

Sufficient Statistics for Unobserved Heterogeneity in Structural Dynamic Logit Models

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Context & Motivation; UH in DPD

- Key empirical question in Dynamic Panel Data (DPD) models is distinguishing between "**true dynamics**" and "**spurious dynamics**" due to persistent **unobserved heterogeneity (UH)**.
- The answer to this question should deal with two important econometric issues [Heckman, 1981]
 - *The **incidental parameters problem** [simple dummy-variables estimation is inconsistent, with fixed T]*
 - *The **initial conditions problem** [the joint distribution of UH and the initial values of endogenous/predetermined explanatory variables is **NOT** nonparametrically identified].*

Context & Motivation: CRE vs FE

- The standard methods to deal with UH in DPD models are **Fixed Effects (FE)** and **Correlated Random Effects (CRE)**.
- **CRE models** deal with the initial conditions problem by imposing restrictions (e.g., parametric, finite support) on the joint distribution of UH and explanatory variables.
- **FE approach.** The joint distribution of the UH and the whole history of explanatory variables is NP specified.
- FE is more robust than CRE. [Several limitations: not all DPD can be estimated by FEs; Identification of Average Marginal Effects.]

Context & Motivation: FE-Conditional MLE

- Within the FE methods, we can distinguish:
 - *Dummy-variables [inconsistent in discrete choice];*
 - *Transformation-based / Maximum Score [inconsistent in Dynamic DC]*
 - **Sufficient statistics-Conditional ML (FE-CMLE)** [*Can identify parameters of interest only in some PD models*]

- In Dynamic DC models, **FE-CMLE** cannot point-identify parameters of interest if:
 - *Distribution of transitory unobs is not logit (EV) [Honore & Tamer (2006) extension to partial identification.]*
 - *UH and predetermined explan. vars are not additively separable.*

Context & Motivation: Structural (Forward-Looking) DDC

- In **structural [forward-looking] dynamic logit models**, the common wisdom is that FE-CML cannot identify structural parameters.
- An agent's optimal decision depends on current utility but also on the **continuation value** of the current choice.
- Even if UH enters additively in one-period utility function, **UH appears non-additively in continuation value function**.
- All applications of structural DDC models: CRE approach. Typically finite mixture with strong restrictions on joint distribution with initial conditions.

The contribution of this paper

- We revisit the **applicability of FE-CML** to a class of structural dynamic logit models that includes many of the existing applications.
- This model includes two types of endogenous state variables: lagged decision; and duration in the last choice.
- We derive the **minimal sufficient statistic for the UH**, and show the identification of some structural parameters (switching costs, and returns of experience/duration).
- Based on this identification result, we propose a specification test (Hausman test) for the validity of a CRE model.
- We apply our results to a Machine Replacement model.

Outline

1. Model
2. Identification
 - (a) Models WITHOUT duration dependence
 - (b) Models WITH duration dependence
3. Estimation and Inference
4. Monte Carlo Experiments
5. Empirical Application

1. Model

FE Structural Dynamic Logit

- Decision variable: $y_{it} \in \mathcal{Y} = \{0, 1, \dots, J\}$. Agent maximizes $\mathbb{E}_t [\sum_{s=0}^{\infty} \delta_i^s U_{i,t+s}]$. U_{it} is the utility function:

$$U_{it}(y) = \alpha(y, \boldsymbol{\eta}_i, \mathbf{z}_{it}) + \beta(y, \mathbf{x}_{it}, \mathbf{z}_{it}) + \varepsilon_{it}(y).$$

\mathbf{z}_{it} = exogenous state vars. \mathbf{x}_{it} = endogenous state vars. **Observable.**

- Three **unobservables**: $\varepsilon_{it}(y)$ i.i.d. type I extreme value distributed; $\boldsymbol{\eta}_i$ in the payoff; and the discount factor δ_i .
- $p(\boldsymbol{\eta}_i, \delta_i \mid \mathbf{x}_{it}, \mathbf{z}_{it} : t = 1, 2, \dots)$ is unrestricted, i.e., FE model.
- Key condition**: $\boldsymbol{\eta}_i$ and \mathbf{x}_{it} additively separable in payoff function.

