

A Dynamic Panel Data Framework for Identification and Estimation of Nonlinear Production Functions

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1 Introduction

2 The Model of Firm Production

2.1 Output

Consider a nonlinear model for a firm's gross-output production function

$$Y_{it} = F_t(K_{it}, L_{it}, M_{it}, \omega_{it}, \eta_t) \quad (1)$$

where Y_{it} is firm i 's output at time t and L_{it}, M_{it}, K_{it} denotes optimal input choices for labor, materials, and capital respectively. The unobserved productivity is denoted by ω_{it} which is correlated to input choices of the firm at time t . We let the output elasticities β to be functionally dependent on unobserved production shocks $\eta_{i1}, \dots, \eta_{iT}$ that are uncorrelated to input choices and productivity at time t .

Without loss of generality we normalize η_{it} to be uniformly distributed on the interval $[0, 1]$. This model corresponds to a nonlinear random coefficient model where the outcome y_{it} is monotonic in η_{it} . In practice we can allow for nonlinear interactions between inputs and unobserved productivity at different quantiles so that marginal effects can be modeled as non-Hick's neutral. For empirical simplicity we can model separability in the unobserved productivity to calculate total factor productivity (TFP). The function g is an unknown nonlinear function.

In this model, heterogeneity in production technology across firms is driven by the rank of the unobserved production shocks η_{it} . We specify the following functional forms for the input demand functions.

2.2 Labor

Labor inputs are chosen to maximize current period profits and therefore are a function of current period state variables

$$L_{it} = \ell_t(K_{it}, \omega_{it}, \epsilon_{it}) \quad (2)$$

where ϵ_{it} is iid and independent of current period state variables. We assume the labor demand function ℓ is strictly increasing in ϵ_{it} which is normalized to be uniformly distributed on the interval $U[0, 1]$

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2.3 Materials

Material inputs are chosen to maximize current period profits and therefore are a function of current period state variables

$$M_{it} = \mu_t(K_{it}, \omega_{it}, \varepsilon_{it}) \quad (3)$$

where ε_{it} is iid and independent of current period state variables. We assume the labor demand function μ is strictly increasing in ε_{it} which is normalized to be uniformly distributed on the interval $U[0, 1]$. We can extend this to the case where labor is chosen prior to choosing material inputs in which case we would include L_{it} as a state variable in equation (3).

2.4 Capital Accumulation

Capital accumulates to the following generalized law of motion

$$K_{it} = \kappa_t(K_{it-1}, I_{it-1}, v_{it-1}) \quad (4)$$

where I_{it-1} denotes firm investment in the prior period. Under this specification, capital is determined in the period $t - 1$. We introduce a random error term v_{it-1} which eliminates the deterministic relationship of capital with respect to previous period state and choice variables. We will show later that this step is crucial for our nonparametric identification result which is used by Hu *et al.* (2019). We assume this error term is independent of the arguments in the capital accumulation law and that the function κ is strictly increasing in this term and is normalized to be uniformly distributed on the interval $U[0, 1]$.

2.5 Productivity

Productivity evolves according to the exogenous first order Markov process:

$$\omega_{it} = g(\omega_{it-1}, \xi_{it}) \quad (5)$$

where $\xi_{i1}, \dots, \xi_{iT}$ are independent uniform random variables which represent innovation shocks to productivity. We assume ω_{it} is monotonic in ξ_{it} . We let h be another unknown nonlinear function that allows the persistence in productivity in firms to be nonlinear across different quantiles. The exogeneity of the productivity process can be relaxed when we consider productivity enhancing activities such as R&D similar to Doraszelski and Jaumandreu (2013).

2.6 Investment

We introduce a dynamic model of firm investment that is a slight modification of Ericson and Pakes (1995) which can also be found in Hu and Shum (2013) and Akerberg *et al.* (2007). In each period, a firm chooses investment to maximize its discounted future profits:

$$I_{it} = I^*(K_{it}, \omega_{it}, \zeta_{it}) = \operatorname{argmax}_{I_t \geq 0} \left[\Pi_t(K_{it}, \omega_{it}, \zeta_{it}) - c(I_{it}) + \beta \mathbb{E}[V_{t+1}(K_{it+1}, \omega_{it+1}, \zeta_{it+1}) | \mathcal{I}_t] \right], \quad (6)$$

where $\pi_t(\cdot)$ is current period profits as a function of the state variables and an unobservable demand shock ζ_{it} . These are shocks to a firm's product demand which are privately observed by each firm and i.i.d across i and t . We assume these shocks are independent from the firm's state variables. Current costs to investment are given by $c(I_t)$ and β is the firm's discount factor. Pakes (1994) provides specific conditions for which the investment policy function is strictly increasing in its unobservable components. **We can interpret conditions for strict monotonicity here and leave a detailed explanation in the appendix.** Without loss of generality, we normalize $\zeta_t \sim U[0, 1]$

3 Identification

Our goal is identification of the Markov law of motion $f_{Y_t, L_t, M_t, K_t, I_t | \omega_t | Y_{t-1}, L_{t-1}, M_{t-1}, K_{t-1}, I_{t-1} | \omega_{t-1}}$ which we assume to be stationary. We assume the researcher observes a panel dataset consisting of i.i.d observations of firm output and input choices with the number of time periods $T \geq 3$ for a large number of firms. We formalize the independence conditions stated in the earlier section as well as conditional independence assumptions for identification. For ease of notation we drop the i subscript and let $X_t = (Y_t, K_t, L_t, M_t, I_t)$ denote all the observable data and $V_t = (Y_t, L_t, M_t, I_t)$ denote the variables that depend only on the current state variables (K_t, ω_t) .

