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Francis J. DiTraglia and Camilo Garcia-Jimeno

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ON THE USE OF INSTRUMENTAL VARIABLES TO IDENTIFY THE EFFECT OF A MIS-MEASURED, BINARY REGRESSOR¹

FRANCIS J. DiTRAGLIA^a AND CAMILO GARCIA-JIMENO^a

Abstract goes here.

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Endogeneity.

1. INTRODUCTION

Measurement error and endogeneity are two key problems when trying to learn about causation in social research. Popularity of instrumental variables because they can solve both problems at once in certain cases. Most familiar example is linear model with classical measurement error. Many treatments of interest, however, are binary and measurement error in a binary regressor, typically referred to as misclassification, *cannot* be classical. A true one can only be mis-classified as a zero while a true zero can only be mis-classified as a one, leading to a negative correlation between a binary regressor and its measurement error. This has been known for a while: see [Aigner \(1973\)](#) and [Bollinger \(1996\)](#). Assumption that replaces classical measurement error in this case is non-differential measurement error. Explain briefly. Unfortunately, IV is inconsistent under non-differential measurement error: removes only the effect of endogeneity, not measurement error. Papers that explain how to construct a method of moments estimator, not IV, that uses an instrument, or second measure, to eliminate non-differential measurement error when the treatment of interest is *exogenous*: [Kane et al. \(1999\)](#), [Black et al. \(2000\)](#), [Frazis and Loewenstein \(2003\)](#). Later generalizations of this idea by [Lewbel \(2007\)](#) and [Mahajan \(2006\)](#).

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^aDept. of Economics, University of Pennsylvania, 3718 Locust Walk, Philadelphia, PA 19104, U.S.A.; fditra@econ.upenn.edu; gcamilo@econ.upenn.edu

Only two papers discuss case in which the treatment is endogenous as well as mis-classified and they reach apparently contradictory conclusions. (Should also mention the Hausman et al. (1998) and Tanguay Brachet stuff, although identification here is really “at infinity” and depends crucially on the parametric specification.) While most of their paper is devoted to case of exogenous treatment, Frazis and Loewenstein (2003) spend a few paragraphs discussing extension to endogenous treatment. Although do not provide a formal proof, argue the model won’t be identified except under very strong parametric restrictions since relaxing exogeneity introduces two new parameters. Frazis and Loewenstein (2003) consider traditional linear IV model making no distinction between continuous and discrete instrument. In contrast Mahajan (2006), apparently unaware of Frazis and Loewenstein (2003), concludes that the treatment effect is identified under endogeneity and mis-classification. This paper: show that the analysis in both Frazis and Loewenstein (2003) and Mahajan (2006) is flawed, present general analysis of non-parametric identification of binary treatment effect under mis-classification and possible endogeneity.

Key ingredient: put existing papers into a common framework, including Lewbel (2007) who works with an “instrument” that actually has a direct effect on the outcome. Explain the model we will work with here and how we hold covariates fixed as in the proofs of other papers, how this allows us to simplify notation. Introduce the “m” notation.

Summary of our findings goes here. Frazis and Loewenstein (2003) get the exogeneity assumption wrong while Mahajan (2006) assumes a contradiction: no first stage. We Consider ways to get extra moment conditions to try to achieve identification: homoskedasticity restriction and additional values of instrument, a la Lewbel (2007). The homoskedasticity condition yields a simple and informative partial identification result regardless of the number of values the instrument takes on. Presumably we will prove that

no matter how many values the instrument takes on, we can't get identification, with or without the homoskedasticity condition. Possibly consider some additional restrictions on the m_{jk}^* that would yield identification: some kind of symmetry condition on selection or something. Probably these assumptions aren't very plausible in practice. Summary of paper. Example from development experiment? Proofs in appendix.

2. A REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Should probably start off, possible in previous section, by writing out a general encompassing framework that will allow us to talk about all the papers in this section. Present our model before this section. Should also mention the assumption $1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1 > 0$.

Many examples want to estimate effect of binary treatment. Often treatment is mis-measured and possibly endogenous. Measurement error in binary regressor cannot be classical. This has been known for a while, see [Aigner \(1973\)](#) and [Bollinger \(1996\)](#). Intuition: can only mis-code true zero and one and true one as zero. Describe non-differential measurement error idea. Under this kind of measurement error, IV estimator is inconsistent for the causal effect: can remove the effect of endogeneity but not of measurement error. See for example [Black et al. \(2000\)](#); [Frazis and Loewenstein \(2003\)](#); [Kane et al. \(1999\)](#).

