Using Euler Equation to Estimate Non-Finite-Dependent Dynamic Discrete Choice Model with Unobserved Heterogeneity CEA Meeting 2019

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Background



Dynamic Discrete Choice Model

Model Priors

- The agents are forward looking and maximize expected inter-temporal payoffs.
- Structural functions: agents' preferences and beliefs about uncertain events.
- Estimated under principle of revealed preference, use micro-data on individuals' choices and outcomes.



Empirical applications includes

- Industrial organization Aguirregabiria and Ho (2012), Berry (1992), Yakovlev (2016), Sweeting (2013);
- Health economics Beauchamp (2015), Gaynor and Town (2012),
 - Gowrisankaran and Town (1997), Gowrisankaran et al. (2011);
- Marketing Dubé et al. (2005), Doraszelski and Pakes (2007), Doganoglu and Klapper (2006);
- ♦ Labor economics Todd and Wolpin (2006), Fang and Wang (2009), Keane et al. (2011);
- Other Schivardi and Schneider (2008), Rust and Rothwell (1995).



Background

The difficulties in incorporating unobserved heterogeneity:

- Computational heavy: value function iteration or Hotz-Miller inversion
- EM algorithm: more iterations account for unobserved heterogeneity.
- Existing methods relies on "Finite Dependence" (Arcidiacono and Ellickson (2011)).

The contribution of this project:

- Conceptually redefine the deterministic problem as a stochastic problem.
- Propose alternative estimator and incorporate unobserved heterogeneity and EM algorithm in dynamic discrete choice.
- Demonstrate the performance using Monte Carlo simulation.



Baseline

Baseline entry exit model

Now consider the baseline model of dynamic choice model

- \diamond Time is discrete and indexed by $t \in [0, T]$ and T finite / infinite.
- \diamond predetermined s_t and discrete action $d_t \in \mathcal{D} = \{0, \dots, D\}$.
- \diamond Time-separable utility function $\sum_{t=0}^{T} \beta^t U_t(d_t, s_t)$,



Baseline Model

$$V_t(s_t) = \max_{d} \Big\{ U_t(d, s_t) + \beta \int V_{t+1}(s_{t+1}) dF_t(s_{t+1}|a, s_t) \Big\}.$$
 (1)

♦ Assumption 1(Additive separable): $s = (x_t, \epsilon_t)$, $\epsilon_t = [\epsilon_t(0), \epsilon_t(1)]$, $U(d_t, s_t) = u(d_t, x_t; \theta) + \epsilon_t(d)$.

Redefinition

- \diamond Assumption 2(Finite domain of x): $x \in \mathcal{X}$, $|\mathcal{X}|$ is finite.
- ♦ Assumption 3(Conditional independence): $F(s_{t+1}|a_t, s_t) = G_{\epsilon}(\epsilon_{t+1}|x_{t+1})F_x(x_{t+1}|x_t, d_t).$
- \diamond Assumption 4(T1EV): $\epsilon_t = \{\epsilon_t(d) : d \in \mathcal{D}\} \sim_{i.i.d} T1EV$.



DDC-EE

Motivating Example: Entry Exit Problem

For example, take Consider a stationary infinite time horizon entry-exit problem:

- \diamond The firm observe the state $x_t = (y_t, z_t)$. The profitability $z_t \in \mathcal{Z}$, where $|\mathcal{Z}| = N$ is finite, and operation state $y_t = d_{t-1} \in \{0, 1\}.$
- \diamond The firm makes entry decision $d_t \in \mathcal{D} = \{0, 1\}$.
- \diamond z_t follows a first order Markov process $f(x_{t+1}|x_t,d_t)$;
- \diamond The firm's flow payoff $u(x_t, d_t; \theta)$.



