

A uniform Berry-Esseen theorem on M -estimators for geometrically ergodic Markov chains

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$\alpha \in \mathcal{A} \subset \mathbb{R}$ with $F(\cdot, \cdot, \cdot)$ real-valued functional and \mathcal{A} some open interval.

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- Define the M -estimator $\hat{\alpha}_n$ such that

$$M_n(\hat{\alpha}_n) \leq \inf_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} M_n(\alpha) + c_n$$

with $c_n, n \geq 1$ some sequence of real numbers decreasing to zero.

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- Let $\alpha_0 \in \mathcal{A}$ be the “true” value of the parameter of interest.

The problem (2/2)

- Suppose that

$$\left(\left| \frac{\partial F}{\partial \alpha}(\alpha, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \right| + \left| \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial \alpha^2}(\alpha, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \right| \right)^{3+\varepsilon} \leq C(V(\mathbf{x}) + V(\mathbf{y}))$$

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- **Aim:** show that the estimator $\hat{\alpha}_n$ satisfies a Berry-Esseen theorem uniformly with respect to the underlying probability distribution of the Markov chain.

Example: AR(1) with ARCH(1) errors

- Consider the the observations are generated by the process

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- $X_0 = 0$, $\sigma^2(x; \zeta, \gamma) = \zeta + \gamma x^2$;
- $\{\varepsilon_n\}_{n \geq 1}$ are i.i.d. zero mean of variance equal to 1, with finite p th order moment, $p > 0$ and (unknown) continuous density $f_\varepsilon > 0$;
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- The “true” parameter is
- $$\theta = (\rho_0, \zeta_0, \gamma_0) \in \Theta \subset [-\bar{\rho}, \bar{\rho}] \times [m_\zeta, M_\zeta] \times [m_\gamma, M_\gamma] \subset \mathbb{R}^3, \text{ where}$$

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- $\bar{\rho} \in (0, 1)$ is given;
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 - $\bar{\rho} \in (0, 1)$ is given;
 - $0 < m_\zeta < M_\zeta < \infty$ and $0 < m_\gamma < M_\gamma < 1$ are given such that $\bar{\rho} + \sqrt{M_\gamma} < 1$.
- We are interested to estimate ρ_0 and γ_0 and to derive BE bounds.

- To estimate ρ_0 one can use the least squares estimator

$$\hat{\rho}_n = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n X_k X_{k-1}}{\sum_{k=1}^n X_{k-1}^2} = \arg \min_{\rho} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n F(\rho, X_{k-1}, X_k),$$

where $F(\rho, X_{k-1}, X_k) = (X_k - \rho X_{k-1})^2$.

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- The parameter γ_0 can also be estimated by a suitable least squares approach.

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- Let $\mathbb{P}_{\theta, \mu}$ be the probability distribution of $\{X_n\}_{n \geq 0}$ and $\mathbb{E}_{\theta, \mu}$ be the expectation w.r.t. $\mathbb{P}_{\theta, \mu}$.

Definitions, notation (2/2)

- For all θ , let

$$M_\theta(\alpha) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}_{\theta, \mu}[M_n(\alpha)].$$

Assume that there exists a unique “true” value $\alpha_0 = \alpha_0(\theta)$ of the parameter of interest, that is

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- We want to prove

$$\sup_{\theta \in \Theta} \sup_{u \in \mathbb{R}} \left| \mathbb{P}_{\theta, \mu} \left\{ \frac{\sqrt{n}}{\tau(\theta)} (\hat{\alpha}_n - \alpha_0) \leq u \right\} - \Gamma(u) \right| = O(n^{-1/2})$$

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- $\Gamma(\cdot)$ denotes the $N(0, 1)$ d.f.
- $\tau(\theta)$ is some suitable positive real number.

Related work

- IID framework and functional $F(\alpha, X_k)$:
 - Pfanzagl (1971): $\{X_n\}_{n \geq 0}$ a sequence of i.i.d. random variables and with functionals of the form $F(\alpha, X_k)$.
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- Markov framework and functional $F(\alpha, X_k, X_{k-1})$:
 - Rao (1973): extends the framework of Pfanzagl to $\{X_n\}_{n \geq 0}$ a uniformly ergodic Markov chain
 - Milhaud & Raugi (1989): ML in linear autoregressive models under strong conditions on the error term law. Moreover, they obtain a suboptimal rate $n^{-1/2} \ln^{1/2} n$.

