

Semiparametric Estimation of Partially Varying-Coefficient Dynamic Panel Data Models*

Zongwu Cai^{a,b}, Linna Chen^b, and Ying Fang^b

^aDepartment of Mathematics & Statistics, University of North Carolina at Charlotte,
Charlotte, NC 28223, USA

^bWang Yanan Institute for Studies in Economics, MOE Key Laboratory of Econometrics, and
Fujian Key Laboratory of Statistical Science, Xiamen University, Xiamen, Fujian 361005, China

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Abstract

This paper studies a new class of semiparametric dynamic panel data models, in which some coefficients are allowed to depend on some informative variables and some regressors can be endogenous. To estimate both parametric and nonparametric coefficients, a three-stage semiparametric estimation method is proposed. The nonparametric GMM is proposed to estimate all coefficients firstly and the average method is used to obtain the root-N consistent estimator of parametric coefficients. At the last stage, the estimator of varying coefficients is obtained by plugging the parametric estimator into the model. The consistency and asymptotic normality of both estimators are derived, and furthermore, the efficient estimation of parametric coefficients is discussed. Monte Carlo simulations verify the theoretical results and demonstrate that our estimators work well even in a finite sample.

Keywords: Dynamic Panel Data; Efficient Estimation; Semiparametric Models; Varying Coefficients;

1 Introduction

Dynamic panel data models have received a lot of attentions among both theoretical and empirical economists since the seminal work of Balestra and Nerlove (1966). Based on the early work by Anderson and Hsiao (1981, 1982), there is a rich literature on using the generalized method of moments (GMM) to estimate the dynamic panel data model and discuss the efficiency of the estimation. For example, Holtz-Eakin, Newey and Rosen (1988) considered the estimation of vector autoregressions with the panel data model, Arellano and Bond (1991), Arellano and Bover (1995), Ahn and Schmidt (1995), Hahn (1997, 1999) and among others discussed how to utilize additional instruments to improve the efficiency of GMM estimation. Dynamic panel data models have been widely applied to various empirical studies as well. For example, Baltagi and Levin (1986) estimated the dynamic demand for addictive commodities, Islam (1995) used dynamic panel data approach to study growth empirics, and Park, Sickles and Simar (2007) employed dynamic panel data to analyze the demand between city pairs for some airlines. More references can be found in Arellano (2003), Hsiao (2003) and Baltagi (2005).

It is well known, however, that the aforementioned parametric dynamic panel data models are unable to accommodate sufficient flexibility to catch nonlinear structure and always suffer from the model misspecification problem. To deal with this misspecification issue, various nonparametric and semiparametric panel data models have been proposed. For example, Horowitz and Markatou (1996), Li, Huang, Li and Fu (2002) and Su and Ullah (2006) studied semiparametric estimation of a partially linear panel data model without endogenous regressors. Hoover, Rice, Wu and Yang (1998) considered a smoothing spline and a local polynomial estimation for time-varying coefficient panel data models. Lin and Ying (2001) and Lin and Carroll (2001, 2006) examined the semiparametric estimation of a panel data model with random effects. Henderson, Carroll and Li (2008) considered a partially linear panel data model with fixed effects and proposed a consistent estimator based on iterative backfitting procedures and an initial estimator. Finally, Qian and Wang (2011) proposed a marginal integration method to estimate the nonparametric part in a semiparametric panel data with unobserved individual effects.

Recently, some studies have extended the semiparametric estimation from static to dynamic pan-

els. For example, Li and Stengos (1996), Li and Ullah (1998) and Baltagi and Li (2002) considered semiparametric estimation of partially linear dynamic panel data models using instrumental variable methods. Park, Sickles and Simar (2007) focused on constructing a semiparametric efficient estimator in a dynamic panel data model. They considered a linear dynamic panel data model assuming that the error terms are generating from a normal distribution but specifying other parametric distributions nonparametrically. An efficient estimator was established based on stochastic expansion. However, they ignored the endogenous problem in a dynamic panel data model by assuming all the error terms and the random effect are independent of regressors. Recently, Cai and Li (2008) proposed a nonparametric GMM estimation of varying-coefficient dynamic panel data models to deal with the potential endogeneity issue. Varying-coefficient models are well known in the statistic literature and also have a lot of applications in economics and finance (Hastie and Tibshirani, 1993; Cai, Fan and Yao, 2000; Cai, Das, Xiong and Wu, 2006; Cai and Hong, 2009; Cai, Gu and Li, 2009; Cai, Chen and Fang, 2011; among others); see Cai (2010) for more details in applications in economics and finance. One of the main advantages of the varying-coefficient models is to allow the coefficients to depend on some informative variables and then balance the dimension reduction and model flexibility.

