

# Using simulation to inspect the performance of a test

in particular tests of the parallel regressions assumption in  
ordered logit models

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# Outline

Introduction

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## Parallel lines assumption in Ordered logit

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- ▶ So we can look at the effect of a variable X on the comparison 1 versus 2 and 3 and the comparison 2 versus 3.
- ▶ An ordered logit results in one effect of X by assuming that these effects are the same
- ▶ A generalized version of this model allows some or all of these effects to be different. This model is implemented by Richard Williams in `gologit2`.

## 5 Tests of the parallel lines assumption after ordered logit

Tests of the parallel lines assumption compare the ordered logit model with a full generalized ordered logit model. There are 5 tests implemented in Stata (soon) in `oparallel`

- ▶ likelihood ratio test
- ▶ Wald test
- ▶ score test
- ▶ Wolfe-Gould test (approximate likelihood ratio test)
- ▶ Brant test (approximate Wald test)

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4. The p-value is the proportion of these samples that deviate from the null hypothesis at least as much as the observed data
5. It is the probability of drawing a sample that is at least as ‘weird’ as the observed data if the null hypothesis is true

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  1. I am going to change my data such that the null hypothesis is true
  2. I am going to draw many samples from this ‘population’ and perform the test in each of these samples
  3. I am going to compare the p-value returned by that test with the proportion of samples that are more extreme than that sample.

## The distribution of p-values

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- ▶ So the sampling distribution of the p-values if the null hypothesis is true should be a standard uniform distribution.

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## The basic simulation (preparation)

```
clear all
use "http://www.indiana.edu/~jslsoc/stata/spex_data/ordwarm2.d
ologit warm white ed prst male yr89 age

predict double pr1 pr2 pr3 pr4, pr
forvalues i = 2/3 {
    local j = `i' - 1
    replace pr`i' = pr`i' + pr`j'
}
replace pr4 = 1
gen pr0 = 0
keep if e(sample)

gen ysim = .
gen u = .
```

## The basic simulation (actual simulation)

```
program define sim, rclass
  replace u = runiform()
  forvalues i = 1/4 {
    local j = `i' - 1
    replace ysim = `i' if u > pr`j' & u < pr`i'
  }
  ologit ysim white ed prst male yr89 age
  oparallel
return scalar s = r(p_s)
return scalar w = r(p_w)
return scalar lr = r(p_lr)
return scalar wg = r(p_wg)
return scalar b = r(p_b)
end
```

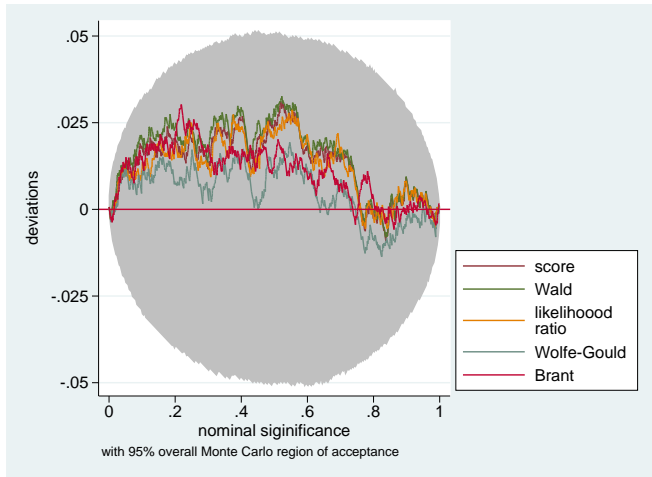
```
simulate s=r(s) w=r(w) lr=r(lr) wg=r(wg) b=r(b), reps(1000) :
```



