


randregret: A command for fitting random regret minimization models using Stata

Alvaro A. GUTIÉRREZ VARGAS
Michel MEULDERS
Martina VANDEBROEK

randregret: A command for fitting random regret minimization models using Stata

Álvaro A. Gutiérrez Vargas* 
Faculty of Economics and Business
KU Leuven
Leuven, Belgium
alvaro.gutierrezvargas@kuleuven.be

Michel Meulders 
Faculty of Economics and Business
KU Leuven
Leuven, Belgium
michel.meulders@kuleuven.be

Martina Vandebroek 
Faculty of Economics and Business
KU Leuven
Leuven, Belgium
martina.vandebroek@kuleuven.be

Abstract. In this article, we describe the `randregret` command, which implements a variety of Random Regret Minimization (RRM) models. The command allows the user to apply the classic RRM model introduced in [Chorus \(2010, *European Journal of Transport and Infrastructure Research* 10: 181-196\)](#), the Generalized RRM model introduced in [Chorus \(2014, *Transportation Research Part B: Methodological* 68: 224-238\)](#), and also the μ RRM and Pure RRM models, both introduced in [van Cranenburgh et al. \(2015, *Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice* 74: 91-109\)](#). We illustrate the usage of the `randregret` command using stated choice data on route preferences. The command offers robust and cluster standard error correction using analytical expressions of the scores functions. It also offers likelihood ratio tests that can be used to assess the relevance of a given model specification. Finally, users can obtain the predicted probabilities from each model using the `randregretpred` command.

Keywords: `randregret`, `randregret_pure`, `randregretpred`, discrete choice models, semi-compensatory behavior, random utility maximization, random regret minimization.

1 Introduction

[Chorus et al. \(2008\)](#) proposed an alternative to Random Utility Maximization (RUM) ([Manski 1977](#)) discrete choice behavior by introducing a family of models rooted in Regret Theory ([Loomes and Sugden 1982](#); [Bell 1982](#)), called Random Regret-Minimization (RRM). Intuitively, RRM claims that individuals base their choices between alternatives on the desire to avoid the situation where a non-chosen alternative ends up being more attractive than the chosen one, which would cause regret. Therefore, individuals are assumed to minimize anticipated regret when choosing among alternatives, in contrast to utility maximization.

2 Early Model (Chorus et al. 2008)

The model proposed in Chorus et al. (2008) assumes that decision-makers (referred to n), face a set of J alternatives (referred to i or j indistinctly), each alternative being described in terms of the value of M attributes (referred to m). Therefore, the value of attribute m of alternative i of individual n is denoted by x_{imn} . When the decision-maker n is choosing between alternatives, he/she aims to minimize the anticipated random regret of a given alternative i . Consequently, the regret of alternative i on attribute m of individual n , will be described by $R_{i \leftrightarrow j, mn}^{\max} = \max \{0, \beta_m \cdot (x_{jmn} - x_{imn})\}$. From this formulation we can see two things. First, the regret is zero when alternative j performs worse than i in terms of attribute m . Second, the regret grows as a linear function of the difference in attribute values in case alternative i performs worse than alternative j in terms of attribute m . Here the estimable parameter, β_m , gives the slope of the *regret function* for attribute m . Furthermore, the original version of RRM postulates that the systematic regret, R_{in}^{\max} , of a considered alternative i can then be written as in equation (1), taking the maximum regret over all alternatives:

$$R_{in}^{\max} = \max_{j \neq i} \left\{ \sum_{m=1}^M R_{i \leftrightarrow j, mn}^{\max} \right\} = \max_{j \neq i} \left\{ \sum_{m=1}^M \max \{0, \beta_m \cdot (x_{jmn} - x_{imn})\} \right\} \quad (1)$$

Finally, the anticipated random regret (RR_{in}^{\max}) is composed of the systematic regret R_{in}^{\max} and an additive i.i.d Extreme Value distributed error ε_{in} , which represents the unobserved component in the regret: $RR_{in}^{\max} = R_{in}^{\max} + \varepsilon_{in}$. Assuming that the negative of ε_{in} is extreme value type I distributed, and acknowledging that the minimization of the random regret is mathematically equivalent to maximizing the negative of the random regret, probabilities may be derived using the well-known Multinomial Logit (MNL) formulation. Therefore, the choice probability associated with alternative i is defined in equation (2):

$$P_{in}^{\max} = \frac{\exp(-R_{in}^{\max})}{\sum_{j=1}^J \exp(-R_{jn}^{\max})} \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, J. \quad (2)$$

3 Classical Model (Chorus 2010)

The major contribution made by Chorus (2010) is to propose an elegant way to get rid of the two \max operators on the attribute level regret of the original version (Chorus et al. 2008) which results in a non-smooth likelihood function and triggers the need for customized optimization routines. Instead, in Chorus (2010) the new attribute level regret is redefined by $R_{i \leftrightarrow j, mn} = \ln [1 + \exp \{\beta_m \cdot (x_{jmn} - x_{imn})\}]$. Therefore, the deterministic part of the regret of alternative i of individual n is now described by

equation (3):

$$R_{in} = \sum_{j \neq i}^J \sum_{m=1}^M R_{i \leftrightarrow j, mn} = \sum_{j \neq i}^J \sum_{m=1}^M \ln [1 + \exp \{ \beta_m \cdot (x_{jmn} - x_{imn}) \}] \quad (3)$$

The two most important differences are as follows. First, the exterior \max operator is replaced by a summation over all the alternatives, meaning that the choice-maker's systematic regret not only considers the best non-chosen alternative as in Chorus et al. (2008) but the aggregate regret of all the others as well. Particularly, when the choice set is large, it does not seem quite reasonable to consider just one non-chosen alternative. Secondly, the replacement of the inner \max operator has a mathematical justification because it is a continuously differentiable function that approximates the original \max operator and will generate a smooth likelihood.

Following the same idea as in Chorus et al. (2008), assuming that the random regret function (RR_{in}) also includes an additive i.i.d extreme value type I error term that captures the pure random noise and impact of omitted attributes in the regret: $RR_{in} = R_{in} + \varepsilon_{in}$. Finally, we obtain the same well-known and convenient closed-form logit formula for the choice probability given by equation (4). The last model is referred to as the classical RRM and is one of the models implemented in the command.

$$P_{in} = \frac{\exp(-R_{in})}{\sum_{j=1}^J \exp(-R_{jn})} \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, J \quad (4)$$

3.1 $R_{i \leftrightarrow j, mn}$ as an approximation of $R_{i \leftrightarrow j, mn}^{\max}$

To understand how those two definitions of the regret differ from each other, an illustrative graph is presented in Figure (1). The x -axis represents the difference on an attribute m of two alternatives i and j for individual n , $(x_{jmn} - x_{imn})$, and the y -axis represents the regret (r) that this difference generates conditional on $\beta_m = 1$.

In Figure (1) we can see that $R_{i \leftrightarrow j, mn}$ is a smooth version of $R_{i \leftrightarrow j, mn}^{\max}$ creating a nice continuous differentiable likelihood function. Also, both functions can capture semi-compensatory behavior, meaning that poor performance of a given alternative with respect to an attribute is not necessarily compensated by a good performance with respect to another attribute, which is a key feature of RRM models.

Additionally, when two alternatives have the same level for some attribute, the corresponding regret is not zero, but equal to $\ln(2) \approx 0.69$. Even though this is counter-intuitive at first glance, it is important to note that only differences in regret or utility matter for choice probabilities (Train 2009), hence they remain unchanged, regardless, the inclusion of this constant in the systematic regret. This can be easily checked in equation (4).

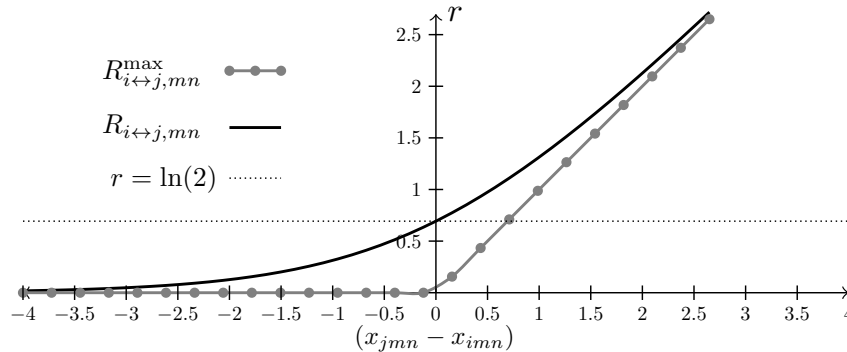


Figure 1: Comparison $R_{i \leftrightarrow j, mn}^{\max}$ (eq. 1) and $R_{i \leftrightarrow j, mn}$ (eq. 3) conditional on $\beta_m = 1$. Adapted from “A New Model of Random Regret Minimization” by Chorus (2010), *European Journal of Transport and Infrastructure Research* 10: 181-196. Copyright 2010 by TUDelf. Reprinted with permission.

4 Differences between RUM and RRM models

Before introducing three models that generalize in different ways the underlying paradigm of the classical RRM model, it is worth describing some essential differences between RRM and RUM while getting more insights in the RRM model.

4.1 Semi-compensatory Behavior and the Compromise Effect

Probably the most remarkable difference with the RUM model is the semi-compensatory behavior that is described by RRM models. To illustrate this, we show the $R_{i \leftrightarrow j, mn}$ function with $\beta_m = 1$ in Figure (2), which describes the regret generated by attribute m when a considered alternative i is being compared with alternative j , as a function of the difference between the attribute values, i.e. $x_{jmn} - x_{imn}$. Segments (A) and (B) in the Figure represent the magnitude of rejoice and regret, respectively, on an equal difference of attribute levels of 2.5 units. As shown in Figure (2), the regret is much larger than the rejoice at an equal difference in the attribute levels. Additionally, we can also see that this discrepancy becomes larger for higher attribute value differences due to the regret function’s convexity.

