# Lecture 8: Logit and Probit Models

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# 8.1 Logit Models: Definition

All Logit models are defined by **Gumbel-distributed** random utilities.

► The standard Multinomial-Logit model (MNL) has RUs distributed according to  $\epsilon_i \sim \text{i.i.d Gumbel}(0, 1)$ 

Distribution:

$$F_{\mathsf{Gu}}^{(\eta,\lambda)}(x) = \exp\left[-e^{-\lambda(x-\eta)}
ight]$$

Density:

$$f_{\mathsf{Gu}}^{(\eta,\lambda)}(x) = \frac{\mathrm{d}F_{\mathsf{Gu}}^{(\eta,\lambda)}(x)}{\mathrm{d}x} = \lambda e^{-\lambda(x-\eta)} \exp\left[-e^{-\lambda(x-\eta)}\right].$$

Statistical properties:

$$\epsilon_{\text{mode}} = \eta, \quad E(\epsilon) = \eta + \gamma/\lambda \text{ with } \gamma = 0.5772, \quad V(\epsilon) = \frac{\pi^2}{6\lambda^2}$$

## Density functions of some Gumbel distributions



 $\Rightarrow$  not symmetric; expectation  $! = \eta$ , particularly  $E(\epsilon) = \gamma = 0.5772$  if  $\epsilon \sim Gu(0, 1)$ 

# Questions

? The numerical values of the deterministic utilities  $V_i$  are  $\pi/\sqrt{6} \approx 1.28$  times as large as if the RU variance  $V(\epsilon)$  were = 1. Why? Because of the scaling invariance of discrete-choice models: The choice probability

remains unchanged if both the random and deterministic utilities are multiplied by a factor  $\lambda>0$ 

? The nonzero  $E(\epsilon_i) = 0.5772$  is irrelevant. Why?

This is due to the **translation invariance** of discrete-choice models: When adding a real-valued constant to the utilities of all alternatives, nothing changes. Here, a common  $E(\epsilon_i) = 0.5772$  (remember,  $\epsilon \sim i.i.d.!$ ) is just such a common constant.

#### Gumbel distribution as a limit distribution for max(.)

The maximum of many i.i.d. random variables  $X_i$  with exponential tails  $\propto \exp(-\lambda x)$  approaches a Gumbel or Generalized Extreme Value Type-I distribution:  $\max(X_1, ..., X_n) \overset{\text{asympt.}}{\sim} \operatorname{Gu}(\ln n, \lambda)$ 

Example 1: Maximum of i.i.d. exponentially distributed RUs



# Gumbel distribution as a limit distribution for max(.)

Example 2: Maximum of i.i.d. combined uniform-exponential RUs



? Give reasons why the maximum of two independent Gumbel distributed random variables of the same scale parameter is Gumbel distributed as well Since  $\max(\max(x_1, x_2), \max(x_3, x_4)) = \max(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$ 

## Properties of the Multinomial-Logit Model (MNL)

Models of the Logit family (MNL, nested Logit, GEV models) are the only ones with explicit expressions for the choice probabilities for the multinomial case I > 2. For the MNL itself, we have

$$P_i^{\mathsf{MNL}} = \frac{\exp(V_i)}{\sum_j \exp(V_j)}$$

Besides the translational and scale invariance of all simple discrete-choice models, the MNL has the Independence of Irrelevant Alternatives (IIA) property:

IIA property: The relative preference of Alternative i over j as defined by the choice probability ratio  $P_i/P_j$  does not depend on other alternatives  $k \neq i, j$ 

The IIA property is exclusively true for the MNL. In fact, the MNL can be equivalently defined by the IIA property instead of i.i.d. Gumbel RUs.

# Questions

? Show that the MNL choice probabilities satisfy translational invariance. Just devide the Logit choice probability formula by, e.g.,  $\exp(V_1)$ :

$$P_i^{\mathsf{MNL}} = \frac{\exp(V_i - V_1)}{\sum_j \exp(V_j - V_1)} \checkmark$$

- For a comparison with another model, we want V(ε<sub>i</sub>) = 1 instead of π<sup>2</sup>/6. In which way the model parameters must be changed?
   This means, the standard deviation of ε is now given by 1 rather than by π/√6 ≈ 1.28, i.e., multiplied by λ = √6/π. The choice probabilities (no longer given by the Logit formula!) will be unchanged if the deterministic utilities, i.e., the parameters, are multiplied by λ as well
- ? Derive the IIA property from the choice probability formula. The IIA says that the relative preference of an alternative *i* over *j*, i.e.  $P_i/P_j$ , does not depend on any  $V_k$ ,  $k \neq i, j$ . Just calculate this ratio:

$$\frac{P_i}{P_j} = \frac{\exp(V_i)}{\sum_k \exp(V_k)} \frac{\sum_l \exp(V_l)}{\exp(V_j)} = \exp(V_i - V_j) \checkmark$$

# Questions (2)

? The choice probabilities of three alternatives are given by  $P_1 = 0.2$ ,  $P_2 = 0.4$ , and  $P_3 = 0.4$ . Now, Alternative 3 is no longer available. Give the new Logit choice probabilities.

