

Asymptotic distribution theory for break point estimators
in models estimated via 2SLS¹

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Abstract

In this paper, we present a limiting distribution theory for the break point estimator in a linear regression model with multiple structural breaks obtained by minimizing a Two Stage Least Squares (2SLS) objective function. Our analysis covers both the case in which the reduced form for the endogenous regressors is stable and the case in which it is unstable with multiple structural breaks. For stable reduced forms, we present a limiting distribution theory under two different scenarios: in the case where the parameter change is of fixed magnitude, it is shown that the resulting distribution depends on the distribution of the data and is not of much practical use for inference; in the case where the magnitude of the parameter change shrinks with the sample size, it is shown that the resulting distribution can be used to construct approximate large sample confidence intervals for the break points. For unstable reduced forms, we consider the case where the magnitudes of the parameter changes in both the equation of interest and the reduced forms shrink with the sample size at potentially different rates and not necessarily the same locations in the sample. The resulting limiting distribution theory can be used to construct approximate large sample confidence intervals for the break points. Its usefulness is illustrated via an application to the New Keynesian Phillips curve.

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1 Introduction

Econometric time series models are based on the assumption that the economic relationships, or “structure”, in question are stable over time. However, with samples covering extended periods, this assumption is always open to question and this has led to considerable interest in the development of statistical methods for detecting structural instability.¹ In designing such methods, it is necessary to specify how the structure may change over time and a popular specification is one in which the parameters of the model are subject to discrete shifts at unknown points in the sample. This scenario can be motivated by the idea of policy regime changes.² Within this type of setting, the main concern is to estimate economic relationships in the different regimes and compare them. However, since not all policy changes may impact the economic relationship of interest, an important precursor to this analysis is the identification of the points in the sample, if any, at which the parameters change. This raises the issue of how to perform inference about the location of the so-called “break points”, that is the points in the sample at which the parameters change, and motivates the interest to obtain a limiting distribution theory for break point estimators.³ It is the latter which is the focus of this paper.

There is a literature in time series on the limiting distribution of break point estimators for estimation of changes in the mean of processes; see Picard (1985), Bhattacharya (1987), Yao (1987), Bai (1994, 1997). A limiting distribution theory has also been presented in the context of linear regression models estimated via Ordinary Least Squares (OLS). Bai (1997) considers the case in which there is only one break. He presents two alternative limit theories for the break point estimator. One assumes the magnitude of change between the regimes is fixed; the resulting distribution theory for the break-point turns out to depend on the distribution of the data. The other assumes the magnitude of the parameter change is shrinking with the sample size⁴: this approach leads to practical methods for inference about the location of the break

¹See *inter alia* Andrews and Fair (1988), Ghysels and Hall (1990), Andrews (1993), Sowell (1996), Hall and Sen (1999) as well as the other references below.

²For example, Bai (1997) explores the impact of changes in monetary policy on the relationship between the interest rate and the discount factor in the US, and Zhang, Osborn, and Kim (2008) explore the impact of monetary policy changes on the Phillips curve.

³The term “change point” is also used in the literature to denote the points in the sample at which the parameter values change.

⁴The assumption of shrinking breaks is a mathematical device designed to produce confidence intervals for the break points whose asymptotic properties provide a reasonable approximation to finite sample behaviour when

point. Bai and Perron (1998) consider the case of multiple break points that are estimated simultaneously. They present a limiting distribution theory for the break point estimators based on the assumption that the parameter change is shrinking as the sample size increases; this can be used by practitioners to perform inference about the location of the break points.

One maintained assumption in Bai's (1997) and Bai and Perron's (1998) analyses is that the regressors are uncorrelated with the errors so that OLS is an appropriate method of estimation. This is a leading case, of course, but there are also many cases in econometrics where the regressors are correlated with the errors and so OLS yields inconsistent estimators. Once OLS is rejected as inappropriate, an alternative method of estimation must be chosen. A natural alternative is Instrumental Variables (IV). There are two common approaches to IV estimation in econometrics: Generalized Method of Moments (GMM) and Two Stage Least Squares (2SLS). While GMM has become very popular, Hall, Han, and Boldea (2011) show that it is not well suited to break point estimation in this context. Specifically, they show that minimizing the sum of partial GMM minimands over all partitions of the sample fails to yield consistent estimates of the break point in leading cases of interest. In contrast, Hall, Han, and Boldea (2011) show that minimizing the 2SLS minimand yields consistent estimators of the break points. Inspection of their proofs indicates that the contrasting behaviours of these estimators stem from differences in the construction of their associated objective functions. The GMM minimand is the square of sums. This structure allows the opportunity for the effects of the misspecification associated with the selection of the wrong break point to offset in the minimand and confound the estimation of the break point. In contrast, the 2SLS minimand is a sum of squares and this construction offers no scope for the effects of misspecification to offset. We thus follow the approach of Hall, Han, and Boldea (2011) and consider the case in which the estimation of the regression parameters and break points is performed by minimizing a 2SLS objective function.⁵ Hall, Han, and Boldea (2011) establish the consistency of these 2SLS estimators, a limiting distribution theory for the 2SLS estimators of the regression parameters, propose a number of tests for parameter variation and a methodology for estimating the number of break points. However, they do not consider the breaks are of "moderate" size; see Bai and Perron (1998).

⁵There is a considerable literature on the use of Instrumental Variables (IV) and 2SLS in linear models with endogenous regressors in econometrics; see Christ (1994) or Hall (2005)[Chapter 1] for a historical review and examples in which such endogeneity arises.

the distribution of the break point estimators.

In this paper, we derive the distribution of the break point estimators based on minimization of the 2SLS objective function. As in Hall, Han, and Boldea (2011), our analysis covers both the case in which the reduced form for the endogenous regressors is stable and the case in which it is unstable with multiple structural breaks.⁶

For stable reduced forms, we present a limiting distribution theory under two different scenarios regarding the magnitude of the parameter change between regimes. First, if the parameter change is of fixed magnitude, the resulting distribution is shown to be the natural extension of Bai's (1997) result for OLS estimators and is consequently dependent on the distribution of the data. Second, if the magnitude of the parameter change shrinks with the sample size, the resulting distribution can be used to construct approximate large sample confidence intervals for the break points. For unstable reduced forms, we consider the case where the magnitude of the parameter changes in both the equation of interest and the reduced form shrink with the sample size at potentially different rates and different locations for the structural equation and reduced form. The resulting limiting distribution theory can be used to construct approximate large sample confidence intervals for the break points. These intervals are illustrated via an application to the New Keynesian Phillips curve.

An outline of the paper is as follows. Section 2 contains results for the stable reduced form case. Section 3 presents the analysis for the unstable reduced form case and several break point estimators obtained using the methodology described in Hall, Han, and Boldea (2011). Section 4 reports results from the empirical application. Section 5 offers some concluding remarks. The mathematical appendix contains sketch proofs of the main results in the paper. Boldea, Hall, and Han (2010) contains complete proofs of all results and also reports results from a small simulation study that demonstrates the finite sample performance of the intervals; this paper is available from the authors upon request.

⁶Note that all breaks in a structural system of equations are either reflected in the structural equation of interest, or in the reduced forms, or both; thus it is important to distinguish between stable and unstable reduced forms.

2 Stable reduced form case

In this section, we present a limiting distribution theory for the break point estimator based on minimization of the 2SLS objective function in the case where the reduced form is stable. Section 2.1 describes the model and summarizes certain preliminary results. Section 2.2 presents the limiting distribution of the break point estimators in both the fixed-break and shrinking-break cases.

2.1 Preliminaries

Consider the case in which the equation of interest is a linear regression model with m breaks, that is

$$y_t = x_t' \beta_{x,i}^0 + z_{1,t}' \beta_{z_1,i}^0 + u_t, \quad i = 1, \dots, m+1, \quad t = T_{i-1}^0 + 1, \dots, T_i^0 \quad (1)$$

where $T_0^0 = 0$ and $T_{m+1}^0 = T$. In this model, y_t is the dependent variable, x_t is a $p_1 \times 1$ vector of explanatory variables, $z_{1,t}$ is a $p_2 \times 1$ vector of exogenous variables including the intercept, and u_t is a mean zero error. We define $p = p_1 + p_2$. Given that some regressors are endogenous, it is plausible that (1) belongs to a system of structural equations and thus, for simplicity, we refer to (1) as the “structural equation”. As is commonly assumed in the literature, we require the break points to be asymptotically distinct.

Assumption 1. $T_i^0 = [T\lambda_i^0]$, where $0 < \lambda_1^0 < \dots < \lambda_m^0 < 1$.⁷

Throughout our analysis, it is assumed that m , the number of breaks, is known but their locations $\{\lambda_i^0\}$ are not.

To implement 2SLS, it is necessary to specify the reduced form for x_t . In this section, we consider the case in which the reduced form is stable,

$$x_t' = z_t' \Delta_0 + v_t' \quad (2)$$

where $z_t = (z_{t,1}, z_{t,2}, \dots, z_{t,q})'$ is a $q \times 1$ vector of instruments that is uncorrelated with both u_t and v_t , $\Delta_0 = (\delta_{1,0}, \delta_{2,0}, \dots, \delta_{p_1,0})$ with dimension $q \times p_1$ and each $\delta_{j,0}$ for $j = 1, \dots, p_1$ has dimension $q \times 1$. We assume that z_t contains $z_{1,t}$.

⁷ $[\cdot]$ denotes the integer part of the quantity in the brackets.

Hall, Han, and Boldea (2011) (HHB hereafter) propose the following method for estimation of the structural equation based on minimizing a 2SLS objective function. On the first stage, the reduced form for x_t is estimated via OLS using (2) and let \hat{x}_t denote the resulting predicted value for x_t , that is

$$\hat{x}'_t = z'_t \hat{\Delta}_T = z'_t \left(\sum_{t=1}^T z_t z_t' \right)^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^T z_t x_t'. \quad (3)$$

In the second stage, the structural equation,

$$y_t = \hat{x}'_t \beta_{x,i}^* + z'_{1,t} \beta_{z_1,i}^* + \tilde{u}_t, \quad i = 1, \dots, m+1; \quad t = T_{i-1} + 1, \dots, T_i, \quad (4)$$

is estimated via OLS for each possible m -partition of the sample, denoted by $\{T_j\}_{j=1}^m$ or (T_1, \dots, T_m) . We assume:

Assumption 2. Equation (4) is estimated over all partitions (T_1, \dots, T_m) such that $T_i - T_{i-1} > \max\{q-1, \epsilon T\}$ for some $\epsilon > 0$ and $\epsilon < \inf_i (\lambda_{i+1}^0 - \lambda_i^0)$.

Assumption 2 requires that each segment considered in the minimization contains a positive fraction of the sample asymptotically; in practice ϵ is chosen to be small in the hope that the last part of the assumption is valid.

Letting $\beta_i^* = (\beta_{x,i}^{*'} , \beta_{z_1,i}^{*'})'$, for a given m -partition, the estimates of $\beta^* = (\beta_1^{*'} , \beta_2^{*'} , \dots, \beta_{m+1}^{*'})'$ are obtained by minimizing the sum of squared residuals

$$S_T(T_1, \dots, T_m; \beta) = \sum_{i=1}^{m+1} \sum_{t=T_{i-1}+1}^{T_i} (y_t - \hat{x}'_t \beta_{x,i} - z'_{1,t} \beta_{z_1,i})^2 \quad (5)$$

with respect to $\beta = (\beta_1' , \beta_2' , \dots, \beta_{m+1}')'$. We denote these estimators by $\hat{\beta}(\{T_i\}_{i=1}^m)$. The estimates of the break points, $(\hat{T}_1, \dots, \hat{T}_m)$, are defined as

$$(\hat{T}_1, \dots, \hat{T}_m) = \arg \min_{T_1, \dots, T_m} S_T \left(T_1, \dots, T_m; \hat{\beta}(\{T_i\}_{i=1}^m) \right) \quad (6)$$

where the minimization is taken over all possible partitions, (T_1, \dots, T_m) . The 2SLS estimates of the regression parameters, $\hat{\beta} \equiv \hat{\beta}(\{\hat{T}_i\}_{i=1}^m) = (\hat{\beta}'_1, \hat{\beta}'_2, \dots, \hat{\beta}'_{m+1})'$, are the regression parameter estimates associated with the estimated partition, $\{\hat{T}_i\}_{i=1}^m$.