Conversely, in RUM models, linear specification of utility leads to a fully-compensatory model, where the poor performance of one attribute could, in principle, could be compensated entirely with better performance in another attribute.

A consequence of the semi-compensatory behavior of RRM models is the so-called compromise effect. Given that having an inferior performance in one attribute causes a large regret, RRM models tend to predict that alternatives that have a relatively good performance in all the attributes will be preferred to alternatives that present a fairly good performance in almost all attributes but a rather poor performance in just one

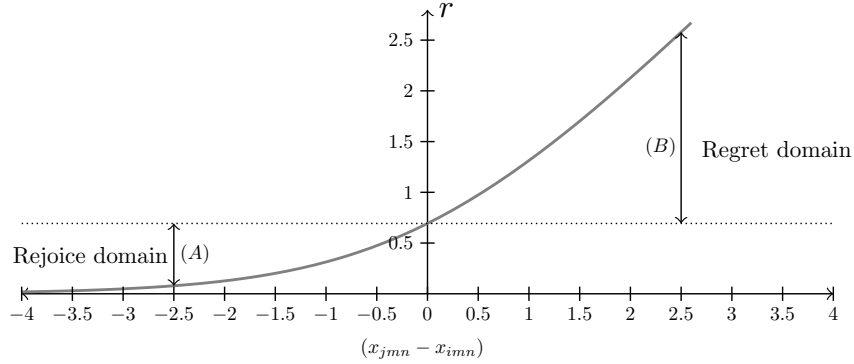


Figure 2: Semi-compensatory behavior of $R_{i \leftrightarrow j, mn}$ (eq. 3) conditional on $\beta_m = 1$. Adapted from “New insights on random regret minimization models” by van Cranenburgh, Guevara, and Chorus (2015), *Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice* 74: 91-109. Copyright 2015 by Elsevier. Reprinted with permission.

attribute. The compromise effect has been discussed in detail by Chorus and Bierlaire (2013) and by Chorus et al. (2013).

4.2 Taste Parameter Interpretation in RRM models

When it comes to the interpretation of the RRM parameters, it is essential to note that they cannot be compared with the utilitarian counterpart of RUM models. On the one hand, parameters of RUM models are interpreted as the change in utility caused by an increase of a particular attribute level. On the other hand, parameters of RRM models represent the potential change in regret associated with comparing a considered alternative with another alternative in terms of the attribute, caused by one unit change in a particular attribute level. For instance, an attribute that exhibits a positive and significant coefficient suggests that regret increases as the level of that attribute increases in a non-chosen alternative compared to the level of the same attribute in the chosen one.

5 Extensions of the Classical RRM model

5.1 Generalized RRM (Chorus 2014)

The generalization proposed by Chorus (2014), namely, the Generalized Random Regret Minimization Model (GRRM), replaces the number 1 in the attribute-regret function (eq. 3) by a new estimable parameter $\gamma_m \in]0, 1[$ which represents the regret-weight for a particular attribute. Chorus (2014) proves that depending on the value of the parameter γ_m , we can recover random utility maximization behavior ($\gamma_m = 0$) or the classical random regret minimization behavior ($\gamma_m = 1$), showing that GRRM is not

only a generalization of the classical RRM model, but also of RUM models. In this command, we allow for only one generic and common γ for all the attributes, due to its computational simplicity, which is one of the particular cases of this model implemented by [Chorus \(2014\)](#). Consequently, the attribute level regret in the GRRM is described by $R_{i \leftrightarrow j, mn}^{\text{GRRM}} = \ln [\gamma + \exp \{\beta_m [x_{jmn} - x_{imn}]\}]$, and the systematic part of regret in this model is given by equation (5):

$$R_{in}^{\text{GRRM}} = \sum_{j \neq i}^J \sum_{m=1}^M R_{i \leftrightarrow j, mn}^{\text{GRRM}} = \sum_{j \neq i}^J \sum_{m=1}^M \ln [\gamma + \exp \{\beta_m (x_{jmn} - x_{imn})\}] \quad (5)$$

When an additive type I Extreme Value i.i.d. error is added to the systematic regret function in equation (5), we obtain the random regret expression for the GRRM model: $RR_{in}^{\text{GRRM}} = R_{in}^{\text{GRRM}} + \varepsilon_{in}$. Finally, the choice probability of the GRRM model is presented in equation (6):

$$P_{in}^{\text{GRRM}} = \frac{\exp(-R_{in}^{\text{GRRM}})}{\sum_{j=1}^J \exp(-R_{jn}^{\text{GRRM}})} \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, J \quad (6)$$

An illustration of how different values of γ affect the shape of the attribute level regret function $R_{i \leftrightarrow jmn}^{\text{GRRM}}$ is presented in Figure (3).

As before, we have asymmetries regarding regret and rejoice produced by the difference in an attribute level. However, in the GRRM model, γ , controls the convexity of $R_{i \leftrightarrow j, mn}^{\text{GRRM}}$, as can be seen in Figure (3). Smaller gamma values imply a less convex attribute-level regret function, and consequently, a smaller asymmetry between regret and rejoice. In particular, when $\gamma = 0$, the convexity of the regret function vanishes, yielding a fully compensatory behavior. Additionally, [Chorus \(2014\)](#) proved that the likelihood of a GRRM model with $\gamma = 0$ is equivalent to the likelihood of a linear RUM model. Finally, when $\gamma \in]0, 1[$, the sensitivity of the regret function is still higher in the regret domain, but is smaller than in the classical RRM, where $\gamma = 1$.

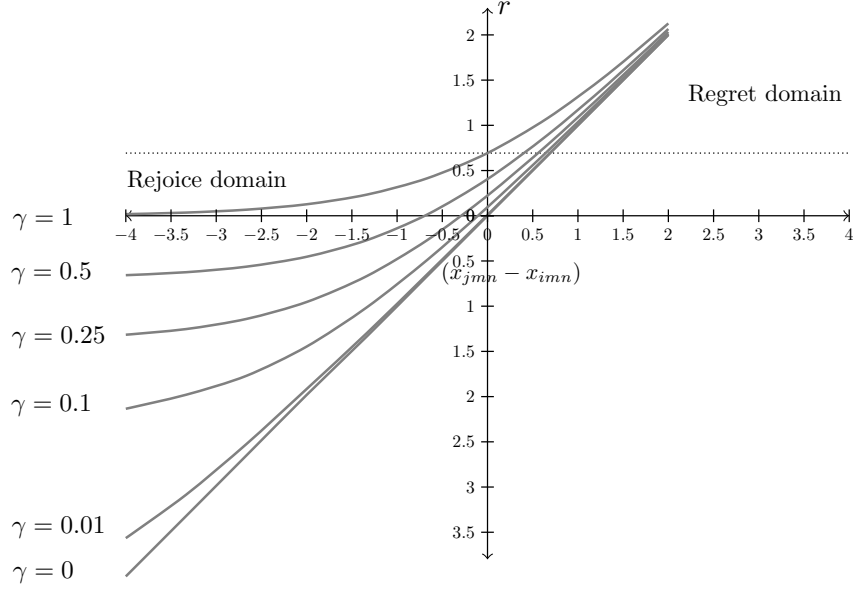


Figure 3: $R_{i \leftrightarrow j, mn}^{GRRM}$ (eq. 5) at different values of γ conditional on $\beta_m = 1$. Adapted from “A Generalized Random Regret Minimization model”, by Chorus (2014), *Transportation Research Part B: Methodological* 68: 224-238. Copyright 2014 by Elsevier. Reprinted with permission.

5.2 μ RRM (van Cranenburgh et al. 2015)

van Cranenburgh et al. (2015) presents a new generalization of the classical RRM model that is linked to the scale parameter of the RRM model. The authors show that the classic regret function (eq. 3) is not scale-invariant. This property, which seems at first glance unfortunate, has been shown potentially useful to obtain more flexibility and also, as we will see later, for providing insights related to the observed regret in the data.

The first model proposed by van Cranenburgh et al. (2015) is the so-called μ RRM model. In particular, this model is capable of estimating the scale parameter μ which is linked to the error variance as $var(\varepsilon_i) = (\pi^2 \mu^2 / 6)$. In this new model the attribute level regret function is described by $R_{i \leftrightarrow j, mn}^{\mu RRM} = \ln [1 + \exp \{(\beta_m / \mu) (x_{jmn} - x_{imn})\}]$, and consequently the systematic regret function is given by equation (7):

$$R_{in}^{\mu RRM} = \sum_{j \neq i}^J \sum_{m=1}^M \mu \cdot R_{i \leftrightarrow j, mn}^{\mu RRM} = \sum_{j \neq i}^J \sum_{m=1}^M \mu \cdot \ln [1 + \exp \{(\beta_m / \mu) (x_{jmn} - x_{imn})\}] \quad (7)$$

Interestingly, in this model, we can estimate the scale parameter μ , which is well known to be non-identifiable in the RUM context because only differences in utility mat-

ter. However, as we mentioned earlier, RRM models can describe a semi-compensatory behavior, meaning that regret and rejoice do not cancel out entirely, allowing identification of the μ parameter.

