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On the estimation of the functional Weibull tail-coefficient

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Abstract

We present a nonparametric family of estimators for the tail index of a Weibull tail-distribution when functional covariate is available. Our estimators are based on a kernel estimator of extreme conditional quantiles. Asymptotic normality of the estimators is proved under mild regularity conditions. Their finite sample performances are illustrated on simulated data.

Keywords – Conditional Weibull tail-coefficient, extreme quantiles, nonparametric estimation.

AMS Subject classifications – 62G32, 62G05, 62E20.

1 Introduction

Weibull tail-distributions encompass a variety of light-tailed distributions, such as Weibull, Gaussian, gamma and logistic distributions. Let us recall that a cumulative distribution function F has a Weibull tail if it satisfies the following property: there exists $\theta > 0$ such that for all $t > 0$,

$$\lim_{y \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log(1 - F(ty))}{\log(1 - F(y))} = t^{1/\theta}. \quad (1)$$

The parameter θ is referred to as the Weibull tail-coefficient. We refer to [7] for a general account on Weibull tail-distributions and to [6] for an application to the modeling of large claims in non-life insurance. Dedicated methods have been proposed to estimate the Weibull tail-coefficient since the relevant information is only contained in the extreme upper part of the sample denoted hereafter by Y_1, \dots, Y_n . A first direction was investigated in [8] where an estimator based on the record values is proposed. Another family of approaches [3, 4, 11, 17] consists of using the k_n upper order statistics $Y_{n-k_n+1,n} \leq \dots \leq Y_{n,n}$ where $k_n \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Note that, since θ is defined through an asymptotic behavior of the tail, the estimator should only use the extreme-values of the sample and thus the extra condition $k_n/n \rightarrow 0$ is required. More specifically, most recent estimators are based on the log-spacings between the k_n upper order statistics [7, 16, 22, 23, 24, 25]

Here, we focus on the situation where some covariate information X is recorded simultaneously with the quantity of interest Y . In the general case, the tail heaviness of Y given X depends on X , and thus the Weibull tail-coefficient is a function $\theta(X)$ of the covariate. Besides, covariates may be curves (climatic curves, electricity price/demand curves, medical curves, ...) in many situations

coming from applied sciences, see [10], paragraph 1.2.2. However, the estimation of the Weibull tail-coefficient with functional covariates has not been addressed yet. Our approach relies on the use of \hat{q}_n a functional kernel estimator of conditional quantiles, see [19] for an example. Similarly to the unconditional case, the estimation of $\theta(X)$ is based on the extreme observations of $Y|X$. Therefore, a close study of the asymptotic properties of \hat{q}_n when estimating extreme quantiles is necessary. Two statistical fields are thus involved in this study: nonparametric smoothing techniques adapted to functional data are required in order to deal with the covariate X while extreme-value analysis is used to study the tail behavior of $Y|X$.

The family of nonparametric functional estimators is introduced in Section 2 and its asymptotic normality is established. A particular sub-family of estimators is exhibited in Section 3 and their finite sample behavior is illustrated on some simulated data in Section 4. Proofs are postponed to Section 5.

2 Main result

Let (X_i, Y_i) , $i = 1, \dots, n$, be independent copies of a random pair $(X, Y) \in E \times \mathbb{R}$ where E is an arbitrary space associated to a metric d . The conditional survival function of Y given $X = x$ is denoted by $\bar{F}(y|x) := \mathbb{P}(Y > y|X = x)$, where $x \in E$. The associated conditional cumulative hazard function is defined by $H(y|x) := -\log \bar{F}(y|x)$ and the conditional quantile is given by

$$q(\alpha|x) := \bar{F}^{\leftarrow}(\alpha|x) = \inf\{t, \bar{F}(t|x) \leq \alpha\} = H^{\leftarrow}(\log(1/\alpha)|x),$$

for all $\alpha \in (0, 1)$. In this paper, we focus on conditional Weibull tail-distributions. In such a case, analogously to (1), $H(\cdot|x)$ is a regularly varying function with index $1/\theta(x)$, *i.e*

$$\lim_{y \rightarrow \infty} \frac{H(ty|x)}{H(y|x)} = t^{1/\theta(x)},$$

for all $t > 0$. In this situation, $\theta(\cdot)$ is an unknown positive function of the covariate $x \in E$ referred to as the functional Weibull tail-coefficient. One can show that the function $H^{\leftarrow}(\cdot|x)$ is also a regularly varying function with index $\theta(x)$ that is to say there exists a function $\ell(\cdot|x)$ such that

$$q(e^{-y}|x) = H^{\leftarrow}(y|x) = y^{\theta(x)} \ell(y|x). \quad (2)$$

It is readily seen that

$$\lim_{y \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ell(ty|x)}{\ell(y|x)} = 1 \quad (3)$$

for all $t > 0$ and $\ell(\cdot|x)$ is thus called a slowly-varying function, see [9] for a general account on regular variation theory. In view of (2), it appears that the functional Weibull tail-coefficient drives the asymptotic behavior of conditional extreme quantiles. The object of interest is thus $\theta(x)$ where x is in some arbitrary metric space (E, d) . The most usual case is $E = \mathbb{R}^p$, but our framework also includes the situation where E is infinite dimensional, for instance when x is a curve. We propose a family of estimators of $\theta(x)$ based on some properties of the log-spacings of the conditional

quantiles: Let $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ small enough and $\tau \in (0, 1)$,

$$\begin{aligned} \log q(\tau\alpha|x) - \log q(\alpha|x) &= \log H^{\leftarrow}(-\log(\tau\alpha)|x) - \log H^{\leftarrow}(-\log(\alpha)|x) \\ &= \theta(x)(\log_{-2}(\tau\alpha) - \log_{-2}(\alpha)) + \log\left(\frac{\ell(-\log(\tau\alpha)|x)}{\ell(-\log(\alpha)|x)}\right) \\ &\approx \theta(x)(\log_{-2}(\tau\alpha) - \log_{-2}(\alpha)) \approx \theta(x)\frac{\log(1/\tau)}{\log(1/\alpha)}, \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where $\log_{-2}(\cdot) := \log \log(1/\cdot)$, see Lemma 2 in the Appendix for a more precise asymptotic expansion. Hence, for a decreasing sequence $0 < \tau_J < \dots < \tau_1 \leq 1$, where J is a positive integer, and for all functions ϕ satisfying the shift and location invariance condition

(A.1) $\phi : \mathbb{R}^J \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a twice differentiable function such that

$$\begin{cases} \phi(\eta z) &= \eta \phi(z) \\ \phi(\eta u + z) &= \phi(z) \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

for all $\eta \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$, $z \in \mathbb{R}^J$ and where $u = (1, \dots, 1)^t \in \mathbb{R}^J$,

one has:

$$\theta(x) \approx \log(1/\alpha) \frac{\phi(\log q(\tau_1\alpha|x), \dots, \log q(\tau_J\alpha|x))}{\phi(\log(1/\tau_1), \dots, \log(1/\tau_J))}. \quad (6)$$

Thus, the estimation of $\theta(x)$ relies on the estimation of conditional quantiles $q(\cdot|x)$. This problem is addressed using a two-step estimator. First, $\bar{F}(y|x)$ is estimated by the kernel estimator defined for all $(x, y) \in E \times \mathbb{R}$ by

$$\hat{\bar{F}}_n(y|x) = \sum_{i=1}^n K(d(x, X_i)/h_n) \mathbb{I}\{Y_i > y\} \Bigg/ \sum_{i=1}^n K(d(x, X_i)/h_n), \quad (7)$$

where $\mathbb{I}\{\cdot\}$ is the indicator function and h_n is a nonrandom sequence such that $h_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. The function K is assumed to have a support included in $[0, 1]$ such that $C_1 \leq K(t) \leq C_2$ for all $t \in [0, 1]$ and for some constants $0 < C_1 < C_2 < \infty$. One may also assume without loss of generality that K integrates to one. In this case, K is called a type I kernel, see [20], Definition 4.1. Let $B(x, h_n)$ be the ball of center x and radius h_n , and introduce $\varphi_x(h_n) := \mathbb{P}(X \in B(x, h_n))$ the small ball probability of X . It is easily shown that the τ -th moment $\mu_x^{(\tau)}(h_n) := \mathbb{E}\{K^\tau(d(x, X)/h_n)\}$ can be controlled for all $\tau > 0$ as

$$0 < C_1^\tau \varphi_x(h_n) \leq \mu_x^{(\tau)}(h_n) \leq C_2^\tau \varphi_x(h_n). \quad (8)$$