Assumption 3.1. (*Production Dynamics*)

- (i) *First-Order Markov* $f_{X_t, \omega_t | X_{t-1}, \omega_{t-1}, \mathcal{I}_{t < t-1}} = f_{X_t, \omega_t | X_{t-1}, \omega_{t-1}}$
- (ii) *Markov Decision Rules:* $f_{V_t | K_t, X_{t-1}, \omega_t} = f_{V_t | K_t, \omega_t}$
- (iii) *Limited Feedback:* $f_{X_t | X_{t-1}, \omega_t, \omega_{t-1}} = f_{X_t | X_{t-1}, \omega_t}$
- (iv) *Independence*
 - (a) η_t, ϵ_t and ε_t are mutually independent of ζ_t conditional on $(K_t, L_t, M_t, \omega_t)$
 - (b) η_t is mutually independent of $v_{t-2}, \epsilon_{t-1}, \varepsilon_{t-1}$, and ζ_{t-1} conditional on $(K_t, L_t, M_t, \omega_t)$
 - (c) The error terms $(\eta_t, \epsilon_t, \varepsilon_t, v_t, \xi_t, \zeta_t)$ are independent of their respective functional arguments

Assumption (3.1)(a) is a first-order Markov assumption that states that conditional on last periods choice and state variables, any information the firm has in the period $t - 2$ is not relevant. This is satisfied for our Markov decision variables for labor, materials, and investment which is further elaborated in Assumption (3.1)(b). Then this assumption also limits feedback in the production function and capital accumulation process. Assumption (3.1)(b) which we have mentioned, further restricts the previous assumption to the firms decisions of labor, materials, and investment to depend on only current period state variables. This assumption is satisfied for labor and materials which are assumed to maximize current period profits. It is satisfied for investment in our Markovian dynamic model outlined in Section (2.6)

Assumption (3.1)(c) states that previous period's productivity does not directly affect the firms decision and state variables in the current period. Instead, they indirectly affect these variables through the previous periods decision and state variables. Assumption (3.1)(4(i)) is a conditional independence assumption for output and the input decisions. Conditional on current period labor, materials, and capital, investment is not relevant in determining output, labor, or material input decisions in the current period. That is, capital summarizes the information about investment that determines these variables. Assumption (3.1)(4(ii)) restricts last periods choice and state variables from determining output conditional on current period variables. This is a common assumption in the literature which says that output does not have any dynamic implications. Lastly, (3.1)(4(iii)) are independence restrictions that are needed to form moment restrictions used for estimation.

We will proceed in steps in factoring the Markov law of motion into the densities we are interested in identifying. Using Assumption (3.1):

$$\begin{aligned} f_{X_t, \omega_t | X_{t-1}, \omega_{t-1}} &= f_{Y_t | K_t, L_t, M_t, \omega_t} f_{K_t | K_{t-1}, I_{t-1}} f_{I_t | K_t, \omega_t} \\ &\times f_{L_t | K_t, \omega_t} f_{M_t | K_t, \omega_t} f_{\omega_t | \omega_{t-1}} \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

Proof: See Appendix A

We use the identification results of Hu and Shum (2012) to identify the Markov law of motion in equation (7) using the fact that investment depends only on current state variables which allows us to use three repeated measures of investment (I_t, I_{t-1}, I_{t-2}) for identification. We begin by relating a joint density of observables to unobserved densities. Let $Z_t = (Y_t, L_t, M_t)$ denote the variables that are functions of the current state variables excluding investment.

$$f_{X_t|X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} = \int f_{I_t|K_t, \omega_t} f_{Z_t|K_t, \omega_t} f_{K_t|K_{t-1}, I_{t-1}} f_{\omega_t|X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} d\omega_t \quad (8)$$

Proof: See Appendix A

We define an integral operator mapping $g \in \text{Supp}(I_{t-2})$ to $L_{Z_t, K_t, I_t|Z_{t-1}, K_{t-1}, I_{t-1}, Z_{t-2}, K_{t-2}, I_{t-2}} \circ g \in \text{Supp}(I_t)$ for a given $(Z_t, K_t, I_{t-1}, Z_{t-1}, K_{t-1}) \in \text{Supp}(Z_t, K_t, I_{t-1}, Z_{t-1}, K_{t-1})$ as

$$[L_{Z_t, K_t, I_t|Z_{t-1}, K_{t-1}, I_{t-1}, Z_{t-2}, K_{t-2}, I_{t-2}} \circ g](I_t) \equiv \int f_{Z_t, I_t|Z_{t-1}, I_{t-1}, Z_{t-2}, I_{t-2}}(Z_t, I_t|Z_{t-1}, I_{t-1}, Z_{t-2}, I_{t-2}) g(I_{t-2}) dI_{t-2}$$

We also define a diagonal operator $\Delta_{Z_t|K_t, \omega_t}$ which maps $g \in \text{Supp}(\omega_t)$ to $\Delta_{Z_t|K_t, \omega_t} \circ g \in \text{Supp}(\omega_t)$ for a given $(Z_t, K_t) \in \text{Supp}(Z_t, K_t)$ as

$$\Delta_{Z_t|K_t, \omega_t} \circ g \equiv f_{Z_t|K_t, \omega_t}(Z_t|K_t, \omega_t) g(\omega_t) d\omega_t$$

Then, the observed density in (8) can be written in operator notation

$$L_{X_t|X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} = L_{I_t|K_t, \omega_t} \Delta_{Z_t|K_t, \omega_t} \Delta_{K_t|K_{t-1}, I_{t-1}} L_{\omega_t|X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} \quad (9)$$

We will show that under a set of assumptions, the Markov law of motion in (7) is identified from a eigenvalue-eigenfunction decomposition of (9) using the arguments of Hu and Schennach (2008).

Assumption 3.2. (Boundedness) *The joint density of X_{t+1}, X_t and X_{t-1} is bounded. All conditional and marginal densities are also bounded.*

Assumption 3.3. (Injectivity) *The operators $L_{I_t|K_t, \omega_t}$, $L_{\omega_t|X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}}$, $\Delta_{Z_t|K_t, \omega_t}$ and $\Delta_{K_t|K_{t-1}, I_{t-1}}$ are injective*

The above assumption allows us to take inverses of the operators. Consider the operator $L_{I_t|K_t, \omega_t}$, following Hu and Schennach (2008), injectivity of this operator can be interpreted as its corresponding density $f_{I_t|K_t, \omega_t}(I_t|K_t, \omega_t)$ having sufficient variation in ω_t given K_t . This assumption is often phrased as completeness condition in the nonparametric IV literature on the density $f_{I_t|K_t, \omega_t}(I_t|K_t, \omega_t)$. More formally, for a given $K_t \in \text{Supp}(K_t)$

$$\int f_{I_t|K_t, \omega_t}(I_t|K_t, \omega_t) g(\omega_t) d\omega_t = 0 \quad (10)$$

for all I_t implies $g(\omega_t) = 0$ for all ω_t

Sufficient conditions for injectivity can be found in the convolution literature. In our econometric model discussed in the next section, we consider specifications that satisfy these conditions without placing extensive restrictions on the economic primitives governing the investment process and productivity evolution.