Now talk about [Kane et al. \(1999\)](#) and [Black et al. \(2000\)](#). Two measures of exogenous binary treatment with non-differential measurement error allow one to identify treatment effect. Method of moments estimator *not* IV. Relies on discreteness of the problem: construct "cells" for $E[y|z, T]$. Talk about how the two papers differ in their contribution. [Black et al. \(2000\)](#) consider not only the binary case but a continuous version that isn't identified.

Need to figure out how [Card \(1996\)](#) relates to these as well. It looks like he does not in fact use two measures to estimate the effect of union status on wages. Instead he uses a two-period panel dataset and examines external information comparing employer and employee reporting of union status. This leads him to propose the assumption that the “up” and “down” mis-classification probabilities are equal, since it fits this external dataset well. This is the “quasi-classical” measurement error case that we talked about previously. There is only one measurement error parameter and presumably the panel dataset allows him to identify it.

[Frazis and Loewenstein \(2003\)](#) point out that an instrument can be used in place of a second measure of T^* provided that T^* is still exogenous. Essentially the same estimator as in [Black et al. \(2000\)](#) and [Kane et al. \(1999\)](#) but more general since the instrument need not be binary: can in fact be continuous. But they make a mistake. They assume $E[zu] = 0$, $E[T^*u] = 0$ and non-differential measurement error and claim that this is sufficient to consistently estimate β . However, this is incorrect: we need the additional assumption that $E[zT^*u] = 0$ which is stronger. (They seem to think that this term only appears when you have an endogenous T^* .) While [Frazis and Loewenstein \(2003\)](#) are aware that there are some differences between two measures of T^* , as in [Black et al. \(2000\)](#), and an arbitrary instrument z , they seem to have missed one subtle point. The assumptions in [Black et al. \(2000\)](#) in fact imply that $E[u|T^*, z] = 0$.¹ From this it follows that $E[zT^*u] = E[zu] = E[T^*u] = 0$. However, if one takes the non-differential measurement assumption literally it is in fact sufficient in

¹This follows from Assumptions A1 and A2 combined with Equation 3.

the case of two measures to assume only that $E[zu] = E[T^*u] = 0$:

$$(1) \quad E[zt^*u] = E[(T^* + w)T^*u] = E[(T^*)^2u] + E[wuT^*]$$

$$(2) \quad = E[E(u|T^*)(T^*)^2] + E[E(wu|T^*)T^*]$$

$$(3) \quad = 0 + E[E(w|T^*)E(u|T^*)T^*] = 0$$

using the fact that $E[u|T^*] = 0$ and w is independent of u conditional on T^* . This argument does *not* necessarily apply to an arbitrary instrument z : $E[zu] = E[T^*u] = 0$ does not imply that $E[zt^*u] = 0$.

Put in our simple binary example.

While it might seem strange to assume in practice that $E[zu] = E[T^*u] = 0$ are exogenous but not that $E[zt^*u] = 0$ the point is merely that this is an additional assumption beyond the usual assumptions of lack of correlation.

[Frazis and Loewenstein \(2003\)](#) also briefly discuss case in which T^* is endogenous, basically conclude that all you can get in this case is bounds for the treatment effect.

Presumably we're going to show that this isn't the case!

[Mahajan \(2006\)](#) considers the case of a binary regressor subject to non-differential measurement error when one has available a binary instrument (he calls it an ILV). Doesn't seem to be aware of [Frazis and Loewenstein \(2003\)](#), similar to [Black et al. \(2000\)](#) and [Kane et al. \(1999\)](#) although he allows for non-parametric effects of covariates and allows the mis-classification error rates to depend on covariates. (Although since covariates are held fixed in the proofs, this isn't a big deal.) The crucial assumption for the instrument-like variable is that it is unrelated to the mis-classification probabilities. Uses the assumption $E[u|T^*, z]$ to get identification using same basic estimator as [Black et al. \(2000\)](#). Also says that he can get identification when T^* is endogenous, but this is wrong. He correctly shows that it would be sufficient to learn the mis-classification error rates (as we know,

the IV estimator converges to $\beta/(1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1)$ even when T^* is endogenous). However, he then states that his earlier theorem has proven that these rates are identified. That theorem, however, relies crucially on the assumption that T^* is exogenous!

Another closely related paper is [Lewbel \(2007\)](#). Whereas Mahajan makes sufficient assumptions to identify β with a two-valued z , provided that T^* is exogenous, Lewbel works with a three-valued z . While Lewbel also assumes that $E[T^*u] = 0$, his “instrument” is really more like a covariate. He assumes that z is unrelated to the mis-classification probabilities but allows it to have a direct effect on y , as long as there is no interaction between T^* and z . Since this involves imposing fewer restrictions on the m_{ij} , Lewbel requires that z take on more values. There is also some kind of determinant condition that we don’t fully understand yet, but will figure out soon!

