

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

CEA Meeting 2019

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May 15, 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).

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 Model

Baseline entry exit model

Now consider the baseline model of dynamic choice model

- Time is discrete and indexed by t .
- Firms have preferences defined states of the world between periods 0 and T finite / infinite.
- A state of the world has two component : predetermined s_t and discrete action $d_t \in \mathcal{D} = \{0, 1\}$.
- Time-separable utility function $\sum_{t=0}^T \beta^t U_t(d_t, s_t)$, where $\beta \in [0, 1)$ is the discount factor.
- Let $d_t^*(s_t)$ denote optimal decision rule, $V_t(s_t)$ be the value function at period t .

$$V_t(s_t) = \max_d \left\{ U_t(d, s_t) + \beta \int V_{t+1}(s_{t+1}) dF_t(s_{t+1}|a, s_t) \right\}. \quad (1)$$

Key assumptions

Here are the key assumptions made in estimating the models :

- Assumption 1(Additive separable) : $s = (x_t, \epsilon_t)$, $\epsilon_t = [\epsilon_t(0), \epsilon_t(1)]$,
 $U(d_t, s_t) = u(d_t, x_t; \theta) + \epsilon_t(d)$. x_t is observed by the economist, ϵ_t is not observed by the economist.
- Assumption 2(Finite domain of x) : $x \in \mathcal{X}$, $|\mathcal{X}|$ is finite.
- Assumption 3(Conditional independence) :
 $F(s_{t+1}|a_t, s_t) = G_\epsilon(\epsilon_{t+1}|x_{t+1})F_x(x_{t+1}|x_t, d_t)$.
- Assumption 4(Distribution of ϵ) : $\epsilon_t = \{\epsilon_t(d) : d \in \mathcal{D}\} \sim_{i.i.d} T1EV$.

Motivating Example : Entry Exit Problem

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

- 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 $y_t = d_{t-1} \in \{0, 1\}$.
- The firm makes entry decision $d_t \in \mathcal{D} = \{0, 1\}$.
- z_t follows a first order Markov process $f(x_{t+1}|x_t, d_t)$;
- The firm's flow payoff $u(x_t, d_t; \theta)$.

Entry Exit Problem : Bellman Value Function

The ex-ante value function :

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{V}(x_t) &= E_{\epsilon} V(x_t, \epsilon) \\ &= E_{\epsilon} \left\{ \max_{d \in \mathcal{D}} \{v(d, x_t; \theta) + \epsilon_t(d)\} \right\}\end{aligned}\tag{2}$$

The firm's strategy $d_t^* = \arg \max_{d \in \mathcal{D}} \{v(x_t, d_t) + \epsilon_t(d)\}$, where

$$v(x_t, d; \theta) = u(x_t, d; \theta) + \beta \sum_{x_{t+1} \in \mathcal{X}} f(x_{t+1} | x_t, d) \bar{V}(x_{t+1}).$$

Estimation technique : use the distribution of ϵ , form the logit likelihood

$$\text{function : } l(d_t, x_t; \theta) = \frac{\exp(u(x_t, d_t; \theta) + \beta \sum_{x_{t+1} \in \mathcal{X}} f(x_{t+1} | x_t, d_t) \bar{V}(x_{t+1}))}{\sum_{d \in \mathcal{D}} \exp(u(x_t, d; \theta) + \beta \sum_{x_{t+1} \in \mathcal{X}} f(x_{t+1} | x_t, d) \bar{V}(x_{t+1}))}.$$

Bellman Equation in Probability Space

Decision and state in probability space

Decision :

Now consider an optimization problem defined in the probability space. The firm chooses the sequence of $\left\{ \left\{ \mathbf{P}_t(x_t) \right\}_{x_t \in \mathcal{X}} \right\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$ for all possible future states to maximize the discounted utility ;

State :

The ex-ante distribution of x_{t+1} . $\kappa_t(x_t|x_0) \in [0, 1]$ and $\sum_{s_t} \kappa_t(x_t|x_0) = 1$.

