

Replication package for BLM

This git repository contains all the code to replicate the results of **Bonhomme Lamadon and Manresa “A distributional Framework for matched employer-employee data”**, forthcoming at **Econometrica**. The working-paper version is available [here](#). Virtually all code is based on the R platform.

If you are looking for the R package to use the method of the paper, you should use the [rblm package](#). It includes most of the estimators available here, and we keep updating it.

The present replication package is built as an R package that can be easily installed on any system. All package dependencies can be handled using [packrat](#). This option guarantees that results can be reproduced using the exact versions of all the libraries that were used at the time the paper was written. We also provide a [Docker container](#) to ensure full portability. This provides a full linux stack with RStudio and all libraries installed and configured.

Importantly, reproducing the results on Swedish data **requires access to the administrative data from Sweden**. Researchers need to apply to get access to such data. We recommend contacting the [IFAU](#). The institute is hosting this replication package that can be accessed and ran on the data on their servers. The reference name for our project is "IFAU-2015-65 ("dnr65/2015"). See at the end of this page for more info.

If you have any question or comment, please contact us or use directly use the [issue page](#) on the github repository.

How do I run this?

The simplest way to use this replication package is to rely on the docker container that we have created as described in solution 1. This will get it running almost instantly.

Solution 1: get it running in less than 10 minutes, run our docker container

Make sure you have the [docker app](#) installed on your computer. Then run the following command:

```
docker run -d --rm -e PASSWORD=blm -p 8787:8787 tlamadon/blm-replicate
```

This will automatically download our docker container from dockerhub and start it. This will give you access to a fully functioning **RStudio** with the installed libraries and the code necessary to run the replication code. After completion of

the previous command, this Rstudio environment should be available in your browser at <http://localhost:8787>, which points to your local computer. Use login `rstudio` and password `blm`.

From there calling `source("inst/main.R")` will start the full replication, create all necessary intermediate results and generates all figures and tables, saving them in the `tmp` folder. We invite the researcher however to explore the [inst/main.r](#) file.

By default, this will run all of the code using a **synthetic data set**. See below how to get access to Swedish data, and load it into the container.

Note 1: make sure the docker app does not limit memory access to less than 16Gb. See [here](#).

Note 2: you can stop the container by running `docker stop blm-replicate`. If you want to keep working on the environment, you should not use the `--rm` argument in the original call. Such argument enforces the container to be destroyed upon stopping.

Note 3: you can easily move files in and out of a running container using the `docker copy SOURCE DEST` command. Or you can mount a folder from your host computer. See details [here](#).

Solution 2: install the replication package into your R environment

If you have your own running R system, and you want to run this replication package in your environment, you can directly install the package. In this case we recommend that you make use of the [packrat](#) configuration we are providing.

1. Download the replication package. We recommend to simply clone the github repository, ie: `git clone https://github.com/tlamadon/blm-replicate.git`
2. Start R inside the replication package.

In R, run the following commands:

```
# installing the package locally in your R env.

install.packages("pakcrat") # make sure that packrat is available
install.packages("devtools") # make sure that devtools is available

source("packrat/init.R") # initialize the packrat environment
packrat::restore()       # make sure all is up to date

devtools::install(".")    # build the replication package

source("inst/main.R")     # fire up the replication
```

Overview of the replication package

The main entry point is [inst/main.r](#). It will **automatically** run all the necessary steps in the other files in order to reproduce all the results of the paper. Note however that this would take a very long time as it will start some bootstrap procedures. The code will generate all figures and tables and put them into a folder called `tmp`.

We invite researchers to read through [inst/main.r](#) which has explicit calls for each subsets of the paper.

Organization of the code

- All the heavy lifting such as the estimators and simulation codes are in the `R/*` folder. This is the usual way to store functions in an R package.
- [inst/server/estimation-static.r](#) contains the code that runs the estimations for the **static** version of the model
- [inst/server/estimation-dynamic.r](#) contains code that runs the different estimations for the **dynamic** version of the model.
- [inst/server/fig-blm.R](#) contains functions that generate all of the **figures and tables** in the paper.

