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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).

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The Society is headed by an Executive Committee. As of December 2018 the Executive Committee consists of: President: Susan Murphy (USA); President Elect: Claudia Klüppelberg (Germany); Past President: Sara van de Geer (Switzerland); Treasurer: Lynne Billard (USA); Scientific Secretary: Byeong U. Park (South Korea); Membership Secretary: Leonardo Rolla (Argentina); Past Membership Secretary: Mark Podolskij (Denmark); Publication Secretary: Herold Dehling (Germany); ISI Director: Ada van Krimpen (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.

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
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Sparse Hanson–Wright inequalities for subgaussian quadratic forms

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In this paper, we provide a proof for the Hanson–Wright inequalities for sparse quadratic forms in subgaussian random variables. This provides useful concentration inequalities for sparse subgaussian random vectors in two ways. Let $X = (X_1, \dots, X_m) \in \mathbf{R}^m$ be a random vector with independent subgaussian components, and $\xi = (\xi_1, \dots, \xi_m) \in \{0, 1\}^m$ be independent Bernoulli random variables. We prove the large deviation bound for a sparse quadratic form of $(X \circ \xi)^T A(X \circ \xi)$, where $A \in \mathbf{R}^{m \times m}$ is an $m \times m$ matrix, and random vector $X \circ \xi$ denotes the Hadamard product of an isotropic subgaussian random vector $X \in \mathbf{R}^m$ and a random vector $\xi \in \{0, 1\}^m$ such that $(X \circ \xi)_i = X_i \xi_i$, where ξ_1, \dots, ξ_m are independent Bernoulli random variables. The second type of sparsity in a quadratic form comes from the setting where we randomly sample the elements of an anisotropic subgaussian vector $Y = HX$ where $H \in \mathbf{R}^{m \times m}$ is an $m \times m$ symmetric matrix; we study the large deviation bound on the ℓ_2 -norm $\|D_\xi Y\|_2^2$ from its expected value, where for a given vector $x \in \mathbf{R}^m$, $D_x = \text{diag}(x)$ denotes the diagonal matrix whose main diagonal entries are the entries of x . This form arises naturally from the context of covariance estimation.

Keywords: Hanson–Wright inequality; sparse quadratic forms; subgaussian concentration

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Dual attainment for the martingale transport problem

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We investigate existence of dual optimizers in one-dimensional martingale optimal transport problems. While [Ann. Probab. 45 (2017) 3038–3074] established such existence for weak (quasi-sure) duality, [Finance Stoch. 17 (2013) 477–501] showed existence for the natural stronger (pointwise) duality may fail even in regular cases. We establish that (pointwise) dual maximizers exist when $y \mapsto c(x, y)$ is convex, or equivalent to a convex function. It follows that when marginals are compactly supported, the existence holds when the cost $c(x, y)$ is twice continuously differentiable in y . Further, this may not be improved as we give examples with $c(x, \cdot) \in C^{2-\varepsilon}$, $\varepsilon > 0$, where dual attainment fails. Finally, when measures are compactly supported, we show that dual optimizers are Lipschitz if c is Lipschitz.

Keywords: dual attainment; Kantorovich duality; martingale optimal transport; robust mathematical finance

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Martingale decompositions and weak differential subordination in UMD Banach spaces

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In this paper, we consider Meyer–Yoeurp decompositions for UMD Banach space-valued martingales. Namely, we prove that X is a UMD Banach space if and only if for any fixed $p \in (1, \infty)$, any X -valued L^p -martingale M has a unique decomposition $M = M^d + M^c$ such that M^d is a purely discontinuous martingale, M^c is a continuous martingale, $M_0^c = 0$ and

$$\mathbb{E}\|M_\infty^d\|^p + \mathbb{E}\|M_\infty^c\|^p \leq c_{p,X} \mathbb{E}\|M_\infty\|^p.$$

An analogous assertion is shown for the Yoeurp decomposition of a purely discontinuous martingales into a sum of a quasi-left continuous martingale and a martingale with accessible jumps.

