

# Bayesian Estimation in IO

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① Jiang, Manchanda, and Rossi (2009)

② Imai, Jain, and Ching (2009)

## Section 1

# Jiang, Manchanda, and Rossi (2009)

# Jiang, Manchanda, and Rossi (2009)

- Bayesian BLP
- BLP uses moment conditions
  - Consumer  $i$  utility from buying product  $j$  in market  $t$

$$u_{ijt} = \underbrace{x_{jt}}_{1 \times K} \underbrace{\theta_{it}}_{K \times 1} + \underbrace{\xi_{jt}}_{1 \times 1} + \epsilon_{ijt}$$

$$= \bar{\theta} + v_{it}$$

- Common demand shock  $\xi_{jt}$  endogenous, have instruments  $w$

$$E[\xi_{jt} | w_{jt}] = 0$$

- Bayesian needs likelihood, so assume

$$x_{jt} = w_{jt} \delta + u_{jt}$$

and

$$\begin{pmatrix} u_{jt} \\ \xi_{jt} \end{pmatrix} \sim N(0, \Omega).$$

# Model & likelihood 1

- Utility:

$$u_{ijt} = \overbrace{x_{jt}^{1 \times K}} \underbrace{\theta_{it}^{K \times 1}} + \overbrace{\xi_{jt}^{1 \times 1}} + \epsilon_{ijt}$$

$$= \bar{\theta} + v_{it}$$

- First stage

$$x_{jt} = w_{jt} \delta + u_{jt}$$

- Distributional assumptions:
  - $\epsilon_{ijt} \sim$  type I extreme value
  - $v_{it} \sim N(0, \Sigma)$ , i.i.d across  $i, t$
  - $\begin{pmatrix} u_{jt} \\ \xi_{jt} \end{pmatrix} \sim N(0, \Omega)$ , i.i.d across  $j, t$

## Model & likelihood 2

- Share equation:

$$s_{jt} = \int \frac{\exp(x_{jt}(\bar{\theta} + v) + \bar{\zeta}_{jt})}{1 + \sum_{k=1}^j \exp(x_{kt}(\bar{\theta} + v) + \bar{\zeta}_{kt})} dF_v(v; \Sigma)$$

$$= h(\bar{\zeta}_t | x_t, \bar{\theta}, \Sigma)$$

- Likelihood:

$$\pi(s_t, x_t | w_t, \bar{\theta}, \Sigma, \delta, \Omega) = \phi \left( \begin{pmatrix} h^{-1}(s_t | x_t, \bar{\theta}, \Sigma) \\ x_t - w_t \delta \end{pmatrix} | \Omega \right) (J_{s_t \rightarrow \bar{\zeta}_t})^{-1}$$

where  $J_{s_t \rightarrow \bar{\zeta}_t}$  = determinate of  $ds_t/d\bar{\zeta}_t$

- $J_{s_t \rightarrow \bar{\zeta}_t}$  given shares is function of only  $\Sigma$

## Prior

- $\bar{\theta} \sim N(\theta_0, V_\theta)$
- $\delta \sim N(\delta_0, V_\delta)$
- $\Omega \sim \text{inverse Wishart}(v_0, V_\Omega)$

- $\Sigma = U'U, U = \begin{pmatrix} e^{r_{11}} & r_{12} & \cdots & r_{1K} \\ 0 & e^{r_{22}} & r_{23} & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & \cdots & e^{r_{kk}} \end{pmatrix}$

- $r_{jj} \sim N(0, \sigma_{r_{jj}}^2)$
- $r_{jk} \sim N(0, \sigma_{r_{off}^2})$  for  $j < k$

- Combination of Gibbs and random walk Metropolis Hastings
- Gibbs sampler for  $\bar{\theta}, \delta, \Omega | r, s, x, w$ , priors
- Metropolis for  $\Sigma = r | \bar{\theta}, \delta, \Omega, r, s, x, w$ 
  - Candidate density:  $r^{new} = r^{old} + N(0, \sigma^2 D_r)$



