# On Quantile Treatment Effects, Rank Similarity, and Multiple IVs

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### Observed vs. Counterfactual Distributions

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### e.g., Condition:

$$\text{ if } F_{Y_1|\eta\in A}\leq F_{Y_1|\eta\in \tilde{A}}$$
 For arbitrary  $A$  and  $\tilde{A},$  then  $F_{Y_0|\eta\in A}\leq F_{Y_0|\eta\in \tilde{A}}$ 

### Observed vs. Counterfactual Distributions

### **Condition 1.1** (preservation of stochastic dominance):

$$\text{ if } F_{\mathbf{Y_1}|\eta\in A} \leq F_{\mathbf{Y_1}|\eta\in \tilde{A}}$$
 For arbitrary  $A$  and  $\tilde{A}$ , 
$$\text{then } F_{\mathbf{Y_0}|\eta\in A} \leq F_{\mathbf{Y_0}|\eta\in \tilde{A}}$$

### This paper...

- proposes this condition (and related ones) as possible source of identification...
- ► for quantile treatment effect (QTE) and average treatment effect (ATE) for treated and untreated populations, and
- proposes a simple procedure to calculate bounds using linear programming



### Example

D: observed indicator of college degree (endogenous)

 $Y_1$ : hypothetical earnings with college education

 $Y_0$ : hypothetical earnings without college education

 $Y = DY_1 + (1 - D)Y_0$ : observed earnings

Z: instrument(s) for D (e.g., local earnings, distance to college)

Common parameters of interest are

$$QTE_{\tau} = Q_{Y_1}(\tau) - Q_{Y_0}(\tau)$$

and

$$ATE = E[Y_1 - Y_0]$$

### Example

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...or more fundamentally

$$QTE_{\tau}(d) = Q_{Y_1|D=d}(\tau) - Q_{Y_0|D=d}(\tau)$$

and

$$ATE(d) = E[Y_1 - Y_0|D = d]$$

# Well-Known Approach: Rank Similarity

Assume

$$Y_d = q(d, U_d)$$

where  $q(d,\cdot)$  is strictly increasing and  $U_d \sim U[0,1]$ 

Assume  $D = h(Z, \eta)$  and  $Z \perp U_d$ 

Rank similarity (Chernozhukov & Hansen 05):

$$F_{U_1|\eta,Z}=F_{U_0|\eta,Z}$$

- lacktriangledown observationally equivalent to  $U_1=U_0\equiv U$  (Chernozhukov & Hansen 13)
- reducing dimension of unobs'ed heterogeneity

Under these assumptions,  $QTE_{\tau}$  and ATE are point identified



Rank similarity (Chernozhukov & Hansen 05):

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Strong assumption with fragile empirical justification

▶ e.g., wages in US CPS for past decades (Massoumi & Wang 19)

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#### Recall Condition 1.1:

For arbitrary 
$$A$$
 and  $\tilde{A}$ , 
$$\Longrightarrow F_{Y_{1}|\eta\in A} \leq F_{Y_{1}|\eta\in \tilde{A}} \Longrightarrow F_{Y_{0}|\eta\in A} \leq F_{Y_{0}|\eta\in \tilde{A}}$$

Rank similarity (Chernozhukov & Hansen 05):

$$F_{U_1|\eta} = F_{U_0|\eta}$$

Strong assumption with fragile empirical justification

• e.g., wages in US CPS for past decades (Massoumi & Wang 19)

Stronger than Condition 1.1 is Condition 2:

For arbitrary 
$$A$$
 and  $\tilde{A}$ , 
$$\Longleftrightarrow F_{Y_{1}|\eta\in\tilde{A}} \leq F_{Y_{1}|\eta\in\tilde{A}}$$
$$\iff F_{Y_{0}|\eta\in A} \leq F_{Y_{0}|\eta\in\tilde{A}}$$

Rank similarity (Chernozhukov & Hansen 05):

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We show rank similarity implies Condition 2 (within their model)

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We show rank similarity implies Condition 2 (within their model)

Therefore, we propose Condition 1.1 as substantial relaxation of rank similarity



# Making Use of Condition 1

#### Condition 1.1:

For arbitrary 
$$A$$
 and  $\tilde{A}$ , 
$$\Longrightarrow F_{Y_0|\eta\in\tilde{A}} \leq F_{Y_0|\eta\in\tilde{A}}$$
 
$$F_{Y_0|\eta\in\tilde{A}} \leq F_{Y_0|\eta\in\tilde{A}}$$

Key step: Find A and  $\tilde{A}$  such that

$$F_{Y_1|\eta\in A,D=1} \leq F_{Y_1|\eta\in \tilde{A},D=1}$$

- ▶ more likely if Z can produce finer partition of Supp $(\eta)$
- therefore, multiple IVs can be helpful (makes sense given how much we give up by dropping rank similarity)

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Condition 1.0 (with " $\Leftarrow$ ") yields bounds for  $QTE_{\tau}(0)$  and ATE(0)

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- rationalize these conditions
- justify the assumption-driven parameters of interest for a policymaker concerning "conservative" populations

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Condition 2 (with " $\iff$ ") yields bounds for  $QTE_{\tau}$  and ATE



# Previous Related Approaches

IV quantile models (with rank similarity):

