

# ADVANCED ECONOMETRICS I

## Theory (3/3)

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### 3. Discrete Choice Models

#### 3.2. Models for Ordered Choices

##### Ordered choices:

- Values for the dependent variable:

$$Y \in \{0, 1, \dots, M - 1\}$$

- Latent model:

$$Y_i^* = x_i' \beta + u_i$$

- $x_i$  cannot include an intercept

- Individual behaviour observed only by intervals:

$$Y_i = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } Y_i^* \leq \gamma_0 \\ m & \text{if } \gamma_{m-1} < Y_i^* \leq \gamma_m, \\ M - 1 & \text{if } Y_i^* > \gamma_{M-2} \end{cases} \quad 1 \leq m \leq M - 2$$

- Example:

- $Y_i^*$  is a latent measure of the health status
    - $Y_i$  is an observed health indicator: poor, satisfactory, good, excellent

- Assumption: the  $\gamma_j$ 's are not known

### 3. Discrete Choice Models

#### 3.2. Models for Ordered Choices

#### Probabilities:

- Aim:
  - Modelling the probability of observing  $Y_i^*$  in a given interval
- Each probability is based on the same  $G(\cdot)$  functions used with binary choices, being given by:

$$\begin{aligned} Pr(Y_i = m|x_i) &= Pr(\gamma_{m-1} < Y_i^* \leq \gamma_m | x_i) \\ &= Pr(Y_i^* \leq \gamma_m | x_i) - Pr(Y_i^* < \gamma_{m-1} | x_i) \\ &= Pr(x_i' \beta + u_i \leq \gamma_m | x_i) - Pr(x_i' \beta + u_i < \gamma_{m-1} | x_i) \\ &= Pr(u_i \leq \gamma_m - x_i' \beta | x_i) - Pr(u_i < \gamma_{m-1} - x_i' \beta | x_i) \\ &= G(\gamma_m - x_i' \beta) - G(\gamma_{m-1} - x_i' \beta) \end{aligned}$$

- Hence, the general case is:

$$Pr(Y_i = m|x_i) = \begin{cases} G(\gamma_0 - x_i' \beta) & \text{if } m = 0 \\ G(\gamma_m - x_i' \beta) - G(\gamma_{m-1} - x_i' \beta) & \text{if } 1 \leq m \leq M - 2 \\ 1 - G(\gamma_{M-2} - x_i' \beta) & \text{if } m = M - 1 \end{cases}$$

## 3. Discrete Choice Models

### 3.2. Models for Ordered Choices

#### Estimation:

- Parameters to be estimated:
  - $\beta$
  - $\gamma_0, \dots, \gamma_{M-2}$
- Estimation method:
  - Maximum likelihood
- Most common models:
  - Ordered logit
  - Ordered probit

Stata  
ologit  $YX_1 \dots X_k$   
oprobit  $YX_1 \dots X_k$

### 3. Discrete Choice Models

#### 3.2. Models for Ordered Choices

Partial effects:

- Each  $X_j$  affects  $M$  probabilities:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta X_j = 1 &\Rightarrow \Delta \Pr(Y = m|X) \\ &= \begin{cases} -\beta_j g(\gamma_0 - x'_i \beta) & \text{if } m = 0 \\ \beta_j [g(\gamma_m - x'_i \beta) - g(\gamma_{m-1} - x'_i \beta)] & \text{if } 1 \leq m \leq M - 2 \\ \beta_j g(\gamma_{M-2} - x'_i \beta) & \text{if } m = M - 1 \end{cases}\end{aligned}$$

- The sign of  $\beta_j$  is informative about the direction of  $\Delta \Pr(Y = 0|X)$  and  $\Delta \Pr(Y = M - 1|X)$  but not of the changes in the remaining probabilities

## 3. Discrete Choice Models

### 3.3. Models for Multinomial Choices

#### Multinomial choices:

- Values for the dependent variable:

$$Y \in \{0, 1, \dots, M - 1\}$$

- Latent model:

- Each individual has a given utility associated with each alternative:

$$U_{im} = x'_{im}\beta + u_{im}$$

- The selected alternative is the one that maximizes utility:

$$Pr(Y_i = m | x_i) = Pr[U_{im} = \max(U_{i1}, \dots, U_{iM}) | x_i]$$

- Main models:

- Multinomial Logit:  $U_{im} \sim \text{Gumbel}$  and  $U_{im}$  independent  $\forall m$
- Multinomial Probit:  $U_{im} \sim \text{Normal}$
- Nested Logit
- Random Parameters Logit