The estimation of $\bar{F}(y|x)$ is well-documented in the nonparametric literature, see for instance the seminal papers [29, 32] in the case where E is finite dimensional ($E = \mathbb{R}^p$). The estimator was extended to the infinite dimensional setting for instance in [20], page 56. Its rate of uniform strong consistency is proved by [18] for a fixed value of y . Here, its asymptotic normality is established in Lemma 5 in the Appendix for $y = y_n \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, *i.e.* when estimating small tail probabilities from Weibull tail-distributions. Second, the kernel estimators of the conditional quantiles $q(\alpha|x)$ are defined via the generalized inverse of $\hat{\bar{F}}_n(\cdot|x)$:

$$\hat{q}_n(\alpha|x) = \hat{\bar{F}}_n^{\leftarrow}(\alpha|x) = \inf\{y, \hat{\bar{F}}_n(y|x) \leq \alpha\}, \quad (9)$$

for all $\alpha \in (0, 1)$. Many authors focused on the asymptotic properties of this estimator for fixed $\alpha \in (0, 1)$. Weak and strong consistency are proved respectively in [32] and [21]. Asymptotic normality is shown in [5, 30, 33] when E is finite dimensional and by [19] for a general metric space under dependence assumptions. Here, the asymptotic distribution of (9) is established when estimating extreme quantiles from Weibull tail-distributions, *i.e.* when $\alpha = \alpha_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. This new result is established in Lemma 6, see Appendix.

Basing on (6), the considered family of estimators is then given by

$$\hat{\theta}_n(x) = \log(1/\alpha_n) \frac{\phi(\log \hat{q}_n(\tau_1 \alpha_n | x), \dots, \log \hat{q}_n(\tau_J \alpha_n | x))}{\phi(\log(1/\tau_1), \dots, \log(1/\tau_J))}, \quad (10)$$

with $\alpha_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ and where the (extreme) conditional quantiles are estimated by (9). Model (2) is not sufficient to assess the convergence properties of $\hat{\theta}_n(x)$, additional assumptions have to be made on the slowly-varying function $\ell(\cdot|x)$. As remarked in [9], p.15, slowly-varying functions are of interest only asymptotically and thus, without loose of generality, one can assume that

(A.2) $\ell(\cdot|x)$ is a normalized slowly-varying function.

In such a case, the Karamata representation (see [9], Theorem 1.3.1) of the slowly-varying function can be written as

$$\ell(y|x) = c(x) \exp \left\{ - \int_1^y \frac{\varepsilon(u|x)}{u} du \right\}, \quad (11)$$

where $c(x) > 0$ and $\varepsilon(u|x) \rightarrow 0$ as $u \rightarrow \infty$. Under **(A.2)**, $\ell(\cdot|x)$ is differentiable and the auxiliary function $\varepsilon(\cdot|x)$ is given by $\varepsilon(y|x) = y\ell'(y|x)/\ell(y|x)$. This function plays an important role in extreme-value theory since it drives the speed of convergence in (3) and more generally the bias of extreme-value estimators. Therefore, it may be of interest to specify how it converges to 0:

(A.3) $|\varepsilon(\cdot|x)|$ is regularly varying.

This assumption is used for instance by [1, 26] in the unconditional case and the estimation of the regular variation parameter is addressed. Since the considered estimator involves a smoothing in the x direction, it is necessary to assess the regularity of the conditional survival function with respect to x . To this end, the oscillations are controlled by

$$\Delta \bar{F}(x, \alpha, \zeta, h) := \sup_{(x', \beta) \in B(x, h) \times [\alpha, \zeta]} \left| \frac{\bar{F}(q(\beta|x)|x')}{\bar{F}(q(\beta|x)|x)} - 1 \right| = \sup_{(x', \beta) \in B(x, h) \times [\alpha, \zeta]} \left| \frac{\bar{F}(q(\beta|x)|x')}{\beta} - 1 \right|,$$

where $(\alpha, \zeta) \in (0, 1)^2$. Finally, let $v = (\log(1/\tau_1), \dots, \log(1/\tau_J))^t \in \mathbb{R}^J$ and

$$\Lambda_n(x) = \left(n \alpha_n \frac{(\mu_x^{(1)}(h_n))^2}{\mu_x^{(2)}(h_n)} \right)^{-1/2}.$$

The following result establishes the asymptotic normality of estimator (10).

Theorem 1. Under model (2), suppose (A.1)–(A.3) hold. Let $x \in E$ such that $\varphi_x(h_n) > 0$ where $h_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. If $\alpha_n \rightarrow 0$,

$$\sqrt{n\varphi_x(h_n)\alpha_n\varepsilon(q(\alpha_n|x)|x))} \rightarrow \lambda \quad (12)$$

and there exists $\eta > 0$ such that $n\varphi_x(h_n)\alpha_n \rightarrow \infty$ and

$$\sqrt{n\varphi_x(h_n)\alpha_n}\{\Delta\bar{F}(x, (1-\eta)\tau_J\alpha_n, (1+\eta)\alpha_n, h_n) \vee 1/\log(1/\alpha_n)\} \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty, \quad (13)$$

then, $\Lambda_n^{-1}(x)(\hat{\theta}_n(x) - \theta(x)) \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N}(\mu_\phi, \theta^2(x)V_\phi)$ with

$$\mu_\phi = \lambda v^t \nabla \log \phi(v), \quad V_\phi = (\nabla \log \phi(v))^t \Sigma (\nabla \log \phi(v)). \quad (14)$$

and where $\Sigma_{j,j'} = \tau_{j \wedge j'}^{-1}$ for $(j, j') \in \{1, \dots, J\}^2$.

As pointed out in [14], $n\varphi_x(h_n)\alpha_n \rightarrow \infty$ is a necessary and sufficient condition for the almost sure presence of at least one sample point in the region $B(x, h_n) \times (q(\alpha_n|x), \infty)$ of $E \times \mathbb{R}$. This condition states that one cannot estimate small tail probabilities out of the sample using the kernel estimator (7). Condition (13) imposes that the (squared) bias induced by the smoothing should be negligible compared to the variance of the estimator. Let us note that the condition (12) is standard in the extreme-value framework. Neglecting the slowly-varying in the construction (4) of $\hat{\theta}_n(x)$ yields a bias that should be of the same order as the standard deviation $1/\sqrt{n\varphi_x(h_n)\alpha_n}$ of the estimator. Finally, the asymptotic variance V_ϕ does not depend on the distribution of $Y|X = x$. It is thus possible to look for functions ϕ and for sequences $\tau_J < \dots < \tau_1$ minimizing V_ϕ . This problem is addressed in the next section.

3 Example

In this section, we focus on a particular family of functions ϕ given by:

$$\phi^{(p)}(z) = \left(\sum_{j=2}^J \beta_j (z_j - z_1)^p \right)^{1/p},$$

where $z = (z_1, \dots, z_J)^t \in \mathbb{R}^J$, $p \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$ and for all $j \in \{2, \dots, J\}$, $\beta_j \in \mathbb{R}$. It is clear that assumption (A.1) is satisfied and the corresponding estimator of θ writes:

$$\hat{\theta}_n^{(p)}(x) = \log(1/\alpha_n) \left(\sum_{j=2}^J \beta_j [\log \hat{q}_n(\tau_j \alpha_n | x) - \log \hat{q}_n(\tau_1 \alpha_n | x)]^p \bigg/ \sum_{j=2}^J \beta_j [\log(\tau_1/\tau_j)]^p \right)^{1/p}. \quad (15)$$

Taking $\beta_2 = \dots = \beta_J$ leads to an estimator analogous to the one proposed in [31] for unconditional heavy-tailed distributions. If furthermore $p = 1$, (15) corresponds to a functional version of the estimator proposed in [22]:

$$\hat{\theta}_n^{(1)}(x) = \log(1/\alpha_n) \sum_{j=1}^J [\log \hat{q}_n(\tau_j \alpha_n | x) - \log \hat{q}_n(\alpha_n | x)] \bigg/ \sum_{j=1}^J \log(1/\tau_j).$$