In this paper, we consider a new class of partially varying-coefficient dynamic models. It allows for linearity in some regressors but for nonlinearity in other regressors. In other words, some coefficients are constant but others are varying over some variables. The new class model is flexible enough to include most existing models as special cases. By extending from Cai and Li (2008) to a partially varying-coefficient model, we reduce the model dimension but without influencing the degree of the model flexibility, and furthermore, root-N consistent estimation of parametric coefficients can be achieved. We propose a three-stage estimation procedure to estimate the constant and varying coefficients. At the first stage, all coefficients are treated as varying coefficients and then the nonparametric GMM proposed by Cai and Li (2008) is adopted. At the second stage, the constant coefficients are estimated by the average method and the root-N consistency and asymptotic normality of the estimators are derived. Finally, the estimators at the second stage are plugged into the original model and then the estimators of varying coefficients are obtained by

employing the nonparametric GMM again. The partially varying-coefficient panel data model can be applied to various empirical applications. For example, Lin, Huang and Weng (2006) and Zhou and Li (2011) employed a special case of the partially varying-coefficient models to investigate the so called Kuznet's hypothesis which claims an inverted-U relation between inequality and economic development.

Compared to the existing literature, our three-stage estimation has following merits. Firstly, in the existing literature, it is common to adopt the Robinson's (1988) framework to estimate a semi-parametric panel data model with endogeneity. When endogenous variables appear in the model, a two-stage estimation is required, where a high dimensional nonparametric estimation, in which the dimension depends on the number of excluded instruments and included exogenous variables, is usually employed at the first stage and then an instrumental variable regression is adopted using first-stage nonparametric estimators as generated regressors. However, the nonparametric GMM adopted in this paper only requires an one-step relatively low dimensional estimation. The dimension of the estimation depends on the number of smoothing variables rather than the included and excluded exogenous variables. Since the nonparametric GMM is adopted at the first stage, some popular semiparametric estimation methods, such as Robinson's (1988) method and profile least squares method, cannot be applied here to estimate the parametric part. Instead, we propose the average method by taking average of all local estimates to obtain the root-N consistent estimation of parametric coefficients, and furthermore, we also address the efficient issue in estimating the parametric coefficients using the generalized weighted average method. Finally, varying coefficients can be estimated by applying the low dimensional nonparametric GMM using the root-N consistent estimators as generated regressors.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 introduces the model and estimation method. We derive the asymptotic results of the proposed estimators in Section 3. Section 4 reports some Monte Carlo simulations to verify our theoretical results and demonstrates the finite sample performance of our estimators. All technical proofs are relegated to Appendix.

2 The Model and Estimation Procedures

This paper considers a new class of partially varying coefficient (dynamic) panel data as follows:

$$Y_{it} = \mathbf{X}'_{it,1}\boldsymbol{\gamma} + \mathbf{X}'_{it,2}\boldsymbol{\beta}(U_{it}) + \epsilon_{it}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq N, \quad 1 \leq t \leq T, \quad (1)$$

where Y_{it} is a scalar dependent variable, U_{it} is a scalar smoothing variable,¹ $\mathbf{X}_{it,1}$ and $\mathbf{X}_{it,2}$ are regressors with $d_1 \times 1$ and $d_2 \times 1$ dimensions respectively, $\boldsymbol{\gamma}$ denotes $d_1 \times 1$ constant coefficients and $\boldsymbol{\beta}(\cdot)$ denotes $d_2 \times 1$ varying coefficients, and the random error ϵ_{it} allows to be correlated over periods t but independent over i . We consider a typical panel data model such that N is large but T is relatively short. Moreover, let $\mathbf{X}_{it} = (\mathbf{X}'_{it,1}, \mathbf{X}'_{it,2})'$ with dimension $d \times 1$ where $d = d_1 + d_2$. In particular, in model (1) \mathbf{X}_{it} may contain lagged variables of Y_{it} and endogenous variables correlated with the error term so that the classical dynamic panel model can be regarded as a special case. Also, the above setup is quite flexible to capture complex dynamic structures in real applications in economics. For example, Li and Stengos (1996), Li and Ullah (1999) and Baltagi and Li (2002) considered a special case by assuming that $\mathbf{X}_{it,2}$ only contains a constant term. When $X_{it,2}$ is a discrete value random variable, the above model reduces to Das (2005). Cai and Li (2008) studied a varying-coefficient model by ignoring the parametric part. Many semiparametric varying coefficient literature such as Fan and Huang (2005) and Li, et al. (2006) studied the above model without dealing with the endogeneity issue.

In model (1), an ordinary least squares estimation cannot be applied since the orthogonality condition fails, i.e., $E[\epsilon_{it} | (\mathbf{X}_{it}, U_{it})] \neq 0$. Hence, we assume that there exists a $q \times 1$ vector of instruments \mathbf{W}_{it} that satisfies $E[\epsilon_{it} | (\mathbf{W}_{it}, U_{it})] = 0$.² By choosing an appropriate vector function $Q(\mathbf{V}_{it})$ where $\mathbf{V}_{it} = (\mathbf{W}'_{it}, U_{it})'$, we have the following conditional moment conditions,

$$E[Q(\mathbf{V}_{it})\epsilon_{it} | \mathbf{V}_{it}] = 0. \quad (2)$$

¹For simplicity, we only consider the univariate case for the smoothing variable. The estimation procedure and asymptotic results still hold for the multivariate case with much complicated notation.

