Frontier Topics in Empirical Economics: Week 6 IV beyond LATE

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- We have introduced the LATE interpretation of IV
- This is the most popular way to think of IV under heterogeneous treatment effect
- It is elegant, policy-relevant, but also limited (Heckman and Vytlacil, 2007a,b)
 - It relies on single binary treatment and single binary IVV
 - It is internally valid, but not externally valid.
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- In this lecture, we are going to do two things
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- To generalize LATE interpretation in its original framework
- Second, we introduce a more general framework with better external validity:
 Marginal Treatment Effect (MTE)
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- Choice model is intrinsically nested in IV
- When you consider always-taker, complier, never-taker
- You are thinking about these people's choices under different policy shocks
- This choice structure is not fully utilized in pure design-based approach
- It can definitely help you when data is not enough to identify the effection
- The whole point of this lecture is to discuss how to use choice model and economic theory to regularize IV
- An interaction between design-based approach and structural approach

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- You have already used it in the LATE Theorem: Monotonicity
- The idea of monotonicity comes from assuming treatment is a normal good for everyone
- If the agent chooses something when the price is higher (D(z=0)=1)
- Then he/she will definitely choose it when the price is lower (D(z = 1) = 1)

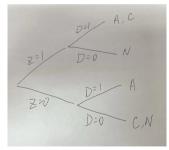
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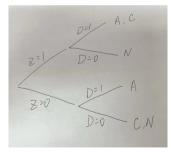
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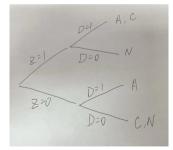
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- Then it gives you $2 \times 2 = 4$ types of people (A,C,N,Def)
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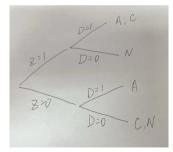
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- We observe four expectations on the LHS, but cannot observe expectations with
- The question boils down to: Can we identify some causal effect using this system
- The answer turns out to be yes
 - With some other conditions like randomization of Z
 - LATE can be inverted from expectation functions
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- First, consider we have multiple binary IV and binary treatment
- We run regressions taking z_1, z_2 as instruments
- **Assuming monotonicity for both** z_1 and z_2
- The corresponding IV estimator can be derived as

$$\rho_{2SLS} = \psi LATE_1 + (1 - \psi) LATE_2$$

- $LATE_1$, $LATE_2$ are LATEs for instrument z_1 and z_2
- $\psi \in (0,1)$, determined by first stage relation
- Larger weight is given to IV with larger first stage powers to IV with larger first stage powers.
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- Second, we consider multivalued treatment and binary IV: Average Causalle Response (ACR)
- Assume that we have treatment $s \in \{0, 1, 2, ..., \bar{s}\}$
- For example, IV is the implementation of a compulsory education law
- Treatment is the education level, which takes multiple values
- We have the following three assumptions
 - * ACR1 Independence: $\{Y_{01}, Y_{21}, ..., Y_{k1}, s_{k1}, s_{k1}\} \perp z_1$
 - E AURZ First stage existence: $E[s_{ij} s_{0i}] \neq 0$
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- ACR3 implicitly requires us to have an "ordered" list of values for treatment

- Second, we consider multivalued treatment and binary IV: Average Causal Response (ACR)
- Assume that we have treatment $s \in \{0, 1, 2, ..., \bar{s}\}$
- For example, IV is the implementation of a compulsory education law
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Under ACR1-3, IV identifies a weighted average of the unit causal response

When ACR1, ACR2, and ACR3 hold, we have:

 $E[Y_1|z_1=1]-E[Y_1|z_1=0]$

 $E[S|A=1] - E[S|A=0] \qquad \qquad \Xi$

where $\omega_s = \frac{P[S_H \ge S>]}{P[S_H \ge S]}$

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Theorem 4.5.3 in Angrist and Pischke (2009)