Endogenous State Variables

- Two types of endogenous state variables: $\mathbf{x}_{it} = (y_{i,t-1}, d_{it})$.

(a) **lagged decision variable**, $y_{i,t-1} \in \mathcal{Y}$.

(b) **duration in the last choice**, d_{it}

- The component of utility function that captures state dependence:

$$\beta(y, \mathbf{x}_{it}) = 1\{y = y_{i,t-1}\} \beta_d(y, d_{it}) + 1\{y \neq y_{i,t-1}\} \beta_y(y, y_{i,t-1})$$

- $\beta_y(y, y_{i,t-1})$ represents switching costs, e.g., the cost of switching from occupation $y_{i,t-1}$ to occupation y .
- $\beta_d(y, d_{it})$ captures duration dependence, e.g., the effect of experience in occupation.

Restrictions on β_d function

- For the model with duration dependence (i.e., $\beta_d(y, d) \neq 0$), some of our identification results exploit the following assumptions. We impose the following restrictions on function β_d .

(A.1) No duration dependence in the "outside alternative"
 $y = 0$:

$$\beta_d(y, d) = 0$$

- For the forward-looking model

(A.2) For every $y > 0$, there is finite duration d_y^* such that:

$$\beta_d(y, d) = \beta_d(y, d_y^*) \quad \text{for any } d \geq d_y^*$$

Examples

- (1) *Market entry-exit models.*
- (2) *Machine replacement models.*
- (3) *Occupational choice models.*
- (4) *Dynamic demand of differentiated storable products.*

Optimal decision rule

- Let $\theta_i \equiv (\eta_i, \delta_i)$ represent the UH. The model implies:

$$y_{it} = \arg \max_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha(y, \eta_i, \mathbf{z}_{it}) + \beta(y, \mathbf{x}_{it}, \mathbf{z}_{it}) + \varepsilon_{it}(y) \\ + \delta_i \mathbb{E} [V_{\theta_i}(y, d_{i,t+1}(y), \mathbf{z}_{i,t+1}) \mid y, \mathbf{x}_{it}, \mathbf{z}_{it}] \end{array} \right\}$$

where $\delta_i \mathbb{E} [V_{\theta_i}(y, d_{i,t+1}(y), \mathbf{z}_{i,t+1}) \mid y, \mathbf{x}_{it}, \mathbf{z}_{it}]$ is the continuation value of choosing alternative y .

- Given the transition rule of duration:

$$v_{\theta_i}(y, d_{it+1}(y), \mathbf{z}_{it}) = \begin{cases} v_{\theta_i}(0, 0, \mathbf{z}_{it}) & \text{if } y = 0 \\ v_{\theta_i}(y, 1\{y = y_{it-1}\}d_{it} + 1, \mathbf{z}_{it}) & \text{if } y > 0 \end{cases}$$

Two important properties of continuation values

- **Property 1.** In the model **WITHOUT** duration dependence:

$$v_{\theta_i}(y, \mathbf{z}_{it}) \text{ does not depend on } y_{it-1}$$

- **Property 2.** In the model **WITH** duration dependence under Assumption A.2:

$$v_{\theta_i}(y, d, \mathbf{z}_{it}) = v_{\theta_i}(y, d_y^*, \mathbf{z}_{it}) \text{ for any } d \geq d^*$$

This implies that for $d_{it} \geq d_y^* - 1$, the continuation value $v_{\theta_i}(y, d_{it+1}(y), \mathbf{z}_{it})$ does not depend on the state variables $(y_{i,t-1}, d_{it})$.

