

# Nonparametric Testing for Smooth Structural Changes in Panel Data Models

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*Abstract:* Detecting and modelling structural changes in time series models have attracted great attention while relatively little effort has been paid to the test of structural changes in panel data models despite their increasing importance in economics and finance. In this paper, we propose a new approach to testing structural changes in panel data models with cross-sectional dependence. The idea is to compare the fitted values of a time-varying parameter panel data model and a constant parameter panel data model, where the time-varying parameters are estimated by a local linear dummy variable regression and the constant parameters are estimated by a least squared dummy variable estimation. The test does not require any prior information about the alternatives of structural changes. It has an asymptotic  $N(0,1)$  distribution under the null hypothesis of parameter constancy and is consistent against a vast class of smooth structural changes as well as abrupt structural breaks with possibly unknown break points. To further gauge possible sources of structural changes, a diagnostic test is supplemented to check potential time-varying interaction while allowing for a common trend. Simulation studies show that the tests provide reliable inference in finite samples.

*JEL Classifications:* C12, C14, C23

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The last fifty years have seen the development of a large and still growing literature on the modelling and testing of structural changes. In time series analysis, a classical econometric test for structural changes is Chow's (1960) test, which checks whether there exists a structural break at a known time point. A great deal of effort has been made in this literature, allowing multiple breaks and/or unknown time points (e.g., Andrews 1993; Andrews and Ploberger 1994; Bai 1996, 1999; Bai and Perron 1998, Elliott and Müller 2006, Perron 2006, Chen and Hong 2012, as well as references therein).

Relatively little effort has been paid to the testing of structural changes in panel data models despite the fact that panel data models have become increasingly popular among both theoretical and applied researchers (see, e.g., Baltagi 2001, Arellano 2003, Hsiao 2003, 2007). Modelling and testing structural changes are particularly relevant for panel data over a long time horizon since the underlying economic mechanism is likely to be disturbed by various factors such as preference changes, institutional changes and technological progress. The world economy is an increasingly globalized economy and thus policy changes and technological development are no longer within a country's borders. Global environmental issues have also gained enormous attention in recent years. On the other hand, model stability is crucial for statistical inference, forecasts, and sensible policy implications drawn from the model. Detecting structural changes in panel data models provides a way to better understand controversial issues such as uneven cross-country growth and global climate changes.

Some tests have been proposed to detect structural changes in panel data models in the literature. For example, De Wachter and Tzavalis (2012) propose a likelihood ratio test for a single structural break at an unknown break point in linear dynamic panel data models. Horváth and Hušková (2012) propose a CUSUM-based test for the means of panel data models. They focus on a single break although their test could be extended for multiple breaks. Feng, Kao and Lazarová (2009) study the estimation of a single change point in panel models via a Wald-type statistic and Baltagi, Kao and Liu (2012) extend it to allow for nonstationary regressors and innovations.

Almost all existing change-point tests for panel data models are constructed for abrupt changes. From a practical point of view, slowly-changing breaks may be more realistic. Various economic events, such as liberalization of emerging markets, integration of world equity markets, changes in exchange rate or interest rate regimes, may lead to structural changes in panel data models. The changes induced by policy switch, preference changes and technological progress usually exhibit evolutionary changes in the long term. Despite the importance of smooth structural changes in panel data models, to our knowledge, there is only one test designed explicitly for smooth structural changes in the literature. González, Teräsvirta and van Dijk (2005) develop a Lagrange Multiplier ( $LM$ ) test against a time-varying panel smooth transition regression model. While the test might have best power against the assumed alternative, usually no prior information is available on the form of structural changes for practitioners. Therefore, it is desirable to develop consistent tests that have good power against all-round alternatives of structural changes.

Recently, a time-varying parameter panel data model has appeared as a novel tool to identify the trend

function and capture the evolutionary behavior of economic relationship. Robinson (2012) introduces a nonparametric trending regression for panel data with cross-sectional dependence and considers a simple nonparametric trend estimate. Chen, Gao and Li (2012) extend Robinson's (2012) work to the semiparametric partially linear panel data model where all individuals share a common trend. Atak, Linton and Xiao (2011) develop a semiparametric panel model to explain the trend in UK regional temperatures and other weather outcomes over the last century. The trend is allowed to evolve in a continuous manner and a nonparametric profile likelihood estimation is developed. Li, Chen and Gao (2011) generalize Cai's (2007) time-varying coefficient model to the panel data framework. One advantage of the evolutionary time-varying parameter panel data model is that little restriction is imposed on the functional forms of coefficients, except for the regularity condition that they evolve over time smoothly. Motivated by its flexibility, we will use this model as the alternative to test smooth structural changes for a panel data model with fixed effects.

We develop a Wald-type test for smooth structural changes as well as sudden structural breaks. Such a test will complement the existing tests for sudden changes in the literature and avoid the difficulty associated with whether there are multiple breaks and/or whether the time points of changes are unknown. We estimate the slowly-changing parameters by local linear dummy variable (LLDV) regression, and compare them to least squares dummy variable (LSDV) estimators. As shown in Li *et al.* (2011), the LLDV approach removes fixed effects by deducting a smoothed version of cross-time average from each individual and hence is more efficient than the averaged LL estimation, which eliminates fixed effects by taking cross-sectional averages. Moreover, it ideally suits the present problem at hand. The proposed Wald-type test can be viewed as a generalization of Hausman's (1978) test from the parametric framework to the nonparametric framework. Compared with the existing tests for structural breaks in panel data models in the literature, the proposed approach has a number of appealing features.

First, the proposed test is consistent against a large class of smooth time-varying parameter alternatives. It is also consistent against multiple sudden structural breaks in panel data models with known or unknown break points. Second, no prior information on a structural change alternative is needed. In particular, we do not need to know whether the structural changes are smooth or abrupt, and in the cases of abrupt structural breaks, we do not need to know the dates or the number of breaks. Third, unlike most tests for structural breaks in the literature, which often have nonstandard asymptotic distributions, the proposed test has a null asymptotic  $N(0,1)$  distribution. The only inputs required are LLDV and LSDV estimators. Any standard econometric software can carry out computational implementation easily. Fourth, a diagnostic test is supplemented to check possible sources of structural changes. Specifically, the diagnostic test can detect time-varying interactive effect between the dependent variable and regressors while allowing for a common trend. Fifth, the LLDV estimator can capture the local behavior of time-varying parameters. Because only local information is employed in estimating parameters at each time point, the proposed test has symmetric power against structural breaks that occur either in the first or second half of the sample period. This is different from the CUSUM-based tests that may have asymmetric power against structural breaks that have same sizes but occur at different time points. No trimming procedure is needed for the proposed test and hence the proposed test is expected to have

nontrivial powers for structural changes near the boundary regions of time, provided that the sample size is large enough. Moreover, the LLDV estimator can provide some insight into the economic relationship.

In Section 2, we introduce the time-varying panel framework and hypotheses of interest. Section 3 develops a Wald-type test, derives its asymptotic null distribution and investigates its asymptotic power property. In Section 4, a diagnostic test is proposed to check time-varying interactive effect while allowing for a common trend. Section 5 conducts a simulation study to examine the finite sample performance of the tests. Section 6 provides concluding remarks. All mathematical proofs are collected in the appendix. Throughout the paper,  $C$  denotes a generic bounded constant.