It can also be read as an adaptation of the kernel tail-index estimator introduced in [14] in a finite dimensional setting for conditional heavy-tailed distributions to conditional Weibull tail-distributions. As a consequence of Theorem 1, the associated asymptotic mean and variance of $\hat{\theta}_n^{(p)}(x)$ defined in (14) are given for an arbitrary vector β by $\mu = \lambda$ and

$$V^{(p)} = \frac{(\eta^{(p)})^t A \Sigma A^t \eta^{(p)}}{(\eta^{(p)})^t A v v^t A^t \eta^{(p)}},$$

where A is the $(J-1) \times J$ matrix defined by $A = [I_{J-1}, -u]$ with I_{J-1} the $(J-1) \times (J-1)$ identity matrix and $\eta^{(p)} = (\beta_j(v_j - v_1), j = 2, \dots, J)^t$. Let us emphasize that the asymptotic bias μ does not depend neither on p and nor on the weights $\{\beta_j, j = 2, \dots, J\}$. At the opposite, the asymptotic variance $V^{(p)}$ depends both on p and on the weights but only through the vector $\eta^{(p)}$. It is thus possible to minimize $V^{(p)}$ with respect to $\eta^{(p)}$:

Proposition 1. *The asymptotic variance of $\hat{\theta}_n^{(p)}(x)$ is minimal for $\eta^{(p)}$ proportional to $\eta_{\text{opt}} = (A \Sigma A^t)^{-1} A v$ and is given by*

$$V_{\text{opt}} = \frac{1}{(A v)^t (A \Sigma A^t)^{-1} A v}.$$

Moreover, for a fixed value of J , it is possible to minimize numerically the optimal variance V_{opt} given by Proposition 1 with respect to $0 < \tau_J < \dots < \tau_1 \leq 1$. The resulting values of V_{opt} are displayed in Table 1. The finite sample performance of the associated estimators are illustrated on simulated data in Section 4.

4 Numerical experiments

Experimental setup. In this section, the finite sample performance of the estimator (15) associated with optimal weights is investigated. For $j = 2, \dots, J$, we thus take $\beta_j = \eta_{\text{opt},j}(v_j - v_1)^{1-p}$ where the vector $\eta_{\text{opt}} \in \mathbb{R}^{J-1}$ is given in Proposition 1. Besides, the sequence τ_1, \dots, τ_J is selected by minimizing the asymptotic variance V_{opt} , see Table 1. Some preliminary simulations showed that the choice of a length $J > 5$ did not improve the results, we thus take in the following $J = 5$. The value of p is taken in the set $\{1, 2, 3\}$. The estimator (7) of the survival function is computed with a modified version of the bi-quadratic kernel given by

$$K(u) = \frac{10}{9} \left(\frac{3}{2} (1 - u^2)^2 + \frac{1}{10} \right) \mathbb{I}\{|u| \leq 1\}.$$

Note that, as required, K is a type I kernel. The set E considered here is a subset of $L^2([0, 1])$ made of trigonometric functions $\psi_z : [0, 1] \mapsto [0, 1]$, $\psi_z(t) = \cos(2\pi z t)$ with different periods indexed by $z \in [1/10, 1/2]$. Two distances are considered:

$$d_1(\psi_z, \psi_{z'}) = \left| \|\psi_z\|_2^2 - \|\psi_{z'}\|_2^2 \right| \text{ and } d_2(\psi_z, \psi_{z'}) = \|\psi_z - \psi_{z'}\|_2,$$

for all $(z, z') \in [1/10, 1/2]^2$, where

$$\|\psi_z\|_2^2 = \int_0^1 \psi_z(t) dt = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{\sin(4\pi z)}{4\pi z} \right).$$

The distance d_2 is built on the classical L_2 norm while d_1 measures some spacing between the periods of the trigonometric functions. The covariate X is chosen randomly on E by considering

$X = \psi_Z$ where Z is a uniform random variable on $[1/10, 1/2]$. Some examples of simulated random functions X are depicted on Figure 1. For a given function $x \in E$, the generalized inverse of the conditional hazard function $H(\cdot|x)$ is given for $y \geq 0$ by

$$H^{\leftarrow}(y|x) = y^{\theta(x)} \left(1 - \frac{y^\rho}{10}\right),$$

where $\rho < 0$ and $\theta(x) = (20\|x\|_2^2 + 1)^{-1} + 1/40$. Note that in this situation

$$\ell(y|x) = 1 - y^\rho/10 \text{ and } \varepsilon(y|x) \sim -\rho y^\rho/10,$$

and thus assumption **(A.3)** holds since $\varepsilon(\cdot|x)$ is a regularly varying function with index ρ . As it can be seen in Lemma 2, the parameter ρ tunes the difficulty of the problem: for large values of ρ , approximation (4) becomes unreliable and some bias is expected in the estimation. Here, the experiments are conducted using two values of $\rho \in \{-1/2, -1\}$. For each case, $N = 100$ samples of size $n = 1000$ were generated. The selection of the two remaining parameters h_n and α_n is addressed in the next paragraph.

Selection of the bandwidth h_n and the sequence α_n . The choice of the smoothing parameter h_n is a recurrent issue in nonparametric estimation while the selection of α_n is equivalent to the choice of the number of upper order statistics in the non-conditional extreme-value theory. It is still an open question, even though some techniques have been proposed, see for instance [13] for a bootstrap based method. We propose a procedure to select simultaneously h_n and α_n basing on the following remark. For a fixed x , let $\{Z_1(x, h_n), \dots, Z_{m_n}(x, h_n)\}$ be the m_n random values Y_i for which $X_i \in B(x, h_n)$. According to the result obtained in [16], equation (6), if the sequences h_n and α_n are well chosen then the rescaled log-spacings

$$\{i \log(m_n/i)(\log Z_{m_n-i+1, m_n}(x, h_n) - \log Z_{m_n-i, m_n}(x, h_n)), i = 1, \dots, \lfloor m_n \alpha_n \rfloor\},$$

should be approximately independent with an exponential distribution of parameter $\theta(x)$. For each values of h in the set $\mathcal{H} = \{h_i, i = 1, \dots, M_h\}$ and α in the set $\mathcal{A} = \{\alpha_j, j = 1, \dots, M_\alpha\}$ a Kolmogorov-Smirnov test is performed and the obtained p -value $KS(h, \alpha)$ is recorded. We then select the optimal sequences h_{opt} and α_{opt} such that

$$(h_{opt}, \alpha_{opt}) = \arg \max_{h \in \mathcal{H}, \alpha \in \mathcal{A}} KS(h, \alpha).$$

In practice, we take $M_h = M_\alpha = 30$, $\mathcal{A} = \{0.05, \dots, 0.3\}$ and $\mathcal{H} = \{0.03, \dots, 1.5\}$.

Results. The empirical mean and the empirical mean squared error (MSE) obtained with the sequences h_{opt} and α_{opt} are represented as a function of z for each value of ρ and p on Figure 2 (distance d_1) and Figure 3 (distance d_2). As expected, it appears that the bias is smaller when $\rho = -1$ than when $\rho = -1/2$. One can also observe that the behaviour of the biases and of the empirical MSEs are similar for all values of p according to Proposition 1. Comparing the results obtained with d_1 and d_2 , it appears that only d_1 allows to recover the shape of the Weibull tail-coefficient. As a consequence, distance d_1 also provides better result than d_2 in terms of MSE.

Conclusion. To summarize, the estimator $\hat{\theta}_n^{(p)}(x)$ gives satisfying results when combined with optimal weights (see Proposition 1 and Table 1). It is fully data-driven thanks to an automatic selection procedure of the bandwidth h_n and of the sequence α_n . The estimator is very sensitive with respect to the choice of the distance d . We refer to [20], Chapter 3, for a discussion on the definition of a well-adapted metric to a particular estimation problem. A possible extension of this work would be to implement a bias reduction technique based on the estimation of the index of regular variation in (A.3) similarly to [12] in the unconditional setting and for heavy-tailed distributions. However, as stressed in [2], this adaptation should be conducted with great care.

5 Proofs

5.1 Preliminary results

Let us start with two analytical results. The first lemma provides a sufficient condition under which $\bar{F}(\cdot|x)$ preserves the equivalency property between sequences.