Injectivity of the operator $L_{\omega_t|X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}}$ is equivalent to showing the injectivity of $L_{\omega_t|X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} = L_{\omega_t|, \omega_{t-1}} L_{\omega_{t-1}, X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}}$. Therefore we require injectivity of both $L_{\omega_t|, \omega_{t-1}}$ and $L_{\omega_{t-1}, X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}}$. The first

operator corresponds to the Markov process for productivity $f_{\omega_t|\omega_{t-1}}$. For the second operator, we show in Appendix B, that it is injective when productivity evolves exogenously as specified in our model.

Invertibility of the diagonal operators $\Delta_{Z_t|K_t,\omega_t}$ and $\Delta_{K_t|K_{t-1},I_{t-1}}$ requires the kernels of these operators to be nonzero along its support. This is satisfied in our model since we assume Y_t, L_t, M_t, K_t to be strictly increasing in $\eta_t, \epsilon_t, \varepsilon_t, v_{t-1}$ respectively. It assumed that the densities of these error terms are nonzero so that each density is nonzero and furthermore bounded above according to Assumption (3.2).

Our next assumption places mild restrictions on the operator $\Delta_{Z_t|K_t,\omega_t}$ so that the eigenvalues of our decomposition argument are unique.

Assumption 3.4. (Uniqueness) For any Z_t, K_t and any $\bar{\omega}_t \neq \tilde{\omega}_t$: $k(Z_t, K_t, \bar{\omega}_t) \neq k(Z_t, K_t, \tilde{\omega}_t)$ where,

$$k(Z_t, K_t, \omega_t) = f_{Z_t|K_t,\omega_t}(Z_t|K_t, \omega_t) = f_{Y_t|K_t,L_t,M_t,\omega_t}(Y_t|K_t, L_t, M_t, \omega_t) \times f_{L_t|K_t,\omega_t}(L_t|K_t, \omega_t) f_{M_t|K_t,\omega_t}(M_t|K_t, \omega_t) \quad (11)$$

Assumption (3.4) requires the density $f_{Z_t|K_t,\omega_t}$ be nonidentical and different values of ω_t . This corresponds to the densities $f_{Y_t|K_t,L_t,M_t,\omega_t}$, $f_{L_t|K_t,\omega_t}$ and $f_{M_t|K_t,\omega_t}$ being nonidentical and different values of ω_t . It is satisfied when either Y_t, L_t, M_t are strictly increasing in ω_t or if their respective error terms are conditionally heteroskedastic.

Assumption 3.5. (Monotonicity and Normalization) For any $K_t \in \text{Supp}(K_t)$, there exists a known functional M such that $M[f_{I_t|K_t,\omega_t}(I_t|K_t, \omega_t)]$ is monotonic in ω_t . This functional is normalized such that $M[f_{I_t|K_t,\omega_t}(I_t|K_t, \omega_t)] = \omega_t$

The above assumption is used to pin down the eigenfunctions to each unobserved ω_t . In practice, this functional can be the mean, median, mode, or any quantile of the distribution $f_{I_t|K_t,\omega_t}(I_t|K_t, \omega_t)$. In either case, this places restrictions on the parameters of the investment process which we discuss in the next section.

Integrating (8) with respect to (Y_t, L_t, M_t) gives us in operator notation:

$$L_{I_t,K_t|X_{t-1},X_{t-2}} = L_{I_t|K_t,\omega_t} \Delta_{K_t|K_{t-1},I_{t-1}} L_{\omega_t|X_{t-1},X_{t-2}} \quad (12)$$

Combining equation (9) and (12) and using Assumption (3.3) gives

$$L_{I_t,K_t|X_{t-1},X_{t-2}} L_{X_t|X_{t-1},X_{t-2}}^{-1} = L_{I_t|K_t,\omega_t} \Delta_{Z_t|K_t,\omega_t} L_{I_t|K_t,\omega_t}^{-1} \quad (13)$$

The left hand side of equation (13) is a function of observable data whereas the right-hand side are the unobservable densities of interest indexed by the unobservable ω_t . The following theorem of Hu and Schennach (2008) gives us our main identification result.

Theorem 3.1. Under assumptions (3.1), (3.2), (3.3), (3.4), and (3.5), the density $f_{X_t|X_{t-1},X_{t-2}}$ uniquely determines the Markov law of Motion in equation (7).

Proof: The identification results of Hu and Schennach (2008) directly identify the densities $f_{I_t|K_t,\omega_t}$, $f_{Y_t|K_t,L_t,M_t,\omega_t}$, $f_{L_t|K_t,\omega_t}$, $f_{M_t|K_t,\omega_t}$, $f_{K_t|K_{t-1},I_{t-1}}$ and $f_{\omega_t|X_{t-1},X_{t-2}}$. The latter density identifies the Markov law of motion from the equivalence $f_{\omega_t|X_{t-1},X_{t-2}} = \int f_{\omega_t|\omega_{t-1}} f_{\omega_{t-1},X_{t-1},X_{t-2}} d\omega_{t-1}$

4 Estimation Strategy

Our empirical specification for the Markovian transitions of productivity, output, and capital evolution closely resemble Arellano *et al.* (2017). We let $(y_{it}, k_{it}, l_{it}, m_{it}, i_{it})$ denote the logarithms of $(Y_{it}, K_{it}, L_{it}, M_{it}, I_{it})$ respectively.