HHB focus on inference about the parameters $\beta^0 = (\beta_1^{0'} , \dots, \beta_{m+1}^{0'})'$, where $\beta_i^0 = (\beta_{x,i}^{0'} , \beta_{z_1,i}^{0'})'$. Specifically, they derive the limiting distributions of both $\hat{\beta}$ and also various tests for parameter variation. However, to establish these results, they need to prove certain convergence results

regarding the break point estimators. These results are also relevant to our analysis of the limiting distribution of the break point estimator in the fixed-break case, and so we summarize them below in a lemma. To present these results, we must state certain additional assumptions.

Assumption 3. (i) $h_t = (u_t, v_t)' \otimes z_t$ is an array of real valued $n \times 1$ random vectors (where $n = (p_1 + 1)q$) defined on the probability space (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) , $V_T = \text{Var}[\sum_{t=1}^T h_t]$ is such that $\text{diag}[\gamma_{T,1}^{-1}, \dots, \gamma_{T,n}^{-1}] = \Gamma_T^{-1}$ is $O(T^{-1})$ where Γ_T is the $n \times n$ diagonal matrix with the eigenvalues $(\gamma_{T,1}, \dots, \gamma_{T,n})$ of V_T along the diagonal; (ii) $E[h_{t,i}] = 0$ and, for some $d > 2$, $\|h_{t,i}\|_d < \kappa < \infty$ for $t = 1, 2, \dots$ and $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ where $h_{t,i}$ is the i^{th} element of h_t ; (iii) $\{h_{t,i}\}$ is near epoch dependent with respect to $\{g_t\}$ such that $\|h_t - E[h_t | \mathcal{G}_{t-m}^{t+m}]\|_2 \leq \nu_m$ with $\nu_m = O(m^{-1/2})$ where \mathcal{G}_{t-m}^{t+m} is a sigma-algebra based on $(g_{t-m}, \dots, g_{t+m})$; (iv) $\{g_t\}$ is either ϕ -mixing of size $m^{-d/(2(d-1))}$ or α -mixing of size $m^{-d/(d-2)}$.

Assumption 4. $\text{rank}\{\Upsilon_0\} = p$ where $\Upsilon_0 = [\Delta_0, \Pi]$, $\Pi' = [I_{p_2}, 0_{p_2 \times (q-p_2)}]$, I_a denotes the $a \times a$ identity matrix and $0_{a \times b}$ is the $a \times b$ null matrix.⁸

Assumption 5. There exists an $0 < l_0 < \min\{T_i^0, T - T_i^0\}$ such that for all l with $l_0 < l \leq \min\{T_i^0, T - T_i^0\}$, the minimum eigenvalues of $A_{il} = (1/l) \sum_{t=T_i^0+1}^{T_i^0+l} z_t z_t'$ and of $A_{il}^* = (1/l) \sum_{t=T_i^0-l}^{T_i^0} z_t z_t'$ are bounded away from zero in probability for all $i = 1, \dots, m+1$.

Assumption 6. $T^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^{\lfloor Tr \rfloor} z_t z_t' \xrightarrow{P} Q_{ZZ}(r)$ uniformly in $r \in [0, 1]$ where $Q_{ZZ}(r)$ is positive definite (thereafter pd) for any $r > 0$ and strictly increasing in r .

Assumption 3 allows substantial dependence and heterogeneity in $(u_t, v_t)' \otimes z_t$ but at the same time imposes sufficient restrictions to deduce a Central Limit Theorem for $T^{-1/2} \sum_{t=1}^{\lfloor Tr \rfloor} h_t$; see Wooldridge and White (1988).⁹ This assumption also contains the restrictions that the implicit population moment condition in 2SLS is valid - that is $E[z_t u_t] = 0$ - and the conditional mean of the reduced form is correctly specified. Assumption 4 implies the standard rank condition for identification in IV estimation in the linear regression model¹⁰ because Assumptions 3(ii), 4 and

⁸Note that this notation is convenient for calculations involving the augmented matrix of projected endogenous regressors and observed exogenous regressors in the second stage.

⁹This rests on showing that under the stated conditions $\{h_t, \mathcal{G}_{-\infty}^t\}$ is a mixingale of size $-1/2$ with constants $c_{T,j} = n \xi_{T,j}^{-1/2} \max(1, \|b_{t,j}\|_r)$; see Wooldridge and White (1988).

¹⁰See e.g. Hall (2005)[p.35].

6 together imply that

$$T^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^{[Tr]} z_t [x'_t, z'_{1,t}] \xrightarrow{p} Q_{ZZ}(r) \Upsilon_0 = Q_{Z,[X,Z_1]}(r) \text{ uniformly in } r \in [0, 1] \quad (7)$$

where $Q_{Z,[X,Z_1]}(r)$ has rank equal to p for any $r > 0$.¹¹ Assumption 5 requires that there be enough observations near the true break points so that they can be identified and is analogous to the extension proposed in Bai and Perron (1998) to their Assumption A2.

Define the break fraction estimators to be $\hat{\lambda}_i = \hat{T}_i/T$, for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$. HHB[Theorems 1 & 2] establish the following properties of these 2SLS break fraction estimators.

Lemma 1. *Let y_t be generated by (1), x_t be generated by (2), \hat{x}_t be generated by (3) and Assumptions 1-6 hold, then (i) $\hat{\lambda}_i \xrightarrow{p} \lambda_i^0$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$; (ii) for every $\eta > 0$, there exists $C > 0$ such that for all large T , $P(T|\hat{\lambda}_i - \lambda_i^0| > C) < \eta$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$.*

Therefore, the break fraction estimator deviates from the true break fractions by a term of order in probability T^{-1} . While HHB establish the rate of convergence of $\hat{\lambda}_i$, they do not present a limiting distribution theory for these estimators.

2.2 Limiting distribution of break point estimators

In this section, we present a limiting distribution for the break point estimators. We consider two different scenarios for the parameter change across regimes: when it is fixed and when it is shrinking with the sample size. Although the resulting distribution theory in each of these scenarios turns out to be different, part of the derivations are common. It is therefore convenient to present both scenarios within the following single assumption.

Assumption 7. *Let $\beta_{i+1}^0 - \beta_i^0 = \theta_{i,T}^0 = \theta_i^0 s_T$ where $s_T = T^{-\alpha}$ for some $\alpha \in [0, 1/2)$ and $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$.*

Note that under this assumption, if $\alpha = 0$ then we have the fixed break case but if $\alpha \neq 0$ then the parameter change is shrinking with the sample size but at a slower rate than $T^{-1/2}$. It should be noted that the assumption of shrinking breaks at this rate is used as a mathematical device to develop a limiting distribution theory that is designed to provide an approximation to

¹¹Note this assumption implies $q \geq p$. If $q = p$ then the 2SLS estimator, $\hat{\beta}_i$, is asymptotically equivalent to the standard just-identified IV estimator based on the observations $T_{i-1} + 1, \dots, T_i$.

finite sample behaviour in models with moderate-sized changes in the parameters. The simulation results in Section 4.1 provide guidance on the accuracy of this approximation for different magnitudes of parameter change.

The derivation of the limiting distribution theory below is premised on the consistency and the known rate of convergence of the break fraction estimators. These are already presented in Lemma 1 for the fixed-break case. The corresponding results for the shrinking-break case are presented in the following proposition.

Proposition 1. *Let y_t be generated by (1), x_t be generated by (2), \hat{x}_t be generated by (3) and Assumptions 1-7 ($\alpha \neq 0$) hold, then (i) $\hat{\lambda}_i \xrightarrow{P} \lambda_i^0$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$; (ii) for every $\eta > 0$, there exists $C > 0$ such that for all large T , $P(T|\hat{\lambda}_i - \lambda_i^0| > Cs_T^{-2}) < \eta$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$.*

Remark 1: Proposition 1(ii) states that the break point estimator converges to the true break point at a rate equal to the inverse of the square of the rate at which the difference between the regimes disappears. Note that this is the same rate of convergence as is exhibited by the corresponding statistic in the case where x_t and u_t are uncorrelated and the model is estimated by OLS; see Bai (1997)[Proposition 1].

We now turn to the issue of characterizing the limiting distribution of \hat{T}_i . To achieve this end, we first present the statistic that determines the large sample behaviour of the break point estimator; see Proposition 2 below. The form of this statistic is the same for both the fixed-break and the shrinking-break cases, but its large sample behaviour is different across the two cases. We therefore consider the form of the limiting distribution in the fixed-break and shrinking-break cases in turn.

From Lemma 1(ii) and Proposition 1(ii), it follows that in considering the limiting behaviour of $\{\hat{T}_i\}_{i=1}^m$ we can confine attention to possible break points within the following set $B = \cup_{i=1}^m B_i$ where $B_i = \{|T_i - T_i^0| \leq C_i s_T^{-2}\}$, and $C_i > 0$ are constants.¹²

Proposition 2. *Let y_t be generated by (1), x_t be generated by (2), \hat{x}_t be generated by (3) and*

¹²See Han (2006) or an earlier version of this paper Hall, Han, and Boldea (2007) for a formal proof of this assertion.

Assumptions 1-7 hold then:

$$\hat{T}_i - T_i^0 = \operatorname{argmin}_{T_i \in B_i} \begin{cases} \Psi_T(T_i), & \text{for } T_i \neq T_i^0 \\ 0, & \text{for } T_i = T_i^0 \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi_T(T_i) = & (-1)^{\mathcal{I}[T_i < T_i^0]} 2\theta_{T,i}^{0'} \Upsilon_0' \sum_{t=(T_i \wedge T_i^0)+1}^{T_i \vee T_i^0} z_t (u_t + v_t' \beta_x^0(t, T)) \\ & + \theta_{T,i}^{0'} \Upsilon_0' \sum_{t=(T_i \wedge T_i^0)+1}^{T_i \vee T_i^0} z_t z_t' \Upsilon_0 \theta_{T,i}^0 + o_p(1), \text{ uniformly in } B_i, \end{aligned}$$

$\beta_x^0(t, T) = \beta_{x,i}^0$ for $t = T_{i-1}^0 + 1, T_{i-1}^0 + 2, \dots, T_i^0$ and $i = 1, 2, \dots, m+1$, $a \vee b = \max\{a, b\}$, $a \wedge b = \min\{a, b\}$, and $\mathcal{I}[\cdot]$ is an indicator variable that takes the value one if the event in the square brackets occurs.

We now consider the implications of Proposition 2 for the limiting distribution of the break point estimator in the two scenarios about the magnitude of the break.

(i) *Fixed-break case:*

If Assumption 7 holds with $\alpha = 0$ then, without further restrictions, the limiting distribution of the random variable on the right-hand side of (8) is intractable. A similar problem is encountered by Bai (1997) in his analysis of the break points in models estimated by OLS. He circumvents this problem by restricting attention to strictly stationary processes.¹³ We impose the same restriction here.

Assumption 8. *The process $\{z_t, u_t, v_t\}_{t=-\infty}^{\infty}$ is strictly stationary.*

To facilitate the presentation of the limiting distribution of \hat{T}_i , we introduce a stochastic process $R_i^*(s)$ on the set of integers that is defined as follows:

$$R_i^*(s) = \begin{cases} R_1^{(i)}(s) & : s < 0 \\ 0 & : s = 0 \\ R_2^{(i)}(s) & : s > 0 \end{cases}$$

¹³This approach is also pursued by Bhattacharya (1987), Picard (1985) and Yao (1987).

with

$$\begin{aligned}
R_1^{(i)}(s) &= \theta_i^{0'} \Upsilon_0' \sum_{t=s+1}^0 z_t z_t' \Upsilon_0 \theta_i^0 - 2\theta_i^{0'} \Upsilon_0' \left(\sum_{t=s+1}^0 z_t u_t + \sum_{t=s+1}^0 z_t v_t' \beta_{x,i}^0 \right) \\
&\quad \text{for } s = -1, -2, \dots \\
R_2^{(i)}(s) &= \theta_i^{0'} \Upsilon_0' \sum_{t=1}^s z_t z_t' \Upsilon_0 \theta_i^0 + 2\theta_i^{0'} \Upsilon_0' \left(\sum_{t=1}^s z_t u_t + \sum_{t=1}^s z_t v_t' \beta_{x,i+1}^0 \right) \\
&\quad \text{for } s = 1, 2, \dots
\end{aligned}$$

We note that if (z_t, u_t, v_t) is independent over t then the process $R_i^*(s)$ is a two-sided random walk with stochastic drifts. It is necessary to impose a restriction on the random variables that drive $R_i^*(s)$.