3. NOTES ON MAHAJAN (2006)

Mahajan (2006) considers regression models of the form

$$(4) \quad E[y - g(x^*, z)] = 0$$

where x^* is an unobserved binary regressor and z is a $d_z \times 1$ vector of control regressors. Rather than x^* we observe a noisy measure x called the “surrogate” and an additional variable v that acts, in essence, as an instrumental variable. Since v does not, strictly speaking, meet the traditional requirements for an instrument, Mahajan refers to it as an “instrument-like variable” or ILV for short. Throughout the paper, Mahajan assumes that v is binary although he claims that the same idea applies to arbitrary discrete variables. The paper considers two main cases: one in which x^* is assumed to be exogenous, and another in which it is not.

3.1. *The Case of Exogenous x^**

The first is based on the restriction

$$(5) \quad E[y - g(x^*, z) \mid x^*, x, z, v] = 0$$

3.2. *The Case of Endogenous x^**

While the preceding case required x^* to be exogenous, Mahajan claims (page 640) that his identification results can be extended to account for endogeneity provided that one is willing to restrict attending to additively separable models of the form

$$(6) \quad y = g^*(x^*, z) + \varepsilon$$

In this case, the ILV is assumed to satisfy the usual instrumental variables mean independence assumption

$$(7) \quad E[\varepsilon \mid z, v] = 0$$

and Equation 5 is replaced by

$$(8) \quad E[y \mid x^*, x, z, v] = E[y \mid x^*, z]$$

Unfortunately, Mahajan's proof is incorrect and the model in Equation 6 is unidentified. The mistake stems from a false analogy with the identification proof in the case of exogenous x^* . In A.2 Mahajan argues, correctly, that under 6–8 knowledge of the mis-classification rates is sufficient to identify the model even when x^* is endogenous. He then appeals to Theorem 1 to argue that the mis-classification rates are indeed identified. The proof of Theorem 1, however, depends crucially on the assumption that x^* is exogenous. Without this assumption, the mis-classification rates are unidentified,

as we now show For ease of exposition we consider the case without covariates. Equivalently, one can interpret all of the expressions that follow as implicitly conditioned on $z = z_a$ where z_a is a value in the support of z .²

Without covariates we can write

$$(9) \quad y = \alpha + \beta x^* + \varepsilon$$

where $\alpha = g^*(0)$ and $\beta = g^*(1) - g^*(0)$ and the mis-classification rates become $\eta_0 = P(x = 1|x^* = 0)$ and $\eta_1 = P(x = 0|x^* = 1)$. Now define

$$(10) \quad m_{jk} = E[\varepsilon|x^* = j, v = k]$$

4. LEWBEL (2007)

Lewbel shows that under an exogenous but missclassified treatment, and an instrument that takes on at least three values, the treatment effect is identified. The model is

$$\mathbb{E}[Y|T^*, T] = \alpha + \beta T^*$$

Using iterated expectations over the distribution of T^* given T ,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[Y|T] &= \mathbb{E}_{T^*|T}[\mathbb{E}[Y|T^*, T]] \\ &= \mathbb{P}(T^* = 1|T)\mathbb{E}[Y|T^* = 1] + \mathbb{P}(T^* = 0|T)\mathbb{E}[Y|T^* = 0] \\ &= \mathbb{P}(T^* = 1|T)(\alpha + \beta) + \mathbb{P}(T^* = 0|T)\alpha \\ &= \alpha + \mathbb{P}(T^* = 1|T)\beta \end{aligned}$$

which implies that

$$\beta_{OLS} = \mathbb{E}[Y|T = 1] - \mathbb{E}[Y|T = 0] = [\mathbb{P}(T^* = 1|T = 1) - \mathbb{P}(T^* = 1|T = 0)] \beta$$

²Because the covariates are held fixed throughout the proof of Mahajan's Theorem 1, there is no loss of generality.

Lewbel defines

$$M(\alpha_0, \alpha_1, p) = \mathbb{P}(T^* = 1|T = 1) - \mathbb{P}(T^* = 1|T = 0)$$

implying that $\beta_{OLS} = \beta M(\alpha_0, \alpha_1, p)$. It turns out that we can re-express $M(\alpha_0, \alpha_1, p)$ as

$$M(\alpha_0, \alpha_1, p) = \frac{1}{1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1} \left[1 - \frac{(1 - \alpha_1)\alpha_0}{p} - \frac{(1 - \alpha_0)\alpha_1}{1 - p} \right]$$

To see why this is the case first note that, by Bayes' Rule,

$$M(\alpha_0, \alpha_1, p) = \frac{(1 - \alpha_1)p^*}{p} - \frac{\alpha_1 p^*}{1 - p} = p^* \left[\frac{(1 - \alpha_1)(1 - p) - \alpha_1 p}{p(1 - p)} \right]$$

