

Biased Brownian Coupling of the Empirical Process of Stationary Weakly Dependent Data

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Peligrad conf., June 23, 2010

Introduction

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- Sequence X_n of r.v.

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$$Pf = \int_{\mathcal{X}} fdP, \quad \int_{\mathcal{X}} (f - Pf)^2 dP < \infty$$

- sup-norm

$$\|\mathbf{G}\|_{\mathcal{F}} = \sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} |\mathbf{G}(f)|$$

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- the (P, \mathcal{F}) -empirical process

$$\alpha_n(f) = \sqrt{n}(P_n f - P f) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n \{f(X_i) - P f\}$$

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- Note that α_n is a sum of $\mathbb{L}_\infty(\mathcal{F})$ -valued r.v.'s

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- Possible to mix methods to study the sequential

$$\alpha_n(t, f) = \sqrt{n}(P_{\lfloor nt \rfloor} f - P f) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^{\lfloor nt \rfloor} (f(X_i) - \mathbb{E}(f(X)))$$

(nothing to do with $\mathcal{F} = \left\{ f_t = \mathbb{I}_{(-\infty, t]} \right\}$ in α_n on \mathbb{R}).

Introduction

Weighted, hybrid, composed, 2-sample processes

- More generally,

$$\alpha_n(t, f, \varphi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n c_{i,n}(t) \varphi(X_i, Y_i) f(X_i).$$

for deterministic weights $c_{i,n}(t)$ and functions φ_j acting as random weights (or contrasts) based on a single sample (X_i, Y_i) . If countable φ this is to study the joint behavior.

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- Likewise U-processes versions, by crossing indexes of two samples (X_i) and (Y_j) ,

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- Typical limiting processes \mathbb{G} are combinations of **Brownian Motions** and **Brownian Bridges** indexed by functions $\neq \mathcal{F}$.

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Goal : Brownian paradigm

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- To study a statistic $T_n(X_1, \dots, X_n) = \Psi_n(P_n)$
 - approximate α_n with a version \mathbf{G}_n of its limit \mathbf{G} **OR** close to \mathbf{G}

$$\Psi_n \left(P + \frac{\mathbf{G}_n}{\sqrt{n}} + \frac{\alpha_n - \mathbf{G}_n}{\sqrt{n}} \right) \sim \Psi_\infty(P) + \phi_n \left(\frac{\mathbf{G}_n}{\sqrt{n}} \right) + o_{a.s.} \left(\frac{v_n}{\sqrt{n}} \right)$$

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- easy proof of weak convergence, exploit Gaussianity at finite n

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Weak invariance, independent case

- Let \mathbb{G} be a P -**Brownian Bridge** indexed by \mathcal{F}

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 - mean zero Gaussian process, covariance

$$\text{cov}(\mathbb{G}(f), \mathbb{G}(g)) = \text{cov}(\alpha_n(f), \alpha_n(g)) = Pfg - Pf Pg$$

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$$d_P(f, g) = \|f - g\|_{L_2(P)}$$

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$$\alpha_n \rightarrow \mathbb{G} \quad \text{weakly in } \mathbb{L}_\infty(\mathcal{F})$$

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- well known sufficient conditions on (P, \mathcal{F})
- uniform CLT, a few rates (only one is optimal)

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Weak invariance, dependent case

- Dependent stationary $\mathbb{X} = \{X_n\}$ with small mixing coefficients (β , ρ or ϕ) has a weak limit, the (P, \mathbb{X}) -Brownian Bridge \mathbb{G}_∞ with covariance

$$\begin{aligned}\Gamma_\infty(f, g) &= \mathbb{E}(f(X)g(X)) - \mathbb{E}(f(X))\mathbb{E}(g(X)) \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=2}^{\infty} (\mathbb{E}(f(X_i)g(X_1)) - \mathbb{E}(f(X))\mathbb{E}(g(X))) \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=2}^{\infty} (\mathbb{E}(f(X_1)g(X_i)) - \mathbb{E}(f(X))\mathbb{E}(g(X))).\end{aligned}$$

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- It is not easy to learn accurately the dependence structure of \mathbb{X} from X_1, \dots, X_n so to learn \mathbb{G}_∞ .