As before, an additive type I Extreme Value i.i.d. error term is added to the systematic regret function in equation (7) to obtain the random regret expression for the μ RRM: $RR_{in}^{\mu\text{RRM}} = R_{in}^{\mu\text{RRM}} + \varepsilon_{in}$. Finally, the choice probabilities of this model are given by (8):

$$P_{in}^{\mu\text{RRM}} = \frac{\exp\left(-R_{in}^{\mu\text{RRM}}\right)}{\sum_{j=1}^J \exp\left(-R_{jn}^{\mu\text{RRM}}\right)} \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, J \quad (8)$$

van Cranenburgh et al. (2015) claim that the size of μ in the μ RRM model is informative of the degree of regret imposed by the model, stated otherwise, how much semi-compensatory behavior we are observing in the decision-makers choice behavior. Given that the taste parameter β_m is divided by the scale parameter μ , the larger the value of μ , the smaller the ratio (β_m/μ) , and therefore, the smaller the regret. Conversely, the smaller the value of μ , the bigger the ratio (β_m/μ) , and therefore, the larger the regret. This behavior is illustrated in Figure (4), where we plotted different $R_{i \leftrightarrow j, mn}^{\mu\text{RRM}}$ for a fixed value of $\beta_m = 1$ and different values of μ .

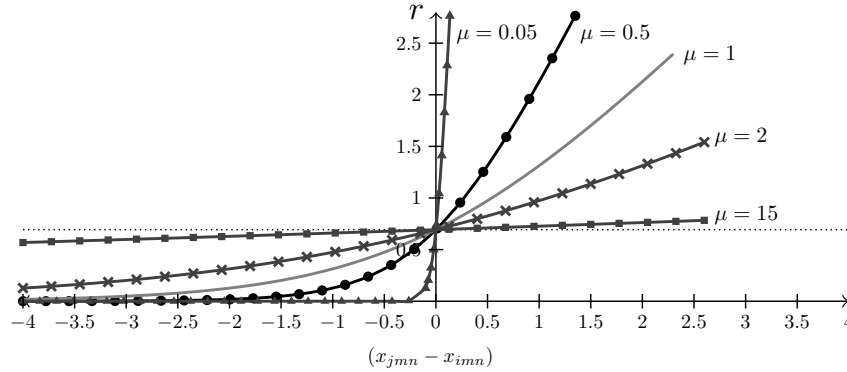


Figure 4: $R_{i \leftrightarrow j, mn}^{\mu\text{RRM}}$ (eq. 7) for different values of μ conditional on $\beta_m = 1$. Adapted from “New insights on random regret minimization models” by van Cranenburgh, Guevara, and Chorus (2015), *Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice* 74: 91-109. Copyright 2015 by Elsevier. Reprinted with permission.

Figure (4) shows that for arbitrarily large values of μ , the regret function becomes flatter, with the obvious consequence that the semi-compensatory behavior of the model vanishes when μ tends to infinity. A formal proof of such a behavior is provided by van Cranenburgh et al. (2015) where the authors show that the μ RRM model collapses into a linear RUM model when μ goes to infinity.

On the other hand, when the value of μ is arbitrarily small, the μ RRM model represents the strongest semi-compensatory behavior possible among the RRM family models. This scheme is explained in the following section.

Finally, needs to be noted that, in this model, the convexity of the attribute level regret function ($R_{i \leftrightarrow j, mn}^{\mu\text{RRM}}$) is based on both the taste parameter β and μ ; therefore, large values of the taste parameter could compensate large values of μ generating a ratio close to one.

5.3 Pure RRM (van Cranenburgh et al. 2015)

The second model proposed by van Cranenburgh et al. (2015) its a particular case of the μ RRM model, that is generated by arbitrarily small values of μ in the μ RRM model. As explained earlier, small values of μ , mean that the ratio β_m/μ is very large, causing the regret function to yield very strong differences between regrets and rejoices. This can be seen graphically in Figure (4), where the smaller the value of μ , the larger the slope of the regret function within the regret domain.

Interestingly, the authors formally proved that for μ going to zero in the μ RRM model in (7), the model collapses into a linear specification (Appendix D of van Cranenburgh et al. (2015)). The resulting model is called by the authors Pure-RMM model (hereafter PRRM), which describes the strongest semi-compensatory behavior of all RRM models. The specification of systematic regret imposed by the PRRM model is presented in equations (9)-(10):

$$R_{in}^{\text{PRRM}} = \sum_{m=1}^M \beta_m x_{imn}^{\text{PRRM}} \quad (9)$$

$$x_{imn}^{\text{PRRM}} = \begin{cases} \sum_{j \neq i}^J \max \{0, x_{jmn} - x_{imn}\} & \text{if } \beta_m > 0 \\ \sum_{j \neq i}^J \min \{0, x_{jmn} - x_{imn}\} & \text{if } \beta_m < 0 \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

From equation (10) we can see that the PRRM can be understood as a traditional logit model using transformed attribute levels. What is important to notice here is that to estimate the PRRM, we need to know the sign of the attributes *a priori*. In some situations, this requisite is not very restrictive. For instance, in transport contexts where the alternatives are mainly described in terms of its travel time (*tt*) and total cost (*tc*), we can expect the coefficients β_{tc} and β_{tt} to have negative signs, given that cheaper and faster routes are preferred to costlier and slower ones. The negative sign can be understand in terms of regret as follows: when the total time (total cost) in non-chosen alternatives increases, our regret decreases given that the chosen alternative becomes relatively faster (cheaper).

Finally, adding the usual additive i.i.d. type I extreme value error as in the previous models to the systematic regret in equation (9) we obtain that the random regret of the model: $RR_{in}^{\text{PRRM}} = R_{in}^{\text{PRRM}} + \varepsilon_{in}$. Consequently, the choice probability of the PRRM model under the stated distributional assumption is given by equation (11):

$$P_{in}^{\text{PRRM}} = \frac{\exp(-R_{in}^{\text{PRRM}})}{\sum_{j=1}^J \exp(-R_{jn}^{\text{PRRM}})} \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, J. \quad (11)$$

6 Alternative Specific Constants

The inclusion of Alternative Specific Constants (ASC) in the presented models is possible by simply adding them into the systematic part of the regret. To exemplify this, let R_{in}^* denote a generic systematic regret of alternative i as defined in equation (3), (5), (7) or (9). We denote by α_i ASC of alternative i in equation (12). The inclusion of the ASC serves the same purpose as in RUM models, which is to account for omitted attributes for a particular alternative. As usual, for identification purposes, we need to exclude one of the ASC from the model specification. For a detailed discussion of the ASC in the context of RRM models, see [van Cranenburgh and Prato \(2016\)](#).

$$R_{in}^* = \sum_{j \neq i}^J \sum_{m=1}^M R_{i \leftrightarrow j, mn}^* + \alpha_i \quad (12)$$

7 Relationships among the different models

In Figure (5), we present the relationships among all the presented models. Solid arrows state that a model collapses onto another model for a specific value of some parameter. For instance, we can see the connection between the classical RRM model and the GRRM model when $\gamma = 1$. On the other hand, dotted arrows indicate that the choice probabilities and the likelihood of two models are the same, but not necessarily the estimated parameters. For instance, [Chorus \(2014\)](#) showed that the relationship among RUM and RRM parameters is described by $\beta_m^{\text{RRM}} = J \cdot \beta_m^{\text{RUM}}$ when $\gamma = 0$, where J is the size of the choice set. Similarly, [van Cranenburgh et al. \(2015\)](#) showed that when μ goes to infinity the relationship is described by $\beta_m^{\text{RUM}} \cong (J/2) \cdot \beta_m^{\text{RRM}}$.

The relationships in Figure (5) allow us to use a Likelihood Ratio (LR) test to compare nested models and check which model fits the data best. In particular, Table (1) lists the relevant hypotheses with the corresponding LR statistic and the asymptotic distribution of the test. The first column lists the models that we can compare based on a particular parameter. The second column lists the formal hypotheses for the relevant parameter. The third column presents the LR statistic in each case where $\ell(\cdot)$ represents the log-likelihood of the model, and $\hat{\theta}_{\text{RRM}}$, $\hat{\theta}_{\text{GRRM}}$, $\hat{\theta}_{\mu\text{RRM}}$, $\hat{\theta}_{\text{RUM}}$ represent the full set of parameters of the classical RRM, GRRM, μ RRM and linear-in-parameters RUM model, respectively. Finally, the fourth column lists the asymptotic distribution of the statistic under the null hypothesis. The fact that the two first hypotheses follow a different distribution from the traditional χ_1^2 is because we are testing a null hypothesis on the boundary of the parametric space of γ . For details about deriving the

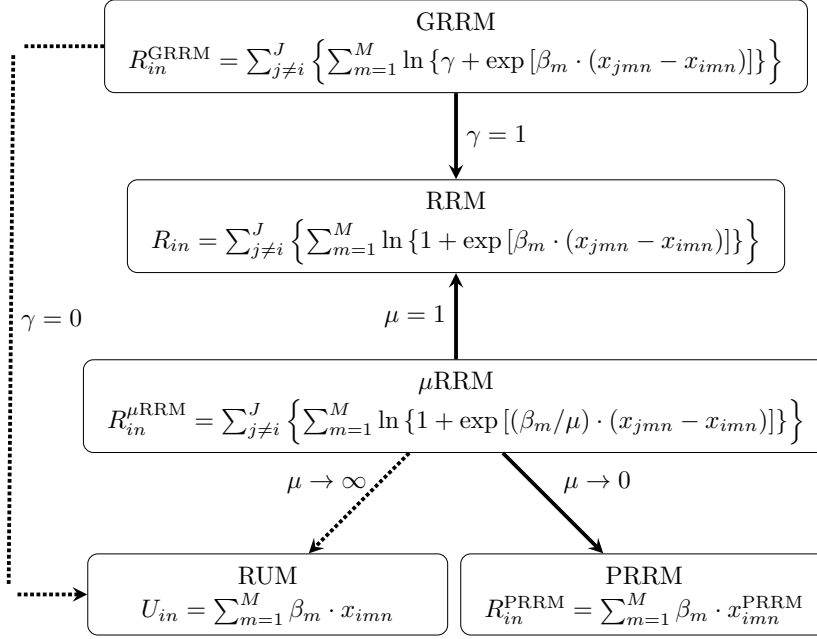


Figure 5: Interrelationship among the models based on parameters

distribution of the LR test under non-standard conditions, see [Self and Liang \(1987\)](#). Additionally, illustrations of this matter can be found in [Molenberghs and Verbeke \(2007\)](#) and [Gutierrez et al. \(2001\)](#).