4.1 Output

Let age_{it} denote the age of firm i at time t . We specify the output equation as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} Q_t(y_{it}|k_{it}, l_{it}, m_{it}, \omega_{it}, \tau) &= Q(y_{it}|k_{it}, l_{it}, m_{it}, \omega_{it}, age_{it}, \tau) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^J \beta_j(\tau) \psi_j(k_{it}, l_{it}, m_{it}, \omega_{it}, age_{it}) \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

4.2 Labor Input

We specify the labor input demand equation as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} Q_t(l_{it}|k_{it}, \omega_{it}, \tau) &= Q(l_{it}|k_{it}, \omega_{it}, age_{it}, \tau) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^J \gamma_j(\tau) \psi_j(k_{it}, \omega_{it}, age_{it}) \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

4.3 Material Input

We specify the material input demand equation as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} Q_t(m_{it}|k_{it}, \omega_{it}, \tau) &= Q(m_{it}|k_{it}, \omega_{it}, age_{it}, \tau) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^J \delta_j(\tau) \psi_j(k_{it}, \omega_{it}, age_{it}) \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

4.4 Investment Demand

We specify the investment demand equation as:

$$\begin{aligned} i_t &= \iota_t(k_{it}, \omega_{it}, \zeta_{it}) = \iota(k_{it}, \omega_{it}, age_{it}, \zeta_{it}) \\ &= \iota_0 + \sum_{j=1}^J \iota_j \psi_j(k_{it}, \omega_{it}, age_{it}) + \zeta_{it}, \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

where $E[\zeta_{it}|k_{it}, \omega_{it}] = 0$. The above specification is a nonlinear regression model. The corresponding conditional quantile function is $Q_\tau(i_{it}|k_{it}, \omega_{it}) = \iota_0(\tau) + \sum_{j=1}^J \iota_j \psi_j(k_{it}, \omega_{it}, age_{it})$ where $\iota_0(\tau) = \iota_0 + \sigma_\zeta F^{-1}(\tau)$. Hence we choose a simple location shift model to estimate the investment process where, for example, F is log-normally distributed with variance σ_ζ^2 . While this specification is not sufficient for injectivity, it is necessary according to Lemma 5 in Hu and Shum (2012). The conditional mean zero assumption provides the normalization assumption required in (3.5)¹. Similar to Olley and Pakes (1996) we assume $\iota_t(K_t, \omega_t)$ is strictly increasing in ω_t .

¹We can relax the additive error assumption in equation (17) and its corresponding parametric distribution by considering a sieve approximation for the density $f_{i_t|k_t, \omega_t}(i_t|k_t, \omega_t)$ with restrictions on the parameters of this sieve according to assumption (3.5) following Hu and Schennach (2008).

4.5 Persistent Productivity

We specify productivity to transition according to:

$$\omega_{it} = g_t(\omega_{it-1}, \xi_{it}) = g(\omega_{it-1}, age_{it}, \xi_{it}) = \rho_0 + \sum_{j=1}^J \rho_j \psi_j(\omega_{it-1}, age_{it}) + \xi_{it}, \quad (18)$$

where $E[\xi_{it}|\omega_{it-1}] = 0$. The quantile function for ω_{i1} is specified in a similar way

$$\omega_{i1} = g_{\omega_1}(age_{i1}, \tau) = \rho_0^1 + \sum_{j=0}^J \rho_j^1 \psi_j(age_{i1}) + \xi_{i1}, \quad (19)$$

Similar to the investment process, we specify productivity as a nonlinear regression model. Here we allow ξ_{it} follow a normal distribution such that the corresponding quantiles are given by $Q_\tau(\omega_{it}|\omega_{it-1}) = \rho_0(\tau) + \sum_{j=1}^J \rho_j \psi_j(\omega_{it-1}, age_{it})$ where $\rho_0(\tau) = \rho_0 + \sigma_\xi F^{-1}(\tau)$. We assume a similar specification for initial productivity ω_{i1} .

5 Implementation

To ease notation, we let the finite and functional parameters be indexed by a finite dimensional parameter vector θ . We model the functional parameters using Wei and Carroll (2009) and Arellano and Bonhomme (2016). For example, the function $\beta_j(\tau_q)$ is modeled as a piecewise-polynomial interpolating splines on a grid $[\tau_1, \tau_2], [\tau_3, \tau_4], \dots, [\tau_{Q-1}, \tau_Q]$, contained in the unit interval and is constant on $[0, \tau_1]$ and $[\tau_Q, 1]$. The intercept coefficient β_0 is specified as the quantile of an exponential distribution on $(0, \tau_1]$ (indexed by λ^-) and $[\tau_{Q-1}, 1]$ (indexed by λ^+). The remaining functional parameters are modeled similarly. We take $Q = 11$ and $\tau_q = \frac{q}{Q+1}$. Following Arellano *et al.* (2017) we parameterize the distribution of ζ_{it} to be log-normal so we set, for example, $\iota_0(\tau_q) = \iota_0 + \sigma_\zeta \Phi^{-1}(\tau_q)$. In the following section we outline the model's restrictions and a feasible estimation strategy.

5.1 Model Restrictions

Let $\Psi_\tau(u) = \tau - \mathbb{1}\{u < 0\}$ denote the first derivative of the quantile check function $\psi_\tau(u) = (\tau - \mathbb{1}\{u < 0\})u$. The following conditional moment restrictions hold as an implication of the conditional independence restrictions in Assumption (3.1). Therefore, we estimate the parameters of interest from the following conditional moment restrictions.

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\Psi_{\tau_q}(\eta_{it}) \middle| k_{it}, l_{it}, m_{it}, age_{it} \right] = 0 \quad (20)$$

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\Psi_{\tau_q}(\epsilon_{it}) \middle| k_{it}, \omega_{it}, age_{it} \right] = 0 \quad (21)$$

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\Psi_{\tau_q}(\varepsilon_{it}) \middle| k_{it}, \omega_{it}, age_{it} \right] = 0 \quad (22)$$

For the nonlinear regressions:

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\zeta_{it} \middle| \omega_{it}, k_{it}, age_{it} \right] = 0 \quad (23)$$

For $t \geq 2$,

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\xi_{it} \middle| \omega_{it-1}, age_{it} \right] = 0 \quad (24)$$

For initial productivity ($t = 1$),

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\xi_{i1} \middle| \omega_{i1}, age_{i1} \right] = 0 \quad (25)$$

To fix ideas, we focus on how to estimate the production function and investment equation ².