Chernozhukov & Hansen 05, Vuong & Xu 17

Triangular models (in the sense of explicit first stage):

- ➤ Control function approach with continuous *D*: Chesher 03, Lee 07, Imbens & Newey 09
- Threshold crossing first stage with binary D:
  - ATE (rank similarity): Shaikh & Vytlacil 11, Vytlacil & Yildiz 07
  - MTE: Mogstad et al. 08, Han & Yang 22

### Local QTE with binary *D*:

▶ Abadie, Angrist & Imbens 02 (local parameter, strong homogeneity with multiple IVs (Mogstad et al. 21))

#### Generalized IV:

Chesher & Rosen 17 (sharp bounds with IVs)



# This Paper

#### This paper...

- relaxes rank similarity (without completely abandoning it) and
- constructs informative bounds on QTE and ATE for the treated or untreated
- for binary endogenous treatment
- using discrete IVs,
- bounds that are simple to calculate

Condition 1.1 differs from other assumptions on the relationship between  $Y_1$  and  $Y_0$ 

• e.g., stochastic increasing for distributional treatment effects (with experimental data) (Frandsen & Lefgren 21)

I. Key Conditions and Bounds on Treatment Effects

# Maintained Assumptions

D: observed treatment indicator (endogenous)

 $Y_1$ : counterfactual outcome of being treated

 $Y_0$ : counterfactual outcome of not being treated

$$Y = DY_1 + (1 - D)Y_0$$

 $Z\colon$  vector of binary IVs or a multi-valued IV, taking values  $\{z_1,...,z_L\}$ 

Suppress X for simplicity; easy to incorporate (in the paper)

Assume  $D = h(Z, \eta)$  where  $\eta \in \mathcal{T}$  has arbitrary dimensions

Define counterfactual treatment  $D_z = h(z, \eta)$ 

### Assumption Z

For  $d \in \{0,1\}$  and  $z \in \{z_1,...,z_L\}$ , (i)  $Y_{d,z} = Y_d$ ; (ii)  $Z \perp (Y_d, D_z)$ .



#### Condition 1.1

For arbitrary weight functions  $w: \mathcal{T} \to \mathbb{R}_+$  and  $\tilde{w}: \mathcal{T} \to \mathbb{R}_+$  s.t.  $\int w(t)dt = \int \tilde{w}(t)dt = 1$ ,

$$\int w(x)F_{Y_{1}|\eta}(\cdot|t)dt \leq \int \tilde{w}(t)F_{Y_{1}|\eta}(\cdot|t)dt$$

$$\Longrightarrow$$

$$\int w(t)F_{Y_{0}|\eta}(\cdot|t)dt \leq \int \tilde{w}(t)F_{Y_{0}|\eta}(\cdot|t)dt.$$

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$$\Longrightarrow$$

$$\int w(t)F_{\mathbf{Y_0}|\eta}(\cdot|t)dt \leq \int \tilde{w}(t)F_{\mathbf{Y_0}|\eta}(\cdot|t)dt.$$

 $\int w(t,x)F_{Y_{c}|n,X}(\cdot|t,x)dt$  is mixture of CDFs, and thus itself a CDF

### Condition 1.1 implies the following:

#### Condition 1.1\*

For arbitrary nonnegative weight vectors  $(w_1,...,w_L)$  and  $(\tilde{w}_1,...,\tilde{w}_L)$  s.t.  $\sum_{\ell=1}^L w_\ell = \sum_{\ell=1}^L \tilde{w}_\ell = 1$ ,

$$\sum_{\ell=1}^{L} w_{\ell} P[Y_{1} \leq \cdot | D = 1, Z = z_{\ell}] \leq \sum_{\ell=1}^{L} \tilde{w}_{\ell} P[Y_{1} \leq \cdot | D = 1, Z = z_{\ell}]$$

$$\Longrightarrow$$

$$\sum_{\ell=1}^{L} w_{\ell} P[Y_{0} \leq \cdot | D = 1, Z = z_{\ell}] \leq \sum_{\ell=1}^{L} \tilde{w}_{\ell} P[Y_{0} \leq \cdot | D = 1, Z = z_{\ell}].$$

Under Assumption Z, Condition 1.1' is equivalent to:

#### Condition 1.1\*

For arbitrary positive weight vectors  $(w_1,...,w_L)$  and  $(\tilde{w}_1,...,\tilde{w}_L)$  s.t.  $\sum_{\ell=1}^L w_\ell = \sum_{\ell=1}^L \tilde{w}_\ell = 1$ ,

$$\sum_{\ell=1}^{L} w_{\ell} P[\underline{Y_1} \leq \cdot | D_{z_{\ell}} = 1] \leq \sum_{\ell=1}^{L} \tilde{w}_{\ell} P[\underline{Y_1} \leq \cdot | D_{z_{\ell}} = 1]$$

$$\Longrightarrow$$

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 $\{D_{z_\ell}=1\}$  (for  $z_1,...,z_L$ ) captures different compliance types

ightharpoonup e.g., when L=2 with LATE monotonicity, then between always-takers and compliers

#### Lemma 0

Under Assumption Z, Condition 1.1 implies Condition 1.1\*.