Replicating the results on Swedish data

Access to necessary data files

Researchers can directly apply for access to `data-static.dat` and `data-dynamic.dat` by contacting the [IFAU](#). These two files are the inputs to the replication code and a copy is stored as part of the replication package on the servers at the IFAU. Our two data sets (`data-static.dta` and `data-dynamic.dta`) will be stored on a server at IFAU, as part of the project "IFAU-2015-65 ("dnr65/2015"). The files will be in a separate folder that can be accessed by anyone who gets clearance from IFAU.

Re-creating these data files

Researchers could also re-construct these data sets from the original files, which are available on a server at IFAU, as part of the project `dnr167/2009` that was put together by Benjamin Friedrich, Lisa Laun, Costas Meghir, and Luigi Pistaferri. This project and ours are linked. The main data source should be the following list of files: `selectedf0educ1.dta`, `selectedf0educ2.dta`, `selectedf0educ3.dta`, `selectedf1educ1.dta`, `selectedf1educ2.dta`, `selectedf1educ3.dta`, `selectedfirms9708.dta`.

The following two scripts use these data sources to construct the two data files `data-static.dat` and `data-dynamic.dat`:

- [inst/server/data-section-static.r](#) contains the code that **processes the data inputs** to prepare the data for the static estimation.
- [inst/server/data-section-dynamic.r](#) contains the code that **processes the data inputs** to prepare the data for the dynamic estimation.

Using your own data source

This is similar to using the Swedish data. You only need to provide two data sources in the form of a `data.frame`. One should be called `sdata` and contain information on all workers, and one should be called `jdata` and contain information only about the movers. The `sdata` and `jdata` frames should be saved into `data-tmp/data-static.dat` and `data-tmp/data-dynamic.dat` for the static and the dynamic estimation.

We recommend to have a look at the function `generate_simulated_data` in [inst/server/server-utils.R](#). It creates synthetic data simulated from our main specifications and saves files to the same format as the actual data. This is your best source to match the structure exactly.

Here is what `sdata` looks like:

```

      k      y1      y2 j1 j2 j1true  f1  f2 move birthyear x  wid  inc
1: 1  9.846396  9.747927 5 1      5 F1335  F1  1    1961 1 W64819 Construction et
2: 2 10.040879 10.075224 5 1      5 F135   F1  1    1963 1 W64807      Retail tra
3: 5 10.638532 10.744525 3 1      3 F143   F1  1    1979 1 W60513      Retail tra
4: 3  8.894678 10.195521 4 1      4 F144   F1  1    1963 1 W62818 Construction et
5: 3  9.718155  9.438086 1 1      1 F181   F1  1    1965 1 W58054      Service
---
77571: 2  9.983228 10.219231 8 8      8 F998 F998  0    1964 1 W51166      Service
77572: 4 10.471325 10.398645 8 8      8 F998 F998  0    1971 1 W51331      Service
77573: 4 10.331180 10.516750 8 8      8 F998 F998  0    1967 1 W51434      Service
77574: 6 11.375500 11.292524 8 8      8 F998 F998  0    1968 1 W51496      Service
77575: 4 10.399596 10.501993 8 8      8 F998 F998  0    1973 1 W51543      Service
      va1      ind2      va2 educ size1
1:  3.3505830 Manufacturing 3.8792234  1  17
2: 13.7959329 Manufacturing 3.8792234  3  24
3:  0.2839520 Manufacturing 3.8792234  2  13
4:  3.0592294 Manufacturing 3.8792234  1  12
5:  1.0255445 Manufacturing 3.8792234  3  27
---
77571: 0.4115116      Services 0.4115116  3  64
77572: 0.4115116      Services 0.4115116  1  64
77573: 0.4115116      Services 0.4115116  2  64
77574: 0.4115116      Services 0.4115116  3  64
77575: 0.4115116      Services 0.4115116  1  64

```