## 3. Discrete Choice Models

### 3.3. Models for Multinomial Choices

#### Explanatory variables:

- $x_{im}$  may include:
  - $x_{im}$ : variables that are different across individuals and alternatives
  - $x_m$ : variables that differ across alternatives but not individuals
  - $x_i$ : variables that differ across individuals but not alternatives
- Example:
  - $Y_i$  - selected means of transport to go to work
  - $x_{im}$  - time that each individual  $i$  takes in going to work when using transport  $m$
  - $x_m$  - price of transport  $m$
  - $x_i$  - age of individual  $i$

## 3. Discrete Choice Models

### 3.3. Models for Multinomial Choices

Multinomial logit:

$$Pr(Y_i = m|x_{im}) = G_m(x'_{im}\beta + x'_i\beta_m) = \frac{e^{x'_{im}\beta + x'_i\beta_m}}{\sum_{j=0}^{M-1} e^{x'_{ij}\beta + x'_i\beta_j}}$$

- $\beta_m$  has to be normalized, that is for one alternative (base outcome) its value is set to zero
- $\beta$  cannot include a constant term
- Independence of Irrelevant Alternatives (IIA) – the odds ratio between two alternatives does not depend on the remaining alternatives:

$$\frac{Pr(Y_i = m|x_{im})}{Pr(Y_i = l|x_{il})} = \frac{e^{x'_{im}\beta + x'_i\beta_m}}{e^{x'_{il}\beta + x'_i\beta_l}}$$



### 3. Discrete Choice Models

#### 3.3. Models for Multinomial Choices

- When all explanatory variables are of the type  $x_{im}$  and  $x_m$ , the choice between alternatives  $m$  and  $l$  is fully explained by differences in the alternative characteristics:

$$\frac{Pr(Y_i = m|x_{im})}{Pr(Y_i = l|x_{il})} = \frac{e^{x'_{im}\beta}}{e^{x'_{il}\beta}} = e^{(x'_{im}-x'_{il})\beta}$$

- Is this case, the model is often called 'conditional logit'

Stata

```
asclogit Y X1m ..., case(id) alternatives(varname) casevars(Xi ...) basealternative(name)
```

- When all explanatory variables are of the type  $x_i$ , the choice between alternatives  $m$  e  $l$  is fully explained by differences between  $\beta_m$  e  $\beta_l$ :

$$\frac{Pr(Y_i = m|x_i)}{Pr(Y_i = l|x_i)} = \frac{e^{x'_i\beta_m}}{e^{x'_i\beta_l}} = e^{x'_i(\beta_m-\beta_l)}$$

Stata

```
mlogit YX1 ... Xk, baseoutcome(0)
```

## 3. Discrete Choice Models

### 3.3. Models for Multinomial Choices

- Estimation:

- Maximum likelihood based on the following log-likelihood function:

$$LL = \sum_{i=1}^N d_{im} \log[G_m(x'_{im}\beta + x'_i\beta_m)]$$

- $d_{im} = 1$  if individual  $i$  chooses alternative  $m$

- Partial effects:

- $\Delta X_{ij} = 1 \Rightarrow$

- $\Delta \Pr(Y_i = m|X) = \beta_j G_m(\cdot)[d_{im} - G_m(\cdot)]$
- $\beta_j$  gives the sign of the partial effect

- $\Delta X_i = 1 \Rightarrow$

- $\Delta \Pr(Y_i = m|X) = G_m(\cdot)(\beta_j - \bar{\beta})$ , onde  $\bar{\beta} = \sum_{m=1}^{M-1} \beta_m G_m(\cdot)$
- $\beta_j$  gives the sign of the partial effect relative to the base alternative, not the sign of the overall effect

## 3. Discrete Choice Models

### 3.3. Models for Multinomial Choices

- Testing IIA

- Hausman test comparing:
  - Full multinomial logit model
  - Multinomial logit model excluding one or more alternatives
- If multinomial logit is the correct model, then both models produce consistent estimators (null hypothesis)
- If multinomial logit is not the correct model, then the results generated by both models will be different (alternative hypothesis)

Stata

```
mlogit  $YX_1 \dots X_k$ , baseoutcome( $\mathcal{O}$ ) (ou asclogit...)  
estimates store Mod1  
mlogit  $YX_1 \dots X_k$  if  $Y \neq \mathcal{J}$ , baseoutcome( $\mathcal{O}$ ) (ou asclogit...)  
estimates store Mod2  
hausman Mod1 Mod2
```

## 3. Discrete Choice Models

### 3.3. Models for Multinomial Choices

#### Multinomial probit:

- Not affected by the IIA property
- Very complex, requiring the computation of  $(M - 1)$  integrals
- The version implemented in Stata assumes independent errors, which eliminates the only advantage of multinomial probit over multinomial logit