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- Each dummy represents a specific value of IV
- For example, if z = 0, 1, 2, we have dummies z_1, z_2 as indicators
- $z_1 = 1$ if z = 1; $z_1 = 0$ if z = 0, 2
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- They can be either z = 0 or z = 2
- If we have $D_i(z_i = 0) < D_i(z_i = 1) < D_i(z_i = 2)$
- \blacksquare Then, when z_1 changes from 0 to 1, we have two groups of people:
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Homework

- Actually, in three-value IV, we can decompose it to dummies in another way to avoid the issues above
- Think about this, how to design this dummy decomposition?
- Can this be extrapolated to high levels? (number of values more than three)

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- \blacksquare Thus, monotonicity assumption is not as innocuous as in the 2 imes 2 case
- We need to go to deep choice structure of this assumption: Axiom of Revealed Preference
- In this case, you have to analyze one by one based on your specific context

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WARP Definition 2.F.1 MWG

The Walrasian demand function x(p, w) satisfies the weak axiom of revealed preference if the following holds for any two price wealth situations (p, w), (p', w')

If
$$p \cdot x(p', w') \le w$$
, and $x(p', w') \ne x(p, w)$, then $p' \cdot x(p, w) > w$

- If some optimal bundle in situation B is also feasible but not chosen in situation A, then the optimal bundle in situation A is not feasible in situation B $(x_A \geq_R x_B)$
- This is Weak Axiom of Revealed Preference

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- A stronger version of WARP is SARP
- The market demand function x(a,w) satisfies
- if for any list of $(n^2, w^2) \dots (n^{N^2, w^N})$ with $\times (n^{n+2}, w^{n+2}) \neq \times (n^2, w^n)$ for any
- II for any list of $(p_j,w_j),...,(p_j,w_j)$ for all (p_j,w_j) for all (p_j,w_j) for all (p_j,w_j)
- $n \le N-1$
 - SARP adds transitivity to WARP
 - If $x_N \gtrsim_R x_{N-1}, x_{N-1} \gtrsim_R x_{N-2}...x_2 \gtrsim_R x_1$, we have $x_N \gtrsim_R x_1$
 - Let's go to the example of MTO in Pinto (2015)

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- Moving to Opportunity (MTO) is a housing experiment to encourage low-income families to move to neighborhood with low poverty rate
- There are three policy groups (three values of IV)
 - Control group: No vouchers (2)
 Experimental security Vouchers and an incidental security volumes.
 - neighborhood (z₂)
 - a Section 8 group: Vouchers, available for any housing lease anywhere (z_3)
- There are three choices (three values of treatment)
 - = Not relocating (t=1)
 - = Relocating to a low poverty neighborhood (i = 2)
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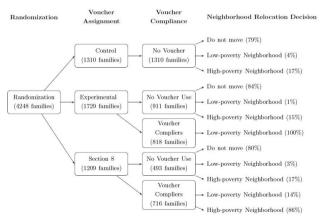
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Figure 1: Neighborhood Relocation by Voucher Assignment and Compliance



- 3 moving decisions under 3 possible vouchers
- Thus, we have 27 types of agents in total: $3^3 = 27$
- Only 9 available equations for observed expectations: $3 \times 3 = 9$
- It is impossible to invert a linear system of 9 equations to identify any causa effect with 27 behavior types
- Generally, if you have n decisions with m IV values: Number of agent types is n^m , number of equations is $n \times m$
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- Let $u_{\omega}(k,t)$ be the utility function of family ω (k consumption, t relocation choice)
- Let $W_{\omega}(z,t)$ be the budget set of family ω under relocation decision $t \in \{1,2,3\}$ and MTO voucher $z \in \{z_1,z_2,z_3\}$
- Let $S_{\omega} = [C_{\omega}(z_1), C_{\omega}(z_2), C_{\omega}(z_3)]$ denote the type of family ω , defined by relocation responses C(z) given different vouchers