Conditional Choice Probabilities

- Under the extreme value type 1 distribution of the unobservables ε , implies that the *conditional choice probability* (CCP) function has the following form:

$$P(y|\mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{z}_t, \theta) = \frac{\exp \{ \alpha_\theta(y, \mathbf{z}_t) + \beta(y, \mathbf{x}_t) + v_\theta(y, d_{t+1}(y), \mathbf{z}_t) \}}{\sum_{j \in \mathcal{Y}} \exp \{ \alpha_\theta(j, \mathbf{z}_t) + \beta(j, \mathbf{x}_t) + v_\theta(j, d_{t+1}(j), \mathbf{z}_t) \}}$$

- Note change in notation: omit i ; use subindex θ in those functions that depend on the incidental parameters θ .

2. Identification using FE-CML

Data

- The researcher observes panel data of individuals over several periods of time:

$$\text{Data} = \{ y_{it}, \mathbf{x}_{it}, \mathbf{z}_{it} : i = 1, 2, \dots, N ; t = 1, 2, \dots, T \}$$

N is large and T is small.

- Given these data and the restrictions from the model, the researcher is interested in the estimation of the structural parameters that capture "true dynamics" or "true state dependence", i.e., $\beta_d(y, d_{it})$ and $\beta_y(y, y_{i,t-1})$.
- We denote these structural parameters using the vector β .

Identification: General ideas

- Let $\mathbf{y}^T = \{y_1, y_2, \dots, y_T\}$ be an individual's observed history

$$\mathbb{P}(\mathbf{y}^T \mid \mathbf{x}_1, \boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\beta}) = \prod_{t=1}^T \frac{\exp \{ \alpha_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(y_t) + \beta(y_t, \mathbf{x}_t) + v_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(y_t, d_{t+1}(y_t)) \}}{\sum_{j \in \mathcal{Y}} \exp \{ \alpha_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(j) + \beta(j, \mathbf{x}_t) + v_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(j, d_{t+1}(j)) \}}$$

- All our identification results follow the same type of argument. We show that

$$\ln \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{y}^T \mid \mathbf{x}_1, \boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\beta}) = U(\mathbf{y}^T, \mathbf{x}_1)' g_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + S(\mathbf{y}^T, \mathbf{x}_1)' \boldsymbol{\beta}^*$$

U and S are vector of statistics; $g_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$ is a vector of functions of $\boldsymbol{\theta}$; $\boldsymbol{\beta}^*$ is a vector of linear combinations of structural parameters $\boldsymbol{\beta}$.

- Each vector, U , $g_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$, S , and $\boldsymbol{\beta}^*$, has elements which are linearly independent.

Identification: General ideas [2]

- Given the representation $\ln \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{y}^T \mid \mathbf{x}_1, \boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\beta}) = U' \mathbf{g}_\theta + S' \boldsymbol{\beta}^*$, and the linear independence of the elements in each vector U , \mathbf{g}_θ , S , and $\boldsymbol{\beta}^*$, we establish the following results.
- (i) *Sufficiency*. U is a sufficient statistic for $\boldsymbol{\theta}$.
- (ii) *Minimal sufficiency*. U is a *minimal sufficient statistic* for $\boldsymbol{\theta}$.
- (iii) *Identification*. We show that condition on U , the elements in the vector of S are linearly independent, and that this implies identification of $\boldsymbol{\beta}^*$.

Model without duration dependence

- We have that:

$$\begin{aligned} \ln \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{y}^T | y_0, \boldsymbol{\theta}) &= \sum_{y=1}^J T^{(y)} g_{\boldsymbol{\theta},1}(y) + \sum_{y=1}^J \Delta^{(y)} g_{\boldsymbol{\theta},2}(y) \\ &+ \sum_{y=1}^J \sum_{y=1}^J D^{(y-1,y)} \tilde{\beta}_y(y, y-1) \end{aligned}$$

$T^{(y)}$ = # of times alternative y is observed in history \mathbf{y}^T ;

$\Delta^{(y)} = 1\{y_T = y\} - 1\{y_0 = y\}$

$D^{(y-1,y)}$ = # of times the sequence (y_{-1}, y) is observed in history \mathbf{y}^T

$\tilde{\beta}_y(y, y-1) = \beta_y(y, y-1) - \beta_y(0, y-1) - \beta_y(y, 0)$: Difference between the cost of direct switching and the cost of switching via $y = 0$.