Now, by the Law of Total Probability,

$$\begin{aligned} p &= P(T = 1|T^* = 1)p^* + P(T = 1|T^* = 0)(1 - p^*) \\ &= (1 - \alpha_0)p^* + \alpha_0(1 - p^*) \\ &= (1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1)p^* + \alpha_0 \end{aligned}$$

Rearranging, we see that $p^* = (p - \alpha_0)/(1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1)$. Substituting this into the expression for $M(\alpha_0, \alpha_1, p)$ and simplifying,

$$\begin{aligned} M(\alpha_0, \alpha_1, p) &= \frac{p - \alpha_0}{1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1} \left[\frac{(1 - \alpha_1)(1 - p) - \alpha_1 p}{p(1 - p)} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1} \left[\frac{(p - \alpha_0)(1 - \alpha_1)(1 - p) - (p - \alpha_0)\alpha_1 p}{p(1 - p)} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1} \left[1 - \frac{(1 - p)(1 - \alpha_1)\alpha_0 + p\alpha_1 - \alpha_0\alpha_1 p}{p(1 - p)} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1} \left[1 - \frac{(1 - p)(1 - \alpha_1)\alpha_0}{p(1 - p)} - \frac{p\alpha_1(1 - \alpha_0)}{p(1 - p)} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1} \left[1 - \frac{(1 - \alpha_1)\alpha_0}{p} - \frac{(1 - \alpha_0)\alpha_1}{1 - p} \right] \end{aligned}$$

Now, the instrument z is assumed to be discrete and to take on at least three distinct values. Let β_{OLS}^k denote the OLS estimator based only on observations for which $z = z_k$, where z_k is a particular value in the support of z_k , that is

$$\beta_{OLS}^k = \frac{Cov(T, Y|z = z_k)}{Var(T|z = z_k)}$$

and let $p_k = E(T|z = z_k)$. The denominator of the expression for β_{OLS}^k is simply $Var(T|z = z_k) = p_k(1 - p_k)$. For the numerator, note that

$$\begin{aligned} Cov(T, y|z) &= E(Ty|z) - E(T|z)E(y|z) \\ &= E_{T|z} [E(y|T, z)T] - E(T|z)E_{T|z} [E(y|T, z)] \\ &= E(y|T = 1, z)E(T|z) \\ &\quad - E(T|z) \{E(T|z)E(y|T = 1, z) + [1 - E(T|z)]E(y|T = 0, z)\} \\ &= E(T|z) [1 - E(T|z)] \{E(y|T = 1, z) - E(y|T = 0, z)\} \end{aligned}$$

by iterated expectations over the distribution of T^* given T and z . Thus,

$$\beta_{OLS}^k = E(y|T = 1, z = z_k) - E(y|T = 0, z = z_k)$$

and finally, since $E(y|T, z) = \alpha + \beta P(T^* = 1|T, z)$, we see that

$$\beta_{OLS}^k = \beta \{P(T^* = 1|T = 1, z = z_k) - P(T^* = 1|T = 0, z = z_k)\}$$

Notice that this expression looks almost identical to $\beta_{OLS} = \beta M(\alpha_0, \alpha_1, p)$ from above. The only difference is that we condition on $z = z_k$. Because we

assume that the mis-classification probabilities are independent of z ,

$$P(T = 1|T^* = 1, z = z_k) = P(T = 1|T^* = 1) = 1 - \alpha_1$$

$$P(T = 1|T^* = 0, z = z_k) = P(T = 1|T^* = 0) = \alpha_0$$

from which it follows by the Law of Total Probability that

$$p_k = P(T = 1|z = z_k) = (1 - \alpha_1)p_k^* + \alpha_0 \{1 - p_k^*\}$$

where $p_k^* = P(T^* = 1|z = z_k)$ and thus,

$$p_k^* = \frac{p_k - \alpha_0}{1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1}$$

Now, by Bayes' Rule and again using the fact that the mis-classification probabilities do not depend on z , so that conditioning on $z = z_k$ is superfluous given that we have already conditioned on T^* , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\beta_{OLS}^k}{\beta} &= P(T^* = 1|T = 1, z = z_k) - P(T^* = 1|T = 0, z = z_k) \\ &= \frac{P(T = 1|T^* = 1, z = z_k)p_k^*}{p_k} - \frac{P(T = 1|T^* = 1, z = z_k)p_k^*}{(1 - p_k)} \\ &= \left(\frac{p_k - \alpha_0}{1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1} \right) \left[\frac{(1 - p_k)(1 - \alpha_1) - p_k\alpha_0}{p_k(1 - p_k)} \right] \end{aligned}$$

This is *exactly* the same expression as $M(\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \cdot)$, only evaluated at p_k rather than p . This means that we can re-use the algebra from above:

(11)

$$\beta_{OLS}^k = \beta M(\alpha_0, \alpha_1, p_k) = \beta \left\{ \frac{1}{1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1} \left[1 - \frac{\alpha_0(1 - \alpha_1)}{p_k} - \frac{(1 - \alpha_0)\alpha_1}{1 - p_k} \right] \right\}$$

which gives us an equation for *each* value z_k in the support of z . Solving the expressions for β_{OLS} and β_{OLS}^k for β and equating them yields an equation

of the form

$$\beta_{OLS}^k M(\alpha_0, \alpha_1, p) = \beta_{OLS} M(\alpha_0, \alpha_1, p_k)$$

for *each* value of k . Using our expression for the function M from above and multiplying through by $1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1$ gives

$$\beta_{OLS} \left[1 - \frac{(1 - \alpha_1)\alpha_0}{p_k} - \frac{(1 - \alpha_0)\alpha_1}{1 - p_k} \right] = \beta_{OLS}^k \left[1 - \frac{(1 - \alpha_1)\alpha_0}{p} - \frac{(1 - \alpha_0)\alpha_1}{1 - p} \right] = 0$$

Rearranging this expression gives

$$(1 - \alpha_1)\alpha_0 \left[\frac{\beta_{OLS}^k}{p} - \frac{\beta_{OLS}}{p_k} \right] + (1 - \alpha_0)\alpha_1 \left[\frac{\beta_{OLS}^k}{1 - p} - \frac{\beta_{OLS}}{1 - p_k} \right] = \beta_{OLS}^k - \beta_{OLS}$$

which is an expression of the form

$$B_0 w_0^k + B_1 w_1^k = w_2^k$$

where the unknowns B_0, B_1 are defined as

$$B_0 = \alpha_0(1 - \alpha_1)$$

$$B_1 = \alpha_1(1 - \alpha_0)$$

and the observable constants w_0^k, w_1^k, w_2^k are

$$w_0^k = \frac{\beta_{OLS}^k}{p} - \frac{\beta_{OLS}}{p_k}$$

$$w_1^k = \frac{\beta_{OLS}^k}{1 - p} - \frac{\beta_{OLS}}{1 - p_k}$$

$$w_2^k = \beta_{OLS}^k - \beta_{OLS}$$

Since we have an equation for each value of k , we have a linear system of

k equations in two unknowns. One of these equations, however is redundant.

Need to prove this.

Thus, z must take at least *three* values for the system to have a solution.
In matrix form, we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} w_0^1 & w_1^1 \\ w_0^2 & w_1^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} B_0 \\ B_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} w_2^1 \\ w_2^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

and as long as $w_0^1 w_1^2 - w_0^2 w_1^1 \neq 0$ (Lewbel's Assumption A5) the solution is

$$\begin{bmatrix} B_0 \\ B_1 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{w_0^1 w_1^2 - w_0^2 w_1^1} \begin{bmatrix} w_1^2 w_2^1 - w_1^1 w_2^2 \\ w_0^1 w_2^2 - w_0^2 w_2^1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Finally, given that $B_0 = (1 - \alpha_1)\alpha_0$ and $B_1 = (1 - \alpha_0)\alpha_1$, we can solve for the mis-classification rates as follows. First, rearranging the definition of B_1 gives $\alpha_0 = 1 - B_1/\alpha_1$. Substituting this into the definition of B_0 , we see that $B_0 = (1 - B_1/\alpha_1)(1 - \alpha_1)$, yielding the following quadratic equation

$$\alpha_1^2 - (1 - B_0 + B_1)\alpha_1 + B_1 = 0$$

Solving, we find that

$$\alpha_1 = \frac{1}{2} \left[1 - B_0 + B_1 \pm \sqrt{(1 - B_0 + B_1)^2 - 4B_1} \right]$$

and since $\alpha_0 = B_0/(1 - \alpha_1)$

$$\alpha_0 = \frac{B_0}{1 - \frac{1}{2} \left[1 - B_0 + B_1 \pm \sqrt{(1 - B_0 + B_1)^2 - 4B_1} \right]}$$

To determine the nature of these solutions, we re-express the discriminant:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (1 - B_0 + B_1)^2 - 4B_1 &= [1 - \alpha_0(1 - \alpha_1) + (1 - \alpha_0)\alpha_1]^2 - 4\alpha_1(1 - \alpha_0) \\
 &= (1 - \alpha_0 + \alpha_1)^2 - 4\alpha_1(1 - \alpha_0) \\
 &= [(1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1) + 2\alpha_1]^2 - 4\alpha_1(1 - \alpha_0) \\
 &= [(1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1)^2 - 4\alpha_1(1 - \alpha_0)] - 4(\alpha_1 - \alpha_0\alpha_1) \\
 &= (1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1)^2
 \end{aligned}$$

Since the discriminant is necessarily positive, the solutions are always real. But more importantly, we have established that

$$1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1 = \pm \sqrt{(1 - B_0 + B_1)^2 - 4B_1}$$

Since $\beta = \beta_{IV}(1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1)$, this expression *alone* is sufficient to identify β : there is no need to substitute the solutions for (α_0, α_1) into $M(\alpha_0, \alpha_1, p)$. Moreover, it clarifies the role of the assumption $1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1 > 0$: without this restriction we learn the *magnitude* of β but not the sign.