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 - on $(\Omega, \mathcal{T}, \mathbb{P})$ construct $\{X_n\}$ and **dependent** copies \mathbb{G}_n of \mathbb{G}

$$\|\alpha_n - \mathbb{G}_n\|_{\mathcal{F}} = O(v_n) \quad a.s.$$

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- implies the weak invariance principle
- if sufficient probabilities, Lévy-Prohorov distance
$$d_L(\alpha_n, \mathbb{G}_n) = O(v_n)$$

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- on $(\Omega, \mathcal{T}, \mathbb{P})$ construct $\{X_n\}$ and **independent** copies G_i^* of G

$$\max_{1 \leq m \leq n} \left\| \sqrt{m} \alpha_m - \sum_{i=1}^m G_i^* \right\|_{\mathcal{F}} = O(V_n) \quad a.s.$$

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- implies

$$\|\alpha_n - \mathbb{G}_n\|_{\mathcal{F}} = O\left(\frac{V_n}{\sqrt{n}}\right) \quad a.s.$$

with a version \mathbb{G}_n of \mathbb{G} having a Kiefer-type structure

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with a version \mathbb{G}_n of \mathbb{G} having a Kiefer-type structure

$$\mathbb{G}_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{G}_i^*$$

- slower $V_n/\sqrt{n} \gg v_n \rightarrow 0$ versus useful independence of \mathbb{G}_i^*

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Gaussian coupling, independent case

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 - for deterministic $c_\theta = c_\theta(\mathcal{F}, P) > 0$
 - for deterministic $v_n = v_n(\mathcal{F}, P) \rightarrow 0$
 - for any $\theta > 0$, $n \geq 1$ on Ω we can construct versions of X_1, \dots, X_n and \mathbb{G} such that

$$\mathbb{P}(\|\alpha_n - \mathbb{G}\|_{\mathcal{F}} > c_\theta v_n) \leq \frac{1}{n^\theta}$$

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Problem in the dependent case

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- Limiting process \mathbb{G}_∞ hard to couple with X_1, \dots, X_n and makes few sense at finite n
- Covariances Γ_n (of α_n) \rightarrow Γ_∞ (of \mathbb{G}_∞) where

$$\begin{aligned}\Gamma_n(f, g) &= \mathbb{E}(f(X)g(X)) - \mathbb{E}(f(X))\mathbb{E}(g(X)) \\ &+ \sum_{i=2}^n \frac{n-i+1}{n} (\mathbb{E}(f(X_i)g(X_1)) - \mathbb{E}(f(X))\mathbb{E}(g(X))) \\ &+ \sum_{i=2}^n \frac{n-i+1}{n} (\mathbb{E}(f(X_1)g(X_i)) - \mathbb{E}(f(X))\mathbb{E}(g(X)))\end{aligned}$$

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- Find an intermediate Gaussian process \mathbb{G}_n^* with covariance close to Γ_n and Γ_∞ such that

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- Find an intermediate Gaussian process \mathbf{G}_n^* with covariance close to Γ_n and Γ_∞ such that
 - for $c_\theta, v_n \rightarrow 0$, any $\theta > 0$, all $n \geq 1$ on Ω construct α_n and \mathbf{G}_n^*

$$\mathbb{P}(\|\alpha_n - \mathbf{G}_n^*\|_{\mathcal{F}} > c_\theta v_n) \leq \frac{1}{n^\theta}$$

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 - for deterministic c_θ and $v_n \rightarrow 0$
 - for any $\theta > 0$, $n \geq 1$ on Ω construct X_1, \dots, X_n and version \mathbb{G}_n^*

$$\mathbb{P}(\|\alpha_n - \mathbb{G}_n^*\|_{\mathcal{F}} > c_\theta v_n) \leq \frac{1}{n^\theta}$$

- Try to keep the **covariance bias** small,

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Gaussian coupling, dependent case

- Find an intermediate Gaussian process \mathbb{G}_n^* with covariance Γ_n^* close to Γ_n and Γ_∞ such that
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- Otherwise, **trade off** between v_n , $n^{-\theta}$, b_n .