Lemma 1. *Suppose (2) and (A.2) hold. Let (u_n) and (v_n) be two sequences such that $u_n \rightarrow \infty$ and*

$$H(u_n|x) \left(\frac{v_n}{u_n} - 1 \right) \rightarrow 0,$$

as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Then, $\bar{F}(u_n|x)/\bar{F}(v_n|x) \rightarrow 1$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Proof of Lemma 1. Under (A.2), $H(\cdot|x)$ is differentiable and a first order Taylor expansion yields that there exists w_n between u_n and v_n such that:

$$\bar{F}(u_n|x)/\bar{F}(v_n|x) = \exp\{H(v_n|x) - H(u_n|x)\} = \exp\{(v_n - u_n)H'(w_n|x)\}.$$

Besides, under (A.2),

$$(H^\leftarrow)'(y|x) = y^{\theta(x)-1} \ell(y|x)(\theta(x) + \varepsilon(y|x)),$$

and thus $(H^\leftarrow)'(\cdot|x)$ is a regularly varying function with index $\theta(x) - 1$. Moreover, since $H'(\cdot|x) = 1/(H^\leftarrow)'(H(\cdot|x)|x)$, it is clear that $H'(\cdot|x)$ is regularly varying with index $1/\theta(x) - 1$. As a consequence, $w_n \sim u_n$ implies $H'(w_n|x) \sim H'(u_n|x)$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Thus,

$$(v_n - u_n)H'(w_n|x) \sim H(u_n|x) \left(\frac{v_n}{u_n} - 1 \right) \frac{u_n H'(u_n|x)}{H(u_n|x)} \sim H(u_n|x) \left(\frac{v_n}{u_n} - 1 \right) \frac{1}{\theta(x)},$$

concludes the proof. ■

The second lemma establishes an asymptotic expansion of the log-spacing between two extreme conditional quantiles. It justifies the heuristic approximation used in (4).

Lemma 2. *Suppose (2), (A.2) and (A.3) hold. Let $0 < \tau \leq 1$ and $\alpha_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Then,*

$$\log q(\tau\alpha_n|x) - \log q(\alpha_n|x) = \frac{\log(1/\tau)}{\log(1/\alpha_n)} \left(\theta(x) + \varepsilon(\log(1/\alpha_n)|x)(1 + o(1)) + O\left(\frac{1}{\log(1/\alpha_n)}\right) \right).$$

Proof of Lemma 2. In view of (2), we have

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta_n &:= \log q(\tau\alpha_n|x) - \log q(\alpha_n|x) \\ &= \theta(x)[\log_{-2}(\tau\alpha_n) - \log_{-2}(\alpha_n)] + \log \ell(\log(1/\tau\alpha_n)|x) - \log \ell(\log(1/\alpha_n)|x) \\ &= \theta(x)[\log_{-2}(\tau\alpha_n) - \log_{-2}(\alpha_n)] + \psi(\log(1/\tau\alpha_n)|x) - \psi(\log(1/\alpha_n)|x),\end{aligned}$$

where $\psi(\cdot|x) := \log \ell(\cdot|x)$. Under **(A.2)**, $\psi(\cdot|x)$ is differentiable and a first order Taylor expansion thus yields that there exists $\eta_n \in (\tau\alpha_n, \alpha_n)$ such that

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta_n &= \theta(x)[\log_{-2}(\tau\alpha_n) - \log_{-2}(\alpha_n)] + \log(1/\tau)\psi'(\log(1/\eta_n)|x) \\ &= \theta(x)[\log_{-2}(\tau\alpha_n) - \log_{-2}(\alpha_n)] + \frac{\log(1/\tau)}{\log(1/\eta_n)}\varepsilon(\log(1/\eta_n)|x),\end{aligned}$$

where $\varepsilon(\cdot|x)$ is defined in (11). Since $\log(1/\eta_n)$ is asymptotically equivalent to $\log(1/\alpha_n)$ and in view of **(A.3)**, we have

$$\Delta_n = \theta(x)[\log_{-2}(\tau\alpha_n) - \log_{-2}(\alpha_n)] + \frac{\log(1/\tau)}{\log(1/\alpha_n)}\varepsilon(\log(1/\alpha_n)|x)(1 + o(1)).$$

Finally, remarking that

$$\log_{-2}(\tau\alpha_n) - \log_{-2}(\alpha_n) = \frac{\log(1/\tau)}{\log(1/\alpha_n)} + O\left(\frac{1}{\log^2(1/\alpha_n)}\right),$$

the conclusion follows. ■

We are now interested in the asymptotic normality of $\hat{F}_n(y_n|x)$ when $y_n \rightarrow \infty$. First, let us remark that the kernel estimator (7) can be rewritten as $\hat{F}_n(y|x) = \hat{\psi}_n(y, x)/\hat{g}_n(x)$ with

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\psi}_n(y, x) &= \frac{1}{n\mu_x^{(1)}(h_n)} \sum_{i=1}^n K(d(x, X_i)/h_n) \mathbb{I}\{Y_i > y\}, \\ \hat{g}_n(x) &= \frac{1}{n\mu_x^{(1)}(h_n)} \sum_{i=1}^n K(d(x, X_i)/h_n).\end{aligned}$$

The next lemmas are dedicated to the asymptotic properties of \hat{g}_n and $\hat{\psi}_n$.

Lemma 3. *Let $x \in E$ such that $\varphi_x(h_n) > 0$. If $\varphi_x(h_n) \rightarrow 0$ and $n\varphi_x(h_n) \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, then $\hat{g}_n(x) = 1 + O_{\mathbb{P}}((n\varphi_x(h_n))^{-1/2})$.*

Proof of Lemma 3. It is clear that $\mathbb{E}(\hat{g}_n(x)) = 1$. Besides, standard calculations yields

$$n\varphi_x(h)\text{var}(\hat{g}_n(x)) = \varphi_x(h_n) \left(\frac{\mu_x^{(2)}(h_n)}{(\mu_x^{(1)}(h_n))^2} - 1 \right)$$

and (8) entails

$$(C_1/C_2)^2 \leq \varphi_x(h_n) \frac{\mu_x^{(2)}(h_n)}{(\mu_x^{(1)}(h_n))^2} \leq (C_2/C_1)^2.$$

The condition $\varphi_x(h_n) \rightarrow 0$ concludes the proof. ■

Lemma 4. Suppose (2) and (A.2) hold. Let $x \in E$ such that $\varphi_x(h_n) > 0$ where $h_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ and introduce $0 < \tau_J < \dots < \tau_1 \leq 1$ where J is a positive integer. Consider $\alpha_n \rightarrow 0$ such that $n\varphi_x(h_n)\alpha_n \rightarrow \infty$ and $\Delta\bar{F}(x, (1-\eta)\tau_J\alpha_n, (1+\eta)\alpha_n, h_n) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ for some $\eta > 0$. Let $y_{n,j} := q(\tau_j\alpha_n|x)(1 + o(1/\log(1/\alpha_n)))$ for all $j = 1, \dots, J$. Then,

(i) $\mathbb{E}(\hat{\psi}_n(y_{n,j}, x)) = \bar{F}(y_{n,j}|x)(1 + O(\Delta\bar{F}(x, (1-\eta)\tau_J\alpha_n, (1+\eta)\alpha_n, h_n)))$, for $j = 1, \dots, J$.

(ii) The random vector

$$\left\{ \Lambda_n^{-1}(x) \left(\frac{\hat{\psi}_n(y_{n,j}, x) - \mathbb{E}(\hat{\psi}_n(y_{n,j}, x))}{\bar{F}(y_{n,j}|x)} \right) \right\}_{j=1, \dots, J}$$

is asymptotically Gaussian, centered, with covariance matrix Σ where $\Sigma_{j,j'} = \tau_{j \wedge j'}^{-1}$ for $(j, j') \in \{1, \dots, J\}^2$.

Proof of Lemma 4. (i) Since the (X_i, Y_i) , $i = 1, \dots, n$ are identically distributed, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(\hat{\psi}_n(y_{n,j}, x)) &= \frac{1}{\mu_x^{(1)}(h_n)} \mathbb{E}\{K(d(x, X)/h_n) \mathbb{I}\{Y > y_{n,j}\}\} \\ &= \frac{1}{\mu_x^{(1)}(h_n)} \mathbb{E}\{K(d(x, X)/h_n) \bar{F}(y_{n,j}|X)\}. \end{aligned}$$

Let us now consider

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon_{n,j} &= \mathbb{E}(\hat{\psi}_n(y_{n,j}, x)) - \bar{F}(y_{n,j}|x) \\ &= \frac{1}{\mu_x^{(1)}(h_n)} \mathbb{E}(K(d(x, X)/h_n)(\bar{F}(y_{n,j}|X) - \bar{F}(y_{n,j}|x))) \\ &= \frac{\bar{F}(y_{n,j}|x)}{\mu_x^{(1)}(h_n)} \mathbb{E}\left(K(d(x, X)/h_n) \left(\frac{\bar{F}(y_{n,j}|X)}{\bar{F}(y_{n,j}|x)} - 1\right)\right). \end{aligned}$$

In view of Lemma 1, $\bar{F}(y_{n,j}|x) \sim \tau_j\alpha_n$ and thus $\bar{F}(y_{n,j}|x) \in [\tau_J(1-\eta)\alpha_n, (1+\eta)\alpha_n]$ eventually, for all $j = 1, \dots, J$. Consequently,

$$\left| \frac{\bar{F}(y_{n,j}|X)}{\bar{F}(y_{n,j}|x)} - 1 \right| \mathbb{I}\{d(x, X) \leq h_n\} \leq \Delta\bar{F}(x, (1-\eta)\tau_J\alpha_n, (1+\eta)\alpha_n, h_n)$$

eventually and therefore

$$|\varepsilon_{n,j}| \leq \bar{F}(y_{n,j}|x) \Delta\bar{F}(x, (1-\eta)\tau_J\alpha_n, (1+\eta)\alpha_n, h_n)$$

which concludes the first part of the proof.