## The basic simulation (interpret the results)

```
simpplot s w lr wg b,          ///  
  mainlopt (ms (none) c (1) sort ) ///  
  main2opt (ms (none) c (1) sort ) ///  
  main3opt (ms (none) c (1) sort ) ///  
  main4opt (ms (none) c (1) sort ) ///  
  main5opt (ms (none) c (1) sort ) ///  
  legend (order (2 "score"      ///  
           3 "Wald"             ///  
           4 "likelihood"      ///  
           "ratio"             ///  
           5 "Wolfe-Gould"     ///  
           6 "Brant" ))        ///  
  overall reps (100000)        ///  
  scheme (s2color)             ///  
  ylab (-.05 (.025) .05, angle (horizontal))
```

## The basic simulation (interpret the results)



## Sample size

- ▶ So, all three tests seem to work well in the current dataset, which contains 2,293 observations

## Sample size

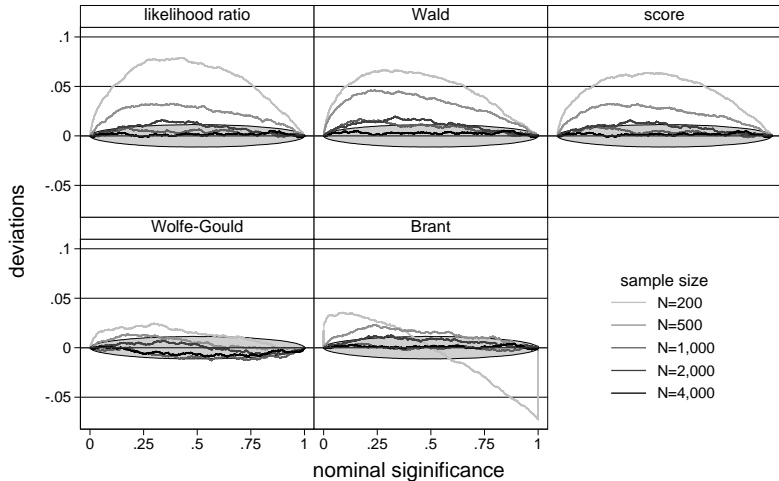
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- ▶ What if I have a smaller dataset?
- ▶ Adapt the basic example by sampling say 200 observations, like so:

```
<prepare data>  
save prepared_data  
program define sim, rclass  
    use prepared_data  
    bsample 200  
    ...
```

# sample size



with 95% overall Monte Carlo region of acceptance



## number of categories

- ▶ What if the number of observations remains constant at the observed number 2,293 but we increase the number of answer categories?

## number of categories

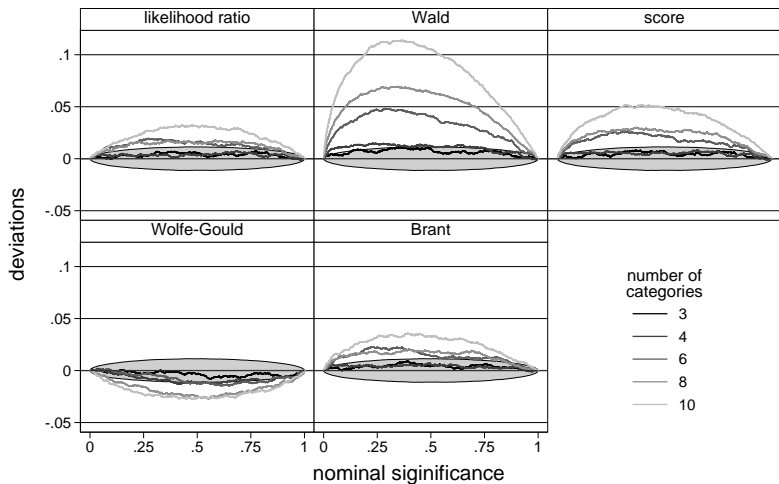
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- ▶ What if the number of observations remains constant at the observed number 2,293 but we increase the number of answer categories?
- ▶ We looked at 3, 4, 6, 8, and 10 categories, by changing the constants.
- ▶ These constants were chosen such that the proportion of observations in each of these categories are all the same