As an application, we show that X is a UMD Banach space if and only if for any fixed $p \in (1, \infty)$ and for all X -valued martingales M and N such that N is weakly differentially subordinated to M , one has the estimate $\mathbb{E}\|N_\infty\|^p \leq C_{p,X} \mathbb{E}\|M_\infty\|^p$.

Keywords: accessible jumps; Brownian representation; Burkholder function; canonical decomposition of martingales; continuous martingales; differential subordination; Meyer–Yoeurp decomposition; purely discontinuous martingales; quasi-left continuous; stochastic integration; UMD Banach spaces; weak differential subordination; Yoeurp decomposition

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Maximum likelihood estimators based on the block maxima method

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The extreme value index is a fundamental parameter in univariate Extreme Value Theory (EVT). It captures the tail behavior of a distribution and is central in the extrapolation beyond observations. Among other semi-parametric methods (such as the popular Hill estimator), the Block Maxima (BM) and Peaks-Over-Threshold (POT) methods are widely used for assessing the extreme value index and related normalizing constants. We provide asymptotic theory for the maximum likelihood estimators (MLE) based on the BM method for independent and identically distributed observations in the max-domain of attraction of some extreme value distribution. Our main result is the asymptotic normality of the MLE with a non-trivial bias depending on the extreme value index and on the so-called second-order parameter. Our approach combines asymptotic expansions of the likelihood process and of the empirical quantile process of block maxima. The results permit to complete the comparison of common semi-parametric estimators in EVT (MLE and probability weighted moment estimators based on the POT or BM methods) through their asymptotic variances, biases and optimal mean square errors.

Keywords: asymptotic normality; block maxima method; extreme value index; maximum likelihood estimator; peaks-over-threshold method; probability weighted moment estimator

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Mixing properties and central limit theorem for associated point processes

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Positively (resp. negatively) associated point processes are a class of point processes that induce attraction (resp. inhibition) between the points. As an important example, determinantal point processes (DPPs) are negatively associated. We prove α -mixing properties for associated spatial point processes by controlling their α -coefficients in terms of the first two intensity functions. A central limit theorem for functionals of associated point processes is deduced, using both the association and the α -mixing properties. We discuss in detail the case of DPPs, for which we obtain the limiting distribution of sums, over subsets of close enough points of the process, of any bounded function of the DPP. As an application, we get the asymptotic properties of the parametric two-step estimator of some inhomogeneous DPPs.

Keywords: determinantal point process; negative association; parametric estimation; positive association; strong mixing

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Perpetual integrals via random time changes

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Let $(X_t)_{t \geq 0}$ be a d -dimensional Feller process with symbol q , and let $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ be a continuous function. In this paper, we establish a growth condition in terms of q and f such that the perpetual integral

$$\int_0^\infty f(X_s) ds$$

is infinite almost surely. The result applies, in particular, if $(X_t)_{t \geq 0}$ is a Lévy process. The key idea is to approach perpetual integrals via random time changes. As a by-product of the proof, a sufficient condition for the non-explosion of solutions to martingale problems is obtained. Moreover, we establish a condition which ensures that the random time change of a Feller process is a conservative C_b -Feller process.

Keywords: conservativeness; Feller process; Lévy process; perpetual integral; random time change

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Uniform behaviors of random polytopes under the Hausdorff metric

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We study the Hausdorff distance between a random polytope, defined as the convex hull of i.i.d. random points, and the convex hull of the support of their distribution. As particular examples, we consider uniform distributions on convex bodies, densities that decay at a certain rate when approaching the boundary of a convex body, projections of uniform distributions on higher dimensional convex bodies and uniform distributions on the boundary of convex bodies. We essentially distinguish two types of convex bodies: those with a smooth boundary and polytopes. In the case of uniform distributions, we prove that, in some sense, the random polytope achieves its best statistical accuracy under the Hausdorff metric when the support has a smooth boundary and its worst statistical accuracy when the support is a polytope. This is somewhat surprising, since the exact opposite is true under the Nikodym metric. We prove rate optimality of most our results in a minimax sense. In the case of uniform distributions, we extend our results to a rescaled version of the Hausdorff metric. We also tackle the estimation of functionals of the support of a distribution such as its mean width and its diameter. Finally, we show that high dimensional random polytopes can be approximated with simple polyhedral representations that significantly decrease their computational complexity without affecting their statistical accuracy.