## 2. TIME-VARYING PANEL DATA MODEL AND HYPOTHESES OF INTEREST

Consider a nonparametric time-varying coefficient panel data model:

$$Y_{it} = X_{it}^\top \beta_t + \alpha_i + \lambda_t + \varepsilon_{it}, \quad i = 1, \dots, N, \quad t = 1, \dots, T, \quad (1)$$

where  $Y_{it}$  is a scalar,  $X_{it}$  is a  $d \times 1$  vector of explanatory variables,  $\beta_t$  and  $\lambda_t$  are  $d \times 1$  and  $1 \times 1$  possibly time-varying parameter vector and scalar respectively,  $\alpha_i$  represents an unobserved individual-specific effect and  $\varepsilon_{it}$  is weakly serially dependent and cross-sectionally dependent. We allow  $\alpha_i$  to be correlated with  $X_{it}$  through some unknown structure and hence both fixed effects and random effects are covered. For the purpose of identification, we assume that

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i = 0.$$

A keen interest in econometrics is whether the parameters of (1)  $\beta_t$  and  $\lambda_t$  are changing over time. The null hypothesis is that

$$\mathbb{H}_0 : \beta_t = \beta \text{ and } \lambda_t = \lambda \text{ for all } t.$$

The alternative hypothesis  $\mathbb{H}_A$  is that  $\mathbb{H}_0$  is false. Under the null, we have

$$Y_{it} = X_{it}^\top \beta + \alpha_i + \lambda + \varepsilon_{it}, \quad i = 1, \dots, N, \quad t = 1, \dots, T,$$

where  $\lambda$  can be viewed as a "mean intercept" (Hsiao, 2003). We estimate  $\beta$  and  $\lambda$  via the LSDV estimation:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\beta} &= \left[ \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T (X_{it} - \bar{X}_i)(X_{it} - \bar{X}_i)^\top \right]^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T (X_{it} - \bar{X}_i)(Y_{it} - \bar{Y}_i), \\ \hat{\lambda} &= \bar{Y} - \bar{X}^\top \hat{\beta}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\bar{X}_i = T^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^T X_{it}$ ,  $\bar{Y}_i = T^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^T Y_{it}$ ,  $\bar{X} = (NT)^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T X_{it}$  and  $\bar{Y} = (NT)^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T Y_{it}$ . The consistency and asymptotic normality of  $\hat{\beta}$  and  $\hat{\lambda}$  are established in Section 3.

Under the alternative  $\mathbb{H}_A$ ,  $\beta_t$  and  $\lambda_t$  are time-varying. Examples include single break and multiple break models considered in Feng *et al.* (2009) and Baltagi *et al.* (2012), González *et al.*'s (2005) time-varying panel smooth transition regression model. Tests for parametric structural change alternatives such as González *et al.*'s (2005) LM test have best power against the assumed alternative. Unfortunately, usually no prior information about the structural change alternative is available in practice. To cover a wide range of alternatives, we consider the following smooth time-varying parameter panel data model:

$$Y_{it} = X_{it}^\top \beta(t/T) + \alpha_i + \lambda(t/T) + \varepsilon_{it}, \quad i = 1, \dots, N, \quad t = 1, \dots, T, \quad (2)$$

where  $\beta : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$  and  $\lambda : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are unknown smooth functions except for a finite number of points on  $[0, 1]$ . Discontinuities of  $\beta(\cdot)$  and  $\lambda(\cdot)$  at a finite number of points on  $[0, 1]$  allow sudden breaks. This model is studied in Li *et al.* (2011) and Chen *et al.* (2012). It covers Robinson's (2012) panel trending regression as a special case. The specification that parameters  $\beta(\cdot)$  and  $\lambda(\cdot)$  are some functions of ratio  $t/T$  rather than time  $t$  only is a common scaling scheme in the literature (see, e.g., Phillips and Hansen 1990, Robinson 1991 and Cai 2007). The reason for this specification is that nonparametric estimators for  $\beta_t$  and  $\lambda_t$  will not be consistent unless the amount of data on which they depend increases, and merely increasing the sample size will not necessarily improve estimation of  $\beta_t$  and  $\lambda_t$  at some fixed point  $t$ , even if some smoothness conditions are imposed.

We will assume that  $\beta(\cdot)$  and  $\lambda(\cdot)$  are continuous except for a finite number of points on  $[0, 1]$ . Therefore, single structural break or multiple breaks with known or unknown break points are special cases of model (2). For example, suppose  $\beta(u) = \beta_0$  and  $\lambda(u) = \lambda_0$  if  $u \leq u_0$ , and  $\beta(u) = \beta_1$  and  $\lambda(u) = \lambda_1$  otherwise. Then we obtain a single break panel data model.

### 3. NONPARAMETRIC TESTING FOR STRUCTURAL CHANGES

We shall propose a consistent test for smooth structural changes in panel data models. Under the alternative, we have a time-varying parameter panel data model and we follow Li *et al.* (2011) to estimate  $\beta_t$  and  $\lambda_t$  via an LLDV regression. The idea of the LLDV regression is summarized below.

(i) Let  $\theta(\tau) = [\lambda(\tau) \ \beta^\top(\tau)]^\top$ . For each given  $\tau \in (0, 1)$ , we minimize

$$\{Y - M(\tau) [\theta^\top(\tau), h(\theta'(\tau))^\top]^\top - D\alpha\}^\top \mathcal{K}(\tau) \{Y - M(\tau) [\theta^\top(\tau), h(\theta'(\tau))^\top]^\top - D\alpha\} \quad (3)$$

with respect to  $[\theta^\top(\tau), h(\theta'(\tau))^\top]^\top$  and  $\alpha$ , where  $\theta'(\tau) = d\theta(\tau)/d\tau$ ,  $Y = (Y_1^\top, \dots, Y_N^\top)^\top$ ,  $Y_i = (Y_{i1}, \dots, Y_{iT})^\top$ ,  $\alpha = (\alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_N)^\top$ ,  $M^\top(\tau) = [M_1^\top(\tau), \dots, M_N^\top(\tau)]$  with

$$M_i(\tau) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & X_{i1}^\top & \frac{1-\tau T}{Th} & \frac{1-\tau T}{Th} X_{i1}^\top \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & X_{iT}^\top & \frac{T-\tau T}{Th} & \frac{T-\tau T}{Th} X_{iT}^\top \end{bmatrix},$$

$\mathcal{K}(\tau) = I_N \otimes K(\tau)$ ,  $D = (-1_{N-1} \ I_{N-1})^\top \otimes 1_T$ ,  $K(\tau) = \text{diag} [k(\frac{1-\tau T}{Th}), \dots, k(\frac{T-\tau T}{Th})]$ ,  $I_d$  is a  $d \times d$  identity matrix and  $1_d$  is a  $d \times 1$  vector of ones. The kernel  $k(\cdot) : [-1, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  is a prespecified symmetric

probability density and  $h \equiv h(NT)$  is a bandwidth. Examples of  $k(\cdot)$  include the uniform, Epanechnikov and quartic kernels.

The first order condition of (3) with respect to  $\alpha$  yields:

$$\hat{\alpha} = [D^\top \mathcal{K}(\tau) D]^{-1} D^\top \mathcal{K}(\tau) \{Y - M(\tau) [\theta^\top(\tau), h(\theta'(\tau))^\top]^\top\}. \quad (4)$$

(ii) Plugging (4) into (3), we get the concentrated weighted least squares:

$$\{Y - M(\tau) [\theta^\top(\tau), h(\theta'(\tau))^\top]^\top\}^\top \mathcal{W}(\tau) \{Y - M(\tau) [\theta^\top(\tau), h(\theta'(\tau))^\top]^\top\}, \quad (5)$$

where  $\mathcal{W}(\tau) = W^\top(\tau) \mathcal{K}(\tau) W(\tau)$  and  $W(\tau) = I_{NT} - D[D^\top \mathcal{K}(\tau) D]^{-1} D^\top \mathcal{K}(\tau)$ . Minimizing (5) with respect to  $[\theta^\top(\tau), h(\theta'(\tau))^\top]^\top$ , we obtain the LLDV estimator of  $\theta(\tau)$ :

$$\hat{\theta}(\tau) = [I_{d+1} \ 0_{d+1}] [M^\top(\tau) \mathcal{W}(\tau) M(\tau)]^{-1} M^\top(\tau) \mathcal{W}(\tau) Y,$$

where  $0_{d+1}$  is a  $(d+1) \times (d+1)$  null matrix. Li *et al.* (2011) assume that (i)  $(X_t, \varepsilon_t)$  is a sequence of independent and identically distributed (*i.i.d.*) variables, where  $X_t = (X_{1t}, \dots, X_{Nt})^\top$  and  $\varepsilon_t = (\varepsilon_{1t}, \dots, \varepsilon_{Nt})^\top$ ; (ii) the error process  $\{\varepsilon_{it}\}$  is independent of  $\{X_{it}\}$ ; (iii) neither  $\{\varepsilon_{it}\}$  nor  $\{X_{it}\}$  is allowed to have cross-sectional dependence. We relax their assumptions and derive the asymptotic property of  $\hat{\theta}(\tau)$  under the following set of assumptions.