Table 1: LR test for model comparison.

Models	Hypothesis	LR statistic	Distribution under H_0
RRM v.s GRRM	$H_0 : \gamma = 1$ $H_1 : \gamma < 1$	$2 \left\{ \ell(\hat{\theta}_{\text{GRRM}}) - \ell(\hat{\theta}_{\text{RRM}}) \right\}$	$0.5(\chi_0^2 + \chi_1^2)$
RUM v.s GRRM	$H_0 : \gamma = 0$ $H_1 : \gamma > 0$	$2 \left\{ \ell(\hat{\theta}_{\text{GRRM}}) - \ell(\hat{\theta}_{\text{RUM}}) \right\}$	$0.5(\chi_0^2 + \chi_1^2)$
RRM v.s μ RRM	$H_0 : \mu = 1$ $H_1 : \mu \neq 1$	$2 \left\{ \ell(\hat{\theta}_{\mu\text{RRM}}) - \ell(\hat{\theta}_{\text{RRM}}) \right\}$	χ_1^2

The `randregret` command always fits the classical RRM model to use those estimates as starting points for the extended versions of the model, GRRM, and μ RRM. The LR tests for $\gamma = 1$ and $\mu = 1$ do not require extra computations. However, for testing $\gamma = 0$, an additional linear RUM model is fitted. Regardless, the user has the option to deactivate the tests to speed up computations if desired.

8 Robust Standard Errors

The use of robust standard errors corrected by cluster in discrete choice models is a common practice given the panel structure that is created when a single individual answers multiple choice situations in state preference surveys. To illustrate this, we can write our maximum-likelihood estimation equations as in equation (13). Where $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ is the full set of parameters, $\mathbf{S}(\boldsymbol{\theta}; y_n, \mathbf{x}_n) = \partial \ln L_n / \partial \boldsymbol{\theta}$ represents the score functions, $\ln L_n$ is the log-likelihood of observation n , \mathbf{x}_n is the full set of attributes, and y_n is the response variable that takes the value of 1 when alternative i is selected and 0 otherwise.

$$G(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbf{S}(\boldsymbol{\theta}; y_n, \mathbf{x}_n) = \mathbf{0} \quad (13)$$

We can compute the robust variance estimator of $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ using equation (14), where $\mathbf{D} = -\mathbf{H}^{-1}$ is the negative of the inverse of the hessian resulting from the optimization procedure, and $\mathbf{u}_n = \mathbf{S}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}; y_n, \mathbf{x}_n)$ are row vectors that contains the score functions evaluated at $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$.

$$\hat{\mathbf{V}}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}) = \mathbf{D} \left(\frac{n}{n-1} \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbf{u}'_n \mathbf{u}_n \right) \mathbf{D} \quad (14)$$

Equation (14) is appropriate only if the observations are independent. However, when the same individual answers several choice situations, we can expect some degree of correlation. When such a structure is present in the data, equation (15) is a more appropriate robust variance estimates is given by, where C_k contains the indices of all observations belonging to the same individual k for $k = 1, 2, \dots, n_c$ with n_c the total number of different individuals present in the data set.

$$\hat{\mathbf{V}}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}) = \mathbf{D} \left\{ \frac{n_c}{n_c - 1} \sum_{k=1}^{n_c} \left(\sum_{n \in C_k} \mathbf{u}_n \right)' \left(\sum_{n \in C_k} \mathbf{u}_n \right) \right\} \mathbf{D} \quad (15)$$

Appendix A provides details on the analytical form of the scores by each model presented in this article. Additionally, the `randregret` command can compute corrected standard errors using the analytical expressions of the score functions without relying on numerical approximations.

9 Commands

9.1 randregret

Syntax

```
randregret depvar [indepvars] [if] [in] group(varname) alternative(varname)
    rrmfn(string) [, basealternative(string) noconstant uppermu(#)
    negative(varlist) positive(varlist) show notrl initgamma initmu robust
    cluster(varname) level(#) maximize_options]
```

Description

`randregret` is implemented as a Mata-based `d0 ml` evaluator. The command allows to implement four different regret functions.

Options

`group`(*varname*) is required and specifies a numeric identifier variable for the choice situation.

`alternative`(*varname*) is required and specifies a numeric identifier variable of the alternative for each choice situation.

`rrmfn`(*string*) is required and specifies the regret function that will be used. `classic` uses the systematic regret of equation (3), `gene` uses (5), `mu` uses (7) and `pure` uses (9). The last option will use the `randregret_pure` command (see below) to create the transformed alternative-specific attributes.

`basealternative`(#) sets the reference level in dummy coding for Alternative Specific Constants (ASC).

`noconstant` suppresses the alternative specific constants (ASC) from the specification.

`uppermu`(#) alters the optimization procedure using an ancillary parameter on the logit scale searching for μ in the space $[0, \#]$. The default is `uppermu(5)`.

`negative`(*varlist*) can be used to include attributes with assumed negative sign when `rrmfn(pure)` is performed.

`positive`(*varlist*) can be used to include attributes with assumed positive sign when `rrmfn(pure)` is performed.

`show` can be used when performing `rrmfn(gene)` or `rrmfn(mu)` to show the value of the estimated ancillary parameter.

`initgamma` can be used when performing `rrmfn(gene)` to set the initial value for the ancillary parameter for γ . The default is `initgamma(0)`.

`initmu` can be used when performing `rrmfn(mu)` to set the initial value for the ancillary parameter for μ . The default is `initmu(0)`.

`notlr` can be used when performing `rrmfn(gene)` or `rrmfn(mu)` to suppress the computations of the LR test over γ and μ , respectively.

`robust` can be used to adjust the variance-covariance matrix using equation (14).

`cluster(varname)` can be used to adjust the variance-covariance matrix using equation (15) computing clusters across individuals answering multiple questions.

maximize_options: `difficult`, `iterate(#)`, `trace`, `gradient`, `showstep`, `hessian`, `ltoleracne(#)`, `gtoleracne(#)`, `ntoleracne(#)`, `technique(algorithm_spec)`, `from(string)` (see [R] **maximize**). `technique(bhhh)` is not allowed.

9.2 randregret_pure

Syntax

```
randregret_pure varlist [if] [in] group(varname) signbeta(string)
                prefix(string)
```

Description

`randregret_pure` is a command that implements the alternative-specific attribute transformations required to fit the PRRM model in equation (10).

Options

`group(varname)` is required and specifies a numeric identifier variable for the choice situation.

`signbeta(string)` is required and specifies the sign of all the alternative-specific attributes included in `varlist`. Specifying `pos` indicates that the sign of the attributes is positive, and `neg` indicates that the sign is negative.

`prefix(string)` is required and specifies the prefix of the new transformed alternative-specific attributes that `randregret_pure` will create.

9.3 randregretpred

Syntax

```
randregretpred newvar [if] [in] group(varname) alternatives(varname) [,
                proba xb]
```

Description

`randregretpred` is a command that can be invoked after `randregret` to obtain both predicted probabilities and systematic estimated regret. `randregretpred` automatically identifies the last fitted model and calculates the predicted choice probabilities recovering the parameters obtained from the likelihood maximization and then plugging them back in using equations (4), (6), (8) or (11) depending on the previously fitted model. Additionally, it is also possible to recover the linear prediction of the systematic regret from equations (3), (5) (7) or (9).

Options

`group(varname)` is required and specifies a numeric identifier variable for the choice situation.

`alternatives(string)` is required and specifies a numeric identifier variable of the alternative for each choice situation.

`proba` the default, calculates the predicted choice probabilities of each alternative.

`xb` calculates the linear prediction in the regret function.

retrieved

10 Examples

To show the usage of the `randregret` command we use data from [van Cranenburgh \(2018\)](#) which correspond to a Value of Time (VoT) Stated Choice (SC) experiment. The choice situation in this experiment consisted of three unlabeled route alternatives, each consisting of two generic attributes: Travel Cost (`tc`) and Travel Time (`tt`). In this experiment, each respondent answered a total of 10 choice situations. Table (2) presents the first choice situation presented to respondents in the SC experiment. The authors used a so-called D -efficient design to optimize the statistical efficiency of the experiment¹.

Table 2: English translation of 1st Choice Situation

Attribute	Route A	Route B	Route C
Travel Time (one-way)	23 min.	27 min.	35 min.
Travel Cost (one-way)	6 euros	4 euros	3 euros

The following variables will be used in our specifications of `randregret`

- `altern`: id of the alternative faced by the user.
- `choice`: whether or not the alternative was chosen by an individual (0-1 dummy).
- `id`: id of the individual.
- `cs`: id of the Choice Situation (CS) faced by the individual.
- `tt`: Total Travel Time (one-way) of alternative i in minutes.
- `tc`: Total Travel Cost (one-way) of alternative i in euros.