(ii) Let $\beta \neq 0$ in \mathbb{R}^J and consider the random variable

$$\Psi_n := \sum_{j=1}^J \beta_j \left(\frac{\hat{\psi}_n(y_{n,j}, x) - \mathbb{E}(\hat{\psi}_n(y_{n,j}, x))}{\Lambda_n(x) \bar{F}(y_{n,j}|x)} \right) =: \sum_{i=1}^n Z_{i,n}.$$

where, for $i = 1, \dots, n$,

$$Z_{i,n} := \frac{1}{n\Lambda_n(x)\mu_x^{(1)}(h_n)} \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{\beta_j K(d(x, X_i)/h_n) \mathbb{I}\{Y_i \geq y_{n,j}\}}{\bar{F}(y_{n,j}|x)} - \mathbb{E} \left(\sum_{j=1}^J \frac{\beta_j K(d(x, X_i)/h_n) \mathbb{I}\{Y_i \geq y_{n,j}\}}{\bar{F}(y_{n,j}|x)} \right) \right\}$$

is a set of centered, independent and identically distributed random variables with variance

$$\begin{aligned} \text{var}(Z_{i,n}) &= \frac{1}{n^2 \Lambda_n^2(x) (\mu_x^{(1)}(h_n))^2} \text{var} \left(\sum_{j=1}^J \beta_j K(d(x, X_i)/h_n) \frac{\mathbb{I}\{Y_i \geq y_{n,j}\}}{\bar{F}(y_{n,j}|x)} \right) \\ &=: \frac{\alpha_n}{n\mu_x^{(2)}(h_n)} \beta^t B \beta, \end{aligned}$$

where B is the $J \times J$ covariance matrix with coefficients defined for $(j, j') \in \{1, \dots, J\}^2$ by

$$\begin{aligned} B_{j,j'} &= \frac{A_{j,j'}}{\bar{F}(y_{n,j}|x) \bar{F}(y_{n,j'}|x)}, \\ A_{j,j'} &= \text{cov} \left(K(d(x, X)/h_n) \mathbb{I}\{Y \geq y_{n,j}\}, K(d(x, X)/h_n) \mathbb{I}\{Y \geq y_{n,j'}\} \right) \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left(K^2(d(x, X)/h_n) \mathbb{I}\{Y \geq y_{n,j} \vee y_{n,j'}\} \right) \\ &\quad - \mathbb{E}(K(d(x, X)/h_n) \mathbb{I}\{Y \geq y_{n,j}\}) \mathbb{E}(K(d(x, X)/h_n) \mathbb{I}\{Y \geq y_{n,j'}\}), \end{aligned}$$

where K^2 is a kernel with the same properties as K . As a consequence, the three above expectations are of the same nature. Thus, remarking that eventually $y_{n,j} \vee y_{n,j'} = y_{n,j \vee j'}$, part **(i)** of the proof implies

$$\begin{aligned} A_{j,j'}(x) &= \mu_x^{(2)}(h_n) \bar{F}(y_{n,j \vee j'}|x) (1 + O(\Delta \bar{F}(x, (1-\eta)\tau_J \alpha_n, (1+\eta)\alpha_n, h_n))) \\ &\quad - (\mu_x^{(1)}(h_n))^2 \bar{F}(y_{n,j}|x) \bar{F}(y_{n,j'}|x) (1 + O(\Delta \bar{F}(x, (1-\eta)\tau_J \alpha_n, (1+\eta)\alpha_n, h_n))) \end{aligned}$$

leading to

$$\begin{aligned} B_{j,j'}(x) \frac{\bar{F}(y_{n,j \wedge j'}|x)}{\mu_x^{(2)}(h_n)} &= 1 + O(\Delta \bar{F}(x, (1-\eta)\tau_J \alpha_n, (1+\eta)\alpha_n, h_n)) \\ &\quad - \frac{(\mu_x^{(1)}(h_n))^2}{\mu_x^{(2)}(h_n)} \bar{F}(y_{n,j \wedge j'}|x) (1 + O(\Delta \bar{F}(x, (1-\eta)\tau_J \alpha_n, (1+\eta)\alpha_n, h_n))). \end{aligned}$$

In view of (8), $(\mu_x^{(1)}(h_n))^2 / \mu_x^{(2)}(h_n)$ is bounded and taking account of $\bar{F}(y_{n,j \wedge j'}|x) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ yields

$$B_{j,j'}(x) = \frac{\mu_x^{(2)}(h_n)}{\bar{F}(y_{n,j \wedge j'}|x)} (1 + o(1)).$$

Now, Lemma 1 implies that

$$\bar{F}(y_{n,j \wedge j'}|x) \sim \bar{F}(q(\tau_{j \wedge j'} \alpha_n|x)|x) = \tau_{j \wedge j'} \alpha_n$$

entailing

$$B_{j,j'} = \frac{\mu_x^{(2)}(h_n) \Sigma_{j,j'}}{\alpha_n} (1 + o(1)),$$

and therefore, $\text{var}(Z_{i,n}) \sim \beta^t \Sigma \beta / n$, for all $i = 1, \dots, n$. As a preliminary conclusion, the variance of Ψ_n converges to $\beta^t \Sigma \beta$. Consequently, Lyapounov criteria for the asymptotic normality of sums of triangular arrays reduces to $\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E} |Z_{i,n}|^3 = n \mathbb{E} |Z_{1,n}|^3 \rightarrow 0$. Remark that $Z_{1,n}$ is a bounded random variable:

$$\begin{aligned} |Z_{1,n}| &\leq \frac{2C_2 \sum_{j=1}^J |\beta_j|}{n \Lambda_n(x) \mu_x^{(1)}(h_n) \bar{F}(y_{n,J}|x)} \\ &= 2C_2 \tau_J^{-1} \frac{\mu_x^{(1)}(h_n)}{\mu_x^{(2)}(h_n)} \sum_{j=1}^J |\beta_j| \Lambda_n(x) (1 + o(1)) \\ &\leq 2(C_2/C_1)^2 \tau_J^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^J |\beta_j| \Lambda_n(x) (1 + o(1)), \end{aligned}$$

in view of (8) and thus,

$$\begin{aligned} n \mathbb{E} |Z_{1,n}|^3 &\leq 2(C_2/C_1)^2 \tau_J^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^J |\beta_j| \Lambda_n(x) n \text{var}(Z_{1,n}) (1 + o(1)) \\ &= 2(C_2/C_1)^2 \tau_J^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^J |\beta_j| \beta^t \Sigma \beta \Lambda_n(x) (1 + o(1)) \rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

as $n \rightarrow \infty$ in view of (8). As a conclusion, Ψ_n converges in distribution to a centered Gaussian random variable with variance $\beta^t \Sigma \beta$ for all $\beta \neq 0$ in \mathbb{R}^J . The result is proved. \blacksquare

Lemma 5 below establishes the asymptotic distribution of \hat{F}_n in the situation of estimating small tail probabilities. It thus may be compared to [14], Theorem 1 and [15], Proposition 1. In the first mentioned paper, a similar result is established in the finite dimensional setting and under the assumption that the conditional distribution of Y given X is heavy-tailed. In the second paper, the heavy-tailed assumption is replaced by a von-Mises condition covering different tail behaviors but under the strong condition that the hazard function $H(\cdot|x)$ is twice differentiable.

