

# BERNOULLI

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# BERNOULLI

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## **Aims and Scope**

**BERNOULLI** is the journal of the Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability, issued four times per year. The journal provides a comprehensive account of important developments in the fields of statistics and probability, offering an international forum for both theoretical and applied work.

## **Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability**

The Bernoulli Society was founded in 1973. It is an autonomous Association of the International Statistical Institute, ISI. According to its statutes, the object of the Bernoulli Society is the advancement, through international contacts, of the sciences of probability (including the theory of stochastic processes) and mathematical statistics and of their applications to all those aspects of human endeavour which are directed towards the increase of natural knowledge and the welfare of mankind.

## **Meetings: <http://www.bernoulli-society.org/index.php/meetings>**

The Society holds a World Congress every four years; more frequent meetings, coordinated by the Society's standing committees and often organised in collaboration with other organisations, are the European Meeting of Statisticians, the Conference on Stochastic Processes and their Applications, the CLAPEM meeting (Latin-American Congress on Probability and Mathematical Statistics), the European Young Statisticians Meeting, and various meetings on special topics – in the physical sciences in particular. The Society, as an association of the ISI, also collaborates with other ISI associations in the organization of the biennial ISI World Statistics Congresses (formerly ISI Sessions).

## **Executive Committee**

The Society is headed by an Executive Committee. As of March 31, 2015 the Executive Committee consists of: President: Sara van de Geer (Switzerland); President Elect: Susan Murphy (USA); Past President: Wilfrid Kendall (UK); Treasurer: Lynne Billard (USA); Scientific Secretary: Byeong Park (South Korea); Membership Secretary: Mark Podolskij (Denmark); Publications Secretary: Thomas Mikosch (Denmark); Executive Secretary: Ada van Krimpen (ISI Office, Netherlands). Further, the Society has a twelve member Council and a number of standing committees to carry out the tasks outlined above. Final authority is the general assembly of members of the Society, meeting at least biennially at the ISI World Statistics Congresses.

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The papers published in Bernoulli are indexed or abstracted in *Current Index to Statistics*, *Mathematical Reviews*, *Statistical Theory and Method Abstracts-Zentralblatt (STMA-Z)*, *Thomson Scientific* and *Zentralblatt für Mathematik* (also available on the *MATH via STN* database and *Compact MATH CD-ROM*). A list of forthcoming papers can be found online at <http://www.bernoulli-society.org/index.php/publications/bernoulli-journal/bernoulli-journal-papers>

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**Bernoulli Society**  
for Mathematical Statistics  
and Probability

# The minimum of a branching random walk outside the boundary case

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This paper is a complement to the studies on the minimum of a real-valued branching random walk. In the boundary case [*Electron. J. Probab.* **10** (2005) 609–631], Aïdékon in a seminal paper [*Ann. Probab.* **41** (2013) 1362–1426] obtained the convergence in law of the minimum after a suitable renormalization. We study here the situation when the log-generating function of the branching random walk explodes at some positive point and it cannot be reduced to the boundary case. In the associated thermodynamics framework, this corresponds to a first-order phase transition, while the boundary case corresponds to a second-order phase transition.

*Keywords:* branching random walk; minimal position; phase transition

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# Uniform ergodicity of the iterated conditional SMC and geometric ergodicity of particle Gibbs samplers

