Conditional Independence and the Inversion Theorem

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Framework

Discrete time and finite choice sets

- Let $T \in \{1, 2, ...\}$ with $T \leq \infty$ denote the horizon of the optimization problem and $t \in \{1, ..., T\}$ denote the time period.
- Each period the individual chooses amongst J mutually exclusive actions.
- Let $d_t \equiv (d_{1t}, \ldots, d_{Jt})$ where $d_{jt} = 1$ if action $j \in \{1, \ldots, J\}$ is taken at time t and $d_{jt} = 0$ if action j is not taken at t.
- $x_t \in \{1, ..., X\}$ for some finite positive integer X for each t.
- $\epsilon_t \equiv (\epsilon_{1t}, \dots, \epsilon_{Jt})$ where $\epsilon_{jt} \in \mathbb{R}$ for all (j, t).
- Assume the data comprises observations on (d_t, x_t) .
- The joint mixed density function for the state in period t+1 conditional on (x_t, ε_t) , denoted by $g_{t,x,\varepsilon}(x_{t+1}, \varepsilon_{t+1} | x_t, \varepsilon_t)$, satisfies the conditional independence assumption:

$$g_{t,j,x,\epsilon}(x_{t+1},\epsilon_{t+1}|x_t,\epsilon_t) = g_{t+1}(\epsilon_{t+1}|x_{t+1}) f_{jt}(x_{t+1}|x_t)$$

where $g_t\left(\varepsilon_t|x_t\right)$ is a conditional density for the disturbances, and $f_{jt}(x_{t+1}|x)$ is a transition probability for x conditional on $(j_t t)$.

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Bounded additively separable preferences

- Denote the discount factor by $\beta \in (0,1)$ and the current payoff from taking action j at t given (x_t, ϵ_t) by $u_{jt}(x_t) + \epsilon_{jt}$.
- To ensure a transversality condition is satisfied, assume $\{u_{jt}(x)\}_{t=1}^T$ is a bounded sequence for each $(j,x)\in\{1,\ldots,J\}\times\{1,\ldots,X\}$, and so is:

$$\left\{ \int \max\left\{ \left| \epsilon_{1t} \right|, \ldots, \left| \epsilon_{Jt} \right| \right\} g_t \left(\epsilon_t | x_t \right) d\epsilon_t \right\}_{t=1}^T$$

• At the beginning of each period t the agent observes the realization (x_t, ϵ_t) chooses d_t to sequentially maximize:

$$E\left\{\sum_{\tau=t}^{T}\sum_{j=1}^{J}\beta^{\tau-1}d_{j\tau}\left[u_{j\tau}(x_{\tau})+\epsilon_{j\tau}\right]|x_{t},\epsilon_{t}\right\}$$
(1)

where the expectation is taken over future realized values x_{t+1}, \ldots, x_T and $\varepsilon_{t+1}, \ldots, \varepsilon_T$ conditional on (x_t, ε_t) .

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Optimization

• Denote the optimal decision rule at t as $d_t^o(x_t, \epsilon_t)$, with j^{th} element $d_{jt}^o(x_t, \epsilon_t)$, and define the social surplus function as:

$$V_{t}(x_{t}) \equiv E \left\{ \sum_{\tau=t}^{T} \sum_{j=1}^{J} \beta^{\tau-t-1} d_{j\tau}^{o} \left(x_{\tau}, \epsilon_{\tau} \right) \left(u_{j\tau}(x_{\tau}) + \epsilon_{j\tau} \right) \right\}$$

• The conditional value function, $v_{jt}(x_t)$, is defined as:

$$v_{jt}(x_t) \equiv u_{jt}(x_t) + \beta \sum_{x=1}^{X} V_{t+1}(x) f_{jt}(x|x_t)$$

• Integrating $d_{jt}^o(x_t, \epsilon)$ over $\epsilon \equiv (\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_J)$ define the conditional choice probabilities CCPs by:

$$p_{jt}(x_t) \equiv E\left[d_{jt}^o\left(x_t, \epsilon\right) \middle| x_t\right] = \int d_{jt}^o\left(x_t, \epsilon\right) g_t\left(\epsilon \middle| x_t\right) d\epsilon$$

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Players, choices and state variables

- Consider a dynamic game for I countable players:

 - $d_t \equiv \left(d_t^{(1)}, \dots, d_t^{(I)}\right)$ choices of all the players in period t.