The data setup for `randregret` is equivalent to the one used by `clgit` (see [R] `clgit`) and the latest released command `cmclgit` (see [R] `cmclgit`), meaning it has a panel representation in terms of individual-alternative, that is to say, in long format. The data is loaded from the server to Stata directly using `import delimited` and the URL given in [van Cranenburgh \(2018\)](#). The data is currently in wide format, and just for the sake of illustration, we show the data manipulations required in order to use `randregret`. We list the first four choice situations answered by the first individual with the corresponding alternative-specific attributes total time and total cost.

```
. scalar server = "https://data.4tu.nl/ndownloader/"
. scalar doi = "files/24015353"
```

1. The complete experimental design can be found in Appendix A of [van Cranenburgh and Alwosheel \(2019\)](#)

```
. import delimited "`=server + doi'" ,clear
(29 vars, 1,060 obs)
. keep obs id cs tt1 tc1 tt2 tc2 tt3 tc3 choice
. list obs id cs tt1 tc1 tt2 tc2 tt3 tc3 choice in 1/4,sepy(obs)
```

	obs	id	cs	tt1	tc1	tt2	tc2	tt3	tc3	choice
1.	1	1	1	23	6	27	4	35	3	3
2.	2	1	2	27	5	35	4	23	6	2
3.	3	1	3	35	3	23	5	31	4	1
4.	4	1	4	27	4	23	5	35	3	3

Given that `randregret` requires the data to be presented in long format, we will perform the required transformation using the `reshape` command and present the same information in long format.

```
. rename (choice) (choice_w)
. reshape long tt tc , i(obs) j(altern)
(note: j = 1 2 3)
Data                                wide  ->  long
-----
Number of obs.                      1060  ->  3180
Number of variables                  10    ->  7
j variable (3 values)                ->  altern
xij variables:
      tt1 tt2 tt3  ->  tt
      tc1 tc2 tc3  ->  tc

. generate choice = 0
. replace choice = 1 if choice_w==altern
(1,060 real changes made)
. label define alt_label 1 "First" 2 "Second" 3 "Third"
. label values altern alt_label
. list obs altern choice id cs tt tc in 1/12, sepy(obs)
```

	obs	altern	choice	id	cs	tt	tc
1.	1	First	0	1	1	23	6
2.	1	Second	0	1	1	27	4
3.	1	Third	1	1	1	35	3
4.	2	First	0	1	2	27	5
5.	2	Second	1	1	2	35	4
6.	2	Third	0	1	2	23	6
7.	3	First	1	1	3	35	3
8.	3	Second	0	1	3	23	5
9.	3	Third	0	1	3	31	4

10.	4	First	0	1	4	27	4
11.	4	Second	0	1	4	23	5
12.	4	Third	1	1	4	35	3

After the data manipulation, we can fit the four different RRM models that `randregret` can estimate. Before going into the details of each possible specification of the regret function, we will discuss two required options for every model: `group()` and `alternative()`. The `group()` option contains an identifier of each choice situation in the sample, which, in our case, corresponds to the variable `obs`. The `alternative()` option identifies the alternatives available of the choice set, which, in our case, corresponds to variable the `altern`.

We will start with the classical RRM that uses equation (3) as systematic regret. To obtain such a model, we need to specify `rrmfn(classic)`. Additionally, we declare `nocons` because alternatives were non-labeled in the survey; therefore, we suppress the ASC. Here we can see that, as expected, both variables' coefficients are negative and highly significant. The interpretation of this latter result can be understood as follows. A negative and significant coefficient suggests that regret decreases as the level of that attribute increases in a non-chosen alternative compared to the same attribute level in a chosen one. For example, a negative coefficient estimated for the attribute "total time" indicates that the regret decreases as the total time increases in a non-chosen alternative, compared to the level of the chosen option. The same interpretation can be made for the attribute "total cost".

```
. randregret choice tc tt , gr(obs) alt(altern) rrmfn(classic) nocons
```

Fitting Classic RRM Model

```
initial:      log likelihood = -1164.529
alternative:  log likelihood = -1156.5784
rescale:     log likelihood = -1121.29
Iteration 0: log likelihood = -1121.29
Iteration 1: log likelihood = -1118.4843
Iteration 2: log likelihood = -1118.4784
Iteration 3: log likelihood = -1118.4784
```

RRM: Classic Random Regret Minimization Model

```
Case ID variable: obs          Number of cases   =      1060
Alternative variable: altern   Number of obs     =      3180
                               Wald chi2(2)       =      114.72
Log likelihood = -1118.4784    Prob > chi2      =      0.0000
```

	choice	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]	
RRM	tc	-.417101	.0399883	-10.43	0.000	-.4954767	-.3387253
	tt	-.102813	.0099862	-10.30	0.000	-.1223857	-.0832403

However, given that we observe multiple answers from each individual in the pre-

sented data, we need to correct our standard errors considering this panel structure. We can easily cluster our standard errors across individuals using the option `cluster(id)`, which implements the cluster robust variance-covariance matrix described in equation (15). When we re-estimate the model using the robust cluster correction, we can see a considerable increase in the standard error. This change can be explained mainly because the cluster correction treats the set of 10 answers from each of the 106 individuals as independent observations, differently from the latter, that assumed each of the 1060 choice situations were all independent. We will present the following models using robust standard errors using clusters across individuals.

```
. randregret choice tc tt, gr(obs) alt(altern) rrmfn(classic) ///
> nocons cluster(id) nolog
```

Fitting Classic RRM Model

RRM: Classic Random Regret Minimization Model

```
Case ID variable: obs           Number of cases   =      1060
Alternative variable: altern     Number of obs      =      3180
                                Wald chi2(2)        =      40.41
Log likelihood = -1118.4784      Prob > chi2       =      0.0000
                                (Std. Err. adjusted for 106 clusters in id)
```

	choice	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]	
RRM	tc	-.417101	.068059	-6.13	0.000	-.5504943	-.2837078
	tt	-.102813	.0182526	-5.63	0.000	-.1385874	-.0670386

In order to fit the GRRM model, we simply need to declare `rrmfn(gene)` to use equation (5) as our systematic regret function. From the output, we can observe that `randregret` fitted three models. The classical RRM (eq 3) is fitted to use the parameters as starting points for the GRRM, and it is used in the LR test of $\gamma = 1$. After, a linear RUM model was performed to obtain the constrained likelihood for the LR test of $\gamma = 0$. Finally, the GRRM model is fitted.

Because, γ must lie between 0 and 1, the optimization uses an ancillary parameter with a logistic transformation during the optimization procedure: $\gamma = \exp(\gamma^*) / (1 + \exp(\gamma^*)) = \text{logit}^{-1}(\gamma^*) = \text{invlogit}(\gamma^*)$, where γ^* is an unbounded ancillary parameter. Normally, γ^* is hidden from the output, but it can be shown using option `show`. The resulting γ^* is displayed in the `_cons` variable of the `gamma_star` equation.

```
. randregret choice tc tt , gr(obs) alt(altern) rrmfn(gene) ///
> nocons cluster(id) show
```

Fitting Classic RRM for Initial Values

```
initial:      log likelihood = -1164.529
alternative:  log likelihood = -1156.5784
rescale:     log likelihood = -1121.29
Iteration 0: log likelihood = -1121.29
```

```
Iteration 1: log likelihood = -1118.4843
Iteration 2: log likelihood = -1118.4784
Iteration 3: log likelihood = -1118.4784
```

```
Fitting Conditional Logit as a Restricted Model (gamma=0) for LR test
```

```
Fitting Generalized RRM Model
```

```
initial: log likelihood = -1120.7001
rescale: log likelihood = -1120.7001
rescale eq: log likelihood = -1120.7001
Iteration 0: log likelihood = -1120.7001
Iteration 1: log likelihood = -1118.5366
Iteration 2: log likelihood = -1118.3484
Iteration 3: log likelihood = -1118.3307
Iteration 4: log likelihood = -1118.3302
Iteration 5: log likelihood = -1118.3302
```

```
GRRM: Generalized Random Regret Minimization Model
```

```
Case ID variable: obs           Number of cases = 1060
Alternative variable: altern    Number of obs   = 3180
                                Wald chi2(2)      = 10.23
Log likelihood = -1118.3302     Prob > chi2     = 0.0060
                                (Std. Err. adjusted for 106 clusters in id)
```

choice	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]	
RRM						
tc	-.3904872	.1248997	-3.13	0.002	-.6352861	-.1456884
tt	-.0967528	.0307009	-3.15	0.002	-.1569255	-.03658
gamma_star						
_cons	1.291135	3.303988	0.39	0.696	-5.184563	7.766832
gamma	.7843392	.5588736			.0055712	.9995766
LR test of gamma=0: chibar2(01) = 9.41				Prob >= chibar2 = 0.001		
LR test of gamma=1: chibar2(01) = 0.30				Prob >= chibar2 = 0.293		

Finally, using $\hat{\gamma}^*$, we can obtain $\hat{\gamma}$ back on the original scale from 0 to 1 using the logistic transformation. It is displayed as `gamma` in the output. The standard error of `gamma` is computed using the Delta Method. To exemplify the last point, manually, it is possible to recover $\hat{\gamma}$ (`gamma`) using (see [R] `nlcom`).

```
. nlcom (gamma: invlogit(_b[gamma_star:_cons]))
      gamma: invlogit(_b[gamma_star:_cons])
```

choice	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]	
gamma	.7843392	.5588736	1.40	0.160	-.311033	1.879711