## Advantages

- No maximization (but problem of chain convergence instead)
- Simulations show lower MSE than GMM (even in simulations with  $\xi$  not normally distributed)
- Inference natural by-product of MCMC
  - No extra work needed to compute standard errors
  - Inference on functions of parameters straightforward, no need for delta-method
    - Sample from posterior of  $f(\theta)$  by drawing  $\theta$  from posterior and calculating  $f(\theta)$
    - e.g. elasticities, any counterfactuals, etc
- In simulations GMM asymptotic confidence intervals too small, MCMC gets closet to correct coverage of credible regions

## Simulation results

- $J = 3, T = 300, K = 4$  (brand effects and price)
- Setup 1:
  - no endogeneity  $x = w$
  - Distributions for  $\xi$ 
    - Correctly specified:  $\xi \sim N(0, 1)$
    - Heteroskedasticity:  $\xi \sim N(0, \exp(-.5413 + x_{jt}^p))$
    - AR(1)  $\xi_{jt} = \rho \xi_{jt-1} + N(0, v)$
    - Different distribution:  $\xi \sim \text{Beta}$  with parameters such that either symmetric or asymmetric
- Setup 2:
  - One component of  $x$  endogenous,  $w =$  exogenous  $x$ 's and one instrument

**Table 1**MSE and bias for estimates of  $\tau^2$  and  $\bar{\theta}$ .

		MSE		Bias	
		Bayes	GMM	Bayes	GMM
$\tau^2$	<i>i.i.d. N</i>	0.02	0.09	-0.13	-0.03
	Hetero	0.009	0.134	-0.021	-0.011
	AR(1)	0.049	0.227	-0.172	-0.058
	Asym Beta	0.002	0.007	-0.044	-0.002
	Sym Beta	0.001	0.006	-0.03	-0.01
$\bar{\theta}_1$	<i>i.i.d. N</i>	0.11	0.54	0.22	0.13
	Hetero	0.53	0.43	-0.37	0.18
	AR(1)	0.22	0.55	0.24	0.16
	Asym Beta	0.12	0.5	0.23	0.02
	Sym Beta	0.17	0.29	0.31	0.33
$\bar{\theta}_2$	<i>i.i.d. N</i>	0.26	0.54	0.25	0.29
	Hetero	0.87	1.04	-0.52	0.25
	AR(1)	0.39	1.7	0.22	0.33
	Asym Beta	0.29	2.04	0.45	-0.14
	Sym Beta	0.25	1.52	0.33	0.10
$\bar{\theta}_3$	<i>i.i.d. N</i>	0.25	8.51	0.27	-1.51
	Hetero	2.00	12.08	-0.93	-2.02
	AR(1)	0.84	10.92	0.14	-1.46
	Asym Beta	0.41	9.39	0.50	-1.11
	Sym Beta	0.38	5.01	0.32	-1.04
$\bar{\theta}_{\text{price}}$	<i>i.i.d. N</i>	0.41	1.71	0.28	0.47
	Hetero	0.85	2.16	0.62	0.67
	AR(1)	0.59	2.39	-0.10	0.33
	Asym Beta	0.51	2.27	0.6	0.37
	Sym Beta	0.34	2.48	0.23	0.29

**Table 2**MSE and bias for diagonal  $\Sigma$  elements.

		MSE		Bias	
		Bayes	GMM	Bayes	GMM
$\Sigma_{11}$	<i>i.i.d. N</i>	1.94	14.89	-1.04	0.13
	Hetero	11.07	25.81	1.85	0.23
	AR(1)	3.91	35.43	-0.38	0.32
	Asym Beta	2.17	66.28	-1.22	1.20
	Sym Beta	2.14	8.49	-1.19	-1.05
$\Sigma_{22}$	<i>i.i.d. N</i>	2.63	9.52	-0.70	-0.46
	Hetero	15.73	26.65	2.78	-0.33
	AR(1)	5.3	181.16	0.13	0.83
	Asym Beta	4.00	87.09	-1.71	1.96
	Sym Beta	2.34	38.38	-0.92	0.46
$\Sigma_{33}$	<i>i.i.d. N</i>	1.95	498.86	-0.62	10.68
	Hetero	40.2	566.35	3.6	12.35
	AR(1)	8.08	1927.91	0.50	15.95
	Asym Beta	3.47	601.03	-1.33	8.83
	Sym Beta	3.04	163.88	-0.42	6.04
$\Sigma_{44}$	<i>i.i.d. N</i>	2.23	21.73	0.45	2.19
	Hetero	5.12	23.11	1.16	2.33
	AR(1)	5.41	24.05	1.44	2.40
	Asym Beta	0.71	64.72	-0.16	2.73
	Sym Beta	2.42	21.58	0.50	1.91