²Instruments should be highly correlated to the endogenous variables and uncorrelated to the structural errors. Cai, Fang and Li (2011) and Cai, Fang and Su (2012) studied the instrumental variable estimation using weak instruments in a panel data model. Berkowitz, Caner and Fang (2008, 2011) investigated the impact on estimation and testing when instruments are slightly correlated with random errors.

Instead of using a nonparametric projection of some endogenous components in \mathbf{X}_{it} on $Q(\mathbf{V}_{it})$, we apply the nonparametric GMM (Cai and Li, 2008) to estimate all varying coefficients at the first stage. We treat all coefficients to be varying so that $\boldsymbol{\gamma} = \boldsymbol{\gamma}(U_{it})$ and $\boldsymbol{\beta} = \boldsymbol{\beta}(U_{it})$. We assume throughout that $\boldsymbol{\beta}(\cdot)$ and $\boldsymbol{\gamma}(\cdot)$ are twice continuously differentiable. We apply the local constant approximations to $\boldsymbol{\gamma}(U_{it})$ and $\boldsymbol{\beta}(U_{it})$ (Lewbel, 2007; Fang, Ren and Yuan, 2011), then model (1) is approximated by the following model:

$$Y_{it} \approx \mathbf{X}'_{it}\boldsymbol{\theta} + \epsilon_{it}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq N, \quad 1 \leq t \leq T, \quad (3)$$

where $\boldsymbol{\theta} = \boldsymbol{\theta}(u_0) = (\boldsymbol{\gamma}'(u_0), \boldsymbol{\beta}'(u_0))'$ is a $d \times 1$ vector of parameters. Based on the locally weighted moment conditions $\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbf{Q}_{it}(\mathbf{V}_{it})(Y_{it} - \mathbf{X}'_{it}\boldsymbol{\theta})K_{h_1}(\mathbf{U}_{it} - u_0) = 0$,³ the nonparametric GMM estimator is given by

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(u_0) = (\boldsymbol{\Omega}'_N \boldsymbol{\Omega}_N)^{-1} \boldsymbol{\Omega}'_N \boldsymbol{\Phi}_N, \quad (4)$$

where $\boldsymbol{\Omega}_N = \frac{1}{NT} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbf{Q}_{it} \mathbf{X}'_{it} K_{h_1}(U_{it} - u_0)$ and $\boldsymbol{\Phi}_N = \frac{1}{NT} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbf{Q}_{it} K_{h_1}(U_{it} - u_0) Y_{it}$. We simply choose instruments \mathbf{Q}_{it} to be \mathbf{V}_{it} . Note that we require $q \geq d$ to satisfy the identification condition, and also that $K_{h_1}(\cdot) = h_1^{-1} K(\cdot/h_1)$ and $K(\cdot)$ is a kernel function with the bandwidth $h_1 = h_{1N} > 0$ which controls the degree of smoothing used in the nonparametric GMM estimation.

At the second stage, in order to take advantage of the full sample information to estimate the constant parameters $\boldsymbol{\gamma}$, we employ the average method to achieve the root-N consistent estimator of $\boldsymbol{\gamma}$:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\gamma}} = \frac{1}{NT} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T \hat{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}(U_{it}). \quad (5)$$

The $\hat{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}(U_{it})$ is the first d_1 components in $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$. In the next section, a more efficient estimator of $\boldsymbol{\gamma}$ is given by using the generalized weighted average method.

The last step is to estimate the nonparametric part, the functional coefficients $\boldsymbol{\beta}(U_{it})$, by plugging the $\hat{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}$ into model (1). Define a partial residual $Y_{it}^* = Y_{it} - \mathbf{X}'_{it,1} \hat{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}$. Hence, model (1) can be approximated by

$$Y_{it}^* \approx \mathbf{P}'_{it} \boldsymbol{\delta} + \epsilon_{it}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq N, \quad 1 \leq t \leq T, \quad (6)$$

³To obtain a unique $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ satisfying the above moment condition, we follow Cai and Li (2008) by pre-multiplying it by $\boldsymbol{\Omega}'_N$.

where $\boldsymbol{\delta} = \boldsymbol{\delta}(u_0) = (\boldsymbol{\beta}'(u_0), \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}'(u_0))'$, $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}(\cdot)$ denotes the first order derivatives of $\boldsymbol{\beta}(\cdot)$ with respect to U_{it} , and $\mathbf{P}_{it} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{X}_{it,2} \\ \mathbf{X}_{it,2} \otimes (U_{it} - u_0) \end{pmatrix}$ is a $(2d_2) \times 1$ vector. Hence, the nonparametric GMM estimator of the varying coefficients are given by

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\delta}} = \hat{\boldsymbol{\delta}}(u_0) = (\mathbf{S}'_N \mathbf{S}_N)^{-1} \mathbf{S}'_N \mathbf{T}_N, \quad (7)$$

where $\mathbf{S}_N = \frac{1}{NT} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbf{Q}_{it} \mathbf{P}'_{it} K_{h_2}(U_{it} - u_0)$ and $\mathbf{T}_N = \frac{1}{NT} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbf{Q}_{it} K_{h_2}(U_{it} - u_0) Y_{it}^*$ with $K_{h_2}(\cdot) = h_2^{-1} K(\cdot/h_2)$ and the bandwidth $h_2 = h_{2N} > 0$. Motivated by local linear fitting, a simple choice of \mathbf{Q}_{it} suggested by Cai and Li (2008) is a $(2q) \times 1$ vector

$$\mathbf{Q}_{it} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{W}_{it} \\ \mathbf{W}_{it} \otimes (U_{it} - u_0)/h_2 \end{pmatrix},$$

which is used at the last stage.