Let 
$$p(z) \equiv P[D=1|Z=z]$$
, then  $p(z) = P[\eta \in H(z)]$  with  $H(z) \equiv \{\eta : 1 = h(z,\eta)\}$ 

Then, for example,

$$\begin{split} &\sum_{\ell} w_{\ell} P[Y_1 \leq \cdot | D = 1, Z = z_{\ell}] \\ &= \sum_{\ell} w_{\ell} P[Y_1 \leq \cdot | \eta \in H(z_{\ell})] \\ &= \int \frac{\sum_{\ell} w_{\ell} 1[t \in H(z)]}{p(z_{\ell})} P[Y_1 \leq \cdot | \eta = t] dt \end{split}$$

Take 
$$w(t) = \frac{\sum_{\ell} w_{\ell} 1[t \in H(z_{\ell})]}{p(z_{\ell})}$$
, which satisfies  $\int w(t) dt = 1$ 

# Bounds on $F_{Y_0|D=1}(\cdot)$

Recall 
$$p(z_\ell) \equiv P[D=1|Z=z_\ell]$$

Let 
$$\Gamma_p = \{(\gamma_1, ..., \gamma_L) \in \mathbb{R}^L : \sum_{\ell=1}^L \gamma_\ell = 0 \text{ and } \sum_{\ell=1}^L p(z_\ell) \gamma_\ell = 1\}$$

#### Theorem 1

Suppose Assumption Z and Condition 1.1\* hold. For  $\gamma = (\gamma_1, ..., \gamma_L) \in \Gamma_p$ , suppose

$$P[Y \le \cdot | D = 1] \le \sum_{\ell=1}^{L} \gamma_{\ell} P[Y \le \cdot, D = 1 | Z = z_{\ell}]$$
 (1)

Then  $F_{Y_0|D=1}(\cdot)$  is upper bounded by

$$P[Y_0 \le \cdot | D = 1] \le -\sum_{\ell=1}^{L} \gamma_{\ell} P[Y \le \cdot, D = 0 | Z = z_{\ell}]$$

Analogous theorem for lower bound



WLOG, let  $\gamma_\ell \leq 0$  for  $\ell \leq \ell^*$  and  $\gamma_\ell > 0$  for  $\ell > \ell^*$ 

Let 
$$q(z_\ell) \equiv P[Z = z_\ell | D = 1]$$

Then (1) can be rewritten as

$$\sum_{\ell=1}^{\ell^*} \frac{q(z_\ell)}{a} P[Y_1 \le y | D = 1, Z = z_\ell]$$

$$+ \sum_{\ell=\ell^*+1}^{L} \frac{q(z_\ell)}{a} P[Y_1 \le y | D = 1, Z = z_\ell]$$

$$\le \sum_{\ell=\ell^*}^{L} \frac{\gamma_\ell p(z_\ell)}{a} P[Y_1 \le y | D = 1, Z = z_\ell]$$

where 
$$a \equiv 1 - \sum_{\ell=1}^{\ell^*} p(z_\ell) \gamma_\ell$$

WLOG, let  $\gamma_\ell \leq 0$  for  $\ell \leq \ell^*$  and  $\gamma_\ell > 0$  for  $\ell > \ell^*$ 

Let 
$$q(z_\ell) \equiv P[Z=z_\ell|D=1]$$

Then (1) can be rewritten as

$$\sum_{\ell=1}^{\ell^*} \frac{q(z_{\ell}) - \gamma_{\ell} p(z_{\ell})}{a} P[Y_1 \le y | D = 1, Z = z_{\ell}]$$

$$+ \sum_{\ell=\ell^*+1}^{L} \frac{q(z_{\ell})}{a} P[Y_1 \le y | D = 1, Z = z_{\ell}]$$

$$\le \sum_{\ell=\ell^*+1}^{L} \frac{\gamma_{\ell} p(z_{\ell})}{a} P[Y_1 \le y | D = 1, Z = z_{\ell}]$$

where  $a\equiv 1-\sum_{\ell=1}^{\ell^*}\gamma_\ell p(z_\ell)$  and the positive weights sum to 1

Therefore, by Condition 1.1\*,

$$\sum_{\ell=1}^{\ell^*} \frac{q(z_{\ell}) - \gamma_{\ell} p(z_{\ell})}{a} P[Y_0 \le y | D = 1, Z = z_{\ell}]$$

$$+ \sum_{\ell=\ell^*+1}^{L} \frac{q(z_{\ell})}{a} P[Y_0 \le y | D = 1, Z = z_{\ell}]$$

$$\le \sum_{\ell=\ell^*+1}^{L} \frac{\gamma_{\ell} p(z_{\ell})}{a} P[Y_0 \le y | D = 1, Z = z_{\ell}]$$

Equivalently, we have

$$P[Y_{0} \leq y | D = 1]$$

$$\leq \sum_{\ell=1}^{L} \gamma_{\ell} P[Y_{0} \leq y, D = 1 | Z = z_{\ell}]$$

$$= \sum_{\ell=1}^{L} \gamma_{\ell} [P[Y_{0} \leq y | Z = z_{\ell}] - P[Y_{0} \leq y, D = 0 | Z = z_{\ell}]]$$

$$= P[Y_{0} \leq y] \sum_{\ell=1}^{L} \gamma_{\ell} - \sum_{\ell=1}^{L} \gamma_{\ell} P[Y \leq y, D = 0 | Z = z_{\ell}]$$

$$= -\sum_{\ell=1}^{L} \gamma_{\ell} P[Y \leq y, D = 0 | Z = z_{\ell}]$$

# Bounds on $F_{Y_0|D=1}(\cdot)$

Finally, want to collect all  $\gamma$  that satisfy (1):