**Table 7**

MSE and bias for the IV sampling experiment.

	MSE		Bias	
	Bayes	GMM	Bayes	GMM
$\bar{\theta}_1$	0.50	9.89	0.49	-0.93
$\bar{\theta}_2$	0.44	13.46	0.51	-1.28
$\bar{\theta}_3$	0.41	34.11	0.41	-2.16
$\bar{\theta}_{\text{price}}$	0.28	10	0.33	-0.02
$\Sigma_{11}$	3.82	315.49	-1.59	6.86
$\Sigma_{22}$	3.11	383.2	-1.51	8.74
$\Sigma_{33}$	3.68	6301.31	-1.30	19.09
$\Sigma_{44}$	0.75	104.68	-0.06	4.02
$\Sigma_{12}$	2.33	117.63	-1.24	1.59
$\Sigma_{13}$	1.64	82.45	-1.00	1.20
$\Sigma_{23}$	1.92	139.48	0.78	2.65
$\Sigma_{14}$	0.36	38.25	-0.25	-1.42
$\Sigma_{24}$	0.56	24.03	-0.32	-1.05
$\Sigma_{34}$	0.20	24.87	0.10	-1.89
$\delta_1$	0.002	0.002	0.003	0.001
$\delta_2$	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.001
$\delta_3$	0.002	0.002	-0.002	-0.003
$\delta_4$	0.004	0.004	-0.005	-0.002
$\Omega_{11}$	0.0002	0.0002	0.0012	-0.0003
$\Omega_{12}$	0.002	0.003	-0.02	-0.01
$\Omega_{22}$	0.03	1.28	-0.16	0.39
$\text{Corr}_{\Omega}$	0.003	0.008	-0.002	-0.062

# Coverage of confidence intervals

Jiang,  
Manchanda,  
and Rossi  
(2009)

Imai, Jain, and  
Ching (2009)

References

- In setup 1 with correctly specified distribution, GMM 95% confidence intervals have 63% coverage
- In setup 1 with correctly specified distribution, Bayesian 95% credible intervals have 81% coverage

## Distributional assumption about $\xi$

- Why does distributional assumption on  $\xi$  not seem to matter?
- Recall that Bayesian OLS with normal distribution  $\rightarrow$  frequentist OLS
  - Ignoring priors, gradient of posterior = moment conditions
- Same reasoning implies IV with normal distributions  $\rightarrow$  frequentist IV
  - LIML & FIML consistent because gradient of likelihood = moment conditions
- Conjecture: misspecified shape of distribution is fine, but misspecifying heteroskedasticity or dependence could lead to consistent estimates, but inconsistent inference

# Allowing heteroskedasticity & dependence

- 1 Specify distribution of  $\xi$  more flexibly
  - E.g. Dirichlet process see [Conley et al. \(2008\)](#)
- 2 [Chernozhukov and Hong \(2003\)](#): quasi-Bayesian estimation
  - Moments  $E[m_i(\theta)] = 0$ , let  $g_n(\theta) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i m_i(\theta)$ ,  $W_n(\theta) =$  consistent estimate of  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{Var}(\sqrt{ng_n}(\theta))$
  - Quasi-posterior:  $\propto \exp(-n/2g_n(\theta)'W_n(\theta)g_n(\theta))$
  - Bayesian estimation and inference using quasi-posterior is consistent