Applications

Empirical Risk Minimization

- **Application 1.** Helps in studying the estimation of

$$f_* = \arg \min_{\mathcal{F}} Pf$$

by means of

$$f_n = \arg \min_{\mathcal{F}} P_n f = \arg \min_{\mathcal{F}} \left\{ Pf + \frac{\mathbf{G}}{\sqrt{n}} f + \frac{\alpha_n - \mathbf{G}}{\sqrt{n}} f \right\}$$

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 - likelihood : X has density g_θ , risk $Pf = -\mathbb{E}(\log g_\theta(X))$

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Empirical Risk Minimization

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- allows to find **excess risk limiting distribution**
- alternative approach of **model selection**
- helps understanding **optimal penalties** (to compete increments of \mathbb{G}/\sqrt{n})

Applications

Stability of Almost Risk Minimizers

- **Application 2.** Given $\xi_n < 1/\sqrt{n}$ and consider the almost minimizers

$$\mathcal{F}_n = \{f \in \mathcal{F} : P_n f < P_n f_n + \xi_n\}$$

Under entropy and/or margin conditions Berthet-Saumard studied

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P} \left(\text{diam}_{\mathbb{L}_2} \mathcal{F}_n > d_n^+ \right) &< n^{-\theta} \\ \mathbb{P} \left(\text{diam}_{\mathbb{L}_2} \mathcal{F}_n < d_n^- \right) &< n^{-\theta} \\ \mathbb{P} \left(d_n^- < \sup_{f, g \in \mathcal{F}_n} |Pf - Pg| > d_n^+ \right) &< n^{-\theta} \end{aligned}$$

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- The Gaussian coupling starts the proof but covariance is needed later.

Applications

k-sample U-processes

- **Application 3a.** For $f \in \mathcal{F}$ find the limiting process of

$$\frac{1}{n_1 \dots n_k} \sum_{1 \leq i_1 \leq n_1} \dots \sum_{1 \leq i_k \leq n_k} f(X_{i_1}^{(1)}, \dots, X_{i_k}^{(k)}) - \mathbb{E}(f(X_1^{(1)}, \dots, X_1^{(k)}))$$

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- limiting processes indexed by **classes of conditional expectations** of $f \in \mathcal{F}$
- **Application 3b.** Likewise for hybrid or randomly weighted empirical processes, convergence to a sum of Brownian motions and Bridges indexed by conditional expectations.

Applications

CLT for Level Sets Estimators

- **Application 4.** Sets \mathcal{C} in \mathbb{R}^d , sample X_1, \dots, X_n density f

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- **Application 4.** Sets C in \mathbb{R}^d , sample X_1, \dots, X_n density f
 - target a λ -level set $C_* = \{f > \lambda\}$

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- Berthet-Einmahl are studying the **joint limiting shapes** of $C_{k,n} \Delta C_*$

$$\begin{aligned}C_{1,n} &= \arg \max_{C \in \mathcal{C}} \{P_n(C) - \lambda \mu(C)\} \\ C_{2,n} &= \arg \max_{C \in \mathcal{C}} \{P_n(C) : \mu(C) \leq \nu_\lambda\} \\ C_{3,n} &= \arg \min_{C \in \mathcal{C}} \{\mu(C) : P_n(C) \geq p_\lambda\}\end{aligned}$$

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Applications

Learning theory

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- **Application 5b.** Control of bias, risk and regret (when a cost is involved) when using model selection among random small dimension subfields to estimate regression.

Couplings

KMT, optimal rate

- Let $P = U(0, 1)$, $\mathcal{F} = \left\{ \mathbb{I}_{[0,t]} : 0 < t < 1 \right\}$, $v_n = \frac{\log n}{\sqrt{n}}$

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- By KMT on Ω there exists $\{X_n\}$ and Brownian Bridges $\{\mathbf{G}_n\}$

$$\mathbb{P} \left(\sqrt{n} \| \alpha_n - \mathbf{G}_n \|_{\mathcal{F}} \geq c_1 \lambda + \log n \right) \leq c_2 \exp(-c_3 \lambda)$$

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- Indeed

$$\text{for **some** } \{X_n, \mathbf{G}_n\} \quad \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt{n}}{\log n} \|\alpha_n - \mathbf{G}_n\|_{\mathcal{F}} \leq 12 \quad a.s.$$

$$\text{for **any** } \{X_n, \mathbf{G}_n\} \quad \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt{n}}{\log n} \|\alpha_n - \mathbf{G}_n\|_{\mathcal{F}} \geq \frac{1}{6} \quad a.s.$$

Couplings

Tools

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Couplings

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- **Simple technique** : relies on previous tools from Dudley, Philipp, Berkes, Kuelbs, Dehling, Pollard, Giné, Talagrand, Zaitsev, Massart, Koltchinskii, Rio, Einmahl, Mason, among many others (independent case) and the authors in dependent data...