In page 544 Lewbel observes that if his instrument were binary (if we only had one instrument in our case), identification could be achieved with one additional restriction on the missclassification rates. One such restriction is implied by homoskedasticity on the instrument, which he does not mention.

I like the way that Lewbel sets things up. I wonder whether a similar way of doing things would simplify some of our other calculations.

5. IDENTIFICATION BY HOMOSKEDASTICITY

This section uses our notation rather than Mahajan's. We'll have to decide what notation we want to use in the paper itself but for the moment I'm trying to avoid confusion by talking about Mahajan's proofs using his own notation while keeping our derivations in the same notation we used on the whiteboard. I think that by assuming the instrument takes on three values (as in Lewbell) and imposing our homoskedasticity assumption we'll get identification in the case where T^* is endogenous so I've written out this derivation for arbitrary discrete z .

Now suppose that one is prepared to assume that

$$(12) \quad E[u^2|z] = E[u^2].$$

When combined with the usual IV assumption, $E[u|z] = 0$, this implies $Var(u|z) = Var(u)$. Whether this assumption is reasonable, naturally, depends on the application. When z is the offer of treatment in a randomized controlled trial, for example, Equation 12 holds automatically as a consequence of the randomization. Similarly, in studies based on a “natural” rather than controlled experiment one typically argues that the instrument is not merely uncorrelated with u but *independent* of it, so that Equation 12 follows.

To see why homoskedasticity with respect to the instrument provides additional identifying information, first express the conditional variance of y as follows

$$(13) \quad Var(y|z) = \beta^2 Var(T^*|z) + Var(u|z) + 2\beta Cov(T^*, u|z)$$

Under 12, $Var(u|z)$ does not depend on z . Hence the *difference* of conditional variances evaluated at two values z_a and z_b in the support of z is

simply

$$(14) \quad \Delta Var(y|z_a, z_b) = \beta^2 \Delta Var(T^*|z_a, z_b) + 2\beta \Delta Cov(T^*, u|z_a, z_b)]$$

Where $\Delta Var(y|z_a, z_b) = Var(y|z = z_a) - Var(y|z = z_b)$, and we define $\Delta Var(T^*|z_a, z_b)$ and $\Delta Cov(T^*, u|z_a, z_b)$ analogously.

First we simplify the $\Delta Var(T^*|z_a, z_b)$ term. Since T is conditionally independent of z given T^* ,

$$\begin{aligned} P(T = 1|z) &= E_{T^*|z} [E(T|z, T^*)] = E_{T^*|z} [E(T|T^*)] \\ &= P(T^* = 1|z) (1 - \alpha_1) + [1 - P(T^* = 1|z)] \alpha_0 \\ &= \alpha_0 + (1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1) P(T^* = 1|z) \end{aligned}$$

Rearranging,

$$(15) \quad P(T^* = 1|z) = \frac{P(T = 1|z) - \alpha_0}{1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1}$$

and accordingly,

$$(16) \quad Var(T^*|z) = \frac{[P(T = 1|z) - \alpha_0] [1 - P(T = 1|z) - \alpha_1]}{(1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1)^2}$$

Thus, evaluating Equation 16 at z_a and z_b and simplifying,

$$(17) \quad \Delta Var(T^*|z_a, z_b) = \frac{\Delta Var(T|z_a, z_b) + (\alpha_0 - \alpha_1) \Delta E(T|z_a, z_b)}{(1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1)^2}$$

Turning our attention to $\Delta Cov(T^*, u|z_a, z_b)$ first note that

$$(18) \quad Cov(T^*, u|z) = E_{T^*|z} [E(T^* u|z, T^*)] = P(T^* = 1|z) E(u|T^* = 1, z)$$

since $E[z|u] = 0$. Combining this with Equation 15 and evaluating at z_a

and z_b gives

$$(19) \quad \Delta Cov(T^*, u|z_a, z_b) = \frac{[E(T|z_a) - \alpha_0] m_{1a} - [E(T|z_b) - \alpha_0] m_{1b}}{1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1}$$

where $m_{1a} = E[u|T^* = 1, z_a]$ and $m_{1b} = E[u|T^* = 1, z_b]$.