Model without duration dependence [2]

- (i) $U = \{T^{(y)} : y \geq 1, \Delta^{(y)} : y \geq 1\}$ is a sufficient statistic for θ .
- (ii) The elements in the vector U are linearly independent such that U is a minimal sufficient statistic.
- (iii) Conditional on U , the vector of statistics $\{D^{(y_{-1}, y)} : y_{-1}, y \in Y - \{0\}\}$ are linearly independent such that they can identify the vector of parameters $\{\tilde{\beta}_y(y, y_{-1}) : y_{-1}, y \in Y - \{0\}\}$. ■
- *EXAMPLE 1.* Suppose that $T = 3$. Two realizations of the history $(y_0 | \mathbf{y}^T)$:

$$A = \{0 | 0, j, k\} \quad \text{and} \quad B = \{0 | j, 0, k\} \quad \text{with} \quad j, k \neq 0$$

$$U(A) = U(B) \quad \text{and} \quad \ln \mathbb{P}(A|U) - \ln \mathbb{P}(B|U) = \tilde{\beta}_y(k, j).$$

Model WITH duration dependence: Myopic

$$\begin{aligned}
 \ln \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{y}^T | y_0, d_1) &= \sum_{y=1}^J \sum_{d \geq 1} H^{(y)}(d) g_{\theta,1}(y, d) + \sum_{y=1}^J \Delta^{(y)} g_{\theta,2}(y) \\
 &+ \sum_{y-1=1}^J \sum_{y=1, y \neq y_{-1}}^J D^{(y-1, y)} \tilde{\beta}_y(y, y_{-1}) \\
 &+ \sum_{y=1}^J \sum_{d \geq 1} \Delta^{(y)}(d) \gamma(y, d-1)
 \end{aligned}$$

$H^{(y)}(d)$ = Histogram of duration.

$\Delta^{(y)}(d) = 1\{y_T = y, d_{T+1} = d\} - 1\{y_0 = y, d_1 = d\}$

$\tilde{\beta}_y(y, y_{-1}) \equiv \beta_y(y, y_{-1}) - \beta_y(0, y_{-1}) - \beta_y(y, 0)$

$\gamma(y, d) \equiv \beta_d(y, d) - \beta_y(y, 0) - \beta_y(0, y)$.

Model WITH duration dependence: Myopic

(i) $U = \{H^{(y)}(d) : y \geq 1, d \geq 1, \Delta^{(y)} : y \geq 1\}$ is a sufficient statistic of θ .

(ii) The elements in the vector U are linearly independent such that U is a minimal sufficient statistic.

(iii) Conditional on U , the vector of statistics $\{D^{(y-1,y)} : y-1, y \geq 1; \Delta^{(y)}(d) : y \geq 1, d \geq 1\}$ are linearly independent and they identify the vectors of structural parameters $\{\tilde{\beta}_y(y, y-1) : y-1, y \geq 1, y \neq y-1; \gamma(y, d) : y \geq 1, d \geq 1\}$.

Model WITH duration dependence: Myopic

EXAMPLE 2. Suppose that $T = 3$ and consider two realizations of the history $(y_0, d_1 | \mathbf{y}^T)$: for $j \neq k$,

$$A = \{0, 0 \mid 0, j, k\} \quad \text{and} \quad B = \{0, 0 \mid j, 0, k\}$$

$$U(A) = U(B) \quad \text{and} \quad \ln \mathbb{P}(A|U) - \ln \mathbb{P}(B|U) = \tilde{\beta}_y(k, j).$$

EXAMPLE 3. $T = n + 2$:

$$A = \{0, 0 \mid 0, \mathbf{y}_{n+1}\} \quad \text{and} \quad B = \{0, 0 \mid \mathbf{y}_n, 0, y\}$$

$$U(A) = U(B) \quad \text{and} \quad \ln \mathbb{P}(A|U) - \ln \mathbb{P}(B|U) = \gamma(y, n).$$

