

(a) normalize prices

We can normalize $\pi_1 = \pi_2 = 1$ without loss of generality because we are using logs, and it will enter as a “level.” It is kind of like a parallel shift that we can account for in μ_i for job type i .

(b) simulate data

I simulate data for $N = 1000$ observations. See attached Julia code.

(c) choose true parameters

After tinkering around, I find parameters $\theta = (1.00, 1.00, 0.95, 0.90, 0.20, 0.20, 0.30)$ which results in 60.40% of the population choosing occupation 1.

(d) maximum likelihood estimator

I choose to do maximum likelihood estimation. Define Ω as the data available to the econometrician, then the likelihood function is

$$\begin{aligned} L(\theta|\Omega) &= \prod_{i=1}^N Pr(w = w_1, d = 1)^d Pr(w = w_0, d = 0)^{1-d} \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^N Pr(w = \pi_1 s_1, \pi_1 s_1 > \pi_2 s_2)^d Pr(w = \pi_2 s_2, \pi_2 s_2 > \pi_1 s_1)^{1-d} \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^N Pr(w = \pi_1 e^{\mu_1 + \epsilon_1}, \pi_1 e^{\mu_1 + \epsilon_1} > \pi_2 e^{\mu_2 + \epsilon_2})^d Pr(w = \pi_2 e^{\mu_2 + \epsilon_2}, \pi_2 e^{\mu_2 + \epsilon_2} > \pi_1 e^{\mu_1 + \epsilon_1})^{1-d} \end{aligned}$$

I will show the simplification for one of the probabilities, but the steps are pretty much the same for each. We want to “solve” for the ϵ ’s, since we know their distributions (assuming our assumptions are the truth, that is):

$$\begin{aligned} &= Pr(w = \pi_1 e^{\mu_1 + \epsilon_1}, \pi_1 e^{\mu_1 + \epsilon_1} > \pi_2 e^{\mu_2 + \epsilon_2}) \\ &= Pr(\epsilon_1 = \log\left(\frac{w}{\pi_1}\right) - \mu_1, \epsilon_2 < \log\left(\frac{\pi_1}{\pi_2}\right) + \mu_1 - \mu_2 + \epsilon_1) \\ &= Pr(\epsilon_2 < \log\left(\frac{\pi_1}{\pi_2}\right) + \mu_1 - \mu_2 + \epsilon_1 | \epsilon_1 = \log\left(\frac{w}{\pi_1}\right) - \mu_1) \times Pr(\epsilon_1 = \log\left(\frac{w}{\pi_1}\right) - \mu_1) \\ &= Pr(\epsilon_2 < \log\left(\frac{w}{\pi_2}\right) - \mu_2 | \epsilon_1) \times Pr(\epsilon_1 = \log\left(\frac{w}{\pi_1}\right) - \mu_1) \end{aligned}$$

since joint distributions can be written as the multiplication of a conditional and a marginal. Note that

$$\epsilon_2 | \epsilon_1 \sim N\left(\frac{\sigma_{12}}{\sigma_2^2} \epsilon_1, \sigma_1^2 - \frac{\sigma_{12}^2}{\sigma_2^2}\right)$$

then the likelihood function becomes

$$L = \prod_{i=1}^N \left[F_{\epsilon_2|\epsilon_1} \left(\log \left(\frac{w}{\pi_2} \right) - \mu_2 \right) f_{\epsilon_1} \left(\log \left(\frac{w}{\pi_1} \right) - \mu_1 \right) \right]^d \times \left[F_{\epsilon_1|\epsilon_2} \left(\log \left(\frac{w}{\pi_1} \right) - \mu_1 \right) f_{\epsilon_2} \left(\log \left(\frac{w}{\pi_2} \right) - \mu_2 \right) \right]^{1-d}$$