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Independent case

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- ϕ is increasing, $\phi(\varepsilon) \rightarrow \infty$ as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ and

$$\int_{[0,1]} \sqrt{\log \phi} < \infty$$

Uniform entropy

Independence case

- Introduce

$$J_\phi(\varepsilon) = \int_0^\varepsilon \sqrt{\log \phi}, \quad \Psi_\phi(\varepsilon) = \frac{\varepsilon}{\phi^{5/2}(\varepsilon)}$$

so that $J_\phi \circ \Psi_\phi^{-1}(\varepsilon) \gg \varepsilon$ as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$

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- **Theorem U1.** We can construct $\{X_n\}$ and versions $\{\mathbb{G}_n\}$ of \mathbb{G} on Ω such that

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- This is uniform in P for a **fixed** \mathcal{F}

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Polynomially decreasing, independent case

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$$\mathbb{P}\left(\|\alpha_n - \mathbb{G}\|_{\mathcal{F}} > c_\theta \frac{(\log n)^{\tau_0}}{n^\tau}\right) \leq \frac{1}{n^\theta}$$

where

$$\tau = \frac{1}{2 + 5\nu}, \quad \tau_0 = \frac{4 + 5\nu}{4 + 10\nu}$$

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- **Corollary.** We can construct $\{X_n\}$ and **i.i.d.** $\{\mathbf{G}_n^*\}$ on Ω

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \max_{1 \leq m \leq n} \left\| \sqrt{m} \alpha_m - \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{G}_i^* \right\|_{\mathcal{F}} = O_{a.s.} \left(\frac{(\log n)^{\tau_0}}{n^{\tau(\alpha)}} \right)$$

$$\tau(\alpha) = \frac{\alpha\tau - 1/2}{1 + \alpha} < \tau = \frac{1}{2 + 5\nu_0}, \quad \alpha \in \left(\frac{1}{2\tau}, \frac{1}{\tau} \right)$$

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- **Theorem U2.** We can construct $\{X_n\}$ and $\{G_n^*\}$ on Ω ,

$$\mathbb{P}(\|a_n - G_n^*\|_{\mathcal{F}} > c_{\theta} v_n) \leq \frac{1}{n^{\theta}}$$

with rate

$$v_n = C_{\lambda} n^{-\frac{1}{6+5\nu}} (\log n)^{\frac{12+5\nu}{12+10\nu}}$$

and covariance bias

$$b_n = C_0 n^{-\frac{2}{6+5\nu}} (\log n)^{\frac{6}{6+5\nu}}, \quad C_0 > 0.$$

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- Even very strong mixing do not interpolate with independence,

$$n^{-\frac{1}{6+5\nu}} \gg n^{-\frac{1}{2+5\nu}}$$

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Polynomially decreasing, polynomially mixing

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- **Theorem U3.** We can construct $\{X_n\}$ and $\{\mathbf{G}_n^*\}$ on Ω ,

$$\mathbb{P}(\|\alpha_n - \mathbf{G}_n^*\|_{\mathcal{F}} > c_{\theta} v_n) \leq n^{1-(1+\gamma)w}$$

with rate

$$v_n = C_{\lambda} n^{-\frac{1-2w}{6+5v}} (\log n)^{\frac{12+5v}{12+10v}}$$

and covariance bias

$$b_n = n^{-\frac{2-4w}{6+5v}} (\log n)^{\frac{6}{6+5v}}$$

where

$$w = \frac{2}{17v^2 + 17v + 10}$$

whence a strong invariance principle if $\gamma > 17v^2 + 17v + 9$.