Model WITH duration dependence: Forward

$\ln \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{y}^T | y_0, d_1)$ is

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{y=1}^J \sum_{d \leq d_y^* - 1} H^{(y)}(d) g_{\theta,1}(y, d) + \left[\sum_{y=1}^J \sum_{d \geq d_y^*} H^{(y)}(d) \right] g_{\theta,1}(y, d_y^*) \\ & + \sum_{y=1}^J \sum_{d \leq d_y^* - 1} \Delta^{(y)}(d) g_{\theta,2}(y, d) + \left[\sum_{y=1}^J \sum_{d \geq d_y^*} \Delta^{(y)}(d) \right] g_{\theta,2}(y, d_y^*) \\ & + \sum_{y-1=1}^J \sum_{y=1, y \neq y-1}^J D^{(y-1,y)} \tilde{\beta}_y(y, y-1) - \sum_{y=1}^J \Delta^{(y)}(d_y^*) \Delta \beta_d(y, d_y^*) \end{aligned}$$

Model WITH duration dependence: Forward

(i) $U = \{H^{(y)}(d) : y \geq 1, d \leq d_y^* - 1, \sum_{d \geq d_y^*} H^{(y)}(d), \Delta^{(y)}(d) : y \geq 1, d \leq d_y^* - 1, \sum_{d \geq d_y^*} \Delta^{(y)}(d)\}$ is a sufficient statistic of θ .

(ii) The elements in the vector U are linearly independent such that U is a minimal sufficient statistic.

(iii) Conditional on U , the vector of statistics $\{D^{(y-1,y)} : y_{-1}, y \geq 1\}$ are linearly independent and they identify the vector of structural parameters $\{\tilde{\beta}_y(y, y_{-1}) : y_{-1}, y, y \neq y_{-1} \geq 1\}$.

Furthermore, the vector of statistics $\{\Delta^{(y)}(d^*) : y \geq 1\}$ are also linearly independent and they identify the vector of structural parameters $\{\Delta^{(y)}(d^*) : y \geq 1\}$.

Model WITH duration dependence: Myopic

EXAMPLE 4. Consider two realizations of the history $(y_0, d_1 | \mathbf{y}^T)$

$$A = \{0, 0 \mid \mathbf{y}_{d^*-1}, 0, \mathbf{y}_{d^*+1}\} \quad \text{and} \quad B = \{0, 0 \mid \mathbf{y}_{d^*}, 0, \mathbf{y}_{d^*}\}$$

$$U(A) = U(B). \quad \text{and} \quad \ln \mathbb{P}(A|U) - \ln \mathbb{P}(B|U) = \Delta \beta_d(y, d^*).$$

Identification of d^*

- For the forward-looking model, we can identify $\Delta\beta_d(y, d)$ for any d in $\{d_y^*, d_y^* + 1, \dots, T - 2\}$.
- By definition of d_y^* ,

$$d_y^* = \arg \max_d \{d : \Delta\beta_d(y, d) \neq 0 \text{ and } \Delta\beta_d(y, d + 1) = 0\}$$

- Suppose that $d_y^* \leq T - 3$, then the definition above identifies d_y^* from the data.

3. Estimation & Inference

Conditional MLE

- The structural parameters in β_y and β_d (or a parametric specification of these functions) can be identified using Conditional MLE.
- With exogenous state variables, \mathbf{z}_{it} , we can use the Kernel-weighted Conditional Likelihood in Honoré & Kiriadzidou (2000).

4. Monte Carlo Experiment

Rust (1987) bus engine replacement

- Keeping bus engine ($y_t = 1$) or replacing it ($y_t = 0$).
- Payoff function:
 - $RC_i + \varepsilon_{it}(0)$, if replacement
 - $MC_i - c(d_{it}) + \varepsilon_{it}(1)$, if no replacement
- We allow for UH in RC_i and MC_i .