**Assumption A.1:** (i)  $(X_t, \varepsilon_t)$  is an  $N \times (d+1)$   $\beta$ -mixing random matrix with mixing coefficients  $\beta(j) = \sup_s E[\sup_{A \in \mathcal{G}_{s+j}^\infty} |P(A|\mathcal{G}_s^\infty) - P(A)|]$ , where  $\mathcal{G}_s^\infty$  is the  $\sigma$ -field generated by  $\{(X_k, \varepsilon_k) : k = s, \dots, t\}$  and  $\{\beta(j)\}$  satisfies  $\beta(j) \leq C_\beta \rho^j$  for  $0 < C_\beta < \infty$  and  $0 < \rho < 1$ ; (ii) For any  $t$ , we have  $E(X_{it}) = \mu_X(\frac{t}{T})$ , where  $\mu_X(\tau)$  is continuously differentiable up to the second order on  $[0, 1]$ .

**Assumption A.2:** (i)  $\{\varepsilon_t\}$  is a martingale difference sequence (*m.d.s.*) such that  $E(\varepsilon_t | \mathcal{F}_{t-1}) = 0$ , where  $\mathcal{F}_{t-1}$  is the  $\sigma$ -field generated by  $\{X_t, X_{t-1}, \dots, \varepsilon_{t-1}, \varepsilon_{t-2}, \dots\}$ ; (ii)  $\sup_t E|\varepsilon_{it}|^{4(1+\eta)} < \infty$  for some  $\eta > 0$ ; (iii) As  $N \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$\sup_t E \left| \sum_{i=1}^N \varepsilon_{it} \right|^\delta = O(N^{\delta/2}), \text{ for some } \delta \in (2, 4].$$

**Assumption A.3:** (i) The  $d \times d$  matrix  $\Sigma_X(\frac{t}{T}) = E\{[X_{it} - \mu_X(\frac{t}{T})][X_{it} - \mu_X(\frac{t}{T})]^\top\}$  is positive definite. In addition,  $\Sigma_X(\tau)$  is continuously differentiable with respect to  $\tau \in [0, 1]$ ; (ii)  $\sup_t E(\|X_{it}\|^{4(1+\eta)}) < \infty$ ; (iii) As  $N \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $\sup_t E\|\sum_{i=1}^N [X_{it} - \mu_X(\frac{t}{T})]\|^\delta = O(N^{\delta/2})$ ; (iv) As  $N \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $\sup_t E\|\sum_{i=1}^N \{[X_{it} - \mu_X(\frac{t}{T})][X_{it} - \mu_X(\frac{t}{T})]^\top - \Sigma_X(\frac{t}{T})\}\|^\delta = O(N^{\delta/2})$ .

**Assumption A.4:** There exist a  $d \times d$  positive definite matrix  $\Sigma_{X\varepsilon}(\frac{t}{T})$  and  $0 < \sigma_\varepsilon^2(\frac{t}{T}) < \infty$  such that

as  $N \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N E \left\{ \left[ X_{it} - \mu_X \left( \frac{t}{T} \right) \right] \left[ X_{jt} - \mu_X \left( \frac{t}{T} \right) \right]^\top \right\} \sigma_{\varepsilon,t}(i,j) &\rightarrow \Sigma_{X\varepsilon} \left( \frac{t}{T} \right), \\ \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N \sigma_{\varepsilon,t}(i,j) &\rightarrow \sigma_\varepsilon^2 \left( \frac{t}{T} \right), \\ \sup_t \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N E[(\varepsilon_{it}\varepsilon_{jt})^{2(1+\eta)} | \mathcal{F}_{t-1}]^{\frac{1}{2(1+\eta)}} &= O(1), \\ \sup_t \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N (E\|X_{it}X_{jt}^\top\|^{2(1+\eta)})^{\frac{1}{2(1+\eta)}} &= O(1), \end{aligned}$$

where  $\sigma_{\varepsilon,t}(i,j) = E(\varepsilon_{it}\varepsilon_{jt} | \mathcal{F}_{t-1})$ ,  $\sigma_\varepsilon^2(\tau)$  and  $\Sigma_{X\varepsilon}(\tau)$  are continuously differentiable on  $[0, 1]$ .

**Assumption A.5:** Except for a finite number of points on  $[0, 1]$ , (i)  $\beta(\tau)$  has continuous derivatives up to the second order; (ii)  $\lambda(\tau)$  has continuous derivatives up to the second order.

**Assumption A.6:**  $k : [-1, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  is a symmetric and Lipschitz continuous probability density function.

**Assumption A.7:** As  $N \rightarrow \infty$  and  $T \rightarrow \infty$ , (i) the bandwidth  $h$  satisfies that  $h \rightarrow 0, Th \rightarrow \infty, \frac{\sqrt{NTh}}{\log(NT)} \rightarrow \infty$  and  $\frac{T^{1-\frac{2}{\delta}}h}{\log(NT)} \rightarrow \infty$ ; (ii)  $\log(NT)NT^{1/2-2/\delta} \rightarrow \infty$  and  $Th^2 \rightarrow \infty$ ; (iii)  $N^2/T^\delta \rightarrow 0$  and  $NTh^6 \rightarrow 0$ .

The  $\beta$ -mixing condition in Assumption A.1 imposes a restriction on the temporal dependence in  $(X_t, \varepsilon_t)$ . A similar condition has been used in Chen and Hong (2012), Juhl and Xiao (2013) and Kristensen (2012) in a time series context. Unlike Li *et al.* (2011), we allow for dependence between  $X_{it}$  and  $\varepsilon_{it}$  and we relax their assumptions on cross-sectional independence and stationarity. Therefore, we include the important class of dynamic panel data models in our framework. Assumption A.2 allows panel data models with potential conditional heteroscedasticity of unknown form. Assumption A.2 requires the linear panel data model to be correctly specified under  $\mathbb{H}_0$  and the violation of correct model specification may lead to spurious rejection of model stability. Assumptions A.3 and A.4 impose moment conditions on  $\{X_{it}\}$  and  $\{\varepsilon_{it}\}$ . Similar to Chen, *et al.* (2012), we allow for cross-sectional dependence in  $\{\varepsilon_{it}\}$  and the degree of cross-sectional dependence is controlled by the moment conditions in Assumption A.4. Assumption A.5 is to guarantee that the asymptotic bias and variance of the LLDV are well-defined. Assumption A.6 implies  $\int_{-1}^1 k(u)du = 1$ ,  $\int_{-1}^1 uk(u)du = 0$  and  $\int_{-1}^1 u^2k(u)du < \infty$ . All examples noted in Section 2 satisfy this assumption. Assumption A.7 imposes mild conditions on the bandwidth  $h$  and sample sizes  $N$  and  $T$ . Note that we allow  $N/T \rightarrow C$  for  $0 \leq C \leq \infty$  as  $(N, T) \rightarrow \infty$  and it covers the optimal rate  $h \propto (NT)^{-\frac{1}{5}}$  of the nonparametric estimation for  $\theta(\tau)$ .<sup>1</sup>

We now state the asymptotic property of  $\hat{\theta}(\tau)$ .

**Proposition 1.** Suppose Assumptions A.1, A.2(i)-(ii), A.3-A.7(i) hold. Then for any  $\tau \in (0, 1)$ , where

<sup>1</sup>Our derivation can still go through with a fixed  $N$ . But as a tradeoff, we need to impose a stronger assumption on  $T$ .

$\tau$  is a continuity point for the  $\beta(\cdot)$  and  $\lambda(\cdot)$ , as  $N \rightarrow \infty$  and  $T \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$\sqrt{NT}h[\hat{\theta}(\tau) - \theta(\tau) - B(\tau)] \xrightarrow{d} N(\bar{0}_{d+1}, \Sigma(\tau)),$$

where  $\bar{0}_{d+1}$  is a  $(d+1)$ -dimensional null vector,

$$B(\tau) = \frac{h^2 \theta''(\tau) \int_{-1}^1 u^2 k(u) du}{2} + o_P(h^2),$$

$$\Sigma(\tau) = \nu_0 \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_\varepsilon^2(\tau) + \mu_X^\top(\tau) \Sigma_X^{-1}(\tau) \Sigma_{X\varepsilon}(\tau) \Sigma_X^{-1}(\tau) \mu_X(\tau) & -\mu_X^\top(\tau) \Sigma_X^{-1}(\tau) \Sigma_{X\varepsilon}(\tau) \Sigma_X^{-1}(\tau) \\ -\Sigma_X^{-1}(\tau) \Sigma_{X\varepsilon}(\tau) \Sigma_X^{-1}(\tau) \mu_X(\tau) & \Sigma_X^{-1}(\tau) \Sigma_{X\varepsilon}(\tau) \Sigma_X^{-1}(\tau) \end{bmatrix}, \theta(\tau) = [\lambda(\tau), \beta_1(\tau), \dots, \beta_d(\tau)]^\top, \theta''(\tau) = d^2 \theta(\tau) / d\tau^2 \text{ and } \nu_0 = \int_{-1}^1 k^2(u) du.$$

Proposition 1 extends Theorem 2.2 of Li *et al.* (2011) to allow for cross-sectional dependence and nonstationarity. We only impose a mild condition on the relative rates of growth between  $T$  and  $N$ , thus the proposed estimator and test below are applicable to panel data with various size combinations of  $T$  and  $N$ . Both  $\hat{\beta}(\tau)$  and  $\hat{\lambda}(\tau)$  achieve the same convergence rate.

