

Supplementary Material for Random Graph Asymptotics for Treatment Effect Estimation in Two-Sided Markets

A Proof of Proposition 1

For the direct effect, from Assumption 4, we can Taylor expand $f_i\left(w_i, \frac{M_i}{N_i}\right)$ as follows:

$$f_i\left(w_i, \frac{M_i}{N_i}\right) = f_i(w_i, \pi) + f'_i(w_i, \pi) \left(\frac{M_i}{N_i} - \pi\right) + f''_i(w_i, \pi_i^*) \left(\frac{M_i}{N_i} - \pi\right)^2$$

for some π_i^* between π and $\frac{M_i}{N_i}$. Note that $\mathbb{E}\left[\left(\frac{M_i}{N_i} - \pi\right) \mid G, f(\cdot)\right] = 0$ and $\mathbb{E}\left[\left(\frac{M_i}{N_i} - \pi\right)^2 \mid G, f(\cdot)\right] = \pi(1 - \pi)/N_i$. Therefore, the expectation conditional on the inference graph and the potential outcome functions is

$$\mathbb{E}\left[f_i\left(w_i, \frac{M_i}{N_i}\right) \mid G, f(\cdot)\right] = f_i(w_i, \pi) + \mathbb{E}[f''_i(W_i, \pi_i^*) \mid G, f(\cdot)]\pi(1 - \pi)/N_i.$$

By (3), $|f''_i(W_i, \pi_i^*)| \leq B$, thus $|\mathbb{E}[f''_i(W_i, \pi_i^*) \mid G, f(\cdot)]\pi(1 - \pi)/N_i| \leq B\pi(1 - \pi)/N_i$. Therefore,

$$\bar{\tau}_{\text{DIR}} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i \mathbb{E}\left[f_i\left(1, \frac{M_i}{N_i}\right) - f_i\left(0, \frac{M_i}{N_i}\right) \mid G, f(\cdot)\right] = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i (f_i(1, \pi) - f_i(0, \pi)) + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{B}{\min_i N_i}\right).$$

For the indirect effect, recall that the total effect is

$$\bar{\tau}_{\text{TOT}}(\pi) = \frac{d}{d\pi} \bar{V}(\pi), \quad \bar{V}(\pi) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i \mathbb{E}_\pi[Y_i \mid Y(\cdot)].$$

For any $\pi' \in (0, 1)$, the Horvitz–Thompson estimate of $\bar{V}(\pi')$ is

$$\hat{V}(\pi') = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i \left(\frac{\pi'}{\pi}\right)^{M_i + W_i} \left(\frac{1 - \pi'}{1 - \pi}\right)^{(N_i - M_i) + (1 - W_i)}.$$

Thus by taking the derivative of $\hat{V}(\pi')$, we can define

$$\hat{\tau}_{\text{TOT}}^U(\pi) = \left[\frac{d}{d\pi'} \hat{V}(\pi') \right]_{\pi'=\pi} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i Y_i \left(\frac{M_i + W_i}{\pi} - \frac{N_i - M_i + 1 - W_i}{1 - \pi} \right).$$

We can verify that this estimator is unbiased for $\bar{\tau}_{\text{TOT}}(\pi)$ by following the line of argumentation in Section 4.1. It can be naturally decomposed into two parts:

$$\hat{\tau}_{\text{TOT}}^U = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i Y_i \left(\frac{W_i}{\pi} - \frac{1 - W_i}{1 - \pi} \right) + \frac{1}{n} \sum_i Y_i \left(\frac{M_i}{\pi} - \frac{N_i - M_i}{1 - \pi} \right) = \hat{\tau}_{\text{DIR}}^{\text{HT}} + \hat{\tau}_{\text{IND}}^U.$$

Recalling that $\hat{\tau}_{\text{DIR}}^{\text{HT}}$ is unbiased for $\bar{\tau}_{\text{DIR}}$, we see that $\hat{\tau}_{\text{IND}}^U$ is also unbiased for $\bar{\tau}_{\text{IND}}$, thus

$$\bar{\tau}_{\text{IND}} = \mathbb{E}[\hat{\tau}_{\text{IND}}^U \mid G, f(\cdot)] = \frac{1}{n\pi(1-\pi)} \sum_i \mathbb{E}[Y_i(M_i - \pi N_i) \mid G, f(\cdot)].$$