Entry Exit Problem: Bellman Value Function

Likelihood function:

$$I(d_t, x_t; \theta) = \frac{\exp(v(x_t, d_t; \theta))}{\sum_{d \in \mathcal{D}} \exp(v(x_t, d; \theta))}.$$
 (2)

- ♦ The ex-ante value function:

$$\bar{V}(x_t) = E_{\epsilon}V(x_t, \epsilon)
= E_{\epsilon} \left\{ \max_{d \in \mathcal{D}} \left\{ v(d, x_t; \theta) + \epsilon_t(d) \right\} \right\}$$
(3)



Redefinition



Redefine the agent's problem as an analogue to a continuous optimization problem

$$\max_{P_{t}(x_{t})} \left\{ \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^{t} \kappa_{t}(x_{t}|x_{0}) \left[\sum_{d=0}^{1} p_{t}(x_{t},d) (u(x_{t},d) + e(P_{t}(x_{t}),d) \right] \right\}$$
subject to $\kappa_{t+1}(x_{t+1}|x_{0}) = \sum_{x_{t} \in \mathcal{X}} \sum_{d \in \mathcal{D}} \kappa_{t}(x_{t}|x_{0}) p(x_{t},d) f(x_{t+1}|x_{t},d).$
(4)



DDC-EE

Bellman Operator

Define the Bellman operator as

$$m{W}(m{\kappa}_t) = \max_{ ilde{P}_t} m{\kappa}_t^{\mathsf{T}} m{U}^{m{P}_t} + eta m{W}(m{\kappa}_{t+1})$$
 subject to $m{\kappa}_{t+1} = m{F}^{m{P}_t} m{\kappa}_t,$

where

- \diamond Note $\boldsymbol{W}^* = \boldsymbol{\kappa}^\top \boldsymbol{\bar{V}}$.
- $\diamond \ \boldsymbol{U}^{\boldsymbol{P}_t} = [\boldsymbol{U}^{\boldsymbol{P}_t}(x^{(1)}, \dots, \boldsymbol{U}^{\boldsymbol{P}_t}(x^{(|\mathcal{X}|)})]^{\top}.$
- $\diamond \ \boldsymbol{U}^{\boldsymbol{P}_t}(x) = \boldsymbol{P}_t(x)^{\top} \Big(\boldsymbol{u}(x) + \boldsymbol{e}^{\boldsymbol{P}_t}(x) \Big).$
 - $\mathbf{u}(x) = [u(d,x)]_{d \in \mathcal{D}}$
 - $e^{P_t}(x) = [\gamma log(P_t(d,x))]_{d \in \mathcal{D}}$
- \diamond $\boldsymbol{F}^{\boldsymbol{P}_t}$ is the \boldsymbol{P}_t -weighted transition matrix.



solution

Approach: Envelop Theorem

$$\frac{\partial \boldsymbol{W}^*(\boldsymbol{\kappa}_t)}{\partial \boldsymbol{\kappa}_t} = \boldsymbol{U}_0^{\boldsymbol{P}_t} + \beta \boldsymbol{F}_0 \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{W}^*(\boldsymbol{\kappa}_{t+1})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\kappa}_{t+1}}, \tag{5}$$

$$\tilde{\boldsymbol{u}} + \tilde{\boldsymbol{e}}^{\boldsymbol{P}_t} + \beta \tilde{\boldsymbol{F}} \left(\boldsymbol{u}_0 + \boldsymbol{e}_0^{\boldsymbol{P}_t} + \beta \boldsymbol{F}_0 \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{W}^*(\kappa_{t+1})}{\partial \kappa_{t+1}} \right) = 0.$$
 (6)

