

Package ‘rcrologit’

April 30, 2023

Title Random Coefficients Rank-Ordered Logit

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Description Estimation and inference procedures for random coefficients rank-ordered logit.

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BugReports <https://github.com/filippopalomba/rcrologit/issues>

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rcrologit-package	<i>rcrologit: A Package to Estimate Random Coefficients Rank-Ordered Logit Models.</i>
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Description

The package implements estimation and inference procedures for random coefficient rank-ordered logit models.

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See Also

Useful links:

- <https://github.com/filippopalomba/rcrologit>
- Report bugs at <https://github.com/filippopalomba/rcrologit/issues>

dataPrep	<i>Data Preparation for Estimation of Random Coefficients Rank-Ordered Logit</i>
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Description

This function prepares the data for estimation of a random coefficient rank-ordered logit. The rank-ordered logit - sometimes termed *exploded logit model* - was originally proposed in Beggs et al. (1981) and it is an extension of the Luce (1959)-McFadden (1974) model.

These models automatically implies independence of irrelevant alternatives (Debreu 1960). However, McFadden and Train (2000) show that if agents are allowed to have heterogeneous tastes (i.e., random coefficients), then the conditional probability choices induced by the latent utility model can match those implied by virtually any discrete choice probability model.

The package `rcrologit`, depending on the type of covariates specified in `dataPrep`, allows the user to estimate:

- the standard rank-ordered logit model if either `covs.fix` or `covsInt.fix` are specified.
- the random coefficients rank-ordered logit model if either `covs.het` or `covsInt.het` are specified.
- the mixed random coefficients rank-ordered logit model if at least one of `covs.fix` or `covsInt.fix` and at least one of `covs.het` or `covsInt.het` are specified.

For more information on the underlying specification see the [official repository](#).

Usage

```
dataPrep(
  dataraw,
  idVar,
  rankVar,
  altVar,
  FE = NULL,
  covs.fix = NULL,
  covs.het = NULL,
  covsInt.fix = NULL,
  covsInt.het = NULL
)
```

Arguments

dataraw	a data.frame object containing the data to be prepared for estimation
idVar	a string indicating the name of the unit identifier variable
rankVar	a string indicating the name of the variable indicating the rank of each alternative. It should be a variable containing integer values ranging from 1 to J , where J is the number of alternatives. Each unit's best alternative must get value 1, the second best value 2, and so on in a decreasing fashion.
altVar	a string indicating the name of the alternative identifier variable
FE	a string containing the name of the fixed effect variable (if required by the user)
covs.fix	covariates varying at the alternative-unit level with fixed taste parameter
covs.het	covariates varying at the alternative-unit level with random taste parameter
covsInt.fix	covariates varying at the unit level with fixed taste parameter
covsInt.het	covariates varying at the unit level with random taste parameter

Details

The function prepares the data to estimate a random coefficient rank-ordered logit model induced by the latent utility model McFadden (1974)

$$U_{i\ell} = u_{i\ell} + \epsilon_{i\ell}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n, \quad j = 0, 1, \dots, J.$$

In its most general form, we model $u_{i\ell}$ as

$$u_{i\ell} = X_{i\ell}^\top \beta_F + Z_i^\top \alpha_{\ell,F} + W_{i\ell}^\top \beta_i + V_i^\top \alpha_{i\ell} + \delta_\ell$$

where

- $X_{i\ell}$ are covariates varying at the unit-alternative level whose coefficients are modelled as fixed. The user can specify these covariates via the option `covs.fix`.
- Z_i are covariates varying at the unit level whose coefficients are modelled as fixed. The user can specify these covariates via the option `covsInt.fix`. These coefficients are interacted with a dummy for the choice and treated as alternative varying covariates, i.e., $Z_{i\ell} = \sum_{j=1}^J Z_i \times \mathbf{1}(j = \ell)$, where $J=0$ is the reference group.
- $W_{i\ell}$ are covariates varying at the unit-alternative level whose coefficients are modelled as random. The user can specify these covariates via the option `covs.het`.

- V_i are covariates varying at the unit level whose coefficients are modelled as random. The user can specify these covariates via the option `covsInt.het`. These coefficients are interacted with a dummy for the choice and treated as alternative varying covariates, i.e., $V_{i\ell} = \sum_{j=1}^J V_i \times \mathbf{1}(j = \ell)$, where $J=0$ is the reference group.
- the random coefficients are modeled as a joint multivariate normal and are i.i.d. across units,

$$\begin{bmatrix} \alpha_i \\ \beta_i \end{bmatrix} \sim N \left(\begin{bmatrix} \alpha_R \\ \beta_R \end{bmatrix}, \Sigma \right)$$

- δ_ℓ are alternative-specific fixed effects that can be specified via the option `FE`.
- $\epsilon_{i\ell} \sim \text{Gu}(0, 1)$ are idiosyncratic i.i.d. shocks.

The parameter vector to be estimated is thus

$$\theta = (\beta_F^\top, \beta_R^\top, \alpha_F^\top, \alpha_R^\top, \text{vech}(\Sigma)^\top, \{\delta\}_{j=1}^J)^\top,$$

where the first alternative-fixed effect has been normalized to 0.