## Zhang (2015)

- Compares Quasi-Bayesian and GMM estimators for BLP demand model
- Uses density tempered sequential Monte Carlo
  - Importance sampling: want sample from  $\pi$  to compute  
:  $\int_{\Theta} g(\theta)\pi(\theta)d\theta$ 
    - Draw  $\theta_i \sim p(\theta)$
    - $\int_{\Theta} g(\theta)\pi(\theta)d\theta \approx \frac{1}{S} \sum_{i=1}^S g(\theta_i) \frac{\pi(\theta_i)}{p(\theta_i)}$
  - Many draws needed for accuracy if  $p$  far from  $\pi$
  - Density tempered sequential Monte Carlo updates  $p$  to get closer to  $\pi$
- Simulation results a bit incomplete: only shows estimates from a single simulated dataset

## Applied papers

- Cohen (2013): vertical supplier relationship's effects on milk prices
- Musalem, Bradlow, and Raju (2008): coupon targeting
- Duan and Mela (2009): pricing and location choice in spatial demand model
- Musalem et al. (2010): effect of out-of-stock

## Section 2

# Imai, Jain, and Ching (2009)

## Imai, Jain, and Ching (2009) – “Bayesian estimation of dynamic discrete choice models”

- Recall likelihood for dynamic discrete choice:

$$\sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=1}^N \log \Lambda (a_{it} | v_i^{\mathbf{P}}(\cdot, x_t; \theta))$$

where  $\mathbf{P} = (v^{\mathbf{P}}(\theta))$

- Naïve Metropolis-Hastings:
  - Draw candidate  $\theta$
  - Solve for value function
  - Accept or reject with some probability
- Typically infeasible because solving for value function takes too long
- Idea of this paper: combine MCMC iterations with value function iterations
- Each Metropolis step, do one Bellman iteration to update value function

## Model

- State =  $s$  (observed) &  $\epsilon$  (unobserved)
- Parameters  $\theta$
- Value function:

$$\begin{aligned} V(s, \epsilon, \theta) &= \max_{a \in A} R(s, a, \epsilon_a, \theta) + \beta E_{\theta_s}[V(s', \epsilon', \theta) | s, a] \\ &= \max_{a \in A} v(s, a, \epsilon_a, \theta) \end{aligned}$$

- Choice probabilities

$$P[a = a_{i,t} | s_{i,t}, V, \theta] = P[\epsilon : a_{it} = \arg \max v(s, a, \epsilon_a, \theta)]$$

- State transition pmf  $f(s' | s, a; \theta_s)$
- Conditional likelihood:

$$L(Y | \theta) = \prod_{i,t} P[a = a_{i,t} | s_{i,t}, V, \theta]$$

## Bayesian DP

- $\theta_s$  estimated separately? Paper is unclear, but fine
- Iteration  $t$ , draw  $\theta^{*t} \sim q(\theta^{t-1}, \cdot)$
- At iteration  $t$ , have history of draws of  $V^\tau, \epsilon^\tau, \theta^{*\tau}$  for  $\tau < t$
- Expected value:

$$\hat{E}^t[V(s', \epsilon', \theta^*) | s, a] = \sum_{s'} f(s' | s, a, \theta) \left( \sum_{n=1}^{N(t)} V^{t-n}(s', \epsilon^{t-n}, \theta^{*(t-n)}) \times \frac{K_h(\theta^* - \theta^{*(t-n)})}{\sum_{k=1}^{N(t)} K_h(\theta^* - \theta^{*(t-k)})} \right)$$