- $\diamond~m{U}_0^{m{P}_t} = m{u}_0 + m{e}_0^{m{P}_t}$,
- $\diamond \ \mathbf{u}_0 = [u(0, x^{(1)}), \dots, u(0, x^{(|\mathcal{X}|)})]^{\top}.$
- $\diamond \ \mathbf{e}_0^{\mathbf{P}_t} = [\gamma \log(P_t(0, x^{(1)})), \dots, \gamma \log(P_t(0, x^{(|\mathcal{X}|)}))]^\top.$



solution

Approach: Envelop Theorem

$$\bar{\boldsymbol{V}}_t = \boldsymbol{U}_0^{\boldsymbol{P}_t} + \beta \boldsymbol{F}_0 \bar{\boldsymbol{V}}_{t+1}, \tag{7}$$

$$\tilde{\boldsymbol{u}} + \tilde{\boldsymbol{e}}^{\boldsymbol{P}_t} + \beta \tilde{\boldsymbol{F}} \left(\boldsymbol{u}_0 + \boldsymbol{e}_0^{\boldsymbol{P}_t} + \beta \boldsymbol{F}_0 \bar{\boldsymbol{V}}_{t+1} \right) = 0.$$
 (8)

- $\diamond \; \boldsymbol{U_0^{\boldsymbol{P}_t}} = \boldsymbol{u_0} + \boldsymbol{e_0^{\boldsymbol{P}_t}},$
- $\diamond \ \mathbf{u}_0 = [u(0, x^{(1)}), \dots, u(0, x^{(|\mathcal{X}|)})]^\top.$
- $\diamond \ \boldsymbol{e_0^{P_t}} = [\gamma \log(P_t(0, x^{(1)})), \dots, \gamma \log(P_t(0, x^{(|\mathcal{X}|)}))]^{\top}.$



Proposition 1

In a stationary model,

$$\bar{\boldsymbol{V}}_t = (I - \beta \boldsymbol{F}_0)^{-1} \Big(\boldsymbol{u}_0 + \boldsymbol{e}_0^{\boldsymbol{P}_t} \Big).$$

The logit likelihood function from equation (6):

$$I(d_t, x_t; \theta) = \frac{\exp(v(d_t, x_t; \theta))}{\sum_{d \in \mathcal{D}} \exp(v(x_t, d; \theta))},$$

$$v(d, x_t; \theta) = u(d, x_t; \theta) + \beta \tilde{\mathbf{f}}(d_t, x_t) \bar{\mathbf{V}}_{t+1}.$$



Proposition 2 (Finite Dependence)

If the model display the finite dependence property, there exists an arbitrary action d^\dagger such that $\tilde{\pmb{F}} \pmb{F}_{d^\dagger} = \pmb{0}$.

The logit likelihood function for finite dependence:

$$I(d_t, x_t; \theta) = \frac{\exp(v(d_t, x_t; \theta))}{\sum_{d \in \mathcal{D}} \exp(v(x_t, d; \theta))},$$

$$v(d, x_t; \theta) = u(d, x_t; \theta) + \beta \tilde{\mathbf{f}}(d_t, x_t) \left(\mathbf{u}_{d_{t+1}^{\dagger}, t+1} + \mathbf{e}_{d_{t+1}^{\dagger}, t+1}^{\mathbf{P}_{t+1}}\right)$$



Proposition 3 (Almost Finite Dependent Estimator)

If the model does not exhibit finite dependence, we can find d_{t+1}^{\dagger} to minimize the norm of $|\tilde{\pmb{F}}\pmb{F}_{d_{t+1}^{\dagger}}|$.

$$I(d_t, x_t; \theta) = \frac{\exp(v(d_t, x_t; \theta))}{\sum_{d \in \mathcal{D}} \exp(v(x_t, d; \theta))},$$

$$v(d, x_t; \theta) = u(d, x_t; \theta) + \beta \tilde{\boldsymbol{f}}(d_t, x_t) \Big(\boldsymbol{u}_{d_{t+1}^{\dagger}, t+1} + \boldsymbol{e}_{d_{t+1}^{\dagger}, t+1}^{\boldsymbol{P}_{t+1}} + \boldsymbol{e}_{d_{t+1}^{\dagger}, t+1}^{\boldsymbol{P}_{t+1}} + \boldsymbol{e}_{d_{t+1}^{\dagger}, t+1}^{\boldsymbol{P}_{t+1}} \Big)$$