Under the null hypothesis,  $\beta(\cdot)$  and  $\lambda(\cdot)$  are constant and we estimate them via the LSDV estimation, which is discussed in Section 2. Let  $\theta = [\lambda \ \beta^\top]^\top$  and  $\hat{\theta} = [\hat{\lambda} \ \hat{\beta}^\top]^\top$ . The asymptotic property of  $\hat{\theta}$  is established below.

**Proposition 2.** *Suppose Assumptions A.1, A.2(i)-(ii), A.3(i)-(ii), A.4 hold. Then under  $\mathbb{H}_0$ , as  $T \rightarrow \infty$  and  $N \rightarrow \infty$ ,*

$$\sqrt{NT}(\hat{\theta} - \theta) \xrightarrow{d} N(\bar{0}_{d+1}, \Sigma_\theta),$$

where  $\Sigma_\theta = \Xi V \Xi^\top$ ,  $A = \int_0^1 \Sigma_X(\tau) d\tau + \int_0^1 \mu_X(\tau) \mu_X^\top(\tau) d\tau - \int_0^1 \mu_X(\tau) d\tau \int_0^1 \mu_X^\top(\tau) d\tau$ ,

$$\Xi = \begin{bmatrix} 1 + \int_0^1 \mu_X^\top(\tau) d\tau A^{-1} \int_0^1 \mu_X(\tau) d\tau & -\int_0^1 \mu_X^\top(\tau) d\tau A^{-1} & -\int_0^1 \mu_X^\top(\tau) d\tau A^{-1} \\ -A^{-1} \int_0^1 \mu_X(\tau) d\tau & A^{-1} & A^{-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{and } V = \begin{bmatrix} \int_0^1 \sigma_\varepsilon^2(\tau) d\tau & \int_0^1 \sigma_\varepsilon^2(\tau) \mu_X^\top(\tau) d\tau & \bar{0}_d^\top \\ \int_0^1 \sigma_\varepsilon^2(\tau) \mu_X(\tau) d\tau & \int_0^1 \sigma_\varepsilon^2(\tau) \mu_X(\tau) \mu_X^\top(\tau) d\tau & 0_d \\ \bar{0}_d & 0_d & \int_0^1 \Sigma_{X\varepsilon}(\tau) d\tau \end{bmatrix}.$$

The LSDV estimator has been commonly used in practice, but its asymptotic property under nonstationarity, both cross-sectional and serial dependence has not yet been developed to our knowledge. Proposition 2 thus fills the gap in the literature. Under the null hypothesis  $\mathbb{H}_0$ , the LSDV estimator  $\hat{\theta}$  and the LLDV estimator  $\hat{\theta}_t$  converge to the same probability limit; under the alternative hypothesis  $\mathbb{H}_A$ , they depart from each other. Therefore, to check parameter constancy, we consider a Wald-type test that compares these two estimators via a weighted quadratic form:

$$\hat{Q} = N\sqrt{h} \sum_{t=1}^T (\hat{\theta}_t - \hat{\theta})^\top \hat{\Omega}_t (\hat{\theta}_t - \hat{\theta}),$$

where the weighting matrix  $\hat{\Omega}_t = N^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^N [1 \ X_{it}^T]^T [1 \ X_{it}^T]$ . The statistic  $(NT\sqrt{h})^{-1}\hat{Q}$  converges to 0 under  $\mathbb{H}_0$ , but to a strictly positive constant under  $\mathbb{H}_A$ , giving our one-sided test asymptotic unit power. Any significant departure from 0 is evidence of structural changes. Formally, our generalized Hausman test is a standardized version of  $\hat{Q}$  :

$$\hat{H} = (\hat{Q} - \hat{C})/\sqrt{\hat{S}},$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{C} &= h^{-1/2}\nu_0 \int_0^1 \left[ \hat{\sigma}_\varepsilon^2(\tau) + \text{trace}(\hat{\Sigma}_X^{-1}(\tau)\hat{\Sigma}_{X\varepsilon}(\tau)) \right] d\tau, \\ \hat{S} &= 4 \int_0^1 \left[ \hat{\sigma}_\varepsilon^4(\tau) + \text{trace}(\hat{\Sigma}_X^{-1}(\tau)\hat{\Sigma}_{X\varepsilon}(\tau)\hat{\Sigma}_X^{-1}(\tau)\hat{\Sigma}_{X\varepsilon}(\tau)) \right] d\tau \int_0^1 \left[ \int_{-1}^1 k(u)k(u+v)du \right]^2 dv \end{aligned}$$

are centering and scaling factors,  $\hat{\sigma}_\varepsilon^2(\tau) = N^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N \hat{\sigma}_{\varepsilon,\tau}(i,j)$ ,  $\hat{\sigma}_{\varepsilon,\tau}(i,j) = (Th)^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^T \hat{\varepsilon}_{it}\hat{\varepsilon}_{jt}k(\frac{t-\tau T}{Th})$ ,  $\hat{\Sigma}_X(\tau) = N^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{M}_\tau^{ii}$ ,  $\hat{\Sigma}_{X\varepsilon}(\tau) = N^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N \hat{M}_\tau^{ij} \hat{\sigma}_{\varepsilon,\tau}(i,j)$ ,  $\hat{M}_\tau^{ij} = (Th)^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^T [X_{it} - \hat{\mu}_X^i(\frac{t}{T})][X_{jt} - \hat{\mu}_X^j(\frac{t}{T})]^T k(\frac{t-\tau T}{Th})$ ,  $\hat{\mu}_X^i(\tau) = (Th)^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^T k(\frac{t-\tau T}{Th})X_{it}$  and  $\nu_0$  is defined in Proposition 1.

We now state the asymptotic distribution of  $\hat{H}$  under  $\mathbb{H}_0$ .

**Assumption A.8:** (i) As  $N \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $\sup_t \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N \{E[(\varepsilon_{it}\varepsilon_{jt})^{4(1+\eta)}|\mathcal{F}_{t-1}]\}^{\frac{1}{4(1+\eta)}} = O(1)$ ; (ii) As  $N \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $\sup_t \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N \{E[(\varepsilon_{it}\varepsilon_{jt})^{8(1+\eta)}\|X_{it}X_{jt}\|^{8(1+\eta)}]\}^{\frac{1}{8(1+\eta)}} = O(1)$ ; (iii)  $\sup_t E\|X_{it}\|^{8(1+\eta)} < \infty$  and  $\sup_t E|\varepsilon_{it}|^{8(1+\eta)} < \infty$ .

**Assumption A.9:** As  $N \rightarrow \infty$ , (i)  $E\|\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N [\varepsilon_{it}\varepsilon_{jt} - E(\varepsilon_{it}\varepsilon_{jt})]\|^\delta = O(N^{\delta/2})$ ; (ii)  $E\|\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N \{\varepsilon_{it}\varepsilon_{jt}[X_{it} - \mu_X(\frac{t}{T})][X_{jt} - \mu_X(\frac{t}{T})]^T - E\{\varepsilon_{it}\varepsilon_{jt}[X_{it} - \mu_X(\frac{t}{T})][X_{jt} - \mu_X(\frac{t}{T})]^T\}\|^\delta = O(N^{\delta/2})$ .

**Theorem 1:** Suppose Assumptions A.1, A.2(i)(ii)-A.4, A.6, A.7(i)(ii)-A.9 and  $\mathbb{H}_0$  hold. Then

$$\hat{H} \xrightarrow{d} N(0,1)$$

as  $T \rightarrow \infty$  and  $N \rightarrow \infty$ .