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We establish quantitative bounds for rates of convergence and asymptotic variances for iterated conditional sequential Monte Carlo (i-cSMC) Markov chains and associated particle Gibbs samplers [*J. R. Stat. Soc. Ser. B. Stat. Methodol.* **72** (2010) 269–342]. Our main findings are that the essential boundedness of potential functions associated with the i-cSMC algorithm provide necessary and sufficient conditions for the uniform ergodicity of the i-cSMC Markov chain, as well as quantitative bounds on its (uniformly geometric) rate of convergence. Furthermore, we show that the i-cSMC Markov chain cannot even be geometrically ergodic if this essential boundedness does not hold in many applications of interest. Our sufficiency and quantitative bounds rely on a novel non-asymptotic analysis of the expectation of a standard normalizing constant estimate with respect to a “doubly conditional” SMC algorithm. In addition, our results for i-cSMC imply that the rate of convergence can be improved arbitrarily by increasing  $N$ , the number of particles in the algorithm, and that in the presence of mixing assumptions, the rate of convergence can be kept constant by increasing  $N$  linearly with the time horizon. We translate the sufficiency of the boundedness condition for i-cSMC into sufficient conditions for the particle Gibbs Markov chain to be geometrically ergodic and quantitative bounds on its geometric rate of convergence, which imply convergence of properties of the particle Gibbs Markov chain to those of its corresponding Gibbs sampler. These results complement recently discovered, and related, conditions for the particle marginal Metropolis–Hastings (PMMH) Markov chain.

*Keywords:* geometric ergodicity; iterated conditional sequential Monte Carlo; Metropolis-within-Gibbs; particle Gibbs; uniform ergodicity

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# Domains of attraction on countable alphabets

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For each probability distribution on a countable alphabet, a sequence of positive functionals are developed as tail indices. By and only by the asymptotic behavior of these indices, domains of attraction for all probability distributions on the alphabet are defined. The three main domains of attraction are shown to contain distributions with thick tails, thin tails and no tails respectively, resembling in parallel the three main domains of attraction, Fréchet, Gumbel and Weibull families, for continuous random variables on the real line. In addition to the probabilistic merits associated with the domains, the tail indices are partially motivated by the fact that there exists an unbiased estimator for every index in the sequence, which is therefore statistically observable, provided that the sample is sufficiently large.

*Keywords:* distributions on alphabets; domains of attraction; tail index; Turing's formula

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# Wavelet estimation for operator fractional Brownian motion

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Operator fractional Brownian motion (OFBM) is the natural vector-valued extension of the univariate fractional Brownian motion. Instead of a scalar parameter, the law of an OFBM scales according to a Hurst matrix that affects every component of the process. In this paper, we develop the wavelet analysis of OFBM, as well as a new estimator for the Hurst matrix of bivariate OFBM. For OFBM, the univariate-inspired approach of analyzing the entry-wise behavior of the wavelet spectrum as a function of the (wavelet) scales is fraught with difficulties stemming from mixtures of power laws. Instead we consider the evolution along scales of the eigenstructure of the wavelet spectrum. This is shown to yield consistent and asymptotically normal estimators of the Hurst eigenvalues, and also of the eigenvectors under assumptions. A simulation study is included to demonstrate the good performance of the estimators under finite sample sizes.

*Keywords:* operator fractional Brownian motion; operator self-similarity; wavelets

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# Asymptotics for the maximum sample likelihood estimator under informative selection from a finite population

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Inference for the parametric distribution of a response given covariates is considered under informative selection of a sample from a finite population. Under this selection, the conditional distribution of a response in the sample, given the covariates and given that it was selected for observation, is not the same as the conditional distribution of the response in the finite population, given only the covariates. It is instead a weighted version of the conditional distribution of interest. Inference must be modified to account for this informative selection. An established approach in this context is maximum “sample likelihood”, developing a weight function that reflects the informative sampling design, then treating the observations as if they were independently distributed according to the weighted distribution. While the sample likelihood methodology has been widely applied, its theoretical foundation has been less developed. A precise asymptotic description of a wide range of informative selection mechanisms is proposed. Under this framework, consistency and asymptotic normality of the maximum sample likelihood estimators are established. The theory allows for the possibility of nuisance parameters that describe the selection mechanism. The proposed regularity conditions are verifiable for various sample schemes, motivated by real problems in surveys. Simulation results for these examples illustrate the quality of the asymptotic approximations, and demonstrate a practical approach to variance estimation that combines aspects of model-based information theory and design-based variance estimation.