For more information on the underlying specification see the [official repository](#).

Value

The function returns a list containing the following objects:

<code>id</code>	vector containing the id of each observation
<code>rank</code>	vector containing the rank of each observation
<code>X.fix</code>	a matrix containing covariates with fixed taste parameter
<code>X.het</code>	a matrix containing covariates with random taste parameter
<code>param.spec</code>	a list containing some parameters describing the specification chosen by the user

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References

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- McFadden D, Train K (2000). “Mixed MNL Models for Discrete Response.” *Journal of applied Econometrics*, **15**(5), 447–470.

See Also[rcrologit](#)**Examples**

```
data <- rcrologit_data
dataprep <- dataPrep(data, idVar = "Worker_ID", rankVar = "rank",
  altVar = "alternative",
  covsInt.fix = list("Gender"),
  covs.fix = list("log_Wage"), FE = c("Firm_ID"))

rologitEst <- rcrologit(dataprep)
```

print.rcrologit

*Print Method for Random Coefficients Rank-Ordered Logit***Description**

The print method for for random coefficients rank-ordered logit fitted objects.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'rcrologit'
print(x, printFE = FALSE, ...)
```

Arguments

x	Class "rcrologit" object, obtained by calling rcrologit .
printFE	Whether fixed effects coefficients and standard errors should be displayed.
...	Other arguments.

Value

No return value, called to print [rcrologit](#) results.

Author(s)

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See Also

[rcrologit](#) for estimation and inference for random coefficients rank-ordered logit.

Supported methods: [print.rcrologit](#).

rcrologit

Estimation and Inference for Random Coefficients Rank-Ordered Logit

Description

This function takes the object prepared by `dataPrep` and estimates a random coefficient rank-ordered logit. The rank-ordered logit - sometimes termed *exploded logit model* - was originally proposed in Beggs et al. (1981) and it is an extension of the Luce (1959)-McFadden (1974) model.

These models automatically implies independence of irrelevant alternatives (Debreu 1960). However, McFadden and Train (2000) show that if agents are allowed to have heterogeneous tastes (i.e., random coefficients), then the conditional probability choices induced by the latent utility model can match those implied by virtually any discrete choice probability model.

The package `rcrologit`, depending on the type of covariates specified in `dataPrep`, allows the user to estimate:

- the standard rank-ordered logit model if either `covs.fix` or `covsInt.fix` are specified.
- the random coefficients rank-ordered logit model if either `covs.het` or `covsInt.het` are specified.
- the mixed random coefficients rank-ordered logit model if at least one of `covs.fix` or `covsInt.fix` and at least one of `covs.het` or `covsInt.het` are specified.

For more information on the underlying specification see the [official repository](#).

Usage