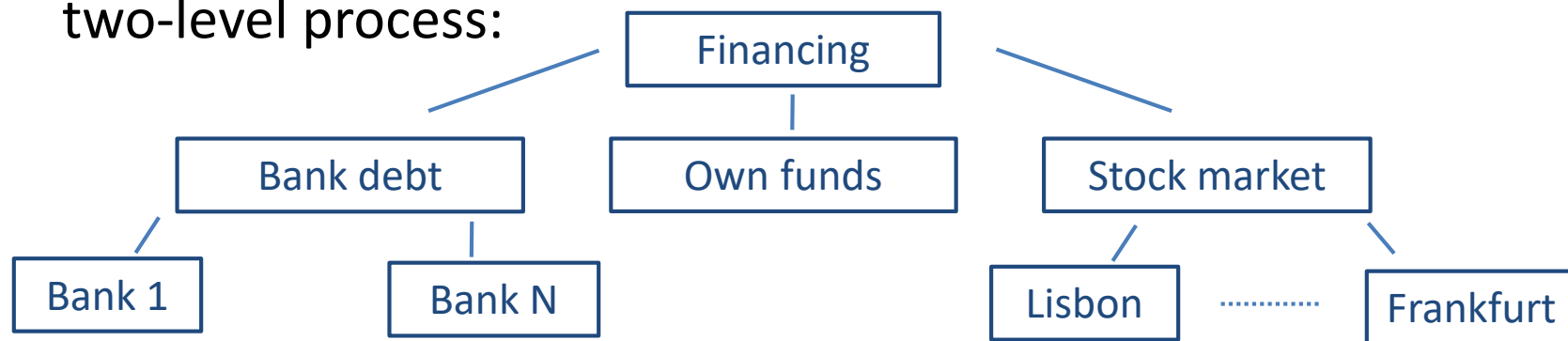
Stata  
`mprobit  $Y X_1 \dots X_k$ , baseoutcome( $\mathcal{O}$ )`

## 3. Discrete Choice Models

### 3.3. Models for Multinomial Choices

#### Nested logit:

- Not affected by the IIA property, grouping the choices in several sets in such a way that:
  - Within each group, alternatives may be correlated
  - Between groups, alternatives are independent
- Results from a sequential decision process – example for a two-level process:



- Level 1 – defining  $J$  groups,
- Level 2 – defining  $M_j$  choices in each group

`nlogit ...` [Stata](#)

Random parameters logit:

- Latent model:

$$U_{im} = x'_{im}\beta_i + u_{im}$$

- Most common assumption:  $\beta_i \sim N(\beta, \Sigma_\beta)$
- Not affected by the IIA property
- If  $\Sigma_\beta = 0$ , it reduces to the Multinomial Logit model; hence, comparing the two models allows the IIA property to be tested

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

4.1. Models for Nonnegative Outcomes

4.2. Models for Fractional Responses

4.3. Models for Discrete-Continuous Responses

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.1. Models for Nonnegative Outcomes

- Nonnegative outcomes can be:
  - Continuous:  $Y \in [0, +\infty[$ 
    - Examples: prices, wages,...
  - Discrete (counts):  $Y \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ 
    - Examples: patents applied for by a firm in a year, times someone is arrested in a year,...
- Linear regression models are not the most suitable option because:
  - May generate negative predictions for the dependent variable
  - At least close to the lower bound of  $Y$ , it does not make sense to assume constant partial effects



## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.1. Models for Nonnegative Outcomes

#### Log-linear regression model:

$$\ln(Y_i) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{1i} + \cdots + \beta_k x_{ki} + u_i$$

- With this transformation, the dependent variable becomes unbounded:  $Y \in ]0, +\infty[ \Rightarrow \ln(Y) \in ]-\infty, +\infty[$
- Assumption:  $E(u_i|x) = 0$
- However, two new problems arise:
  - The log-linear model is not defined for  $Y = 0$ ; adding a small constant value to  $Y$  or dropping zeros are not in general good solutions
  - Prediction is more interesting in the original scale,  $\hat{Y}_i$ , and not in the logarithmic scale,  $\widehat{\ln(Y_i)}$ ; the log-linear model gives the latter directly but retransforming it to the original scale requires additional assumptions and calculations and/or the application of relatively complex methods (see the next slide to understand the problem)

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.1. Models for Nonnegative Outcomes

- Assumed model:

$$\ln(Y_i) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{1i} + \cdots + \beta_k x_{ki} + u_i$$

- Consistent estimation requires  $E(u_i|x) = 0$
- Under  $E(u_i|x) = 0$ :

$$E[\ln(Y_i)|x] = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{1i} + \cdots + \beta_k x_{ki}$$

$$\widehat{\ln(Y_i)} = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 x_{1i} + \cdots + \hat{\beta}_k x_{ki}$$