 - \bullet x_t value of state variables of the game in period t.
 - **⑤** $F\left(x_{t+1} | x_t, d_t\right)$ transition probability for x_{t+1} given $\left(x_t, d_t\right)$.
 - **6** $F_j\left(x_{t+1} \middle| x_t, d_t^{(-i)}\right) \equiv F\left(x_{t+1} \middle| x_t, d_t^{(-i)}, d_{jt}^{(i)} = 1\right)$ transition probability for x_{t+1} given x_t , i choosing j, and everyone else $d_t^{(-i)}$.

Payoffs, information and CCPs

• The summed discounted payoff to *i* from playing the game is:

$$\sum\nolimits_{t = 1}^T {\sum\nolimits_{j = 1}^J {{\beta ^{t - 1}}{d_{jt}^{\left(i \right)}}\left[{{U_j^{\left(i \right)}\left({{x_t},d_t^{\left({ - i} \right)}} \right) + \varepsilon _{jt}^{\left(i \right)}} \right]} }$$

where:

- $lacksymbol{0} U_{j}^{(i)}\left(x_{t},d_{t}^{(-i)}
 ight)$ depends on the choices of all the players.
- ② $\epsilon_t^{(i)} \equiv \left(\epsilon_{1t}^{(i)}, \dots, \epsilon_{Jt}^{(i)}\right)$ is *iid* across *i* with density $g\left(\epsilon_t^{(i)} | x_t\right)$.
- 3 neither $d_t^{(-i)}$ nor $\epsilon_t^{(-i)}$ are observed by i.
- Analogous to the single agent setup define:

 - $P\left(d_t^{(-i)} | x_t\right) = \prod_{i'=1, i' \neq i}^{I} \left(\sum_{j=1}^{J} d_{jt}^{(i')} p_j^{(i')}(x_t)\right) \text{ as the CCP for all the other players choosing } d_t^{(-i)} \text{ in period } t.$

Extension to Dynamic Markov Games

Equilibrium defined

• Then $\left(p_1^{(i)}(x_t), \ldots, p_J^{(i)}(x_t)\right)$ is an equilibrium if $d_j^{(i)}\left(x_t, \varepsilon_t^{(i)}\right)$ solves the individual optimization problem (1) for each $\left(i, x_t, \varepsilon_t^{(i)}\right)$ when:

$$u_{j}^{(i)}(x_{t}) = \sum_{d_{t}^{(-i)}} P\left(d_{t}^{(-i)} | x_{t}\right) U_{j}^{(i)}\left(x_{t}, d_{t}^{(-i)}\right)$$
(2)

and:

$$f_{j}^{(i)}\left(x_{t+1} \left| x_{t}^{(i)} \right.\right) = \sum_{d_{t}^{(-i)}} P\left(d_{t}^{(-i)} \left| x_{t}^{(i)} \right.\right) F_{j}\left(x_{t+1} \left| x_{t}, d_{t}^{(-i)} \right.\right) \tag{3}$$

- To analyze dynamic games taking this form:
 - interpret $u_{j}^{(i)}\left(x_{t}\right)$ with (2) and $f_{j}^{(i)}\left(x_{t+1}\left|x_{t}^{(i)}\right.\right)$ with (3)
 - ② in estimation treat the *best reply function* as the solution to a dynamic discrete choice optimization problem within the equilibrium played out by the *data generating process* DGP.