### Corollary 1

Suppose Assumption Z and Condition 1.1\* hold. Then,

$$F_{Y_0|D=1}^{UB}(y) = \min_{\gamma \in \Gamma_p:(1) \text{ holds}} - \sum_{\ell=1}^{L} \gamma_{\ell} P[Y \le y, D = 0 | Z = z_{\ell}]$$

Symmetric condition and bound can be derived for  $F_{Y_0|D=1}^{LB}(\cdot)$ 

Then,

$$F_{Y_0|D=1}^{LB}(\cdot) \leq F_{Y_0|D=1}(\cdot) \leq F_{Y_0|D=1}^{UB}(\cdot)$$

# Bounds on $QTE_{\tau}(1)$

Note that

$$QTE_{\tau}(1) = Q_{Y_1|D=1}(\tau) - Q_{Y_0|D=1}(\tau) = Q_{Y|D=1}(\tau) - Q_{Y_0|D=1}(\tau)$$

Worst case bounds for quantile (Manski 94, Blundell et al. 07):

$$Q_{Y_0|D=1}^{LB}(\tau) \leq Q_{Y_0|D=1}(\tau) \leq Q_{Y_0|D=1}^{UB}(\tau)$$

with 
$$Q_{Y_0|D=1}^{LB}(\tau) = F_{Y_0|D=1}^{UB}(\tau)^{-1}$$
 and  $Q_{Y_0|D=1}^{UB}(\tau) = F_{Y_0|D=1}^{LB}(\tau)^{-1}$ 

### More on Theorem 1

Need to find  $\gamma \in \Gamma_p$  that satisfies

$$P[Y \le \cdot | D = 1] \le \sum_{\ell=1}^{L} \gamma_{\ell} P[Y \le \cdot, D = 1 | Z = z_{\ell}]$$
 (1)

• equiv. to finding  $(w, \tilde{w})$  that satisfy "if" part of Condition 1.1\*:

$$\sum_{\ell=1}^{L} w_{\ell} P[Y_{1} \leq \cdot | D = 1, Z = z_{\ell}] \leq \sum_{\ell=1}^{L} \tilde{w}_{\ell} P[Y_{1} \leq \cdot | D = 1, Z = z_{\ell}]$$

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When L=2 then  $\gamma=\left(\frac{1}{p(z_1)-p(z_2)},-\frac{1}{p(z_1)-p(z_2)}\right)$ , and under LATE monotonicity, (1) is equiv. to

$$Y_1|\{\text{always-takers}\} \prec_{FOSD} Y_1|\{\text{compliers}\}$$

## Why Multi-Valued IVs

$$\{\gamma \in \Gamma_p : \gamma \text{ satisfies (1)}\}$$

The size of this set determines the width of our bound

- ▶ a larger set ⇒ narrower bounds
- ightharpoonup more values Z takes  $\Rightarrow ...$ 
  - ightharpoonup greater degree of freedom in  $\Gamma_p$  and
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Then (1) establishes FOSD btw the mixtures of  $F_{Y_1}$  conditional on various always-takers and compliers groups



# Bounds on $QTE_{\tau}(0)$ and $QTE_{\tau}$

#### Condition 1.0

For arbitrary weight functions  $w: \mathcal{T} \to \mathbb{R}_+$  and  $\tilde{w}: \mathcal{T} \to \mathbb{R}_+$  s.t.  $\int w(t)dt = \int \tilde{w}(t)dt = 1$ ,

$$\int w(x)F_{\mathbf{Y_1}|\eta}(\cdot|t)dt \leq \int \tilde{w}(t)F_{\mathbf{Y_1}|\eta}(\cdot|t)dt$$

$$\iff$$

$$\int w(t)F_{\mathbf{Y_0}|\eta}(\cdot|t)dt \leq \int \tilde{w}(t)F_{\mathbf{Y_0}|\eta}(\cdot|t)dt.$$

With Condition 1.0 (" $\Leftarrow$ "), we can derive bounds on  $QTE_{\tau}(0)$ 

# Bounds on $QTE_{\tau}(0)$ and $QTE_{\tau}$

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With Condition 1.0 (" $\Leftarrow$ "), we can derive bounds on  $QTE_{\tau}(0)$ 

With Condition 2 (" $\iff$ "), we can derive bounds on  $QTE_{\tau}$ 

# Bounds on $QTE_{\tau}(0)$ and $QTE_{\tau}$

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$$\iff$$

$$\int w(t)F_{\mathbf{Y_0}|\eta}(\cdot|t)dt \leq \int \tilde{w}(t)F_{\mathbf{Y_0}|\eta}(\cdot|t)dt.$$

With Condition 1.0 (" $\Leftarrow$ "), we can derive bounds on  $QTE_{\tau}(0)$ 

With Condition 2 (" $\iff$ "), we can derive bounds on  $QTE_{\tau}$ 

We also provide a condition for bounds on ATE(d) and ATE (in the paper)