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Class of cubes, any P

- **Exemple.** Cubes $\mathcal{F} = \left\{ \mathbb{I}_{[s,t]} : s, t \in \mathcal{X} = [0, 1]^d \right\}$

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 - by Theorem U1

$$\|\alpha_n - \mathbb{G}_n\|_{\mathcal{F}} = O_{a.s.} \left(\frac{(\log n)^{\dots}}{n^{1/(7+10d)}} \right)$$

Uniform entropy

Class of cubes, any P

- **Exemple.** Cubes $\mathcal{F} = \left\{ \mathbb{I}_{[s,t]} : s, t \in \mathcal{X} = [0, 1]^d \right\}$
 - approximated by quadrants, VC-index $2d + 1$
 - by Theorem U1

$$\|\alpha_n - \mathbf{G}_n\|_{\mathcal{F}} = O_{a.s.} \left(\frac{(\log n)^{\dots}}{n^{1/(7+10d)}} \right)$$

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Uniform Entropy

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Uniform Entropy

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- **Example.** Consider a weight ω on $\mathcal{X} = [0, 1]^d$
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- By Theorem U2, power becomes $1/(16 + 10d)$

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Uniform Entropy

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- for this weight, but also for **more** P , Theorem U1 yields

$$\left\| \frac{\alpha'_n - \mathbf{G}'_n}{\omega_\alpha} \right\|_{\mathcal{X}_n} = O_{\mathbb{P}} \left(\frac{(\log n)^{6/11}}{n^{(1/2-\alpha)/11}} \right)$$

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Bracketing Entropy

General rate, independent case

- Previous results are uniform in P : what about P **fixed** ?

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- again $\mathcal{F}_n = \{f \in \mathcal{F} : \|f\|_{\mathcal{X}} < M_n\}$
- **Theorem B1.** If $M_n \sqrt{(\log n)/n} \rightarrow 0$ we can construct $\{X_n\}$ and $\{\mathbb{G}_n\}$ on Ω such that

$$\|\alpha_n - \mathbb{G}_n\|_{\mathcal{F}_n} = O_{a.s.} \left(J_{[\varphi]} \circ \Psi_{[\varphi]}^{-1} \left(M_n \sqrt{\frac{\log n}{n}} \right) \right)$$

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- **Corollary.** For any $\theta > 0$, all n we can construct (α_n, \mathbb{G})

$$\mathbb{P} \left(\|\alpha_n - \mathbb{G}\|_{\mathcal{F}} > \frac{c_\theta}{(\log n)^r} \right) \leq \frac{1}{n^\theta}$$

where

$$r = \frac{1 - r_0}{2r_0}$$

Bracketing entropy, dependent case

Polynomially log-entropy, exponentially mixing

- Assume ($r_0 < 1$)

$$\log N_{[\cdot]}(\varepsilon, \mathcal{F}, d_P) \leq \frac{1}{\varepsilon^{2r_0}} \quad \text{and} \quad \phi_k < \exp(-\gamma k)$$

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- **Theorem B2.** We can construct $\{X_n\}$ and $\{\mathbf{G}_n^*\}$ on Ω ,

$$\mathbb{P}(\|\alpha_n - \mathbf{G}_n^*\|_{\mathcal{F}} > c_{\theta} v_n) \leq \frac{1}{n^{\theta}}$$

with rate

$$v_n = \frac{1}{(\log n)^r}, \quad r = \frac{1 - r_0}{2r_0}.$$

and covariance bias

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- To interpolate with independence, heavy **probability** and **covariance cost**. If $\gamma > 2r_0 + 3$ then a.s. invariance principle 

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Random entropy or geometric construction

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- Each time : the smaller is \mathcal{F} , the stronger the mixing should be to minimize the loss of rate.