Inversion

Each CCP is a mapping of differences in the conditional valuation functions

• The starting point for our analysis is to define differences in the conditional valuation functions with respect to choice *J* as:

$$\Delta v_{jt}(x) \equiv v_{jt}(x) - v_{Jt}(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow p_{jt}(x) \equiv \int d_{jt}^{o}(x, \epsilon) dG_{t}(\epsilon | x)$$

$$= \int I \left\{ \epsilon_{k} \leq \epsilon_{j} + \Delta v_{jt}(x) - \Delta v_{kt}(x) \forall k \neq j \right\} dG_{t}(\epsilon | x)$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{\epsilon_{j} + \Delta v_{jt}(x) - \Delta v_{1t}(x)} \int_{-\infty}^{\epsilon_{j} + \Delta v_{jt}(x)} dG_{t}(\epsilon | x)$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} G_{jt}\left(\begin{array}{c} \epsilon_{j} + \Delta v_{jt}(x) - \Delta v_{1t}(x), \dots \\ \dots, \epsilon_{j}, \dots, \epsilon_{j} + \Delta v_{jt}(x) \end{array} | x \right) d\epsilon_{j}$$

where $G_{jt}\left(\varepsilon\left|x\right.\right)\equiv\partial G_{t}\left(\varepsilon\left|x\right.\right)/\partial\varepsilon_{j}$.

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CCPs are invertible in conditional valuation functions (Hotz and Miller, 1993)

• For any vector J-1 dimensional vector $\delta \equiv (\delta_1, \dots, \delta_{J-1})$ define:

$$Q_{jt}\left(\delta,x\right) \equiv \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} G_{jt}\left(\epsilon_{j} + \delta_{j} - \delta_{1}, \ldots, \epsilon_{j}, \ldots, \epsilon_{j} + \delta_{j} \mid x\right) d\epsilon_{j}$$

- $Q_{jt}\left(\delta,x\right)$ is the probability choosing j in a static random utility model (RUM) with payoff $\delta_{j}+\epsilon_{j}$ and disturbance distribution $G_{t}\left(\epsilon\mid x\right)$.
- $Q_t(\delta, x) \equiv (Q_{1t}(\delta, x), \dots Q_{J-1,t}(\delta, x))'$ is invertible in δ .
- This inversion theorem implies:

$$\left[egin{array}{c} \Delta v_{1t}(x) \ dots \ \Delta v_{J-1,t}(x) \end{array}
ight] = \left[egin{array}{c} Q_{1t}^{-1}\left[p_t(x),x
ight] \ dots \ Q_{J-1,t}^{-1}\left[p_t(x),x
ight] \end{array}
ight]$$

Representation

The conditional value function correction

Define the conditional value function correction as:

$$\psi_{jt}(x) \equiv V_t(x) - v_{jt}(x)$$

• In stationary settings, we drop the t subscript and write:

$$\psi_j(x) \equiv V(x) - v_j(x)$$

 Suppose that instead of taking the optimal action she committed to taking action j instead. Then the expected lifetime utility would be:

$$v_{jt}(x_t) + E_t \left[\epsilon_{jt} \left| x_t \right. \right]$$

so committing to j before ϵ_t is revealed entails a loss of:

$$V_{t}(x_{t}) - v_{jt}(x_{t}) - E_{t}\left[\varepsilon_{jt} \mid x_{t}\right] = \psi_{jt}\left(x\right) - E_{t}\left[\varepsilon_{jt} \mid x_{t}\right]$$

• For example if $E_t \left[\epsilon_t \left| x_t \right. \right] = 0$, the loss simplifies to $\psi_{it} \left(x \right)$.

