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Empirical L^2 -distance between regression model and vector space

Zaher Mohdeb^{†,*} and Abdelkader Mokeddem[‡]

École Nationale Polytechnique de Constantine [†] and Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines[‡]

Abstract: The paper is devoted to the estimation of the square distance between the regression function f and the subspace E_p spanned by the linearly independent functions g_1, \dots, g_p . In order to estimate this measure of discrepancy, we propose an empirical L^2 -distance between f and E_p , without weight and we show that it is invariant with respect to change of basis in E_p .

1. Introduction

We consider the following regression model

$$(1.1) \quad Y_{i,n} = f(t_{i,n}) + \varepsilon_{i,n}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n,$$

where f is a unknown real function, defined on the interval $[0, 1]$ and $t_{1,n} = 0 < t_{2,n} < \dots < t_{n,n} = 1$, is a fixed sampling of the interval $[0, 1]$. The errors $\varepsilon_{i,n}$ form a triangular array of random variables with expectation zero and finite variance σ^2 , and for any n , the random variables $\varepsilon_{1,n}, \dots, \varepsilon_{n,n}$ are independent.

Let g_1, \dots, g_p be linearly independent functions defined on $[0, 1]$ and let E_p be the vector space spanned by g_1, \dots, g_p . We assume that the design $\{t_{1,n}, \dots, t_{n,n}\}$ is associated to a positive density function h in the interval $[0, 1]$. We denote $L^2(d\mu)$, where $d\mu(t) = h(t) dt$, the space of square integrable functions, equipped with the usual inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$. As measure of discrepancy between the regression function f and the subspace E_p , we may use the square distance

$$(1.2) \quad \mathcal{D}^2(f) = \min_{v \in E_p} \int_0^1 |f(t) - v(t)|^2 h(t) dt.$$

In this paper, we propose an empirical L^2 -distance of $\mathcal{D}^2(f)$. We follow the procedure of Dette and Munk (1998), but without use of weights. Indeed Dette and Munk (1998) use weights satisfying particular conditions; this leads to a problem with the choice of weights. Generally, this empirical L^2 -distance is used to test the null

*Laboratoire de Mathématiques et Sciences de la Décision, Université frères Mentouri de Constantine, Algérie

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hypothesis H_0 : " $f \in E_p$ " against the alternative hypothesis H_1 : " $f \notin E_p$ ". The previous test has been the subject of several works: Dette and Munk (1998), Mohdeb and Mokkaem (2002, 2004) introduce a test statistic based on the estimation of the square of the distance of f to E_p with respect to a L^2 -norm. Other related work includes that of Dette (1999), González-Manteiga and Cao (1993) and Stute (1997). We give the main result in the following section.

2. Main result

First, note that square distance $\mathcal{D}^2(f)$ given in (1.2) may be expressed also as

$$(2.1) \quad \mathcal{D}^2(f) = \frac{G(f, g_1, \dots, g_p)}{G(g_1, \dots, g_p)},$$

where $G(v_1, \dots, v_k)$ denotes the Gramian determinant $|\langle v_i, v_j \rangle|_{i,j=1,\dots,k}$ for v_1, \dots, v_k in $L^2(d\mu)$. We need to estimate $\mathcal{D}^2(f)$; for this, we use the observations $Y = (Y_{1,n}, \dots, Y_{n,n})'$ and we follow the procedure of Dette and Munk (1998), but without use of weights.