No need to re-calculate using the Logit probability formula. Just use the IIA property:

$$\frac{P_1}{P_2} = 2 = \text{const.} \Rightarrow P_1 = 1/3, P_2 = 2/3$$

? The Gumbel distribution is the limit distribution of the maximum of exponentially-tailed random variables. Is there really a justification for this sort of distribution if the RUs are the result of many unknown/not considered effects? Not really. If there are many unknown/not considered effects, the chance is high that they are not correlated and the **central limit theorem** can be applied (even if there are correlations, this theorem is quite robust). Hence, there would be a justification for Gaussian rather than Gumbel RUs. The fact that the maximum of exponentially-tailed distributions is Gumbel distributed has no real relevance here.

# 8.1.1 Example: SP Survey in the Audience WS18/19 (red: bad weather, W = 1)

Choice Set	Alt. 1: Ped	Alt. 2: Bike	Alt. 3: PT/Car	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3
1	30 min	20 min	20 min+0€	1	3	7
2	30 min	20 min	20 min+2€	2	9	2
3	30 min	20 min	20 min+1€	1	5	7
4	30 min	20 min	30 min+0€	2	9	3
5	50 min	20 min	30 min+0€	0	9	4
6	50 min	30 min	30 min+0€	0	3	9
7	50 min	40 min	30 min+0€	0	2	10
8	180 min	60 min	60 min+2€	0	4	11
9	180 min	40 min	60 min+2€	0	9	6
10	180 min	40 min	60 min+2€	0	1	14
11	12 min	8 min	10 min+0€	3	5	6
12	12 min	8 min	10 min+1€	5	7	2

#### Model 1: generic times and costs, no weather



#### Dependence of the modal split on the PT attributes



Wrong sign for cost sensitivity, too low time sensitivity!

#### Dependence on the distance

assuming plausible speeds 5, 15, and 25 km/h for each mode, respectively  $$\ensuremath{\text{PT-costs 1.0 Euro}}$$ 



# Model 2: generic times and costs plus weather factor (bad weather, W = 1)



# Dependence of the modal split on the PT attributes



Too low cost sensitivity!

#### Dependence on the distance

assuming plausible speeds 5, 15, and 25 km/h for each mode, respectively  $$\ensuremath{\text{PT-costs 1.0 Euro}}$$ 



## Model 3: alt-spec time sensitivities plus weather factor



# Dependence of the modal split on the PT attributes



Everything plausible

#### Dependence on the distance

assuming plausible speeds 5, 15, and 25 km/h for each mode, respectively  $$\ensuremath{\text{PT-costs 1.0 Euro}}$$ 



## **Comparison: Model 1**



#### Model 2



#### Model 3



# 8.2 Probit Models

The **Probit Model** class is defined by (generally correlated) Gaussian RUs.

- The general multinomial Probit model (MNP) has random utilities  $\epsilon \sim N(0, \Sigma)$  with the variance-covariance matrix  $\Sigma$  of the RUs
- ► The special case of the i.i.d. MNP with  $\Sigma = \mathbf{1}$  (unit matrix), i.e.,  $\epsilon_i \sim \text{i.i.d.} N(0,1)$  has similar properties as the MNL (but not the IIA property!). However, for  $I \geq 3$ , the MNP needs integrals (1d, if there are no correlations) to calculate the choice probabilities.
- Often, i.i.d Gaussian RUs can be motivited by the central-limit theorem while Gumbel distributed ones cannot. However, since the MNL behaves similarly and has explicit choice probabilities and a simpler calibration, it is often favoured over the i.i.d. MNP.
- ? Why one can set the variance-covariance matrix to be the unit matrix (i.e. setting all variances=1) in case of the i.i.d MNP? Because of the Scaling invariance of all Discrete-choice models with additive random utilities. If we had  $\epsilon_i \sim i.i.d.N(0, 1/\lambda^2)$ , just multiply the deterministic and random utilities by  $\lambda$  to have an equivalent Probit model with  $\epsilon_i \sim i.i.d.N(0, 1)$