From the `nlcom` output some immediate discrepancies are evident regarding the con-

fidence interval (CI), where the upper bound violates the restriction that we imposed on γ . As Buis (2014) documented using the `heckman` command, the discrepancies in CI occur because `nl` computes the CI using $\hat{\gamma} \pm z_\rho \left[\widehat{Var}\{\hat{\gamma}\} \right]^{1/2}$. Accordingly, using the procedure of Buis (2007), and noting that the $\hat{\gamma}$ and $\left[\widehat{Var}\{\hat{\gamma}\} \right]^{1/2}$ are stored in `e(gamma)` and `e(gamma_sd)`, respectively, we can recover the CI of `nlcom` as follows.

```
. di "confidence interval for gamma from nl: ["          /*
> */ e(gamma) - e(gamma_sd)*invnormal(.975) " , "      /*
> */ e(gamma) + e(gamma_sd)*invnormal(.975) "]"
confidence interval for gamma from nl: [-.31103303 , 1.8797114]
```

On the other hand, `randregret` computes the CI using the endpoints of $\hat{\gamma}^*$ and then transforms those end points back into the restricted space. Therefore, the CI is computed using `invlogit` $\left(\hat{\gamma}^* \pm z_\rho \left[\widehat{Var}\{\hat{\gamma}^*\} \right]^{1/2} \right)$. We can replicate the CI produced by `randregret` manually as follows.

```
. di "confidence interval for gamma from randregret: [" /*
> */ invlogit(_b[gamma_star:_cons] -                    /*
> */ invnormal(.975)* _se[gamma_star:_cons]) " , "      /*
> */ invlogit(_b[gamma_star:_cons] +                    /*
> */ invnormal(.975)* _se[gamma_star:_cons]) "]"
confidence interval for gamma from randregret: [.00557117 , .99957663]
```

Even though both ways are asymptotically equivalent, in finite samples, they are likely to differ. Moreover, the way used by `randregret` ensures that the restrictions imposed on the parameter are met by the CI too.

Additionally, `randregret` computes two LR tests for the γ . As explained earlier, given that we are testing a null hypothesis at the boundaries of the parametric space, we need to adjust the critical value (Gutierrez et al. 2001). This is why the test mentions a `chibar2(01)` which is a mixture of a χ_1^2 (50%) and a χ_0^2 (50%). From the test, we can see that the hypothesis for $\gamma = 0$ is rejected, meaning that there is statistical evidence in favor of the data being generated by regret minimization behavior and not from random utility maximization. Finally, we can see that the hypothesis for $\gamma = 1$ cannot be rejected, meaning that, in this case, the GRRM model is not significantly different from the classical RRM.

The μ RRM model can be obtained typing `rrmfn(mu)`, implementing equation (7) as systematic regret. For this model, similar to the GRRM model, we use an ancillary parameter approach to bound the searching space of our algorithm for μ between 0 and M . The transformation used is $\mu = M \cdot [\exp(\mu^*) / (1 + \exp(\mu^*))] = M \cdot [\text{logit}^{-1}(\mu^*)] = M \cdot [\text{invlogit}(\mu^*)]$, where μ^* is an unbounded ancillary parameter, and M is equal to the upper bound of the searching space. The upper bound that we used in this case was equal to 10, as can be seen in the `uppermu(10)` option. From the output, we see that `randregret` first runs the classical RRM model, and uses the common parameters with

the μ RRM model as starting points for the maximization procedure.

```
. local up = 10
. randregret choice tc tt, gr(obs) alt(altern) rrm(mu) ///
> nocons uppermu(`up`) show cluster(id)
```

```
Fitting Classic RRM for Initial Values
```

```
initial:      log likelihood = -1164.529
alternative:  log likelihood = -1156.5784
rescale:      log likelihood = -1121.29
Iteration 0:  log likelihood = -1121.29
Iteration 1:  log likelihood = -1118.4843
Iteration 2:  log likelihood = -1118.4784
Iteration 3:  log likelihood = -1118.4784
```

```
Fitting muRRM Model
```

```
initial:      log likelihood = -1121.2577
rescale:      log likelihood = -1121.2577
rescale eq:   log likelihood = -1121.2577
Iteration 0:  log likelihood = -1121.2577 (not concave)
Iteration 1:  log likelihood = -1118.9528
Iteration 2:  log likelihood = -1118.5884
Iteration 3:  log likelihood = -1118.398
Iteration 4:  log likelihood = -1118.3965
Iteration 5:  log likelihood = -1118.3965
```

```
muRRM: Mu-Random Regret Minimization Model
Case ID variable: obs                Number of cases = 1060
Alternative variable: altern          Number of obs = 3180
                                      Wald chi2(2) = 66.95
Log likelihood = -1118.3965           Prob > chi2 = 0.0000
                                      (Std. Err. adjusted for 106 clusters in id)
```

choice	Robust		z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]	
	Coef.	Std. Err.				
RRM						
tc	-.4280409	.0557747	-7.67	0.000	-.5373572	-.3187245
tt	-.1059436	.0152902	-6.93	0.000	-.1359119	-.0759754
mu_star						
_cons	-2.0056	.7911288	-2.54	0.011	-3.556183	-.4550157
mu	1.186163	.827097			.2775523	3.881689

```
LR test of mu=1: chi2(1) = 0.16                Prob >= chibar2 = 0.686
```

The resulting $\hat{\mu}^*$ is displayed in the `_cons` variable of the `mu_star` equation because of the `_show` option. To recover the value of $\hat{\mu}$, `randregret` applies the transformation described above. The same procedure can be performed using `nlcom` in the same fashion as we did for the GRRM model, with the only difference that we need to multiply by the defined upper bound of the searching space to recover the parameter $\hat{\mu}$ correctly. The same discrepancies in the CI produced by `nlcom` are due to the matter explained

earlier in the GRRM model context and can be addressed as stated.

```
. nlcom (mu :invlogit(_b[mu_star:_cons])*'up')
      mu:  invlogit(_b[mu_star:_cons])*10
```

choice	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]	
mu	1.186163	.827097	1.43	0.152	-.4349177	2.807243

Additionally, `randregret` shows the LR test results for testing $\mu = 1$. We see that it is not possible to reject the hypothesis that μ is equal to 1 ($p = 0.686$), meaning that the model is statistically equivalent to the classical RRM. An important remark for practitioners is that if the maximum is reached at $\hat{\mu} = M$, it is highly likely that μ is tending to infinity, and therefore, as argued in [van Cranenburgh et al. \(2015\)](#), this fact suggests that there is evidence in favor that the choice behavior is better represented by a linear RUM model.

Finally, the PRRM model can be fitted using the `rrmfn(pure)` option. As we mentioned before, this model is a particular case of the μ RRM with μ arbitrarily small, and it is described by equations (9)-(10). Important differences with the common syntax need to be mentioned. Given that we need to feed the model with the expected signs of attributes, we do not include the explanatory variables in the conventional way. Instead, we split the attributes between the ones with assumed positive sign and the ones with assumed negative sign in options `pos()` and `neg()`, respectively. In this particular case, both of our attributes are expected to have a negative sign because faster and cheaper routes are preferable to slower and costlier ones, and therefore, when the level on a non-chosen alternative increases, the regret decreases. Consequently, we need to include the two attributes as follows: `neg(tc tt)`.

```
. randregret choice , neg(tc tt) gr(obs) alt(altern) rrmfn(pure) ///
> nocons cluster(id)
PRRM: Pure Random Regret Minimization Model
Case ID variable: obs           Number of cases   =      1060
Alternative variable: altern     Number of obs      =      3180
                                Wald chi2(2)       =       21.06
Log likelihood = -1128.3777      Prob > chi2       =       0.0000
                                (Std. Err. adjusted for 106 clusters in id)
```

choice	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]		
choice	tc	-.285628	.0647545	-4.41	0.000	-.4125446	-.1587114
	tt	-.0661575	.0169355	-3.91	0.000	-.0993505	-.0329645

The Pure-RRM uses a transformation of the original regressors using options `positive()` and `negative()` as detailed in [S. van Cranenburgh et. al \(2015\)](#). Afterward, `randregret` invokes `clogit` using these transformed regressors

As mentioned in the footnote of the output, `randregret` performs the attribute transformation using equation (10). The transformed attributes are generated using the `randregret_pure` command. Afterwards, `randregret` simply invokes `clogit` to fit the model using these transformed attributes.

Additionally, for the sake of illustration, we will also fit the PRRM model using `randregret_pure` and `clogit` independently. The `randregret_pure` command can generate the transformed attributes described in equation (10). When dealing with a mix of positive and negative attributes, their transformations need to be created in two different runs of `randregret_pure`, that is to say, one for assumed positive attributes and other for assumed negative attributes. In our case, all the attributes are assumed to have negative signs. Hence, we can create them in one single run of `randregret_pure` using option `sign(neg)`. Finally, given that the function will add the transformed attributes as new Stata variables the user needs to provide a prefix to name and include them in the data set. Consequently, we type `prefix(p_)` to declare that all the new attributes' names will start with the `p_` prefix.

```
. randregret_pure tc tt , sign(neg) gr(obs) prefix(p_)
. list obs altern choice tt p_tt tc p_tc in 1/3, sepy(obs)
```

	obs	altern	choice	tt	p_tt	tc	p_tc
1.	1	First	0	23	0	6	5
2.	1	Second	0	27	4	4	1
3.	1	Third	1	35	20	3	0

To further illustrate the process of generating the new attributes, we will follow the calculations in equation (10) to obtain the transformed attribute (`p_tt`) from the original attribute total time (`tt`) for the first choice situation (`obs==1`) of the first individual.