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Now we translate three subsidizing rules to budget set:

```
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```

= Section 8 group $(z=z_3)$ subsidies any relocation

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```
W_0(z_1, z) \in W_0(z_2, z) = W_0(z_3, z)
```

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Assumption A-1, A-2 Pinto (2015)

According to the features of MTO, we assume the budget sets satisfy

$$W_{\omega}(z_1, 2) \subsetneq W_{\omega}(z_2, 2) = W_{\omega}(z_3, 2) \tag{1}$$

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- (1): If you choose to relocate to low poverty neighborhood (t = 2), your budget would be higher if you are in Experimental or Section 8 groups
- (2): If you choose to relocate to high poverty neighborhood (t = 3), your budget would be higher if you are in Section 8 group
- (3): If you choose not to relocate, or relocate to places that is not supported by your MTO group, your budget will not change

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- Then we derive the following choice rule
- preferences are rational, under Assumption A-1 and A-2:
 - $1.C_{\omega}(z_1) = 2 \Longrightarrow C_{\omega}(z_2) = 2, C_{\omega}(z_3) \neq 2$
 - $2.C_{\omega}(z_{1}) = 3 \Rightarrow C_{\omega}(z_{2}) \neq 1, C_{\omega}(z_{3}) \neq 1$
 - $3.C_{\omega}(z_2) = 1 \Rightarrow C_{\omega}(z_1) = 1, C_{\omega}(z_2) \neq 2$
 - $4.C_0(z_0) = 3 \Longrightarrow C_0(z_1) = 3.C_0(z_0) = 3$
 - $5.C_{\nu}(z_{2}) = 1 \implies C_{\nu}(z_{2}) = 1, C_{\nu}(z_{2}) = 1$
 - $6.C_{ij}(z_3) = 2 \implies C_{ij}(z_2) = 2$
 - Test yourself, explain all these six inequalities

■ Then we derive the following choice rule

Lemma L-1 Pinto (2015)

If preferences are rational, under Assumption A-1 and A-2

$$1. C_{\omega}(z_{1}) = 2 \Rightarrow C_{\omega}(z_{2}) = 2, C_{\omega}(z_{3}) \neq 1$$

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$$3. C_{\omega}(z_{2}) = 1 \Rightarrow C_{\omega}(z_{1}) = 1, C_{\omega}(z_{3}) \neq 2$$

$$4. C_{\omega}(z_{2}) = 3 \Rightarrow C_{\omega}(z_{1}) = 3, C_{\omega}(z_{3}) = 3$$

$$5. C_{\omega}(z_{3}) = 1 \Rightarrow C_{\omega}(z_{1}) = 1, C_{\omega}(z_{2}) = 1$$

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$$2.C_{\omega}(z_{1}) = 3 \Rightarrow C_{\omega}(z_{2}) \neq 1, C_{\omega}(z_{3}) \neq 1$$

$$3.C_{\omega}(z_{2}) = 1 \Rightarrow C_{\omega}(z_{1}) = 1, C_{\omega}(z_{3}) \neq 2$$

$$4.C_{\omega}(z_{2}) = 3 \Rightarrow C_{\omega}(z_{1}) = 3, C_{\omega}(z_{3}) = 3$$

$$5.C_{\omega}(z_{3}) = 1 \Rightarrow C_{\omega}(z_{1}) = 1, C_{\omega}(z_{2}) = 1$$

$$6.C_{\omega}(z_{3}) = 2 \Rightarrow C_{\omega}(z_{2}) = 2$$

Test yourself, explain all these six inequalities

- I will not show the proof of this Lemma L-1
- Please refer to Appendix A of Pinto (2015
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 - SARP (equation (37) of the paper)
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- Let's take 1 as an example:
 - $C_{\omega}(z_1)=2$ means that under z_1 , we choose t=2 over t=1,3 when no action is financed.
 - Then under z_2 , moving to rich t=2 is financed, extending the budget. But no moving t=1 or moving to poor t=3 are not. Thus, t=2 is still preferred than t=1,3 in this case.
 - Similarly, under z_3 , moving to rich and poor t=2,3 are both financed, extending the budget (but may be in different magnitude, cannot compare). But no moving t=1 is not. Thus, t=2 is still preferred than t=1, but not necessarily t=3 in this case.