3 Asymptotic Theories

3.1 Asymptotic Properties

In this section, we will derive the asymptotic results of both estimators $\hat{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}$ and $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}(u_0)$. The detailed proofs are relegated to Appendices. Firstly, we give some notations and definitions which will be used in the rest of the paper. Denote $\mu_j = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u^j K(u) du$ and $\nu_j = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u^j K^2(u) du$ with $j \geq 0$. Let $\sigma^2(\mathbf{v}) = \text{Var}(\epsilon_{it} | \mathbf{V}_{it} = \mathbf{v})$, $\boldsymbol{\Omega} = \boldsymbol{\Omega}(u_0) = E(\mathbf{V}_{it} \mathbf{X}'_{it} | u_0)$, $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\Omega}} = \tilde{\boldsymbol{\Omega}}(u_0) = E(\mathbf{W}_{it} \mathbf{X}'_{it,2} | u_0)$, $\boldsymbol{\Phi} = \boldsymbol{\Phi}(u_0) = \text{Var}(\mathbf{V}_{it} \epsilon_{it} | u_0)$, $\sigma_{1t}(\mathbf{V}_{i1}, \mathbf{V}_{it}) = E(\epsilon_{i1} \epsilon_{it} | \mathbf{V}_{i1}, \mathbf{V}_{it})$, and $\mathbf{G}_{1t}(U_{i1}, U_{it}) = E\{\mathbf{V}_{i1} \mathbf{V}'_{it} \sigma_{1t} | U_{i1}, U_{it}\}$. Note that $\mathbf{G}_{1t}(U_{i1}, U_{it}) = E\{\mathbf{V}_{i1} \mathbf{V}'_{it} \epsilon_{i1} \epsilon_{it} | U_{i1}, U_{it}\}$. Moreover, Define $\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{S}(u_0) = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{\boldsymbol{\Omega}} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mu_2 \tilde{\boldsymbol{\Omega}} \end{pmatrix}$. Next, note that $\boldsymbol{\Phi}_N = \boldsymbol{\Omega}_N \boldsymbol{\theta} + \boldsymbol{\Phi}_N^* + \boldsymbol{\Psi}_N + \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_N$, where

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{\Phi}_N^* &= \frac{1}{NT} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T K_{h_1}(U_{it} - u_0) \mathbf{Q}_{it} \epsilon_{it}, \\ \boldsymbol{\Psi}_N &= \frac{1}{NT} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T K_{h_1}(U_{it} - u_0) \mathbf{Q}_{it} \sum_{j=1}^d \psi_j(U_{it}, u_0) X_{itj}, \\ \text{and } \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_N &= \frac{1}{NT} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T K_{h_1}(U_{it} - u_0) \mathbf{Q}_{it} \sum_{j=1}^d \Lambda_j(U_{it}, u_0) X_{itj} \end{aligned}$$

with $\psi_j(U_{it}, u_0) = \dot{\theta}_j(u_0)(U_{it} - u_0) + \frac{1}{2}\ddot{\theta}_j(u_0)(U_{it} - u_0)^2$ and $\Lambda_j(U_{it}, u_0) = \theta_j(U_{it}) - \theta_j(u_0) - \dot{\theta}_j(u_0)(U_{it} - u_0) - \frac{1}{2}\ddot{\theta}_j(u_0)(U_{it} - u_0)^2$. Substituting it into (4), we have

$$(\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} - \boldsymbol{\theta}) - (\boldsymbol{\Omega}'_N \boldsymbol{\Omega}_N)^{-1} \boldsymbol{\Omega}'_N \boldsymbol{\Psi}_N - (\boldsymbol{\Omega}'_N \boldsymbol{\Omega}_N)^{-1} \boldsymbol{\Omega}'_N \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_N = (\boldsymbol{\Omega}'_N \boldsymbol{\Omega}_N)^{-1} \boldsymbol{\Omega}'_N \boldsymbol{\Phi}_N^*. \quad (8)$$

We will show that the second term on the left side determines the bias, the last term on the left can be asymptotically ignored, and the term on the right follows the asymptotic normality.

To establish the asymptotic results for the proposed estimators, following assumptions are needed although they might not be the weakest possible.

A1. $\{(\mathbf{W}_{it}, \mathbf{X}_{it}, Y_{it}, U_{it}, \epsilon_{it})\}$ are independent and identically distributed across the i index for each fixed t and strictly stationary over t for each fixed i , $E\|\mathbf{W}_{it}\mathbf{X}'_{it}\|^2 < \infty$, $E\|\mathbf{W}_{it}\mathbf{W}'_{it}\|^2 < \infty$, $E(\epsilon_{it}) = 0$, and $E|\epsilon_{it}|^2 \ll \infty$, where $\|\cdot\|^2$ is the standard L_2 -norm for a finite-dimensional matrix.