The  $\hat{H}$  test has a convenient null asymptotic  $N(0,1)$  distribution. This is quite appealing in light of the facts that most existing tests for structural changes in panel data models have nonstandard distributions which may depend on the DGPs. The proposed test does not require formulation of an alternative and is applicable when one has no prior information of the alternative. Moreover, no trimming is needed. As an important feature of the  $\hat{H}$  test, the use of the LSDV estimator  $\hat{\theta}$  in place of the true parameter  $\theta$  under  $\mathbb{H}_0$  has no impact on the limit distribution of  $\hat{H}$ . Intuitively, the parametric estimator  $\hat{\theta}$  converges to  $\theta$  at a  $\sqrt{NT}$ -rate, which is faster than the nonparametric estimator  $\hat{\theta}_t$ . Consequently, the asymptotic distribution of  $\hat{H}$  is solely determined by the nonparametric estimator  $\hat{\theta}_t$  and is nuisance parameter free.

Next, we investigate the asymptotic power property of  $\hat{H}$  under  $\mathbb{H}_A$ .

**Assumption A.10:** (i)  $\sup_{v \in (0,1)} \|\lim_{\tau \rightarrow v^+} \beta(\tau) - \lim_{\tau \rightarrow v^-} \beta(\tau)\| \leq C$ ; (ii)  $\sup_{v \in (0,1)} \|\lim_{\tau \rightarrow v^+} \lambda(\tau) - \lim_{\tau \rightarrow v^-} \lambda(\tau)\| \leq C$ .

**Theorem 2:** Suppose Assumptions A.1, A.2(i)(ii)-A.7(i)(ii), A.8-A.10 hold. Then for any sequence of nonstochastic constants  $\{C_T = o(NT\sqrt{h})\}$ ,  $P(\hat{H} > C_T) \rightarrow 1$  under  $\mathbb{H}_A$  as  $T \rightarrow \infty$  and  $N \rightarrow \infty$ .

Assumption A.5 allows for both smooth structural changes and abrupt structural breaks with known or unknown break points. We permit  $\theta(\cdot)$  to have a fixed number of discontinuities. Hence, single structural break and multiple breaks with known or unknown break points, which are often considered in this literature, are included as special cases. For abrupt structural breaks, the break size is bounded by Assumption A.10. Theorem 2 suggests that the  $\hat{H}$  test is consistent against all alternatives to  $\mathbb{H}_0$ , subject to a set of regularity conditions. Thus, the proposed test will be able to detect any structural changes in panel data models as long as  $T$  and  $N$  are sufficiently large. This is appealing in light of the fact that no prior information about the alternative of structural changes is available in practice. It avoids the blindness of searching for possible alternatives of structural changes in practice.

#### 4. DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FOR TIME-VARYING INTERACTION

When structural changes are detected by the  $\hat{H}$  test, it would be interesting to explore possible sources of the rejection. That is, whether the rejection is from a time-varying intercept or slope, which corresponds to a time trend or a time-varying interactive effect in economic applications. Such information, if any, will be valuable in reconstructing the model and studying the relationship between economic variables. For example, in a simple wage equation, it might be interesting to check whether structural changes exist in the return to schooling while allowing for time variation in the intercept. On the other hand, researchers may have some prior information (from e.g., economic theories or empirical evidences) on the existence of a time trend. Therefore, the structural break tests could mainly focus on the slope coefficients. For example, in the model of regional economic growth, it is important and challenging to study the stability of the impact of various economic factors (e.g., capital stock, labor input, technology, etc.) on growth rate, while a time trend is usually assumed.

In the past few years, panel data models with a common trend, which specifies the time-specific effect with some unknown functions rather than dummy variables, have become popular. For example, Atak, Linton and Xiao (2012) develop a semiparametric panel model to explain the trend in UK temperatures over the last century using data observed at the twenty six Meteorological Office stations. Chen, *et al.* (2012) study a semiparametric fixed effect model to capture the nonlinear trending phenomenon in panel data analysis and develop a pooled semiparametric profile dummy variable estimation (PSPDV). Zhang, Su and Phillips (2012) propose a nonparametric test for common trend in semiparametric panel data models with fixed effects. Hence, we build on this rich literature and focus on testing whether the interactive effect ( $\beta_t$ ) is time-varying while allowing for a time trend in this section. Namely, the DGP is

$$Y_{it} = X_{it}^T \beta_t + \alpha_i + \lambda_t + \varepsilon_{it}, \quad i = 1, \dots, N, \quad t = 1, \dots, T,$$

the null hypothesis is

$$\mathbb{H}_0^* : \beta_t = \beta \text{ for all } t$$

and the alternative hypothesis  $\mathbb{H}_A^*$  is the negation of  $\mathbb{H}_0^*$ . We shall follow Chen *et al.* (2012) to estimate  $\beta$  via a PSPDV estimation under the null hypothesis  $\mathbb{H}_0^*$ . The idea of the PSPDV estimation is briefly summarized below.

(i) For given  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , we estimate  $\lambda(\tau)$  by

$$\begin{pmatrix} \hat{\lambda}_\beta(\tau) \\ \hat{\lambda}'_\beta(\tau) \end{pmatrix} = \arg \min_\gamma [Y - X\beta - D\alpha - Z(\tau)\gamma]^\top \mathcal{K}(\tau) [Y - X\beta - D\alpha - Z(\tau)\gamma], \quad (6)$$

where  $X = (X_1^\top, \dots, X_N^\top)^\top$ ,  $X_i = (X_{i1}, \dots, X_{iT})^\top$ ,  $Z(\tau) = \mathbf{1}_N \otimes z(\tau)$ ,  $z(\tau) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \dots & 1 \\ \frac{1-\tau T}{Th} & \dots & \frac{T-\tau T}{Th} \end{pmatrix}^\top$ .

The first order condition of (6) yields

$$\hat{\lambda}_\beta(\tau) = (1, 0) S(\tau) (Y - X\beta - D\alpha),$$

where  $S(\tau) = [Z^\top(\tau) \mathcal{K}(\tau) Z(\tau)]^{-1} Z^\top(\tau) \mathcal{K}(\tau)$ .

(ii) Let  $\hat{\Lambda}_\beta = \mathbf{1}_N \otimes [\hat{\lambda}_\beta(1/T), \dots, \hat{\lambda}_\beta(T/T)]^\top$ . We estimate  $(\alpha^\top, \beta^\top)^\top$  by

$$\min_{(\alpha^\top, \beta^\top)^\top} (Y - X\beta - D\alpha - \hat{\Lambda}_\beta)^\top (Y - X\beta - D\alpha - \hat{\Lambda}_\beta). \quad (7)$$

By solving the optimization problem in (7), we obtain the solution:

$$\hat{\beta}_P = \left( \tilde{X}^\top \tilde{D} \tilde{X} \right)^{-1} \tilde{X}^\top \tilde{D} \tilde{Y}, \quad (8)$$

where  $\tilde{X} = (I_{NT} - \tilde{S})X$ ,  $\tilde{Y} = (I_{NT} - \tilde{S})Y$ ,  $\tilde{D} = I_{NT} - D^*(D^{*\top}D^*)^{-1}D^{*\top}$ ,  $D^* = (I_{NT} - \tilde{S})D$  and  $\tilde{S} = \mathbf{1}_N \otimes \{[(1, 0) S(1/T)]^\top, \dots, [(1, 0) S(T/T)]^\top\}^\top$ .

We now state the asymptotic property of  $\hat{\beta}_P$  in (8).

**Proposition 3.** *Suppose Assumptions A.1, A.2, A.3(i)(ii)(iii), A.4, A.5(ii), A.6, A.7(i)(iii) and A.10(ii) hold. Then under  $\mathbb{H}_0^*$ , as  $T \rightarrow \infty$  and  $N \rightarrow \infty$ ,*

$$\sqrt{NT}(\hat{\beta}_P - \beta) \xrightarrow{d} N(\bar{0}_d, \Sigma_\beta),$$

where  $\Sigma_\beta = \left[ \int_0^1 \Sigma_X(\tau) d\tau \right]^{-1} \int_0^1 \Sigma_{X\varepsilon}(\tau) d\tau \left[ \int_0^1 \Sigma_X(\tau) d\tau \right]^{-1}$ .