Keywords: computational geometry; convex bodies; convex hull; deviation inequality; Hausdorff metric; high dimension; minimax estimation; random polytope

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On the isoperimetric constant, covariance inequalities and L_p -Poincaré inequalities in dimension one

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First, we derive in dimension one a new covariance inequality of $L_1 - L_\infty$ type that characterizes the isoperimetric constant as the best constant achieving the inequality. Second, we generalize our result to $L_p - L_q$ bounds for the covariance. Consequently, we recover Cheeger's inequality without using the co-area formula. We also prove a generalized weighted Hardy type inequality that is needed to derive our covariance inequalities and that is of independent interest. Finally, we explore some consequences of our covariance inequalities for L_p -Poincaré inequalities and moment bounds. In particular, we obtain optimal constants in general L_p -Poincaré inequalities for measures with finite isoperimetric constant, thus generalizing in dimension one Cheeger's inequality, which is a L_p -Poincaré inequality for $p = 2$, to any real $p \geq 1$.

Keywords: Cheeger's inequality; covariance formula; covariance inequality; isoperimetric constant; moment bounds; Poincaré inequality

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A one-sample test for normality with kernel methods

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We propose a new one-sample test for normality in a Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Space (RKHS). Namely, we test the null-hypothesis of belonging to a given family of Gaussian distributions. Hence, our procedure may be applied either to test data for normality or to test parameters (mean and covariance) if data are assumed Gaussian. Our test is based on the same principle as the MMD (Maximum Mean Discrepancy) which is usually used for two-sample tests such as homogeneity or independence testing. Our method makes use of a special kind of parametric bootstrap (typical of goodness-of-fit tests) which is computationally more efficient than standard parametric bootstrap. Moreover, an upper bound for the Type-II error highlights the dependence on influential quantities. Experiments illustrate the practical improvement allowed by our test in high-dimensional settings where common normality tests are known to fail. We also consider an application to covariance rank selection through a sequential procedure.

Keywords: kernel methods; maximum mean discrepancy; normality test; parametric bootstrap; reproducing kernel hilbert space

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Central limit theorem for linear spectral statistics of large dimensional separable sample covariance matrices

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Suppose that $\mathbf{X}_n = (x_{jk})$ is $N \times n$ whose elements are independent complex variables with mean zero, variance 1. The separable sample covariance matrix is defined as $\mathbf{B}_n = \frac{1}{N} \mathbf{T}_{2n}^{1/2} \mathbf{X}_n \mathbf{T}_{1n} \mathbf{X}_n^* \mathbf{T}_{2n}^{1/2}$ where \mathbf{T}_{1n} is a Hermitian matrix and $\mathbf{T}_{2n}^{1/2}$ is a Hermitian square root of the nonnegative definite Hermitian matrix \mathbf{T}_{2n} . Its linear spectral statistics (LSS) are shown to have Gaussian limits when n/N approaches a positive constant under some conditions.

Keywords: central limit theorem; linear spectral statistics; random matrix theory; separable sample covariance matrix

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Asymptotically efficient estimators for self-similar stationary Gaussian noises under high frequency observations

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This paper proposes feasible asymptotically efficient estimators for a certain class of Gaussian noises with self-similarity and stationarity properties, which includes the fractional Gaussian noises, under high frequency observations. In this setting, the optimal rate of estimation depends on whether either the Hurst or diffusion parameters is known or not. This is due to the singularity of the asymptotic Fisher information matrix for simultaneous estimation of the above two parameters. One of our key ideas is to extend the Whittle estimation method to the situation of high frequency observations. We show that our estimators are asymptotically efficient in Fisher's sense. Further by Monte-Carlo experiments, we examine finite sample performances of our estimators. Finite sample modifications of the asymptotic variances of the estimators are also given, which exhibit almost perfect fits to the numerical results.