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left[\Psi_{\tau_q}(\eta_{it}) \middle| k_{it}, l_{it}, m_{it}, \omega_{it}, age_{it} \right] = \\ \mathbb{E} \left[\Psi_{\tau_q} \left(y_{it} - \sum_{j=1}^J \bar{\beta}_j(\tau_q) \psi_j(k_{it}, l_{it}, m_{it}, \omega_{it}, age_{it}) \right) \middle| k_{it}, l_{it}, m_{it}, \omega_{it}, age_{it} \right] = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left[\zeta_{it} \middle| k_{it}, \omega_{it}, age_{it} \right] = \\ \mathbb{E} \left[i_{it} - \bar{\iota}_0 - \sum_{j=1}^J \bar{\iota}_j \psi_j(k_{it}, \omega_{it}, age_{it}) \middle| k_{it}, \omega_{it}, age_{it} \right] = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

Here $\bar{\beta}_j(\tau_q)$, $\bar{\iota}_0$ and $\bar{\iota}_j$ denote the true values of $\beta_j(\tau_q)$, ι_0 and ι_j for $j \in \{1, \dots, J\}$ and $q \in \{1, \dots, Q\}$. Clearly, estimating the above conditional moment restrictions are infeasible due to the unobserved productivity component. Therefore, we use the following unconditional moment restrictions and posterior distributions for ω_{it} to integrate out the unobserved productivity. Due to the law of iterated expectations we now have the following integrated moment conditions:

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\int \left(\Psi_{\tau_q} \left(y_{it} - \sum_{j=1}^J \bar{\beta}_j(\tau_q) \psi_j(k_{it}, l_{it}, m_{it}, \omega_{it}, age_{it}) \right) \otimes \begin{pmatrix} k_{it} \\ l_{it} \\ m_{it} \\ \omega_{it} \\ age_{it} \end{pmatrix} \right) f_i(\omega_{it}; \bar{\theta}) d\omega_{it} \right] = 0 \quad (28)$$

and

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\int \left((i_{it} - \bar{\iota}_0 - \sum_{j=1}^J \bar{\iota}_j \psi_j(k_{it}, \omega_{it}, age_{it})) \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ k_{it} \\ \omega_{it} \\ age_{it} \end{pmatrix} \right) f_i(\omega_{it}; \bar{\theta}) d\omega_{it} \right] = 0, \quad (29)$$

where $\bar{\theta}$ denotes the true values of θ . The posterior distribution is specified as (age omitted for ease

²Note that we do not specify the model for capital here because it does not depend on ω_{it-1} and hence does not enter the posterior distribution for ω_t

of notation):

$$\begin{aligned}
f_i(\omega_{it}; \bar{\theta}) &= f(\omega_{it}|y_{it}, k_{it}, l_{it}, m_{it}, i_{it}; \bar{\theta}) \propto \\
&\prod_{t=1}^T f(y_{it}|k_{it}, l_{it}, m_{it}, \omega_{it}; \bar{\theta}) f(l_{it}|k_{it}, \omega_{it}; \bar{\theta}) f(m_{it}|k_{it}, \omega_{it}; \bar{\theta}) \\
&\times f(i_{it}|k_{it}, \omega_{it}; \bar{\theta}) f(\omega_{i1}; \bar{\theta}) \prod_{t=2}^T f(\omega_{it}|\omega_{it-1}; \bar{\theta})
\end{aligned} \tag{30}$$

The posterior density in equation (30) is a closed-form expression when using piecewise linear splines for $\theta(\cdot)$. The estimation is an Expectation Maximization (EM) algorithm. In Arellano and Bonhomme (2016) and Arellano *et al.* (2017), the “M-step” is performed using quantile regression. Given an initial parameter value $\hat{\theta}^0$. Iterate on $s = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ in the following two-step procedure until converge to a stationary distribution:

1. *Stochastic E-Step*: Draw M values $\omega_i^{(m)} = (\omega_{i1}^{(m)}, \omega_{i2}^{(m)}, \dots, \omega_{iT}^{(m)})$ from

$$\begin{aligned}
f_i(\omega_{it}; \hat{\theta}^{(s)}) &= f(\omega_{it}|y_{it}, k_{it}, l_{it}, m_{it}, i_{it}; \hat{\theta}^{(s)}) \propto \\
&\prod_{t=1}^T f(y_{it}|k_{it}, l_{it}, m_{it}, \omega_{it}; \hat{\theta}^{(s)}) f(l_{it}|k_{it}, \omega_{it}; \hat{\theta}^{(s)}) f(m_{it}|k_{it}, \omega_{it}; \hat{\theta}^{(s)}) \\
&\times f(i_{it}|k_{it}, \omega_{it}; \hat{\theta}^{(s)}) f(\omega_{i1}; \hat{\theta}^{(s)}) \prod_{t=2}^T f(\omega_{it}|\omega_{it-1}; \hat{\theta}^{(s)})
\end{aligned}$$

2. *Maximization Step*: For $q = 1, \dots, Q$, solve

$$\begin{aligned}
\hat{\beta}(\tau_q)^{(s+1)} &= \underset{\beta(\tau_q)}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{m=1}^M \Psi_{\tau_q} \left(y_{it} - \sum_{j=1}^J \beta_j(\tau_q) \psi_j(k_{it}, l_{it}, m_{it}, \omega_{it}^{(m)}, age_{it}) \right) \\
\hat{\iota}^{(s+1)} &= \underset{\iota}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{m=1}^M \left(i_{it} - \iota_0 - \sum_{j=1}^J \iota_j \psi_j(k_{it}, \omega_{it}^{(m)}, age_{it}) \right)^2
\end{aligned}$$

The parameters of the production function equation in (29) can be estimated using a nonlinear regression for a given draw of $\omega_{it}^{(m)}$. Then, the variance of the shock ζ_{it} can be estimated using ³

$$\hat{\sigma}_\zeta^2 = \frac{1}{NTM} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{m=1}^M \left[\left(i_{it} - \hat{\iota}_0 - \sum_{j=1}^J \hat{\iota}_j \psi_j(k_{it}, \omega_{it}^{(m)}, age_{it}) \right)^2 \right] \tag{31}$$

so that $\hat{\iota}_0(\tau_q) = \hat{\iota}_0 + \hat{\sigma}_\zeta \Phi^{-1}(\tau_q)$

³The parameters of the productivity process can be estimated similarly, however these are omitted for clarity. See Appendix C for details.