Proposition 3 is an extension of Theorem 3.1 in Chen *et al.* (2012). We relax their stationarity assumption so that lagged dependent variables can be included as regressors. The smoothness condition of the trend function  $\lambda(\tau)$  is also relaxed to allow for a finite number of jumps. When the null hypothesis  $\mathbb{H}_0^*$  holds, the PSPDV estimator  $\hat{\beta}_P$  and the LLDV estimator  $\hat{\beta}_t$  will be close to each other while under  $\mathbb{H}_A^*$ ,  $\hat{\beta}_P$  and  $\hat{\beta}_t$  will converge to different probability limits. Therefore, the test statistic for the time-varying interaction can be constructed as

$$\hat{H}_1 = \left( \hat{Q}_1 - \hat{C}_1 \right) / \sqrt{\hat{S}_1},$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{Q}_1 &= N\sqrt{h} \sum_{t=1}^T (\hat{\beta}_t - \hat{\beta}_P)^\top \hat{M}_t (\hat{\beta}_t - \hat{\beta}_P), \\ \hat{M}_t &= N^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^N X_{it} X_{it}^\top,\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{C}_1 &= h^{-1/2} \nu_0 \int_0^1 \text{trace}(\hat{\Psi}_X(\tau) \hat{\Sigma}_{X\varepsilon}(\tau)) d\tau, \\ \hat{S}_1 &= 4 \int_0^1 \text{trace}(\hat{\Psi}_X(\tau) \hat{\Sigma}_{\varepsilon X}(\tau) \hat{\Psi}_X(\tau) \hat{\Sigma}_{\varepsilon X}(\tau)) d\tau \int_0^1 \left[ \int_{-1}^1 k(u) k(u+v) du \right]^2 dv\end{aligned}$$

are centering and scaling factors respectively, where  $\hat{\Psi}_X(\tau) = \hat{\Sigma}_X^{-1}(\tau) + \hat{\Sigma}_X^{-1}(\tau) \hat{\mu}_X(\tau) \hat{\mu}_X^\top(\tau) \hat{\Sigma}_X^{-1}(\tau)$ ,  $\hat{\mu}_X(\tau) = (NT h)^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T k(\frac{t-\tau T}{Th}) X_{it}$  and  $\nu_0$  is defined in Proposition 1.

The asymptotic null distribution and the asymptotic power property of  $\hat{H}_1$  are stated below.

**Theorem 3:** *Suppose Assumptions A.1-A.4, A.5(ii), A.6-A.8, A.9(ii), A.10(ii) and  $\mathbb{H}_0^*$  hold. Then*

$$\hat{H}_1 \xrightarrow{d} N(0, 1)$$

as  $T \rightarrow \infty$  and  $N \rightarrow \infty$ .

**Theorem 4:** *Suppose Assumptions A.1-A.8, A.9(ii) and A.10 hold. Then for any sequence of non-stochastic constants  $\{C_T = o(NT\sqrt{h})\}$ ,  $P(\hat{H}_1 > C_T) \rightarrow 1$  under  $\mathbb{H}_A^*$  as  $T \rightarrow \infty$  and  $N \rightarrow \infty$ .*

Similar to the  $\hat{H}$  test, the use of the PSPDV estimator  $\hat{\beta}_P$  in place of the true parameter  $\beta$  under  $\mathbb{H}_0^*$  has no impact on the limit distribution of  $\hat{H}_1$ . That is due to the fact that  $\hat{\beta}_P$  could achieve a  $\sqrt{NT}$  rate, which is faster than the convergence rate of the nonparametric estimator  $\hat{\beta}_t$ . Theorem 4 allows  $\beta(\cdot)$  to have a fixed number of discontinuities and thus includes single structural break and multiple breaks with known or unknown break points as special cases.

## 5. FINITE SAMPLE PERFORMANCE

Next, we study the finite sample performance of our tests. Theorems 1 and 3 provide the null asymptotic  $N(0, 1)$  distribution of  $\hat{H}$  and  $\hat{H}_1$ . Thus, one can implement our tests for  $\mathbb{H}_0$  and  $\mathbb{H}_0^*$  by comparing  $\hat{H}$  and  $\hat{H}_1$  with a  $N(0, 1)$  critical value. However, like many other nonparametric tests in the literature, the size of  $\hat{H}$  and  $\hat{H}_1$  in finite samples may differ significantly from the prespecified asymptotic significance level. Our analysis suggests that the asymptotic theory may not work well even for relatively large sample sizes, because the asymptotically negligible higher order terms in  $\hat{H}$  and  $\hat{H}_1$  are close in order of magnitude to the dominant  $U$ -statistic that determines the limit distribution of  $\hat{H}$  and  $\hat{H}_1$ . To overcome this problem, we consider a residual-based bootstrap:

*Step (i):* Use the sample  $\{(Y_{it}, X_{it}^\top), i = 1, \dots, N, t = 1, \dots, T\}$  to estimate the model via LSDV (PSPDV for the  $\hat{H}_1$  test) and LLDV regression respectively and compute the  $\hat{H}$  and  $\hat{H}_1$  statistics and

the nonparametric residual  $\hat{\varepsilon}_{it} = Y_{it} - \hat{\lambda}_t - \hat{\alpha}_i - X_{it}^\top \hat{\beta}_t$ ; *Step* (ii): Obtain a bootstrap residual  $\hat{\varepsilon}_{it}^*$  by random sampling with replacement from the centered nonparametric residual  $\bar{\varepsilon}_{it} = \hat{\varepsilon}_{it} - N^{-1}T^{-1}\sum_{i=1}^N\sum_{t=1}^T\hat{\varepsilon}_{it}$  and construct a bootstrap sample  $\{(Y_{it}^*, X_{it}^\top), i = 1, \dots, N, t = 1, \dots, T\}$ , where  $Y_{it}^* = X_{it}^\top \hat{\beta} + \hat{\alpha}_i + \hat{\lambda}_t + \hat{\varepsilon}_{it}^*$  ( $Y_{it}^* = X_{it}^\top \hat{\beta} + \hat{\alpha}_i + \hat{\lambda}_t + \hat{\varepsilon}_{it}^*$  for the  $\hat{H}_1$  test); *Step* (iii): Compute the bootstrap statistics  $\hat{H}^*$  and  $\hat{H}_1^*$ , in the same way as  $\hat{H}$  and  $\hat{H}_1$  respectively, with  $\{(Y_{it}^*, X_{it}^\top), i = 1, \dots, N, t = 1, \dots, T\}$  replacing the original sample  $\{(Y_{it}, X_{it}^\top), i = 1, \dots, N, t = 1, \dots, T\}$ ; *Step* (iv): Repeat steps (ii) and (iii)  $B$  times to obtain  $B$  bootstrap test statistics  $\{\hat{H}_l^*\}_{l=1}^B$  and  $\{\hat{H}_{1l}^*\}_{l=1}^B$ , where  $B$  is sufficiently large; *Step* (v): Compute the bootstrap  $p$ -values  $p^* \equiv B^{-1}\sum_{l=1}^B \mathbf{1}(\hat{H}_l^* > \hat{H})$  and  $p_1^* \equiv B^{-1}\sum_{l=1}^B \mathbf{1}(\hat{H}_{1l}^* > \hat{H}_1)$ , where  $\mathbf{1}(\cdot)$  is the indicator function.

To examine the size of our test  $\hat{H}$  under  $\mathbb{H}_0$ , we consider the following DGP:

DGP S.1 [*No Structural Change*]:

$$Y_{it} = \bar{\lambda} + \bar{\beta}X_{it} + \alpha_i + \varepsilon_{it},$$

where  $\bar{\lambda}$  and  $\bar{\beta}$  are the average of  $\lambda(t/T)$  and  $\beta(t/T)$  respectively with  $t = 1, \dots, T$ :

$$\lambda(\tau) = \tau^2 + \tau + 1 \quad (9)$$

$$\beta(\tau) = \sin(\pi\tau),$$

$$X_{it} = \frac{1}{2}X_{i,t-1} + v_{it},$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_i &= \theta_0 \bar{X}_i + u_i, & i = 1, \dots, N-1, \theta_0 = 1, u_i \sim i.i.d.N(0, 1), \\ \alpha_N &= -\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \alpha_i. \end{aligned}$$

