Empirical Processes (MATH-522)

Lecture 3: Measure theoretic aspects of stochastic processes

Myrto Limnios

MATH, Ecole Polytéchnique Fédérale de Lausanne

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What we saw last week

- We studied how to derive probabilistic bounds quantifying the deviation rate of averages around their mean, known as *concentration inequalities*.
- We focused on bounds that have exponential decay for **fixed** sample size, under various assumptions on the moments of the r.v.s

What we will focus on today

- We will extend theoretical tools to extend those results **uniformly** over a class of functionals/sets.
- We will focus on weak convergence for stochastic processes, that will result in a new set of characterizations requiring the definition of *outer-measure*.
- We will go from separable finite-dimensional metric spaces to non-separable metric spaces.

Today's outline

Borel measurability

Let $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, \mathbb{P})$ a probability space, and $(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{D}, d)$ a metric spaces endowed with a metric d and the σ-field/algebra $\mathcal{D}$.

- A map $h : \Omega \to \mathbb{D}$ is *$\mathcal{A}/\mathcal{D}$-measurable* if the preimage $h^{-1}(U) = \{x \in \Omega,\ h(x) \in U\}$ is measurable in $\mathcal{A}$ for all sets $U \in \mathcal{D}$.
- The *Borel* σ-field $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{D})$ of $\mathbb{D}$ is the smallest σ-field containing all the open sets of $\mathbb{D}$.
- A function is *Borel measurable* relative to two metric spaces if it is measurable w.r.t. their Borel σ-field.
- A Borel-measurable map $X : \Omega \to \mathbb{D}$ defined on the p.s. $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, \mathbb{P})$ is referred to as a *random element/map* valued in $\mathbb{D}$.

Remark

For Euclidean spaces, Borel measurability is the usual measurability.

We lastly recall an important result.

Lemma

A continuous map between two metric spaces is Borel measurable.

Tightness

Tightness characterizes when a measure **concentrates** on a compact set almost surely.

Definition

Let $(\mathbb{D}, d)$ be a metric space. A Borel probability measure P is *tight* if

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \quad \exists K \subset \mathbb{D} \text{ compact}, \quad P(K) \geq 1 - \varepsilon \ .$$

A Borel map X of distribution P is tight if P is tight.

Remark (Key fact)

This property ensures a kind of 'smoothness' for the r.v. X. Weak convergence will be extended for tight limiting r.v.s.
We can say that tightness is equivalent to being a σ-compact set (countable union of compacts) that has P-measure equal to one.

The following results show the importance of tightness.

Theorem

Let $\mathbb{D}$ be a separable and complete metric space. Then, every probability measure on $(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{D}))$ is tight.

Lemma

Let X and Y be two tight Borel-measurable processes in $\mathbb{D} = \ell^\infty(T)$, then $X = Y$ iff. their finite-dimensional (fidi) marginal distributions are equal, i.e.

$$\forall t_1, \dots, t_k \in T, \qquad (X(t_1), \dots, X(t_k)) = (Y(t_1), \dots, Y(t_k)) \ ,$$

for all integer $k > 1$.

Reminder (Bounded functions)

Let T be an arbitrary set. We denote by $\ell^\infty(T)$ the class of all bounded real-valued functions $x : T \to \mathbb{R}$. We will endow the space by the *uniform norm* on T:

$$\|x\|_T = \sup_{t \in T} |x(t)| \ ,$$

where we define pointwise the sum $(x_1 + x_2)(t) = x_1(t) + x_2(t)$ and product with a scalar $(\alpha x)(t) = \alpha x(t)$, for all $t \in T$.

The space $\ell^\infty(T)$ contains all functions of finite sup-norm, i.e., such that $\|x\|_T < \infty$.

Property: It is separable iff. the set T is countable.

Separability

A weaker requirement to tightness is separability.

Definition

Let $(\mathbb{D}, d)$ be a metric space. We say that $X : \Omega \to \mathbb{D}$ (or its p.m P) are *separable*, if there exists a measurable separable set (i.e. it has a countable dense subset) with probability one, i.e., if $\exists K \subset \mathbb{D}$ such that $P(K) = 1$.

Definition

A σ-field is *separable* if it is generated by a countable collection of subsets.