Lemma 5. *Suppose (2) and (A.2) hold. Let $x \in E$ such that $\varphi_x(h_n) > 0$ where $h_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ and introduce $0 < \tau_J < \dots < \tau_1 \leq 1$, where J is a positive integer. Consider $\alpha_n \rightarrow 0$ such that $n\varphi_x(h_n)\alpha_n \rightarrow \infty$ and $n\varphi_x(h_n)\alpha_n(\Delta \bar{F})^2(x, (1-\eta)\tau_J\alpha_n, (1+\eta)\alpha_n, h_n) \rightarrow 0$ for some $\eta > 0$. Let $y_{n,j} := q(\tau_j\alpha_n|x)(1 + o(1/\log(1/\alpha_n)))$ for all $j = 1, \dots, J$. Then, the random vector*

$$\left\{ \Lambda_n^{-1}(x) \left(\frac{\hat{F}_n(y_{n,j}|x)}{\bar{F}(y_{n,j}|x)} - 1 \right) \right\}_{j=1, \dots, J}$$

is asymptotically Gaussian, centered, with covariance matrix Σ defined in Lemma 4.

Proof of Lemma 5. Keeping in mind the notations of Lemma 4, the following expansion holds

$$\Lambda_n^{-1}(x) \sum_{j=1}^J \beta_j \left(\frac{\hat{F}_n(y_{n,j}|x)}{\bar{F}(y_{n,j}|x)} - 1 \right) = \frac{\Delta_{1,n} + \Delta_{2,n} - \Delta_{3,n}}{\hat{g}_n(x)}, \quad (16)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{1,n} &= \Lambda_n^{-1}(x) \sum_{j=1}^J \beta_j \left(\frac{\hat{\psi}_n(y_{n,j}, x) - \mathbb{E}(\hat{\psi}_n(y_{n,j}, x))}{\bar{F}(y_{n,j}|x)} \right) \\ \Delta_{2,n} &= \Lambda_n^{-1}(x) \sum_{j=1}^J \beta_j \left(\frac{\mathbb{E}(\hat{\psi}_n(y_{n,j}, x)) - \bar{F}(y_{n,j}|x)}{\bar{F}(y_{n,j}|x)} \right) \\ \Delta_{3,n} &= \left(\sum_{j=1}^J \beta_j \right) \Lambda_n^{-1}(x) (\hat{g}_n(x) - 1). \end{aligned}$$

From Lemma 4(ii), the random term $\Delta_{1,n}$ can be rewritten as

$$\Delta_{1,n} = \sqrt{\beta^t \Sigma \beta} \xi_n, \quad (17)$$

where ξ_n converges to a standard Gaussian random variable. The nonrandom term $\Delta_{2,n}$ is controlled with Lemma 4(i):

$$\Delta_{2,n} = O(\Lambda_n^{-1}(x) \Delta \bar{F}(x, (1-\eta)\tau_J \alpha_n, (1+\eta)\alpha_n, h_n)) = o(1). \quad (18)$$

Finally, $\Delta_{3,n}$ is a classical term in kernel density estimation. From Lemma 3,

$$\Delta_{3,n} = O_{\mathbb{P}}(\Lambda_n^{-1}(x)(n\varphi_x(h_n))^{-1/2}) = O_{\mathbb{P}}(\alpha_n)^{1/2} = o_{\mathbb{P}}(1). \quad (19)$$

Collecting (16)–(19), it follows that

$$\hat{g}_n(x) \Lambda_n^{-1}(x) \sum_{j=1}^J \beta_j \left(\frac{\hat{F}_n(y_{n,j}|x)}{\bar{F}(y_{n,j}|x)} - 1 \right) = \sqrt{\beta^t \Sigma \beta} \xi_n + o_{\mathbb{P}}(1).$$

Finally, Lemma 3 entails that $\hat{g}_n(x) \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 1$ which concludes the proof. \blacksquare

The next lemma establishes the asymptotic normality of the kernel estimator $\hat{q}_n(\alpha_n|x)$ of a conditional extreme quantile. Note that this result can be obtained directly from [15], Corollary 1 in the finite dimensional setting, but under the strong condition that the hazard function $H(\cdot|x)$ is twice differentiable.

Lemma 6. *Suppose (2) and (A.2) hold. Let $0 < \tau_J < \dots < \tau_1 \leq 1$ where J is a positive integer and $x \in E$ such that $\varphi_x(h_n) > 0$ where $h_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. If $\alpha_n \rightarrow 0$ and there exists $\eta > 0$ such that*

$$n\varphi_x(h_n)\alpha_n \rightarrow \infty, \quad n\varphi_x(h_n)\alpha_n(\Delta \bar{F})^2(x, (1-\eta)\tau_J \alpha_n, (1+\eta)\alpha_n, h_n) \rightarrow 0,$$

then, the random vector

$$\left\{ \log(1/\alpha_n) \Lambda_n^{-1}(x) \left(\frac{\hat{q}_n(\tau_j \alpha_n|x)}{q(\tau_j \alpha_n|x)} - 1 \right) \right\}_{j=1, \dots, J}$$

is asymptotically Gaussian, centered, with covariance matrix $\theta^2(x)\Sigma$ where Σ is defined in Lemma 4.

Proof of Lemma 6. Introduce for $j = 1, \dots, J$, $\alpha_{n,j} = \tau_j \alpha_n$,

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{n,j}(x) &= \theta(x)q(\alpha_{n,j}|x)\Lambda_n(x)/\log(1/\alpha_n) \\ v_{n,j}(x) &= \alpha_{n,j}^{-1}\Lambda_n^{-1}(x) \\ W_{n,j}(x) &= v_{n,j}(x) \left(\hat{\bar{F}}_n(q(\alpha_{n,j}|x) + \sigma_{n,j}(x)z_j|x) - \bar{F}(q(\alpha_{n,j}|x) + \sigma_{n,j}(x)z_j|x) \right) \\ a_{n,j}(x) &= v_{n,j}(x) (\alpha_{n,j} - \bar{F}(q(\alpha_{n,j}|x) + \sigma_{n,j}(x)z_j|x))\end{aligned}$$

and $z_j \in \mathbb{R}$. We examine the asymptotic behavior of J -variate function defined by

$$\Phi_n(z_1, \dots, z_J) = \mathbb{P} \left(\bigcap_{j=1}^J \left\{ \sigma_{n,j}^{-1}(x) (\hat{q}_n(\alpha_{n,j}|x) - q(\alpha_{n,j}|x)) \leq z_j \right\} \right) = \mathbb{P} \left(\bigcap_{j=1}^J \{W_{n,j}(x) \leq a_{n,j}(x)\} \right).$$

Let us first focus on the nonrandom term $a_{n,j}(x)$. From assumption **(A.2)**, $\bar{F}(\cdot|x)$ is differentiable. Thus, a first order Taylor expansion yields that, for each $j \in \{1, \dots, J\}$, there exists $\zeta_{n,j} \in (0, 1)$ such that

$$\bar{F}(q(\alpha_{n,j}|x)|x) - \bar{F}(q(\alpha_{n,j}|x) + \sigma_{n,j}(x)z_j|x) = \sigma_{n,j}(x)z_j f(q_{n,j}|x), \quad (20)$$

with $q_{n,j} = q(\alpha_{n,j}|x) + \zeta_{n,j}\sigma_{n,j}(x)z_j$ and where $f(\cdot|x) = -\bar{F}'(\cdot|x)$ is the conditional density function. Applying Lemma 1 yields for $j = 1, \dots, J$,

$$\frac{\bar{F}(q_{n,j}|x)}{\bar{F}(q(\alpha_{n,j}|x)|x)} = \frac{\bar{F}(q_{n,j}|x)}{\alpha_{n,j}} = 1 + o(1). \quad (21)$$

Moreover, remarking that, as $\alpha \rightarrow 0$,

$$f(q(\alpha|x)|x) = \frac{\log(1/\alpha)}{\theta(x)H^{\leftarrow}(\log(1/\alpha)|x)}\alpha(1 + o(1)), \quad (22)$$

it appears that $f(q(\cdot|x)|x)$ is a regularly varying function at 0 with index 1 and consequently

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(q_{n,j}|x)}{f(q(\alpha_{n,j}|x)|x)} = 1. \quad (23)$$

Collecting (20), (22) and (23), we end up with

$$a_{n,j}(x) = \theta(x)z_j\alpha_{n,j}^{-1} \frac{q(\alpha_{n,j}|x)}{\log(1/\alpha_n)} f(q(\alpha_{n,j}|x)|x)(1 + o(1)) = z_j(1 + o(1)). \quad (24)$$