Assumption 9. $(z_t' \Upsilon_0 \theta_i^0)^2 \pm 2\theta_i^{0'} \Upsilon_0' z_t (u_t + v_t' \beta_{x,i}^0)$ has a continuous distribution for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$, and Assumption 3 (iii), (iv) holds with h_t replaced by z_t .

Assumption 3 (iii), (iv) for z_t and h_t together ensure that $(z_t' \Upsilon_0 \theta_i^0)^2 \pm 2\theta_i^{0'} \Upsilon_0' z_t (u_t + v_t' \beta_{x,i}^0)$ is also near-epoch dependent of the same size as h_t , and also satisfies Assumption 3 (iii), (iv), by Theorems 17.8 and 17.12 in Davidson (1994), p. 267-269. We now present the limiting distribution of the break points in the fixed break case.

Theorem 1. Let y_t be generated by (1), x_t be generated by (2), \hat{x}_t be generated by (3) and Assumptions 1-6, 7 (with $\alpha = 0$), 8 and 9 hold then:

$$\hat{T}_i - T_i^0 \xrightarrow{d} \arg \min_s R_i^*(s)$$

for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$.

Remark 2: To derive the probability function of the limiting distribution, it is necessary to know both β^0 and the distribution of (z_t', u_t, v_t') . However, under the assumptions of Theorem 1, there are cases in which the distribution of $(z_t' \Upsilon_0 \theta_i^0)^2 \pm 2\theta_i^{0'} \Upsilon_0' z_t (u_t + v_t' \beta_{x,i}^0)$ can be described through a moment generating function that is known in the literature. For example, if there are no exogenous regressors in the structural equation ($z_t = z_{2,t}$), z_t, u_t, v_t are all scalar random variables, (z_t, u_t, v_t) is independently distributed over t , $z_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_z^2)$, $z_t \perp (u_t, v_t)$, $(u_t, v_t) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Omega)$, with Ω a 2×2 covariance matrix with $\Omega_{1,1} = \sigma_u^2$, $\Omega_{1,2} = \sigma_{uv}$, $\Omega_{2,2} = \sigma_v^2$, then the distributions of $R_1^i(s)$ with $i = 1, \dots, m+1$, can be described by the following moment generating

function:

$$\mathcal{M}_1^i(u) = (\varrho_i^0 \sigma_z \vartheta_i)^{|s|} \times [a_i(u)]^{-|s|/2} \times \exp \left\{ |s| \frac{(\rho_1^2 - \rho_{2,i}^2)u^2 + 2\rho_1 \rho_{2,i} u}{2a_i(u)} \right\}$$

where $\varrho_i^0 = \theta_i^0 \Delta_0 \neq 0$, $\rho_1 = \mu_z / \sigma_z$; $\vartheta_i = \sqrt{\sigma_z^2 (\varrho_i^0)^2 + \sigma_u^2 + \sigma_v^2 (\beta_{i,0})^2 + 2\sigma_{uv} \beta_{i,0}}$; $\rho_{2,i} = \mu_z \varrho_i^0 / \vartheta_i$; $r_i = \varrho_i^0 \sigma_z / \vartheta_i$ and $a_i(u) = [1 - (1 + r_i u)] \times [1 + (1 - r_i)u]$.¹⁴ The distribution of $R_2^i(s)$ can be described by $\mathcal{M}_2^i(u)$, the same moment generating function above, but with $\beta_{i,0}$ replaced with β_{i+1}^0 .

Remark 3: It is interesting to contrast our Proposition 2 with Bai's (1997)[Proposition 2] in which the limiting distribution of \hat{T}_i is presented for the case in which $m = 1$, x_t and u_t are uncorrelated and (1) is estimated via OLS. In the latter case, Bai (1997) shows that $\hat{T}_1 - T_1^0 \rightarrow_d \arg \max_s W^*(s)$ where $W^*(s)$ has the same structure as $R_i^*(s)$ but its behaviour is driven by

$$b(x_t, u_t) = \theta_1^{0'} x_t' x_t \theta_1^0 \pm 2x_t u_t.$$

In contrast, the limiting distribution in Theorem 1 is driven by $b(z_t' \Upsilon_0, u_t + v_t' \beta_{x,i}^0)$. Therefore the limiting distribution in Theorem 1 is the same as would be obtained from Bai's (1997)[Proposition 2] if y_t is regressed on $E[x_t | z_t]$ and $z_{1,t}$ using OLS.

Remark 4: The form of the limiting distribution of \hat{T}_i is governed by $R_i^*(\cdot)$. Given the assumptions of Theorem 1, the form of $R_i^*(\cdot)$ only depends on i through θ_i^0 and $\beta_{x,i}^0$. In fact, the generic nature of this form follows from Assumptions 1, 3 and 9, implying that \hat{T}_i and \hat{T}_j are asymptotically independent for $i \neq j$.

In view of Remark 2, without further assumptions, the limiting distribution in Theorem 1 is not useful for inference in general because of its dependence on unknowns. Therefore, we now turn to an alternative framework that does yield practical methods of inference about the break points.

¹⁴This result, along with details about the distribution functions and their numerical computation, can be found in Craig (1936). If we further assume that, for some regime, $\varrho_i^0 = 1$ and z_t , respectively $(u_t + v_t \beta_{x,i}^0)$ are standard normal variables, then in that regime, $z_t^2 - z_t(u_t + v_t \beta_{x,i}^0)$ is the sum of a χ_1^2 variable and an independently distributed random variable with distribution function $K_0(u)/\pi$, where $K_0(\cdot)$ is the Bessel function of the second kind of a purely imaginary argument of order zero - see e.g. Craig (1936), p. 1. Thus, the moment generating function of $R_1^i(s)$ simplifies to $\mathcal{M}_1^i(u) = [\sqrt{2}a_i(u)]^{-|s|/2}$, with $r_i = 1/\sqrt{2}$.

(ii) *Shrinking-break case:*

Impose Assumption 7 with $\alpha \neq 0$, as well as:

Assumption 10. $T^{-1} \sum_{t=T_{i-1}^0+1}^{T_{i-1}^0+[rT]} z_t z_t' \xrightarrow{P} rQ_i$, uniformly in $r \in (0, \lambda_i^0 - \lambda_{i-1}^0]$, where Q_i is a pd matrix of constants.

Assumption 11. For regime i , $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$, $\text{Var}[h_t] = V_i$, a $n \times n$ pd matrix of constants.

Assumption 10 allows the behaviour of the instrument cross product matrix to vary across regimes, but it is more restrictive than Assumption 6. Assumption 11 restricts the error processes to have constant second moments within regime but allows these moments to vary across regimes. Both these assumptions are similar to their OLS counterparts - see e.g. Bai (1997) and ensure that enough homogeneity is preserved such that the break-point estimators have a pivotal asymptotic distribution; this is described below.

Theorem 2. Under Assumptions 1-5, 7 (with $\alpha \neq 0$), 10 and 11, we have:

$$\frac{(\theta_{i,T}^{0'} \Upsilon_0' Q_i \Upsilon_0 \theta_{i,T}^0)^2}{\theta_{i,T}^{0'} \Upsilon_0' \Phi_i \Upsilon_0 \theta_{i,T}^0} (\hat{T}_i - T_i^0) \xrightarrow{d} \arg \min_c Z_i(c)$$

where

$$\xi_i = \frac{\theta_i^{0'} \Upsilon_0' Q_{i+1} \Upsilon_0 \theta_i^0}{\theta_i^{0'} \Upsilon_0' Q_i \Upsilon_0 \theta_i^0}, \quad \phi_i = \frac{\theta_i^{0'} \Upsilon_0' \Phi_{i+1} \Upsilon_0 \theta_i^0}{\theta_i^{0'} \Upsilon_0' \Phi_i \Upsilon_0 \theta_i^0}, \quad \Phi_i = C_i V_i C_i', \quad C_i = \nu_i' \otimes I_q, \quad \nu_i' = [1 \ \beta_{x,i}^0']$$

$$Z_i(c) = \begin{cases} |c|/2 - W_1^{(i)}(-c) & : c \leq 0 \\ \xi_i c/2 - \sqrt{\phi_i} W_2^{(i)}(c) & : c > 0 \end{cases}, \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, \dots, m+1$$

β_x^0 is the limiting common value of $\{\beta_{x,i}^0\}$ under Assumption 7 and $W_j^{(i)}(c)$, $j = 1, 2$, for each i , are two independent Brownian motion processes defined on $[0, \infty)$, starting at the origin when $c = 0$, and $\{W_j^{(i)}(c)\}_{j=1}^2$ is independent of $\{W_j^{(k)}(c)\}_{j=1}^2$ for all $k \neq i$.

Remark 5: It is interesting to compare Theorem 2 with Bai's (1997) Proposition 3, in which the corresponding distribution is presented for $m = 1$ in the case where x_t and u_t are uncorrelated and the model is estimated by OLS. The two limiting distributions have the same generic structure but the definitions of ξ_1 , ϕ_1 , and Φ_1 are different as is the scaling factor of $\hat{k} - k_0$. Inspection reveals that the result in Theorem 2 is equivalent to what would be obtained from applying Bai's (1997) result to the case in which y_t is regressed on $E[x_t|z_t]$ and $z_{1,t}$ with error $u_t + v_t' \beta_{x,i}^0$.

Remark 6: The density of $\arg \min_c Z(c)$ is characterized by Bai (1997) and he notes it is symmetric only if $\xi_i = 1$ and $\phi_i = 1$. It is possible to identify in our setting one special case in which $\xi_i = \phi_i = 1$, that is where $V_{i+1} = V_i = V$, $Q_{i+1} = Q_i = Q$.

The distributional result in Theorem 2 can be used to construct confidence intervals for T_i^0 . To this end, denote: $\hat{\theta}_i = \hat{\beta}_{i+1} - \hat{\beta}_i$, $\hat{Q}_i = (\hat{T}_i - \hat{T}_{i-1})^{-1} \sum_i z_t z_t'$, where \sum_i denotes sum over $t = \hat{T}_{i-1} + 1, \dots, \hat{T}_i$, $\hat{V}_i = (\hat{T}_i - \hat{T}_{i-1})^{-1} \sum_i \hat{h}_t \hat{h}_t'$, $\hat{h}_t = [\hat{u}_t, \hat{v}_t']' \otimes z_t$, $w_t = [\hat{x}_t', z_{1,t}']'$, $\hat{u}_t = y_t - w_t' \hat{\beta}_i$, for $t = \hat{T}_{i-1} + 1, \dots, \hat{T}_i$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$, $\hat{v}_t = (x_t - \hat{\Delta}_T' z_t)$, $\hat{C}_i = [1 \ \hat{\beta}_{x,i}'] \otimes I_q$,

$$\hat{\xi}_i = \frac{\hat{\theta}_i' \hat{\Upsilon}_T' \hat{Q}_{i+1} \hat{\Upsilon}_T \hat{\theta}_i}{\hat{\theta}_i' \hat{\Upsilon}_T' \hat{Q}_i \hat{\Upsilon}_T \hat{\theta}_i}, \quad \hat{\phi}_i = \frac{\hat{\theta}_i' \hat{\Upsilon}_T' \hat{\Phi}_{i+1} \hat{\Upsilon}_T \hat{\theta}_i}{\hat{\theta}_i' \hat{\Upsilon}_T' \hat{\Phi}_i \hat{\Upsilon}_T \hat{\theta}_i}, \quad \hat{\Phi}_i = \hat{C}_i \hat{V}_i \hat{C}_i'$$

and $\hat{\Upsilon}_T = [\hat{\Delta}_T, \Pi]$.¹⁵ It then follows that

$$\left(\hat{T}_i - \left\lfloor \frac{a_2}{\hat{H}_i} \right\rfloor - 1, \hat{T}_i - \left\lfloor \frac{a_1}{\hat{H}_i} \right\rfloor + 1 \right) \quad (9)$$

is a $100(1 - \alpha)$ percent confidence interval for T_i^0 where $\lfloor \cdot \rfloor$ denotes the integer part of the term in the brackets,

$$\hat{H}_i = \frac{(\hat{\theta}_i' \hat{\Upsilon}_T' \hat{Q}_i \hat{\Upsilon}_T \hat{\theta}_i)^2}{\hat{\theta}_i' \hat{\Upsilon}_T' \hat{\Phi}_i \hat{\Upsilon}_T \hat{\theta}_i}$$

and a_1 and a_2 are respectively the $\alpha/2^{th}$ and $(1 - \alpha/2)^{th}$ quantiles for $\arg \min_s Z(s)$ which can be calculated using equations (B.2) and (B.3) in Bai (1997). It is worth noting that even though the asymptotic distribution may be symmetric, in general its finite sample approximation is not; this is due to the fact that for each i , one estimates β_x^0 by $\hat{\beta}_{x,i}$.