The new transformed attribute `p_tt`, conditional on an assumed negative sign from the original attribute is given by: $x_{i,tt,1}^{\text{PRRM}} = \sum_{j \neq i}^3 \min \{0, x_{j,tt,1} - x_{i,tt,1}\}$. Subsequently, in matrix format, we will perform the following calculations to obtain `p_tt`.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{X}_{tt,1}^{\text{PRRM}} &= \begin{pmatrix} x_{1,tt,1}^{\text{PRRM}} \\ x_{2,tt,1}^{\text{PRRM}} \\ x_{3,tt,1}^{\text{PRRM}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \min \{0, x_{2,tt,1} - x_{1,tt,1}\} + \min \{0, x_{3,tt,1} - x_{1,tt,1}\} \\ \min \{0, x_{1,tt,1} - x_{2,tt,1}\} + \min \{0, x_{3,tt,1} - x_{2,tt,1}\} \\ \min \{0, x_{1,tt,1} - x_{3,tt,1}\} + \min \{0, x_{2,tt,1} - x_{3,tt,1}\} \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \min \{0, 27 - 23\} + \min \{0, 35 - 23\} \\ \min \{0, 23 - 27\} + \min \{0, 35 - 27\} \\ \min \{0, 23 - 35\} + \min \{0, 27 - 35\} \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 + 0 \\ -4 + 0 \\ -12 + -8 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -4 \\ -20 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

It is worth to mention that `randregret_pure` function flips the signs of the variables to be used directly in combination with `clogit`. This is because in order to obtain the

choice probabilities using equation (11), we need to use the negative of (10) which is exactly what we achieve by invoking `clogit` using the transformed variables. Finally, we can check that we get the same results when running `randregret` using `rrmfn(pure)` option and using `randregret_pure` together with `clogit`.

```
. clogit choice p_tc p_tt, gr(obs) vce(cluster id)
Iteration 0:  log pseudolikelihood = -1132.2901
Iteration 1:  log pseudolikelihood = -1128.3852
Iteration 2:  log pseudolikelihood = -1128.3777
Iteration 3:  log pseudolikelihood = -1128.3777
Conditional (fixed-effects) logistic regression
                                         Number of obs   =    3,180
                                         Wald chi2(2)     =    21.06
                                         Prob > chi2      =    0.0000
Log pseudolikelihood = -1128.3777       Pseudo R2       =    0.0310
                                         (Std. Err. adjusted for 106 clusters in id)
-----+-----
```

choice	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]	
p_tc	-.285628	.0647545	-4.41	0.000	-.4125446	-.1587114
p_tt	-.0661575	.0169355	-3.91	0.000	-.0993505	-.0329645

As we mentioned earlier, `randregret` also allows for the inclusion of alternative specific constants (ASC) for all the models using equation (12). Below we run a classic RRM model, using option `base(1)`, which specifies that the first alternative is the reference for the ASC. We list the results here to illustrate the syntax only because the survey was implemented using non-labeled alternatives.

```
. randregret choice tc tt, gr(obs) alt(altern) base(1) rrmfn(classic) nolog
-----+-----
Fitting Classic RRM Model
-----+-----
RRM: Classic Random Regret Minimization Model
Case ID variable: obs           Number of cases   =    1060
Alternative variable: altern    Number of obs     =    3180
                               Wald chi2(2)        =    89.98
Log likelihood = -1113.5986     Prob > chi2       =    0.0000
-----+-----
```

choice	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]	
RRM						
tc	-.389129	.0411256	-9.46	0.000	-.4697336	-.3085244
tt	-.0910313	.0106063	-8.58	0.000	-.1118192	-.0702433
ASC						
ASC_2	-.1673341	.0769052	-2.18	0.030	-.3180656	-.0166026
ASC_3	.0876183	.0815384	1.07	0.283	-.072194	.2474306

To generate predictions we can invoke `randregretpred` after running `randregret`. To illustrate this we re-run the classical RRM model, and generate two different pre-

dictions. First, using option `proba` we generate the `prob` variable which contains the predicted probability of equation (4). Additionally, we also used the `xb` option to generate a variable containing the linear predicted systematic regret of equation (3).

```
. qui randregret choice tc tt , gr(obs) alt(altern) rrmfn(classic) nocons nolog
. randregretpred prob ,gr(obs) alt(altern) proba
. randregretpred xb ,gr(obs) alt(altern) xb
. list obs altern choice id cs tt tc prob xb in 1/12, sepby(obs)
```

	obs	altern	choice	id	cs	tt	tc	prob	xb
1.	1	First	0	1	1	23	6	.22354907	3.4618503
2.	1	Second	0	1	1	27	4	.54655027	2.567855
3.	1	Third	1	1	1	35	3	.22990067	3.4338339
4.	2	First	0	1	2	27	5	.43840211	2.7134208
5.	2	Second	1	1	2	35	4	.19128045	3.5428166
6.	2	Third	0	1	2	23	6	.37031744	2.8821967
7.	3	First	1	1	3	35	3	.25800373	3.2759017
8.	3	Second	0	1	3	23	5	.44187012	2.7378597
9.	3	Third	0	1	3	31	4	.30012616	3.1246728
10.	4	First	0	1	4	27	4	.43840211	2.7134208
11.	4	Second	0	1	4	23	5	.37031744	2.8821967
12.	4	Third	1	1	4	35	3	.19128045	3.5428166

11 Conclusions

We have presented the `randregret` command, which allows the user to easily estimate four different RRM models, namely the Classic RRM (Chorus 2010), the Generalized RRM (Chorus 2014), the μ RRM and the PRRM (van Cranenburgh et al. 2015). We have illustrated the results using Stated Choice Discrete Choice Data in the context of route selection given in van Cranenburgh and Alwosheel (2019). Additionally, we have included additional LR tests that rely on the relationships among the models, which allows us to test whether the data are more likely to be generated by RRM or RUM choice behavior.

12 Acknowledgments

The authors thank to Caspar Chorus and Sander van Cranenburgh for helpful comments and constructive suggestions on early version of this article. Additionally, this work was produced while Álvaro A. Gutiérrez Vargas was a PhD student at the Research Centre for Operations Research and Statistics (ORSTAT) at KU Leuven funded by *Bijzonder Onderzoeksfonds KU Leuven* (Special Research Fund KU Leuven).

13 References

- Bell, D. E. 1982. Regret in Decision Making under Uncertainty. *Operations Research* 30(5): 961–981. <https://doi.org/10.1287/opre.30.5.961>.
- Buis, M. L. 2007. Stata Tip 53: Where did My P-Values Go? *The Stata Journal* 7(4): 584–586. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1536867X0800700408>.
- . 2014. Stata Tip 116: Where did My P-Values Go? (Part 3). *The Stata Journal* 14(1): 218–220. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1536867X1401400114>.
- Chorus, C., and M. Bierlaire. 2013. An empirical comparison of travel choice models that capture preferences for compromise alternatives. *Transportation* 40(3): 549–562. <https://ideas.repec.org/a/kap/transp/v40y2013i3p549-562.html>.
- Chorus, C. G. 2010. A New Model of Random Regret Minimization. *European Journal of Transport and Infrastructure Research* 10(2): 181–196.
- . 2014. A Generalized Random Regret Minimization model. *Transportation Research Part B: Methodological* 68: 224 – 238. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0191261514001167>.
- Chorus, C. G., T. A. Arentze, and H. J. Timmermans. 2008. A Random Regret-Minimization model of travel choice. *Transportation Research Part B: Methodological* 42(1): 1 – 18. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0191261507000550>.
- Chorus, C. G., J. M. Rose, and D. A. Hensher. 2013. Regret Minimization or Utility Maximization: It Depends on the Attribute. *Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design* 40(1): 154–169. <https://doi.org/10.1068/b38092>.
- Gutierrez, R. G., S. Carter, and D. M. Drukker. 2001. On boundary-value likelihood-ratio tests. *Stata Technical Bulletin* 10(60). <https://EconPapers.repec.org/RePEc:tsj:stbull:y:2001:v:10:i:60:sg160>.
- Loomes, G., and R. Sugden. 1982. Regret Theory: An Alternative Theory of Rational Choice Under Uncertainty. *The Economic Journal* 92(368): 805–824. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2232669>.
- Manski, C. F. 1977. The structure of random utility models. *Theory and Decision* 8(3): 229. <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF00133443>.
- Molenberghs, G., and G. Verbeke. 2007. Likelihood Ratio, Score, and Wald Tests in a Constrained Parameter Space. *The American Statistician* 61(1): 22–27. <https://doi.org/10.1198/000313007X171322>.
- Self, S. G., and K.-Y. Liang. 1987. Asymptotic Properties of Maximum Likelihood Estimators and Likelihood Ratio Tests Under Nonstandard Conditions. *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 82(398): 605–610. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2289471>.

- Train, K. E. 2009. *Discrete Choice Methods with Simulation*. 2nd ed. Cambridge University Press.
- van Cranenburgh, S. 2018. Small value-of-time experiment, Netherlands. 4TU.Centre for Research Data, Dataset <https://doi.org/10.4121/uuid:1ccca375-68ca-4cb6-8fc0-926712f50404>.
- van Cranenburgh, S., and A. Alwosheel. 2019. An artificial neural network based approach to investigate travellers' decision rules. *Transportation Research Part C: Emerging Technologies* 98: 152 – 166. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0968090X18305230>.
- van Cranenburgh, S., C. A. Guevara, and C. G. Chorus. 2015. New insights on random regret minimization models. *Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice* 74: 91 – 109. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0965856415000166>.
- van Cranenburgh, S., and C. G. Prato. 2016. On the robustness of random regret minimization modelling outcomes towards omitted attributes. *Journal of Choice Modelling* 18: 51 – 70. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1755534515300294>.

About the authors

Álvaro A. Gutiérrez Vargas is a PhD student at the Research Centre of Operation Research and Statistics (ORSTAT) at KU Leuven, Belgium.

Michel Meulders is associate professor at the Faculty of Economics and Business at KU Leuven, Belgium.

Martina Vandebroek is full professor at the Faculty of Economics and Business at KU Leuven, Belgium.