*Keywords:* complex survey; pseudo-likelihood; stratified sampling; weighted distribution

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# Hörmander-type theorem for Itô processes and related backward SPDEs

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A Hörmander-type theorem is established for Itô processes and related backward stochastic partial differential equations (BSPDEs). A short self-contained proof is also provided for the  $L^2$ -theory of linear, possibly degenerate BSPDEs, in which new gradient estimates are obtained.

*Keywords:* backward stochastic partial differential equation; Hörmander theorem; Itô process; non-Markov

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# An upper bound on the convergence rate of a second functional in optimal sequence alignment

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Consider finite sequences  $X_{[1,n]} = X_1, \dots, X_n$  and  $Y_{[1,n]} = Y_1, \dots, Y_n$  of length  $n$ , consisting of i.i.d. samples of random letters from a finite alphabet, and let  $S$  and  $T$  be chosen i.i.d. randomly from the unit ball in the space of symmetric scoring functions over this alphabet augmented by a gap symbol. We prove a probabilistic upper bound of linear order in  $(\ln(n))^{1/4} n^{3/4}$  for the deviation of the score relative to  $T$  of optimal alignments with gaps of  $X_{[1,n]}$  and  $Y_{[1,n]}$  relative to  $S$ . It remains an open problem to prove a lower bound. Our result contributes to the understanding of the microstructure of optimal alignments relative to one given scoring function, extending a theory begun in (*J. Stat. Phys.* **153** (2013) 512–529).

**Keywords:** convex geometry; large deviations; percolation theory; sequence alignment

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# Mixing time and cutoff for a random walk on the ring of integers mod $n$

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We analyse a random walk on the ring of integers mod  $n$ , which at each time point can make an additive ‘step’ or a multiplicative ‘jump’. When the probability of making a jump tends to zero as an appropriate power of  $n$ , we prove the existence of a total variation pre-cutoff for this walk. In addition, we show that the process obtained by subsampling our walk at jump times exhibits a true cutoff, with mixing time dependent on whether the step distribution has zero mean.

*Keywords:* cutoff phenomenon; group representation theory; mixing time; pre-cutoff; random number generation; random walk

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# Exponential mixing properties for time inhomogeneous diffusion processes with killing

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We consider an elliptic and time-inhomogeneous diffusion process with time-periodic coefficients evolving in a bounded domain of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  with a smooth boundary. The process is killed when it hits the boundary of the domain (hard killing) or after an exponential time (soft killing) associated with some bounded rate function. The branching particle interpretation of the non absorbed diffusion again behaves as a set of interacting particles evolving in an absorbing medium. Between absorption times, the particles evolve independently one from each other according to the diffusion evolution operator; when a particle is absorbed, another selected particle splits into two offsprings. This article is concerned with the stability properties of these non absorbed processes. Under some classical ellipticity properties on the diffusion process and some mild regularity properties of the hard obstacle boundaries, we prove an uniform exponential strong mixing property of the process conditioned to not be killed. We also provide uniform estimates w.r.t. the time horizon for the interacting particle interpretation of these non-absorbed processes, yielding what seems to be the first result of this type for this class of diffusion processes evolving in soft and hard obstacles, both in homogeneous and non-homogeneous time settings.

*Keywords:* process with absorption; time-inhomogeneous diffusion process; uniform mixing property

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# Functional central limit theorems in $L^2(0, 1)$ for logarithmic combinatorial assemblies

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Functional central limit theorems in  $L^2(0, 1)$  for logarithmic combinatorial assemblies are presented. The random elements argued in this paper are viewed as elements taking values in  $L^2(0, 1)$  whereas the Skorokhod space is argued as a framework of weak convergences in functional central limit theorems for random combinatorial structures in the literature. It enables us to treat other standardized random processes which converge weakly to a corresponding Gaussian process with additional assumptions.