Estimator



identification

EM Algorithm

- \diamond *M* types of agent, $\theta = (\theta^1, \dots, \theta^M)$.
- $\diamond \pi^m$ denote the probability of being type m.
- $\diamond I(d_i, z_i; \theta_m)$ is the likelihood function.

$$\{\hat{\theta}, \hat{\pi}\} = \arg\max_{\theta, \pi} = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \log \left\{ \sum_{m=1}^{M} \pi^{m} I(d_{i}, z_{i}, \theta^{m}) \right\}, \qquad (9)$$

EM algorithm in dynamic discrete choice

The posterior:

$$\hat{q}_{im} = \frac{\hat{\pi}^{m} I(d_{i}, z_{i}, \hat{P}^{m}, \hat{V}^{m}, \hat{\theta}^{m})}{\sum_{m' \in \mathcal{M} \hat{\pi}^{m'} I(d_{i}, z_{i}, \hat{P}^{m'}, \hat{V}^{m'}, \hat{\theta}^{m'})}.$$
(10)

- \diamond where $\hat{m{P}} = (\hat{m{P}}^1, \dots, \hat{m{P}}^M)$ are unbiased estimators for CCPs,
- $\diamond \ \hat{m{V}} = (\hat{m{V}}^1, \dots, \hat{m{V}}^M)$ is an estimator of the value function,
- $\diamond \; \hat{\pi} = (\hat{\pi}^1, \dots, \hat{\pi}^M)^{ op}$ is an estimator of mixing probability,
- $\diamond \hat{q}_{im}$, the probability *n* is type *m*.



Modified EM Algorithm

Given the estimators from last round $\{\hat{\pmb{P}}^{(k-1)}, \hat{\pmb{V}}^{(k-1)}, \hat{\pi}^{(k-1)}\}$. Step 1: Compute $\hat{q}_{im}^{(k)}$ as

$$\hat{q}_{im}^{(k)} = \frac{\hat{\pi}^{m,(k-1)} I(d_i, z_i, \hat{\boldsymbol{P}}^{m,(k-1)}, \hat{\boldsymbol{V}}^{m,(k-1)}, \hat{\theta}^{m,(k-1)})}{\sum_{m' \in \mathcal{M}} \hat{\pi}^{m',(k-1)} I(d_i, z_i, \hat{\boldsymbol{P}}^{m,(k-1)}, \hat{\boldsymbol{V}}^{m,(k-1)}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^{m',(k-1)}, \hat{\theta}^{m',(k-1)})}.$$

Step 2: Using $\hat{q}_{im}^{(k)}$ to compute $\hat{\pi}m, (k)$: $\hat{\pi}^{m,(k)} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \hat{q}_{im}^{(k)}$. Step 3: Update estimator of θ with the equation

$$\hat{\theta}_{k} = \arg \max_{\theta} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \hat{q}_{im}^{(k)} \log I(d_{it}, x_{it}, s, \hat{\boldsymbol{P}}^{m,(k-1)}, \hat{\boldsymbol{V}}^{m,(k-1)}, \theta).$$
 (11)

Step 4: Update the CCPs $\hat{\boldsymbol{P}}^{(k)}$, and the value function $\hat{\boldsymbol{V}}^{(k)}$.



Likelihood Function

$$I(d_t, x_t; \boldsymbol{P}, \boldsymbol{V}, \theta) = rac{\exp(ilde{v}(d_t, x_t))}{1 + \sum_{d \in \mathcal{D}/\{0\}} \exp(ilde{v}(d, x_t))}$$

