

Partial Identification in Nonseparable Binary Response Models with Endogenous Regressors

Jiaying Gu*

University of Toronto

Thomas M. Russell†

Carleton University

January 7, 2022

Abstract

This paper considers (partial) identification of a variety of counterfactual parameters in binary response models with possibly endogenous regressors. Our framework allows for nonseparable index functions with multi-dimensional latent variables, and does not require parametric distributional assumptions. We leverage results on hyperplane arrangements and cell enumeration from the literature on computational geometry in order to provide a tractable means of computing the identified set. We demonstrate how various functional form, independence, and monotonicity assumptions can be imposed as constraints in our optimization procedure to tighten the identified set. Finally, we apply our method to study the effects of health insurance on the decision to seek medical treatment.

Keywords: Binary Choice, Counterfactual Probabilities, Endogeneity, Hyperplane Arrangement, Linear Programming, Partial Identification

We are grateful to James Heckman, Marc Henry, Roger Koenker, and to seminar audiences at Columbia University and Michigan State University for helpful feedback. We also thank Martin Weidner and the organizers of the Chamberlain Seminar, and are grateful to Florian Gunsilius, Sukjin Han, Wayne Gao, and Takuya Ura for their questions and feedback, and to Adam Rosen for his thoughtful discussion. Jiaying Gu acknowledges financial support from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. All errors are our own.

*Jiaying Gu, Department of Economics, University of Toronto, 150 St. George Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5S3G7, Canada. Email: jiaying.gu@utoronto.ca.

†Thomas M. Russell, Department of Economics, Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, K1S5B6, Canada. Email: thomas.russell3@carleton.ca.