II. Structural Models and Policymaker's Problems

### Sufficient Conditions: A Structural Model

To further interpret Conditions 1.1 (and 1.0), we propose a model that rationalizes it

Suppress "conditional on Z" throughout

#### Model 1

$$Y_d = q(d, U_d)$$
 for  $d \in \{0, 1\}$ 

- (i)  $q(d,\cdot)$  is continuous and monotone increasing
- (ii) conditional on  $\eta$ ,  $U_d \stackrel{d}{=} U + \xi_d$  where  $\xi_d \perp (\eta, U)$
- (iii)  $\xi_0$  is (weakly) more noisy than  $\xi_1$ , i.e.,  $\xi_0 \stackrel{d}{=} \xi_1 + V$  for some V independent of  $\xi_1$

i.e., 
$$U_0 \stackrel{d}{=} U_1 + V$$

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$$Y_d = q(d, U_d)$$
 for  $d \in \{0, 1\}$ 

- (i)  $q(d,\cdot)$  is continuous and monotone increasing
- (ii) conditional on  $\eta$ ,  $U_d \stackrel{d}{=} U + \xi_d$  where  $\xi_d \perp (\eta, U)$
- (iii)  $\xi_0$  is (weakly) more noisy than  $\xi_1$ , i.e.,  $\xi_0 \stackrel{d}{=} \xi_1 + V$  for some V independent of  $\xi_1$

i.e., 
$$U_0 \stackrel{d}{=} U_1 + V$$

This model nests that in Chernozhukov and Hansen (2005)

▶ by taking  $\xi_d=0$  for all d,  $U_0\stackrel{d}{=}U_1\stackrel{d}{=}U$  conditional on  $\eta$ 

### Sufficient Conditions: A Structural Model

#### Condition 1.1

For arbitrary weight functions  $w: \mathcal{T} \to \mathbb{R}_+$  and  $\tilde{w}: \mathcal{T} \to \mathbb{R}_+$  s.t.  $\int w(t)dt = \int \tilde{w}(t)dt = 1$ ,

$$\int w(x)F_{\mathbf{Y_1}|\eta}(\cdot|t)dt \leq \int \tilde{w}(t)F_{\mathbf{Y_1}|\eta}(\cdot|t)dt$$

$$\Longrightarrow$$

$$\int w(t)F_{\mathbf{Y_0}|\eta}(\cdot|t)dt \leq \int \tilde{w}(t)F_{\mathbf{Y_0}|\eta}(\cdot|t)dt.$$

#### Lemma 1

Model 1 implies Condition 1.1

Model 1 with  $\xi_0$  being less noisy than  $\xi_1$  implies Condition 1.0

### Example 1: Auction

Y: bid (which subsequently forms revenue)

D: participating in auction with different format

 $\triangleright$  D=1 if online vs. = 0 if offline

 $U_d \stackrel{d}{=} U + \xi_d$ : valuation of the item

- ► *U*: common valuation (correlated with *D*)
- $\xi_d$ : format specific random shocks,  $\xi_d \perp (\eta, U)$ 
  - bidders may have limited info on certain features of auction that affect valuation
  - lacktriangle e.g., they know the distribution of  $\xi_d$  but not its realization

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What justifies  $var(\xi_0) > var(\xi_1)$ ?

▶ in offline auction, bidders may be more emotionally affected by others, which makes their bids more variable



### Example 2: Insurance

Y : health outcome

D: getting insurance

ightharpoonup D = 1 if insured, = 0 if not

 $U_d \stackrel{d}{=} U + \xi_d$ : health conditions

- U: health conditions known to participant (and thus correlated with D)
- $\blacktriangleright$   $\xi_d$ : health conditions not fully known a priori

 $var(\xi_0) > var(\xi_1)$ : insurance by definition may ensure a certain level of health conditions

## Example 3.1: Vaccination

Y : health outcome

D: getting vaccination (of established vaccine)

ightharpoonup D = 1 if vaccinated, = 0 if not

 $U_d \stackrel{d}{=} U + \xi_d$ : underlying health conditions

- U: health conditions known to participant (and thus correlated with D)
- $\blacktriangleright$   $\xi_d$ : vaccination status specific health conditions, which is not fully known a priori

 $var(\xi_0) > var(\xi_1)$ : when not vaccinated, there is risk of dying, while vaccination ensures certain level of immunity

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 $var(\xi_0) > var(\xi_1)$ : when not vaccinated, there is risk of dying, while vaccination ensures certain level of immunity

This scenario justifies Condition  $1.1 \Rightarrow$  bounds on  $QTE_{\tau}(1)$ 

## Example 3.0: Frontier Medical Trial

A contrasting example would be risky medical trial

Y: health outcome

D: participating in medical trial

▶ D = 1 if participate, = 0 if not

 $U_d \stackrel{d}{=} U + \xi_d$ : underlying health conditions

- U: health conditions known to participant (and thus correlated with D)
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- $\blacktriangleright \xi_d$ : health conditions not fully known a priori

 $var(\xi_0) < var(\xi_1)$ : with newly developed medicine, there is high risk of unknown side effects

This scenario justifies Condition  $1.0 \Rightarrow$  bounds on  $QTE_{\tau}(0)$ 

## Policymaker's Problem

**Assumption**: The policymaker concerns risk averse individuals, which are the majority

Under this assumption, the policymaker wants to understand treatment effects for the target individuals in order to provide "insurance"

 literally insurance or policy that serves as insurance (e.g., vaccination, subsidies)