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Representation

An example of the value function correction (Arcidiacono and Miller, 2011)

- Suppose $G\left(\varepsilon\right)$ factors into two independent distributions, one a nested logit, and the other any GEV distribution.
- Let \mathcal{J} denote the set of choices in the nest and denote the other distribution by $G_0(Y_1, Y_2, \ldots, Y_K)$ let K denote the number of choices that are outside the nest:

$$G\left(\epsilon\right) \equiv G_0\left(\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_K\right) \exp\left[-\left(\sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \exp\left[-\epsilon_j/\sigma\right]\right)^{\sigma}\right]$$

• Then:

$$\psi_{j}\left(p
ight) = \gamma - \sigma \ln(p_{j}) - (1 - \sigma) \ln\left(\sum_{k \in \mathcal{J}} p_{k}\right)$$

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• From its definition:

$$v_{jt}(x_t) = u_{jt}(x_t) + \beta \sum_{x=1}^{X} V_{t+1}(x) f_{jt}(x_{t+1}|x_t)$$

• Substituting for $V_{t+1}(x_{t+1})$ using conditional value function correction we obtain for any k:

$$v_{jt}(x_t) = u_{jt}(x_t) + \beta \sum_{x=1}^{X} [v_{k,t+1}(x) + \psi_{k,t+1}(x)] f_{jt}(x|x_t)$$

• We could repeat this procedure ad infinitum, substituting in for $v_{k,t+1}(x)$ by using the definition for $\psi_{kt}(x)$.

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A representation of conditional value functions dispensing with maximization

• From Arcidiacono and Miller (2011, 2019):

$$v_{jt}(x_t) = u_{jt}(x_t) + \sum_{\tau=t+1}^{T} \sum_{k=1}^{J} \sum_{x=1}^{X} \beta^{\tau-t} \left\{ u_{k\tau}(x) + \psi_k[p_{\tau}(x)] \times \omega_{k\tau}(x,j) \kappa_{\tau-1}(x|x_t,j) \right\}$$
(4)

where the weights $\omega_{k\tau}(x_{\tau},j)$ satisfy:

$$-\infty < \omega_{k au}(x_{ au},j) < \infty ext{ and } \sum_{k=1}^J \omega_{k au}(x_{ au},j) = 1$$

while the $\tau-period$ state transitions $\kappa_{\tau}(x_{\tau+1}|x_t,j)$ are defined as:

$$\kappa_{\tau}(x_{\tau+1}|x_{t},j) \equiv \begin{cases} \kappa_{t}(x_{t+1}|x_{t},j) \equiv f_{jt}(x_{t+1}|x_{t}) \\ \sum\limits_{x_{\tau}=1}^{X} \sum\limits_{k=1}^{J} \omega_{k\tau}(x_{\tau},j) f_{k\tau}(x_{\tau+1}|x_{\tau}) \kappa_{\tau-1}(x_{\tau}|x_{t},j) \end{cases}$$

Identifying the policy function

- The optimization model is fully characterized by (T, β, f, g, u) .
- The data comprise observations for a real or synthetic panel on the observed part of the state variable, x_t , and decision outcomes, d_t .
- From the definition of the optimal decision rule, and then appealing to the inversion theorem:

$$\begin{split} d_{jt}^{o}\left(x_{t}, \epsilon_{t}\right) &= \prod_{k=1}^{J} 1\left\{\varepsilon_{kt} - \varepsilon_{jt} \leq v_{jt}(x) - v_{kt}(x)\right\} \\ &= \prod_{k=1}^{J} 1\left\{\varepsilon_{kt} - \varepsilon_{jt} \leq \frac{v_{jt}(x) - v_{Jt}(x_{t})}{-\left[v_{kt}(x) - v_{Jt}(x_{t})\right]}\right\} \\ &= \prod_{k=1}^{J} 1\left\{\varepsilon_{kt} - \varepsilon_{jt} \leq \Delta v_{jt}(x) - \Delta v_{kt}(x)\right\} \\ &= \prod_{k=1}^{J} 1\left\{\varepsilon_{kt} - \varepsilon_{jt} \leq Q_{jt}^{-1}\left[p_{t}(x), x\right] - Q_{kt}^{-1}\left[p_{t}(x), x\right]\right\} \end{split}$$

• If $G_t(\varepsilon|x)$ is known and the data generating process (DGP) is (x_t, d_t) , then $p_t(x)$ and hence $d_t^o(x_t, \varepsilon_t)$ are identified.