$$\kappa_t(x_t|x_0) = \begin{cases} \mathbf{1}(x_t = x_0) & \text{if } t = 0 \\ \sum_{x_{t-1}} \kappa_{t-1}(x_{t-1}|x_0) \sum_{d=0}^1 p_t(d)(x_{t-1}) f_d(x_t|x_{t-1}) & \text{if } t \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

Bellman operator

Define the Bellman operator as

$$\mathbf{V}^*(\boldsymbol{\kappa}_t) = \max_{\tilde{P}_t} \boldsymbol{\kappa}_t^T \mathbf{u}^{P_t} + \beta \mathbf{V}^*(\boldsymbol{\kappa}_{t+1})$$

$$\text{subject to } \boldsymbol{\kappa}_{t+1} = \mathbf{F}^{P_t} \boldsymbol{\kappa}_t,$$

where $\boldsymbol{\kappa}_t$, \mathbf{u}^{P_t} are vectors of length $|\mathcal{X}|$.

\mathbf{u}^{P_t} is the P_t -weighted payoff vector, and \mathbf{F}^{P_t} is the P_t -weighted transition matrix.

Approach I : Envelop Theorem

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{V}^*(\boldsymbol{\kappa}_t)}{\partial \boldsymbol{\kappa}_t} = \mathbf{u}^{\mathbf{P}_t} + \beta \mathbf{F}^{\mathbf{P}_t} \frac{\partial \mathbf{V}^*(\boldsymbol{\kappa}_{t+1})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\kappa}_{t+1}}, \quad (3)$$

$$(\text{diag}(\boldsymbol{\kappa}_t) \otimes I_{|\mathcal{D}|-1}) \tilde{\mathbf{u}}^{\mathbf{P}_t} + \beta (\text{diag}(\boldsymbol{\kappa}_t) \otimes I_{|\mathcal{D}|-1}) \tilde{\mathbf{F}} \frac{\partial \mathbf{V}^*(\boldsymbol{\kappa}_{t+1})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\kappa}_{t+1}} = 0, \quad (4)$$

where $\mathbf{u}^{\mathbf{P}_t}$ is the \mathbf{P}_t -weighted payoff vector,

$\tilde{\mathbf{u}}^{\mathbf{P}_t}$ is the derivative vector :

$\tilde{\mathbf{u}}^{\mathbf{P}_t} = [u(d, x) - u(0, x) + \log(p(0, x)) - \log(p(d, x))]_{d \in \mathcal{D}/\{0\}, x \in \mathcal{X}},$

$\mathbf{F}^{\mathbf{P}_t}$ is the \mathbf{P}_t -weighted transition matrix,

$\tilde{\mathbf{F}} = [\mathbf{f}(d, x) - \mathbf{f}(0, x)]_{d \in \mathcal{D}/\{0\}}, \mathbf{f}(d, x)$ the Markov transition probability of x_{t+1} given the state and decision.

Approach I : Envelop Theorem

Combine equation(3),(4) :

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{V}^*(\kappa_t)}{\partial \kappa_t} = \mathbf{u}_0^{P_t} + \beta \mathbf{F}_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{V}^*(\kappa_{t+1})}{\partial \kappa_{t+1}}, \quad (5)$$

Combine equation (4),(5) to get

$$\tilde{\mathbf{u}}^{P_t} + \beta \tilde{\mathbf{F}} \left(\mathbf{u}_0^{P_t} + \beta \mathbf{F}_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{V}^*(\kappa_{t+1})}{\partial \kappa_{t+1}} \right) = 0. \quad (6)$$

Likelihood function

In a stationary model,

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{V}^*(\boldsymbol{\kappa}_t)}{\partial \boldsymbol{\kappa}_t} = (\mathbf{I} - \beta \mathbf{F}_0)^{-1} \mathbf{u}_0^{\mathbf{P}_t}.$$