Let us now turn to the random term $W_{n,j}(x)$. Defining $y_{n,j} = q(\alpha_{n,j}|x) + \sigma_{n,j}(x)z_j$ for $j = 1, \dots, J$, we have $y_{n,j} = q(\alpha_{n,j}|x)(1 + o(1/\log(1/\alpha_n)))$. Hence, Lemma 5 applies and the random vector

$$\left\{ \frac{\Lambda_n^{-1}(x)}{v_{n,j}(x)\bar{F}(y_{n,j}|x)} W_{n,j} \right\}_{j=1, \dots, J} = (1 + o(1)) \{W_{n,j}\}_{j=1, \dots, J}$$

converges to a centered Gaussian random variable with covariance matrix Σ . Taking account of (24), we obtain that $\Phi_n(z_1, \dots, z_J)$ converges to the cumulative distribution function of a centered Gaussian distribution with covariance matrix Σ evaluated at (z_1, \dots, z_J) . \blacksquare

5.2 Proofs of the main result

Proof of Theorem 1. The following expansion holds for all $j = 1, \dots, J$:

$$\log \hat{q}_n(\tau_j \alpha_n | x) = \log q(\alpha_n | x) + \log \left(\frac{q(\tau_j \alpha_n | x)}{q(\alpha_n | x)} \right) + \log \left(\frac{\hat{q}_n(\tau_j \alpha_n | x)}{q(\tau_j \alpha_n | x)} \right). \quad (25)$$

First, Lemma 2 entails that

$$\log q(\tau_j \alpha_n | x) - \log q(\alpha_n | x) = \frac{\log(1/\tau_j)}{\log(1/\alpha_n)} \left(\theta(x) + \varepsilon(\log(1/\alpha_n)|x)(1 + o(1)) + O\left(\frac{1}{\log(1/\alpha_n)}\right) \right), \quad (26)$$

where the $o(\cdot)$ and $O(\cdot)$ are not necessarily uniform in $j = 1, \dots, J$. Second, it follows from Lemma 6 that

$$\frac{\hat{q}_n(\tau_j \alpha_n | x)}{q(\tau_j \alpha_n | x)} = 1 + \sigma_n \xi_{n,j}, \quad (27)$$

where $(\xi_{n,1}, \dots, \xi_{n,J})^t$ converges to a centered Gaussian random vector with covariance matrix $\theta^2(x)\Sigma$ and $\sigma_n^{-1} = \Lambda_n^{-1}(x) \log(1/\alpha_n)$. Replacing (26) and (27) in (25) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \log \hat{q}_n(\tau_j \alpha_n | x) &= \log q(\alpha_n | x) + \sigma_n \xi_{n,j} + O_{\mathbb{P}}(\sigma_n^2) \\ &+ \frac{\log(1/\tau_j)}{\log(1/\alpha_n)} \left(\theta(x) + \varepsilon(\log(1/\alpha_n)|x)(1 + o(1)) + O\left(\frac{1}{\log(1/\alpha_n)}\right) \right), \end{aligned}$$

for all $j = 1, \dots, J$ and therefore, in view of the shift and scale invariance properties of ϕ , it follows that $\phi(\{\log \hat{q}_n(\tau_j \alpha_n | x)\}_{j=1, \dots, J}) \log(1/\alpha_n)$ is equal to

$$\phi \left(\left\{ v_j \left(\theta(x) + \varepsilon(\log(1/\alpha_n)|x)(1 + o(1)) + O\left(\frac{1}{\log(1/\alpha_n)}\right) \right) + \log(1/\alpha_n)(\sigma_n \xi_{n,j} + O_{\mathbb{P}}(\sigma_n^2)) \right\}_{j=1, \dots, J} \right).$$

where $v = \{\log(1/\tau_j)\}_{j=1, \dots, J}$. A first order Taylor expansion yields:

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(\{\log \hat{q}_n(\tau_j \alpha_n | x)\}_{j=1, \dots, J}) &= \frac{\phi(\theta(x)v)}{\log(1/\alpha_n)} \\ &+ \sigma_n \sum_{j=1}^J (\xi_{n,j} + O_{\mathbb{P}}(\sigma_n)) \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x_j}(\theta(x)v) \\ &+ \sum_{j=1}^J v_j \left(\frac{\varepsilon(\log(1/\alpha_n)|x)}{\log(1/\alpha_n)}(1 + o(1)) + O\left(\frac{1}{\log^2(1/\alpha_n)}\right) \right) \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x_j}(\theta(x)v) \\ &+ \frac{R_n}{\log(1/\alpha_n)}, \end{aligned}$$

where the remainder is bounded above by

$$\begin{aligned} R_n &= O_{\mathbb{P}} \left(\sum_{j=1}^J \left| \sigma_n \log(1/\alpha_n)(\xi_{n,j} + O_{\mathbb{P}}(\sigma_n)) + v_j \left(\varepsilon(\log(1/\alpha_n)|x)(1 + o(1)) + O\left(\frac{1}{\log(1/\alpha_n)}\right) \right) \right| \right)^2 \\ &= O_{\mathbb{P}} \left(\sigma_n \log(1/\alpha_n) \left(\sum_{j=1}^J |\xi_{n,j}| + O_{\mathbb{P}}(\sigma_n) \right) + O(\varepsilon(\log(1/\alpha_n)|x)) + O\left(\frac{1}{\log(1/\alpha_n)}\right) \right)^2 \\ &= O_{\mathbb{P}}(\sigma_n \log(1/\alpha_n))^2 \end{aligned}$$

under the conditions $\Lambda_n^{-1}(x)\varepsilon(\log(1/\alpha_n)|x) \rightarrow \lambda$ and $\Lambda_n^{-1}(x)/\log(1/\alpha_n) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. It follows that

$$\sigma_n^{-1} \left(\phi(\{\log \hat{q}_n(\tau_j \alpha_n | x)\}_{j=1, \dots, J}) - \frac{\phi(\theta(x)v)}{\log(1/\alpha_n)} \right) = \sum_{j=1}^J (\lambda v_j + \xi_{n,j}) \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x_j}(\theta(x)v) + o_{\mathbb{P}}(1).$$

Taking into account **(A.1)** and the scale invariance property of $\nabla \phi$, we finally obtain

$$\Lambda_n^{-1}(x)(\hat{\theta}_n(x) - \theta(x)) = \frac{1}{\phi(v)} \sum_{j=1}^J (\lambda v_j + \xi_{n,j}) \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x_j}(v) + o_{\mathbb{P}}(1)$$

and the conclusion follows. ■

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J	V_{opt}	τ_1	τ_2	τ_3	τ_4	τ_5
2	1.5441	1.0000	0.2032			
3	1.2191	1.0000	0.3615	0.0735		
4	1.1223	1.0000	0.4703	0.1702	0.0346	
5	1.0789	1.0000	0.5486	0.2585	0.0936	0.0190

Table 1: Optimal values of (τ_1, \dots, τ_J) and associated asymptotic variance V_{opt} .

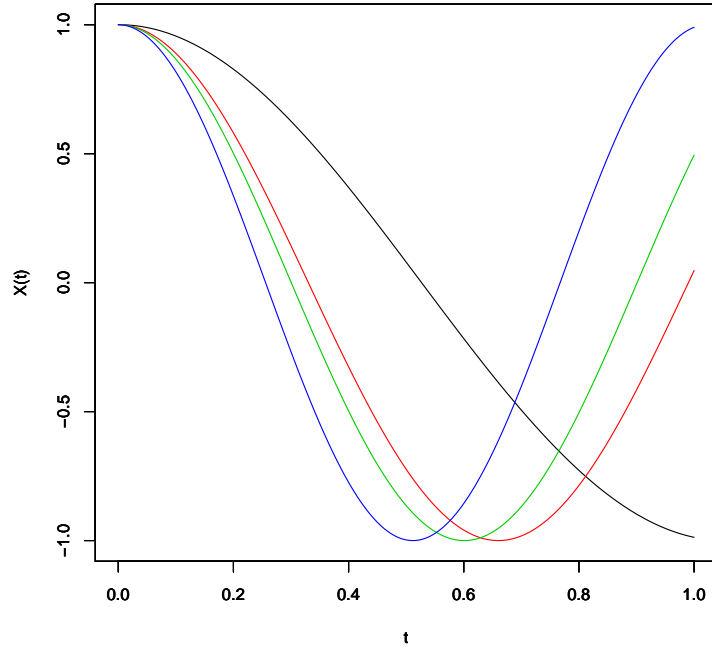


Figure 1: Four realizations of the random function $X(\cdot)$.