Remark

If a topological space $\mathbb{D}$ is separable, then its Borel σ-field is separable as well.
If X is tight or separable, then it is Borel measurable. Notice that tightness and separability are independent on the metric.

Example

A Euclidean space $\mathbb{R}^d$ is separable as it is generated by a dense countable subset composed of vectors with rational coordinates.

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Separable stochastic processes

We now define another type of separability than that related to Borel measurability of the stochastic process defined as a random map.

Definition

Let $\{Z(t),\ t \in T\}$ be a real-valued stochastic process, indexed by a separable set T.

We say that the process Z is *separable* if there exists a countable set $T' \subset T$, such that a.s.

$$\sup_{t \in T} \inf_{s \in T'} |X(t) - X(s)| = 0 \ .$$

Example

Brownian process, sub-Gaussian processes, and in particular Rademacher processes are separable in that sense.

Consequences

- Suppose T to be endowed with a semimetric ρ.
  For any point t, and for a sequence $t_m \in T'$ such that $\rho(t, t_m) \to 0$, then $|X(t) - X(t_m)| \to 0$ a.s.

- Many processes in applications will be separable in that sense, while not being Borel measurable and thus not separable w.r.t. $\mathbb{D}$.

- However, the limiting process will often be in $\mathbb{D} = \ell^\infty(T)$, where T is usually a class of functions defined on the sample space.
- Separability allows us to extract a countable sub-family of elements $\mathbb{D}_0 \subset \mathbb{D}$ of elements converging in $\overline{\mathbb{D}_0}$.

Remark

Tightness and separability are fundamental properties for random maps. Prohorov's Theorem is the key result in probability theory (not studied in this class).

Today's outline

1. First definitions: tightness and separability
2. Complete separable metric spaces
   - Random vectors
   - Finite-dimensional metric spaces
3. Non-separable metric spaces

Weak convergence of random vectors

Let $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, \mathbb{P})$ a probability space. Suppose the r.v.s to be valued in $\mathbb{D} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$, endowed with the Euclidean norm.

Definition

Suppose the random sequence $X_1, X_2, \dots$ to have a distribution function F_n and p.d. P_n. X_n converges in *distribution/weakly/in law* to a r.v. X, of d.f. F and drawn from P if, for all points $x \in \mathbb{D}$ for which F is continuous,

$$F_n(x) \underset{n\to\infty}{\longrightarrow} F(x) \ .$$

We denote it by $X_n \rightsquigarrow X$ (or $P_n \rightsquigarrow P$).

Remark

- Weak convergence is **inherent to the underlying distributions** of the random maps.
- The goal is to study the properties of the limit of distribution functions when n tends to infinity (notice as well that we should consider a sequence of probability spaces but we ignore this technicality).

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Portmanteau Theorem

Weak convergence provides a series of equivalent properties referred to as *Portmanteau Theorem* that we state below.

Theorem (Portmanteau Theorem I)

Consider a random sequence of vectors $X_1, \dots, X_n$*, of p.d.* P_n*, and* $X \sim P$*. The following assertions are equivalent.*

1. $X_n \rightsquigarrow X$ *or* $P_n \rightsquigarrow P$
2. $P_n h \underset{n\to\infty}{\longrightarrow} Ph$*, for all* $h \in \mathcal{C}_b(\mathbb{R}^d, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^d))$ *i.e. continuous and bounded function*
3. $\liminf_{n\infty} P_n(U) \geq P(U)$*, for all open sets* $U \subset \mathbb{R}^d$
4. $\limsup_{n\infty} P_n(F) \leq P(F)$*, for all closed sets* $F \subset \mathbb{R}^d$
5. $P_n(A) \underset{n\to\infty}{\longrightarrow} P(A)$*, for all* P*-continuity sets* A*, i.e., such that* $P(\partial A) = 0$ *where* ∂A *denotes the boundary of* A*.*

Continuous Mapping Theorem

Now that we have established the main characterizations, we are able to state the *Continuous Mapping Theorem* (CMT) that is fundamental to any statistical problem.

Theorem (CMT I)

Let $C \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ *be a set such that* $\mathbb{P}(X \in C) = 1$.
If $X_n \rightsquigarrow X$, *then* $\Phi(X_n) \rightsquigarrow \Phi(X)$ *for any function* $\Phi : \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}^q$ *that is continuous on* C.