The logit likelihood function from equation (6) :

$$l(d_t, x_t; \theta) = \frac{\exp(u(x_t, d_t; \theta) + \beta \sum_{x_{t+1} \in \mathcal{X}} f(x_{t+1} | x_t, d_t) \frac{\partial \mathbf{V}^*(\boldsymbol{\kappa}_{t+1})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\kappa}_{t+1}})}{\sum_{d \in \mathcal{D}} \exp(u(x_t, d; \theta) + \beta \sum_{x_{t+1} \in \mathcal{X}} f(x_{t+1} | x_t, d) \frac{\partial \mathbf{V}^*(\boldsymbol{\kappa}_{t+1})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\kappa}_{t+1}})}.$$

Define the optimal objective function as

$$\mathbf{V}_t^* = \kappa_t^T \max_{\tilde{P}_t, \tilde{P}_{t+1}} \mathbf{u}^{P_t} + \beta \mathbf{F}^{P_t} \left(\mathbf{u}^{P_{t+1}} + \beta \mathbf{F}^{P_{t+1}} \mathbf{V}_{t+2}^* \right)$$

$$\text{Subject to } \left(\tilde{P}_t^* \tilde{F} + F_0 \right) \left(\tilde{P}_{t+1}^* \tilde{F} + F_0 \right) = \left(\tilde{P}_t \tilde{F} + F_0 \right) \left(\tilde{P}_{t+1} \tilde{F} + F_0 \right)$$

Estimators for Heterogeneous Agent Model

EM algorithm

M types of agent, $\theta = (\theta^1, \dots, \theta^M)$.

Let π^m denote the probability of being type m .

$l(d_{it}, z_{it}; \theta_m)$ is the likelihood function.

$$\{\hat{\theta}, \hat{\pi}\} = \arg \max_{\theta, \pi} = \sum_{n=1}^N \log \left\{ \sum_{m=1}^M \pi^m \prod_{t=1}^T l(d_{it}, z_{it}, s; \theta^m) \right\}, \quad (7)$$

where $\hat{P} = (\hat{P}^1, \dots, \hat{P}^M)$ is an estimator for CCPs,

$\hat{V} = (\hat{V}^1, \dots, \hat{V}^M)$ is an estimator of the value function.

\hat{q}_{is} , the probability n is type m

$$\hat{q}_{im} = \frac{\hat{\pi}^m \prod_{t=1}^T l(d_{it}, z_{it}, \hat{P}^m, \hat{V}^m, \hat{\theta}^m)}{\sum_{s'=1}^S \hat{\pi}^{m'} \prod_{t=1}^T l(d_{it}, z_{it}, \hat{P}^{m'}, \hat{V}^{m'}, \hat{\theta}^{m'})}. \quad (8)$$

EM algorithm

Step 1 : Compute $\hat{q}_{is}^{(k)}$ as

$$\hat{q}_{im}^{(k)} = \frac{\hat{\pi}^{m,(k-1)} \prod_{t=1}^T l(d_{it}, z_{it}, \hat{P}^{m,(k-1)}, \hat{V}^{m,(k-1)}, \hat{\theta}^{m,(k-1)})}{\sum_{m' \in \mathcal{M}} \hat{\pi}^{m',(k-1)} \prod_{t=1}^T l(d_{it}, z_{it}, \hat{P}^{m',(k-1)}, \hat{V}^{m',(k-1)}, \hat{\theta}^{m',(k-1)})}.$$

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 the CCPs $\hat{P}^{(k)}$, and the value function $\hat{V}^{(k)}$.

Step 4 : Update estimator of θ with the equation

$$\hat{\theta}_k = \arg \max_{\theta} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{s \in \mathcal{S}} \hat{\pi}_{s,k-1} \log l(d_{it}, x_{it}, s, \hat{P}_{k-1}, \hat{\theta}_{k-1}). \quad (9)$$

Likelihood Function

$$l(d_t, x_t; \theta) = \frac{\exp(\tilde{v}(d_t, x_t))}{1 + \sum_{d \in \mathcal{D} \setminus \{0\}} \exp(\tilde{v}(d, x_t))}$$