By Taylor expanding f_i , we can rewrite $\bar{\tau}_{\text{IND}}$ as

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\tau}_{\text{IND}} &= \frac{1}{n\pi(1-\pi)} \sum_i \mathbb{E} \left[\left(f'_i(W_i, \pi) \left(\frac{M_i}{N_i} - \pi \right) + \frac{1}{2} f''_i(W_i, \pi^*_i) \left(\frac{M_i}{N_i} - \pi \right)^2 \right) (M_i - \pi N_i) \mid G, f(\cdot) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{n\pi(1-\pi)} \sum_i \mathbb{E} [f'_i(W_i, \pi) \mid G, f(\cdot)] \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{(M_i - \pi N_i)^2}{N_i} \mid G, f(\cdot) \right] \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2n\pi(1-\pi)} \sum_i \mathbb{E} \left[f''_i(W_i, \pi^*_i) \frac{(M_i - \pi N_i)^3}{N_i^2} \mid G, f(\cdot) \right] \\ &= D_1 + D_2, \end{aligned}$$

where $D_1 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i (\pi f'_i(1, \pi) + (1-\pi) f'_i(0, \pi))$. For D_2 , note that

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\left(f''_i(W_i, \pi^*_i) \frac{(M_i - \pi N_i)^3}{N_i^2} \right)^2 \mid G, f(\cdot) \right] \leq \frac{B^2 \mathbb{E}[(M_i - \pi N_i)^6 \mid G, f(\cdot)]}{N_i^4}.$$

Since each neighbor independently receives treatment with probability π , M_i follows a binomial distribution: $M_i \sim \text{Binomial}(N_i, \pi)$. For a binomial random variable M_i , the central moments $\mathbb{E}[(M_i - \mathbb{E}[M_i])^k]$ generally scale as:

$$\mathbb{E}[(M_i - \mathbb{E}[M_i])^k] = \mathcal{O}(N_i^{k/2}) \quad \text{for } k \geq 2.$$

So we get $\mathbb{E}[(M_i - \pi N_i)^6] = \mathcal{O}(N_i^3)$. Hence $D_2 = \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{B}{\sqrt{\min_i N_i}}\right)$, and

$$\bar{\tau}_{\text{IND}} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i (\pi f'_i(1, \pi) + (1-\pi) f'_i(0, \pi)) + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{B}{\sqrt{\min_i N_i}}\right).$$

Furthermore, by plugging in $f_k(w, x)$ we obtained in (2), we get the results in Proposition 1.

B Proof of Theorem 2

By Lemma 15 (Li & Wager, 2022) and the assumption that $\liminf \log \rho_N / \log N > -1$, we have $\min_i N_i = \Omega(N\rho_N)$, and

$$\hat{\tau}_{\text{DIR}}^{\text{HT}} - \bar{\tau}_{\text{DIR}} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \left(\frac{f_i(1, \pi)}{\pi} + \frac{f_i(0, \pi)}{1-\pi} + \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{E_{ij}}{N_j} (f'_j(1, \pi) - f'_j(0, \pi)) \right) (W_i - \pi) + o_p\left(\frac{B}{\sqrt{N}}\right).$$

Define $R_i = \frac{f_i(1, \pi)}{\pi} + \frac{f_i(0, \pi)}{1-\pi}$. By Assumption 4, $|f'_j(1, \pi) - f'_j(0, \pi)| \leq 2B$. For a fixed j , given U_j , $E_{jk} \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \text{Bernoulli}(g_N(U_j))$. Thus we can rewrite as follow:

$$\sum_{j \neq i} \frac{E_{ij}}{N_j} (f'_j(1, \pi) - f'_j(0, \pi)) = \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{E_{ij} (f'_j(1, \pi) - f'_j(0, \pi))}{(N-1)g_N(U_j)} - \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{E_{ij} (f'_j(1, \pi) - f'_j(0, \pi)) (N_j - (N-1)g_N(U_j))}{(N-1)g_N(U_j)N_j}.$$