A Technical Appendix

A.1 Generic Scores Functions for RRM models

Without loss of generality, we can state that the log-likelihood of the four RRM models presented in this article can be represented by equation (16). In particular, when R_{in}^* is replaced by equations (3), (5), (7) or (9), we can fit respectively the classical RRM, the GRRM, the μ RRM, and the PRRM model.

$$\begin{aligned} \ln L &= \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{i=1}^J y_{in} \ln(P_{in}^*) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{i=1}^J y_{in} \ln \left(\frac{\exp(-R_{in}^*)}{\sum_{j=1}^J \exp(-R_{jn}^*)} \right) \\ &= - \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{i=1}^J y_{in} R_{in}^* - \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{i=1}^J y_{in} \ln \left(\sum_{j=1}^J \exp(-R_{jn}^*) \right) \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

Furthermore, any partial derivative of the log-likelihood with respect to any parameter $\theta \in \boldsymbol{\theta}$, where $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ stands for the full set of parameters of the model, can be expressed as in equation (17). The rank of $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ will depend on the particular model.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \theta} &= - \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{i=1}^J y_{in} \frac{\partial R_{in}^*}{\partial \theta} + \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{i=1}^J y_{in} \left(\sum_{j=1}^J P_{jn} \frac{\partial R_{jn}^*}{\partial \theta} \right) \\ &= - \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{i=1}^J (y_{in} - P_{in}) \left(\frac{\partial R_{in}^*}{\partial \theta} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

In the Appendices (A.2) - (A.5), we will list the partial derivatives, also known as scores functions, per type of parameter in each type of model. Additionally, it is crucial to notice that, in any case, we can check that $\partial R_{in}^* / \partial \alpha_i = 1$, where α_i represents the coefficient associated with the ASC of alternative i .

A.2 Scores functions for the classical RRM model

In order to obtain the loglikelihood of the classic RRM model we need to substitute R_{in}^* in equation (16) by equation (3). Accordingly, the set of parameters $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ is now given by $\boldsymbol{\theta} = (\boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\alpha})'$. Here $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ is a $m \times 1$ vector of alternative-specific regression coefficients and $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$ is a $(J-1) \times 1$ vector of ASC. Subsequently, the scores functions of the classical RRM model will be described as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}} &= \left(\frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \beta_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \beta_M}, \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \alpha_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \alpha_{J-1}} \right) \\ &= \left(\frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \boldsymbol{\beta}}, \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \boldsymbol{\alpha}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Finally, to obtain the expression for $\partial \ln L / \partial \beta_m$ we need to replace equation (18) into equation (17).

$$\frac{\partial R_{in}}{\partial \beta_m} = \sum_{j \neq i}^J \left(\frac{\exp \{ \beta_m (x_{jmn} - x_{imn}) \} \cdot (x_{jmn} - x_{imn})}{1 + \exp \{ \beta_m (x_{jmn} - x_{imn}) \}} \right) \quad (18)$$

A.3 Scores functions for GRRM model

The log-likelihood of the GRRM model can be constructed by replacing the term R_{in}^* in equation (16) by equation (5). Hence, the full set of parameters θ is now given by $\theta = (\beta, \alpha, \gamma^*)'$. Here, β is a $m \times 1$ vector of alternative-specific regression coefficients, α is a $(J-1) \times 1$ vector of ASC and γ^* is a scalar equal to the parameter γ in the logit scale. Hence, the corresponding scores functions are described by:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \theta} &= \left(\frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \beta_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \beta_M}, \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \alpha_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \alpha_{J-1}}, \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \gamma^*} \right) \\ &= \left(\frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \beta}, \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \alpha}, \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \gamma^*} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Additionally, in order to obtain the expression for $\partial \ln L / \partial \beta_m$ we need to replace equation (19) into equation (17).

$$\frac{\partial R_{in}^{\text{GRRM}}}{\partial \beta_m} = \sum_{j \neq i}^J \left(\frac{\exp \{ \beta_m (x_{jmn} - x_{imn}) \} \cdot (x_{jmn} - x_{imn})}{\gamma + \exp \{ \beta_m (x_{jmn} - x_{imn}) \}} \right) \quad (19)$$

However, the score function of the parameter γ^* needs a slightly different treatment. As mentioned earlier, the optimization procedure does not directly fit the parameter γ , but instead, it fits the model using an ancillary parameter: $\gamma^* = \text{logit}(\gamma)$. Hence, we model the parameter γ in the logit scale. This fact has a direct impact on the score function of parameter γ^* . Using the chain rule, we can state:

$$\frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \gamma} = \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \gamma^*} \cdot \frac{\partial \gamma^*}{\partial \gamma}$$

Subsequently, solving $\partial \gamma^* / \partial \gamma$ and rearranging terms, we see in equation (20), that in order to compute the score function of the parameter γ^* , we need to adjust the partial derivative from the log-likelihood with respect to γ by a factor of $\gamma(1 - \gamma)$.

$$\frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \gamma^*} = \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \gamma} \cdot \gamma(1 - \gamma) \quad (20)$$

The expression for $\partial \ln L / \partial \gamma$ can be computed replacing equation (21) into equation (17), which together with equation (20) gives us the required expression for $\partial \ln L / \partial \gamma^*$.

$$\frac{\partial R_{in}^{\text{GRRM}}}{\partial \gamma} = \sum_{j \neq i}^J \sum_{m=1}^M \left(\frac{1}{\gamma + \exp \{ \beta_m (x_{jmn} - x_{imn}) \}} \right) \quad (21)$$

A.4 Scores functions for μ RRM model

The μ RRM model has a log-likelihood that is a particular case of equation (17), where R_{in}^* is replaced by equation (7). Thus, the full set of parameters θ is now described by $\theta = (\beta, \alpha, \mu^*)'$. Here β is a $m \times 1$ vector of alternative-specific regression coefficients, α is a $(J - 1) \times 1$ vector of ASC and μ^* is a scalar equal to the μ parameter in a transformed scale. Thus, the corresponding scores functions can be represented by:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \theta} &= \left(\frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \beta_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \beta_M}, \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \alpha_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \alpha_{J-1}}, \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \mu^*} \right) \\ &= \left(\frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \beta}, \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \alpha}, \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \mu^*} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

First, by replacing equation (23) back into equation (17) we can easily obtain the expression for $\partial \ln L / \partial \beta_m$.

$$\frac{\partial R_{in}^{\mu\text{RRM}}}{\partial \beta_m} = \sum_{j \neq i}^J \left(\frac{\exp [(\beta_m / \mu) \cdot (x_{jmn} - x_{imn})] \cdot (x_{jmn} - x_{imn})}{\mu \cdot (1 + \exp [(\beta_m / \mu) \cdot (x_{jmn} - x_{imn})])} \right) \quad (23)$$

The μ RRM model, similarly to the GRRM model, also fits the parameter μ using an unbounded ancillary parameter: $\mu^* = \ln(\mu / (M - \mu))$. Accordingly, this transformation needs to be taken into account when computing the score function of the parameter μ^* . Using the chain rule, we can state:

$$\frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \mu} = \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \mu^*} \cdot \frac{\partial \mu^*}{\partial \mu}$$

Solving for $\partial \mu^* / \partial \mu$ and rearranging terms, we can see that the score function of the parameter μ^* is the same as the partial derivative of the log-likelihood with respect to μ multiplied by a factor equal to $\mu(M - \mu) / M$.

$$\frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \mu^*} = \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \mu} \cdot \frac{\mu(M - \mu)}{M} \quad (24)$$

Finally, the expression for $\partial \ln L / \partial \mu$ can be obtained replacing equations (25) and (26) into equation (17), which together with equation (24), provides the required expression for $\partial \ln L / \partial \mu^*$.

$$\frac{\partial R_{in}^{\mu\text{RRM}}}{\partial \mu} = \sum_{j \neq i}^J \sum_{m=1}^M R_{i \leftrightarrow j, m}^{\mu\text{RRM}} + \mu \cdot \sum_{j \neq i}^J \sum_{m=1}^M \frac{\partial R_{i \leftrightarrow j, m}^{\mu\text{RRM}}}{\partial \mu} \quad (25)$$

$$\frac{\partial R_{i \leftrightarrow j, m}^{\mu\text{RRM}}}{\partial \mu} = \left(\frac{\exp \{(\beta_m / \mu) \cdot (x_{jmn} - x_{imn})\} \cdot (x_{jmn} - x_{imn}) \cdot \beta_m}{\mu^2 \cdot (1 + \exp \{(\beta_m / \mu) \cdot (x_{jmn} - x_{imn})\})} \right) \quad (26)$$

A.5 Scores Functions for PRRM model

We can recover the log-likelihood of the PRRM model replacing the expression R_{in}^* in equation (16) by equation (9). Thus, the full set of parameters θ is now described by $\theta = (\beta, \alpha)'$. Here β is a $m \times 1$ vector of alternative-specific regression coefficients and α is a $(J - 1) \times 1$ vector of ASC. Consequently, the scores functions are then:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \theta} &= \left(\frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \beta_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \beta_M}, \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \alpha_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \alpha_{J-1}} \right) \\ &= \left(\frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \beta}, \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \alpha} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Accordingly, we can obtain the expression for $\partial \ln L / \partial \beta_m$ by replacing equation (27) into equation (17).

$$\frac{\partial R_{in}^{\text{PURE}}}{\partial \beta_m} = x_{imn}^{\text{PURE}} \quad (27)$$

FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS
Naamsestraat 69 bus 3500
3000 LEUVEN, BELGIË
tel. + 32 16 32 66 12
fax + 32 16 32 67 91
info@econ.kuleuven.be
www.econ.kuleuven.be