Identifying the conditional value function correction

From their respective definitions:

$$\psi_{it}(x) = V_t(x) - V_{it}(x)$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^{J} \left\{ p_{jt}(x) \left[V_{jt}(x) - V_{it}(x) \right] + \int \epsilon_{jt} d_{jt}^{o}(x_t, \epsilon_t) dG_t(\epsilon_t | x) \right\}$$

But:

$$v_{jt}(x) - v_{it}(x) = Q_{jt}^{-1} [p_t(x), x] - Q_{it}^{-1} [p_t(x), x]$$

and

$$\int \epsilon_{jt} d_{jt}^{o}(x, \epsilon_{t}) g(\epsilon_{t} | x) d\epsilon_{t}$$

$$= \int \prod_{k=1}^{J} 1 \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \epsilon_{kt} - \epsilon_{jt} \\ \leq Q_{jt}^{-1} \left[p_{t}(x), x \right] - Q_{kt}^{-1} \left[p_{t}(x), x \right] \end{array} \right\} \epsilon_{jt} dG_{t}(\epsilon_{t} | x)$$

• Therefore $\psi_{it}(x) \equiv V_t(x) - v_{it}(x)$ is identified if $G_t(\varepsilon | x)$ is known and (x_t, d_t) is the DGP.

- Assume (T, β, g) is known, and note f is identified (by inspection).
- We seek to identify u off the data generating process (x_t, d_t) .
- The representation result for valuation functions implies:

$$u_{jt}(x) = u_{1t}(x) + \psi_{1t}(x) - \psi_{jt}(x)$$

$$+ \sum_{\tau=t+1}^{T} \sum_{x_{\tau}=1}^{X} \beta^{\tau-t} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} u_{1\tau}(x_{\tau}) + \psi_{1t}(x_{\tau}) \end{bmatrix} \times \\ \left[\kappa_{\tau-1}(x_{\tau}|x, 1) - \kappa_{\tau-1}(x_{\tau}|x, j) \right] \right\}$$
(5)

• If (T, β, f, g) is known, along a payoff, say the first, is also known for every state and time, then u is exactly point identified.

Identification

An analogous result for stationary infinite horizon models

• In stationary models, let *I* denote the *X* dimensional identity matrix, and define:

$$u_j \equiv (u_j(1), \dots, u_j(X))'$$

$$\Psi_j \equiv \left[\psi_j(1) \dots \psi_j(X)\right]'$$

and:

$$F_{j} \equiv \left[\begin{array}{ccc} f_{j}(1|1) & \dots & f_{j}(X|1) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ f_{j}(1|X) & \dots & f_{j}(X|X) \end{array} \right]$$

Then for all j:

$$u_j = \Psi_1 - \Psi_j - u_1 + \beta (F_1 - F_j) [I - \beta F_1]^{-1} (\Psi_1 + u_1)$$

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Unrestricted estimates from the identification equation

• Assume $u_{1t}(x) = 0$ and set:

$$\widehat{p}_{jt}(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \mathbf{1} \{ x_{nt} = x, d_{njt} = 1 \} / \sum_{n=1}^{N} \mathbf{1} \{ x_{nt} = x \}$$

$$\widehat{f}_{jt}(x'|x) = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^{N} \mathbf{1} \{ x_{nt} = x, d_{njt} = 1, x_{n,t+1} = x' \}}{\sum_{n=1}^{N} \mathbf{1} \{ x_{nt} = x, d_{njt} = 1 \}}$$

$$\widehat{\kappa}_{\tau}(x_{\tau+1}|t, x_{t}, j) \equiv \begin{cases} \widehat{f}_{jt}(x_{t+1}|x_{t}) & \tau = t \\ \sum_{x=1}^{X} \widehat{f}_{1\tau}(x_{\tau+1}|x) \kappa_{\tau-1}(x|t, x_{t}, j) & \tau = t+1, \dots \end{cases}$$

to obtain $\widehat{\psi}_{it}(x)$ and hence from (5):

$$\widehat{u}_{jt}(x_t) \equiv \widehat{\psi}_{1t}(x_t) - \widehat{\psi}_{jt}(x_t)
+ \sum_{\tau=1}^{T-t} \sum_{x=1}^{X} \beta^{\tau-t} \widehat{\psi}_{1,t+\tau}(x) \left[\widehat{\kappa}_{t1,\tau-1}(x|x_t) - \widehat{\kappa}_{tj,\tau-1}(x|x_t) \right]$$
(6)

• As above, there is an equivalent matrix form for the stationary case.