As in Bai (1997), assume instead that the conditional covariance of the error process is constant across regimes.

Assumption 12. For regime i , $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$, $Var[(u_t, v_t)' | z_t] = \Omega_i$, a constant, pd matrix.

Then the asymptotic distribution simplifies.

Corollary 1. Under Assumptions 1-5, 7 (with $\alpha \neq 0$), 10 and 12, Theorem 2 becomes:

$$\frac{\theta_{i,T}^{0'} \Upsilon_0' Q_i \Upsilon_0 \theta_{i,T}^0}{\nu_i' \Omega_i \nu_i} (\hat{T}_i - T_i^0) \xrightarrow{d} \arg \min_c Z_i(c), \text{ for } i = 1, 2, \dots, m.$$

Corollary 1 can be used to construct confidence intervals by consistently estimating Ω_i via $\hat{\Omega}_i = T^{-1/2} (\hat{T}_i - \hat{T}_{i-1})^{-1} \sum_i \hat{b}_t \hat{b}_t'$, $\hat{b}_t = [\hat{u}_t, \hat{v}_t']'$, where \hat{u}_t , \hat{v}_t and all the other relevant estimating quantities are defined as for (9).

¹⁵Note that $\hat{\Upsilon}_T \xrightarrow{p} \Upsilon_0$ by the properties of OLS estimators, while $\hat{\xi}_i \xrightarrow{p} \xi_i$, $\hat{\phi}_i \xrightarrow{p} \phi_i$ and $\hat{\Phi}_i \xrightarrow{p} \Phi_i$ because $\hat{Q}_i \xrightarrow{p} Q_i$ and $\hat{\beta}_i \xrightarrow{p} \beta_i^0$, see derivations in Mathematical Appendix, Proof of Proposition 2, p. 33-34.

Remark 7: Boldea, Hall, and Han (2010) report simulation evidence for designs with one and two breaks in the structural equation. This evidence suggests the intervals presented above have approximately correct coverage in the sample sizes encountered in macroeconomics for moderate-sized shifts in the parameters.

3 Unstable reduced form case

In this section, we present a limiting distribution theory for the break point estimator based on minimization of the 2SLS objective function in the case where the reduced form is unstable. To motivate the results presented, it is necessary to briefly summarize certain results in HHB.

For the unstable reduced form case, HHB propose a methodology for estimation of the break points in which the break points are identified in the reduced form first and then, conditional on these, the structural equation is estimated via 2SLS and analyzed for the presence of breaks using a strategy based on partitioning the sample into sub-samples within which the reduced form is stable.¹⁶ The basic idea is to divide the break points in the structural equation into two types: (i) breaks that occur in the structural equation but not in the reduced form; (ii) breaks that occur simultaneously in both the structural equation and reduced form. HHB's methodology estimates the number and location of the breaks in (i) and (ii) separately in the following two steps.

- *Step 1:* for each sub-sample, the number of breaks in the structural equation are estimated and their locations determined using 2SLS-based methods that assume a stable reduced form.
- *Step 2:* for each break point in the reduced form in turn, a Wald statistic is used to test if this break point is also present in the structural equation. If the evidence suggests the break point is common then the location of the break point in question can be re-estimated from the structural equation.¹⁷

The number and location of the breaks in the structural equation is then deduced by combining

¹⁶This partitioning is crucial for obtaining pivotal statistics and confidence intervals for the break estimators in the structural equation of interest.

¹⁷There are two options at this point. In addition to the option given in the text, inference about the break point can be based on the reduced form estimation.

the results from Steps 1 and 2. Within this methodology, two scenarios naturally arise for break point estimators.

- *Scenario 1:* Step 1 involves a scenario in which break point estimators that only pertain to the structural equation are obtained by minimizing a 2SLS criterion that assumes a stable reduced form over sub-samples with potentially random end-points.
- *Scenario 2:* Step 2 involves a scenario in which a single break point is estimated by minimizing a 2SLS criterion that assumes an unstable reduced form over sub-samples with potentially random end-points and with the break points in the reduced form estimated (consistently) *a priori* and imposed in the construction of \hat{x}_t .

In this section, we present a distribution theory for both scenarios. To that end, note that HHB develop their analysis under the assumption that the breaks in the reduced form are fixed and $\hat{\pi} = \pi^0 + O_p(T^{-1})$. As part of this analysis, they establish that the consistency and convergence rate results in Lemma 1 extend to the unstable reduced form case. However, the previous section demonstrates that a shrinking-break framework is more fruitful for the development of practical methods of inference. Therefore, we adopt the same framework here and so assume shrinking-breaks in both the structural equation and the reduced form. As part of our analysis, we establish the consistency and rate of convergence for the break point estimator within this framework.

Section 3.1 describes the model and summarizes certain preliminary results. Section 3.2 presents the limiting distribution of the break point estimators.

3.1 Preliminaries

We now consider the case in which the reduced form for x_t is:

$$x'_t = z'_t \Delta_0^{(i)} + v'_t, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, h+1, \quad t = T_{i-1}^* + 1, \dots, T_i^* \quad (10)$$

where $T_0^* = 0$ and $T_{h+1}^* = T$. The points $\{T_i^*\}$ are assumed to be generated as follows.

Assumption 13. $T_i^* = [T\pi_i^0]$, where $0 < \pi_1^0 < \dots < \pi_h^0 < 1$.

Thus, as with the structural equation, the breaks in the reduced form are assumed to be asymptotically distinct. Note that the break fractions $\{\pi_i^0\}$ may or may not coincide with $\{\lambda_i^0\}$.

Throughout our analysis, it is assumed that h , the number of breaks, is known but their locations $\{\pi_i^0\}$ are not. Let $\pi^0 = [\pi_1^0, \pi_2^0, \dots, \pi_h^0]'$. Also note that (10) can be re-written as follows

$$x'_t = \tilde{z}_t(\pi^0)' \Theta_0 + v'_t, \quad t = 1, 2, \dots, T \quad (11)$$

where $\Theta_0 = [\Delta_0^{(1)'}, \Delta_0^{(2)'}, \dots, \Delta_0^{(h+1)'}]'$, $\tilde{z}_t(\pi^0) = \iota(t, T) \otimes z_t$, $\iota(t, T)$ is a $(h+1) \times 1$ vector with first element $\mathcal{I}\{t/T \in (0, \pi_1^0]\}$, $h+1^{th}$ element $\mathcal{I}\{t/T \in (\pi_h^0, 1]\}$, k^{th} element $\mathcal{I}\{t/T \in (\pi_{k-1}^0, \pi_k^0]\}$ for $k = 1, 2, \dots, h$ and $\mathcal{I}\{\cdot\}$ is an indicator variable that takes the value one if the event in the curly brackets occurs.

Within our analysis, it is assumed that π^0 is estimated prior to estimation of the structural equation in (1). For our analysis to go through, the estimated break fractions in the reduced form must satisfy certain conditions that are detailed below. Once the instability of the reduced form is incorporated into \hat{x}_t , the 2SLS estimation is implemented in the fashion described in the preamble to Section 3. However, the presence of this additional source of instability means that it is also necessary to modify Assumption 2.

Assumption 14. *The minimization in (6) is over all partitions (T_1, \dots, T_m) such that $T_i - T_{i-1} > \max\{q - 1, \epsilon T\}$ for some $\epsilon > 0$ and $\epsilon < \inf_i(\lambda_{i+1}^0 - \lambda_i^0)$ and $\epsilon < \inf_j(\pi_{j+1}^0 - \pi_j^0)$.*

As noted in the preamble, our analysis is premised on shrinking breaks. Thus, in addition to Assumption 7 with $\alpha \neq 0$, we impose the following.

Assumption 15. $\Delta_0^{(i+1)} - \Delta_0^{(i)} = \delta_{i,T}^0 = \delta_i^0 s_T^*$ where $s_T^* = T^{-\rho}$, $\rho \in (0, 0.5)$.

Note that like Assumption 7, Assumption 15 implies the breaks are shrinking at a rate slower than $T^{-1/2}$. It is also worth pointing out that our analysis does not require any relationship between α and ρ .

Let $\hat{\Theta}_T$ be the OLS estimator of Θ_0 from the model

$$x'_t = \tilde{z}_t(\hat{\pi})' \Theta_0 + error \quad t = 1, 2, \dots, T \quad (12)$$

where $\tilde{z}_t(\hat{\pi})$ is defined analogously to $\tilde{z}_t(\pi^0)$, and now define \hat{x}_t to be

$$\hat{x}'_t = \tilde{z}_t(\hat{\pi})' \hat{\Theta}_T = \tilde{z}_t(\hat{\pi})' \left\{ \sum_{t=1}^T \tilde{z}_t(\hat{\pi}) \tilde{z}_t(\hat{\pi})' \right\}^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^T \tilde{z}_t(\hat{\pi}) x'_t \quad (13)$$

In our analysis we maintain Assumptions 3, 5 and 6 but need to replace the identification condition in Assumption 4 by the following condition.

Assumption 16. $\text{rank}\{\Upsilon_j^0\} = p$ where $\Upsilon_j^0 = \begin{bmatrix} \Delta_0^{(j)} \\ \Pi \end{bmatrix}$, for $j = 1, 2, \dots, h+1$ for Π defined in Assumption 4.

Using a similar manipulation to (7), it can be shown that Assumption 16 implies that β_i^0 is identified.¹⁸

3.2 Limiting distribution theory for break point estimators

Scenario 1:

Consider the case in which the $j+1^{\text{th}}$ regime for the reduced form coincides with $\ell+1$ regimes for the structural equation that is,

Assumption 17. $\pi_j^0 < \lambda_k^0 < \lambda_{k+1}^0 < \dots < \lambda_{k+\ell}^0 < \pi_{j+1}^0$, for some k and ℓ such that $k+\ell \leq m$.

Notice that Assumption 17 does not preclude the possibility that either $\lambda_{k-1}^0 = \pi_j^0$ and/or $\lambda_{k+\ell+1}^0 = \pi_{j+1}^0$, but refers to $\lambda_k^0, \dots, \lambda_{k+\ell}^0$ as indexing breaks that only pertain to the structural equation of interest.