- Prediction of  $Y_i$ :

- If  $\ln(Y_i) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{1i} + \cdots + \beta_k x_{ki} + u_i$ , then:

$$Y_i = e^{\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{1i} + \cdots + \beta_k x_{ki} + u_i}$$

and

$$E(Y_i|x) = e^{\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{1i} + \cdots + \beta_k x_{ki}} E(e^{u_i}|x)$$

- Consistent prediction of  $Y_i$  would require assuming  $E(e^{u_i}|x) = 1$ ; however, the assumption made,  $E(u_i|x) = 0$ , implies that, in general,  $E(e^{u_i}|x) \neq 1$
- Alternatively, we need to get a consistent estimate of  $E(e^{u_i}|x)$ , which requires additional assumptions

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.1. Models for Nonnegative Outcomes

Exponential regression model:

$$Y = \exp(x'\beta + u)$$
$$E(Y|X) = \exp(x'\beta)$$

- Assumption:  $E(e^u|x) = 1$
- Advantages:
  - $\hat{Y}_i$  is always nonnegative
  - Predictions are obtained directly in the original scale, without requiring any retransformations
- Partial effects:
$$\Delta X_j = 1 \Rightarrow \Delta E(Y|X) = \beta_j \exp(x'\beta)$$
  - The sign of the effect is given by the sign of  $\beta_j$
  - $\beta_j$  can be interpreted as a semi-elasticity (see the next slide for a proof)

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.1. Models for Nonnegative Outcomes

$$\Delta X_j = 1 \Rightarrow \Delta E(Y|X) = \beta_j \exp(x' \beta)$$

$$\Rightarrow \Delta E(Y|X) = \beta_j E(Y|X)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\Delta E(Y|X)}{E(Y|X)} = \beta_j$$

$$\Rightarrow 100 \frac{\Delta E(Y|X)}{E(Y|X)} = 100\beta_j$$

$$\Rightarrow \% \Delta E(Y|X) = 100\beta_j \%$$

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.1. Models for Nonnegative Outcomes

- Assumptions and estimation methods according to the type of nonnegative outcome:
  - Continuous response:
    - Assumption: only  $E(Y|X)$ ; estimation: QML
  - Count data - two alternatives:
    - Assumption: only  $E(Y|X)$ ; estimation: QML
    - Assumption:  $E(Y|X)$  and  $Pr(Y = j|X)$ ; estimation: ML
- Three main distribution functions are used as basis for QML and/or ML estimation:
  - Poisson
  - Negative Binomial 1
  - Negative Binomial 2

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.1. Models for Nonnegative Outcomes

Poisson regression model:

$$Y_i \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda_i) \Rightarrow \Pr(Y_i = y|x_i) = \frac{e^{-\lambda_i} \lambda_i^y}{y!}$$

where  $\lambda_i = E(Y|X) = \exp(x'\beta)$

- Estimation methods: ML (only count data) or QML, since the Poisson distribution belongs to the linear exponential family
- By definition,  $E(Y|X) = \text{Var}(Y|X)$  (equidispersion), which may be a strong assumption in some empirical applications

Stata

ML: poisson  $Y X_1 \dots X_k$

QML: poisson  $Y X_1 \dots X_k$ , robust

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.1. Models for Nonnegative Outcomes

#### Negative binomial regression models:

- Two variants, both allowing for overdispersion ( $\delta > 0$ ):
  - NEGBIN1:  $Var(Y|X) = (1 + \delta)E(Y|X)$  - ML estimation
  - NEGBIN2:  $Var(Y|X) = [1 + \delta E(Y|X)]E(Y|X)$  - it belongs to the linear exponential family, enabling estimation by both ML (only count data) and QML

#### Stata

NEGBIN1: nbreg  $YX_1 \dots X_k$ , dispersion(constant)

NEGBIN2 (ML): nbreg  $YX_1 \dots X_k$ , dispersion(mean)

NEGBIN2 (QML): nbreg  $YX_1 \dots X_k$ , dispersion(mean) robust

- Overdispersion test:

$H_0: \delta = 0$  (Poisson model)

$H_1: \delta \neq 0$  (Negative Binomial 1 or 2 model)

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.1. Models for Nonnegative Outcomes

Base panel data model:

- Continuous / count data:

$$E(Y_{it}|x_{it}, \alpha_i) = \exp(\gamma_i + x'_{it}\beta) = \alpha_i \exp(x'_{it}\beta)$$