A2. For each $t \geq 1$, $\mathbf{G}_{1t}(U_{i1}, U_{it})$ is continuous at (U_{i1}, U_{it}) . Also, for each u_0 , $\boldsymbol{\Omega}(u_0) > 0$ and $f(u_0) > 0$, which is continuous density function at u_0 . Further, $\sup_{t \geq 1} |\mathbf{G}_{1t}(u_0, u_0)f(u_0)| \leq \mathbf{M}(u_0) < \infty$ for some function $\mathbf{M}(u_0)$. Finally, $\boldsymbol{\beta}(u_0)$ and $f(u_0)$ are both two times continuously differentiable in $u \in (u_0 - h_N, u_0 + h_N)$ which is the neighborhood of u_0 .

A3. The kernel function $K(\cdot)$ is a symmetric, bounded density with a bounded support region.

A4. The instrumental variable \mathbf{V}_{it} satisfies the instrument exogeneity condition such as $E(\epsilon_{it}|\mathbf{V}_{it}) = 0$.

A5. $h_1 \rightarrow 0$, $h_2 \rightarrow 0$, $Nh_1 \rightarrow \infty$ and $Nh_2 \rightarrow \infty$ as $N \rightarrow \infty$. Furthermore, $h_1 = o_p(h_2)$.

To derive the asymptotic properties for $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$ and $\hat{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}$, we need the following preliminary results.

Proposition 1. Under Assumptions A1-A5, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (i) \quad & \boldsymbol{\Omega}_N = f(u_0)\boldsymbol{\Omega}[1 + o_p(1)], \\ (ii) \quad & \boldsymbol{\Psi}_N = \frac{h_1^2}{2}f(u_0)\mu_2[2(\dot{\boldsymbol{\Omega}} + \boldsymbol{\Omega}\frac{\dot{f}(u_0)}{f(u_0)})\dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + \boldsymbol{\Omega}\ddot{\boldsymbol{\theta}}] + o_p(h_1^2), \\ (iii) \quad & \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_N = o_p(h_1^2), \\ (iv) \quad & Nh_1\text{Var}(\boldsymbol{\Phi}_N^*) \rightarrow \frac{1}{T}f(u_0)\boldsymbol{\Phi} + \frac{2}{T^2}f(u_0)\sum_{t=2}^T(T-t+1)\mathbf{G}_{1t}(u_0, u_0) \equiv f(u_0)\boldsymbol{\Theta}_1. \end{aligned}$$

Clearly, by Proposition 1 and (8), we can obtain

$$(\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} - \boldsymbol{\theta}) - bias_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = f^{-1}(u_0)(\boldsymbol{\Omega}'\boldsymbol{\Omega})^{-1}\boldsymbol{\Omega}'\boldsymbol{\Phi}_N^*[1 + o_p(1)] \quad (9)$$

where $bias_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = \frac{h_1^2}{2}f(u_0)\mu_2[2((\boldsymbol{\Omega}'\boldsymbol{\Omega})^{-1}\boldsymbol{\Omega}'\dot{\boldsymbol{\Omega}} + \frac{\dot{f}(u_0)}{f(u_0)}\dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + \ddot{\boldsymbol{\theta}})] + o_p(h_1^2)$. The next two theorems demonstrate the consistency and asymptotic normality of $\hat{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}$, respectively.

THEOREM 1. Under Assumptions A1-A5, we have

$$(\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} - \boldsymbol{\theta}) - bias_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = o_p(h_1^2) + O_p\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{Nh_1}}\right), \quad (10)$$

which implies the consistency of $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$.

Remark 1: As defined earlier, $\boldsymbol{\theta} = \boldsymbol{\theta}(u_0) = (\boldsymbol{\gamma}'(u_0), \boldsymbol{\beta}'(u_0))'$ so that $\hat{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}$ is the first d_1 component in $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$. Thus, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\boldsymbol{\gamma}} - \boldsymbol{\gamma} &= \frac{1}{NT} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T e'_1 [(\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(U_{it}) - \boldsymbol{\theta}(U_{it})) - bias_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}] + O_p\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{NT} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T [\hat{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}(U_{it}) - \boldsymbol{\gamma}(U_{it}) - bias_{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}(u_0)] + O_p\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}\right), \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

where the selection matrix $e'_1 = (\mathbf{I}_{d_1}, \mathbf{0}_{d_1 \times d_2})$ and $bias_{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}(u_0) = h_1^2 f(u_0) \mu_2 (\boldsymbol{\Omega}'\boldsymbol{\Omega})^{-1} \boldsymbol{\Omega}' \dot{\boldsymbol{\Omega}} \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}} + o_p(h_1^2)$. It is worth to mention that the asymptotic variance has been smoothed out due to the average method.