Let $\hat{\pi}_j$ and $\hat{\pi}_{j+1}$ be the estimators of the π_j^0 and π_{j+1}^0 . We consider the estimators of $\{\lambda_i^0\}_{i=k}^{k+\ell}$ based on the sub-sample $t = [T\hat{\pi}_j] + 1, \dots, [T\hat{\pi}_{j+1}]$ that is, $\hat{\lambda}_i = \hat{T}_i/T$ where

$$(\hat{T}_k, \dots, \hat{T}_{k+\ell}) = \arg \min_{T_k, \dots, T_{k+\ell}} S_T^{(j)} \left(T_k, \dots, T_{k+\ell}; \hat{\beta}(\{T_i\}_{i=k}^{k+\ell}) \right) \quad (14)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} S_T^{(j)}(T_k, \dots, T_{k+\ell}; \beta) &= \sum_{t=[T\hat{\pi}_j]+1}^{T_k} (y_t - \hat{x}'_t \beta_{x,k} - z'_{1,t} \beta_{z_1,k})^2 \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=k+1}^{k+\ell} \sum_{t=T_{i-1}+1}^{T_i} (y_t - \hat{x}'_t \beta_{x,i} - z'_{1,t} \beta_{z_1,i})^2 \\ &\quad + \sum_{t=T_{k+\ell}+1}^{[T\hat{\pi}_{j+1}]} (y_t - \hat{x}'_t \beta_{x,k+\ell+1} - z'_{1,t} \beta_{z_1,k+\ell+1})^2 \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

¹⁸Notice this assumption implies $q \geq p$. If $q = p$ then $\hat{\beta}_i$ can be interpreted as a GMM estimator. To illustrate, suppose there are no breaks in the structural equation ($m = 0$) and one break in the reduced form at $t = [\pi T]$, then the 2SLS estimator of the structural equation parameters, $\hat{\beta}$ say, is equal to the GMM estimator based on $E[z_t(y_t - w'_t \beta) \otimes (\mathcal{I}\{t/T \leq \pi\}, \mathcal{I}\{t/T > \pi\})'] = 0$ with weighting matrix $\text{diag}\{(Z'_1 Z_1/T)^{-1}, (Z'_2 Z_2/T)^{-1}\}$ where $w_t = [x'_t, z'_{1,t}]'$, Z_1 is a $[\pi T] \times q$ matrix with t^{th} row z'_t , and Z_2 is a $[(1-\pi)T] \times q$ matrix with i^{th} row $z'_{[\pi T]+i}$. This interpretation can be extended to structural equations with breaks with appropriate modification to reflect the sub-sample over which particular structural parameters are estimated.

where $\hat{\beta}(\{T_i\}_{i=k}^{k+\ell})$ denote the 2SLS estimators obtained by minimizing $S_T^{(j)}$ for the corresponding partition of $t = [T\hat{\pi}_j] + 1, \dots, [T\hat{\pi}_{j+1}]$.

The following proposition establishes the consistency and convergence rate of $\hat{\lambda}_i$, for $i = k, k+1, \dots, k+\ell$.

Proposition 3. *Let y_t be generated by (1), x_t be generated by (2), \hat{x}_t be generated by (13) and $\hat{\lambda}_i = \hat{T}_i/T$ with \hat{T}_i defined in (14). If Assumptions 1-5, 7 (with $\alpha \neq 0$), 10, 13-17 hold, then for $i = k, k+1, \dots, k+\ell$ we have: (i) $\hat{\lambda}_i \xrightarrow{p} \lambda_i^0$; (ii) for every $\eta > 0$, there exists $C > 0$ such that for all large T , $P(T|\hat{\lambda}_i - \lambda_i^0| > Cs_T^{-2}) < \eta$.*

Remark 8: A comparison of Propositions 1 and 3 indicates that consistency and the rate of convergence are the same irrespective of whether the sample end-points are fixed or estimated breaks from the reduced forms.

Remark 9: While Proposition 3 holds irrespective of whether $\lambda_{k-1}^0 = \pi_j^0$ and/or $\lambda_{k+\ell+1}^0 = \pi_{j+1}^0$, we note that if either of these conditions holds then it does impact on the limiting behaviour of certain statistics considered in the proof of the proposition.¹⁹

Theorem 3. *Let y_t be generated by (1), x_t be generated by (2), \hat{x}_t be generated by (13) and $\hat{\lambda}_i = \hat{T}_i/T$ with \hat{T}_i defined in (14). If Assumptions 1-5, 7 (with $\alpha \neq 0$), 10-11, 13-17 hold, then for $i = k, k+1, \dots, k+\ell$ we have:*

$$\frac{(\theta_{i,T}^{0'} \Upsilon_0' Q_i \Upsilon_0 \theta_{i,T}^0)^2}{\theta_{i,T}^{0'} \Upsilon_0' \Phi_i \Upsilon_0 \theta_{i,T}^0} (\hat{T}_i - T_i^0) \xrightarrow{d} \arg \min_c Z_i(c)$$

where

$$\xi_i = \frac{\theta_i^{0'} \Upsilon_0' Q_{i+1} \Upsilon_0 \theta_i^0}{\theta_i^{0'} \Upsilon_0' Q_i \Upsilon_0 \theta_i^0}, \quad \phi_i = \frac{\theta_i^{0'} \Upsilon_0' \Phi_{i+1} \Upsilon_0 \theta_i^0}{\theta_i^{0'} \Upsilon_0' \Phi_i \Upsilon_0 \theta_i^0},$$

Υ_0 is the common limiting value of $\{\Upsilon_j^0\}$ under Assumption 15, Φ_i is defined as in Theorem 2 and $Z_i(c)$ is defined as in Theorem 2 but with the ξ_i and ϕ_i stated here.

Remark 10: A comparison of the limiting distributions in Theorems 2 and 3 reveals that they are qualitatively the same. Thus, under the assumptions stated, the random end-points of the estimation sub-sample do not impact on the limiting distribution of the break point estimator.

¹⁹For brevity, we only present in the appendix a proof for the case in which $\lambda_{k-1}^0 \neq \pi_j^0$ and $\lambda_{k+\ell+1}^0 \neq \pi_{j+1}^0$. A supplemental appendix (available from the authors upon request) contains the proof for the case in which $\lambda_{k-1}^0 = \pi_j^0$ and/or $\lambda_{k+\ell+1}^0 = \pi_{j+1}^0$.

The distributional result in Theorem 3 can be used to construct confidence intervals for T_i^0 . To this end, we introduce the following definitions: $\hat{\theta}_i = \hat{\beta}_{i+1} - \hat{\beta}_i$, $\hat{Q}_i = (\hat{T}_i - \hat{T}_{i-1})^{-1} \sum_i z_t z_t'$, where \sum_k denotes sum over $t = [\hat{\pi}_j T] + 1, [\hat{\pi}_j T] + 2, \dots, \hat{T}_k$, \sum_i denotes sum over $t = \hat{T}_{i-1} + 1, \hat{T}_{i-1} + 2, \dots, \hat{T}_i$, for $i = k + 1, \dots, k + \ell$, $\sum_{k+\ell+1}$ denotes sum over $t = \hat{T}_{k+\ell} + 1, \hat{T}_{k+\ell} + 2, \dots, [\hat{\pi}_{j+1} T]$, $\hat{C}_i = [1 \ \hat{\beta}'_{x,i}]$, $\hat{V}_i = (\hat{T}_i - \hat{T}_{i-1})^{-1} \sum_i \hat{h}_t \hat{h}_t'$, $\hat{h}_t = [\hat{u}_t, \hat{v}_t']' \otimes z_t$, $w_t = [\hat{x}'_t, z'_{1,t}]'$, $\hat{u}_t = y_t - w'_t \hat{\beta}_k$, for $t = [\hat{\pi}_j T] + 1, [\hat{\pi}_j T] + 2, \dots, \hat{T}_{k+1}$, $\hat{u}_t = y_t - w'_t \hat{\beta}_i$ for $t = \hat{T}_{i-1} + 1, \hat{T}_{i-1} + 2, \dots, \hat{T}_i$ and $i = k + 1, \dots, k + \ell$, $\hat{u}_t = y_t - w'_t \hat{\beta}_{k+\ell+1}$ for $t = \hat{T}_{k+\ell} + 1, \hat{T}_{k+\ell} + 2, \dots, [\hat{\pi}_{j+1} T]$, $\hat{v}_t = (x_t - \hat{\Delta}'_j z_t)$, $\hat{\Delta}_j$ is the estimator of $\Delta_0^{(j)}$ from (13),

$$\hat{\xi}_i = \frac{\hat{\theta}'_i \hat{\Upsilon}'_{j+1} \hat{Q}_{i+1} \hat{\Upsilon}_{j+1} \hat{\theta}_i}{\hat{\theta}'_i \hat{\Upsilon}'_{j+1} \hat{Q}_i \hat{\Upsilon}_{j+1} \hat{\theta}_i}, \quad \hat{\phi}_i = \frac{\hat{\theta}'_i \hat{\Upsilon}'_{j+1} \hat{\Phi}_{i+1} \hat{\Upsilon}_{j+1} \hat{\theta}_i}{\hat{\theta}'_i \hat{\Upsilon}'_{j+1} \hat{\Phi}_i \hat{\Upsilon}_{j+1} \hat{\theta}_i}, \quad \hat{\Phi}_i = \hat{C}_i \hat{V}_i \hat{C}'_i,$$

and $\hat{\Upsilon}_{j+1} = [\hat{\Delta}_{j+1}, \Pi]$.²⁰ It then follows that

$$\left(\hat{T}_i - \left[\frac{a_2}{\hat{H}_i} \right] - 1, \hat{T}_i - \left[\frac{a_1}{\hat{H}_i} \right] + 1 \right) \quad (16)$$

is a $100(1 - \alpha)$ percent confidence interval for T_i^0 where $[\cdot]$ denotes the integer part of the term in the brackets,

$$\hat{H}_i = \frac{(\hat{\theta}'_i \hat{\Upsilon}'_{j+1} \hat{Q}_i \hat{\Upsilon}_{j+1} \hat{\theta}_i)^2}{\hat{\theta}'_i \hat{\Upsilon}'_{j+1} \hat{\Phi}_i \hat{\Upsilon}_{j+1} \hat{\theta}_i}$$

and a_1 and a_2 are defined as in (9).

Similarly to the stable reduced form case, if we impose constant conditional second moments within regimes, the asymptotic distribution in Theorem 3 simplifies.

Corollary 2. *Replace Assumption 11 with 12 in Theorem 3 and recall $\nu'_i = [1 \ \beta'_{x,i}]'$. Then*

$$\frac{\theta_{i,T}^{0'} \Upsilon'_0 Q_i \Upsilon_0 \theta_{i,T}^0}{\nu_i' \Omega_i \nu_i} (\hat{T}_i - T_i^0) \xrightarrow{d} \arg \min_c Z_i(c)$$

Corollary 2 can be used in a similar fashion to Corollary 1 to construct confidence intervals by consistently estimating Ω_i via $\hat{\Omega}_i$, where all the other relevant estimating quantities are defined as for the confidence interval above. \diamond

Scenario 2:

Consider the case in which

²⁰The estimating quantities are consistent for their true values, because under Assumptions 3, 10, 13-16, $\hat{\Delta}_j \xrightarrow{P} \Delta_0^{(j)}$ by e.g. Bai and Perron (1998) or Qu and Perron (2007), while $\hat{Q}_i \xrightarrow{P} Q_i$ and $\hat{\beta}_i \xrightarrow{P} \beta_i^0$ from Mathematical Appendix, Proof of Theorem 3, p. 41.

Assumption 18. $\pi_{j-1}^0 \leq \lambda_{k-1}^0 < \pi_j^0 = \lambda_k^0 < \lambda_{k+1}^0 \leq \pi_{j+1}^0$ for some j and k .²¹

Let $\hat{\pi}_j$ be the estimator of π_j^0 obtained from the reduced form, and $\hat{\lambda}_{k-1}, \hat{\lambda}_{k+1}$ be estimators of $\lambda_{k-1}^0, \lambda_{k+1}^0$ obtained via the method described in Scenario 1 above.

We consider the estimators of λ_k^0 based on the sub-sample $t = [T\hat{\lambda}_{k-1}] + 1, \dots, [T\hat{\lambda}_{k+1}]$ that is, $\hat{\lambda}_k = \hat{T}_k/T$ where

$$(\hat{T}_k) = \arg \min_{T_k} S_T^{(*k)}(T_k; \hat{\beta}(T_k)) \quad (17)$$

and

$$S_T^{(*k)}(T_k; \beta) = \sum_{t=[T\hat{\lambda}_{k-1}]+1}^{T_k} (y_t - \hat{x}'_t \beta_{x,k} - z'_{1,t} \beta_{z_1,k})^2 + \sum_{t=T_k+1}^{[T\hat{\lambda}_{k+1}]} (y_t - \hat{x}'_t \beta_{x,k+1} - z'_{1,t} \beta_{z_1,k+1})^2, \quad (18)$$

where $\hat{\beta}(T_k)$ denote the 2SLS obtained by minimizing $S_T^{(*k)}$ for the given partition of $t = [T\hat{\lambda}_{k-1}] + 1, \dots, [T\hat{\lambda}_{k+1}]$.

Proposition 4. Let y_t be generated by (1), x_t be generated by (2), \hat{x}_t be generated by (13) and $\hat{\lambda}_k = \hat{T}_k/T$ with \hat{T}_k defined in (17). If Assumptions 1-5, 7 (with $\alpha \neq 0$), 10, 13-18 hold, then we have: (i) $\hat{\lambda}_k \xrightarrow{p} \lambda_k^0$; (ii) for every $\eta > 0$, there exists $C > 0$ such that for all large T , $P(T|\hat{\lambda}_k - \lambda_k^0| > Cs_T^{-2}) < \eta$.