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■ We further assume that neighborhood is a normal good

- To eliminate cases like $C_{\omega}(z_1)=2$, $C_{\omega}(z_2)=2$, $C_{\omega}(z_3)=3$
- lacksquare Using all above, we can eliminate the number of types from 27 to 7

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- Only after this elimination, can we do something for causal identification
- Otherwise, you really do not know what results your IV is giving you
- Now you see the power of economic theory to guide your identification
- When statistics tools are exhausted, remember you are an economist
- Do not think first year Micro and Macro are useless!!!

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- Now we go to the second part, how to improve the external validity
- The reason why LATE is lack of external validity is because it is defined on a policy-specific ex post group
- Not some ex ante group, for example a group of high-skilled workers
- Grouping by post-determined behavior, but not pre-determined characteristics
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- Now let's explicitly construct a model for agents' compliance behavior
- In this model, we suppress subscript for individuals
- Let j = 0, 1 be the treatment, Y_1, Y_0 be the potential outcomes

$$Y_1 = \mu_1(X, U_1) (4)$$

$$Y_0 = \mu_0(X, U_0) \tag{5}$$

 \blacksquare X is a set of control variables, U is unobserved factor on outcome

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$$D^* = \mu_D(Z) - V$$
, $D = 1$ if $D^* \ge 0$; $D = 0$ otherwise (6)

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- We invoke five assumptions for this model
- (A-1) (U_0, U_1, V) are independent of Z conditional on X Independence of the instrument
- (A-2) $\mu_D(Z)$ is nondegenerate conditional on X Z contain at least one element not in X
- $lue{}$ (A-1) and (A-2) assure the existence of the instrument
- (A-3) The distribution of V is continuous
- \blacksquare (A-4) $E(|Y_1|), E(|Y_0|)$ are finite
- (A-5) 0 < Pr(D = 1|X) < 1Possible to have D = 1 or D = 0 at any point of λ

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- We have two sectors Agriculture=0 and Modern=1
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$$Y_1 = \mu_1(X) + U_1$$

$$Y_0 = \mu_0(X) + U_0$$

$$D^* = \mu_1(X) + U_1 - [\mu_0(X) + U_0] - Z_1 - V_C, \quad D = 1 \text{ if } D^* \ge 0; \quad D = 0 \text{ otherwise}$$

We can transform this equation to have

$$D^* = \underbrace{\mu_1(X) - \mu_0(X) - Z_1}_{\mu_D} + \underbrace{[U_1 - U_0 - V_C]}_{-V}$$

- \blacksquare In this case, we have $V = -[U_1 U_0 V_C]$
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- Let $P(Z) \equiv Pr(D = 1|Z,X)$
- This is the propensity score (PS) to get treated for agent with Z
- lacksquare In this model, it also means $P(\mu_D(Z) > V|Z,X)$
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- And a clear equivalence of conditions to get treated

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- Now let's define ATE and MTE in this model
- $\blacksquare \text{ Let } \Delta = Y_1 Y_0$
- Conditional ATE is defined as usual: $\Delta^{ATE}(x) \equiv E(\Delta | X = x)$
- MTE is defined as the mean effect of treatment on those for whom X=x and $U_D=u_D(V=v)$

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- MTE is a mean treatment effect for a very specific group of people
- \blacksquare People with observed characteristics X and unobserved taste on treatment V
- People with observed characteristics X who would be indifferent between treatment or not if they were randomly assigned a value of Z = z such that $P(z) = u_D$
- That is why it is called "marginal"
 Marginal people who have just the threshold propensity score of u_D
- Different from LATE, it is not defined by any instrument in an ex post ways
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- We can prove that MTE is a general framework with various causal parameters as its special cases
- LATE can be written as a weighted average of MTE

$$\begin{aligned} LATE &= E(Y_1 - Y_0 | X = x, D(z) = 1, D(z') = 0) \\ &= E(Y_1 - Y_0 | X = x, u'_D < U_D \le u_D) \\ &= \int_{u'_D}^{u_D} \Delta^{MTE}(x, u) du \end{aligned}$$

