \left(\sum_{m \in B_l} \exp(V_{nm} / \lambda_l) \right)^{\lambda_l - 1}}$$

- When $\lambda_k = 1 \Rightarrow$ no correlation within nests: $\frac{P_{ni}}{P_{nj}} = \frac{\exp(V_{ni})}{\exp(V_{nj})}$

Nested Logit Model - Summary

Example: Transportation mode with 4 choices (Bus, Train, Car (alone) & Carpool) and 2 nests (Transit: Bus and Train; Car: Car (alone) and Carpool)

- *Lower level model*. It gives conditional probability of transit choices – conditional on choosing transit mode. For example, conditional probability of choosing Bus, conditional on choosing the Transit nest:

$$P[Y_n = \text{Bus} | X_n, Y_n \in B_{\text{Transit}}] = \frac{\exp(x_{n\text{Bus}}' \beta / \lambda_{\text{Transit}})}{\exp(x_{n\text{Bus}}' \beta / \lambda_{\text{Transit}}) + \exp(x_{n\text{Train}}' \beta / \lambda_{\text{Transit}})}$$

Similarly, conditional probability of choosing Carpool, conditional on choosing the Car nest:

$$P[Y_n = \text{Carpool} | X_n, Y_n \in B_{\text{Car}}] = \frac{\exp(x_{nCarpool}' \beta / \lambda_{\text{Car}})}{\exp(x_{nCarpool}' \beta / \lambda_{\text{Car}}) + \exp(x_{n\text{Car-alone}}' \beta / \lambda_{\text{Car}})}$$

Nested Logit Model - Summary

Example (continuation).

Note: β enters into both equations => simultaneous estimation

- IIA holds within nests:

$$\frac{P[Y_n = \text{Bus} | X_n, Y_n \in B_{\text{Transit}}]}{P[Y_n = \text{Train} | X_n, Y_n \in B_{\text{Transit}}]} = \frac{\exp(x_{n\text{Bus}}' \beta / \lambda_{\text{Transit}})}{\exp(x_{n\text{Train}}' \beta / \lambda_{\text{Transit}})}$$

it depends on \mathbf{x}_{bus} and $\mathbf{x}_{\text{train}}$ only.

- *Inclusive value*: Expected utility from choice given branch choice

$$IV_{\text{Transit}} = \ln [\exp(x_{n\text{Bus}}' \beta / \lambda_{\text{Transit}}) + \exp(x_{n\text{Train}}' \beta / \lambda_{\text{Transit}})]$$

$$IV_{\text{Car}} = \ln [\exp(x_{nCarpool}' \beta / \lambda_{\text{Car}}) + \exp(x_{n\text{Car-alone}}' \beta / \lambda_{\text{Car}})]$$

Nested Logit Model - Summary

Example (continuation).

- *Upper level model*. It gives the probability of choosing a nest/branch. For example, the probability of choosing Transit:

$$P[Y_n \in B_{Transit} \mid X_n] = \frac{\exp(Z_{nTransit}'\alpha + \lambda_{Transit} IV_{nTransit})}{\sum_{l=Transit, Bus} \exp(Z_l'\alpha + \lambda_l IV_{nl})}$$

Nested Logit Model - Estimation

- Estimation

- ML joint estimation.

Complicated, especially since the log likelihood function is not concave, but it is not impossible. Convergence is not guaranteed.

- Sequential estimation using nesting structure

(1) Estimate lower model: Within the nest we have a conditional MNL with coefficients β/λ_s . (Easy to estimate, log likelihood is concave.)

(2) Compute *inclusive value*, $\ln(\sum_l \exp(V_{nl}/\lambda_s))$, using the estimates of β/λ_s .

(3) Estimate upper model with inclusive value as explanatory variable: Plug the estimates of β/λ_s in P_{ni} . Another conditional MNL model.