Remark 11: A comparison of Propositions 1, 3 and 4 indicates that consistency and the rate of convergence properties are the same in all three cases covered.

Theorem 4. Let y_t be generated by (1), x_t be generated by (2), \hat{x}_t be generated by (13) and $\hat{\lambda}_k = \hat{T}_k/T$ with \hat{T}_k defined in (17). If Assumptions 1-5, 7 (with $\alpha \neq 0$), 10, 11, 13-18 hold, then we have:

$$\frac{(\theta_{k,T}^{0'} \Upsilon_0' Q_k \Upsilon_0 \theta_{k,T}^0)^2}{\theta_{k,T}^{0'} \Upsilon_0' \Phi_k \Upsilon_0 \theta_{k,T}^0} (\hat{T}_k - T_k^0) \xrightarrow{d} \arg \min_c Z_k(c)$$

where $Z_k(c)$, Υ_0 , ξ_k , and ϕ_k are defined as in Theorem 3.

Remark 12: A comparison of the distributions in Theorems 2, 3 and 4 reveals that the limiting distributions are qualitatively the same.

²¹Note that this case can be extended to multiple common break points in the same fashion as in Section 3.2, Scenario 1.

The distributional result in Theorem 4 can be used to construct a confidence interval for T_k^0 . The form of this interval is essentially the same as implied by (16) but with $\hat{\Upsilon}_{i+1}$ replaced by $\hat{\Upsilon}_i$ in the denominators of $\hat{\xi}_i$ and $\hat{\phi}_i$, where $i = k$ here.²² Similarly, the asymptotic distribution simplifies for the case of conditional constant second moments within regimes.

Corollary 3. *Replace Assumption 11 with 12 in Theorem 4. Then*

$$\frac{\theta_{i,T}^{0'} \Upsilon_0' Q_i \Upsilon_0 \theta_{i,T}^0}{\nu_i' \Omega_i \nu_i} (\hat{T}_i - T_i^0) \xrightarrow{d} \arg \min_c Z_i(c)$$

This can be used in a similar fashion to Corollary 2 to construct confidence intervals. \diamond

Remark: 13: Boldea, Hall, and Han (2010) report simulation evidence for designs with: (i) one break in both the structural equation and reduced form, but the breaks in each equation are not coincident; (ii) two breaks in the structural equation, one of which is coincident with the sole break in the reduced form. This evidence suggests the intervals presented above have approximately correct coverage in the sample sizes encountered in macroeconomics for moderate-sized shifts in the parameters.

4 Empirical application

In this section, we assess the stability of the New Keynesian Phillips curve (NKPC), as formulated in Zhang, Osborn, and Kim (2008). This version of the NKPC is a linear model with regressors, some of which are anticipated to be correlated with the error. One contribution of their study is to raise the question of whether monetary policy changes have caused changes in the parameters in the NKPC. To investigate this issue, Zhang, Osborn, and Kim (2008) estimate the NKPC via Instrumental Variables and use informal methods to assess whether the parameters have exhibited discrete changes at any points in the sample. However, they provide no theoretical justification for their methods. As can be recognized from the description, the scenario above fits our framework, and in the sub-section we re-investigate the stability of the NKPC using the methods in HHB. Our results indicate that there is instability in the NKPC, and we use the theory developed in Section 3 to provide confidence intervals for the break point.

²²Note that the estimators are consistent for their true values by a similar reasoning as before, and the Proof of Theorem 4 in Boldea, Hall, and Han (2010).

The data is quarterly from the US, spanning 1969.1-2005.4. The definitions of the variables are the same as theirs: inf_t is the annualized quarterly growth rate of the GDP deflator, og_t is obtained from the estimates of potential GDP published by the Congressional Budget Office, and $inf_{t+1|t}^e$ is taken from the Michigan inflation expectations survey.²³ With this notation, the structural equation of interest is:

$$inf_t = c_0 + \alpha_f inf_{t+1|t}^e + \alpha_b inf_{t-1} + \alpha_{og} og_t + \sum_{i=1}^3 \alpha_i \Delta inf_{t-i} + u_t \quad (19)$$

where inf_t is inflation in (time) period t , $inf_{t+1|t}^e$ denotes expected inflation in period $t+1$ given information available in period t , og_t is the output gap in period t , u_t is an unobserved error term and $\theta = (c_0, \alpha_f, \alpha_b, \alpha_{og}, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3)'$ are unknown parameters. The variables $inf_{t+1|t}^e$ and og_t are anticipated to be correlated with the error u_t , and so (19) is commonly estimated via IV; *e.g.* see Zhang, Osborn, and Kim (2008) and the references therein.

Suitable instruments must be both uncorrelated with u_t and correlated with $inf_{t+1|t}^e$ and og_t . In this context, the instrument vector z_t commonly includes such variables as lagged values of expected inflation, the output gap, the short-term interest rate, unemployment, money growth rate and inflation.²⁴ Hence, the reduced forms are:

$$inf_{t+1|t}^e = z_t' \delta_1 + v_{1,t} \quad (20)$$

$$og_t = z_t' \delta_2 + v_{2,t} \quad (21)$$

where:

$$z_t' = [1, inf_{t-1}, \Delta inf_{t-1}, \Delta inf_{t-2}, \Delta inf_{t-3}, inf_{t|t-1}^e, og_{t-1}, r_{t-1}, \mu_{t-1}, u_{t-1}]$$

with μ_t , r_t and u_t denoting respectively the M2 growth rate, the three-month Treasury Bill rate and the unemployment rate at time t .

Our sample comprises $T = 148$ observations. Consistent with the methodology proposed in HHB, we first need to account for any instability in the reduced forms. Using equation by equation the methods proposed in Bai and Perron's (1998), we find two breaks in the reduced form for $inf_{t+1|t}^e$, with estimated locations 1975:2 and 1980:4, and one break in the reduced

²³While Zhang, Osborn, and Kim (2008) consider inflation expectations from different surveys as well, we focus for brevity on the Michigan survey only.

²⁴See Zhang, Osborn, and Kim (2008) for evidence that such instruments are not weak in our context.

form for og_t , with estimated location 1975:1; the corresponding 95% confidence intervals are [1974 : 4, 1975 : 3], [1980 : 3, 1981 : 4], and [1974 : 4, 1976 : 1] respectively.

Following HHB, we first test for additional breaks over the sub-sample [1981 : 1, 2005 : 4] for which the reduced form is estimated to be stable, and this yields no evidence of any additional breaks.²⁵ Next, as proposed in HHB, we use Wald tests to test the structural equation over [1969:1,1980:4] for a known break at 1975 : 1, 1975 : 2, and over [1975:2,2005:4] for a known break at 1980 : 4. The Wald tests have p-values 0.0389, 0.0014, and 0.9184 respectively, indicating that only the first (true) break is common to the structural equation and the reduced forms, and that the NKPC has a break toward the end of 1974 or early 1975 but its precise location is unclear. Therefore, we re-estimate the NKPC allowing for a single unknown break in the structural equation, imposing the breaks in the reduced forms.²⁶ The proposed methodology in Section 3.2 indicates the break to be at 1974 : 4, with corresponding parameter estimates:

for 1969:1-1974:4

$$\begin{aligned} inf_t = & \underbrace{-4.75}_{(1.77)} + \underbrace{0.39}_{(0.22)} inf_{t+1|t}^e + \underbrace{1.58}_{(0.47)} inf_{t-1} + \underbrace{0.32}_{(0.21)} og_t - \underbrace{1.48}_{(0.56)} \Delta inf_{t-1} - \underbrace{1.16}_{(0.46)} \Delta inf_{t-2} \\ & - \underbrace{0.42}_{(0.25)} \Delta inf_{t-3} \end{aligned}$$

for 1975:1-2005:4

$$\begin{aligned} inf_t = & \underbrace{-0.84}_{(0.27)} + \underbrace{0.51}_{(0.10)} inf_{t+1|t}^e + \underbrace{0.55}_{(0.08)} inf_{t-1} + \underbrace{0.06}_{(0.05)} og_t - \underbrace{0.33}_{(0.07)} \Delta inf_{t-1} - \underbrace{0.25}_{(0.08)} \Delta inf_{t-2} \\ & - \underbrace{0.29}_{(0.09)} \Delta inf_{t-3} \end{aligned}$$

The coefficient on output gap is insignificant, a common finding in the literature, see e.g. Gali and Gertler (1999). As Zhang, Osborn, and Kim (2008), we find that the forward looking component of inflation has become more important in recent years.²⁷

Based on the result in Theorem 4, the 99%, 95% and 90% confidence intervals are all estimated to be [1974 : 3, 1975 : 1].²⁸ It is interesting to compare our results on the breaks with those obtained in Zhang, Osborn, and Kim (2008). They report evidence of a break in the NKPC in

²⁵See Boldea, Hall, and Han (2010) for further details.

²⁶According to HHB, we should also test in [1969:1,1975:1] and [1975:2,1980:4] for an unknown break, but both the samples are too small for obtaining meaningful results.

²⁷Note that the backward looking coefficient estimate is not 0.55, but $0.55 - 0.33 = 0.22$, thus much smaller than the forward looking component.

²⁸Note that the confidence intervals do not coincide before employing the integer part operator as in equation (9).

1974-1975 and also find evidence of break in 1980 : 4. However, their methods make no attempt to distinguish breaks in a structural equation of interest from those coming from other parts of the system that cause breaks in at least one reduced form. In contrast, our analysis does distinguish between these two types of breaks and we find evidence of a break in NKPC only at the end of 1974 with the break in 1980 being present only in one of the reduced forms. Thus our results refute evidence for 1980 : 4 as a break in the NKPC beyond the implied change it induces in the conditional mean of the expected inflation.

5 Concluding remarks

In this paper, we present a limiting distribution theory for the break point estimators in a linear regression model with multiple breaks, estimated via Two Stage Least Squares under two different scenarios: stable and unstable reduced forms. For stable reduced forms, we consider first the case where the parameter change is of fixed magnitude; in this case the resulting distribution depends on the distribution of the data and is not of much practical use for inference. Secondly, we consider the case where the magnitude of the parameter change shrinks with the sample size; in this case, the resulting distribution can be used to construct approximate large sample confidence intervals for the break point.

Due to the failure of the fixed-shifts framework to deliver pivotal statistics that can be used for the construction of approximate confidence intervals, in the unstable reduced form scenario we focus on shrinking shifts. As pointed out in Hall, Han, and Boldea (2011), handling break point estimators for the structural equation requires pre-estimating the breaks in the reduced form. In this paper, we show that pre-partitioning the sample with break points estimated from the reduced form instead of the true ones does not impact the limiting distribution of the break points that are specific to the structural equation only. Using the latter break point estimators to re-partition the sample into regions of only common breaks, we derive the limiting distribution of a newly proposed estimator for the common break point. Both scenarios allow for the magnitude of the breaks to differ across equations. These methods are illustrated via an application to the New Keynesian Phillips curve.

Our results add to the literature on break point distributions. Previous contributions have concentrated on level shifts in univariate time series models or on parameter shifts in linear

regression models estimated via OLS in which the regressors are uncorrelated with the errors. Within our framework, the regressors of the linear regression model are allowed to be correlated with the error and the shifts are allowed to be nearly weakly identified at different rates across equations, encompassing a large number of applications in macroeconomics.

Mathematical Appendix

Due to space constraints, we present only sketch proofs of the main results here. Complete proofs of all results can be found in Boldea, Hall, and Han (2010).

The proof of Proposition 1 rests on certain results that are presented together in Lemma A.1, whose proof can be found in Boldea, Hall, and Han (2010).

(a) Lemma A.1:

If Assumptions 1-7 hold then for $w_t = [\hat{x}'_t, z'_{1,t}]'$ we have: (i) $\sum_{t=1}^{[Tr]} w_t \tilde{u}_t = O_p(T^{1/2})$ uniformly in $r \in [0, 1]$; (ii) $\sum_{t=1}^{[Tr]} w_t w'_t = O_p(T)$ uniformly in $r \in [0, 1]$.