Let

$$\Delta_{i,n} = t_{i,n} - t_{i-1,n}, \quad i = 2, \dots, n, \quad \Delta_{1,n} = \Delta_{2,n},$$

$$W = \text{diag} \left(\Delta_{i,n} h(t_{i,n}) \right)_{i=1,\dots,n}$$

and let $E_{p,n}$ be the vector space of \mathbb{R}^n spanned by $(g_{1,n}, \dots, g_{n,n})$, where

$$g_{k,n} = (g_k(t_{1,n}), \dots, g_k(t_{n,n}))', \quad k = 1, \dots, n.$$

Dette and Munk (1998) propose an estimator denoted \hat{M}^2 of the distance $\mathcal{D}^2(f)$ between f and the model E_p , and estimating the unknown inner products involved in the expression (2.1) by empirical expressions. To show the invariance of the estimator \hat{M}^2 with respect to change of the basis in E_p , Dette and Munk (1998) are led to introduce suitable weights $w_{i,n}$, i, \dots, n satisfying the following particular conditions:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \Delta_{i,n} w_{i,n} h(t_{i,n}) = 1 \quad \forall n \geq 1$$

and

$$\langle g_k, g_l \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta_{i,n} w_{i,n} h(t_{i,n}) g_k(t_{i,n}) g_l(t_{i,n}), \quad 1 \leq k \leq l \leq p.$$

Weights $w_{i,n}$, i, \dots, n satisfying the previous conditions are generally not easy to obtainable (see the discussion on pages 783-784 in Dette and Munk (1998), and Theorem 2.1 therein).

In this paper, we define $G_n(Y, g_1, \dots, g_p)$ as the determinant obtained by replacing in (2.1) the inner product $\langle f, f \rangle$ by

$$Y'WY = \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta_{i,n} h(t_{i,n}) Y_{i,n}^2$$

and $\langle f, g_k \rangle$ by

$$Y'Wg_{k,n} = \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta_{i,n} h(t_{i,n}) g_k(t_{i,n}) Y_{i,n}, \quad k = 1, \dots, p.$$

We estimate $\mathcal{D}^2(f)$ by

$$\mathcal{D}_n^2 = \frac{G_n(Y, g_1, \dots, g_p)}{G(g_1, \dots, g_p)}.$$

It is clear that $\mathcal{D}^2(f)$ does not depend on the basis $\{g_1, \dots, g_p\}$ of E_p , since $\mathcal{D}^2(f)$ is the square distance in $L^2(d\mu)$ of f to E_p , but it is not obvious the same holds for $\mathcal{D}_n^2(Y, g_1, \dots, g_p)$. The following result states that $\mathcal{D}_n^2(Y, g_1, \dots, g_p)$ does not depend on the choice of the basis $\{g_1, \dots, g_p\}$.

Theorem 2.1. *For any $\Theta \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\mathcal{D}_n^2(\Theta, g_1, \dots, g_p)$ is invariant with respect to change of basis in E_p .*

Proof. Let $\mathcal{U} = \{u_1, \dots, u_p\}$ be an orthonormal basis of E_p and $\mathcal{V} = \{v_1, \dots, v_p\}$ an arbitrary basis of E_p . It is sufficient to show that

$$\mathcal{D}_n^2(\Theta, u_1, \dots, u_p) = \mathcal{D}_n^2(\Theta, v_1, \dots, v_p).$$

We have for all $f \in L^2(d\mu)$,

$$\mathcal{D}^2(f) = \langle f, f \rangle + P(\langle f, u_1 \rangle, \dots, \langle f, u_p \rangle)$$

and

$$\mathcal{D}^2(f) = \langle f, f \rangle + Q(\langle f, v_1 \rangle, \dots, \langle f, v_p \rangle),$$

where P (resp. Q) is a second degree polynomial whose coefficients depend only of the basis \mathcal{U} (resp. \mathcal{V}).

Let $A = (a_{ij})_{i,j=1,\dots,p}$ be the change-of-basis matrix, that is

$$(2.2) \quad v_k = a_{k1}u_1 + \dots + a_{kp}u_p, \quad k = 1, \dots, p.$$

We have

$$\langle f, v_k \rangle = a_{k1}\langle f, u_1 \rangle + \dots + a_{kp}\langle f, u_p \rangle, \quad k = 1, \dots, p,$$

then

$$\left(\langle f, v_1 \rangle, \dots, \langle f, v_p \rangle\right) = H\left(\langle f, u_1 \rangle, \dots, \langle f, u_p \rangle\right),$$

where $H: \mathbb{R}^p \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$ is polynomial map, with $H(c_1, \dots, c_p) = (c_1, \dots, c_p)A'$.