```
rcrologit(
  dataPrep,
  Sigma = "diagonal",
  S = 50,
  approx.method = "MC",
  stdErr = "numerical",
  verbose = FALSE,
  control.opts = NULL
)
```

Arguments

<code>dataPrep</code>	object of class 'rcrologit' prepared via dataPrep .
<code>Sigma</code>	structure of the variance-covariance of the random coefficients. It must be one of "diagonal" or "cholesky". Default is <code>Sigma="diagonal"</code> . See Details section for more.
<code>S</code>	integer denoting the number of simulations when approximating the integrals in the conditional choice probabilities. Default is <code>S=50</code> .
<code>approx.method</code>	string indicating the procedure to approximate the integrals in the conditional choice probabilities
<code>stdErr</code>	string denoting whether standard error should be estimated and how. Available options are "numerical" (default) which uses numerical approximation of the Hessian matrix; "analytical" which uses the closed form of the variance of the score and the hessian of the likelihood to estimate standard errors robust to misspecification; "skip" which makes R skip the computation of standard errors

verbose if TRUE prints additional information in the console.
 control.opts a list containing options to be passed to the underlying optimizer optim.

Details

- **Variance-Covariance of random parameters.** The option Sigma allows the user to model directly the covariance structure of the random coefficients. Precisely, it shape Σ in

$$\begin{bmatrix} \alpha_i \\ \beta_i \end{bmatrix} \sim N \left(\begin{bmatrix} \alpha_R \\ \beta_R \end{bmatrix}, \Sigma \right).$$

In practice, to avoid issues with the positive-definiteness of Σ during the optimization routine, it is more convenient to model the random coefficients as

$$\begin{bmatrix} \alpha_i \\ \beta_i \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_R \\ \beta_R \end{bmatrix} + \Lambda \mathbf{u}_i, \quad \mathbf{u}_i \sim N(0, \mathbf{I}).$$

The option Sigma directly models the shape of Λ and allows the user to choose between a diagonal structure (Sigma="diagonal") and a lower-triangular structure (Sigma="cholesky").

- **Model.** The function estimates a random coefficient rank-ordered logit model induced by the latent utility model McFadden (1974)

$$U_{i\ell} = u_{i\ell} + \epsilon_{i\ell}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n, \quad j = 0, 1, \dots, J.$$

In its most general form, we model $u_{i\ell}$ as

$$u_{i\ell} = X_{i\ell}^\top \beta_F + Z_i^\top \alpha_{\ell,F} + W_{i\ell}^\top \beta_i + V_i^\top \alpha_{i\ell} + \delta_\ell$$

where

- $X_{i\ell}$ are covariates varying at the unit-alternative level whose coefficients are modelled as fixed. The user can specify these covariates via the option covs.fix.
- Z_i are covariates varying at the unit level whose coefficients are modelled as fixed. The user can specify these covariates via the option covsInt.fix. These coefficients are interacted with a dummy for the choice and treated as alternative varying covariates, i.e., $Z_{i\ell} = \sum_{j=1}^J Z_i \times \mathbf{1}(j = \ell)$, where $J=0$ is the reference group.
- $W_{i\ell}$ are covariates varying at the unit-alternative level whose coefficients are modelled as random. The user can specify these covariates via the option covs.het.
- V_i are covariates varying at the unit level whose coefficients are modelled as random. The user can specify these covariates via the option covsInt.het. These coefficients are interacted with a dummy for the choice and treated as alternative varying covariates, i.e., $V_{i\ell} = \sum_{j=1}^J V_i \times \mathbf{1}(j = \ell)$, where $J=0$ is the reference group.
- the random coefficients are modeled as a joint multivariate normal and are i.i.d. across units,

$$\begin{bmatrix} \alpha_i \\ \beta_i \end{bmatrix} \sim N \left(\begin{bmatrix} \alpha_R \\ \beta_R \end{bmatrix}, \Sigma \right)$$

- δ_ℓ are alternative-specific fixed effects that can be specified via the option FE.
- $\epsilon_{i\ell} \sim \text{Gu}(0, 1)$ are idiosyncratic i.i.d. shocks.

The parameter vector to be estimated is thus

$$\theta = (\beta_F^\top, \beta_R^\top, \alpha_F^\top, \alpha_R^\top, \text{vech}(\Sigma)^\top, \{\delta\}_{j=1}^J)^\top,$$

where the first alternative-fixed effect has been normalized to 0.

For more information on the underlying specification see the [official repository](#).

Value

The function returns a list containing the following objects:

b	vector containing all the estimated parameters
bfix	vector containing the estimated parameters corresponding to the "fixed" coefficients
bhet	vector containing the estimated parameters corresponding to the "random" coefficients
Lambda	loading matrix of the shocks to the random coefficients
Sigma	variance-covariance matrix of the estimated parameters
param.spec	a list containing some parameters describing the specification chosen by the user

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References

Beggs S, Cardell S, Hausman J (1981). "Assessing the Potential Demand for Electric Cars." *Journal of Econometrics*, **17**(1), 1–19. ISSN 0304-4076, doi:[10.1016/03044076\(81\)900567](https://doi.org/10.1016/03044076(81)900567).

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McFadden D (1974). "Frontiers in Econometrics." In *Conditional Logit Analysis of Qualitative Choice Behavior*, 105–142. Academic Press. ISBN 0-12-776150-0.

McFadden D, Train K (2000). "Mixed MNL Models for Discrete Response." *Journal of applied Econometrics*, **15**(5), 447–470.

See Also

[dataPrep](#)

Examples

```
data <- rcrologit_data
dataprep <- dataPrep(data, idVar = "Worker_ID", rankVar = "rank",
                    altVar = "alternative",
                    covsInt.fix = list("Gender"),
                    covs.fix = list("log_Wage"), FE = c("Firm_ID"))

rologitEst <- rcrologit(dataprep)
```

rcrologit_data	<i>Simulated Data According to McFadden (1974) Latent Utility Model</i>
----------------	---

Description

A dataset containing three-option rankings of 3000 units and some covariates

Usage

```
data(rcrologit_data)
```

Format

A data frame with 9000 rows and 11 variables:

Worker_ID worker id.

alternative job offer id (within worker).

rank rank of the job offer.

Firm_ID id of the firm offering the job.

Gender gender of worker (1 if Female).

Educ education level of worker (1 if <HS, 2 if HS, 3 if College or more).

WorkerSector sector of worker's previous occupation (1 if Manufacturing, 0 otherwise).

Wage wage offered.

log_Wage log of wage offered.

FirmSector sector of the firm offering the job (1 if Manufacturing, 0 otherwise).

summary.rcrologit	<i>Summary Method for Random Coefficients Rank-Ordered Logit</i>
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Description

The summary method for for random coefficients rank-ordered logit fitted objects.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'rcrologit'
summary(object, printFE = FALSE, ...)
```

Arguments

object	Class "rcrologit" object, obtained by calling rcrologit .
printFE	Whether fixed effects coefficients and standard errors should be displayed.
...	Other arguments.

Value

No return value, called to print [rcrologit](#) results.

Author(s)

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See Also

[rcrologit](#) for estimation and inference for random coefficients rank-ordered logit.

Supported methods: [print.rcrologit](#).

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