Both Equations 17 and 19 involve only observable quantities and the mis-classification rates α_0 and α_1 . Equation 14, however, also involves β . Fortunately we can eliminate this quantity as follows. First, let $\mathcal{W}(z_a, z_b)$ denote the Wald Estimator of β given by

$$(20) \quad \mathcal{W}(z_a, z_b) = \frac{E(y|z_a) - E(y|z_b)}{E(T|z_a) - E(T|z_b)}$$

Since $E(u|z) = 0$,

$$E(y|z_a) - E(y|z_b) = \beta [E(T^*|z_a) - E(T^*|z_b)]$$

and by Equation 15,

$$E(T|z_a) - E(T|z_b) = (1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1) [E(T^*|z_a) - E(T^*|z_b)]$$

thus we find that

$$(21) \quad \beta = (1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1) \mathcal{W}(z_a, z_b).$$

Finally, combining Equations 14, 17, 19 and 21 we have

$$(22) \quad \begin{aligned} \Delta Var(y|z_a, z_b) &= \mathcal{W}(z_a, z_b)^2 \{ \Delta Var(T|z_a, z_b) + (\alpha_0 - \alpha_1) \Delta E(T|z_a, z_b) \} \\ &\quad + 2\mathcal{W}(z_a, z_b) \{ [E(T|z_a) - \alpha_0] m_{1a} - [E(T|z_b) - \alpha_0] m_{1b} \} \end{aligned}$$

an equation relating $\alpha_0, \alpha_1, m_{1a}$ and m_{1b} to various observable quantities.

Equation 22 provides an additional identifying restriction for each unique pair of values (z_a, z_b) in the support of z . If z takes on two values it provides one restriction, whereas if z takes on three values it provides two restrictions, and so on. To take a particularly simple example, suppose that z is binary and Mahajan's (2006) assumption that $E[u|z, T^*] = 0$ holds. Then Equation 22 reduces to

$$\Delta Var(y|1, 0) = \left[\frac{Cov(z, y)}{Cov(z, T)} \right]^2 \left\{ \Delta Var(T|1, 0) + (\alpha_0 - \alpha_1) \left[\frac{Cov(z, T)}{Var(z)} \right] \right\}$$

Rearranging, we see that

$$\alpha_0 - \alpha_1 = \Delta Var(y|1, 0) \left[\frac{Cov(z, T) Var(z)}{Cov(z, y)^2} \right] - \Delta Var(T|1, 0) \left[\frac{Var(z)}{Cov(z, T)} \right]$$

In other words, the homoskedasticity restriction identifies the *difference* between the mis-classification rates. This makes intuitive sense. Provided that the variance of u is unrelated to z the only way that the variance of y can differ across values of z is if some values of z provide *more* information about the distribution of T^* than others. This is only possible if the mis-classification rates differ.

Of course, one need not impose the restriction that $E[u|z, T^*] = 0$ to use the identifying information provided by Equation 22. Indeed, by exploiting homoskedasticity with respect to the instrument we can identify β using weaker conditions than Mahajan (2006) without requiring that z take on three or more values, as in Lewbel (2007). Moreover, when z does take on three or more values we can identify β even when T^* is endogenous.

I'm pretty sure this is true, but we do still need to prove it!

In the general case where we do not impose Mahajan's assumption that $E[u|z, T^*] = 0$ the purpose of the homoskedasticity restrictions is to eliminate a quantity that appears in the moment condition that arises from the

“modified IV estimator” in which $\tilde{z} \equiv T(z - E[z])$ is used as an instrument for T . We showed previously that

$$\tilde{\beta}_{IV} = \beta \left[\frac{(1-p-\alpha_1) + \alpha_0}{(1-p)(1-\alpha_0-\alpha_1)} \right] + \left[\frac{(1-\alpha_0-\alpha_1) \{E[zT^*u] - E[z]E[T^*u]\}}{(1-p)Cov(z, T)} \right]$$

First consider the case in which T^* is exogenous, so that $E(T^*u) = 0$, and z is binary. Then the preceding reduces to

$$\tilde{\beta}_{IV} = \beta \left[\frac{(1-p-\alpha_1) + \alpha_0}{(1-p)(1-\alpha_0-\alpha_1)} \right] + \left[\frac{(1-\alpha_0-\alpha_1) E[zT^*u]}{(1-p)Cov(z, T)} \right]$$

where

$$E[zT^*u] = E_{T^*,z} [E(zT^*u|z, T^*)] = p_{11}m_{11}$$

where $p_{jk} = P(T^* = j, z = k)$ and $m_{jk} = E[u|T^* = j, z = k]$. Note that by the definition of conditional probability we can equivalently express this as

$$E[zT^*u] = E(T^*|z = 1)P(z = 1)m_{11}$$

Thus we can rewrite the numerator of the second term in the expression for $\tilde{\beta}$ from above as