Nested Logit Model - Estimation

- Disadvantages sequential estimation
 - The sequential (two-step) estimators are not efficient.
 - The covariance has to be computed separately –McFadden (1981).
 - Parameters that enter both levels are not constrained to be equal.
 - It does not insure consistency with utility maximization.

Note: We can use the parameter estimates from the sequential estimation as starting values for joint ML estimation.

- Different nests can produce very different results. Partition choice set into mutually exclusive subsets within which
 - (a) unobserved factors are correlated, and
 - (b) relative odds are independent of other alternatives.

Nested Logit Model – Example 1

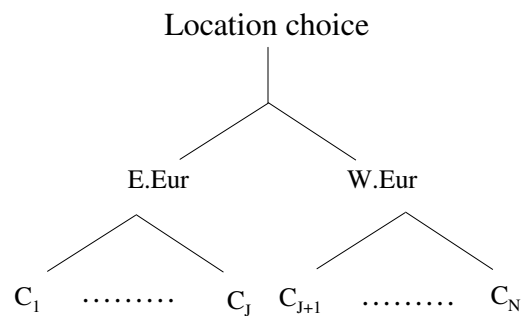
- Example (from Disdier and Mayer (2004)): Location choices by French firms in Eastern and Western Europe
- We want to model the factors involving the selection of location j :
 $P_j = P(\pi_j > \pi_k \forall k \neq j)$
- Location choices are likely to have a nested structure (non-IIA)
 - First, select region (East or Western Europe)
 - Next, select country within region
- Data
 - 1843 location decisions in Europe from 1980 to 1999
 - 19 host countries (13 W.Eur, 6 E.Eur)

Nested Logit Model – Example 1

- Location choices: Data
 - NF French firms already located in the country
 - GDP GDP
 - GPP/CAP GDP per capita
 - DIST Distance France – host country
 - W Average wage per capita (manufacturing)
 - UNEMPL unemployment rate
 - EXCHR Exchange rate volatility
 - FREE Free country
 - PNFREE Partly free and not free country
 - PR1 Country with political rights rated 1
 - PR2 Country with political rights rated 2
 - PR345 Country with political rights rated 3,4,5
 - PR67 Country with political rights rated 6,7
 - LI Annual liberalization index
 - CLI Cumulative liberalization index
 - ASSOC =1 if an association agreement is signed

Nested Logit Model – Example 1

- Location choices by French firms in Eastern and Western Europe



Nested Logit Model – Example 1

Table 1
Independent variables: data sources and expected sign

Variable	Definition	Source	Expected sign
<i>NF</i>	French firms already located in the country	DREE	?
<i>GDP</i>	GDP	CHELEM	+
<i>GDP/CAP</i>	GDP per capita	CHELEM	+
<i>DIST</i>	Weighted sub-national distance between France and the host country	REGIO (for the regional population)	-
<i>W</i>	Average wage per capita in manufacturing	OECD	-
<i>UNEMPL</i>	Unemployment rate	World Bank	?
<i>EXCHR</i>	Exchange rate volatility	IMF	?
<i>FREE</i>	Free country	Freedom House	+
<i>PNFREE</i>	Partly Free and Not Free country	Freedom House	var.
<i>PR1</i>	Country with political rights rated 1	Freedom House	+
<i>PR2</i>	Country with political rights rated 2	Freedom House	+
<i>PR345</i>	Country with political rights rated 3, 4, or 5	Freedom House	+
<i>PR67</i>	Country with political rights rated 6 or 7	Freedom House	var.
<i>LI</i>	Annual liberalization index	de Melo et al. (1997)	+
<i>CLI</i>	Cumulative liberalization index	de Melo et al. (1997)	+
<i>ASSOC</i>	= 1 if an association agreement is signed		+

Nested Logit Model – Example 1

is
lc
m:

Table 3
Location choice of French firms in Europe: the conditional logit model

Model	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
<i>Ln NF</i>	0.46*** (0.04)	0.45*** (0.04)	0.46*** (0.07)	0.45*** (0.07)	0.49*** (0.05)	0.46*** (0.05)
<i>Ln GDP</i>	0.35*** (0.03)	0.35*** (0.03)	0.35*** (0.04)	0.35*** (0.04)	0.36*** (0.04)	0.38*** (0.04)
<i>Ln GDP/CAP</i>	-0.34** (0.15)	-0.44** (0.18)	-0.70*** (0.22)	-0.77*** (0.24)	0.17 (0.26)	-0.08 (0.29)
<i>Ln DIST</i>	-0.88*** (0.09)	-0.89*** (0.10)	-0.84*** (0.14)	-0.83*** (0.14)	-0.74*** (0.14)	-0.78*** (0.14)
<i>Ln W</i>	-0.33*** (0.11)	-0.36*** (0.13)	-0.05 (0.17)	-0.09 (0.18)	-0.71*** (0.20)	-0.62*** (0.20)
<i>Ln UNEMPL</i>	0.37*** (0.07)	0.30*** (0.07)	0.60*** (0.10)	0.56*** (0.11)	-0.01 (0.11)	-0.05 (0.11)
<i>EXCHR</i>	-2.18** (0.98)	-2.50** (1.08)	2.65 (4.12)	-2.03 (4.67)	-2.28** (1.10)	-2.14* (1.11)
<i>FREE</i>	1.83*** (0.24)		2.09*** (0.44)		0.84** (0.28)	
<i>PNFREE</i>	ref. var.		ref. var.		ref. var.	
<i>PR1</i>		4.09*** (0.73)		3.36*** (0.76)		1.16*** (0.31)
<i>PR2</i>		3.55*** (0.73)		2.81*** (0.75)		0.76*** (0.28)
<i>PR345</i>		2.61*** (0.75)		1.89** (0.84)		
<i>PR67</i>		var.		var.		
Observations	1843	1843	825	825	1018	1018
Pseudo R ²	0.152	0.156	0.221	0.223	0.108	0.109

Notes. The dependent variable is location choice. Columns (1) and (2) contain the coefficients for the entire sample from 1980 to 1999. Columns (3) and (4) consider the initial time period from 1980 to 1990, while columns (5) and (6) report the results for the later period from 1991 to 1999. Standard errors in parentheses.

* Significant at the 10% level.

** Idem., 5%.

*** Idem., 1%.

Nested Logit Model – Example 1

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A.-C. Disdier, T. Mayer / Journal of Comparative Economics 32 (2004) 280–296

Table 4
Location choice of French firms in Europe: the nested logit model

Model	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Ln <i>NF</i>	0.68*** (0.06)	0.71*** (0.06)	0.62*** (0.10)	0.70*** (0.13)	0.83*** (0.10)
Ln <i>GDP</i>	0.30*** (0.04)	0.29*** (0.04)	0.42*** (0.07)	0.24*** (0.09)	0.20*** (0.08)
Ln <i>GDP/CAP</i>	−0.10 (0.29)	−0.13 (0.29)	−0.65 (0.51)	1.05 (0.79)	−0.18 (0.43)
Ln <i>DIST</i>	−0.70*** (0.17)	−0.60*** (0.16)	−0.89*** (0.24)	−0.69** (0.34)	−0.13 (0.30)
Ln <i>W</i>	−0.68*** (0.25)	−0.51** (0.24)	−0.57 (0.40)	−0.88 (0.67)	−0.33 (0.36)
Ln <i>UNEMPL</i>	−0.06 (0.11)	−0.06 (0.11)	−0.16 (0.17)	0.35 (0.29)	−0.17 (0.19)
<i>EXCHR</i>	−1.81 (2.08)	−4.79** (2.00)	−6.00*** (2.29)	−0.81 (16.66)	−13.68* (8.22)
<i>FREE</i>	1.03*** (0.32)				
<i>PNFREE</i>	ref. var.				
Inclusive value	0.91*** (0.08)	0.77*** (0.06)	0.47*** (0.13)	0.51*** (0.07)	0.92*** (0.12)
Observations	1008	1008	430	223	355
Pseudo <i>R</i> ²	0.141	0.139	0.151	0.147	0.137

Notes: The dependent variable is location choice. Columns (1) and (2) contain the coefficients for the years of the sample ranging from 1991 to 1999. Column (3) considers the first time period from 1991 to 1993, column (4) reports the coefficients for the period from 1994 to 1995, while column (5) presents the results for the later period from 1996 to 1999. Standard errors in parentheses.