Keywords: asymptotic efficiency; fractional Gaussian noises; high frequency observations; local asymptotic normality; Whittle estimation

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Sparse covariance matrix estimation in high-dimensional deconvolution

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We study the estimation of the covariance matrix Σ of a p -dimensional normal random vector based on n independent observations corrupted by additive noise. Only a general nonparametric assumption is imposed on the distribution of the noise without any sparsity constraint on its covariance matrix. In this high-dimensional semiparametric deconvolution problem, we propose spectral thresholding estimators that are adaptive to the sparsity of Σ . We establish an oracle inequality for these estimators under model misspecification and derive non-asymptotic minimax convergence rates that are shown to be logarithmic in $n/\log p$. We also discuss the estimation of low-rank matrices based on indirect observations as well as the generalization to elliptical distributions. The finite sample performance of the threshold estimators is illustrated in a numerical example.

Keywords: Fourier methods; minimax convergence rates; severely ill-posed inverse problem; thresholding

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Hybrid regularisation and the (in)admissibility of ridge regression in infinite dimensional Hilbert spaces

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We consider the problem of estimating the slope function in a functional regression with a scalar response and a functional covariate. This central problem of functional data analysis is well known to be ill-posed, thus requiring a regularised estimation procedure. The two most commonly used approaches are based on spectral truncation or Tikhonov regularisation of the empirical covariance operator. In principle, Tikhonov regularisation is the more canonical choice. Compared to spectral truncation, it is robust to eigenvalue ties, while it attains the optimal minimax rate of convergence in the mean squared sense, and not just in a concentration probability sense. In this paper, we show that, surprisingly, one can strictly improve upon the performance of the Tikhonov estimator in finite samples by means of a linear estimator, while retaining its stability and asymptotic properties by combining it with a form of spectral truncation. Specifically, we construct an estimator that additively decomposes the functional covariate by projecting it onto two orthogonal subspaces defined via functional PCA; it then applies Tikhonov regularisation to the one component, while leaving the other component unregularised. We prove that when the covariate is Gaussian, this hybrid estimator uniformly improves upon the MSE of the Tikhonov estimator in a non-asymptotic sense, effectively rendering it inadmissible. This domination is shown to also persist under discrete observation of the covariate function. The hybrid estimator is linear, straightforward to construct in practice, and with no computational overhead relative to the standard regularisation methods. By means of simulation, it is shown to furnish sizeable gains even for modest sample sizes.

Keywords: admissibility; condition index; functional data analysis; ill-posed problem; mean integrated squared error; principal component analysis; rate of convergence; ridge regression; spectral truncation; Tikhonov regularisation

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Consistency of adaptive importance sampling and recycling schemes

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Among Monte Carlo techniques, the importance sampling requires fine tuning of a proposal distribution, which is now fluently resolved through iterative schemes. Sequential adaptive algorithms have been proposed to calibrate the sampling distribution. Cornuet et al. [*Scand. J. Stat.* **39** (2012) 798–812] provides a significant improvement in stability and effective sample size by the introduction of a recycling procedure. However, the consistency of such algorithms have been rarely tackled because of their complexity. Moreover, the recycling strategy of the AMIS estimator adds another difficulty and its consistency remains largely open. In this work, we prove the convergence of sequential adaptive sampling, with finite Monte Carlo sample size at each iteration, and consistency of recycling procedures. Contrary to Douc et al. [*Ann. Statist.* **35** (2007) 420–448], results are obtained here in the asymptotic regime where the number of iterations is going to infinity while the number of drawings per iteration is a fixed, but growing sequence of integers. Hence, some of the results shed new light on adaptive population Monte Carlo algorithms in that last regime and give advices on how the sample sizes should be fixed.

Keywords: adaptive algorithms; importance sampling; Monte Carlo methods; population Monte Carlo; sequential Monte Carlo; triangular arrays

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On posterior consistency of tail index for Bayesian kernel mixture models

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Asymptotic theory of tail index estimation has been studied extensively in the frequentist literature on extreme values, but rarely in the Bayesian context. We investigate whether popular Bayesian kernel mixture models are able to support heavy tailed distributions and consistently estimate the tail index. We show that posterior inconsistency in tail index is surprisingly common for both parametric and nonparametric mixture models. We then present a set of sufficient conditions under which posterior consistency in tail index can be achieved, and verify these conditions for Pareto mixture models under general mixing priors.