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Appendix A

The Markov Law of Motion

Under assumption (3.1), the Markov law of motion

$$\begin{aligned} f_{X_t, \omega_t | X_{t-1}, \omega_{t-1}} &= f_{Y_t | K_t, L_t, M_t, \omega_t} f_{K_t | K_{t-1}, I_{t-1}} f_{I_t | K_t, \omega_t} \\ &\quad \times f_{L_t | K_t, \omega_t} f_{M_t | K_t, \omega_t} f_{\omega_t | \omega_{t-1}} \end{aligned}$$

where $X_t = (Y_t, K_t, L_t, M_t, I_t)$.

Proof:

Plugging in for X_t and using the Law of Total Probability:

$$\begin{aligned} f_{X_t, \omega_t | X_{t-1}, \omega_{t-1}} &= f_{Y_t, K_t, L_t, M_t, I_t | Y_{t-1}, K_{t-1}, L_{t-1}, M_{t-1}, I_{t-1}, \omega_{t-1}} \\ &= f_{Y_t | K_t, L_t, M_t, I_t, \omega_t, \omega_{t-1}, Y_{t-1}, K_{t-1}, L_{t-1}, M_{t-1}, I_{t-1}} \\ &\quad \times f_{L_t | K_t, \omega_t, M_t, I_t, \omega_{t-1}, Y_{t-1}, K_{t-1}, L_{t-1}, M_{t-1}, I_{t-1}} \\ &\quad \times f_{M_t | K_t, \omega_t, I_t, \omega_{t-1}, Y_{t-1}, K_{t-1}, L_{t-1}, M_{t-1}, I_{t-1}} \\ &\quad \times f_{I_t | K_t, \omega_t, \omega_{t-1}, Y_{t-1}, K_{t-1}, L_{t-1}, M_{t-1}, I_{t-1}} \\ &\quad \times f_{K_t | \omega_t, \omega_{t-1}, Y_{t-1}, K_{t-1}, L_{t-1}, M_{t-1}, I_{t-1}} \\ &\quad \times f_{\omega_t | \omega_{t-1}, Y_{t-1}, K_{t-1}, L_{t-1}, M_{t-1}, I_{t-1}} \end{aligned}$$

Then applying Assumption (3.1)(ii)

$$\begin{aligned} f_{X_t, \omega_t | X_{t-1}, \omega_{t-1}} &= f_{Y_t | K_t, L_t, M_t, I_t, \omega_t} f_{L_t | K_t, \omega_t, M_t, I_t} f_{M_t | K_t, \omega_t, I_t} f_{I_t | K_t, \omega_t} \\ &\quad \times f_{K_t | \omega_t, \omega_{t-1}, Y_{t-1}, K_{t-1}, L_{t-1}, M_{t-1}, I_{t-1}} f_{\omega_t | \omega_{t-1}, Y_{t-1}, K_{t-1}, L_{t-1}, M_{t-1}, I_{t-1}} \end{aligned}$$

Then applying Assumption (3.1)(iii) and (3.1)(iv)(a and b)

$$f_{X_t, \omega_t | X_{t-1}, \omega_{t-1}} = f_{Y_t | K_t, L_t, M_t, \omega_t} f_{L_t | K_t, \omega_t} f_{M_t | K_t, \omega_t} f_{I_t | K_t, \omega_t} f_{K_t | K_{t-1}, I_{t-1}} f_{\omega_t | \omega_{t-1}}$$

The Observed Density

Under assumption (3.1), the conditional density $f_{X_t | X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}}$ can be written as

$$f_{X_t | X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} = \int f_{I_t | K_t, \omega_t} f_{Z_t | K_t, \omega_t} f_{K_t | K_{t-1}, I_{t-1}} f_{\omega_t | X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} d\omega_t$$

Proof:

We can write the joint density of X_t, X_{t-1}, X_{t-2} as

$$f_{X_t, X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} = \int \int f_{X_t, X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}, \omega_t, \omega_{t-1}} d\omega_t d\omega_{t-1}$$

Plugging in for X_t and using the Law of Total Probability:

$$\begin{aligned} f_{X_t, X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} &= \int \int f_{Y_t, K_t, L_t, M_t, I_t, Y_{t-1}, K_{t-1}, L_{t-1}, M_{t-1}, I_{t-1}, Y_{t-2}, K_{t-2}, L_{t-2}, M_{t-2}, I_{t-2}, \omega_t, \omega_{t-1}} d\omega_t d\omega_{t-1} \\ &= \int \int f_{I_t | Y_t, K_t, L_t, M_t, Y_{t-1}, K_{t-1}, L_{t-1}, M_{t-1}, I_{t-1}, Y_{t-2}, K_{t-2}, L_{t-2}, M_{t-2}, I_{t-2}, \omega_t, \omega_{t-1}} \\ &\quad \times f_{Y_t, L_t, M_t | K_t, Y_{t-1}, K_{t-1}, L_{t-1}, M_{t-1}, I_{t-1}, Y_{t-2}, K_{t-2}, L_{t-2}, M_{t-2}, I_{t-2}, \omega_t, \omega_{t-1}} \\ &\quad \times f_{K_t | Y_{t-1}, K_{t-1}, L_{t-1}, M_{t-1}, I_{t-1}, Y_{t-2}, K_{t-2}, L_{t-2}, M_{t-2}, I_{t-2}, \omega_t, \omega_{t-1}} \\ &\quad \times f_{Y_{t-1}, K_{t-1}, L_{t-1}, M_{t-1}, I_{t-1}, Y_{t-2}, K_{t-2}, L_{t-2}, M_{t-2}, I_{t-2}, \omega_t, \omega_{t-1}} d\omega_t d\omega_{t-1} \end{aligned}$$

