Heterogeneity in Individual Level Dynamics of Party Identification

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## Comparing the Concept of Partisan Stability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Party ID stable</th>
<th>Influence of time</th>
<th>Measurement error</th>
<th>Unobserved heterogeneity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social-Psychological</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>major events only</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latent Construct</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>major events only</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rational Updating</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>constant</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macropartisanship</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>constant</td>
<td>unimportant</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mixed Latent Markov Models

\[ P(y_{it}) = \sum_{m=1}^{M} \sum_{x_0=1}^{3} \cdots \sum_{x_T=1}^{3} P(m) P(x_0) \prod_{t=1}^{23} P(x_t|x_{t-1}, m) \prod_{t=0}^{23} P(y_{it}|x_t) \]
Data

- German Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP)
- West-German sample
- Annual data 1984-2007 (24 waves)
- Time period includes three major political events:
  - German reunification (1990)
  - Donation scandal of CDU (1999/2000)
  - Major policy shift by SPD (2003)
In and Outflow of Two Major German Parties

CDU mover chain

SPD mover chain

(Proportion of Stayers: 50 per cent)
Conclusions

- Party identification is measured with error
- Only about 50 per cent of all respondents have a stable party (non) ID
- Party supporters follow different chains of movement
- Political events affect the stability of partisanship (but party specific)

“Stability of party identification” is a heterogeneous concept!