To check the robustness of our test  $\hat{H}$ , we generate  $v_{it}$  and  $\varepsilon_{it}$  in two ways: one is from an  $i.i.d.N(0, 1)$  distribution and the other has cross-sectional dependence following Chen *et al.* (2012). Let  $\varepsilon_t = (\varepsilon_{1t}, \varepsilon_{2t}, \dots, \varepsilon_{Nt})^\top$ , which is generated as a sequence of an  $N$ -dimensional vector of independent Gaussian random variables with zero mean and covariance matrix  $(c_{ij})$ , where

$$c_{ij} = 0.8^{|j-i|}.$$

We generate  $v_{it}$  similarly, but with covariance matrix  $(d_{ij})$  where  $d_{ij} = 0.5^{|j-i|}$ . We generate 500 data sets of a random sample  $\{(Y_{it}, X_{it}^\top), i = 1, \dots, N, t = 1, \dots, T\}$  for  $N, T = 15, 20, 25, 30$ . To investigate the power of our test  $\hat{H}$  in detecting structural changes in panel data models, we consider three alternatives: DGP P.1 [*Single Structural Break*]:

$$Y_{it} = \begin{cases} \bar{\lambda} + \bar{\beta}X_{it} + \alpha_i + \varepsilon_{it}, & \text{if } t \leq 0.5T, \\ (\bar{\lambda} + 0.5) + (\bar{\beta} + 0.5)X_{it} + \alpha_i + \varepsilon_{it}, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

DGP P.2 [*Multiple Structural Breaks*]:

$$Y_{it} = \begin{cases} (\bar{\lambda} + 0.5) + (\bar{\beta} + 0.5)X_{it} + \alpha_i + \varepsilon_{it}, & \text{if } 0.3T \leq t \leq 0.7T, \\ \bar{\lambda} + \bar{\beta}X_{it} + \alpha_i + \varepsilon_{it}, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

DGP P.3 [*Smooth Structural Changes*]:

$$Y_{it} = \bar{\lambda} + \phi [\lambda(t/T) - \bar{\lambda}] + \{\bar{\beta} + \phi [\beta(t/T) - \bar{\beta}]\} X_{it} + \alpha_i + \varepsilon_{it},$$

where  $\phi = 0.4$ .

The single break has been a structural change with classical importance. Under DGP P.1, an abrupt break occurs in the panel data model at some unknown time  $t$ . DGP P.2 admits nonmonotonic multiple breaks. DGP P.3 is the time-varying coefficient panel model considered in Li *et al.* (2011).

For the proposed  $\hat{H}$  test, we use the uniform kernel. In fact, our simulation experience (not reported here) suggests that the choice of  $k(\cdot)$  has little impact on the performance of the test. For simplicity, we choose the bandwidth  $h = C(NT)^{-\frac{1}{5}}$  with  $C = 0.5, 1$  and  $1.5$ . We use the bootstrap procedure described above with the number of bootstrap iterations  $B = 99$ .

Table 1 reports the rejection rates of  $\hat{H}$  under DGP S.1 at the 10% and 5% significance levels, using bootstrap critical values (BCVs). When  $\varepsilon_{it}$  is *i.i.d.*, the  $\hat{H}$  test has good size with the rejection rates close to the nominal levels. When  $\varepsilon_{it}$  is cross-sectionally dependent, the size performance of  $\hat{H}$  enjoys similar pattern, which suggests that our  $\hat{H}$  test is robust to potential cross-sectional dependence. We also note that the size of our  $\hat{H}$  test is robust to different choices of bandwidth.

Table 2 reports the rejection rates of  $\hat{H}$  with BCVs under DGPs P.1-P.3 at the 10% and 5% levels. The  $\hat{H}$  test has reasonable all-around power against smooth and abrupt structural changes. The power increases as either  $N$  or  $T$  increases. The rejection rate is about 52% at the 5% level even when  $(N, T)$  is as small as  $(15, 15)$ , and approaches unity when  $(N, T) = (30, 30)$ . The choice of bandwidth has some effect on the power of our test when the sample size is small. However, with the increase of  $N$  and  $T$ , the power becomes rather robust to choices of bandwidth.

Next, we turn to the finite sample performance of our diagnostic test  $\hat{H}_1$ . We use a similar DGP as DGP S.1 for size while replacing  $\bar{\lambda}$  with the time varying function (9):

DGP S1.1 [*No Structural Break in the Interactive Effect*]:

$$Y_{it} = \lambda_t + \bar{\beta}X_{it} + \alpha_i + \varepsilon_{it},$$

where  $\lambda_t = \lambda(t/T) = (t/T)^2 + (t/T) + 1$  and  $\bar{\beta}$ ,  $X_{it}$ ,  $\alpha_i$  and  $\varepsilon_{it}$  are generated as before.

To check the power of  $\hat{H}_1$ , we consider three types of structural changes in the interactive effect while allowing for the common time trend  $\lambda_t$ .

DGP P1.1 [*Single Structural Break in the Interactive Effect*]:

$$Y_{it} = \begin{cases} \lambda_t + \bar{\beta}X_{it} + \alpha_i + \varepsilon_{it}, & \text{if } t \leq 0.5T, \\ \lambda_t + (\bar{\beta} + 0.5)X_{it} + \alpha_i + \varepsilon_{it}, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

DGP P1.2 [*Multiple Structural Breaks in the Interactive Effect*]:

$$Y_{it} = \begin{cases} \lambda_t + (\bar{\beta} + 0.5)X_{it} + \alpha_i + \varepsilon_{it}, & \text{if } 0.3T \leq t \leq 0.7T, \\ \lambda_t + \bar{\beta}X_{it} + \alpha_i + \varepsilon_{it}, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

DGP P1.3 [*Smooth Structural Changes in the Interactive Effect*]:

$$Y_{it} = \lambda_t + \{ \bar{\beta} + \phi [\beta (t/T) - \bar{\beta}] \} X_{it} + \alpha_i + \varepsilon_{it},$$

where  $\phi = 0.4$ .

Tables 3 and 4 report the empirical size and power of  $\hat{H}_1$  under DGPs S1.1 and P1.1-1.3. Similar to the  $\hat{H}$  test,  $\hat{H}_1$  has reasonable size performance and is robust to potential cross-sectional dependence and the bandwidth selection. As expected, the  $\hat{H}_1$  test has a bit lower rejection rate than the  $\hat{H}$  test. But the rejection rate increases with both  $N$  and  $T$  and approaches to unity when  $(N, T) = (30, 30)$ .

To confirm that our tests have the right power when the distance between the null and alternative hypotheses is increased, we plot in Figures 1 and 2 the empirical power of  $\hat{H}$  and  $\hat{H}_1$  as functions of  $\phi$  for DGPs P.3 and P1.3. When  $\phi = 0$ , we are back to our null models DGPs S.1 and S1.1. Figures 1 and 2 show that the power functions increase monotonically with  $\phi$ . When the magnitude of  $\phi$  is increased to a larger extent, the power of our tests is reaching unity.

To sum up, we observe that both  $\hat{H}$  and  $\hat{H}_1$  tests have good sizes in finite samples when the residual-based bootstrap is applied. They also have reasonable powers against both sudden structural breaks and smooth structural changes.

## 6. CONCLUSION

The modelling of structural changes in panel data models has attracted increasing attention in econometrics. We have complemented the literature by proposing a Wald-type test for smooth structural changes as well as abrupt structural breaks in panel data models, which has not been attempted in the previous literature. Our generalized Hausman's (1978) test is intuitively appealing and straightforward to compute. It has a convenient null asymptotic  $N(0,1)$  distribution, does not require trimming data, does not require prior information on the possible alternative, and is consistent against all smooth structural changes as well as multiple abrupt structural breaks in panel data models. Moreover, only a mild condition is imposed on the relative rates of growth between  $T$  and  $N$ , thus our approach can be applied to panel data with various size combinations of  $T$  and  $N$ . Our omnibus test is supplemented by a diagnostic test, which allows for a common trend and focuses on potential structural changes in the interactive effect. Such information is useful for practitioners in reconstructing a misspecified model and studying the relationship between economic variables. To overcome the adverse impact of the first

stage nonparametric estimation of the time-varying parameters, we use residual-based bootstrap, which provides reasonable size and power for the proposed tests in finite samples.