Keywords: heavy tailed distribution; kernel mixture model; normalized random measures; posterior consistency; tail index

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The unusual properties of aggregated superpositions of Ornstein–Uhlenbeck type processes

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Superpositions of Ornstein–Uhlenbeck type (supOU) processes form a rich class of stationary processes with a flexible dependence structure. The asymptotic behavior of the integrated and partial sum supOU processes can be, however, unusual. Their cumulants and moments turn out to have an unexpected rate of growth. We identify the property of fast growth of moments or cumulants as *intermittency*. Many proofs are given in a supplemental article (Grahovac, Leonenko, Sikorskii and Taqqu (2018)).

Keywords: cumulants; intermittency; moments; Ornstein–Uhlenbeck process; self-similarity; supOU processes

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Gibbs–non-Gibbs transitions in the fuzzy Potts model with a Kac-type interaction: Closing the Ising gap

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We complete the investigation of the Gibbs properties of the fuzzy Potts model on the d -dimensional torus with Kac interaction which was started by Jahnelt and one of the authors in (Sharp thresholds for Gibbs–non-Gibbs transitions in the fuzzy Potts model with a Kac-type interaction (2017)). As our main result of the present paper, we extend the previous sharpness result of mean-field bounds to cover all possible cases of fuzzy transformations, allowing also for the occurrence of Ising classes (containing precisely two spin values). The closing of this previously left open Ising-gap involves an analytical argument showing uniqueness of minimizing profiles for certain non-homogeneous conditional variational problems.

Keywords: diluted large deviation principle; fuzzy Kac–Potts model; Gibbs versus non-Gibbs; Kac model; large deviation principles; Potts model

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Regularization, sparse recovery, and median-of-means tournaments

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We introduce a regularized risk minimization procedure for regression function estimation. The procedure is based on median-of-means tournaments, introduced by the authors in Lugosi and Mendelson (2018) and achieves near optimal accuracy and confidence under general conditions, including heavy-tailed predictor and response variables. It outperforms standard regularized empirical risk minimization procedures such as LASSO or SLOPE in heavy-tailed problems.

Keywords: LASSO; median-of-means tournament; regularized risk minimization; robust regression; SLOPE

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Root- n consistent estimation of the marginal density in semiparametric autoregressive time series models

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In this paper, we consider the problem of estimating the marginal density in some autoregressive time series models for which the conditional mean and variance have a parametric specification. Under some regularity conditions, we show that a kernel type estimate based on the residuals can be root- n consistent even if the noise density is unknown. Our results substantially extend those existing in the literature. Our assumptions are carefully checked for some standard time series models such as ARMA or GARCH processes. Asymptotic expansion of our estimator is obtained by combining some martingale type arguments and a coupling method for time series which is of independent interest. We also study the uniform convergence of our estimator on compact intervals.

Keywords: kernel density estimation; nonlinear time series

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Integration with respect to the non-commutative fractional Brownian motion

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We study the issue of integration with respect to the non-commutative fractional Brownian motion, that is the analog of the standard fractional Brownian motion in a non-commutative probability setting.

When the Hurst index H of the process is strictly larger than $1/2$, integration can be handled through the so-called Young procedure. The situation where $H = 1/2$ corresponds to the specific free case, for which an Itô-type approach is known to be possible.

When $H < 1/2$, rough-path-type techniques must come into the picture, which, from a theoretical point of view, involves the use of some a-priori-defined Lévy area process. We show that such an object can indeed be “canonically” constructed for any $H \in (\frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{2})$. Finally, when $H \leq 1/4$, we exhibit a similar non-convergence phenomenon as for the non-diagonal entries of the (classical) Lévy area above the standard fractional Brownian motion.