*Keywords:* functional central limit theorem; logarithmic assembly; Poisson approximation; random mappings; the Ewens sampling formula

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# Inference for a two-component mixture of symmetric distributions under log-concavity

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In this article, we revisit the problem of estimating the unknown zero-symmetric distribution in a two-component location mixture model, considered in previous works, now under the assumption that the zero-symmetric distribution has a log-concave density. When consistent estimators for the shift locations and mixing probability are used, we show that the nonparametric log-concave Maximum Likelihood estimator (MLE) of both the mixed density and that of the unknown zero-symmetric component are consistent in the Hellinger distance. In case the estimators for the shift locations and mixing probability are  $\sqrt{n}$ -consistent, we establish that these MLE's converge to the truth at the rate  $n^{-2/5}$  in the  $L_1$  distance. To estimate the shift locations and mixing probability, we use the estimators proposed by (*Ann. Statist.* **35** (2007) 224–251). The unknown zero-symmetric density is efficiently computed using the R package `logcondens.mode`.

**Keywords:** bracketing entropy; consistency; empirical processes; global rate; Hellinger metric; log-concave; mixture; symmetric

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# On matrix estimation under monotonicity constraints

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We consider the problem of estimating an unknown  $n_1 \times n_2$  matrix  $\theta^*$  from noisy observations under the constraint that  $\theta^*$  is nondecreasing in both rows and columns. We consider the least squares estimator (LSE) in this setting and study its risk properties. We show that the worst case risk of the LSE is  $n^{-1/2}$ , up to multiplicative logarithmic factors, where  $n = n_1 n_2$  and that the LSE is minimax rate optimal (up to logarithmic factors). We further prove that for some special  $\theta^*$ , the risk of the LSE could be much smaller than  $n^{-1/2}$ ; in fact, it could even be parametric, that is,  $n^{-1}$  up to logarithmic factors. Such parametric rates occur when the number of “rectangular” blocks of  $\theta^*$  is bounded from above by a constant. We also derive an interesting adaptation property of the LSE which we term variable adaptation – the LSE adapts to the “intrinsic dimension” of the problem and performs as well as the oracle estimator when estimating a matrix that is constant along each row/column. Our proofs, which borrow ideas from empirical process theory, approximation theory and convex geometry, are of independent interest.

*Keywords:* adaptation; bivariate isotonic regression; metric entropy bounds; minimax lower bound; oracle inequalities; tangent cone; variable adaptation

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# Efficient estimation for generalized partially linear single-index models

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In this paper, we study the estimation for generalized partially linear single-index models, where the systematic component in the model has a flexible semi-parametric form with a general link function. We propose an efficient and practical approach to estimate the single-index link function, single-index coefficients as well as the coefficients in the linear component of the model. The estimation procedure is developed by applying quasi-likelihood and polynomial spline smoothing. We derive large sample properties of the estimators and show the convergence rate of each component of the model. Asymptotic normality and semiparametric efficiency are established for the coefficients in both the single-index and linear components. By making use of spline basis approximation and Fisher score iteration, our approach has numerical advantages in terms of computing efficiency and stability in practice. Both simulated and real data examples are used to illustrate our proposed methodology.

*Keywords:* asymptotic normality; generalized linear model; polynomial splines; quasi-likelihood; semi-parametric regression; single-index model

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# Critical points of multidimensional random Fourier series: Central limits

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We investigate certain families  $X^{\hbar}$ ,  $0 < \hbar \ll 1$  of stationary Gaussian random smooth functions on the  $m$ -dimensional torus  $\mathbb{T}^m := \mathbb{R}^m / \mathbb{Z}^m$  approaching the white noise as  $\hbar \rightarrow 0$ . We show that there exists universal constants  $c_1, c_2 > 0$  such that for any cube  $B \subset \mathbb{R}^m$  of size  $r \leq 1/2$ , the number of critical points of  $X^{\hbar}$  in the region  $B \bmod \mathbb{Z}^m \subset \mathbb{T}^m$  has mean  $\sim c_1 \text{vol}(B)\hbar^{-m}$ , variance  $\sim c_2 \text{vol}(B)\hbar^{-m}$ , and satisfies a central limit theorem as  $\hbar \searrow 0$ .