## number of categories



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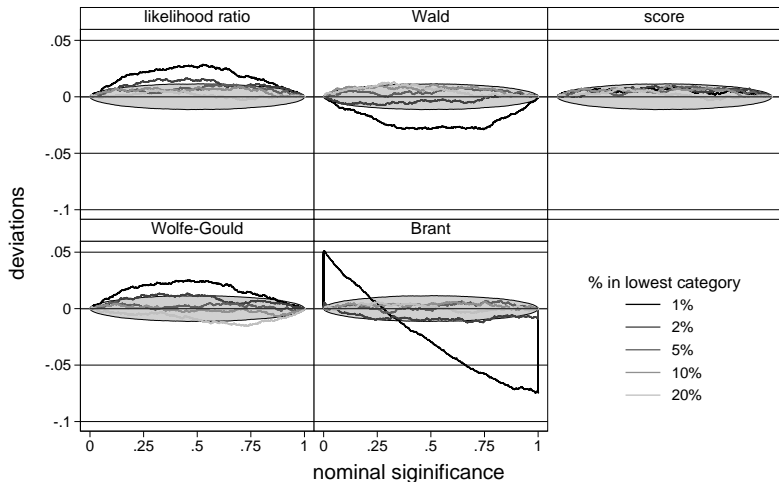
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- ▶ Such sparse categories are also common in real data and often cause trouble.
- ▶ We fix the number of categories at 4 but change the first constant such that the proportion of observations in the first two categories change
- ▶ We do that in such a way that the first category contains 1%, 2%, 5%, 10%, or 20% of the observations

## size of categories



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- ▶ This is a bootstrap test
- ▶ This is implemented in `oparallel` as the `asl` option

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- ▶ The ratio of the number of samples that are at least as extreme as the observed data  $k$  over the the number of replications  $B$  is the natural estimate of the p-value. However...



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- ▶ So the probability of finding 0 or less samples that are more extreme than the observed data is  $\frac{1}{B+1}$
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- ▶ So the probability of finding  $0$  or less samples that are more extreme than the observed data is  $\frac{1}{B+1}$
- ▶ The probability of finding  $1$  or less samples that are more extreme than the observed data is  $\frac{2}{B+1}$
- ▶ In general, the probability of finding  $k$  or less samples that are more extreme than the observed data is  $\frac{k+1}{B+1}$

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- ▶ This means that the value of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  smallest value will follow a Beta distribution with parameters  $i$  and  $B + 1 - i$
- ▶ The mean of this distribution is  $i/(B + 1) = (k + 1)/(B + 1)$ .

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- ▶ The two are very similar

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- ▶ But it is nowhere near as bad as we expected
- ▶ Problematic situations are small sample sizes and a large number of categories in the dependent variable, but not so much a sparse categories.
- ▶ Surprisingly the Wolfe-Gould test seems to work best

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- ▶ Finding that the parallel lines assumption does not hold tells you that the patterns you can see in a generalized ordered logit model are unlikely to be just random noise.
- ▶ It is now up to the researcher to determine whether these patterns are important enough to abandon the ordered logit model.

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- ▶ Does this mean that tests for the parallel lines is not anti-conservative?
- ▶ Not if you use it for model selection. If you are automatically going to reject your model when you find a significant deviation from the parallel lines assumptions you will reject to many useful models.
- ▶ A model is a simplification of reality. Simplification is another word for 'wrong in some useful way'. So, all models are by definition wrong.
- ▶ Finding that the parallel lines assumption does not hold tells you that the patterns you can see in a generalized ordered logit model are unlikely to be just random noise.
- ▶ It is now up to the researcher to determine whether these patterns are important enough to abandon the ordered logit model. This is a judgement call that cannot be delegated to a computer



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- ▶ Checking a test, we make sure we repeatedly draw from a population in which the null hypothesis is true
- ▶ in regression type problems it is usually enough to draw a new dependent variable from the distribution implied by the model
- ▶ The purpose is than to check whether the p-values follow a standard uniform distribution

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- ▶ This idea can also be used to estimate p-values when the test itself does not behave as well as you would like.
- ▶ That is the bootstrap test, and it is a general idea. It has been applied in: `asl_norm` and `propcnsreg`