$$\begin{aligned} C &= (1-\alpha_0-\alpha_1)E(zT^*u) \\ &= (1-\alpha_0-\alpha_1)E(T^*|z = 1)P(z = 1)m_{11} \\ &= [E(T|z = 1) - \alpha_0] P(z = 1)m_{11} \end{aligned}$$

using Equation 15. Thus, when T^* is exogenous and z is binary, the expression for $\tilde{\beta}_{IV}$ can be written as

$$(23) \quad \tilde{\beta}_{IV} = \beta \left[\frac{(1-p-\alpha_1) + \alpha_0}{(1-p)(1-\alpha_0-\alpha_1)} \right] + \left[\frac{P(z = 1) [E(T|z = 1) - \alpha_0] m_{11}}{(1-p)Cov(z, T)} \right]$$

Now we will show that the second term from Equation 22 can be expressed

in a similar fashion. The term in question is:

$$D = [E(T|z = 1) - \alpha_0] m_{11} - [E(T|z = 0) - \alpha_0] m_{10}$$

Imposing $Cov(T^*, u) = 0$ gives $p_{10}m_{10} + p_{11}m_{11} = 0$. Thus $m_{10} = -p_{11}m_{11}/p_{10}$.

Now, by Equation 15,

$$-\frac{p_{11}}{p_{10}} = -\frac{P(T^* = 1|z = 1)P(z = 1)}{P(T^* = 1|z = 0)P(z = 0)} = -\frac{[E(T|z = 1) - \alpha_0] P(z = 1)}{[E(T|z = 0) - \alpha_0] P(z = 0)}$$

Substituting this into the expression for D , we have

$$D = \left[\frac{E(T|z = 1) - \alpha_0}{P(z = 0)} \right] m_{11}$$

and therefore, in the case where z is binary and T^* is exogenous Equation 22 simplifies to

$$(24) \quad \Delta Var(y|z) = \mathcal{W}^2 \{ \Delta Var(T|z) + (\alpha_0 - \alpha_1) \Delta E(T|z) \} + 2\mathcal{W} \left\{ \frac{E(T|z = 1) - \alpha_0}{P(z = 0)} \right\} m_{11}$$

I think this will make things easier to solve because we could treat the quantity $[E(T|z = 1) - \alpha_0] m_{11}$ as a unit and eliminate it from the system. But I could be wrong...

6. THE CASE OF A CONTINUOUS INSTRUMENT

I think we'll be able to say something helpful about the case in which the instrument is continuous rather than discrete. For one, we can explain how one could discretize a continuous instrument provided that one is willing to assume that it is independent of the regression error term.

But it also looks like some of the equations we wrote down go through

without modification when z is continuous. For example define the first-stage functions $\pi^*(z) = E(T^*|z)$ and $\pi(z) = E(T|z)$. Then by precisely the same argument as given above in the section on identification by homoskedasticity,

$$(25) \quad E[T^*|z] = \frac{E[T|z] - \alpha_0}{1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1}$$

so the observable first-stage is just a shifted and scaled version of the “true” first-stage. Proceeding similarly for the reduced form, we have

$$(26) \quad E[y|z] = \alpha + \beta E[T^*|z]$$

Substituting the expression for the first-stage gives

$$(27) \quad E[y|z] = \alpha + \beta \left(\frac{E[T|z] - \alpha_0}{1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1} \right)$$

and since

$$(28) \quad E[y] = \alpha + \beta E[T^*] = \alpha + \beta \left(\frac{E[T] - \alpha_0}{1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1} \right)$$

we see that

$$(29) \quad \frac{E[y|z] - E[y]}{E[T|z] - E[T]} = \frac{\beta}{1 - \alpha_0 - \alpha_1}$$

which is very similar to the expressions we wrote down before for IV but in this case involves an *arbitrary* reduced form function $E[y|z]$ and an *arbitrary* first-stage $E[T|z]$. What is particularly interesting about the preceding expression is that it is *just as informative* when z is binary as when it takes on three values or is continuous, assuming the model is correct. However it provides over-identifying information since we can evaluate the function at

any value of z : we should get the same result in each case.

I wonder if we can proceed like this for all of the other conditions we use in our analysis. I also wonder whether a continuous instrument makes identification any easier. Can we get by without the homoskedasticity assumption? My guess is that we can since we could try to extend Lewbel to an instrument with more than three values, the answer is yes.

I think there's no avoiding the fact that we get identification from a non-linearity in the first stage, which is something that Angrist and Pischke, for example, criticize in *Mostly Harmless*. For example, I think the Lewbel determinant condition must imply this.

It would be nice to link what we do with the Hausman et al work and also situations in which people use a first-stage probit, etc.

7. CONCLUSION

Conclusion goes here.

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