* Significant at the 10% level.

** Idem., 5%.

*** Idem., 1%.

Nested Logit Model – Example 2 (Greene)

Example: Transportation mode (Air, train, bus, caaaaa)

STATA comands: NLOGIT

```

; Lhs=mode
; Rhs=gc,ttme,inv,invc
; Rh2=one,hinc
; Choices=air,train,bus,car
; Tree=Travel[Private(Air,Car), Public(Train,Bus)]
; Show tree
; Effects: invc(*)
; Describe
; RU1 $ (RU1: Random utility Model 1 – the one presented). This
option selects branch normalization

```

Nested Logit Model – Example 2 (Greene)

• Tree Structure Specified for the Nested Logit Model

Sample proportions are marginal, not conditional.

Choices marked with * are excluded for the IIA test.

Trunk	(prop.)	Limb	(prop.)	Branch	(prop.)	Choice	(prop.)	Weight	IIA
Trunk{1}	1.00000	TRAVEL	1.00000	PRIVATE	.55714	AIR	.27619	1.000	
						CAR	.28095	1.000	
				PUBLIC	.44286	TRAIN	.30000	1.000	
						BUS	.14286	1.000	

Model Specification: Table entry is the attribute that multiplies the indicated parameter.

Choice	*****	Parameter				
	Row 1	GC	TTME	INVT	INVC	A_AIR
	Row 2	AIR_HIN1	A_TRAIN	TRA_HIN3	A_BUS	BUS_HIN4
AIR	1	GC	TTME	INVT	INVC	Constant
	2	HINC	none	none	none	none
CAR	1	GC	TTME	INVT	INVC	none
	2	none	none	none	none	none
TRAIN	1	GC	TTME	INVT	INVC	none
	2	none	Constant	HINC	none	none
BUS	1	GC	TTME	INVT	INVC	none
	2	none	none	none	Constant	HINC

Nested Logit Model – Example 2 (Greene)