Basic tool

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Basic tool

Finite dimensional coupling

- We use the finite dimensional coupling of Zaitzev
 - Y_1, \dots, Y_n independent, centered, in \mathbb{R}^d and

$$|Y_i|_d < M$$

- for all λ we can define Z_1, \dots, Z_n independent centered Gaussian, each Z_i having same covariance matrix as Y_i , such that

$$\mathbb{P} \left(\left| \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - Z_i) \right|_d > \lambda \right) \leq c_0 d^2 \exp \left(-\frac{c_2 \lambda}{d^2 M} \right)$$

Random entropy

Typical rates, independent case

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- Settati 09 weakened \mathbb{L}_2 bracketing entropy condition by using

$$\mathbb{P} \left(\log N \left(\frac{\sigma \varphi_n}{\sqrt{n}}, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{L}_1(P_n) \right) > \varphi_n \right) \leq \frac{1}{n^2}$$

then the rate v_n of approximation is

$(\log n)^{1-1/2\delta}$	$\varphi_n = n^\delta, \delta < 1/2$
$\exp(- (c \log n)^{1/\delta})$	$\varphi_n = (\log n)^\delta, \delta > 1$
polynomial $n^{-1/(5\nu+2)}$	$\varphi_n = \nu \log n$
close to $n^{-1/2}$	$\varphi_n = (\log n)^\delta, \delta < 1$

Geometrical conditions

Classes of sets

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$$\alpha_n(\mathcal{C}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n \{\mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{C}}(X_i) - P(\mathcal{C})\}, \quad \mathcal{C} \in \mathcal{C}$$

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- d_P -continuous P -Brownian bridge \mathbb{G} indexed by \mathcal{C}

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- Open : work out the **appropriate mixing coefficients** (on \mathcal{C} only?).

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Strong chaining for sets

- Take a countable $\mathcal{C}_\infty \subset \mathcal{C}$, choose \mathcal{C}_n^* **finite** in \mathcal{C}_∞

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 - **continuity moduli operator** $q_n^* : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_n^*$, $q_n^*(C) \subset C$

$$\mathbb{P}(\sqrt{n}Y \geq \varrho(n)) \leq \frac{1}{n^2}$$

for both $Y = \|\alpha_n - \alpha_n \circ q_n^*\|_C$ and $Y = \|\mathbb{G} - \mathbb{G} \circ q_n^*\|_C$

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- **chaining operator** $q_m^{**} : \mathcal{C}_n^* \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_m^{**}$ where

$$\mathcal{C}_m^{**} = \{C_1 \cup \dots \cup C_m : C_j \in \mathcal{P}_j, C_j \cap C_l = \emptyset \text{ if } j \neq l\}$$

and $\mathcal{P}_j = \{C_{j,k} : k \leq k(j)\}$ are m **finite partitions**

$$\sup_{C \in \mathcal{C}_n^*} P(C \setminus q_m^{**}(C)) \leq h_n(m) \downarrow 0 \text{ as } m \rightarrow \infty$$

Geometrical conditions

Strong chaining for sets

- **Geometrical intrinsic dimension** m hidden in Ψ

$$c_n = \text{card}(\mathcal{C}_n^*)$$

$$d_m = \sum_{j \leq m} k(j)$$

$$S_m = \sum_{j \leq m} k(j) \|P^2\|_{\mathcal{P}_j}$$

$$\Psi(m) = \frac{h_n(m)}{m^2 d_m^4 (\log d_m)^2}$$

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- **Theorem G1.** If $S_m \leq a_\infty m$ we can construct (α_n, \mathbf{G}_n)

$$\|\alpha_n - \mathbf{G}_n\|_{\mathcal{C}} =$$

$$O_{a.s.} \left(\frac{\varrho(n)}{\sqrt{n}} \vee \frac{\log c_n}{n} \vee \sqrt{h_n \circ \Psi^{-1} \left(\frac{(\log n)^2}{n \log c_n} \right) \log c_n} \right)$$

Geometrical Conditions

KMT in dimension $d > 2$

- **Example.** Cubes $\mathcal{F} = \left\{ \mathbb{I}_{[s,t]} : s, t \in \mathcal{X} = [0, 1]^d \right\}$

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- partitions are dyadic, $m \approx \log n$, $d_m \approx 2^m$, S_m bounded,
 $h_n(m) = h(m) \approx 2^{-m}$, $\Psi(m) \approx 2^{-5m}$, $h \circ \Psi^{-1}(x) \approx x^{1/5}$,
 $\varrho(n) \approx 1/\sqrt{n}$, $c_n \approx n^d$

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Weighted sup-norm

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- **trade off** between **covariance bias** and **rate** of approximation
- the approximating Gaussian process becomes the limiting one after normalization but the price is the covariance bias...