#### Choice probabilities of the binary Probit model I

• Choice probabilities of the binary Probit model with  $\epsilon_i \sim \text{i.i.d.} N(0,1)$ :

$$P_1 = \Phi\left(\frac{V_1 - V_2}{\sqrt{2}}\right), \quad P_2 = 1 - P_1$$

Perive the choice probabilities for the correlated binary Probit model. *Hint:* a linear combination of Gaussians is again a Gaussian
 Assume without loss of generality zero expectations and use the general rules for the variance of two random variables X<sub>1</sub>, X<sub>2</sub> (a, b ∈ IR):

$$V(aX_1 + bX_2) = a^2 V(X_1) + b^2 V(X_2) + 2ab \operatorname{Cov}(X_1, X_2)$$

? The Probit time and cost sensitivities are  $\hat{\beta}_T = -0.1 \min^{-1}$  and  $\hat{\beta}_C = -0.6 \in^{-1}$ . Give the implied value of time (VOT). Give also the approximate parameter values and the VOT for the corresponding Probit model

The VOT in  $\in$ /min is just the ratio of the time and cost sensitivities, VOT =  $\hat{\beta}_T / \hat{\beta}_C = 1/6 \in$ /min =  $10 \in$ /h. The Logit parameters are approximately the Probit parameters multiplied by the standard deviation  $\lambda = \pi / \sqrt{6}$  of the Gumbel distributed Logit RUs. The VOT is essentially unchanged.

#### Choice probabilities of the binary Probit model II



Densities of the standardnormal distributed random utilities  $\epsilon_1$  and  $\epsilon_2$  and of the utility difference  $\epsilon_1 - \epsilon_2$  Distribution functions of the random utilities and the utility difference as a function of the deterministic utility difference  $V_1 - V_2$ 

## Choice probabilities of trinomial i.i.d. Probit and Logit



Symmetrie considerations:

 $P_2(V_2 - V_3, V_1 - V_3) = P_1(V_1 - V_3, V_2 - V_3),$  $P_3(V_2 - V_3, V_1 - V_3) = 1 - P_1 - P_2$ 

# 8.3 Elasticities

General definition:

Elasticities denote the percentaged change of endogenous variables  $y_i$  per small percentaged change of exogenous variables  $x_j$  for an average situation  $\epsilon_{ij} = \frac{\bar{x}_j}{\bar{y}_i} \left. \frac{\partial y_i}{\partial x_j} \right|_{\boldsymbol{x} = \bar{\boldsymbol{x}}. \boldsymbol{y} = \bar{\boldsymbol{y}}}$ 

Regression:

$$y = \sum_{j} \beta_{j} x_{j} + \epsilon, \quad \epsilon_{j} = \frac{\bar{x}_{j}}{\bar{y}} \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_{j}} = \frac{\bar{x}_{j}}{\bar{y}} \hat{\beta}_{j}$$

- Discrete-choice models: Generally, with several endogenous variables, one distinguishes between
  - Substitution vs, full/ordinary elastities,
  - Microscopic vs, macroscopic elastities,
  - proper elasticity vs. cross-elasticity
- ? Why there are only substitution elastities in discrete-choice models?
- ! Because of the exclusivity condition on the alternatives

## 8.3.1 Microscopic Logit elasticities

Since elasticities describe average aspects, we take the choice probabilities  $P_i$  rather than the discrete actual choices as endogenous variables. For the general deterministic utilities

$$V_{ni} = \sum_{m} \beta_{mi} x_{mni}$$

we derive the

Proper (substitution) elasticities: The attribute (characteristic) m of an alternative i feeds back on the demand for this alternative:

$$\epsilon_{nii}^{(\text{mic,m})} = \frac{x_{mni}}{P_{ni}} \frac{\partial P_{ni}}{\partial x_{mni}} = \beta_m x_{mni} (1 - P_{ni})$$

Cross elasticities: The attribute (characteristic) m of an alternative j feeds back on the demand for another alternative i ≠ j:

$$\epsilon_{nij}^{(\rm mic,m)} = \frac{x_{nmj}}{P_{ni}} \frac{\partial P_{ni}}{\partial x_{nmj}} = -\beta_m x_{nmj} P_{nj}$$

#### Some questions on micro-elasticities

- ? Derive the formulas for the proper and cross elasticities
- ! We start with the normal MNL choice probability  $P_{ni} = e^{V_{ni}} / \sum_k e^{V_{nk}}$  and first calculate the sensitivities in terms of the derivatives of  $V_{ni}$  with respect to  $x_{nmj}$ :