Proof.

Let $F \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ be a fixed closed set.

- Notice that Φ, $\{\Phi(X_n) \in F\} = \{X_n \in \Phi^{-1}(F)\}$.
- Consider $x \in \overline{\Phi^{-1}(F)}$, then, by definition of the closure, it contains all limit points of the elements in the preimge $\Phi^{-1}(F)$. Thus, there exists a sequence x_n of elements in $\Phi^{-1}(F)$, such that $x_n \to x$ and $\Phi(x_n) \in F$. If $x \in C$ then, because F is closed, $\Phi(x_n) \in F$. Otherwise $x \in C^c$. Thus

$$\Phi^{-1}(F) \subset \overline{\Phi^{-1}(F)} \subset \Phi^{-1}(F) \cup C^c \ .$$

- By the Portmanteau Theorem,

$$\limsup \mathbb{P}(\Phi(X_n) \in F) \leq \limsup \mathbb{P}(X_n \in \overline{\Phi^{-1}(F)}) \leq \mathbb{P}(X \in \overline{\Phi^{-1}(F)})$$

  Recall that $\mathbb{P}(X \in C) = 1$, hence $\mathbb{P}(X \in C^c) = 0$.
- By the last inclusion and inferring that Φ is continuous on C yields $\mathbb{P}(X \in \overline{\Phi^{-1}(F)}) \leq \mathbb{P}(X \in \Phi^{-1}(F)) = \mathbb{P}(\Phi(X) \in F)$.
- Hence assertion 4 of the Portmanteau theorem is proved, hence, because it is true for any arbitrary closed subset F, we proved by equivalence that (1) is fulfilled: $\Phi(X_n) \rightsquigarrow \Phi(X)$.

□

Finite-dimensional metric spaces: Weak convergence

- Consider the r.v. X as a random map $X : (\Omega, \mathcal{A}) \to (\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{D})$.
- Define the set $\mathcal{C}_b(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{D})$ to be composed of all bounded and continuous functions $h : \mathbb{D} \to \mathbb{R}$, that are $\mathcal{D}/\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$-measurable.

Definition

We say that the random sequence $\{X_n\}_{n\geq 1}$, defined on the p.s. $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, \mathbb{P})$, converges weakly to a r.v. X, denoted $X_n \rightsquigarrow X$, if

$$\mathbb{E}h(X_n) \underset{n\to\infty}{\longrightarrow} \mathbb{E}h(X) \ ,$$

for all $h \in \mathcal{C}_b(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{D})$. And we say that a sequence of p.m.s $\{P_n\}_{n\geq 1}$ converges weakly to P, denoted $P_n \rightsquigarrow P$, if

$$P_n h \underset{n\to\infty}{\longrightarrow} Ph \ ,$$

for all $h \in \mathcal{C}_b(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{D})$.

We will try to extend the Portmanteau Theorem and the CMT in the following paragraphs, depending on whether the maps are measurable w.r.t. the Borel $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{D})$, or not.

Borel σ-field.

We suppose for now that the space $\mathbb{D}$ is endowed with the metric d, and that $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{D})$.

Theorem (Protmanteau Theorem II)

Consider a random sequence $X_1, \ldots, X_n$, of p.d. P_n, and $X \sim P$ of the metric space $(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{D})$. The following assertions are equivalent.

1. $X_n \rightsquigarrow X$ *or* $P_n \rightsquigarrow P$
2. $\liminf_{n\infty} P_n(U) \geq P(U)$, *for all open sets* $U \subset \mathbb{R}^d$
3. $\limsup_{n\infty} P_n(F) \leq P(F)$, *for all closed sets* $F \subset \mathbb{R}^d$
4. $P_n(A) \underset{n\to\infty}{\longrightarrow} P(A)$, *for all* P*-continuity sets* A, *i.e., such that* $P(\partial A) = 0$.

The Portmanteau Theorem allows us to state the CMT II.

CMT II

Theorem (CMT II)

Consider two metric spaces $(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{D}))$ and $(\mathbb{E}, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{E}))$, and let the sequence of r.v.s $X_1, \dots, X_n$ valued in $(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{D})$.