• STARTING VALUES

Discrete choice (multinomial logit) model

Dependent variable Choice

Log likelihood function -172.94366

Estimation based on N = 210, K = 10

R2=1-LogL/LogL* Log-L fncn R-sqrd R2Adj

Constants only -283.7588 .3905 .3787

Chi-squared[7] = 221.63022

Prob [chi squared > value] = .00000

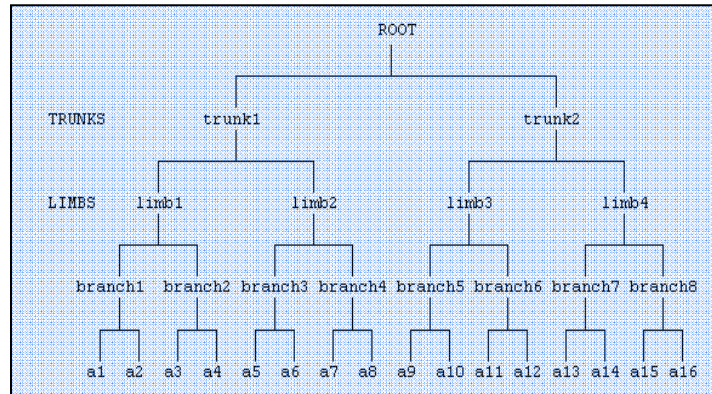
Response data are given as ind. choices

Number of obs.= 210, skipped 0 obs

Variable	Coefficient	Standard Error	b/St.Er.	P[Z >z]
GC	.07578***	.01833	4.134	.0000
TTME	-.10289***	.01109	-9.280	.0000
INVT	-.01399***	.00267	-5.240	.0000
INVC	-.08044***	.01995	-4.032	.0001
A_AIR	4.37035***	1.05734	4.133	.0000
AIR_HIN1	.00428	.01306	.327	.7434
A_TRAIN	5.91407***	.68993	8.572	.0000
TRA_HIN3	-.05907***	.01471	-4.016	.0001
A_BUS	4.46269***	.72333	6.170	.0000
BUS_HIN4	-.02295	.01592	-1.442	.1493

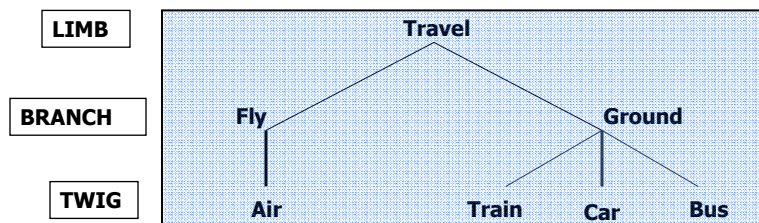
NL Model: Higher Level Trees (Greene)

- We can do higher order nesting. For example, housing choices can be divided by Location (Neighborhood); Housing Type (Rent, Buy, House, Apt); and Housing (# Bedrooms).



NL Model: Degenerate Branches (Greene)

- The branches do not have to have twigs. We can *degenerate* trees.



NL Model: Degenerate Branch (Greene)


- FIML Nested Multinomial Logit Model

Dependent variable		MODE		
Log likelihood function		-148.63860		
Variable	Coefficient	Standard Error	b/St.Er.	P[Z >z]
Attributes in the Utility Functions (beta)				
GC	.44230***	.11318	3.908	.0001
TTME	-.10199***	.01598	-6.382	.0000
INVT	-.07469***	.01666	-4.483	.0000
INVC	-.44283***	.11437	-3.872	.0001
A_AIR	3.97654***	1.13637	3.499	.0005
AIR_HIN1	.02163	.01326	1.631	.1028
A_TRAIN	6.50129***	1.01147	6.428	.0000
TRA_HIN2	-.06427***	.01768	-3.635	.0003
A_BUS	4.52963***	.99877	4.535	.0000
BUS_HIN3	-.01596	.02000	-.798	.4248
IV parameters, lambda(b 1), gamma(1)				
FLY	.86489***	.18345	4.715	.0000
GROUND	.24364***	.05338	4.564	.0000
Underlying standard deviation = pi/(IVparm*sqr(6))				
FLY	1.48291***	.31454	4.715	.0000
GROUND	5.26413***	1.15331	4.564	.0000

NL Model: Degenerate Branch (Greene)

- STATA commands:

```

NLOGIT      ; lhs=mode
              ; rhs=gc,ttme,inv,invc
              ; rh2=one,hinc
              ; choices=air,train,bus,car
              ; tree=Travel[Fly(Air),

              Ground(Train,Car,Bus)]
              ; show tree
              ; effects:gc(*)
              ; Describe
              ; ru2 $

```

(This is RANDOM UTILITY FORM 2. The different normalization shows the effect of the degenerate branch.)

NL Model: Degenerate Branch (Greene)