Keywords: integration theory; non-commutative fractional Brownian motion; non-commutative stochastic calculus

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Construction of marginally coupled designs by subspace theory

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Recent researches on designs for computer experiments with both qualitative and quantitative factors have advocated the use of marginally coupled designs. This paper proposes a general method of constructing such designs for which the designs for qualitative factors are multi-level orthogonal arrays and the designs for quantitative factors are Latin hypercubes with desirable space-filling properties. Two cases are introduced for which we can obtain the guaranteed low-dimensional space-filling property for quantitative factors. Theoretical results on the proposed constructions are derived. For practical use, some constructed designs for three-level qualitative factors are tabulated.

Keywords: cascading Latin hypercube; computer experiment; Latin hypercube; lower-dimensional projection; orthogonal array

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Consistency of Bayesian nonparametric inference for discretely observed jump diffusions

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We introduce verifiable criteria for weak posterior consistency of Bayesian nonparametric inference for jump diffusions with unit diffusion coefficient and uniformly Lipschitz drift and jump coefficients in arbitrary dimension. The criteria are expressed in terms of coefficients of the SDEs describing the process, and do not depend on intractable quantities such as transition densities. We also show that priors built from discrete nets, wavelet expansions, and Dirichlet mixture models satisfy our conditions. This generalises known results by incorporating jumps into previous work on unit diffusions with uniformly Lipschitz drift coefficients.

Keywords: Bayesian statistics; Dirichlet mixture model prior; discrete net prior; jump diffusion; nonparametric inference; posterior consistency

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On the risk of convex-constrained least squares estimators under misspecification

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We consider the problem of estimating the mean of a noisy vector. When the mean lies in a convex constraint set, the least squares projection of the random vector onto the set is a natural estimator. Properties of the risk of this estimator, such as its asymptotic behavior as the noise tends to zero, have been well studied. We instead study the behavior of this estimator under misspecification, that is, without the assumption that the mean lies in the constraint set. For appropriately defined notions of risk in the misspecified setting, we prove a generalization of a low noise characterization of the risk due to [*Found. Comput. Math.* **16** (2016) 965–1029] in the case of a polyhedral constraint set. An interesting consequence of our results is that the risk can be much smaller in the misspecified setting than in the well-specified setting. We also discuss consequences of our result for isotonic regression.

Keywords: convex constraint; isotonic regression; least squares; misspecification; statistical dimension

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A central limit theorem for the realised covariation of a bivariate Brownian semistationary process

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This article presents a weak law of large numbers and a central limit theorem for the scaled realised covariation of a bivariate Brownian semistationary process. The novelty of our results lies in the fact that we derive the suitable asymptotic theory both in a multivariate setting and outside the classical semimartingale framework. The proofs rely heavily on recent developments in Malliavin calculus.

Keywords: bivariate Brownian semistationary process; central limit theorem; fourth moment theorem; high frequency data; moving average process; multivariate setting; stable convergence

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The first order correction to harmonic measure for random walks of rotationally invariant step distribution

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Let $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ ($d \geq 2$) be an open simply-connected bounded domain with smooth boundary ∂D and $\mathbf{0} = (0, \dots, 0) \in D$. Fix any rotationally invariant probability μ on closed unit ball $\{z \in \mathbb{R}^d : |z| \leq 1\}$ with $\mu(\{\mathbf{0}\}) < 1$. Let $\{S_n^\mu\}_{n=0}^\infty$ be the random walk with step-distribution μ starting at $\mathbf{0}$. Denote by $\omega_\delta(\mathbf{0}, dz; D)$ the discrete harmonic measure for $\{\delta S_n^\mu\}_{n=0}^\infty$ ($\delta > 0$) exiting from D , which is viewed as a probability on ∂D by projecting suitably the first exiting point to ∂D . Denote by $\omega(\mathbf{0}, dz; D)$ the harmonic measure for the d -dimensional standard Brownian motion exiting from D . Then in the weak convergence topology,

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\delta} [\omega_\delta(\mathbf{0}, dz; D) - \omega(\mathbf{0}, dz; D)] = c_\mu \rho_D(z) |dz|,$$

where $\rho_D(\cdot)$ is a smooth function depending on D but not on μ , c_μ is a constant depending only on μ , and $|dz|$ is the Lebesgue measure with respect to ∂D . Additionally, $\rho_D(z)$ is determined by the following equation: For any smooth function g on ∂D ,

$$\int_{\partial D} g(z) \rho_D(z) |dz| = \int_{\partial D} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{n}_z}(z) H_D(\mathbf{0}, z) |dz|,$$

where f is the harmonic function in D with boundary values given by g , $H_D(\mathbf{0}, z)$ is the Poisson kernel and derivative $\frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{n}_z}$ is with respect to the inward unit normal \mathbf{n}_z at $z \in \partial D$.