$$\frac{\partial P_{ni}}{\partial x_{nmj}} = \frac{e^{V_{ni}}}{\sum_{k} e^{V_{nk}}} \frac{\partial V_{ni}}{\partial x_{nmj}} - \frac{e^{V_{ni}}}{\left(\sum_{k} e^{V_{nk}}\right)^{2}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{nmj}} \left(\sum_{l} e^{V_{nl}}\right)^{2} \\
= P_{ni} \frac{\partial V_{ni}}{\partial x_{nmj}} - \sum_{l} \frac{e^{V_{ni}} e^{V_{nl}}}{\left(\sum_{k} e^{V_{nk}}\right)^{2}} \frac{\partial V_{nl}}{\partial x_{nmj}} \\
= P_{ni} \frac{\partial V_{ni}}{\partial x_{nmj}} - \sum_{l} P_{ni} P_{nl} \frac{\partial V_{nl}}{\partial x_{nmj}}$$

where

$$\frac{\partial V_{ni}}{\partial x_{nmj}} = \beta_m \delta_{ij}, \quad \frac{\partial V_{nl}}{\partial x_{nmj}} = \beta_m \delta_{lj}$$

Hence

$$\frac{\partial P_{ni}}{\partial x_{nmj}} = \beta_m P_{ni} \left( \delta_{ij} - P_{nj} \right), \quad \epsilon_{nij}^{(\text{mic,m})} = \frac{x_{nmj}}{P_{ni}} \frac{\partial P_{ni}}{\partial x_{nmj}} = \beta_m x_{nmj} \left( \delta_{ij} - P_{nj} \right)$$
$$j = i: \ \epsilon_{nii} = \beta_m x_{nmi} \left( 1 - P_{ni} \right), \quad j \neq i: \ \epsilon_{nij} = -\beta_m x_{nmj} P_{nj}$$

# Questions (2)

? Derive and motivate the "null sum" condition  $\sum_i P_{ni} \epsilon_{nij}^{(m)} = 0$ 

$$\sum_{i} P_{ni} \epsilon_{nij}^{(m)} = \sum_{i \neq j} P_{ni} \epsilon_{nij}^{(m)} + P_{ni} \epsilon_{nii}^{(m)}$$
$$= -\sum_{i \neq j} P_{ni} \beta_m x_{nmj} P_{nj} + P_{ni} \beta_m x_{nmi} (1 - P_{ni})$$
$$= \beta_m \left( -\sum_{i} P_{ni} P_{nj} x_{nmj} + P_{ni} x_{nmi} \right) = 0$$

(Notice  $\sum_i P_{ni} = 1$  in the last step!)

# Questions (3)

- ? The cross elasticities do not depend on *i*, i.e., on the target alternative for the changing demand. Motivate this by the IIA condition According to the IIA, if the utility of an alternative *j* changes, the changes of the relative preferences with respect to all other alternatives are the same. Moreover, the relative preferences are the probability ratios and their changes are the cross elasticities
- ? Given are three airports i from which person n can book flights to a desired destination at cost  $C_{ni}$  (because of revenue management, C depends on n), so

 $V_{ni} = \beta_{01}\delta_{01} + \beta_{02}\delta_{02} + \beta_1 C_{ni}$ 

Show that the proper elasticities are negative while the cross elasticities are positive. Proper elasticity  $\epsilon_{nii}^{(C)} = \beta_1 C_{ni} (1 - P_{ni}) < 0$  since  $P_{ni} < 1 C_{ni} > 0$ , and the price sensitivity  $\beta_1 < 0$ . The cross elasticities  $\epsilon_{nii}^{(C)} = -\beta_1 C_{nj} P_{nj}$  are therefore positive.

#### 8.3.2 Macroscopic elasticities

For a company, the relative probability increase of single customers chosing their products is not relevant but the aggregate over all customers. Hence, the macroscopic elasticity

$$\epsilon_{ij}^{(\rm mac,m)} = \frac{X_{mj}}{N_i} \frac{\partial N_i}{\partial X_{mj}}, \quad X_{mj} = \sum_{n=1}^N x_{nmj}, \quad N_i = \sum_{n=1}^N P_{ni}$$

gives the percentage increase of people chosing alternative i when the sum of attributes m increases at alternative j by one percent.

(i) Same absolute changes for all persons,  $dx_{nmj} = dX_{mj}/N$ :

$$\epsilon_{ij}^{(\text{mac,abs,m})} = \frac{X_{mj}}{N_i} \ \frac{1}{N} \sum_n \frac{P_{ni}}{x_{nmj}} \epsilon_{nij}^{(\text{mic,m})}$$

(ii) Same relatives changes for all,  $dx_{nmj}/x_{nmj} = dX_{mj}/X_{mj}$ :

$$\epsilon_{ij}^{(\text{mac,rel,m})} = \sum_{n} w_{ni} \ \epsilon_{nij}^{(\text{mic,m})}, \quad w_{ni} = \frac{P_{ni}}{N_i} = \frac{P_{ni}}{\sum_{n} P_{ni}}$$