

How to estimate factor models?

How to estimate factor models?

- Typically, we impose distributional assumptions on θ and ε

How to estimate factor models?

- Typically, we impose distributional assumptions on θ and ϵ
- e.g. assume θ and ϵ are each MVN with 0 covariance and $\theta \perp \epsilon$

How to estimate factor models?

- Typically, we impose distributional assumptions on θ and ε
- e.g. assume θ and ε are each MVN with 0 covariance and $\theta \perp \varepsilon$
- Then we estimate $(\beta, \Lambda, \Sigma_{\theta}, \Omega)$ by maximum likelihood

How to estimate factor models?

- Typically, we impose distributional assumptions on θ and ε
- e.g. assume θ and ε are each MVN with 0 covariance and $\theta \perp \varepsilon$
- Then we estimate $(\beta, \Lambda, \Sigma_{\theta}, \Omega)$ by maximum likelihood
- The likelihood function will need to be integrated, since θ is unobserved

How to estimate factor models?

- Typically, we impose distributional assumptions on θ and ε
- e.g. assume θ and ε are each MVN with 0 covariance and $\theta \perp \varepsilon$
- Then we estimate $(\beta, \Lambda, \Sigma_{\theta}, \Omega)$ by maximum likelihood
- The likelihood function will need to be integrated, since θ is unobserved
- Can use quadrature, MC integration, SMM, MCMC, or EM / MM algorithms

How to estimate factor models?

- Typically, we impose distributional assumptions on θ and ε
- e.g. assume θ and ε are each MVN with 0 covariance and $\theta \perp \varepsilon$
- Then we estimate $(\beta, \Lambda, \Sigma_{\theta}, \Omega)$ by maximum likelihood
- The likelihood function will need to be integrated, since θ is unobserved
- Can use quadrature, MC integration, SMM, MCMC, or EM / MM algorithms
- As you know, these vary in their ease of use!

- The whole reason we use a factor model is to reduce bias and improve precision

- The whole reason we use a factor model is to reduce bias and improve precision
- Let's go back to the log wage example from earlier

- The whole reason we use a factor model is to reduce bias and improve precision
- Let's go back to the log wage example from earlier
 - β 's are biased if we omit cognitive ability (omitted variable bias)

- The whole reason we use a factor model is to reduce bias and improve precision
- Let's go back to the log wage example from earlier
 - β 's are biased if we omit cognitive ability (omitted variable bias)
 - β 's are also biased if we include IQ score (attenuation bias from meas. err.)

- The whole reason we use a factor model is to reduce bias and improve precision
- Let's go back to the log wage example from earlier
 - β 's are biased if we omit cognitive ability (omitted variable bias)
 - β 's are also biased if we include IQ score (attenuation bias from meas. err.)
 - We know ability affects wages, and we have (noisy & correlated) measurements of it

- The whole reason we use a factor model is to reduce bias and improve precision
- Let's go back to the log wage example from earlier
 - β 's are biased if we omit cognitive ability (omitted variable bias)
 - β 's are also biased if we include IQ score (attenuation bias from meas. err.)
 - We know ability affects wages, and we have (noisy & correlated) measurements of it
- We can estimate the log wage parameters by maximum likelihood

- The whole reason we use a factor model is to reduce bias and improve precision
- Let's go back to the log wage example from earlier
 - β 's are biased if we omit cognitive ability (omitted variable bias)
 - β 's are also biased if we include IQ score (attenuation bias from meas. err.)
 - We know ability affects wages, and we have (noisy & correlated) measurements of it
- We can estimate the log wage parameters by maximum likelihood
- We combine together the log wage and factor model likelihoods

- The whole reason we use a factor model is to reduce bias and improve precision
- Let's go back to the log wage example from earlier
 - β 's are biased if we omit cognitive ability (omitted variable bias)
 - β 's are also biased if we include IQ score (attenuation bias from meas. err.)
 - We know ability affects wages, and we have (noisy & correlated) measurements of it
- We can estimate the log wage parameters by maximum likelihood
- We combine together the log wage and factor model likelihoods
- Coding walkthrough later