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- *M -estimator*: a measurable function $\hat{\alpha}_n$ of the observations (X_0, \dots, X_n) such that

$$M_n(\hat{\alpha}_n) \leq \min_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} M_n(\alpha) + c_n.$$

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$\forall n \geq 1$ and $\alpha, \alpha' \in \mathcal{A}$, there exist $M'_n(\alpha)$, $M''_n(\alpha)$ measurable functions depending on X_0, X_1, \dots, X_n and on α such that:

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- (A3) $\forall n \geq 1, \exists r_n > 0$ independent of θ such that $\sqrt{n}r_n \rightarrow 0$ and
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- $$\sup_{\theta \in \Theta} \mathbb{P}_\theta (|M'_n(\hat{\alpha}_n)| \geq r_n) = O(n^{-1/2}).$$
- (A4) for $j = 1, 2, \exists \sigma_j(\cdot)$ such that $0 < \inf_\theta \sigma_j(\theta) \leq \sup_\theta \sigma_j(\theta) < \infty$, and some constant $B > 0$ and integer P_0 such that for all $n \geq P_0$

$$\sup_{\theta \in \Theta} \sup_{u \in \mathbb{R}} \left| \mathbb{P}_\theta \left\{ \frac{\sqrt{n}}{\sigma_1(\theta)} M'_n(\alpha_0) \leq u \right\} - \Gamma(u) \right| \leq \frac{B}{\sqrt{n}}$$

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(A4') for $n \geq P_0$, $|u| \leq 2\sqrt{\ln n}$, and $\theta \in \Theta$, $\exists \sigma_{n,u}^2(\theta) > 0$ such that, with some constants $A', B' > 0$ which do not depend on such n, u, θ ,

$$|\sigma_{n,u}(\theta) - \sigma_1(\theta)| \leq A' |u| n^{-1/2},$$

$$\left| \mathbb{P}_\theta \left\{ \frac{\sqrt{n}}{\sigma_{n,u}(\theta)} \left(M'_n(\alpha_0) + \frac{u \sigma_1(\theta)}{\sqrt{n} m(\theta)} (M''_n(\alpha_0) - m(\theta)) \right) \leq u \right\} - \Gamma(u) \right| \leq \frac{B'}{\sqrt{n}}.$$

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(A5) For any $\alpha, \alpha' \in \mathcal{A}$, let $R_n(\alpha, \alpha')$ be defined by the equation

$$M'_n(\alpha') = M'_n(\alpha) + [M''_n(\alpha) + R_n(\alpha, \alpha')](\alpha' - \alpha).$$

For each n there exist $\omega_n \geq 0$ independent of θ and a real-valued measurable function W_n depending on X_0, X_1, \dots, X_n but independent of θ such that $\omega_n \rightarrow 0$ and $\forall (\alpha, \alpha') \in \mathcal{A}^2$,

$$|R_n(\alpha, \alpha')| \leq \{|\alpha - \alpha'| + \omega_n\} W_n,$$

and there exists a constant $c_W > 0$ such that

$$\sup_{\theta \in \Theta} \mathbb{P}_\theta \{c_W \leq W_n\} = O(n^{-1/2}).$$

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Pfanzagl's method revisited: Assumptions (3/3)

(A6) Assume that $\hat{\alpha}_n$ is uniformly consistent at some rate, that is there exists a sequence $\gamma_n \rightarrow 0$ such that

$$\sup_{\theta \in \Theta} \mathbb{P}_{\theta} \{ |\hat{\alpha}_n - \alpha_0| \geq d \} \leq \gamma_n,$$

where $d = \inf_{\theta \in \Theta} m(\theta) / 8c_W$ with c_W and $m(\theta)$ defined in (A5) and (A2) respectively.

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- Assumption (A3) ensures that the estimator (approximately) satisfies a kind of first order condition.
- The Assumptions (A4) and (A4') are the Berry-Esseen bounds for $M'_n(\alpha_0)$, $M''_n(\alpha_0)$, and for some of their linear combinations.

Pfanzagl's method revisited: Assumptions (3/3)

(A6) Assume that $\hat{\alpha}_n$ is uniformly consistent at some rate, that is there exists a sequence $\gamma_n \rightarrow 0$ such that

$$\sup_{\theta \in \Theta} \mathbb{P}_\theta \{ |\hat{\alpha}_n - \alpha_0| \geq d \} \leq \gamma_n,$$

where $d = \inf_{\theta \in \Theta} m(\theta)/8c_W$ with c_W and $m(\theta)$ defined in (A5) and (A2) respectively.

- **Comments:**

- The expectations $\mathbb{E}_\theta[M'_n(\alpha)]$ and $\mathbb{E}_\theta[M''_n(\alpha_0)]$ may depend on n .
- Assumption (A3) ensures that the estimator (approximately) satisfies a kind of first order condition.
- The Assumptions (A4) and (A4') are the Berry-Esseen bounds for $M'_n(\alpha_0)$, $M''_n(\alpha_0)$, and for some of their linear combinations.
- The identity defining $R_n(\alpha, \alpha')$ in Assumption (A5) is guaranteed by Taylor expansion when the criterion $M_n(\alpha)$ is twice differentiable with respect to α .