Table: Likelihood function comparison

	_
Method	diff in continuation value $(\tilde{v}(d,x))$
NFXP,	$ ilde{u}(x_t,d_t; heta) + eta \sum_{x_{t+1} \in \mathcal{X}} ilde{m{f}}(x_t,d_t) m{V}$
HM,	
EE,	
SEQ(q)	
FD2	$\tilde{u}(x_t, d_t; \theta) + \beta \sum_{x_{t+1} \in \mathcal{X}} \tilde{f}(x_t, d_t) \left(u_0 + e_0^P + \gamma - \log(\overline{p}_0) + \mathbf{F}_0 \mathbf{V}\right)$
AFD2	$\tilde{u}(x_t, d_t; \theta) + \beta \sum_{x_{t+1} \in \mathcal{X}} \tilde{f}(x_t, d_t) \Big(\sum_d \omega(d) (u_d + d) \Big)$
	$e_d^P \gamma - \log(p_d) + F_d V$



estimator

Value function

Table: Comparisons between value function computation

Method	Contraction Mapping
NFXP	$V(x_t) = E_{\epsilon} \left\{ \max_{d \in \mathcal{D}} [u_d(x_t) + \epsilon_d + \beta \tilde{f}(x_t, d_t) V] \right\} \text{ till}$
	convergence
SEQ(q)	$m{V}(x_t) = m{E}_{\epsilon} \left\{ max_{d \in \mathcal{D}} [u_d(x_t) + \epsilon_d + eta ilde{m{f}}(x_t, d_t) m{V}] ight\} ext{ for } m{q}$
	times
Hotz-Miller	$\mathbf{V} = (\mathbf{I} - \beta \mathbf{F}^P)^{-1} (\sum_{p} p(d)(u_d + e_d^P))$
EE	$V = (I - \beta F_0)^{-1} (u_0 + e_0^P)$
FD2	$V = u_0 + e_0^P + \beta F_0 V$
AFD2	$V = \sum_{d} \omega(d) \left(u_d + e_d^P + F_d V \right)$



Simulation



Data generating process: Homogeneous agent model

Table: Parameters in DGP

Flow-Payoff Parameters	$\begin{array}{ c c c c c }\hline \theta_0^{VP} = 0.5 & \theta_1^{VP} = 1.0 & \theta_2^{VP} = -1.0 \\ \theta_0^{FC} = 0.5 & \theta_1^{FC} = 1.0 \\ \theta_0^{EC} = 1.0 & \theta_1^{EC} = 1.0 \\ \end{array}$
State Variable Transition	z_{kt} is AR(1), $\gamma_0^k = 0, \gamma_1^k = 0.6$
Productivity Transition	ω_t is AR(1), $\gamma_0^{\omega}=0,\gamma_1^{\omega}=0.9$
Past action on productivity	$\gamma_a \in [0,5]$
Discount Factor	$\beta = 0.95$



Finite Dependent Model

Table: Two-step: Finite dependent models

	FD	FD2	AFD	AFD2	НМ	EE		
$Market = 200, Time = 20, \gamma_a = 0$								
θ_0^{VP}	0.4845	0.4845	0.4845	0.4845	0.5016	0.4845		
	(0.0706)	(0.0706)	(0.0706)	(0.0706)	(0.0350)	(0.0706)		
θ_0^{FC}	0.5447	0.5447	0.5447	0.5447	0.5098	0.5447		
	(0.0904)	(0.0904)	(0.0904)	(0.0904)	(0.0627)	(0.0904)		
$Market = 200, Time = 120, \gamma_a = 0$								
θ_0^{VP}	0.4963	0.4963	0.4963	0.4963	0.4983	0.4963		
	(0.0189)	(0.0189)	(0.0189)	(0.0189)	(0.0140)	(0.0189)		
θ_0^{FC}	0.4990	0.4990	0.4990	0.4990	0.4954	0.4990		
Ü	(0.0301)	(0.0301)	(0.0301)	(0.0301)	(0.0279)	(0.0301)		
$DCP \cdot \theta^{VP} = 0.5 \theta^{FC} = 0.5$								