*Keywords:* central limit theorem; critical points; Gaussian Hilbert spaces; Gaussian random functions; Kac–Rice formula; Wiener chaos

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# Determinantal point process models on the sphere

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We consider determinantal point processes on the  $d$ -dimensional unit sphere  $\mathbb{S}^d$ . These are finite point processes exhibiting repulsiveness and with moment properties determined by a certain determinant whose entries are specified by a so-called kernel which we assume is a complex covariance function defined on  $\mathbb{S}^d \times \mathbb{S}^d$ . We review the appealing properties of such processes, including their specific moment properties, density expressions and simulation procedures. Particularly, we characterize and construct isotropic DPPs models on  $\mathbb{S}^d$ , where it becomes essential to specify the eigenvalues and eigenfunctions in a spectral representation for the kernel, and we figure out how repulsive isotropic DPPs can be. Moreover, we discuss the shortcomings of adapting existing models for isotropic covariance functions and consider strategies for developing new models, including a useful spectral approach.

*Keywords:* isotropic covariance function; joint intensities; quantifying repulsiveness; Schoenberg representation; spatial point process density; spectral representation

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# Baxter’s inequality for finite predictor coefficients of multivariate long-memory stationary processes

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For a multivariate stationary process, we develop explicit representations for the finite predictor coefficient matrices, the finite prediction error covariance matrices and the partial autocorrelation function (PACF) in terms of the Fourier coefficients of its phase function in the spectral domain. The derivation is based on a novel alternating projection technique and the use of the forward and backward innovations corresponding to predictions based on the infinite past and future, respectively. We show that such representations are ideal for studying the rates of convergence of the finite predictor coefficients, prediction error covariances, and the PACF as well as for proving a multivariate version of Baxter’s inequality for a multivariate FARIMA process with a common fractional differencing order for all components of the process.

*Keywords:* Baxter’s inequality; long memory; multivariate stationary processes; partial autocorrelation functions; phase functions; predictor coefficients

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# Smooth backfitting for additive modeling with small errors-in-variables, with an application to additive functional regression for multiple predictor functions

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We study smooth backfitting when there are errors-in-variables, which is motivated by functional additive models for a functional regression model with a scalar response and multiple functional predictors that are additive in the functional principal components of the predictor processes. The development of a new smooth backfitting technique for the estimation of the additive component functions in functional additive models with multiple functional predictors requires to address the difficulty that the eigenfunctions and therefore the functional principal components of the predictor processes, which are the arguments of the proposed additive model, are unknown and need to be estimated from the data. The available estimated functional principal components contain an error that is small for large samples but nevertheless affects the estimation of the additive component functions. This error-in-variables situation requires to develop new asymptotic theory for smooth backfitting. Our analysis also pertains to general situations where one encounters errors in the predictors for an additive model, when the errors become smaller asymptotically. We also study the finite sample properties of the proposed method for the application in functional additive regression through a simulation study and a real data example.

*Keywords:* errors in predictors; functional additive model; functional data analysis; functional principal component; kernel smoothing; smooth backfitting

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# Bump detection in heterogeneous Gaussian regression

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We analyze the effect of a heterogeneous variance on bump detection in a Gaussian regression model. To this end, we allow for a simultaneous bump in the variance and specify its impact on the difficulty to detect the null signal against a single bump with known signal strength. This is done by calculating lower and upper bounds, both based on the likelihood ratio.

Lower and upper bounds together lead to explicit characterizations of the detection boundary in several subregimes depending on the asymptotic behavior of the bump heights in mean and variance. In particular, we explicitly identify those regimes, where the additional information about a simultaneous bump in variance eases the detection problem for the signal. This effect is made explicit in the constant and/or the rate, appearing in the detection boundary.

We also discuss the case of an unknown bump height and provide an adaptive test and some upper bounds in that case.