Table – Likelihood function comparison

Method	diff in continuation value ($\tilde{v}(d, x)$)
NFXP, HM, EE, SEQ(q)	$\tilde{u}(x_t, d_t; \theta) + \beta \sum_{x_{t+1} \in \mathcal{X}} \tilde{f}(x_{t+1} x_t, d_t) V$
FD	$\tilde{u}(x_t, d_t; \theta) + \beta \sum_{x_{t+1} \in \mathcal{X}} \tilde{f}(x_{t+1} x_t, d_t) (u_0 + \gamma - \log(p_0))$
AFD	$\tilde{u}(x_t, d_t; \theta) + \beta \sum_{x_{t+1} \in \mathcal{X}} \tilde{f}(x_{t+1} x_t, d_t) (\sum_d \omega(d) (u_d + \gamma - \log(p_d)))$
FD2	$\tilde{u}(x_t, d_t; \theta) + \beta \sum_{x_{t+1} \in \mathcal{X}} \tilde{f}(x_{t+1} x_t, d_t) (u_0 + \gamma - \log(p_0) + V)$
AFD2	$\tilde{u}(x_t, d_t; \theta) + \beta \sum_{x_{t+1} \in \mathcal{X}} \tilde{f}(x_{t+1} x_t, d_t) (\sum_d \omega(d) (u_d + \gamma - \log(p_d) + V))$

Value function

Table – Comparisons between value function computation

Method	Contraction Mapping
NFXP	$V(x_t) = E_\epsilon \left\{ \max_{d \in \mathcal{D}} [u_d(x_t) + \epsilon_d + \beta \sum_{x_{t+1} x_t} V(x_{t+1})] \right\}$ till convergence
SEQ(q)	$V(x_t) = E_\epsilon \left\{ \max_{d \in \mathcal{D}} [u_d(x_t) + \epsilon_d + \beta \sum_{x_{t+1} x_t} V(x_{t+1})] \right\}$ for q times
Hotz-Miller	$V = (I - \beta F^P)^{-1} (u^P + e^P)$
EE	$V = (I - \beta F_0)^{-1} (u_0 + \gamma - \log(p_0))$
FD2	$V = u_0 + \gamma - \log(p_0) + \beta F_0 V$
AFD2	$V = \sum_d \omega(d) (u_d + \gamma - \log(p_d) + V)$

Monte Carlo Experiments

Data generating process : Homogeneous agent model

Table – Parameters in DGP

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

Finite Dependent Model

Table – Two-step : Finite dependent models

	<i>FD</i>	<i>FD2</i>	<i>AFD</i>	<i>AFD2</i>	<i>HM</i>	<i>EE</i>
<i>Market = 200, Time = 20, $\gamma_a = 0$</i>						
θ_0^{VP}	0.4845 (0.0706)	0.4845 (0.0706)	0.4845 (0.0706)	0.4845 (0.0706)	0.5016 (0.0350)	0.4845 (0.0706)
θ_0^{FC}	0.5447 (0.0904)	0.5447 (0.0904)	0.5447 (0.0904)	0.5447 (0.0904)	0.5098 (0.0627)	0.5447 (0.0904)
<i>Market = 200, Time = 120, $\gamma_a = 0$</i>						
θ_0^{VP}	0.4963 (0.0189)	0.4963 (0.0189)	0.4963 (0.0189)	0.4963 (0.0189)	0.4983 (0.0140)	0.4963 (0.0189)
θ_0^{FC}	0.4990 (0.0301)	0.4990 (0.0301)	0.4990 (0.0301)	0.4990 (0.0301)	0.4954 (0.0279)	0.4990 (0.0301)
DGP : $\theta_0^{VP} = 0.5, \theta_0^{FC} = 0.5$.						