If $X_n \rightsquigarrow X$, then $\Phi(X_n) \rightsquigarrow \Phi(X)$ in $(\mathbb{E}, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{E}))$, for any measurable continuous function $\Phi : \mathbb{D} \to \mathbb{E}$.

Proof.

Let $h \in \mathcal{C}_b(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{D})$, then, by continuity of $\Phi : \mathbb{D} \to \mathbb{E}$, the function $h \circ \Phi$ is bounded and continuous. Suppose that $X_n \rightsquigarrow X$, then by definition of weak convergence,

$$\mathbb{E} h \circ \Phi(X_n) \underset{n \to \infty}{\longrightarrow} \mathbb{E} h \circ \Phi(X)$$

in $(\mathbb{E}, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{E}))$. As it holds true for any $h \in \mathcal{C}_b(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{D}))$, then the theorem is proved. □

In fact, we can prove the following convenient formulation of the CMT, where, as in CMT I (12), we only require the function Φ **to be continuous on the image set of the limiting r.v.**

CMT II

Theorem (CMT II)

Consider two metric spaces $(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{D}))$ *and* $(\mathbb{E}, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{E}))$, *and let the sequence of r.v.s* $X_1, \ldots, X_n$ *valued in* $(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{D})$.

If $X_n \rightsquigarrow X$, *then* $\Phi(X_n) \rightsquigarrow \Phi(X)$ *in* $(\mathbb{E}, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{E}))$, *for any measurable continuous function* $\Phi : \mathbb{D} \to \mathbb{E}$.

Proof.

Let $h \in \mathcal{C}_b(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{D})$, then, by continuity of $\Phi : \mathbb{D} \to \mathbb{E}$, the function $h \circ \Phi$ is bounded and continuous. Suppose that $X_n \rightsquigarrow X$, then by definition of weak convergence,

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In fact, we can prove the following convenient formulation of the CMT, where, as in CMT I (12), we only require the function Φ **to be continuous on the image set of the limiting r.v.**

CMT IIbis

Theorem (CMT IIbis)

Consider two metric spaces $(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{D}))$ *and* $(\mathbb{E}, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{E}))$*, and let the sequence of r.v.s* $X_1, \ldots, X_n$ *valued in* $(T, \mathcal{T})$*. Let* $C \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ *be a set such that* $\mathbb{P}(X \in C) = 1$*.*

If $X_n \rightsquigarrow X$*, then* $\Phi(X_n) \rightsquigarrow \Phi(X)$ *in* $(\mathbb{E}, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{E}))$*, for any measurable function* $\Phi : \mathbb{D} \to \mathbb{E}$ *that is continuous on* C*.*

Proof.

Board □

Sub-field of $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{D})$.

We suppose now the space T to be endowed with the metric d, and that $\mathcal{D}$ is a sub-σ-field of $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{D})$. We will see if we can prove a similar CMT IIbis in that context, for any measurable map $\Phi : (\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{D}) \to (\mathbb{E}, \mathcal{E})$ continuous on the image set of points of X.

We show that CMT IIbis holds true if we suppose in addition that C is separable and $\mathcal{D}$-measurable.

Theorem (CMT III)

Consider two metric spaces $(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{D}))$ and $(\mathbb{E}, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{E}))$, and let the sequence of r.v.s $X_1, \ldots, X_n$ valued in $(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{D})$. Let $C \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ be a separable and $\mathcal{D}$-measurable set such that $\mathbb{P}(X \in C) = 1$. If $X_n \rightsquigarrow X$, then $\Phi(X_n) \rightsquigarrow \Phi(X)$ in $(\mathbb{E}, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{E}))$, for any measurable function $\Phi : \mathbb{D} \to \mathbb{E}$ that is continuous on C.

Exercise.

Hint: Let $h \in \mathcal{C}_b(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{D})$, then the function $h \circ \Phi$ is continuous, bounded on C. To prove that $\Phi(X_n) \rightsquigarrow \Phi(X)$, we construct a countable sub-family of $\mathcal{G} = \{g \in \mathcal{C}_b(\mathbb{D}, \mathcal{D}),\ g \leq h \circ \Phi,\ \text{uniformly continuous}\}$ such that there exists an increasing sequence $\{g_k\}_{k \geq 1}$, for any completely regular point $x \in C$, $\sup_k g_k(x) = \sup_{g \in \mathcal{G}} g(x) = (h \circ \Phi)(x)$. Inferring Portmanteau II.2 and Theorem of monotone convergence concludes the proof. □

Corollary

If $\mathbb{E}h(X_n) \underset{n\to\infty}{\longrightarrow} \mathbb{E}h(X)$ *for any function* h *that is bounded, uniformly continuous and* $\mathcal{D}$*-measurable, and if* X *concentrates on a separable set of completely regular points, then* $X_n \rightsquigarrow X$*.*

We highlight the importance of building a countable subset of a family of the type of $\mathcal{G}$ that will be fundamental in the next chapters.