Therefore

$$\mathcal{D}^2(f) = \langle f, f \rangle + Q \circ H\left(\langle f, u_1 \rangle, \dots, \langle f, u_p \rangle\right),$$

whence

$$P\left(\langle f, u_1 \rangle, \dots, \langle f, u_p \rangle\right) = Q \circ H\left(\langle f, u_1 \rangle, \dots, \langle f, u_p \rangle\right), \quad \forall f \in L^2(d\mu).$$

Otherwise, $\forall (z_1, \dots, z_p) \in \mathbb{R}^p$, $\exists f = \sum_{j=1}^p z_j u_j \in L^2(d\mu)$ such that $z_j = \langle f, u_j \rangle$, $j = 1, \dots, p$; therefore

$$P(z_1, \dots, z_p) = Q \circ H(z_1, \dots, z_p), \quad \forall (z_1, \dots, z_p) \in \mathbb{R}^p,$$

which leads to $P \equiv Q \circ H$.

Consider now $\mathcal{D}_n^2(\Theta, u_1, \dots, u_p)$ and $\mathcal{D}_n^2(\Theta, v_1, \dots, v_p)$.

We have

$$\mathcal{D}_n^2(\Theta, u_1, \dots, u_p) = \Theta'W\Theta + P\left(\Theta'Wu_{1,n}, \dots, \Theta'Wu_{p,n}\right)$$

and

$$\mathcal{D}_n^2(\Theta, v_1, \dots, v_p) = \Theta'W\Theta + Q\left(\Theta'Wv_{1,n}, \dots, \Theta'Wv_{p,n}\right),$$

where $W = \text{diag}(\Delta_{i,n}h(t_{i,n}))_{i=1, \dots, n}$,

$$u_{k,n} = (u_k(t_{1,n}), \dots, u_k(t_{n,n}))'$$

and

$$v_{k,n} = (v_k(t_{1,n}), \dots, v_k(t_{n,n}))'.$$

According to (2.2), we have also

$$v_{k,n} = a_{k1}u_{1,n} + \dots + a_{kp}u_{p,n}, \quad k = 1, \dots, p$$

and therefore

$$\Theta'Wv_{k,n} = a_{k1}\Theta'Wu_{1,n} + \dots + a_{kp}\Theta'Wu_{p,n} \quad k = 1, \dots, p,$$

that is

$$\left(\Theta'Wv_{1,n}, \dots, \Theta'Wv_{p,n}\right) = H\left(\Theta'Wu_{1,n}, \dots, \Theta'Wu_{p,n}\right).$$

Thus

$$\mathcal{D}_n^2(\Theta, v_1, \dots, v_p) = \Theta'W\Theta + Q \circ H\left(\Theta'Wu_{1,n}, \dots, \Theta'Wu_{p,n}\right),$$

as $Q \circ H \equiv P$, therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}_n^2(\Theta, v_1, \dots, v_p) &= \Theta'W\Theta + P\left(\Theta'Wu_{1,n}, \dots, \Theta'Wu_{p,n}\right) \\ &= \mathcal{D}_n^2(\Theta, u_1, \dots, u_p). \end{aligned}$$

The result is proved. \square

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École Nationale Polytechnique de Constantine,
Campus de l'Université de Constantine 3, Algérie
and
Laboratoire de Mathématiques
et Sciences de la Décision,
Université frères Mentouri Constantine, Algérie
e-mail: zaher.mohdeb@umc.edu.dz

Université de Versailles
Saint-Quentin-En-Yvelines
Bâtiment Fermat,
Département de Mathématiques,
45, Avenue des Etats-Unis,
78035 Versailles Cedex, France
e-mail: abdelkader.mokkadem@uvsq.fr