For the first term, define

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\frac{E_{ij} (f'_j(1, \pi) - f'_j(0, \pi))}{g_N(U_j)} \middle| U_i \right] = Q_{N,i}$$

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E} \left[\left(\sum_{j \neq i} \frac{E_{ij}(f'_j(1, \pi) - f'_j(0, \pi))}{(N-1)g_N(U_j)} - Q_{N,i} \right)^2 \right] &= \frac{1}{N-1} \mathbb{E} \left[\left(\frac{E_{ij}(f'_j(1, \pi) - f'_j(0, \pi))}{g_N(U_j)} - Q_{N,i} \right)^2 \right] \\ &\leq \frac{1}{N-1} \mathbb{E} \left[\left(\frac{E_{ij}(f'_j(1, \pi) - f'_j(0, \pi))}{g_N(U_j)} \right)^2 \right] = \mathcal{O} \left(\frac{B^2}{(N-1)\rho_N} \right).\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the first term can be well approximated by $Q_{N,i}$ as $N \rightarrow \infty$.

For the second term, $(N_j - E_{ij}) \sim \text{Binomial}(N-2, g_N(U_j))$ conditional on U and $f(\cdot)$. Thus

$$\frac{E_{ij}(f'_j(1, \pi) - f'_j(0, \pi))(N_j - (N-1)g_N(U_j))}{g_N(U_j)N_j} = \frac{E_{ij}(f'_j(1, \pi) - f'_j(0, \pi))((N_j - E_{ij} + 1) - (N-1)g_N(U_j))}{g_N(U_j)(N_j - E_{ij} + 1)},$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E} \left[\frac{(N_j - E_{ij} + 1) - (N-1)g_N(U_j)}{g_N(U_j)(N_j - E_{ij} + 1)} \middle| U, f(\cdot) \right] &= \frac{1}{g_N(U_j)} - \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{N-1}{N_j - E_{ij} + 1} \middle| U, f(\cdot) \right] \\ &= \frac{(1 - g_N(U_j))^N}{g_N(U_j)} \leq \frac{(1 - c_l \rho_N)^N}{c_l \rho_N} \leq e^{-CN \rho_N}\end{aligned}$$

for some constant C . By following the lines of argumentation in Lemma 15-17 (Li & Wager, 2022), we have

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\left(\sum_{j \neq i} \frac{E_{ij}}{N_j} (f'_j(1, \pi) - f'_j(0, \pi) - Q_{N,i}) \right)^2 \right] \leq \frac{CB^2}{N \rho_N}.$$

Thus the Horvitz-Thompson estimator can be written as

$$\hat{\tau}_{\text{DIR}}^{\text{HT}} = \bar{\tau}_{\text{DIR}} + \frac{1}{N} \sum_i (R_i + Q_{N,i})(W_i - \pi) + o_p \left(\frac{B}{\sqrt{N}} \right).$$

Define

$$Q_i = \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{G(U_i, U_j)(f'_j(1, \pi) - f'_j(0, \pi))}{g(U_j)} \middle| U_i \right].$$

Using the dominated convergence theorem, the asymptotic behavior of $Q_{N,i}$ will essentially mirror that of Q_i . Now we compute the variance of $\hat{\tau}_{\text{DIR}}^{\text{HT}} - \bar{\tau}_{\text{DIR}}$ to get the central limit theorem:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[(R_i + Q_{N,i})(W_i - \pi)]^2 &= \mathbb{E}[(R_i + Q_{N,i})^2] \mathbb{E}[(W_i - \pi)^2] = \pi(1 - \pi) \mathbb{E}[(R_i + Q_{N,i})^2] \\ &\rightarrow \pi(1 - \pi) \mathbb{E}[(R_i + Q_i)^2],\end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\sqrt{n}(\hat{\tau}_{\text{DIR}}^{\text{HT}} - \bar{\tau}_{\text{DIR}}) \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N}(0, \pi(1 - \pi) \mathbb{E}[(R_i + Q_i)^2]).$$