Today's outline

1. First definitions: tightness and separability
2. Complete separable metric spaces
3. Non-separable metric spaces
   - Important example of non-measurability
   - Outer measure: definition and properties
   - Bounded stochastic processes

Space of cadlag functions on a compact: Skorohod space

- Suppose that $T = [a, b]$ possibly the extended real line. The space of functions $h : [a, b] \to \mathbb{R}$, being right-continuous with left limits that exist (càdlàg) is defined by $D(T, \mathbb{R})$ (or $D(T)$).

- The space $D([a, b])$ is NOT separable

What does it mean and why do we care about it?

Empirical measures

- Let the i.i.d. sequence of Uniform r.v.s $X_1, \ldots, X_n$ defined on the probability space $([0,1], \mathcal{B}, \lambda)$, with $\mathcal{B}$ the Borel σ-field and λ the Lebesgue measure both on $[0,1]$.
- Then, the empirical c.d.f. is defined by

$$F_n(t) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} 1_{\{0 \leq X_i \leq t\}} \ ,$$

and we can define the standard empirical process by

$$Z_n(t) = \sqrt{n}(F_n(t) - F(t)) = \sqrt{n}(F_n(t) - t) \ .$$

- Then, both F_n, Z_n are maps defined on $[0,1]$ and valued in the space of $\ell^\infty([0,1])$ (in fact$D[0,1]$, but are not continuous). If we endow this space with the sup-norm on $[0,1]$, then those maps are no longer Borel measurable, insofar as $F_n^{-1}(\mathcal{D}) \not\subset \mathcal{B}^n$, where $\mathcal{D}$ is the Borel σ-field of $\mathbb{D}$.

Proof.

- Let $K \subset [0,1]$ be not a Borel set.
- Conisder $X(\omega, t) = 1\{\omega \leq t \leq 1\}$, for any event ω. Then define the union of uniform open balls of events in K by $G = \cup_{k \in K}\{y,\ \|y(k) - 1_{[k,1]}\|_{[0,1]} < 1/2\}$.
- Because G is an uncountable union of open sets, it is open.
- If X was $\mathcal{B}/\mathcal{B}(D([0,1]))$-measurable, then the set $\{\omega \in [0,1],\ X(\omega) \in G\}$ would belong to $\mathcal{B}$. But
- The map X valued at the event $\omega \in [0,1]$ is in G iff. $\omega = k$.
- Conclude that $\{\omega \in [0,1],\ X(\omega) \in G\} = K$.
- This is true for any subset of $[0,1]$, hence X is Borel measurable iff. any $K \subset [0,1]$ is a Borel set. Hence, we can found a non Borel set such that X is not Borel measurable.

□

Remark

- Notice that the limit process of Z_n is a Brownian Bridge, that is Borel measurable.
- This example illustrates that even for the most classical problem, the empirical processes are not necessarily Borel measurable random maps w.r.t. the sup-norm, i.e., $Z_n^{-1}(U)$ might be *too* large to be measurable. The interpretation being that the Borel σ-field generated by the Uniform distribution contains too many sets.
- In addition, the space $(D[0,1], \mathcal{B}(D[0,1]))$ is not separable.

We can prove that by considering the *ball σ-field*, endowed with the sup-norm, we can extend a characterization of weak convergence by considering fidi projections of distributions, but we will not go through this path (cf. lecture notes for more details).

Outer-measures for non-separable metric spaces

In fact, it has been highlighted (J. Hoffmann-Jørgensen) that Borel measurability of each X_n is not necessary for weak convergence, as soon as the limiting variable **IS** Borel-measurable, and requiring the convergence in expectation in terms of *outer expectations*.