Using Assumption (3.1)(i)

$$\begin{aligned}
f_{X_t, X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} &= \int \int f_{I_t | Y_t, K_t, L_t, M_t, Y_{t-1}, K_{t-1}, L_{t-1}, M_{t-1}, I_{t-1}, \omega_t, \omega_{t-1}} \\
&\quad \times f_{Y_t, L_t, M_t | K_t, Y_{t-1}, K_{t-1}, L_{t-1}, M_{t-1}, I_{t-1}, \omega_t, \omega_{t-1}} \\
&\quad \times f_{K_t | Y_{t-1}, K_{t-1}, L_{t-1}, M_{t-1}, I_{t-1}, \omega_t, \omega_{t-1}} \\
&\quad \times f_{Y_{t-1}, K_{t-1}, L_{t-1}, M_{t-1}, I_{t-1}, Y_{t-2}, K_{t-2}, L_{t-2}, M_{t-2}, I_{t-2}, \omega_t, \omega_{t-1}} d\omega_t d\omega_{t-1}
\end{aligned}$$

Using Assumption (3.1)(ii)

$$\begin{aligned}
f_{X_t, X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} &= \int \int f_{I_t | Y_t, K_t, L_t, M_t, \omega_t} f_{Y_t, L_t, M_t | K_t, \omega_t} f_{K_t | Y_{t-1}, K_{t-1}, L_{t-1}, M_{t-1}, I_{t-1}, \omega_t, \omega_{t-1}} \\
&\quad \times f_{Y_{t-1}, K_{t-1}, L_{t-1}, M_{t-1}, I_{t-1}, Y_{t-2}, K_{t-2}, L_{t-2}, M_{t-2}, I_{t-2}, \omega_t, \omega_{t-1}} d\omega_t d\omega_{t-1}
\end{aligned}$$

Then applying Assumption (3.1)(iii) and (3.1)(iv)(a and b)

$$\begin{aligned}
f_{X_t, X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} &= \int f_{I_t | K_t, \omega_t} f_{Y_t, L_t, M_t | K_t, \omega_t} f_{K_t | K_{t-1}, I_{t-1}} \\
&\quad \times \left(\int f_{Y_{t-1}, K_{t-1}, L_{t-1}, M_{t-1}, I_{t-1}, Y_{t-2}, K_{t-2}, L_{t-2}, M_{t-2}, I_{t-2}, \omega_t, \omega_{t-1}} d\omega_{t-1} \right) d\omega_t \\
&= \int f_{I_t | K_t, \omega_t} f_{Y_t, L_t, M_t | K_t, \omega_t} f_{K_t | K_{t-1}, I_{t-1}} \\
&\quad \times f_{Y_{t-1}, K_{t-1}, L_{t-1}, M_{t-1}, I_{t-1}, Y_{t-2}, K_{t-2}, L_{t-2}, M_{t-2}, I_{t-2}, \omega_t} d\omega_t \\
&= \int f_{I_t | K_t, \omega_t} f_{Y_t, L_t, M_t | K_t, \omega_t} f_{K_t | K_{t-1}, I_{t-1}} f_{X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}, \omega_t} d\omega_t
\end{aligned}$$

Or similarly

$$f_{X_t | X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} = \int f_{I_t | K_t, \omega_t} f_{Z_t | K_t, \omega_t} f_{K_t | K_{t-1}, I_{t-1}} f_{\omega_t | X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} d\omega_t$$

where $Z_t = (Y_t, L_t, M_t)$

Main Identification Result

The operator corresponding to the conditional density $f_{X_t | X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}}$ can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}
[L_{X_t | X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} \circ g](I_t) &= \int f_{X_t | X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} g(I_{t-2}) dI_{t-2} \\
&= \int \int f_{I_t | K_t, \omega_t} f_{Z_t | K_t, \omega_t} f_{K_t | K_{t-1}, I_{t-1}} f_{\omega_t | X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} d\omega_t g(I_{t-2}) dI_{t-2} \\
&= \int f_{I_t | K_t, \omega_t} f_{Z_t | K_t, \omega_t} f_{K_t | K_{t-1}, I_{t-1}} \left[\int f_{\omega_t | X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} g(I_{t-2}) dI_{t-2} \right] d\omega_t \\
&= \int f_{I_t | K_t, \omega_t} f_{Z_t | K_t, \omega_t} f_{K_t | K_{t-1}, I_{t-1}} [L_{\omega_t | X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} \circ g](\omega_t) d\omega_t \\
&= \int f_{I_t | K_t, \omega_t} [\Delta_{Z_t | K_t, \omega_t} \Delta_{K_t | K_{t-1}, I_{t-1}} L_{\omega_t | X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} \circ g](\omega_t) d\omega_t \\
&= [L_{I_t | K_t, \omega_t} \Delta_{Z_t | K_t, \omega_t} \Delta_{K_t | K_{t-1}, I_{t-1}} L_{\omega_t | X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} \circ g](I_t)
\end{aligned}$$

Thus we have the operator representation:

$$L_{X_t|X_{t-1},X_{t-2}} = L_{I_t|K_t,\omega_t} \Delta_{Z_t|K_t,\omega_t} \Delta_{K_t|K_{t-1},I_{t-1}} L_{\omega_t|X_{t-1},X_{t-2}}$$

Integrating the conditional density in Equation (8) with respect to Z_t and writing in operator notation yields:

$$L_{I_t,K_t|X_{t-1},X_{t-2}} = L_{I_t|K_t,\omega_t} \Delta_{K_t|K_{t-1},I_{t-1}} L_{\omega_t|X_{t-1},X_{t-2}}$$