THEOREM 2. Under Assumptions A1-A5, we have

$$\sqrt{N}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\gamma}} - \boldsymbol{\gamma} - bias_{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}) \xrightarrow{D} N(0, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}), \quad (12)$$

where $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\boldsymbol{\gamma}} = E\{e'_1[\frac{1}{T}\mathbf{D}(U_{i1})\boldsymbol{\Phi}(U_{i1})\mathbf{D}'(U_{i1}) + \frac{2}{T^2}\sum_{t=1}^T(T-t+1)\mathbf{D}(U_{i1})\mathbf{G}_{1t}(U_{i1}, U_{it})\mathbf{D}'(U_{it})]e_1\}$ with $\mathbf{D}(U_{it}) = (\boldsymbol{\Omega}'(U_{it})\boldsymbol{\Omega}(U_{it}))^{-1}\boldsymbol{\Omega}'(U_{it})$ and $bias_{\boldsymbol{\gamma}} = E[bias_{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}(U_{it})]$.

Remark 2: As $Nh_1^4 \rightarrow 0$, the bias term in the above theorem shrinks toward zero, which implies that we need to under-smooth at the first step to reduce the influence of the bias term that may be brought to the second step, while in the meantime, the variance can be smoothed out by using the average method.

Finally, we focus on the nonparametric estimation of $\boldsymbol{\beta}(u_0)$. Similar to the decomposition of $\boldsymbol{\Phi}_N$, we have $\mathbf{T}_N = \tilde{\mathbf{S}}_N \mathbf{H} \boldsymbol{\delta} + \mathbf{T}_N^* + \mathbf{B}_N + \mathbf{R}_N$ and

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{T}_N^* &= \frac{1}{NT} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T K_{h_2}(U_{it} - u_0) \mathbf{Q}_{it} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{it}, \\ \mathbf{B}_N &= \frac{1}{NT} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T K_{h_2}(U_{it} - u_0) \mathbf{Q}_{it} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{d_2} \ddot{\beta}_j(u_0) (U_{it} - u_0)^2 X_{it,2j}, \\ \text{and } \mathbf{R}_N &= \frac{1}{NT} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T K_{h_2}(U_{it} - u_0) \mathbf{Q}_{it} \sum_{j=1}^{d_2} R_j(U_{it}, u_0) X_{it,2j}\end{aligned}$$

where $R_j(U_{it}, u_0) = \beta_j(U_{it}) - a_j - b_j(U_{it} - u_0) - \frac{1}{2} \ddot{\beta}_j(u_0) (U_{it} - u_0)^2$. Hence,

$$\mathbf{H}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\delta}} - \boldsymbol{\delta}) - [\tilde{\mathbf{S}}_N' \tilde{\mathbf{S}}_N]^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{S}}_N' \mathbf{B}_N - [\tilde{\mathbf{S}}_N' \tilde{\mathbf{S}}_N]^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{S}}_N' \mathbf{R}_N = [\tilde{\mathbf{S}}_N' \tilde{\mathbf{S}}_N]^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{S}}_N' \mathbf{T}_N^*. \quad (13)$$

where $\mathbf{H} = (\mathbf{I}_{d_2}, h_2 \mathbf{I}_{d_2})$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{S}}_N = \mathbf{S}_N \mathbf{H}^{-1} = \frac{1}{NT} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbf{Q}_{it} \tilde{\mathbf{P}}_{it}' K_{h_2}(U_{it} - u_0)$ with $\tilde{\mathbf{P}}_{it} = \mathbf{H}^{-1} \mathbf{P}_{it}$. Similar to Proposition 1, we have the following preliminary results.

Proposition 2. Under Assumptions A1-A5, we have

- (i) $\tilde{\mathbf{S}}_N = f(u_0) \mathbf{S} [1 + o_p(1)]$,
- (ii) $\mathbf{B}_N = \frac{h_2^2}{2} f(u_0) \begin{pmatrix} \mu_2 \tilde{\boldsymbol{\Omega}} \ddot{\boldsymbol{\beta}} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix} + o_p(h_2^2)$,
- (iii) $\mathbf{R}_N = o_p(h_2^2)$,
- (iv) $Nh_2 \text{Var}(\mathbf{T}_N^*) \rightarrow \frac{1}{T} f(u_0) \mathbf{S}^* + \frac{2}{T^2} f(u_0) \sum_{t=2}^T (T-t+1) \mathbf{G}_{1t}^*(u_0, u_0) \equiv f(u_0) \boldsymbol{\Theta}_2$,

where $e_2' = (\mathbf{I}_q, \mathbf{0}_{q \times 1})$ is a selecting matrix, $\mathbf{S}^* = \mathbf{S}^*(u_0) = \begin{pmatrix} \nu_0 e_2' \boldsymbol{\Phi} e_2 & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \nu_2 e_2' \boldsymbol{\Phi} e_2 \end{pmatrix}$, and $\mathbf{G}_{1t}^* =$

$$\mathbf{G}_{1t}^*(u_0, u_0) = \begin{pmatrix} \nu_0 e_2' \mathbf{G}_{1t}(u_0, u_0) e_2 & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \nu_2 e_2' \mathbf{G}_{1t}(u_0, u_0) e_2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

By Proposition 2 and (12), we can obtain

$$\mathbf{H}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\delta}} - \boldsymbol{\delta}) - \frac{h_2^2}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \mu_2 \ddot{\boldsymbol{\beta}} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix} + o_p(h_2^2) = f^{-1}(u_0) (\mathbf{S}' \mathbf{S})^{-1} \mathbf{S}' \mathbf{T}_N^* [1 + o_p(1)]. \quad (14)$$

The next two theorems depict the consistency and asymptotic normality of $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}(u_0)$, respectively.