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Estimation

Parameterizing the primitives

- In practice all applications further restrict the parameter space to increase precision (at the expense of potential bias).
- For example assume $\theta \equiv \left(\theta^{(1)}, \theta^{(2)}\right) \in \Theta$ is a closed convex subspace of Euclidean space, and:
 - $u_{it}(x) \equiv u_i(x, \theta^{(1)})$
 - $f_{jt}(x|x_{nt}) \equiv f_{jt}(x|x_{nt},\theta^{(2)})$
- We can now define the model by (T, β, θ, g) .
- Assume the DGP comes from (T, β, θ_0, g) where:

$$\theta_0 \equiv \left(\theta_0^{(1)}, \theta_0^{(2)}\right) \in \Theta^{(\textit{interior})}$$

- For example many applications assume:
 - β is known
 - $u_{jt}(x) \equiv x'\theta_j^{(1)}$ is linear in x and does not depend on t
 - $f_{jt}(x|x_{nt})$ is degenerate, x following a deterministic law of motion.

Estimation

Minimum Distance (Altug and Miller, 1998)

- One approach is to estimate:
 - $\theta^{(2)}$ with LIML off the transitions $f_{jt}(x|x_{nt},\theta^{(2)})$
 - $\theta_0^{(1)}$ by minimizing the distance between the unrestricted estimates $\widehat{u}_{jt}(x_t)$ given in (6) and its parameterization $u_{jt}(x_t, \theta^{(1)})$:

$$\theta_{MD}^{(1)} = \underset{\theta^{(1)} \in \Theta^{(1)}}{\arg\min} \left[u(x,\theta^{(1)}) - \widehat{u}(x_t) \right]' W \left[u(x,\theta^{(1)}) - \widehat{u}(x_t) \right]$$

where $u(x,\theta^{(1)})$ and $\widehat{u}(x_t)$ are stacked vectors of $u_{jt}(x_t,\theta^{(1)})$ and $\widehat{u}_{jt}(x_t)$, and W is a weight matrix (MD).

- Note:
 - $\theta_{MD}^{(1)}$ has a closed form if $u(x; \theta_0^{(1)})$ is linear in $\theta_0^{(1)}$.
 - the overidentifying restrictions can be tested.

Quasi-Maximum Likelihood (Hotz and Miller, 1993)

• Alternatively to implement a QML estimator, first estimate $p_{jt}(x)$, $\theta_0^{(2)}$ and $\kappa_{\tau}(x|t,x_t,k,\theta_0^{(2)})$ and $\psi_{1t}(x)$ as above, and then:

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}_{QML}^{(1)} \equiv \arg\max_{\boldsymbol{\theta}_1} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \sum_{j=1}^{J} d_{njt} \left\{ \ln \left[\widehat{p}_{jt}(\boldsymbol{x}_{nt}, \boldsymbol{\theta}^{(1)}, \boldsymbol{\theta}_{LIML}^{(2)}) \right] \right\}$$

where in T1EV applications:

$$\widehat{p}_{jt}(x, \theta^{(1)}, \widehat{h}) = \frac{\exp\left[u_{jt}(x, \theta^{(1)}) + \widehat{h}_{jt}(x)\right]}{\sum_{k=1}^{J} \exp\left[u_{kt}(x, \theta^{(1)}) + \widehat{h}_{kt}(x)\right]}$$

and $\hat{h}_{kt}(x)$ is a numeric dynamic correction factor defined:

$$\widehat{h}_{jt}(x) \equiv \sum_{\tau=t+1}^{T} \sum_{x_{\tau}=1}^{X} \beta^{\tau-t} \widehat{\psi}_{1\tau}(x_{\tau}) \kappa_{\tau-1}(x_{\tau} | t, x, j, \theta_{LIML}^{(2)})$$