- Count data:

$$Pr(Y_{it} = y|x_{it}, \alpha_i) = \frac{e^{-\lambda_{it}} \lambda_{it}^y}{y!}$$
$$\lambda_i = E(Y_{it}|x_{it}, \alpha_i) = \alpha_i \exp(x'_{it}\beta)$$

Pooled estimator:

- Based on the cross-sectional assumption  $E(Y_{it}|x_{it}) = \exp(x'_{it}\beta)$
- Produces consistent estimators only if  $E(\alpha_i|x_{it}) = 1$

Stata  
`poisson  $YX_1 \dots X_k$ , vce(cluster clustvar)`



## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.1. Models for Nonnegative Outcomes

#### Random Effects Poisson Estimator:

- Assumptions:
  - $Y_{it} \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda_{it})$
  - $\lambda_i = E(Y_{it}|x_{it}, \alpha_i) = \alpha_i \exp(x'_{it}\beta)$
  - $\log(\alpha_i) = \gamma_i \sim \text{Gamma}(1, \eta)$
- Resulting model:
  - NEGBIN2-type model
  - Estimation method: ML
  - $E(Y_{it}|x_{it}) = \exp(x'_{it}\beta)$ , which implies that the Pooled estimator is consistent under random effects of this type

Stata

```
xtpoisson Y X1 ... Xk, re vce(robust)
```

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.1. Models for Nonnegative Outcomes

#### Fixed Effects Estimators:

- Fixed effects Poisson estimator (three equivalent versions):
  - Pooled estimator with individual effects
  - Estimator conditional on  $\sum_{t=1}^T Y_{it}$ , with  $\sum_{t=1}^T Y_{it} \neq 0$
  - Quasi mean-differenced GMM estimator (Hausman, Hall and Griliches, 1984)
- Quasi-differences GMM estimator:
  - Chamberlain (1992)
  - Wooldridge (1997)

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.1. Models for Nonnegative Outcomes

#### Fixed effects Poisson estimator:

- May be derived using the three equivalent versions
- Pooled estimator with individual effects:
  - Adds individual dummies, associated to the  $\gamma_i'$ s
  - As in linear models,  $\beta$  is consistently estimated even in short panels (no incidental parameters problem)
- The quasi mean-differenced GMM estimator is based on the following moment condition:

$$E \left( Y_{it} - \frac{\lambda_{it}}{\bar{\lambda}_i} \bar{Y}_i \middle| x_{it} \right) = 0,$$

where  $\lambda_{it} = \exp(x'_{it}\beta)$

- Requires strictly exogenous explanatory variables

Stata  
`xtpoisson YX1 ... Xk, fe vce(robust)`

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.1. Models for Nonnegative Outcomes

#### Quasi-differences GMM estimator :

- Chamberlain (1992):

$$E \left( \frac{\lambda_{it}}{\lambda_{i,t-1}} Y_{it} - Y_{i,t-1} \middle| x_{it} \right) = 0$$

- Wooldridge (1997):

$$E \left( \frac{Y_{it}}{\lambda_{it}} - \frac{Y_{i,t-1}}{\lambda_{i,t-1}} \middle| x_{it} \right) = 0$$

- In both cases the explanatory variables do not need to be strictly exogenous, so these estimators are particularly useful in dynamic models

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.2. Models for Fractional Responses

Fractional outcomes:

$$Y \in [0,1]$$

Base specification:

$$E(Y|X) = G(x'\beta)$$

where the  $G(\cdot)$  function must respect the restriction  $0 \leq G(\cdot) \leq 1$

Main models:

- Fractional regression model: assumes only  $E(Y|X)$
- Beta regression model: assumes also  $Pr(Y|X)$
- Transformation regression models (assume only  $E(Y|X)$ ):
  - Linear transformation
  - Exponential transformation

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.2. Models for Fractional Responses

#### Fractional regression models:

- Very similar to binary regression models
  - Main models: Logit, Probit, Cloglog
  - Partial effects calculated using the same expressions
  - Estimation also based on the Bernoulli function, but only by QML

#### Stata

```
glm  $YX_1 \dots X_k$ , family(binomial) link(logit) robust
```

```
glm  $YX_1 \dots X_k$ , family(binomial) link(probit) robust
```

```
glm  $YX_1 \dots X_k$ , family(binomial) link(cloglog) robust
```

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.2. Models for Fractional Responses

#### Beta regression model:

- Assumes also  $E(Y|X) = G(x'\beta)$ , using the same functions for  $G(\cdot)$
- Additional assumption:  $Y_i \sim \text{Beta}$ , with mean given by  $G(x'\beta)$  and precision parameter  $\phi$
- Estimation only by ML: more efficient, less robust
- Only available when  $Y \in ]0,1[$