- Here $u_D = Pr(D(z) = 1)$, $u'_D = Pr(D(z') = 1)$ are the threshold propensity scores for instrument Z = z and Z = z'
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 \blacksquare In general, we can express treatment parameter j by MTE as

$$TE(j) = \int_0^1 \Delta^{MTE}(x, u_D) \omega_j(x, u_D) du_D$$

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$$\begin{split} & \text{ATE}(x) = E(Y_1 - Y_0 \mid X = x) = \int_0^1 \Delta^{\text{MTE}}(x, u_D) \, du_D \\ & \text{TT}(x) = E(Y_1 - Y_0 \mid X = x, D = 1) = \int_0^1 \Delta^{\text{MTE}}(x, u_D) \omega_{\text{TT}}(x, u_D) \, du_D \\ & \text{TUT}(x) = E(Y_1 - Y_0 \mid X = x, D = 0) = \int_0^1 \Delta^{\text{MTE}}(x, u_D) \omega_{\text{TUT}}(x, u_D) \, du_D \\ & \text{Policy relevant treatment effect: PRTE}(x) = E(Y_{a'} \mid X = x) - E(Y_a \mid X = x) = \int_0^1 \Delta^{\text{MTE}}(x, u_D) \omega_{\text{PRTE}}(x, u_D) \, du_D \text{ for two policies } a \text{ and } a' \text{ that affect the } Z \\ & \text{but not the } X \\ & \text{IV}_J(x) = \int_0^1 \Delta^{\text{MTE}}(x, u_D) \omega_J^{\text{IV}}(x, u_D) \, du_D, \text{ given instrument } J \\ & \text{OLS}(x) = \int_0^1 \Delta^{\text{MTE}}(x, u_D) \omega_{\text{OLS}}(x, u_D) \, du_D \end{split}$$

Source: Heckman and Vytlacil (2005).

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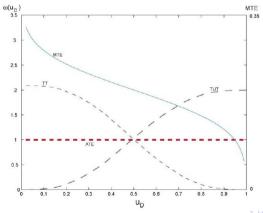
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Source: Heckman and Vytlacil (2005).

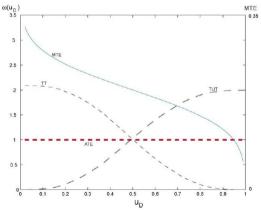
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- Now we have defined MTE and shown that it is a general framework
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- How to identify it? Local instrumental variable (LIV)
- LIV is the derivative of the conditional expection of Y w.r.t P(Z) = p

$$\Delta^{LIV}(p) \equiv \frac{\partial E(Y|P(Z) = p)}{\partial p}$$

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$$\Delta^{MTE}(\rho) = \Delta^{LIV}(\rho) = \frac{\partial E(Y|P(Z) = p)}{\partial \rho}$$