(b) Proof of Proposition 1:

Part (i): The basic proof strategy is the same as that for Lemma 1 in HHB and follows in two steps. First, since the 2SLS estimators minimize the error sum of squares in (5), it follows that

$$(1/T) \sum_{t=1}^T \hat{u}_t^2 \leq (1/T) \sum_{t=1}^T \tilde{u}_t^2 \quad (22)$$

where $\hat{u}_t = y_t - \hat{x}'_t \hat{\beta}_{x,j} - z'_{1,t} \hat{\beta}_{z_1,j}$ denotes the estimated residuals for $t \in [\hat{T}_{j-1} + 1, \hat{T}_j]$ in the second stage regression of 2SLS estimation procedure and $\tilde{u}_t = y_t - \hat{x}'_t \beta_{x,i}^0 - z'_{1,t} \beta_{z_1,i}^0$ denotes the corresponding residuals evaluated at the true parameter value for $t \in [T_{i-1}^0 + 1, T_i^0]$; and second, using $d_t = \tilde{u}_t - \hat{u}_t = \hat{x}'_t (\hat{\beta}_{x,j} - \beta_{x,i}^0) - z'_{1,t} (\hat{\beta}_{z_1,j} - \beta_{z_1,i}^0)$ over $t \in [\hat{T}_{j-1} + 1, \hat{T}_j] \cap [T_{i-1}^0 + 1, T_i^0]$, it follows that

$$T^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^T \hat{u}_t^2 = T^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^T \tilde{u}_t^2 + T^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^T d_t^2 - 2T^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^T \tilde{u}_t d_t. \quad (23)$$

Consistency is established by proving that if at least one of the estimated break fractions does not converge in probability to a true break fraction then the results in (22)-(23) contradict each other.

From Hall, Han, and Boldea (2009) equation (60) it follows that

$$\sum_{t=1}^T \tilde{u}_t d_t = \tilde{U}' P_{\bar{W}^*} (\bar{W}^* - \bar{W}^0) \beta^0 + \tilde{U}' P_{\bar{W}^*} \tilde{U} - \tilde{U}' (\bar{W}^* - \bar{W}^0) \beta^0 \quad (24)$$

where P_S denotes the projection matrix of S , i.e. $P_S = S(S'S)^{-1}S'$ for any matrix S , \bar{W}^* is the diagonal partition of W at $[\hat{T}_1, \hat{T}_2, \dots, \hat{T}_m]$, W is the $T \times p$ matrix with t^{th} row $w'_t = [\hat{x}'_t, z'_{1,t}]$, \bar{W}^0 is the diagonal partition of W at $[T_1^0, T_2^0, \dots, T_m^0]$, $\tilde{U} = [\tilde{u}_1, \tilde{u}_2, \dots, \tilde{u}_T]$.

For ease of presentation, we assume $m = 2$ but the proof generalizes in a straightforward manner. Using Lemma A.1 and Assumption 7, it follows that²⁹

$$\begin{aligned} \|\bar{W}^{*'} (\bar{W}^* - \bar{W}^0) \beta^0\| &\leq \left\| \sum_{t=(\hat{T}_1 \wedge T_1^0)+1}^{\hat{T}_1 \vee T_1^0} w_t w'_t (\beta_2^0 - \beta_1^0) \right\| + \left\| \sum_{t=(\hat{T}_2 \wedge T_2^0)+1}^{\hat{T}_2 \vee T_2^0} w_t w'_t (\beta_3^0 - \beta_2^0) \right\| \\ &= O_p(T s_T), \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \|\tilde{U}' (\bar{W}^* - \bar{W}^0) \beta^0\| &\leq \left\| \sum_{t=(\hat{T}_1 \wedge T_1^0)+1}^{\hat{T}_1 \vee T_1^0} \tilde{u}_t w'_t (\beta_2^0 - \beta_1^0) \right\| + \left\| \sum_{t=(\hat{T}_2 \wedge T_2^0)+1}^{\hat{T}_2 \vee T_2^0} \tilde{u}_t w'_t (\beta_3^0 - \beta_2^0) \right\| \\ &= O_p(T^{1/2} s_T). \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

From (24)-(26), it follows that $\sum_{t=1}^T \tilde{u}_t d_t = O_p(T^{1/2} s_T)$; notice that this holds irrespective of the relationship between $\{\hat{T}_i\}$ and $\{T_i^0\}$.

Now consider $\sum_{t=1}^T d_t^2$. Repeating the steps in the proof of HHB[Lemma1(ii)], if one of the break fraction estimators does not converge to the true value then $\sum_{t=1}^T d_t^2 = O_p(T s_T)$, hence $\sum_{t=1}^T d_t^2 \gg \sum_{t=1}^T \tilde{u}_t d_t$.³⁰ This implies that (22) and (23) contradict each other, establishing the desired result.

Part (ii): Without loss of generality, we assume $m = 2$ and focus on \hat{T}_2 . Using a similar logic to HHB's proof of their Theorem 2, it follows that the desired result is established if it can be shown that for each $\eta > 0$, there exists $C > 0$ and $\epsilon > 0$ such that for large T ,

$$P(\min\{[S_T(T_1, T_2) - S_T(T_1, T_2^0)] / (T_2^0 - T_2)\} < 0) < \eta \quad (27)$$

where the minimum is taken over $V_\epsilon(C) = \{|T_i^0 - T_i| \leq \epsilon T, i = 1, 2; T_2^0 - T_2 > C s_T^{-2}\}$ and we have suppressed the dependence of the residual sum of squares on the regression parameter estimators for ease of presentation. By similar logic to HHB, it can be shown that

$$\frac{S_T(T_1, T_2) - S_T(T_1, T_2^0)}{T_2^0 - T_2} \geq N_1 - N_2 - N_3 \quad (28)$$

²⁹The symbols \vee and \wedge are defined in Proposition 2.

³⁰Here, the symbol ' \gg ' denotes 'of a larger order in probability'.

where

$$\begin{aligned}
N_1 &= (\hat{\beta}_3^* - \hat{\beta}_\Delta)' \left(\frac{W'_\Delta W_\Delta}{T_2^0 - T_2} \right) (\hat{\beta}_3^* - \hat{\beta}_\Delta) \\
N_2 &= (\hat{\beta}_3^* - \hat{\beta}_\Delta)' \left(\frac{W'_\Delta \bar{W}}{T_2^0 - T_2} \right) \left(\frac{\bar{W}' \bar{W}}{T} \right)^{-1} \left(\frac{\bar{W}' W_\Delta}{T} \right) (\hat{\beta}_3^* - \hat{\beta}_\Delta) \\
N_3 &= (\hat{\beta}_2^* - \hat{\beta}_\Delta)' \left(\frac{W'_\Delta W_\Delta}{T_2^0 - T_2} \right) (\hat{\beta}_2^* - \hat{\beta}_\Delta)
\end{aligned}$$

where $\hat{\beta}_2^*$ is the 2SLS estimator of the regression parameter based on $t = T_1 + 1, \dots, T_2$, $\hat{\beta}_\Delta$ is the 2SLS estimator of the regression parameter based on $t = T_2 + 1, \dots, T_2^0$, $\hat{\beta}_3^*$ is the 2SLS estimator of the regression parameter based on $t = T_2^0 + 1, \dots, T$, $W_\Delta = [0_{p \times T_2}, w_{T_2+1}, \dots, w_{T_2^0}, 0_{p \times (T - T_2^0)}]'$ and \bar{W} is the diagonal partition of W at $[T_1, T_2]$.

Since $(T_2^0 - T_2)^{-1} W'_\Delta \bar{W} = O_p(1)$ for large enough C and $T^{-1} \bar{W}' \bar{W} = O_p(1)$ from Lemma A.1(ii), it follows that $\|T^{-1} W'_\Delta \bar{W}\| = \epsilon O_p(1)$ and so $N_1 \gg N_2$ for large T , small ϵ . To show that N_1 also dominates N_3 , we must consider the behaviour of $\hat{\beta}_2^*$, $\hat{\beta}_\Delta$ and $\hat{\beta}_3^*$. It can be shown that $\hat{\beta}_\Delta = \beta_2^0 + O_p(T^{-1/2})$ for large C , $\hat{\beta}_3^* = \beta_3^0 + O_p(T^{-1/2})$ and $\hat{\beta}_2^* = \beta_2^0 + O_p(T^{-1/2}) + \epsilon O_p(s_T) = \beta_2^0 + \epsilon O_p(s_T)$. Combining these results, it follows that $N_1 = O_p(s_T^2)$, $N_3 = \epsilon^2 O_p(s_T^2)$, and so $N_1 \gg N_3$ for small enough ϵ . Furthermore, $(W'_\Delta W_\Delta)/(T_2^0 - T_2)$ has non-negative eigenvalues by construction and, by Assumptions 3 - 5, they are bounded away from zero for large C with large probability. This implies that for small ϵ and large C and large T , (27) holds.

Proof of Proposition 2

We focus on the two break case; the proof generalizes in a straightforward fashion to $m > 2$. We can equivalently define the break point estimators via

$$(\hat{T}_1, \hat{T}_2) = \underset{(T_1, T_2) \in B}{\operatorname{argmin}} [SSR(T_1, T_2) - SSR(T_1^0, T_2^0)] \quad (29)$$

where $SSR(T_1, T_2)$ denotes the residual sum of squares from the second-step regression in 2SLS of the structural equation assuming breaks at (T_1, T_2) .

Since the case $T_i = T_i^0$, $i = 1, 2$ is trivial, we concentrate on $T_i \neq T_i^0$ for at least one $i = 1, 2$. Define $\hat{\beta}_i = \hat{\beta}_i(T_1, T_2)$ and $\tilde{\beta}_i = \hat{\beta}_i(T_1^0, T_2^0)$, for $i = 1, 2$.³¹ In Boldea, Hall, and Han (2010), we

³¹This involves an abuse of notation with respect to the definition of $\hat{\beta}_i$ in Section 2.1 but the interpretation is clear from the context.

show that $T^{1/2}(\hat{\beta}_i - \tilde{\beta}_i) = O_p(T^{-1/2}s_T^{-1})$, for $i = 1, 2, 3$, *u.B.* where *u.B.* stands for “uniformly in B ”.

Now consider $SSR(T_1, T_2) - SSR(T_1^0, T_2^0)$. Using $\hat{u}_t(\beta) = \tilde{u}_t + w_t'[\beta^0(t, T) - \beta]$, we have

$$\hat{u}_t(\beta)^2 = \tilde{u}_t + 2[\beta^0(t, T) - \beta]' w_t \tilde{u}_t + [\beta^0(t, T) - \beta]' w_t w_t' [\beta^0(t, T) - \beta]$$

and so

$$SSR(T_1, T_2) - SSR(T_1^0, T_2^0) = \sum_{t=1}^T a_t + 2 \sum_{t=1}^T c_t = A + 2C, \text{ say,} \quad (30)$$

where

$$a_t = [\tilde{\beta}(t, T) - \hat{\beta}(t, T)]' w_t w_t' \{[\beta^0(t, T) - \tilde{\beta}(t, T)] + [\beta^0(t, T) - \hat{\beta}(t, T)]\}, \quad (31)$$

$$c_t = [\tilde{\beta}(t, T) - \hat{\beta}(t, T)]' w_t \tilde{u}_t, \quad (32)$$

$$\hat{\beta}(t, T) = \hat{\beta}_i, \text{ for } t \in [T_{i-1} + 1, \dots, T_i], \quad i = 1, 2, 3, \quad T_0 = 1, \quad T_3 = T,$$

$$\tilde{\beta}(t, T) = \tilde{\beta}_i, \text{ for } t \in [T_{i-1}^0 + 1, \dots, T_i^0], \quad i = 1, 2, 3, \quad T_0^0 = 1, \quad T_3^0 = T.$$

Define $B^c \equiv [1, T] \setminus (B_1 \cup B_2)$. Then

$$A = \sum_{B_1} a_t + \sum_{B_2} a_t + \sum_{B^c} a_t \quad (33)$$

where \sum_{B_i} denotes sum over $t \in B_i$ and \sum_{B^c} denotes sum over $t \in B^c$. On B^c , we have $T^{1/2}[\tilde{\beta}(t, T) - \hat{\beta}(t, T)] = T^{1/2}[\tilde{\beta}_i - \hat{\beta}_i] = O_p(T^{-1/2}s_T^{-1}) = o_p(1)$. On B_i ($i = 1, 2$), one can show that $T^{1/2}[\tilde{\beta}(t, T) - \hat{\beta}(t, T)] = (-1)^{\mathcal{I}[T_i < T_i^0]} T^{1/2} \theta_{T,i}^0 + o_p(1)$. Therefore, we have for $i = 1, 2$,

$$\sum_{B_i} a_t = \theta_{T,i}^{0'} \Upsilon_0' \sum_{t=(T_i \wedge T_i^0)+1}^{T_i \vee T_i^0} z_t z_t' \Upsilon_0 \theta_{T,i}^0 + o_p(1), \text{ u.B.} \quad (34)$$

In contrast, we have $\sum_{B^c} a_t = o_p(1)$, *u.B.*, so:

$$A = \sum_{i=1}^2 \left\{ \theta_{T,i}^{0'} \Upsilon_0' \sum_{t=(T_i \wedge T_i^0)+1}^{T_i \vee T_i^0} z_t z_t' \Upsilon_0 \theta_{T,i}^0 \right\} + o_p(1), \text{ u.B.} \quad (35)$$

By similar arguments, we have

$$C = \sum_{i=1}^2 \left\{ (-1)^{\mathcal{I}[T_i < T_i^0]} \theta_{T,i}^{0'} \Upsilon_0' \sum_{t=(T_i \wedge T_i^0)+1}^{T_i \vee T_i^0} z_t [u_t + v_i' \beta_x^0(t, T)] \right\} + o_p(1), \text{ u.B.} \quad (36)$$

The proof is completed by combining (35) and (36), and noting that by Assumption 3, the segments $[(T_1 \wedge T_1^0) + 1, T_1 \vee T_1^0]$ and $[(T_2 \wedge T_2^0) + 1, T_2 \vee T_2^0]$ are asymptotically independent.