4D > 4A > 4E > 4E > E 990

Two-step: Non-finite dependent models

Table: Non-finite Dependent two-step estimators

	FD	FD2	AFD	AFD2	НМ	EE		
$Market = 200, Time = 20, \gamma_a = 5$								
θ_0^{VP}	0.3434	0.5679	0.4925	0.5067	0.5307	0.5691		
	(0.0790)	(0.1457)	(0.0860)	(0.0908)	(0.0800)	(0.1460)		
θ_0^{FC}	-0.0155	0.7095	0.4432	0.4751	0.5833	0.7134		
ŭ	(0.2228)	(0.3321)	(0.2402)	(0.2518)	(0.2209)	(0.3330)		
$Market = 200, Time = 120, \gamma_a = 5$								
θ_0^{VP}	0.3058	0.4965	0.4829	0.4954	0.4982	0.4975		
-	(0.0333)	(0.0484)	(0.0436)	(0.0453)	(0.0395)	(0.0485)		
θ_0^{FC}	-0.1239	0.4920	0.4583	0.4860	0.4977	0.4953		
Ü	(0.0845)	(0.1237)	(0.1096)	(0.1140)	(0.1036)	(0.1239)		
DCD AVP OF AFC								

DGP:
$$\theta_0^{VP} = 0.5, \theta_0^{FC} = 0.5.$$

Sequential Estimation

Table: The mean and standard deviation of sequential estimators

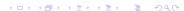
	FD2	AFD2	НМ	EE	SEQ(1)	
	$Market = 200, Time = 20, \gamma_a = 5$					
θ_0^{VP}	0.5084	0.4940	0.5096	0.5084	0.5043	
	(0.0925)	(0.1151)	(0.0938)	(0.0925)	(0.0921)	
$ heta_{0}^{\mathit{FC}}$	0.5167	0.4391	0.5207	0.5167	0.5034	
	(0.2506)	(0.3056)	(0.2567)	(0.2506)	(0.2493)	

The DGP parameters are: $\theta_0^{VP} = 0.5, \theta_0^{FC} = 0.5$.

Data generating process: Heterogeneous agent model

Table: Parameters in DGP

Flow-Payoff Parameters $ heta^1$	$\begin{array}{cccc} \theta_0^{VP} = 0 & \theta_1^{VP} = 1.0 & \theta_2^{VP} = -1.0 \\ \theta_0^{FC} = 0.5 & \theta_1^{FC} = 1.0 \\ \theta_0^{EC} = 1.0 & \theta_1^{EC} = 1.0 \end{array}$				
Flow-Payoff Parameters θ ²	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$				
Mixing Probability	(0.5, 0.5)				
State Variable Transition	z_{kt} is AR(1), $\gamma_0^k = 0$, $\gamma_1^k = 0.6$				
Productivity Transition	ω_t is AR(1), $\gamma_0^{\tilde{\omega}}=0,\gamma_1^{\tilde{\omega}}=0.9$				
Past action on productivity	$\gamma_a=2$				
Discount Factor	$\beta = 0.95$				



heterogeneous

Time and iteration

Table: Median Time and Iteration when increase state space

	nGrid	2	3	4	5	6
Algorithms	$ \mathcal{X} $	64	486	2048	6250	15552
	Market			100		
	Time			20		
FD2	Time	11.2472	13.9627	27.9147	390.0466	3103.6867
	Iteration	40.5	48.5	37	47.5	32.5
EE	Time	12.1462	21.3075	18.6141	181.0266	1039.5331
	Iteration	38.5	69.5	43	80.5	52
HM	Time	30.3638	35.6079	982.0085	-	-
	Iteration	91.5	59.5	53	-	-
SEQ(1)	Time	6.0499	17.2884	24.1402	100.8548	509.4910
	Iteration	22.5	64.5	55	43.5	35.5

[†] The results shows the time and iteration used in the estimation based on 12 Monte Carlo simulations of different state space.



heterogeneous

Summary of Contributions

- 1. Reformulation of the Bellman equation of discrete choice by continuous choice and states, to derive the restrictions of the model. Particular useful in non-finite-dependent(NFD) models.
- 2. Propose an alternative to Arcidiacono Miller algorithm that can be applied to NFD models.
- 3. Show computation gain to using this estimator in Monte Carlo simulations.



Thank You



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