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.2. Models for Fractional Responses

Linear transformation:

$$Y_i = G(x_i' \beta + u_i)$$
$$H(Y_i) = x_i' \beta + u_i$$

- Alternative specifications:

- Logit:  $H(Y_i) = \ln \frac{Y_i}{1 - Y_i}$
- Probit:  $H(Y_i) = \Phi^{-1}(Y_i)$
- Cloglog:  $H(Y_i) = \ln[-\ln(1 - Y_i)]$

- Advantages:

- Estimation: OLS
- Easy to deal with panel data and endogenous variables

- Limitations:

- $H(Y_i)$  is not defined for  $Y_i = 0$  and  $Y_i = 1$
- Prediction in the original scale requires additional assumptions and calculations and/or the application of relatively complex methods

Example for logit:

$$Y_i = \frac{e^{x_i' \beta + u_i}}{1 + e^{x_i' \beta + u_i}}$$
$$Y_i + Y_i e^{x_i' \beta + u_i} = e^{x_i' \beta + u_i}$$
$$Y_i = e^{x_i' \beta + u_i} - Y_i e^{x_i' \beta + u_i}$$
$$Y_i = (1 - Y_i) e^{x_i' \beta + u_i}$$
$$\frac{Y_i}{1 - Y_i} = e^{x_i' \beta + u_i}$$
$$\ln \frac{Y_i}{1 - Y_i} = x_i' \beta + u_i$$



## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.2. Models for Fractional Responses

Exponential transformation:

$$Y_i = G(x_i'\beta + u_i) = G_1[\exp(x_i'\beta + u_i)]$$

$$H_1(Y_i) = \exp(x_i'\beta + u_i)$$

- Alternative specifications:

- Logit:  $H_1(Y_i) = \frac{Y_i}{1-Y_i}$
- Cloglog:  $H_1(Y_i) = -\ln(1 - Y_i)$

- Advantages:

- Estimation: same methods as those used for nonnegative responses
- Easy to deal with panel data and endogenous variables

- Limitations:

- Not applicable to the probit model
- $H(Y_i)$  is not defined for  $Y_i = 1$  (but it is for  $Y_i = 0$ )
- Prediction in the original scale requires additional assumptions and calculations and/or the application of relatively complex methods

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.2. Models for Fractional Responses

Multivariate fractional outcomes:

- $Y_{im} \in [0,1], m = 0, \dots, M - 1$
- $\sum_{m=0}^{M-1} Y_{im} = 1$

Base specification:

$$E(Y_{im}|X_i) = G_m(x'\beta)$$

- The  $G_m(\cdot)$  function must respect the restrictions  $0 \leq G_m(\cdot) \leq 1$  and  $\sum_{m=0}^{M-1} G_m = 1$

Main models:

- Multivariate fractional regression model
- Dirichlet regression model

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.2. Models for Fractional Responses

#### Multivariate fractional regression model:

- Very similar to multinomial choice models
  - Main models: Logit Multinomial, Nested Logit, Random Parameters Logit, ...
  - Partial effects calculated using the same expressions
- QML estimation based on the multivariate Bernoulli function

#### Dirichlet regression model:

- Assumes the same specifications for  $G_m(\cdot)$
- Additional assumption:  $Y_i \sim \text{Dirichlet}$ , with means given by  $G_m(x'\beta)$  and precision parameter  $\phi$
- Estimation only by ML: more efficient, less robust
- Only available when  $Y_{im} \in ]0,1[$

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.2. Models for Fractional Responses

Panel data - base specification:

$$E(Y_{it}|x_{it}, \alpha_i) = G(\alpha_i + x'_{it}\beta)$$

Estimators:

- Pooled estimator (requires  $\alpha_i = \alpha$  for consistency)
- Pooled with individual effects (requires  $T \rightarrow \infty$  for consistency)
- Random effects (assumes  $\alpha_i \sim N(0, \sigma_\alpha^2)$ )
- Fixed effects (based on linear or exponential transformations)

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.3. Models for Discrete-Continuous Responses

- Tobit Model
- Two-Part Model
- Sample Selection Model

#### Motivation:

- Sometimes, the dependent variable has both discrete and continuous values; typically:
  - Discrete value: for many individuals,  $Y_i = 0$
  - Continuous component: for the remaining individuals,  $Y_i$  may take on some positive value, which may be bounded (fractional outcome) or not (nonnegative outcome)
- Examples:
  - Expenditures on durable goods, alcohol,,...
  - Work hours

#### Alternative models:

- Tobit model: a single model explains all values
- Two-part model: uses two independent models for explaining separately the zeros and the positive values
- Sample selection model: uses two different, but interdependent, models for explaining the zeros and the positive values