Then if Assumption (3.3) is satisfied we can rearrange the above equation which yields:

$$L_{\omega_t|X_{t-1},X_{t-2}} = \Delta_{K_t|K_{t-1},I_{t-1}}^{-1} L_{I_t|K_t,\omega_t}^{-1} L_{I_t,K_t|X_{t-1},X_{t-2}}$$

Plugging the above equation into equation (9) yields

$$\begin{aligned} L_{X_t|X_{t-1},X_{t-2}} &= L_{I_t|K_t,\omega_t} \Delta_{Z_t|K_t,\omega_t} \Delta_{K_t|K_{t-1},I_{t-1}} \left(\Delta_{K_t|K_{t-1},I_{t-1}}^{-1} L_{I_t|K_t,\omega_t}^{-1} L_{I_t,K_t|X_{t-1},X_{t-2}} \right) \\ &= L_{I_t|K_t,\omega_t} \Delta_{Z_t|K_t,\omega_t} L_{I_t|K_t,\omega_t}^{-1} L_{I_t,K_t|X_{t-1},X_{t-2}} \end{aligned}$$

Then provided $L_{I_t,K_t|X_{t-1},X_{t-2}}$ is injective according to Assumption (3.3) we have that:

$$L_{X_t|X_{t-1},X_{t-2}} L_{I_t,K_t|X_{t-1},X_{t-2}}^{-1} = L_{I_t|K_t,\omega_t} \Delta_{Z_t|K_t,\omega_t} L_{I_t|K_t,\omega_t}^{-1}$$

Which is the decomposition in (13). Then using the results of Hu and Schennach (2008) combined with assumptions (3.2), (3.4), and (3.5) the densities $f_{I_t|K_t,\omega_t}$, $f_{Y_t|K_t,L_t,M_t,\omega_t}$, $f_{L_t|K_t,\omega_t}$, $f_{M_t|K_t,\omega_t}$, $f_{K_t|K_{t-1},I_{t-1}}$ and $f_{\omega_t|\omega_{t-1}}$ are identified.

Appendix B

Injectivity of $L_{\omega_{t-1}, X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}}$

First we write the corresponding density as:

$$\begin{aligned} f_{\omega_{t-1}, X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} &= \int f_{\omega_{t-1}, \omega_{t-2}, X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} d\omega_{t-2} \\ &= \int f_{X_{t-1} | \omega_{t-1}, \omega_{t-2}, X_{t-2}} f_{\omega_{t-1}, \omega_{t-2}, X_{t-2}} d\omega_{t-2} \\ &= \int f_{X_{t-1} | \omega_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} f_{\omega_{t-1} | \omega_{t-2}} f_{\omega_{t-2}, X_{t-2}} d\omega_{t-2} \end{aligned}$$

Where the simplification from the second line to the third line is a consequence of assumption (3.1)(iii). Then we write:

$$\begin{aligned} f_{\omega_{t-1}, X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} &= f_{X_{t-1} | \omega_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} f_{X_{t-2}} \int f_{\omega_{t-1} | \omega_{t-2}} f_{\omega_{t-2}} d\omega_{t-2} \\ &= f_{X_{t-1} | \omega_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} f_{X_{t-2}} f_{\omega_{t-1}} \end{aligned}$$

The first density in the above equation simplifies to

$$\begin{aligned} f_{X_{t-1} | \omega_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} &= f_{Y_{t-1}, K_{t-1}, L_{t-1}, M_{t-1}, I_{t-1} | \omega_{t-1}, Y_{t-2}, K_{t-2}, L_{t-2}, M_{t-2}, I_{t-2}} \\ &= f_{Y_{t-1} | K_{t-1}, L_{t-1}, M_{t-1}, I_{t-1}, \omega_{t-1}, Y_{t-2}, K_{t-2}, L_{t-2}, M_{t-2}, I_{t-2}} \\ &\times f_{L_{t-1} | K_{t-1}, M_{t-1}, I_{t-1}, \omega_{t-1}, Y_{t-2}, K_{t-2}, L_{t-2}, M_{t-2}, I_{t-2}} \\ &\times f_{M_{t-1} | K_{t-1}, I_{t-1}, \omega_{t-1}, Y_{t-2}, K_{t-2}, L_{t-2}, M_{t-2}, I_{t-2}} \\ &\times f_{I_{t-1} | K_{t-1}, \omega_{t-1}, Y_{t-2}, K_{t-2}, L_{t-2}, M_{t-2}, I_{t-2}} \\ &\times f_{K_{t-1} | \omega_{t-1}, Y_{t-2}, K_{t-2}, L_{t-2}, M_{t-2}, I_{t-2}} \end{aligned}$$

Using Assumption (3.1)(ii-iv) this simplifies to

$$f_{X_{t-1} | \omega_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} = f_{Y_{t-1} | K_{t-1}, L_{t-1}, M_{t-1}} f_{L_{t-1} | K_{t-1}, \omega_{t-1}} f_{M_{t-1} | K_{t-1}, \omega_{t-1}} f_{I_{t-1} | K_{t-1}, \omega_{t-1}} f_{K_{t-1} | K_{t-2}, I_{t-2}}$$

So we may express in operator notation the joint density of $f_{\omega_{t-1}, X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}}$

$$L_{\omega_{t-1}, X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}} = L_{I_{t-1} | K_{t-1}, \omega_{t-1}} \Delta_{Z_{t-1} | K_{t-1}, \omega_{t-1}} \Delta_{K_{t-1} | K_{t-2}, I_{t-2}} \Delta_{X_{t-2}} \Delta_{\omega_{t-1}}$$

We have already assumed the invertibility of $L_{I_{t-1} | K_{t-1}, \omega_{t-1}}$, $\Delta_{Z_{t-1} | K_{t-1}, \omega_{t-1}}$ and $\Delta_{K_{t-1} | K_{t-2}, I_{t-2}}$. Both $\Delta_{X_{t-2}}$ and $\Delta_{\omega_{t-1}}$ are invertible if their corresponding densities are nonzero and bounded as required by Assumption (3.2).

Appendix C