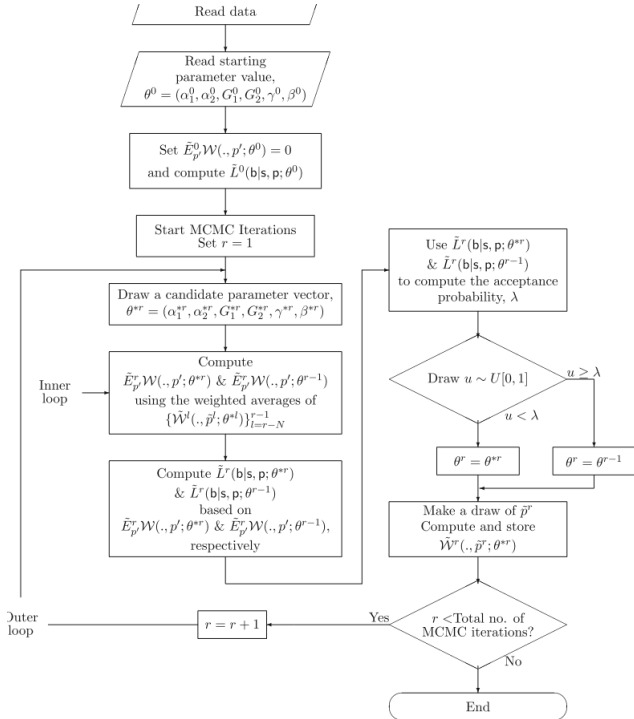
- Choice specific:

$$v(s, a, \epsilon_a, \theta^*) = R(s, a, \epsilon_a, \theta^*) + \beta \hat{E}^t[V(s', \epsilon', \theta^*) | s, a]$$

- Accept or reject  $\theta^*$  based on likelihood using  $v(s, a, \epsilon_a, \theta^*)$
- Draw  $\epsilon^t \sim F(\epsilon; \theta^*)$  calculate and save

$$V^t(s, \epsilon^t, \theta^{*t}) = \max_{a \in A} v(s, a, \epsilon_a^t, \theta^{*t})$$

- Flow chart from [Ching et al. \(2012\)](#) “Practitioner’s guide



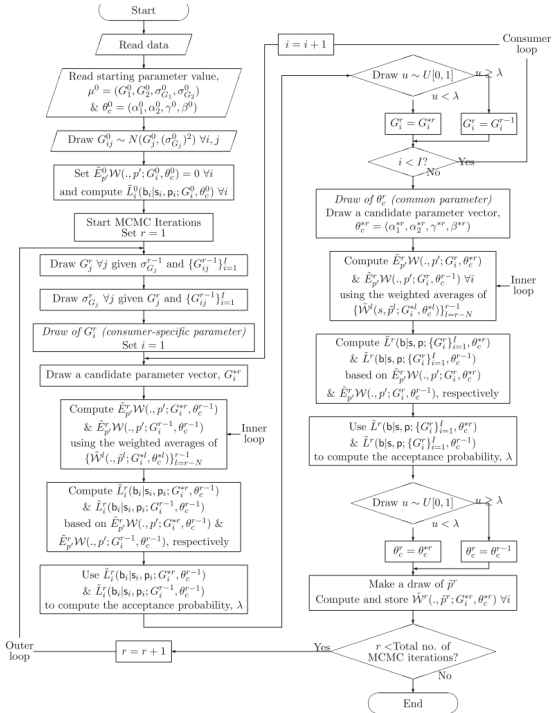
# Statistical properties

- Theorem 1:  $\hat{E}^t[V] \xrightarrow{P} E[V]$  uniformly over  $s, \theta$ , as  $t \rightarrow \infty$
- Theorem 2:  $\theta^{(t)} \xrightarrow{P} \tilde{\theta}^{(t)}$  where  $\tilde{\theta}^{(t)}$  is Markov chain generated by usual Metropolis-Hastings



## Extensions

- Continuous  $s$ : draw  $s^t$  along with  $\epsilon^t$ , add importance weights to  $\hat{E}^t$
- Unobserved heterogeneity: Metropolis draws for each  $i$ , Gibbs updating for hyperparameters
- **Norets (2009)**: uses nearest-neighbor instead of kernel approximation to  $V$ 
  - Incorporates serially correlated unobservables
  - Argues more computationally efficient and also applicable to more general model specifications



## Applied papers

- Ishihara and Ching (2012): dynamic demand
- Toubia and Stephen (2013): contributing to Twitter

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