*Keywords:* change point detection; heterogeneous Gaussian regression; minimax testing theory

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# Quenched invariance principles for the discrete Fourier transforms of a stationary process

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In this paper, we study the asymptotic behavior of the normalized cadlag functions generated by the discrete Fourier transforms of a stationary centered square-integrable process, started at a point.

We prove that the quenched invariance principle holds for averaged frequencies under no assumption other than ergodicity, and that this result holds also for almost every fixed frequency under a certain generalization of the Hannan condition and a certain rotated form of the Maxwell and Woodroffe condition which, under a condition of weak dependence that we specify, is guaranteed for a.e. frequency. If the process is in particular weakly mixing, our results describe the asymptotic distributions of the normalized discrete Fourier transforms at every frequency other than 0 and  $\pi$  under the generalized Hannan condition.

We prove also that under a certain regularity hypothesis the conditional centering is irrelevant for averaged frequencies, and that the same holds for a given fixed frequency under the rotated Maxwell and Woodroffe condition but not necessarily under the generalized Hannan condition. In particular, this implies that the hypothesis of regularity is not sufficient for functional convergence without random centering at a.e. fixed frequency.

The proofs are based on martingale approximations and combine results from Ergodic theory of recent and classical origin with approximation results by contemporary authors and with some facts from Harmonic Analysis and Functional Analysis.

*Keywords:* central limit theorem; discrete Fourier transform; invariance principle; martingale approximation; quenched convergence

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# The eigenvalues of the sample covariance matrix of a multivariate heavy-tailed stochastic volatility model

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We consider a multivariate heavy-tailed stochastic volatility model and analyze the large-sample behavior of its sample covariance matrix. We study the limiting behavior of its entries in the infinite-variance case and derive results for the ordered eigenvalues and corresponding eigenvectors. Essentially, we consider two different cases where the tail behavior either stems from the i.i.d. innovations of the process or from its volatility sequence. In both cases, we make use of a large deviations technique for regularly varying time series to derive multivariate  $\alpha$ -stable limit distributions of the sample covariance matrix. For the case of heavy-tailed innovations, we show that the limiting behavior resembles that of completely independent observations. In contrast to this, for a heavy-tailed volatility sequence the possible limiting behavior is more diverse and allows for dependencies in the limiting distributions which are determined by the structure of the underlying volatility sequence.

*Keywords:* dependent entries; eigenvectors; largest eigenvalues; regular variation; sample covariance matrix; stochastic volatility

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# American options with asymmetric information and reflected BSDE

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We consider an American contingent claim on a financial market where the buyer has additional information. Both agents (seller and buyer) observe the same prices, while the information available to them may differ due to some extra exogenous knowledge the buyer has. The buyer's information flow is modeled by an initial enlargement of the reference filtration. It seems natural to investigate the value of the American contingent claim with asymmetric information. We provide a representation for the cost of the additional information relying on some results on reflected backward stochastic differential equations (RBSDE). This is done by using an interpretation of prices of American contingent claims with extra information for the buyer by solutions of appropriate RBSDE.

*Keywords:* American contingent claims; asymmetric information; cost of information; initial enlargement of filtrations; reflected BSDE

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# Maximum likelihood estimation for the Fréchet distribution based on block maxima extracted from a time series

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The block maxima method in extreme-value analysis proceeds by fitting an extreme-value distribution to a sample of block maxima extracted from an observed stretch of a time series. The method is usually validated under two simplifying assumptions: the block maxima should be distributed exactly according to an extreme-value distribution and the sample of block maxima should be independent. Both assumptions are only approximately true. The present paper validates that the simplifying assumptions can in fact be safely made.

For general triangular arrays of block maxima attracted to the Fréchet distribution, consistency and asymptotic normality is established for the maximum likelihood estimator of the parameters of the limiting Fréchet distribution. The results are specialized to the common setting of block maxima extracted from a strictly stationary time series. The case where the underlying random variables are independent and identically distributed is further worked out in detail. The results are illustrated by theoretical examples and Monte Carlo simulations.