Our procedure provides a statistical tool for such a policymaker

## Policymaker's Problem

Under Model 1, our procedure has the ability to bound treatment effect for individuals with D = d such that  $var(\xi_d) < var(\xi_{1-d})$ 

This is a unique feature of our setting:

- the plausibility of assumptions dictates the parameter of interest
- ▶ i.e., "assumption-driven" treatment parameters

## Sufficient Condition: Model 1 with Rank Similarity

#### Condition 2

For arbitrary weight functions  $w:\mathcal{T}\to\mathbb{R}_+$  and  $\tilde{w}:\mathcal{T}\to\mathbb{R}_+$  s.t.  $\int w(t)dt=\int \tilde{w}(t)dt=1$ ,

$$\int w(x)F_{\mathbf{Y_1}|\eta}(\cdot|t)dt \leq \int \tilde{w}(t)F_{\mathbf{Y_1}|\eta}(\cdot|t)dt$$

$$\iff$$

$$\int w(t)F_{\mathbf{Y_0}|\eta}(\cdot|t)dt \leq \int \tilde{w}(t)F_{\mathbf{Y_0}|\eta}(\cdot|t)dt.$$

#### Lemma 2

Model 1 with  $F_{U_0|n} = F_{U_1|n}$  (rank similarity) implies Condition 2.

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Converse is not true!

Counter-example:

### Rank Linearity

 $Y_d = q(d, U_d)$  (monotonic  $q(d, \cdot)$ ) with

$$F_{\mathbf{Y_0}|\eta}(\cdot|t) = \lambda(\cdot)F_{\mathbf{Y_1}|\eta}(\psi(\cdot)|t)$$

where  $\psi(\cdot)$  is one-to-one and onto mapping and  $\lambda(\cdot)$  is consistent with  $F_{Y_d|\eta}$  being a proper CDF

Rank linearity implies Condition 2 but is weaker than rank similarity

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Rank linearity implies Condition 2 but is weaker than rank similarity:

$$F_{U_0|\eta}(q^{-1}(0,y)|t) = \lambda(y)F_{U_1|\eta}(q^{-1}(1,\psi(y))|t)$$

and by choosing  $\lambda(y) = 1$  and  $\psi(y) = q(1, q^{-1}(0, y))$ , we have

$$F_{U_0|\eta}(\cdot|t) = F_{U_1|\eta}(\cdot|t)$$

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$$F_{U_0|\eta}(\cdot|t) = F_{U_1|\eta}(\cdot|t)$$

In fact, rank linearity may be equivalent to Condition 2



Suppose  $Y_d \in \left\{y_{d,1}, \cdots, y_{d,k_d}\right\}$  and  $\eta \in \left\{t_1, \cdots, t_{k_\eta}\right\}$ 

#### Lemma 3

For any  $\tilde{F}_d$  on  $\{y_{d,1}, \cdots, y_{d,k_d}\}$ , suppose there always exists a nonnegative sequence  $\{c_{d,1}, \cdots, c_{d,k_\eta}\}$  s.t.

$$\tilde{F}_d(\cdot) = \sum_{j=1}^{k_\eta} c_{d,j} F_{Y_d|\eta}(\cdot|t_j). \tag{2}$$

Then, Condition 2 holds if and only if (i)  $k_0 = k_1$  and (ii) for some one-to-one and onto mapping  $\psi(\cdot)$  and  $\lambda(\cdot) > 0$ ,

$$F_{\mathbf{Y}_0|\eta}(\cdot|t_j) = \lambda(\cdot)F_{\mathbf{Y}_1|\eta}(\psi(\cdot)|t_j), \quad \text{for } j = 1, \dots, k_{\eta}.$$

Suppose 
$$Y_d \in \left\{y_{d,1}, \cdots, y_{d,k_d}\right\}$$
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We conjecture an analogous result with continuous  $Y_d$  and  $\eta$  (in progress)

We only prove necessity

Recall Condition 2:

$$\sum_{j=1}^{k_{\eta}} w_{j} F_{\mathbf{Y_{1}}|\eta}(\cdot|t_{j}) \leq \sum_{j=1}^{k_{\eta}} \tilde{w}_{j} F_{\mathbf{Y_{1}}|\eta}(\cdot|t_{j})$$

$$\iff$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^{k_{\eta}} w_{j} F_{\mathbf{Y_{0}}|\eta}(\cdot|t_{j}) \leq \sum_{j=1}^{k_{\eta}} \tilde{w}_{j} F_{\mathbf{Y_{0}}|\eta}(\cdot|t_{j})$$

We only prove necessity

Recall Condition 2:

$$egin{aligned} \sum_{j=1}^{k_{\eta}} \delta_{j} F_{Y_{1}|\eta}(\cdot|t_{j}) &\leq 0 \ &\iff \ \sum_{j=1}^{k_{\eta}} \delta_{j} F_{Y_{0}|\eta}(\cdot|t_{j}) &\leq 0 \end{aligned}$$

