

Question: Why do some subjects in the Mover class of a Mover-Stayer LTA model have a non-zero probability of staying in the same class over time?

Answer: The Mover-Stayer model restricts only the Stayers to not move. It doesn't restrict the Movers to stay. Just as in a regular (not Mover-Stayer) LTA model, there is a small probability that some subjects, not classified as Stayers, actually stay in the same class across time. You may ask why they don't get classified as Stayers and the answer is that their observed variable values are on the whole more similar to those classified as Movers. Perhaps such results are more common with continuous outcomes than with categorical ones.