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.3. Models for Discrete-Continuous Responses

#### Tobit model - specification:

- Latent model:  $Y_i^* = x_i' \beta + u_i$ ,  $-\infty < Y_i^* < +\infty$
- Instead of  $Y_i^*$ , it is observed:

$$Y_i = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } Y_i^* \leq 0 \\ Y_i^* & \text{if } Y_i^* > 0 \end{cases}$$

- Assumption:  $u_i \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$ 
  - $Pr(Y_i = 0 | x_i) = Pr(Y_i^* \leq 0 | x_i) = Pr(x_i' \beta + u_i \leq 0 | x_i) = Pr(u_i \leq -x_i' \beta | x_i) = Pr\left(\frac{u_i}{\sigma^2} \leq -\frac{x_i' \beta}{\sigma^2} \middle| x_i\right) = \Phi\left(-\frac{x_i' \beta}{\sigma^2}\right) = 1 - \Phi\left(\frac{x_i' \beta}{\sigma^2}\right)$

- Hence:  $f(y_i | x_i) = \begin{cases} 1 - \Phi\left(\frac{x_i' \beta}{\sigma^2}\right) & \text{if } Y = 0 \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(y_i - x_i' \beta)^2}{2\sigma^2}} & \text{if } Y > 0 \end{cases}$



## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.3. Models for Discrete-Continuous Responses

#### Estimation:

- Method: ML

Stata  
tobit  $Y X_1 \dots X_k, \text{ll}(0)$

- Parameters to be estimated:  $\beta$  and  $\sigma$
- Log-likelihood function:

$$LL = \sum \left\{ (1 - d_i) \log \left[ 1 - \Phi \left( \frac{x_i' \beta}{\sigma} \right) \right] + d_i \log \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{(y_i - x_i' \beta)^2}{2\sigma^2}} \right] \right\}$$

$$\text{where } d_i = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } Y_i = 0 \\ 1 & \text{if } Y_i > 0 \end{cases}$$

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.3. Models for Discrete-Continuous Responses

#### Quantities of interest:

- Conditional mean given that  $Y_i$  is positive:

$$E(Y_i|x_i, Y_i > 0) = x_i'\beta + \sigma\lambda\left(\frac{x_i'\beta}{\sigma}\right)$$

where  $\lambda\left(\frac{x_i'\beta}{\sigma}\right) = \frac{\phi\left(\frac{x_i'\beta}{\sigma}\right)}{\Phi\left(\frac{x_i'\beta}{\sigma}\right)}$  is the Mills ratio

- Probability of observing positive values for  $Y_i$ :

$$\Pr(Y_i > 0|x_i) = \Phi\left(\frac{x_i'\beta}{\sigma}\right)$$

- Overall conditional mean:

$$\begin{aligned} E(Y_i|x_i) &= \Pr(Y_i = 0|x_i)E(Y_i|x_i, Y_i = 0) + \Pr(Y_i > 0|x_i)E(Y_i|x_i, Y_i > 0) \\ &= \Phi\left(\frac{x_i'\beta}{\sigma}\right)x_i'\beta + \sigma\phi\left(\frac{x_i'\beta}{\sigma}\right) \end{aligned}$$

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.3. Models for Discrete-Continuous Responses

Partial effects:

- $\Delta X_j = 1 \Rightarrow$ 
  - $\Delta E(Y_i | x_i, Y_i > 0) = \beta_j \left\{ 1 - \lambda \left( \frac{x_i' \beta}{\sigma} \right) \left[ \frac{x_i' \beta}{\sigma} + \lambda \left( \frac{x_i' \beta}{\sigma} \right) \right] \right\}$
  - $\Delta \Pr(Y_i > 0 | x_i) = \frac{\beta_j}{\sigma} \phi \left( \frac{x_i' \beta}{\sigma} \right)$
  - $\Delta E(Y_i | x_i) = \beta_j \Phi \left( \frac{x_i' \beta}{\sigma} \right)$
- The three effects have the same sign

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.3. Models for Discrete-Continuous Responses

#### Two-part model specification:

- First part – binary regression model:

$$Pr(d_i = 1|x_i) = G_1(x_i'\beta)$$

- $d_i = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{se } Y_i = 0 \\ 1 & \text{se } Y_i > 0 \end{cases}$

- Second part – exponential or fractional regression model

$$E(Y_i|x_i, d_i = 1) = G_2(x_i'\theta)$$

- Overall conditional mean:

$$E(Y_i|x_i)$$

$$= Pr(Y_i = 0|x_i)E(Y_i|x_i, Y_i = 0) + Pr(Y_i > 0|x_i)E(Y_i|x_i, Y_i > 0)$$

$$= G_1(x_i'\beta)G_2(x_i'\theta)$$

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.3. Models for Discrete-Continuous Responses