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**TABLE I**

Empirical Size of the $\hat{H}$ Test								
$N/T$	15		20		25		30	
	10%	5%	10%	5%	10%	5%	10%	5%
with i.i.d innovations								
15	0.100	0.050	0.104	0.046	0.096	0.052	0.116	0.044
20	0.106	0.040	0.106	0.044	0.086	0.048	0.082	0.034
25	0.110	0.054	0.102	0.042	0.110	0.056	0.066	0.036
30	0.076	0.030	0.092	0.052	0.090	0.048	0.112	0.058
with cross-sectionally dependent innovations								
15	0.106	0.052	0.102	0.036	0.088	0.042	0.084	0.034
20	0.106	0.064	0.110	0.054	0.110	0.052	0.112	0.050
25	0.084	0.038	0.092	0.046	0.080	0.040	0.114	0.050
30	0.104	0.056	0.100	0.042	0.090	0.050	0.078	0.038

Notes: (1)  $\hat{H}$  denotes the test for the overall model stability; (2) 500 iterations;  
(3) Rejection rates are based on bootstrap critical values with B=99.

**TABLE II**

Empirical Power of $\hat{H}$ under DGPs P.1-P.3								
$N/T$	15		20		25		30	
	10%	5%	10%	5%	10%	5%	10%	5%
DGP P.1-Single Structural Break								
15	0.832	0.708	0.928	0.876	0.980	0.964	0.998	0.992
20	0.924	0.850	0.984	0.968	1.000	0.992	1.000	1.000
25	0.964	0.916	0.998	0.986	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
30	0.986	0.954	1.000	0.998	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
DGP P.2- Multiple Structural Breaks								
15	0.692	0.522	0.736	0.564	0.932	0.866	0.928	0.836
20	0.812	0.628	0.878	0.742	0.974	0.926	0.990	0.948
25	0.880	0.758	0.906	0.762	0.982	0.952	0.990	0.958
30	0.914	0.808	0.912	0.810	0.994	0.984	0.996	0.986
DGP P.3-Smooth Structural Changes								
15	0.882	0.776	0.938	0.898	0.988	0.960	1.000	0.996
20	0.940	0.862	0.994	0.972	0.998	0.990	1.000	0.998
25	0.974	0.954	0.990	0.984	1.000	0.998	1.000	1.000
30	0.994	0.974	1.000	0.996	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000

Notes: (1)  $\hat{H}$  denotes the test for the overall model stability; (2) 500 iterations;  
(3) Rejection rates are based on bootstrap critical values with B=99.

**TABLE III**

Empirical Size of the $\hat{H}_1$ Test								
$N/T$	15		20		25		30	
	10%	5%	10%	5%	10%	5%	10%	5%
with i.i.d innovations								
15	0.110	0.064	0.130	0.078	0.116	0.056	0.098	0.046
20	0.096	0.046	0.124	0.072	0.094	0.054	0.092	0.044
25	0.104	0.068	0.124	0.070	0.118	0.060	0.086	0.034
30	0.092	0.044	0.100	0.050	0.096	0.056	0.094	0.052
with cross-sectionally dependent innovations								
15	0.110	0.068	0.096	0.056	0.098	0.050	0.084	0.038
20	0.108	0.046	0.100	0.046	0.096	0.050	0.098	0.054
25	0.084	0.032	0.090	0.046	0.084	0.036	0.110	0.058
30	0.106	0.046	0.076	0.022	0.086	0.040	0.090	0.046

Notes: (1)  $\hat{H}_1$  denotes the diagnostic test for the potential time-varying interaction; (2) 500 iterations; (3) Rejection rates are based on bootstrap critical values with B=99.

**TABLE IV**

Empirical Power of $\hat{H}_1$ under DGPs P1.1-P1.3								
$N/T$	15		20		25		30	
	10%	5%	10%	5%	10%	5%	10%	5%
DGP P1.1-Single Structural Break								
15	0.636	0.504	0.820	0.656	0.894	0.812	0.956	0.892
20	0.714	0.580	0.866	0.790	0.956	0.890	0.984	0.964
25	0.800	0.684	0.954	0.892	0.986	0.964	0.996	0.992
30	0.868	0.752	0.968	0.914	0.996	0.988	1.000	1.000
DGP P1.2- Multiple Structural Breaks								
15	0.468	0.290	0.530	0.360	0.776	0.604	0.718	0.572
20	0.520	0.326	0.666	0.444	0.838	0.688	0.832	0.690
25	0.630	0.450	0.626	0.422	0.874	0.740	0.882	0.756
30	0.670	0.524	0.740	0.520	0.930	0.814	0.942	0.860
DGP P1.3-Smooth Structural Changes								
15	0.292	0.198	0.420	0.288	0.532	0.390	0.612	0.472
20	0.358	0.254	0.542	0.394	0.620	0.500	0.752	0.584
25	0.466	0.324	0.622	0.476	0.746	0.620	0.798	0.696
30	0.550	0.372	0.748	0.592	0.808	0.658	0.896	0.798

Notes: (1)  $\hat{H}_1$  denotes the diagnostic test for the potential time-varying interaction; (2) 500 iterations; (3) Rejection rates are based on bootstrap critical values with B=99.

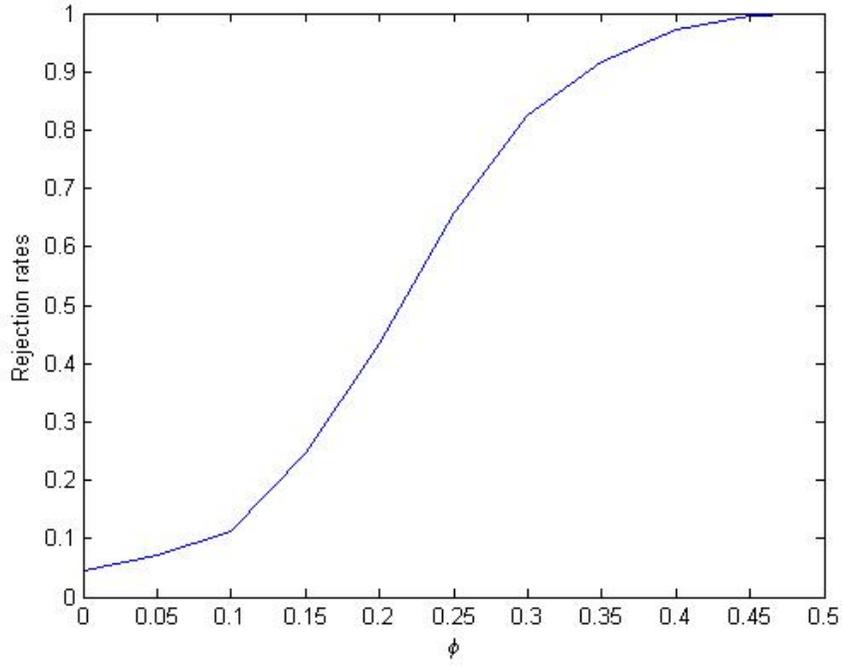


Figure 1: Power curve of the  $\hat{H}$  test

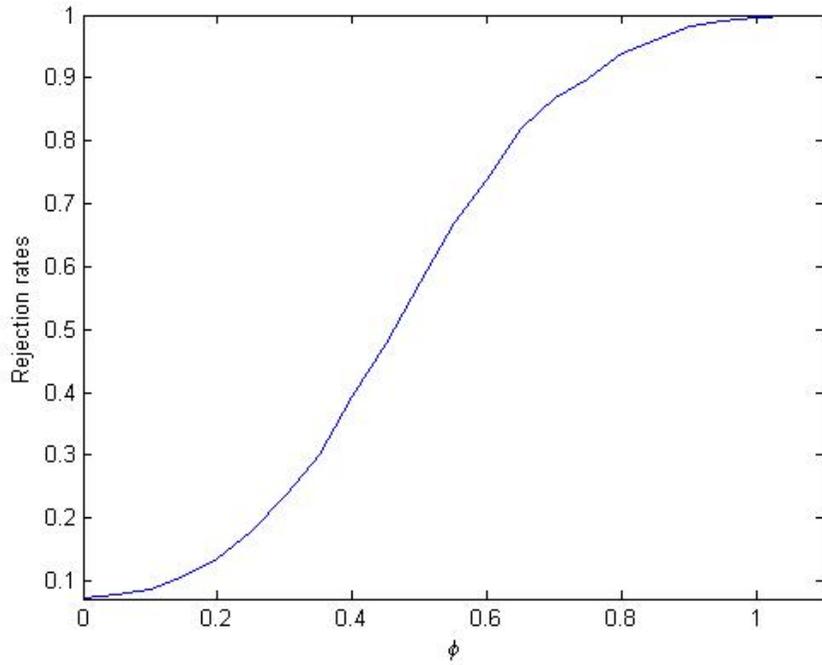


Figure 2: Power curve of the  $\hat{H}_1$  test