*Keywords:* asymptotic normality; block maxima method; heavy tails; maximum likelihood estimation; stationary time series; triangular arrays

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# Characterization of the convergence in total variation and extension of the Fourth Moment Theorem to invariant measures of diffusions

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We give necessary and sufficient conditions to characterize the convergence in distribution of a sequence of arbitrary random variables to a probability distribution which is the invariant measure of a diffusion process. This class of target distributions includes the most known continuous probability distributions. Precisely speaking, we characterize the convergence in total variation to target distributions which are not Gaussian or Gamma distributed, in terms of the Malliavin calculus and of the coefficients of the associated diffusion process. We also prove that, among the distributions whose associated squared diffusion coefficient is a polynomial of second degree (with some restrictions on its coefficients), the only possible limits of sequences of multiple integrals are the Gaussian and the Gamma laws.

*Keywords:* convergence in total variation; diffusions; Fourth Moment Theorem; invariant measure; Malliavin calculus; multiple stochastic integrals; Stein's method; weak convergence

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# Exact and fast simulation of max-stable processes on a compact set using the normalized spectral representation

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The efficiency of simulation algorithms for max-stable processes relies on the choice of the spectral representation: different choices result in different sequences of finite approximations to the process. We propose a constructive approach yielding a normalized spectral representation that solves an optimization problem related to the efficiency of simulating max-stable processes. The simulation algorithm based on the normalized spectral representation can be regarded as max-importance sampling. Compared to other simulation algorithms hitherto, our approach has at least two advantages. First, it allows the exact simulation of a comprising class of max-stable processes. Second, the algorithm has a stopping time with finite expectation. In practice, our approach has the potential of considerably reducing the simulation time of max-stable processes.

*Keywords:* importance sampling; mixed moving maxima; optimal simulation

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# Asymptotic analysis of covariance parameter estimation for Gaussian processes in the misspecified case

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In parametric estimation of covariance function of Gaussian processes, it is often the case that the true covariance function does not belong to the parametric set used for estimation. This situation is called the misspecified case. In this case, it has been shown that, for irregular spatial sampling of observation points, Cross Validation can yield smaller prediction errors than Maximum Likelihood. Motivated by this observation, we provide a general asymptotic analysis of the misspecified case, for independent and uniformly distributed observation points. We prove that the Maximum Likelihood estimator asymptotically minimizes a Kullback–Leibler divergence, within the misspecified parametric set, while Cross Validation asymptotically minimizes the integrated square prediction error. In Monte Carlo simulations, we show that the covariance parameters estimated by Maximum Likelihood and Cross Validation, and the corresponding Kullback–Leibler divergences and integrated square prediction errors, can be strongly contrasting. On a more technical level, we provide new increasing-domain asymptotic results for independent and uniformly distributed observation points.

*Keywords:* covariance parameter estimation; cross validation; Gaussian processes; increasing-domain asymptotics; integrated square prediction error; Kullback–Leibler divergence; maximum likelihood

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# On branching process with rare neutral mutation

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In this paper, we study the genealogical structure of a Galton–Watson process with neutral mutations. Namely, we extend in two directions the asymptotic results obtained in Bertoin [*Stochastic Process. Appl.* **120** (2010) 678–697]. In the critical case, we construct the version of the model in Bertoin [*Stochastic Process. Appl.* **120** (2010) 678–697], conditioned not to be extinct. We establish a version of the limit theorems in Bertoin [*Stochastic Process. Appl.* **120** (2010) 678–697], when the reproduction law has an infinite variance and it is in the domain of attraction of an  $\alpha$ -stable distribution, both for the unconditioned process and for the process conditioned to nonextinction. In the latter case, we obtain the convergence (after re-normalization) of the allelic sub-populations towards a tree indexed CSBP with immigration.

*Keywords:* branching process; domain of attraction of  $\alpha$ -stable laws; neutral mutations; Q-processes; regular variation

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