We only prove necessity

Recall Condition 2:

$$\sum_{j=1}^{k_{\eta}} \delta_{j} F_{\mathbf{Y_{1}}|\eta}(\cdot|t_{j}) \leq 0$$
 $\iff$ 
 $\sum_{j=1}^{k_{\eta}} \delta_{j} F_{\mathbf{Y_{0}}|\eta}(\cdot|t_{j}) \leq 0$ 

Define cone:

$$\Delta_d \equiv \{\delta: \sum_{j=1}^{k_\eta} \delta_j F_{Y_d|\eta}(\cdot|t_j) \leq 0, \sum_{j=1}^{k_\eta} \delta_j = 0\}$$

Then, by Condition 2,  $\Delta_1 = \Delta_0$ 



Define polar cone:

$$\Delta_d^* \equiv \{ F_d \in \mathbb{R}^{k_\eta} | F_d' \delta \le 0, \ \forall \delta \in \Delta_d \}$$

Note  $\Delta_d^*$  is a convex cone whose extreme ray is generated by

$$\left\{ \left( F_{Y_d|\eta}(y|t_1), \cdots, F_{Y_d|\eta}(y|t_{k_{\eta}}) \right)' : y = y_{d,1}, \cdots, y_{d,k_d} \right\}$$

which are linearly indep. by (2)

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Also, 
$$\Delta_1=\Delta_0$$
 implies  $\Delta_1^*=\Delta_0^*$ , and therefore  $\mathit{k}_1=\mathit{k}_0$ 

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which are linearly indep. by (2)

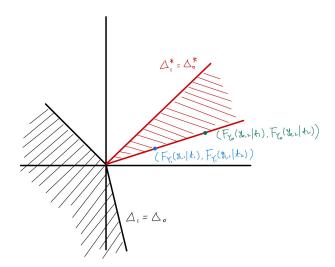
Also,  $\Delta_1=\Delta_0$  implies  $\Delta_1^*=\Delta_0^*$ , and therefore  $\mathit{k}_1=\mathit{k}_0$ 

Moreover, any extreme ray in  $\Delta_0^*$  must be identical to some extreme ray in  $\Delta_1^*$ : For any y

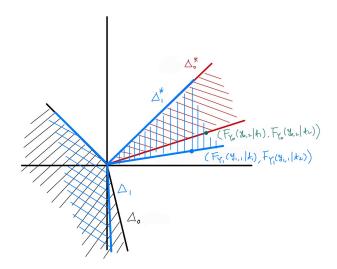
$$\left(F_{\textcolor{red}{Y_0|\eta}}(y|t_1),\cdots,F_{\textcolor{red}{Y_0|\eta}}(y|t_{k_\eta})\right) = \lambda \times \left(F_{\textcolor{red}{Y_1|\eta}}(y'|t_1),\cdots,F_{\textcolor{red}{Y_1|\eta}}(y'|t_{k_\eta})\right)$$

for some  $\lambda > 0$  and y'





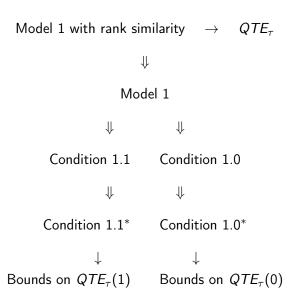
### From Model 1 to Condition 1.1



### Summary

4□ > 4□ > 4 = > 4 = > = 900

### Summary



III. Systematic Calculation of Bounds

## Computation of Bounds

Recall, the upper bound on  $F_{Y_0|D=1}(\cdot)$  is

$$F_{Y_0|D=1}^{UB}(\cdot) = \min_{\gamma \in \Gamma_p:(1) \text{ holds}} - \sum_{\ell=1}^{L} \gamma_{\ell} P[Y \leq \cdot, D = 0 | Z = z_{\ell}]$$

where

$$P[Y \le \cdot | D = 1] \le \sum_{\ell=1}^{L} \gamma_{\ell} P[Y \le \cdot, D = 1 | Z = z_{\ell}]$$
 (1)

and 
$$\Gamma_p = \{(\gamma_1,...,\gamma_L) \in \mathbb{R}^L : \sum_{\ell=1}^L \gamma_\ell = 0 \text{ and } \sum_{\ell=1}^L p(z_\ell)\gamma_\ell = 1\}$$

## Computation of Bounds: Semi-Infinite Program

Simplifying notation:

$$p_{y,d|z} \equiv \{P[Y \le y, D = d|Z = z_{\ell}]\}_{\ell=1}^{L}$$
  
 $p_{y|1} \equiv P[Y \le y|D = 1]$ 

Consider the following semi-infinite program:

$$F_{Y_0|D=1}^{UB}(\bar{y}) = \min_{\gamma \in \Gamma_p} -p'_{\bar{y},0|z} \gamma$$
s.t. 
$$p_{y|1} - p'_{y,1|z} \gamma \le 0, \quad \forall y \in \mathcal{Y}$$
 (1)

- ▶ feasible as long as  $\exists$  such  $\gamma$
- ▶ i.e., (1) is testable from data
- ▶ if Y is discrete, then we already have linear program (but not in general)

### Computation of Bounds: Linear Program I

The semi-infinite program:

$$\begin{aligned} F_{Y_0|D=1}^{UB}(\bar{y}) &= \min_{\gamma \in \Gamma_p} - p_{\bar{y},0|z}' \gamma \\ s.t. \quad p_{y|1} - p_{y,1|z}' \gamma &\leq 0, \quad \forall y \in \mathcal{Y} \end{aligned}$$