Two-step : Non-finite dependent models

Table – Non-finite Dependent two-step estimators

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

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

Table – The mean and standard deviation of sequential estimators

	<i>FD</i>	<i>FD2</i>	<i>AFD</i>	<i>AFD2</i>
<i>Market = 200, Time = 20, $\gamma_a = 0$</i>				
θ_0^{VP}	0.5163 (0.0376)	0.5079 (0.0369)	0.5163 (0.0376)	0.4799 (0.0672)
θ_0^{FC}	0.4203 (0.0635)	0.5146 (0.0591)	0.4203 (0.0635)	0.5516 (0.0804)
<i>Market = 200, Time = 20, $\gamma_a = 5$</i>				
θ_0^{VP}	0.3128 (0.0661)	0.5084 (0.0925)	-0.1775 (0.1838)	0.4940 (0.1151)
θ_0^{FC}	-0.2597 (0.1703)	0.5167 (0.2506)	-1.9434 (0.6454)	0.4391 (0.3056)
DGP : $\theta_0^{VP} = 0.5, \theta_0^{FC} = 0.5.$				

Continue : Sequential Estimation

Table – The mean and standard deviation of sequential estimators

	<i>HM</i>	<i>EE</i>	<i>SEQ(1)</i>	<i>SEQ(2)</i>	<i>SEQ(5)</i>
<i>Market = 200, Time = 20, $\gamma_a = 0$</i>					
θ_0^{VP}	0.5080 (0.0368)	0.5079 (0.0369)	0.5079 (0.0369)	0.5079 (0.0369)	0.5079 (0.0369)
θ_0^{FC}	0.5148 (0.0593)	0.5146 (0.0591)	0.5146 (0.0591)	0.5146 (0.0591)	0.5146 (0.0591)
<i>Market = 200, Time = 20, $\gamma_a = 5$</i>					
θ_0^{VP}	0.5096 (0.0938)	0.5084 (0.0925)	0.5043 (0.0921)	0.5084 (0.0925)	0.5084 (0.0925)
θ_0^{FC}	0.5207 (0.2567)	0.5167 (0.2506)	0.5034 (0.2493)	0.5167 (0.2506)	0.5167 (0.2506)

Data generating process : Heterogeneous agent model

Table – Parameters in DGP

<i>Flow-Payoff Parameters θ^1</i>	$\theta_0^{VP} = 0$ $\theta_1^{VP} = 1.0$ $\theta_2^{VP} = -1.0$ $\theta_0^{FC} = 0.5$ $\theta_1^{FC} = 1.0$ $\theta_0^{EC} = 1.0$ $\theta_1^{EC} = 1.0$
<i>Flow-Payoff Parameters θ^2</i>	$\theta_0^{VP} = 1$ $\theta_1^{VP} = 1.0$ $\theta_2^{VP} = -1.0$ $\theta_0^{FC} = 0.5$ $\theta_1^{FC} = 1.0$ $\theta_0^{EC} = 1.0$ $\theta_1^{EC} = 1.0$
<i>Mixing Probability</i>	(0.5, 0.5)
<i>State Variable Transition</i>	z_{kt} is AR(1), $\gamma_0^k = 0$, $\gamma_1^k = 0.6$
<i>Productivity Transition</i>	ω_t is AR(1), $\gamma_0^\omega = 0$, $\gamma_1^\omega = 0.9$
<i>Past action on productivity</i>	$\gamma_a = 2$
<i>Discount Factor</i>	$\beta = 0.95$

Time and iteration

Table – Median Time and Iteration when increase state space

Algorithms	<i>nGrid</i>	2	3	4	5	6
	$ \mathcal{X} $	64	486	2048	6250	15552
	<i>Market</i>	100				
	<i>Time</i>	20				
FD2	<i>Time</i>	11.2472	13.9627	27.9147	390.0466	3103.6867
	<i>Iteration</i>	40.5	48.5	37	47.5	32.5
FD2(FV)	<i>Time</i>	9.7783	14.1659	42.0155	612.4756	3097.6401
	<i>Iteration</i>	32.5	47	70	118	32
EE	<i>Time</i>	12.1462	21.3075	18.6141	181.0266	1039.5331
	<i>Iteration</i>	38.5	69.5	43	80.5	52
HM	<i>Time</i>	30.3638	35.6079	982.0085	-	-
	<i>Iteration</i>	91.5	59.5	53	-	-
SEQ(1)	<i>Time</i>	6.0499	17.2884	24.1402	100.8548	509.4910
	<i>Iteration</i>	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.

Thank You



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