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Simulated Moments Estimators

Method of Simulated Moments (Hotz, Miller, Sanders and Smith, 1994)

- Similarly, to form a MSM estimator first:
 - **1** Estimate $p_{jt}(x)$, $\theta_0^{(2)}$ and $\kappa_{\tau}(x|t,x_t,k,\theta_0^{(2)})$ and $\psi_{kt}(x)$ for all $k \in \{1,\ldots,K\}$ as above.
 - ② Simulate a lifetime path from x_{nt_n} onwards for each j, using \widehat{f} and \widehat{p} . This generates \widehat{x}_{ns} and $\widehat{d}_{ns} \equiv \left(\widehat{d}_{n1s}, \ldots, \widehat{d}_{nJs}\right)$ for all $s \in \{t_n + 1, \ldots, T\}$.
 - Obtain estimates of:

$$\begin{split} \widehat{E}\left[\varepsilon_{jt}\left|d_{jt}^{o}=1,x_{t}\right.\right] &\equiv \\ p_{jt}^{-1}\left(x_{t}\right) \int\limits_{\varepsilon_{t}} \prod_{k=1}^{J} \mathbf{1} \left\{\begin{array}{c} \widehat{\psi}_{jt}(x_{t}) - \widehat{\psi}_{kt}(x_{t}) \\ &\leq \varepsilon_{jt} - \varepsilon_{kt} \end{array}\right\} \varepsilon_{jt} dG\left(\varepsilon_{t}\right) \end{split}$$

or simulate it from the selected population $\widehat{\epsilon}_{jt}.$

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Simulated Moments Estimators

The last three steps for an MSM estimator

• Stitch together a simulated lifetime utility outcome for each n from the j^{th} choice at t_n onwards: $\widehat{v}_{jt_n}\left(x_{nt_n};\theta^{(1)},\widehat{f},\widehat{p}\right) \equiv$

$$\begin{aligned} &u_{jt}(x_{nt_n}, \theta^{(1)}) \\ &+ \sum_{s=t+1}^{T} \sum_{j=1}^{J} \beta^{t-1} \mathbf{1} \left\{ \widehat{d}_{njs} = 1 \right\} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} &u_{js}(\widehat{x}_{ns}, \theta^{(1)}) \\ &+ \widehat{E} \left[\varepsilon_{js} \left| \widehat{x}_{ns}, \widehat{d}_{njs} = 1 \right. \right] \end{array} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

② Form the J-1 dimensional vector $h_n\left(x_{nt_n}; \theta^{(1)}, \widehat{f}, \widehat{p}\right)$ from:

$$\begin{array}{ll} h_{nj}\left(x_{nt_n};\theta^{(1)},\widehat{f},\widehat{\rho}\right) & \equiv & \widehat{v}_{jt_n}\left(x_{nt_n},\theta^{(1)},\widehat{f},\widehat{\rho}\right) - \widehat{v}_{Jt_n}\left(x_{nt_n},\theta^{(1)},\widehat{f},\widehat{\rho}\right) \\ & & + \widehat{\psi}_{jt}(x_{nt_n}) - \widehat{\psi}_{Jt}(x_{nt_n}) \end{array}$$

3 Given a weighting matrix W_S and an instrument vector z_n minimize:

$$N^{-1}\left[\sum_{n=1}^{N} z_n h_n\left(x_{nt_n}; \theta^{(1)}, \widehat{f}, \widehat{p}\right)\right]' W_{\mathcal{S}}\left[\sum_{n=1}^{N} z_n h_n\left(x_{nt_n}; \theta^{(1)}, \widehat{f}, \widehat{p}\right)\right]$$