In practice, with i.i.d.  $\{Y_i, D_i, Z_i\}_{i=1}^n$ , we solve linear program:

$$\begin{split} \widehat{F}_{Y_0|D=1}^{UB}(\bar{y}) &= \min_{\gamma \in \Gamma_{\hat{\rho}}} - \hat{\rho}_{\bar{y},0|z}' \gamma \\ s.t. &\quad \hat{\rho}_{Y_i|1} - \hat{\rho}_{Y_i,1|z}' \gamma \leq 0, \quad \forall i = 1, ..., n \end{split}$$

The optimization can sometimes be unstable

## Computation of Bounds: Linear Program II

The semi-infinite program:

$$\begin{aligned} F_{Y_0|D=1}^{UB}(\bar{y}) &= \min_{\gamma \in \Gamma_p} - p_{\bar{y},0|z}' \gamma \\ s.t. \quad p_{y|1} - p_{y,1|z}' \gamma &\leq 0, \quad \forall y \in \mathcal{Y} \end{aligned}$$

Dual program:

$$\begin{split} F^{UB,\dagger}_{Y_0|D=1}(\bar{y}) &= \sup_{\Lambda\succeq 0, \lambda\in\mathbb{R}^2} \int_{\mathcal{Y}} p_{y|1} d\Lambda(y) - \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \lambda \\ s.t. & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & p \end{bmatrix} \lambda - \int_{\mathcal{Y}} p_{y,1|z} d\Lambda(y) - p_{\bar{y},0|z} = 0 \end{split}$$

Λ is a nonnegative measure

Strong duality may hold (in progress)

## Computation of Bounds: Linear Program II

Approximate  $\lambda(y) \equiv d\Lambda(y)/dy$  using Bernstein polynomial:

$$\lambda(y) pprox \sum_{j=1}^J \theta_j b_j(y)$$

Then, results in linear program:

$$\begin{split} F_{Y_0|D=1}^{UB,\dagger\dagger}(\bar{y}) &= \max_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}_+^J, \lambda \in \mathbb{R}^2} \theta' b^1 - [ \ 0 \ \ 1 \ ] \lambda \\ s.t. & [ \ 1 \ \ p \ ] \lambda - B_1' \theta - \hat{p}_{\bar{y},0|z} = 0 \end{split}$$

- $\theta \equiv (\theta_1, ..., \theta_J)'$
- $lackbox{b} b^d \equiv (b_1^d, ..., b_J^d)'$  with  $b_j^d \equiv \int_{\mathcal{Y}} b_j(y) \hat{p}_{y|d} dy$
- ▶  $\boldsymbol{b}_{d,j} \equiv (b_{d,j,1},...,b_{d,j,L})'$  with  $b_{d,j,\ell} \equiv \int_{\mathcal{Y}} b_j(y) \hat{\rho}_{y,d|z_\ell} dy$
- $\triangleright$   $B_d \equiv [ \ \boldsymbol{b}_{d,1} \ \cdots \ \boldsymbol{b}_{d,J} \ ]$



IV. Numerical Studies

## Numerical Illustration: Design

$$Y_d = q(d, U_d) = 1 - d + (d+1)U_d$$
  
 $Y_1 = 2U_1 \text{ and } Y_0 = 1 + U_0$ 

$$\blacktriangleright (U, \eta) \sim BVN((0, 0)', \Sigma)$$

$$ightharpoonup V \sim \mathit{N}(0,\sigma_V^2)$$
 and  $\xi_1 \sim \mathit{N}(0,\sigma_V^2)$ 

$$\blacktriangleright \xi_0 = \xi_1 + V$$

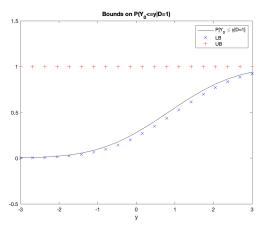
$$U_d = U + \xi_d$$

► 
$$Z \sim Bin(L-1,p)/(L-1) \in [0,1]$$

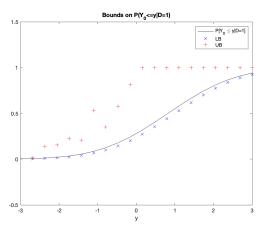
► 
$$D = 1\{\pi_0 + \pi_1 Z \ge \eta\}$$

$$Y = DY_1 + (1 - D)Y_0$$

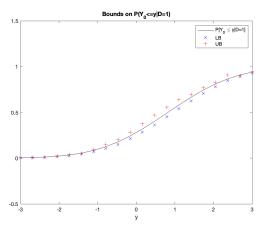
# Bounds on $P[Y_0 \le y | D = 1]$ when L = 2



# Bounds on $P[Y_0 \le y | D = 1]$ when L = 5



## Bounds on $P[Y_0 \le y | D = 1]$ when L = 6



### V. Conclusions

#### Conclusions

#### The paper...

- proposes a way to weaken rank similarity and
- shows how to construct informative bounds on QTE and ATE
- ▶ for treated or untreated (e.g., risk-averse) populations
- using multi-valued IVs

Calculation of the bounds are simple

Inference is an open question

Thank You! ©