Theorem

Under the conditions (A1-A6), $\exists C > 0$ such that $\forall n \geq 1$,

$$\sup_{\theta \in \Theta} \sup_{u \in \mathbb{R}} \left| \mathbb{P}_{\theta} \left\{ \frac{\sqrt{n}}{\tau(\theta)} (\hat{\alpha}_n - \alpha_0) \leq u \right\} - \Gamma(u) \right| \leq C \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} + \sqrt{nr_n} + \omega_n + \gamma_n \right)$$

with $\tau(\theta) := \sigma_1(\theta)/m(\theta)$.

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Comments:

- To derive the Berry-Esseen bound of classical order $O(n^{-1/2})$, we need $\gamma_n = O(n^{-1/2})$, $r_n = O(n^{-1})$ and $\omega_n = O(n^{-1/2})$.
- Usually c_n in the definition of the M -estimator has to decrease at the rate $n^{-3/2}$.

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• Consider

- E a measurable space with a countably generated σ -field \mathcal{E}
- Θ some general parameter space.
- $\{X_n\}_{n \geq 0}$ a Markov chain with state space E , transition kernels $\{Q_\theta(x, \cdot), x \in E\}$, $\theta \in \Theta$, and initial distribution μ .
- μ is either given (e.g. Dirac measure) or depends on θ . Suppose $\mu(V) < \infty$ or $\sup_{\theta \in \Theta} \mu(V) < \infty$.

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(VG1) $\sup_{\theta \in \Theta} \pi_\theta(V) < \infty$

- (VG2) For all $\gamma \in (0, 1]$, there exist real numbers $\kappa_\gamma < 1$ and $C_\gamma \geq 0$ such that we have, for each $\theta \in \Theta$ and for all $n \geq 1$ and $x \in E$

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- Remarks:

- (VG1)-(VG2) $\Rightarrow \forall \gamma \in (0, 1], \forall \theta \in \Theta$, Q_θ is V^γ -geometrically ergodic.
- The constants C_γ and κ_γ do not depend on θ .

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 \exists constants $m > m_0 \geq 1$ and $C_\xi > 0$ such that

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- Condition (D_{m_0}) implies

$$\mathbb{E}_{\theta, \pi_\theta} [|\xi(\alpha, X_0, X_1)|^m] < \infty \quad (1)$$

Lemma

If ξ is centered and satisfies condition (D_{m_0}) with $m_0 \in \mathbb{N}^*$, then there exists $\beta > 0$ such that $\forall \theta \in \Theta$, $\forall n \geq 1$, $\forall t \in [-\beta, \beta]$,

$$\mathbb{E}_{\theta, \mu}[e^{itS_n(\alpha_0)}] = \lambda_\theta(t)^n [1 + L_\theta(t)] + r_{\theta, n}(t),$$

- $\lambda_\theta(\cdot)$, $L_\theta(\cdot)$ and $r_{\theta, n}(\cdot)$ are $\mathcal{C}^{m_0}([-\beta, \beta], \mathbb{C})$ functions
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Furthermore, there exists $\rho \in (0, 1)$ such that for $\ell = 0, \dots, m_0$:

$$G_\ell := \sup_{|t| \leq \beta, \theta \in \Theta, n \geq 1} \{\rho^{-n} |r_{\theta, n}^{(\ell)}(t)|\} < \infty.$$

The constants β, ρ, G_ℓ , and the following ones (for $\ell = 0, \dots, m_0$)

$$E_\ell := \sup_{|t| \leq \beta, \theta \in \Theta} |\lambda_\theta^{(\ell)}(t)| < \infty, \quad F_\ell := \sup_{|t| \leq \beta, \theta \in \Theta} |L_\theta^{(\ell)}(t)| < \infty,$$

depend on ξ , but only through the constant C_ξ of Condition D_{m_0} .

Proposition

Suppose

- *Assumption (M) holds true*
- *the functional ξ satisfies condition (D_1) and is centered.*

Then,

$$\sup_{\theta \in \Theta} \sup_{n \geq 1} |\mathbb{E}_{\theta, \mu} [S_n(\alpha_0)]| < \infty \quad \text{and} \quad \forall \theta \in \Theta, \quad \lim_n \mathbb{E}_{\theta, \mu} [S_n(\alpha_0)/n] = 0.$$

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Furthermore, the function $\sigma^2(\cdot)$ is bounded on Θ , and there exists a constant $C > 0$ depending only on C_ξ and $\mu(V)$ such that

$$\forall \theta \in \Theta, \quad \forall n \geq 1, \quad \left| n\sigma^2(\theta) - \mathbb{E}_{\theta, \mu}[S_n(\alpha_0)^2] \right| \leq C.$$

Theorem

Assume that :

- condition (\mathcal{M}) holds true;
- the functional ξ is centered and satisfies condition (D_3) ;
- $\sigma_0^2 := \inf_{\theta \in \Theta} \sigma^2(\theta) > 0$.