Log wage example: system of equations

Log wage example: system of equations

$$\begin{aligned}asvab_j &= W\alpha_j + \gamma_j\xi + \varepsilon_j \\ \log(wage) &= X\beta + \delta\xi + \eta\end{aligned}$$

where $\xi \sim N(0, 1)$ is unobserved cognitive ability

Log wage example: system of equations

$$\begin{aligned}asvab_j &= W\alpha_j + \gamma_j\xi + \varepsilon_j \\ \log(wage) &= X\beta + \delta\xi + \eta\end{aligned}$$

where $\xi \sim N(0, 1)$ is unobserved cognitive ability

Likelihood for observation i , assuming $\eta \sim N(0, \sigma_w^2)$ and $\varepsilon_j \sim N(0, \sigma_j^2)$:

$$\mathcal{L}_i = \left\{ \prod_j \frac{1}{\sigma_j} \phi \left(\frac{asvab_{ij} - W_i\alpha_j - \gamma_j\xi_i}{\sigma_j} \right) \right\} \frac{1}{\sigma_w} \phi \left(\frac{\log(wage_i) - X_i\beta - \delta\xi_i}{\sigma_w} \right)$$

Since ξ is unobserved, integrate out: $\ell = \sum_i \log \left(\int \mathcal{L}_i dF(\xi) \right)$

- Factor models can also be used to account for dynamic selection

- Factor models can also be used to account for dynamic selection
- Intuition: $\uparrow \text{cog. abil} \Rightarrow \uparrow \text{schooling} \Rightarrow \uparrow \text{wages}$

- Factor models can also be used to account for dynamic selection
- Intuition: $\uparrow \text{cog. abil} \Rightarrow \uparrow \text{schooling} \Rightarrow \uparrow \text{wages}$
- Schooling is endogenous, so we can add a schooling choice model to our likelihood

- Factor models can also be used to account for dynamic selection
- Intuition: $\uparrow \text{cog. abil} \Rightarrow \uparrow \text{schooling} \Rightarrow \uparrow \text{wages}$
- Schooling is endogenous, so we can add a schooling choice model to our likelihood
- Ability factor \rightarrow choice of schooling \Rightarrow corr. between schooling choices and wages

- Factor models can also be used to account for dynamic selection
- Intuition: $\uparrow \text{cog. abil} \Rightarrow \uparrow \text{schooling} \Rightarrow \uparrow \text{wages}$
- Schooling is endogenous, so we can add a schooling choice model to our likelihood
- Ability factor \rightarrow choice of schooling \Rightarrow corr. between schooling choices and wages
- But conditional on the factor, we have separability of the likelihood components

- Factor models can also be used to account for dynamic selection
- Intuition: $\uparrow \text{cog. abil} \Rightarrow \uparrow \text{schooling} \Rightarrow \uparrow \text{wages}$
- Schooling is endogenous, so we can add a schooling choice model to our likelihood
- Ability factor \rightarrow choice of schooling \Rightarrow corr. between schooling choices and wages
- But conditional on the factor, we have separability of the likelihood components

$$\mathcal{L} = \int \underbrace{\mathcal{L}_1(A)}_{\text{measurements}} \underbrace{\mathcal{L}_2(A)}_{\text{choices}} \underbrace{\mathcal{L}_3(A)}_{\text{wages}} dF(A)$$

- Factor models can also be used to account for dynamic selection
- Intuition: $\uparrow \text{cog. abil} \Rightarrow \uparrow \text{schooling} \Rightarrow \uparrow \text{wages}$
- Schooling is endogenous, so we can add a schooling choice model to our likelihood
- Ability factor \rightarrow choice of schooling \Rightarrow corr. between schooling choices and wages
- But conditional on the factor, we have separability of the likelihood components

$$\mathcal{L} = \int \underbrace{\mathcal{L}_1(A)}_{\text{measurements}} \underbrace{\mathcal{L}_2(A)}_{\text{choices}} \underbrace{\mathcal{L}_3(A)}_{\text{wages}} dF(A)$$

- Reminiscent of mixed logit / preference heterogeneity