Fitting a Linear-Linear Piecewise Growth Mixture Model with Unknown Knots

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University of Minnesota, Peik Hall Room 28  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, TEAC Room 112  
University of Alberta, Education Centre North Room 6-1110  
University of Iowa, Lindquist Center Room N221  
University of Maryland, Benjamin Building Room 3233

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A linear–linear piecewise growth mixture model (PGMM) is appropriate for analyzing segmented change in individual behavior over time, where the data come from a mixture of two or more latent classes, and the underlying growth trajectories in the different segments of the developmental process within each latent class are linear. A PGMM allows the knot (change point), the time of transition from one phase to another, to be estimated (when it is not known *a priori*) along with the other model parameters. To assist researchers in deciding which estimation method is most advantageous, the current research compares two popular approaches to inference for PGMMs: maximum likelihood (ML) via an expectation–maximization (EM) algorithm, and Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) for Bayesian inference. The results show that MCMC Bayesian parameter estimation outperformed ML via EM in nearly every simulation scenario. The Bayesian procedure is illustrated by fitting a PGMM model to ECLS-K math achievement data.


If you have questions about this seminar, contact Professor Mark Davison, mld@umn.edu.

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