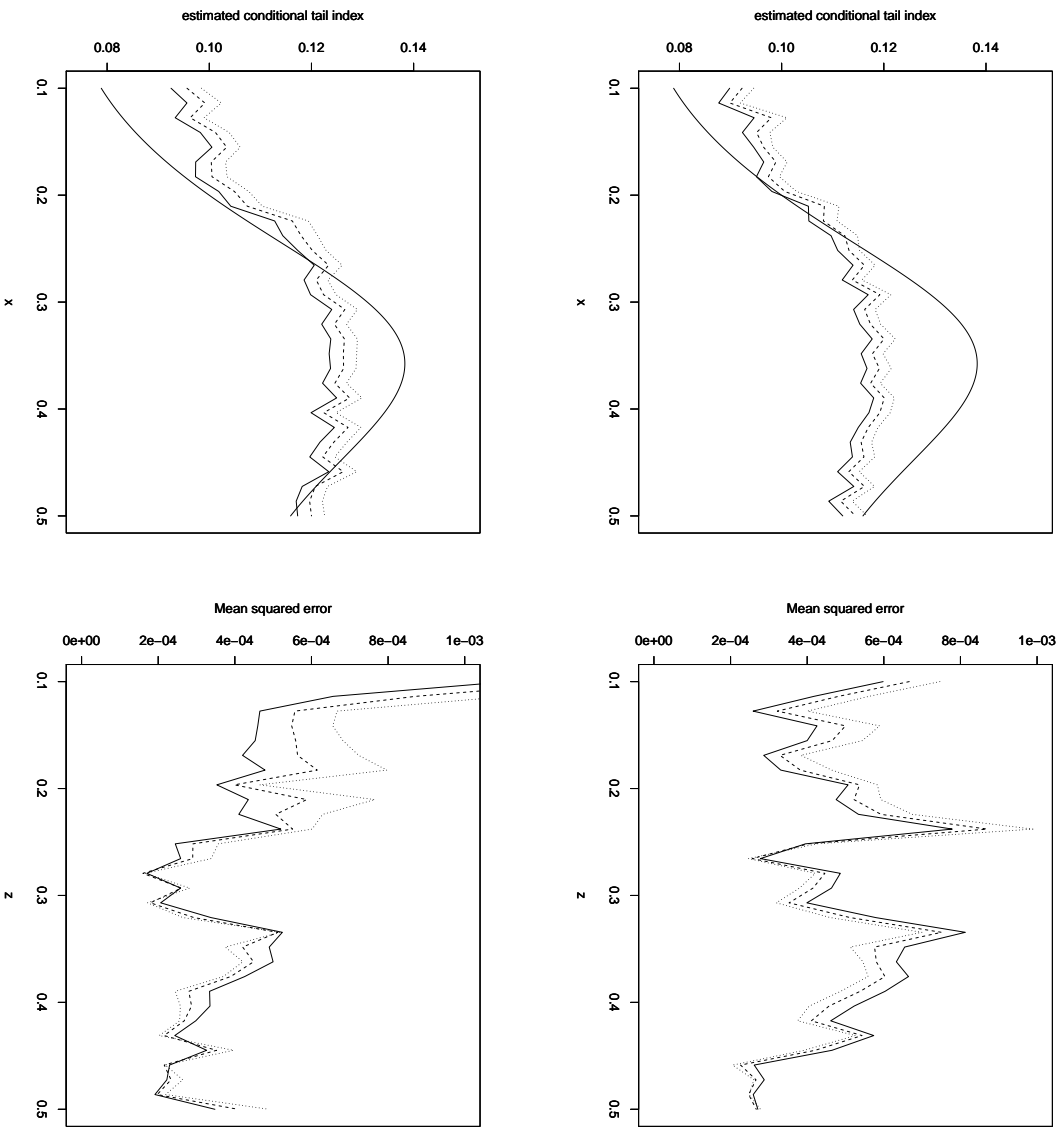


Figure 2: Results obtained with the distance d_1 . Left: Plots of the empirical mean as a function of $z \in [0.1, 0.5]$ for $p = 1$ (full line), $p = 2$ (dashed line) and $p = 3$ (dotted line) with $\rho = -1/2$ (top) and $\rho = -1$ (bottom). The true conditional Weibull tail-coefficient is represented by the smooth full line. Right: Plots of the empirical MSE as a function of z for $p = 1$ (full line), $p = 2$ (dashed line) and $p = 3$ (dotted line) with $\rho = -1/2$ (top) and $\rho = -1$ (bottom).

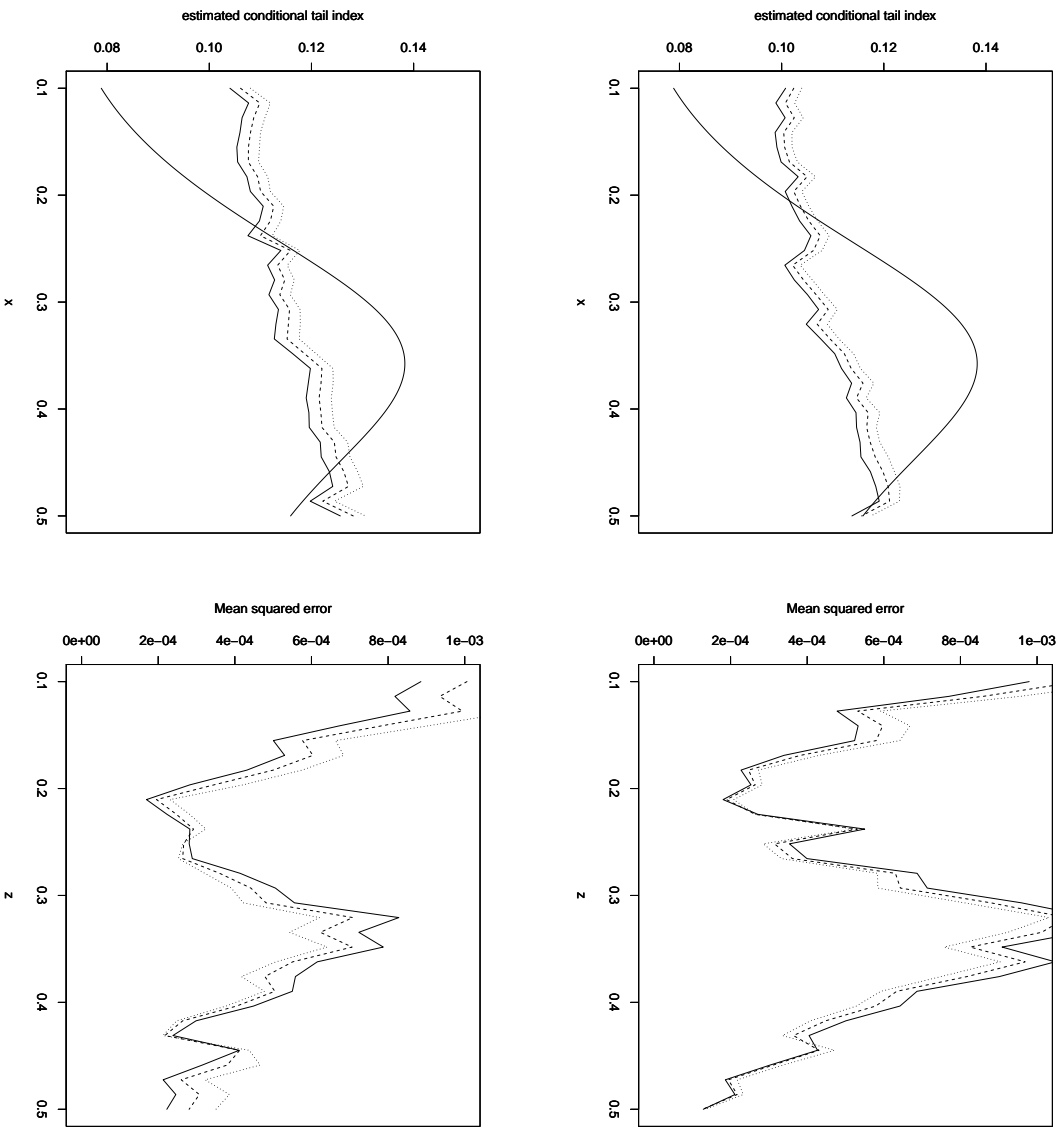


Figure 3: Results obtained with the distance d_2 . Left: Plots of the empirical mean as a function of $z \in [0.1, 0.5]$ for $p = 1$ (full line), $p = 2$ (dashed line) and $p = 3$ (dotted line) with $\rho = -1/2$ (top) and $\rho = -1$ (bottom). The true conditional Weibull tail-coefficient is represented by the smooth full line. Right: Plots of the empirical MSE as a function of z for $p = 1$ (full line), $p = 2$ (dashed line) and $p = 3$ (dotted line) with $\rho = -1/2$ (top) and $\rho = -1$ (bottom).