Keywords: discrete harmonic measure; first order correction; harmonic measure; random walk

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Gromov–Hausdorff–Prokhorov convergence of vertex cut-trees of n -leaf Galton–Watson trees

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In this paper, we study the vertex cut-trees of Galton–Watson trees conditioned to have n leaves. This notion is a slight variation of Dieuleveut's vertex cut-tree of Galton–Watson trees conditioned to have n vertices. Our main result is a joint Gromov–Hausdorff–Prokhorov convergence in the finite variance case of the Galton–Watson tree and its vertex cut-tree to Bertoin and Miermont's joint distribution of the Brownian CRT and its cut-tree. The methods also apply to the infinite variance case, but the problem to strengthen Dieuleveut's and Bertoin and Miermont's Gromov–Prokhorov convergence to Gromov–Hausdorff–Prokhorov remains open for their models conditioned to have n vertices.

Keywords: Continuum Random Tree; cut-tree; fragmentation at nodes; Galton–Watson tree; Gromov–Hausdorff–Prokhorov topology; Invariance Principle; \mathbb{R} -tree; stable tree

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Bayesian mode and maximum estimation and accelerated rates of contraction

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We study the problem of estimating the mode and maximum of an unknown regression function in the presence of noise. We adopt the Bayesian approach by using tensor-product B-splines and endowing the coefficients with Gaussian priors. In the usual fixed-in-advanced sampling plan, we establish posterior contraction rates for mode and maximum and show that they coincide with the minimax rates for this problem. To quantify estimation uncertainty, we construct credible sets for these two quantities that have high coverage probabilities with optimal sizes. If one is allowed to collect data sequentially, we further propose a Bayesian two-stage estimation procedure, where a second stage posterior is built based on samples collected within a credible set constructed from a first stage posterior. Under appropriate conditions on the radius of this credible set, we can accelerate optimal contraction rates from the fixed-in-advanced setting to the minimax sequential rates. A simulation experiment shows that our Bayesian two-stage procedure outperforms single-stage procedure and also slightly improves upon a non-Bayesian two-stage procedure.

Keywords: anisotropic Hölder space; credible set; maximum value; mode; nonparametric regression; posterior contraction; sequential; tensor-product B-splines; two-stage

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Bootstrapping INAR models

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Integer-valued autoregressive (INAR) models form a very useful class of processes to deal with time series of counts. Statistical inference in these models is commonly based on asymptotic theory, which is available only under additional parametric conditions and further restrictions on the model order. For general INAR models, such results are not available and might be cumbersome to derive. Hence, we investigate how the INAR model structure and, in particular, its similarity to classical autoregressive (AR) processes can be exploited to develop an asymptotically valid bootstrap procedure for INAR models. Although, in a common formulation, INAR models share the autocorrelation structure with AR models, it turns out that (a) consistent estimation of the INAR coefficients is not sufficient to compute proper ‘INAR residuals’ to formulate a valid model-based bootstrap scheme, and (b) a naïve application of an AR bootstrap will generally fail. Instead, we propose a general INAR-type bootstrap procedure and discuss parametric as well as semi-parametric implementations. The latter approach is based on a joint semi-parametric estimator of the INAR coefficients and the innovations’ distribution. Under mild regularity conditions, we prove bootstrap consistency of our procedure for statistics belonging to the class of functions of generalized means. In an extensive simulation study, we provide numerical evidence of our theoretical findings and illustrate the superiority of the proposed INAR bootstrap over some obvious competitors. We illustrate our method by an application to a real data set about iceberg orders for the Lufthansa stock.

Keywords: bootstrap consistency; functions of generalized means; INAR residuals; parametric bootstrap; semi-parametric bootstrap; semi-parametric estimation; time series of counts

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