#### Estimation:

- Each part of the model is estimated separately:
  - In each part, use the standard methods for the type of data being analyzed
  - In the first part of the model, use the full sample
  - In the second part of the model, use the subsample for which  $Y_i > 0$
  - One may use different explanatory variables in each part of the model

#### Partial effects:

- $\Delta Pr(d_i = 1|x_i)$
- $\Delta E(Y_i|x_i, d_i = 1)$
- $\Delta E(Y_i|x_i) = \Delta Pr(d_i = 1|x_i)E(Y_i|x_i, d_i = 1) + Pr(d_i = 1|x_i)\Delta E(Y_i|x_i, d_i = 1)$

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.3. Models for Discrete-Continuous Responses

#### Sample selection model - latent variable:

- $Y_{2i}^*$ : main variable
- $Y_{1i}^*$ : variable that determines whether  $Y_{2i}^*$  is observed or not

#### Two equations:

- Participation equation (*e.g.* to work or not):

$$Y_{1i} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } Y_{1i}^* \leq 0 \\ 1 & \text{if } Y_{1i}^* > 0 \end{cases}$$

- Outcome equation (*e.g.* how much to work):

$$Y_{2i} = \begin{cases} - & \text{if } Y_{1i}^* \leq 0 \\ Y_{2i}^* & \text{if } Y_{1i}^* > 0 \end{cases}$$

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.3. Models for Discrete-Continuous Responses

Latent linear models:

$$\begin{cases} Y_{1i}^* = x'_{1i}\beta_1 + u_{1i} \\ Y_{2i}^* = x'_{2i}\beta_2 + u_{2i} \end{cases}$$

Assumptions:

- The error terms of the two equations are assumed to be correlated, having a bivariate normal distribution:

$$\begin{bmatrix} u_{1i} \\ u_{2i} \end{bmatrix} \sim N \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \sigma_{12} \\ \sigma_{12} & \sigma_2^2 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

- Only when  $\sigma_{12} = 0$  the two equations will be independent (the selection mechanism is exogenous or ignorable):
  - In this case, the second equation may be estimated by OLS using only the observed data

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.3. Models for Discrete-Continuous Responses

Quantities of interest:

- Conditional mean of the main latent variable:

$$E(Y_{2i}^*|x_i) = x_{2i}'\beta_2$$

- Conditional mean of the main observed dependent variable:

$$E(Y_{2i}|x_i, Y_{1i} = 1) = x_{2i}'\beta_2 + \sigma_{12}\lambda(x_{1i}'\beta_1)$$

- Probability of observing positive values:

$$Pr(Y_{2i} > 0|x_i) = Pr(Y_{1i} = 1|x_i) = \Phi(x_{1i}'\beta_1)$$



## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.3. Models for Discrete-Continuous Responses

Parameters to be estimated:  $\beta, \sigma_{12}, \sigma_2$

Estimation methods:

- ML
- Heckman's two-step method

ML:

- Based on the following log-likelihood function:

$$LL = \sum \{(1 - d_i)\Pr(Y_{1i} = 0|x_{1i}) + d_i[f(Y_{1i} = 1|Y_{2i}) + f(Y_{2i})]\}$$

Stata

```
heckman Y2 X1 ... Xk, select(Y1 X1 ... Xk)
```

## 4. Models for Continuous Limited Dependent Variables

### 4.3. Models for Discrete-Continuous Responses

#### Heckman's two-step method:

- Based on  $E(Y_{2i}|x_i, Y_{1i} = 1) = x'_{2i}\beta_2 + \sigma_{12}\lambda(x'_{1i}\beta_1)$
- First step: estimate the probit model  $Pr(Y_{1i} = 1|x_i) = \Phi(x'_{1i}\beta_1)$  and get  $\lambda(x'_{1i}\hat{\beta}_1) = \frac{\phi(x'_{1i}\hat{\beta}_1)}{\Phi(x'_{1i}\hat{\beta}_1)}$
- Second step: regress  $Y_{2i}$  on  $x_{2i}$  and  $\lambda(x'_{1i}\hat{\beta}_1)$  using only individuals fully observed and OLS, and correct the variances
- $t$  test for  $H_0: \sigma_{12} = 0$  (exogenous selection mechanism)
- If the same regressors are used in both steps, multicollinearity may arise; to avoid it, it is usual to exclude from  $x_{2i}$  some of the variables included in  $x_{1i}$

Stata

```
heckman Y2 X1 ... Xk, twostep select(Y1 X1 ... Xk)
```