THEOREM 3. Under Assumptions A1-A5, we have

$$\mathbf{H} \begin{pmatrix} \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} - \boldsymbol{\beta} \\ \hat{\dot{\boldsymbol{\beta}}} - \dot{\boldsymbol{\beta}} \end{pmatrix} - \frac{h_2^2}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \mu_2 \ddot{\boldsymbol{\beta}} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix} = o_p(h_2^2) + O_p\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}h_2}\right). \quad (15)$$

Also, we have the following asymptotic normality,

$$\sqrt{N}h_2 \left[\mathbf{H} \begin{pmatrix} \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} - \boldsymbol{\beta} \\ \hat{\dot{\boldsymbol{\beta}}} - \dot{\boldsymbol{\beta}} \end{pmatrix} - \frac{h_2^2}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \mu_2 \ddot{\boldsymbol{\beta}} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix} + o_p(h_2^2) \right] \xrightarrow{D} N(0, f^{-1}(u_0)\boldsymbol{\Theta}_2), \quad (16)$$

where $\boldsymbol{\Theta}_2$ is defined in Proposition 2.

3.2 Efficiency Issue

To estimate the parameter $\boldsymbol{\gamma}$ without being overly influenced by the tail behavior of the distribution of U_{it} , one might use a trimming function $w_i = I(U_{it} \in \mathbb{D})$ with a compact subset \mathbb{D} of \mathbb{R} ; see Cai and Masry (2000) for details. Then, a weighted average estimator is defined by

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}_w = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T w_i \hat{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}(U_{it})}{\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T w_i}. \quad (17)$$

By following the same proofs as used in proving Theorems 1 and 2, it is not difficult to establish the asymptotic properties for $\hat{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}_w$ and the detailed proof is omitted.

Clearly, either the average estimate $\hat{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}$ in (5) or its trimmed version $\hat{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}_w$ in (17) might not be efficient. To address the efficient issue, following Cai and Xiong (2011), we can apply a general weighted average approach to improve the efficiency of the estimation of $\boldsymbol{\gamma}$. Note that a generalized weighted average estimator of $\boldsymbol{\gamma}$ using a weighting function $\Delta(\cdot)$ is given by

$$\check{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}_\Delta = \left[\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T \Delta(U_{it}) \right]^{-1} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T \Delta(U_{it}) \hat{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}(U_{it}) \right], \quad (18)$$

where $\Delta(\cdot)$ is a weighting function (a symmetric matrix). Appropriately selecting the weighting function can significantly affect the variance but not the bias of the resulting estimator $\check{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}_\Delta$. This enables us to obtain an optimal estimator of $\boldsymbol{\gamma}$ by selecting bandwidths and weighting functions through minimizing the asymptotic MSE. In the meantime, the trimming function w_i in (17) can still be applied to (18) too. Following a similar arguments in the proof of Theorem 2, it is

straightforward to show that the weighted average estimator of $\boldsymbol{\gamma}$, $\check{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}_\Delta$, defined in (18) has the following asymptotic variance-covariance matrix:

$$\begin{aligned}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\boldsymbol{\gamma},\Delta} &= [E\Delta(U_{it})]^{-1}E\{\Delta(U_{it})e_1'[\frac{1}{T}\mathbf{D}(U_{i1})\boldsymbol{\Phi}(U_{i1})\mathbf{D}'(U_{i1}) \\ &\quad + \frac{2}{T^2}\sum_{t=1}^T(T-t+1)\mathbf{D}(U_{i1})\mathbf{G}_{1t}(U_{i1},U_{it})\mathbf{D}'(U_{it})]e_1\Delta(U_{it})\}[E\Delta(U_{it})]^{-1} \\ &= [E\Delta(U_{it})]^{-1}E[\Delta(U_{it})\Delta_0(U_{it})\Delta(U_{it})][E\Delta(U_{it})]^{-1},\end{aligned}$$

where $\Delta_0(U_{it}) = E\{e_1'[\frac{1}{T}\mathbf{D}(U_{i1})\boldsymbol{\Phi}(U_{i1})\mathbf{D}'(U_{i1}) + \frac{2}{T^2}\sum_{t=1}^T(T-t+1)\mathbf{D}(U_{i1})\mathbf{G}_{1t}(U_{i1},U_{it})\mathbf{D}'(U_{it})]e_1|U_{it}\}$.