Outer measure

Let $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, P)$ be an arbitrary probability space and let $X : \Omega \to \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ be an arbitrary random map.

Definition

The *outer integral* w.r.t. P is defined by

$$E^* X = \inf\{EU : \quad U \geq X,\ U : \Omega \to \overline{\mathbb{R}} \ \text{measurable and} \ \ EU \ \ \text{exists}\} \ ,$$

where EU exists if both its positive and negative parts are finite.

In particular, if $B \subset \Omega$, then the *outer probability* is given by

$$P^*(B) = \inf\{P(A) : B \subset A,\ A \in \mathcal{A}\} \ .$$

Minimal measurable majorant

The infimum in both outer integral and probability are always achieved, and in particular if there exists a measurable *envelope function*.

Lemma

For any map $X : \Omega \to \overline{\mathbb{R}}$, there exists a measurable function $X^* : \Omega \to \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ such that

- $X^* \geq X$
- $X^* \leq U$ *a.s., for every measurable map U such that $U \geq X$ a.s.*

If EX^* exists (in particular if $E^*X < \infty$), and if both statements are fulfilled, then $E^*X = EX^*$.

In that case, X^* is called the minimal measurable majorant/ measurable cover or envelope function of X.

Remark

- We can see X^* as the smallest measurable function above X.

Maximal measurable minorant

Similarly, we can define a maximal measurable minorant as follows.

Lemma

For any map $X : \Omega \to \overline{\mathbb{R}}$, there exists a measurable function $X_* : \Omega \to \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ such that

- $X_* \leq X$
- $X_* \geq L$ *a.s., for every measurable map L such that $L \leq X$ a.s.*

If EX_* exists (in particular if $E_* X < \infty$), and if both statements are fulfilled, then $E_* X = EX_*$.

In that case, X^* is called the maximal measurable minorant of X.

Definition

The *inner probability* is of an arbitrary subset $B \subset \Omega$ is given by

$$P_*(B) = 1 - P^*(\Omega - B) \ .$$

Remark

- We can see X_* as the biggest measurable function smaller than X.
- Notice that $E_* X = -E^*[-X]$.

Weak convergence

Now we can extend weak convergence using outer integrals.

Definition

Let a sequence of random maps $X_n : \Omega \to \mathbb{D}$ be defined on the probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, P)$. We say X_n *converges weakly* to a Borel measurable $X : \Omega \to \mathbb{D}$, denoted by $X_n \rightsquigarrow X$, if

$$E^* h(X_n) \underset{n\to\infty}{\longrightarrow} Eh(X) \ ,$$

for every $h \in C_b(\mathbb{D}, \mathbb{R})$, where the limit can be written in terms of the law of X.

Notice that because the limit r.v. is Borel, then it has a distribution.

Convergence in probability and almost surely

Definition

A sequence of random maps $X_n : \Omega \to \mathbb{D}$ *converges in probability* to X if, for all $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$P^*(d(X_n, X) > \varepsilon) \underset{n\to\infty}{\longrightarrow} 0 \ .$$

We denote it by $X_n \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}^*} X$.

Definition

A sequence of random maps $X_n : \Omega \to \mathbb{D}$ *converges almost surely* to X if, there exists a sequence of measurable random variables δ_n, such that

$$d(X_n, X) \leq \delta_n, \quad \text{and} \quad \delta_n \xrightarrow{a.s.} 0 \ .$$

We denote it by $X_n \xrightarrow{a.s.^*} X$.

Theorem (Portmanteau Theorem III)

Let a sequence of random maps $X_n : \Omega \to \mathbb{D}$, and $X : \Omega \to \mathbb{D}$. Then the following assertions are equivalent.

1. $E^* h(X_n) \underset{n \to \infty}{\longrightarrow} Eh(X)$ *for any real-valued bounded continuous function* h.
2. $E^* h(X_n) \underset{n \to \infty}{\longrightarrow} Eh(X)$ *for any real-valued bounded Lipschitz function* h.
3. $\liminf_{n\infty} P_n^*(U) \geq P(U)$, *for all open sets* $U \subset \mathbb{D}$.
4. $\limsup_{n\infty} P_n^*(F) \leq P(F)$, *for all closed sets* $F \subset \mathbb{D}$.
5. $P_n^*(A) \underset{n \to \infty}{\longrightarrow} P(A)$, *for all Borel* P*-continuity sets* A $(P(\partial A) = 0)$.