And the estimator is

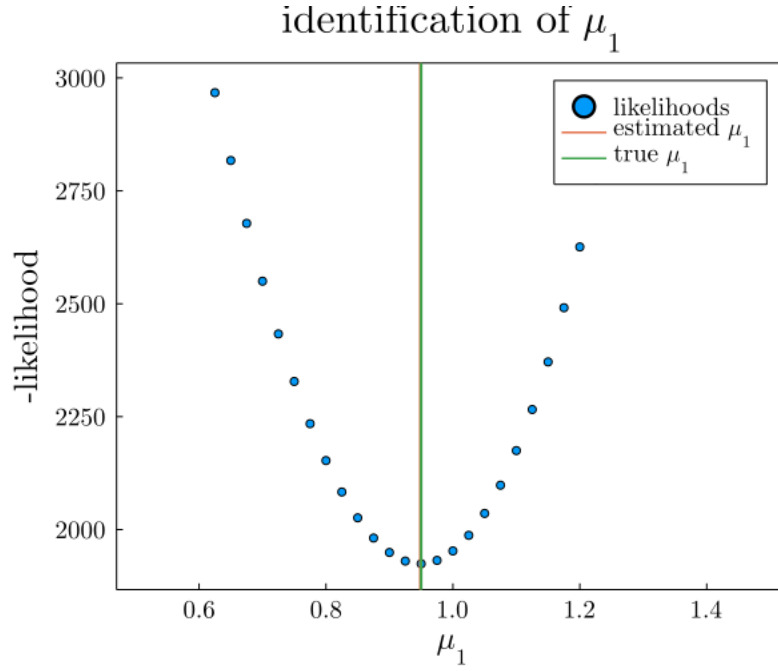
$$\hat{\theta} = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} \log(L)$$

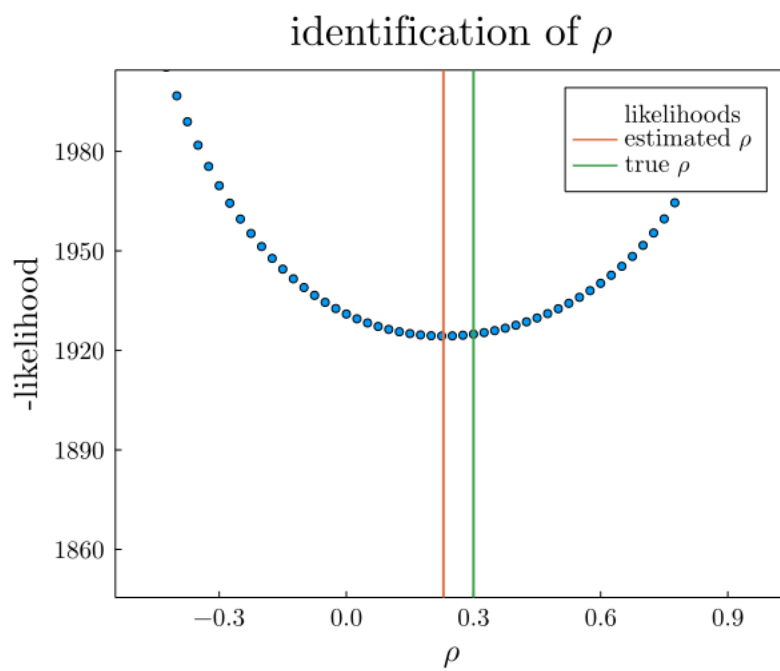
which is consistent.

(e) estimate μ_1 and ρ

Estimating the parameters with MLE, I find $\hat{\mu}_1 = 0.949$ and $\hat{\rho} = 0.229$.

(f) identification figures





(g) compare the data to the model

Based on Table 1, it looks like MLE can estimate the true parameters pretty accurately.

Table 1:

	data	model
μ_1	0.95	0.95
ρ	0.30	0.23
% in job 1	60.40	60.30
mean w_1	2.80	2.85
σ_1	0.46	0.53
mean w_2	2.80	2.85
σ_2	0.46	0.53

(h) counterfactual

Suppose that there is a minimum wage of $\underline{w}_1 = 2.45$. The resulting changes are in Table 2, and we see that the average wage for those choosing job 1 is decreasing, though not by much. The average wage for those choosing job 2 increased. This might feel counterintuitive, since we raised the w_1 that some individuals might face. However there are some individuals who, before the minimum wage, faced $w_1 < w_2 < \underline{w}_1$, so originally they choose the second job. These were individuals who were pretty low skilled in job 2, and due to correlation, also low waged in job 1, but who are now going to migrate to job 1, bringing the average wage and average skill level down. When low-skilled workers leave job 2, the remaining high-skilled workers bring the average job 2 wage up higher.

Table 2:		
	model	counterfactual
% in job 1	60.30	69.00
mean w_1	2.85	2.85
σ_1	0.53	0.46
mean w_2	2.85	3.00
σ_2	0.53	0.42