Thus, the optimal choice of the weighting function is obtained by setting $\Delta_{opt}(U_{it}) = [\Delta_0(U_{it})]^{-1}$, and as a result, the optimal asymptotic variance is given by $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\boldsymbol{\gamma},opt}(U_{it}) = [E\Delta_0^{-1}(U_{it})]^{-1}$. Hence, we can use the following estimated weighting function

$$\hat{\Delta}_{opt}(U_{it}) = [\hat{\Delta}_0(U_{it})]^{-1}.$$

To obtain a feasible estimator, we follow the method proposed in Cai and Fan (2000) and Cai and Xiong (2011). The idea is as follows: divide the sample into a relatively small (first) subsample and a relatively large (second) subsample. $\hat{\Delta}_0(U_{it})$ can be consistently estimated based on the first subsample, and then $\hat{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}(U_{it})$ can be estimated using the second subsample. This shows that the optimal variance can be achieved, at least theoretically.

4 Monte Carlo Simulations

In this section, Monte Carlo simulations are conducted to verify theoretical results in Section 3 and demonstrate the finite sample performance of both estimators. The mean absolute deviation errors (MADE) of the estimators are computed to measure the estimation performance. The MADE is defined by

$$\text{MADE}_j = \frac{1}{G} \sum_{i=g}^G |\hat{\delta}_j(U_g) - \delta_j(u_g)|.$$

where $\delta(\cdot)$ is either γ_Y , γ_Z or $\beta(\cdot)$ in (19) and $\{u_g\}_{g=1}^G$ are the grid points within the domain of U_{it} . Note that for both γ_Y and γ_Z , their MADE becomes the absolute deviation error (ADE).

We consider the following data generating process:

$$Y_{it} = Y_{it-1}\gamma_Y + Z_{it}\gamma_Z + \tilde{X}_{it}\beta(U_{it}) + \epsilon_{it}, \quad \tilde{X}_{it} = W_{it} + \eta_{it}, \quad (19)$$

where the smoothing variable U_{it} and the exogenous variable Z_{it} are generated from uniform distributions $U(-3, 3)$ and $U(-2, 2)$, respectively. The excluded instruments W_{it} is generated independently from a uniform distribution $U(-2, 2)$. The error terms ϵ_{it} and η_{it} are generated jointly from a standard bivariate normal distribution with the correlation coefficient 0.3. The coefficients are set by $\gamma_Y = 0.5$, $\gamma_Z = 3$ and $\beta(U_{it}) = 1.5e^{-U_{it}^2}$. We fix $T = 10$ and let $N = 200, 500$ and 1000 respectively. When generating the series of Y_{it} , we set the initial value to be zero and drop the first 100 observations to reduce the impact of initial values. For a given sample size, we repeat 500 times to calculate the MADE. The bandwidth in the first step is undersmoothed and we find the estimation of γ is not very sensitive to the bandwidth selection when it is chosen within a reasonable range.

Table 1 reports the medians and the standard deviations (in parentheses) of the MADE for different estimators under different sample sizes. When the sample size increases, the medians of ADE values for $\hat{\gamma}_Y$ and $\hat{\gamma}_Z$ shrink from 0.004 to 0.001 and from 0.016 to 0.006, respectively. The standard deviations also shrink quickly when the sample size is enlarged. For $\hat{\gamma}_Y$, the standard deviation shrinks from 0.003 to 0.001, and for $\hat{\gamma}_Z$, it decreases from 0.012 to 0.005. The nonparametric estimator of $\beta(\cdot)$ shows similar results. The median of the MADE values decreases from 0.076 to 0.030 when the sample size increases from 200 to 1000. At the same time, the standard deviation of the estimator also shrinks from 0.014 to 0.006. Compared to parametric estimations in Columns 2 and 3, the convergence speed of nonparametric estimator is relatively slow. All results show that the estimators proposed in the paper are consistent estimators and all outcomes in the simulations are consistent to the theoretical results in the previous section.

Figure 1 demonstrates the estimated curve of $\beta(\cdot)$ with a sample size $N = 500$ for a typical sample. The typical example is chosen such that its MADE_β value equals to the median of the 500 MADE_β values in the repeated experiments of the case $N = 500$. The solid line represents the true curve and the dotted line denotes the estimated one. Figure 1 shows that the nonparametric GMM estimation works very well even in a small sample.

Table 1: Median and standard deviation of the MADE values.

N	γ_Y	γ_Z	$\beta(\cdot)$
200	0.004144002 (0.003479078)	0.01629416 (0.01242114)	0.0768469 (0.01431995)
500	0.002379212 (0.002281685)	0.009720373 (0.008604812)	0.04487873 (0.00858833)
1000	0.001707388 (0.001506411)	0.006097411 (0.005766932)	0.03057437 (0.006049484)

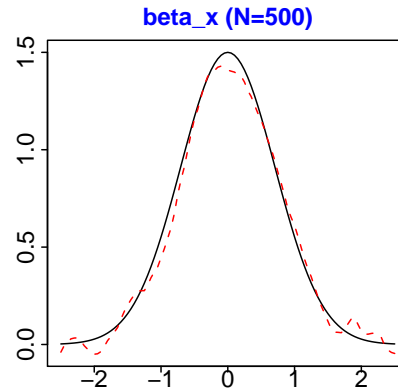


Figure 1: Functional Coefficient of $\beta(\cdot)$. The solid line represents the true curve and the dotted line denotes the estimated one.

5 Reference

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