Theorem (CMT IV)

Let $\Phi : \mathbb{D} \to \mathbb{E}$ be a continuous mapping for all points in $\mathbb{D}_0 \subset \mathbb{D}$. Suppose the process $X_n \rightsquigarrow X$, with X being valued in $\mathbb{D}_0$, then $\Phi(X_n) \rightsquigarrow \Phi(X)$.

Example

Suppose the process Z_n to be indexed by a Donsker class of measurable functions $\mathcal{H}$. Then, because the sup-norm can be viewed as a UC mapping on $\ell^\infty(\mathcal{H})$:
$|\|x\|_\mathcal{H} - \|y\|_\mathcal{H}| \leq \|x - y\|_\mathcal{H}$. Then, we can build confidence intervals for the sup-norm of the scaled empirical process $\|\sqrt{n}(P_n - P)\|_\mathcal{H}$, where we apply Theorem 27 with $\Phi = \|\cdot\|_\mathcal{H}$.

Bounded stochastic processes

- A stochastic process $X = \{X_t,\ t \in T\}$ is a collection of r.v.s $X_t : \Omega \to \mathbb{R}$, indexed by a set T and defined on a p.s.
- For fixed $\omega \in \Omega$, the map $t \mapsto X_t(\omega)$ is called a *sample path.* **It is useful to think of a stochastic process as a random function, of realizations being the sample paths, instead of a collection of r.v.s.**
- If every sample path is **bounded**, then we can view X as a random map $X : \Omega \to \ell^\infty(T)$.

  Because T is usually not finite, the space $\ell^\infty(T)$ is not separable, but we can extend the theory of weak convergence if the limit laws are **tight Borel p.m. on** $\ell^\infty(T)$.

Key result

Weak convergence of a sequence of sample bounded processes $\iff$ weak convergence of the fidi distributions + asymptotic equicontinuity !!!

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Theorem

We say that $X_n : \Omega_n \to \ell^\infty(T)$ converges weakly to a tight process X iff. the following two assertions hold true:

(i) *Convergence of all finite-dimensional distributions: $X_n \overset{fidi}{\rightsquigarrow} X$*

(ii) *Asymptotic equicontinuity: there exists a semimetric ρ that makes T totally bounded, and*

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \quad \lim_{\delta \to 0} \limsup_{n \to \infty} \mathbb{P}^* \left\{ \sup_{\rho(s,t) < \delta,\ s,t \in T} |X_n(t) - X_n(s)| > \varepsilon \right\} = 0 \ .$$

Remark (How should we prove and interpret the second condition?)

For (ii) to hold true, we can upperbound it by using Markov Inequality, for all $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$\mathbb{P}^* \left\{ \sup_{\rho(s,t) < \delta,\ s,t \in T} |X_n(t) - X_n(s)| > \varepsilon \right\} \leq (1/\varepsilon) \mathbb{E}^* \left[\sup_{\rho(s,t) < \varepsilon,\ s,t \in T} |X_n(t) - X_n(s)| \right]$$

We hope that controlling the tail fluctuations of the increments $X_n(t) - X_n(s)$, would result in a *nice* behavior over the whole sample path.

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To sum up

- We rigorously defined weak convergence for separable and non-separable spaces.
- Key ingredients for the proof are related to considering a subclass of functions with measurable envelope function.
- The outer-measure $(\mathbb{E}^*, \mathbb{P}^*)$ yields a novel definition of weak convergence for the classes of stochastic processes that we will study until the end of the semester.

References

- Aad W. Vaart, Jon A. Wellner, *Weak Convergence and Empirical Processes. With Applications to Statistics.* Springer Series in Statistics (SSS), Springer New York, 1996.
- Aad W. Vaart, *Asymptotic Statistics.* Cambridge University Press; 1998.
- Michael R. Kosorok, *Introduction to Empirical Processes and Semiparametric Inference.* Springer Series in Statistics (SSS), Springer New York, 2008.

Next lecture's program

It will be on the 18th of March!!

- We will study how to characterize the *size* of an index class of stochastic processes through their *complexity*.
- We will see that it is a key property to bound this size in order to control the uniform deviations of the process.