Then there exists a constant $B(\xi)$ such that

$$\forall n \geq 1, \quad \sup_{\theta \in \Theta} \sup_{u \in \mathbb{R}} \left| \mathbb{P}_{\theta, \mu} \left\{ \frac{S_n(\alpha_0)}{\sigma(\theta)\sqrt{n}} \leq u \right\} - \Gamma(u) \right| \leq \frac{B(\xi)}{\sqrt{n}}.$$

Furthermore, the constant $B(\xi)$ depends on the functional ξ , but only through σ_0 and the constant C_ξ of Condition (D_3) .

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- Consider a M -estimator $\hat{\alpha}_n$, that is

$$M_n(\hat{\alpha}_n) \leq \min_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} M_n(\alpha) + c_n,$$

where $c_n \downarrow 0$.

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Define the asymptotic variances:

$$\sigma_1^2(\theta) := \lim_n \frac{1}{n} \mathbb{E}_{\theta, \mu} \left[\left(\sum_{k=1}^n F'(\alpha_0, X_{k-1}, X_k) \right)^2 \right]$$

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Condition (V0) and Proposition 1 ensure $\sup_{\theta \in \Theta} \sigma_j(\theta) < \infty$ for $j = 1, 2$.

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 $\forall(\alpha, \alpha') \in \mathcal{A}^2, \forall(x, y) \in E^2,$

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(V6) there exists a sequence $\gamma_n \rightarrow 0$ such that

$$\sup_{\theta \in \Theta} \mathbb{P}_\theta \{ |\hat{\alpha}_n - \alpha_0| \geq d \} \leq \gamma_n,$$

with $d = \inf_{\theta \in \Theta} m(\theta) / 8\pi_\theta(V^\eta)$ and η defined in (V5).

Theorem

Assume that the condition (\mathcal{M}) holds true, that F satisfies condition (D_1) , that conditions $(V0)$ to $(V6)$ are fulfilled. Let $\tau(\theta) := \sigma_1(\theta)/m(\theta)$. Then there exists a positive constant C such that $\forall n \geq 1$,

$$\sup_{\theta \in \Theta} \sup_{u \in \mathbb{R}} \left| \mathbb{P}_{\theta, \mu} \left\{ \frac{\sqrt{n}}{\tau(\theta)} (\hat{\alpha}_n - \alpha_0) \leq u \right\} - \Gamma(u) \right| \leq C \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} + \sqrt{nr_n} + \gamma_n \right).$$

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- $F(\rho, X_{k-1}, X_k) = (X_k - \rho X_{k-1})^2$
- $F'(\rho, X_{k-1}, X_k) = -2X_{k-1}(X_k - \rho X_{k-1})$
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- By our results, there exists a positive constant C such that

$$\forall n \geq 1, \quad \sup_{\theta \in \Theta} \sup_{u \in \mathbb{R}} \left| \mathbb{P}_{\theta, \delta_0} \left\{ \frac{\sqrt{n}}{\sigma_1(\theta)m(\theta)^{-1}} (\hat{\rho}_n - \rho_0) \leq u \right\} - \Gamma(u) \right| \leq \frac{C}{\sqrt{n}}.$$

Estimation of the conditional variance coefficient γ_0

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where

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- Define $\hat{\gamma}_n = \arg \min_{\gamma \in [m_\gamma, M_\gamma]} M_n(\gamma)$

Estimation of the coefficient γ_0 cont'd

- Define

- $F'(\gamma, X_{k-1}, X_k) = 2(\tau_0^2 - X_{k-1}^2)\eta_k(\gamma, \rho_0, \tau_0^2)$
- $F''(\gamma, X_{k-1}, X_k) = 2(\tau_0^2 - X_{k-1}^2)^2$
- $M'_n(\gamma) = \partial Q_n / \partial \gamma(\gamma; \rho_0, \tau_0^2)$
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- Check condition (V3) with $r_n = n^{-1} \log n$ and deduce that for some suitable $\tau(\theta)$

$$\forall n \geq 1, \quad \sup_{\theta \in \Theta} \sup_{u \in \mathbb{R}} \left| \mathbb{P}_{\theta, \delta_0} \left\{ \frac{\sqrt{n}}{\tau(\theta)} (\hat{\gamma}_n - \gamma_0) \leq u \right\} - \Gamma(u) \right| = O\left(\frac{\log n}{\sqrt{n}}\right).$$

Estimation of the coefficient γ_0 cont'd

- Define

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- The $\log n$ factor could be probably improved – open question...