- For MTE at any propensity threshold p, we can use LIV at this point to identify i
- What is the intuition?
- MTE at a threshold means the causal effect on marginal people who would just change their treatment at this point of P(z) = p
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- There is a non-parametric way:
 - a (1) Estimate a treatment choice function (Probit or logit) to have Pa p(z) as (2) Estimate Y given X and p(z) using non/sem-parametric methods a (3) Estimate derivatives by small perturbation
 - Or it would be the regression coefficient if assume a linear model for Y
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- This package can give you estimations of various causal parameters
- And a full distribution of treatment effect
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```
. mtefe_gendata, obs(10000) districts(10)
```

Parametric normal MTE model Treatment model: Probit Estimation method: Local IV

beta1-beta0

Observations: 10000

Std. Err. P>|t| [95% Conf. Interval] lwage Coef. beta0 .0358398 .0064408 5.56 0.000 .0232145 .0484651 exp -4.19 -.0012411 exp2 -.0008453 .0002019 0.000 -.0004496 district . 2352456 .0680412 3.46 0.001 .1018712 .36862 .6294914 .0701091 8.98 0.000 .4920634 7669194 .0131179 .0597721 0.22 0.826 -.1040474 .1302832 .0338606 .0705835 0.48 0.631 -.1044974 .1722186 .0605086 .0513275 .1699366 2.81 0.005 . 2885458 -.1899241 .060115 -3.16 0.002 -.3077617 -.0720865 -.1842254 .0676843 -2.72 0.007 -.3169003 -.0515504 -.7908301 -13.67 -.9042153 - . 677445 9 .0578436 0.000 -.4432749 .0597237 -7.420.000 -.5603455 -.3262044 10 3.164706 .0650331 48.66 0.000 3.037228 3.292184 cons

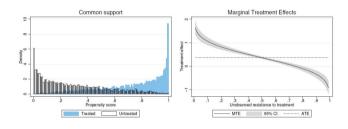
[.] mtefe lwage exp exp2 i.district (col=distCol)

exp	0386384	.010241	-3.77	0.000	0587128	018564
exp2	.0012967	.0003288	3.94	0.000	.0006523	.0019412
district						
2	.265112	.107039	2.48	0.013	.0552939	.4749301
(output	omitted)					
10	.3143661	.1072555	2.93	0.003	.1041237	.5246085
_cons	.4255863	.0983572	4.33	0.000	. 2327863	.6183863
k						
mills	4790282	.0611081	-7.84	0.000	5988124	359244
effects						
ate	.3283373	.0242932	13.52	0.000	.2807177	.3759568
att	.5369432	.0388809	13.81	0.000	.4607287	.6131576
atut	.1195067	.0384691	3.11	0.002	.0440995	. 194914
late	.3279726	.0245142	13.38	0.000	.2799198	.3760254
mprte1	.3463148	.0256971	13.48	0.000	.2959433	. 3966862
mprte2	.3309428	.024298	13.62	0.000	.2833137	.3785719
mprte3	016257	.0498984	-0.33	0.745	1140679	.0815538

Note: Analytical standard errors ignore the facts that the propensity score, $(output\ omitted)$

Test of essential heterogeneity, p-value

0.0000



- LATE is internally valid but not externally valid
- We can combine choice model with IV to have a new framework: MTE
- MTE measures the treatment effect for people with specific characteristics X and some unobserved treatment taste V (or treatment threshold p)
- It is externally valid and not IV-specific
- Various causal parameters are special cases of weighted MTEs
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- Reading one paper like this carefully, is much better than reading 100 reg monkey papers (for these, you can just read the abstracts)
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- People find large impact from observational studies, but small effect from RCT Does it mean that this HS is ineffective?
- Kline and Walters (2016) claim that it is not because observational studies are not well-designed
- Rather, it is because observational studies compare people enroll in HS and people do not enroll in any program
- Meanwhile, RCTs compare people enroll in HS and people do not enroll in HS But many other programs exist
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- The treatment has three values: no program, other program, HS programm,
- Kline and Walters (2016) first categorize people to all behavior types and use ARP to eliminate some of them
- Then they varify various causal parameters needed for different evaluation targets at ITT and LATE: non-externally valid when the composition of compliers changes
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- Using these causal estimates, they implement new cost-benefit analysis
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- LATE is the most popular way to interpret IV estimates
- However, it has two important limitations
 - Usually not feasible when you have multivalued IV ⇒ too many types of the second control of the
 - a Not externally valid when compiler group changes
- To fix these two issues, we need to go deep into the compliance (treatmentate selection) problem
- Treatment selection is intrinsically a part of IV, but not fully explored by pure design-based approach

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