Proof of Theorem 1

From Assumption 8 it follows that $\{z_t, u_t, v_t\}_{t=k+1}^{k_0}$ and $\{z_t, u_t, v_t\}_{t=k-k_0+1}^0$ have the same joint distribution, and so $\Psi_T(T_i)$ has the same distribution as $\Psi_T(T_i - T_i^0) = R_i^*(s)$. The result then follows from Proposition 2.

Proof of Theorem 2:

Define the rescaled Brownian motions $W_j^{(i)}(c)$ with $c \in [0, \infty]$, $j = 1, 2$, as in Theorem 2. As the generic form of the limiting distribution is the same for each i , we prove the limiting distribution has this form for $m = 1$.³² Since $m = 1$, we simplify the notation by setting $\hat{k} = \hat{T}_1$, $k_0 = T_1^0$, $\theta_T^0 = \theta_{1,T}^0$, $\theta_1^0 = \theta^0$, $W_j = W_j^{(1)}$, for $j = 1, 2$.

From Proposition 1(ii), it follows for the limiting behaviour of \hat{k} it suffices to consider the behaviour of $\Psi_T(k) \equiv \Psi_T(T_1)$ for $k = k_0 + [cs_T^{-2}]$ and $c \in [-C, C]$. Using this, one can show: $s_T^2(\hat{k} - k_0) \xrightarrow{d} \arg \min_c G(c)$ where

$$G(c) \equiv \begin{cases} |c|\theta^{0'}\Upsilon_0'Q_1\Upsilon_0\theta^0 - 2(\theta^{0'}\Upsilon_0'\Phi_1\Upsilon_0\theta^0)^{1/2}W_1(-c) & : c \leq 0 \\ |c|\theta^{0'}\Upsilon_0'Q_2\Upsilon_0\theta^0 - 2(\theta^{0'}\Upsilon_0'\Phi_2\Upsilon_0\theta^0)^{1/2}W_2(c) & : c > 0 \end{cases}$$

and this implies the desired result by a change of variable - see Boldea, Hall, and Han (2010).

Proof of Proposition 3:

For ease of presentation, we focus on the case $m = h = 1$,³³ with $\pi_1^0 < \lambda_1^0$. For ease of notation, we set $k_1 = [T\pi_1]$, $k_1^0 = [T\pi_1^0]$, $k_2 = [T\lambda_1]$, $k_2^0 = [T\lambda_1^0]$. Also let \hat{k}_1^{rf} denote the estimator of k_1^0 based on estimation of the reduced form, that is, $\hat{k}_1^{rf} = [T\hat{\pi}_1]$. From Bai (1997) or Bai and Perron (1998), it follows that in the shrinking-break case we have $\hat{k}_1^{rf} \in B^* = \{k_1 : |k_1 - k_1^0| \leq C^*(s_T^*)^{-2}\}$ for some $C^* > 0$. We now consider the properties of $\hat{k}_2 = [T\hat{\lambda}_1]$ where $\hat{\lambda}_1$ is obtained by minimizing the 2SLS objective function using the sub-sample $[\hat{k}_1^{rf} + 1, T]$. The proof of Part (ii) similar to Proposition 1 (ii) and so we focus on the proof of Part (i).

³²The result generalizes straightforwardly to $m > 1$.

³³It is apparent from the proofs that the results extend to both end-points of the sample being random and the multiple break models under Assumption 3. See the Supplementary Appendix for the proof in which there is also a break in the structural equation at k_1^0 .

Proof of Part (i): For ease of notation, set $\hat{k}_1 = \hat{k}_1^{rJ}$. By similar arguments to (24), we have

$$\sum_{t=\hat{k}_1}^T \tilde{u}_t d_t = \tilde{U}' P_{\bar{W}^*} (\bar{W}^* - \bar{W}^0) \beta^0 + \tilde{U}' P_{\bar{W}^*} \tilde{U} - \tilde{U}' (\bar{W}^* - \bar{W}^0) \beta^0 \quad (37)$$

where \bar{W}^* is now a diagonal partition of W at \hat{k}_2 , $W = [w_{\hat{k}_1+1}, w_{\hat{k}_1+2}, \dots, w_T]'$, \bar{W}^0 is now the diagonal partition of W at k_2^0 , $\tilde{U} = [\tilde{u}_{\hat{k}_1+1}, \tilde{u}_{\hat{k}_1+2}, \dots, \tilde{u}_T]$.

To determine the order of the terms in (37), define $\hat{\delta}(t, T) = \Delta^0(t, T) - \hat{\Delta}(t, T)$, where $\Delta^0(t, T) = \Delta_1^0 \mathcal{I}\{t \leq k_1^0\} + \Delta_2^0 \mathcal{I}\{t > k_1^0\}$, $\hat{\Delta}(t, T) = \hat{\Delta}_1 \mathcal{I}\{t \leq \hat{k}_1\} + \hat{\Delta}_2 \mathcal{I}\{t > \hat{k}_1\}$. Since $\hat{k}_1 \in B^*$, it follows by standard arguments that $\hat{\Delta}_2 = \Delta_2^0 + O_p(T^{-1/2})$ and this property combined with Assumption 15 yields

$$\hat{\delta}(t, T) = O_p(T^{-1/2}) + O(s_T^*) \mathcal{I}\{\hat{k}_1 \leq k_1^0, t \leq k_1^0\} \quad (38)$$

Using (38), it can be shown that³⁴ $\bar{W}^{*'} \bar{W}^* = O_p(T)$, $\bar{W}^{*'} \tilde{U} = O_p(T^{1/2})$ and $\tilde{U}' (\bar{W}^* - \bar{W}^0) \beta^0 = O_p(T^{1/2} s_T)$. Hence, $\sum_{t=\hat{k}_1+1}^T \tilde{u}_t d_t = O_p(T^{1/2} s_T)$, and $\sum_{t=\hat{k}_1+1}^T d_t^2 = O_p(T s_T)$. The result follows by similar arguments to the proof of Proposition 1 (i).

Proof of Theorem 3

Consider again $m = h = 1$. Define $\hat{\beta}_1$, $\hat{\beta}_2$, $\tilde{\beta}_1$ and $\tilde{\beta}_2$ to be the 2SLS estimators based on $t \in [\hat{k}_1 + 1, k_2]$, $t \in [k_2 + 1, T]$, $t \in [\hat{k}_1 + 1, k_2^0]$, respectively $t \in [k_2^0 + 1, T]$. To facilitate the proof, consider the properties of these estimators. Note that from Proposition 3 (ii), it follows that we need to consider only $k_2 \in B_2 = \{k_2 : |k_2 - k_2^0| < C_2 s_T^{-2}\}$. One can show that $T^{1/2}(\hat{\beta}_1 - \tilde{\beta}_1) = O_p(T^{-1/2} s_T^{-1}) u.B_2$, $\tilde{\beta}_2 = \beta_2^0 + O_p(T^{-1/2})$, and $T^{1/2}(\hat{\beta}_2 - \tilde{\beta}_2) = O_p(T^{-1/2} s_T^{-1}) u.B_2$.

With this background, we now consider the distribution of \hat{k}_2 , where

$$\hat{k}_2 = \operatorname{argmin}_{k_2 \in B_2} [SSR(\hat{k}_1, k_2) - SSR(\hat{k}_1, k_2^0)]$$

and $SSR(k_1, k_2)$ denotes the residual sum of squares in interval $[k_1 + 1, T]$ with partition at k_2 . Obviously if $k_2 = k_2^0$ then the minimand is zero, and so we concentrate on the case in which $k_2 \neq k_2^0$.

Define $\hat{\beta}(t, T) = \hat{\beta}_1 \mathcal{I}\{t \leq k_2\} + \hat{\beta}_2 \mathcal{I}\{t > k_2\}$ and $\tilde{\beta}(t, T) = \tilde{\beta}_1 \mathcal{I}\{t \leq k_2^0\} + \tilde{\beta}_2 \mathcal{I}\{t > k_2^0\}$. One can show that $T^{1/2}[\tilde{\beta}(t, T) - \hat{\beta}(t, T)] = O_p(T^{-1/2} s_T^{-1}) + T^{1/2} s_T \theta_1^0 (-1)^{\mathcal{I}\{k_2 < k_2^0\}} + O_p(1)$.

³⁴See Boldea, Hall, and Han (2010).

Let $\bar{B}_2 = [\hat{k}_1 + 1, T] \setminus [(k_2 \wedge k_2^0) + 1, k_2 \vee k_2^0]$, then

$$SSR(\hat{k}_1, k_2) - SSR(\hat{k}_1, k_2^0) = \sum_{t=\hat{k}_1+1}^T a_t + 2 \sum_{t=\hat{k}_1+1}^T c_t = A + 2C \quad (39)$$

where $a_t = T^{1/2}[\tilde{\beta}(t, T) - \hat{\beta}(t, T)]T^{-1}w_t w_t' \left\{ T^{1/2}[\beta^0(t, T) - \hat{\beta}(t, T)] + T^{1/2}[\beta^0(t, T) - \tilde{\beta}(t, T)] \right\}$, and $c_t = T^{1/2}[\tilde{\beta}(t, T) - \hat{\beta}(t, T)]T^{-1/2}w_t \tilde{u}_t$. By similar arguments to the proof of Theorem 2,

$$A = \theta_{T,1}^{0'} \Upsilon_2^{0'} Q_2 \Upsilon_2^0 \theta_{T,1}^0 |k_2^0 - k_2| + o_p(1), \quad u.B_2,$$

and

$$C = (-1)^{\mathcal{I}\{k_2 < k_2^0\}} \theta_{T,1}^{0'} \Upsilon_2^{0'} T^{-1/2} \sum_{t=(k_2 \wedge k_2^0)+1}^{k_2 \vee k_2^0} z_t [u_t + v_t' \beta_x^0(t, T)] + o_p(1), \quad u.B_2.$$

Since the limit of $A + 2C$ has the same basic structure as in Proposition 2, the rest of the proof follows by similar arguments.

Proofs of Proposition 4 and Theorem 4

Consider the model with $m = 2$ and $h = 1$, with $\pi_1^0 = \lambda_1^0$, thus $T_1^* = T_1^0$ in the notation of Section 3.2. The key to the proof is to recognize that since the break-point estimator in the reduced form \hat{T}_1^* is in a small neighborhood around T_1^0 , it has no impact on the asymptotic properties of the second break-point estimator in the structural equation. Having recognized this, the proofs of Proposition 4 and Theorem 4 follow in a similar manner to Proposition 3 and Theorem 3 - see Boldea, Hall, and Han (2010).

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