DGPs

Parameter	DGP 1	DGP 2	DGP 3
$\alpha_i(0) = -RC_i$	$N(\mu, \sigma^2)$	Two types	Two types
Random draws from:	$\mu = 8, \sigma = 2$	$RC_1 = 4.5, RC_2 = 9$ $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = 0.5$	$RC_1 = 8, RC_2 = 9$ $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = 0.5$
$\alpha_i(1) = -c_{0i}$	0	0	0
$\beta_d(d) = \beta d$	$\beta = 1$	$\beta = 1$	$\beta = 1$
d^*	3	3	3
δ	0.95	0.95	0.95
Initial y_0, d_1	0, 0	0, 0	0, 0
Maximum T	25	25	25
N	1000	1000	1000
# simulations	1000	1000	1000

Experiment. Estimate parameter

Table 4
Monte Carlo Experiments with DGP 1 (Normal RCs)

Estimator of β	Sample A (1 to 7)		Sample B (1 to 14)		Sample C (8 to 21)	
	Estimate		Estimate		Estimate	
	Mean	St. dev.	Mean	St. dev.	Mean	St. dev.
FE-CMLE	0.9996	0.1481	1.0021	0.0741	0.9958	0.0716
MLE-2types	0.9625	0.0478	0.8955	0.0265	0.8687	0.0289
MLE-noUH	0.6175	0.0277	0.5922	0.0210	0.5653	0.0213

Test of the CRE

Table 4
Monte Carlo Experiments with DGP 1 (Normal RCs)

Testing hypothesis	Freq. rejection significance level			Freq. rejection significance level			Freq. rejection significance level		
	1%	5%	10%	1%	5%	10%	1%	5%	10%
No UH	0.504	0.753	0.854	0.999	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Two types	0.007	0.046	0.095	0.138	0.348	0.466	0.244	0.481	0.610

Using Rust data

Empirical Distribution of Choice Histories			
Choice history	Frequency		
	Absolute	%	% cumulative
1101111111	3	5.17	5.17
1110111111	11	18.96	24.13
1111011111	9	15.51	39.64
1111101111	18	31.03	70.67
1111110111	7	12.07	82.74
1111111011	5	8.62	91.36
1111111101	3	5.17	96.53
1111111110	2	3.45	100.00

Using Rust data

Bus Engine Replacement (Rust, 1987)

Fixed-Effects-Conditional Maximum Likelihood

d^*	β		p -value	log-likelihood
	$\hat{\beta}$	se($\hat{\beta}$)	$H_0 : \beta = 0$	
4	0.2048	0.3576	0.5670	-22.864
3	1.3218	0.5470	0.0160	-11.222***

Using Rust data

Table 12
Bus Engine Replacement (Rust, 1987)

Hausman Test of Unobserved Heterogeneity

<i>Model</i>	$\widehat{\Delta\beta_d(d^*)}$ (se) <i>MLE</i>	$\widehat{\Delta\beta_d(d^*)}$ (se) <i>CMLE</i>	<i>Hausman</i>	<i>p-value</i>
Square root	0.4294 (0.0700)	1.3218 (0.5470)	1.5479	0.2134
Linear	0.3601 (0.0552)	1.3218 (0.5470)	1.7181	0.1899
Square	0.3817 (0.0573)	1.3218 (0.5470)	1.6636	0.1971

5. Extensions / Conclusions

Extensions

- Counterfactual experiments (and Marginal effects): Requires the identification of the distribution of θ . Requires additional assumptions.
- **Stochastic evolution of d_{it} (e.g., cumulative mileage)**
- **Dynamic games of incomplete information.**

Summary and Conclusions

- We study identification in a fixed-effects structural dynamic logit, and obtain some positive identification results and a simple CMLE.
- Only parameters that capture structural state dependence can be identified. Counterfactual experiments?
- FE-estimator can be used also to test for the consistency of estimates using a CRE specification (Hausman type of test).