- Estimation of RU2 Form of Nested Logit Model

FIML Nested Multinomial Logit Model

Dependent variable		MODE		
Log likelihood function		-168.81283	(-148.63860 with RU1)	
Variable	Coefficient	Standard Error	b/St.Er.	P[Z >z]
Attributes in the Utility Functions (beta)				
GC	.06527***	.01787	3.652	.0003
TIME	-.06114***	.01119	-5.466	.0000
INVT	-.01231***	.00283	-4.354	.0000
INVC	-.07018***	.01951	-3.597	.0003
A_AIR	1.22545	.87245	1.405	.1601
AIR_HIN1	.01501	.01226	1.225	.2206
A_TRAIN	3.44408***	.68388	5.036	.0000
TRA_HIN2	-.02823***	.00852	-3.311	.0009
A_BUS	2.58400***	.63247	4.086	.0000
BUS_HIN3	-.00726	.01075	-.676	.4993
IV parameters, RU2 form = mu(b 1), gamma(1)				
FLY	1.00000 (Fixed Parameter)		
GROUND	.47778***	.10508	4.547	.0000
Underlying standard deviation = pi/(IVparm*sqr(6))				
FLY	1.28255 (Fixed Parameter)		
GROUND	2.68438***	.59041	4.547	.0000

NL Model: An Error Components Model (Greene)

- We can allow for some heterogeneity in the utility within the branches.

Random terms in utility functions share random components

$$U(\text{Air}, i) = \alpha_{\text{AIR}} + \beta_1 \text{INVC}_{i, \text{AIR}} + \dots + \varepsilon_{i, \text{AIR}} + w_{i,1}$$

$$U(\text{Train}, i) = \alpha_{\text{TRAIN}} + \beta_1 \text{INVC}_{i, \text{TRAIN}} + \dots + \varepsilon_{i, \text{TRAIN}} + w_{i,1}$$

$$U(\text{Bus}, i) = \alpha_{\text{BUS}} + \beta_1 \text{INVC}_{i, \text{BUS}} + \dots + \varepsilon_{i, \text{BUS}} + w_{i,2}$$

$$U(\text{Car}, i) = \beta_1 \text{INVC}_{i, \text{CAR}} + \dots + \varepsilon_{i, \text{CAR}} + w_{i,2}$$

$$\text{Cov} \begin{pmatrix} \text{Air} \\ \text{Train} \\ \text{Bus} \\ \text{Car} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_\varepsilon^2 + \theta_1^2 & \theta_1^2 & 0 & 0 \\ \theta_1^2 & \sigma_\varepsilon^2 + \theta_1^2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \sigma_\varepsilon^2 + \theta_2^2 & \theta_2^2 \\ 0 & 0 & \theta_2^2 & \sigma_\varepsilon^2 + \theta_2^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

This model is estimated by maximum simulated likelihood.

NL Model: An Error Components Model (Greene)

```

-----
Error Components (Random Effects) model
Dependent variable      MODE
Log likelihood function  -182.27368
Response data are given as ind. choices
Replications for simulated probs. = 25
Halton sequences used for simulations
ECM model with panel has 70 groups ←
Fixed number of obsrvs./group= 3
Hessian is not PD. Using BHHH estimator
Number of obs.= 210, skipped 0 obs
-----
Variable| Coefficient      Standard Error  b/St.Er.  P[|Z|>z]
-----+-----
|Nonrandom parameters in utility functions
GC|      .07293***      .01978      3.687      .0002
TME|     -.10597***      .01116     -9.499      .0000
INVT|    -.01402***      .00293     -4.787      .0000
INVC|    -.08825***      .02206     -4.000      .0001
A_AIR|    5.31987***      .90145      5.901      .0000
A_TRAIN|    4.46048***      .59820      7.457      .0000
A_BUS|    3.86918***      .67674      5.717      .0000
|Standard deviations of latent random effects
SigmaE01|     -.27336      3.25167     -.084      .9330
SigmaE02|     1.21988      .94292      1.294      .1958
-----

```

Testing the NL Model vs. the MNL (Greene)

- Log likelihood for the NL model
- Constrain IV parameters to equal 1 with
; IVSET(list of branches)=[1]
- Use LR test
- For the example:
 - LogL = -166.68435
 - LogL (MNL) = -172.94366
 - Chi-squared with 2 d.f. = $2(-166.68435 - (-172.94366))$
= 12.51862
 - The critical value is 5.99 (95%) => MNL model is rejected
- Check IV coefficients: A *sufficient condition* for consistency with RUM: they should be between (0,1).