

The suprema of selector processes

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Motivation

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Let $(X_t)_{t \in T}$ be a stochastic process. $\mathbb{E} \sup_{t \in T} X_t \approx ?$

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Some further generalization

- Variables with c.d.f $c_r \exp(-|x|^r)$, $1 \leq r < \infty$, Talagrand 1994;
Variables with LCT + technical condition on growth, Latała 1997;
Variables which moments are not "too big" and not "too small",
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Conclusion

It's hard to describe exact size of $\mathbb{E} \sup_{t \in T} X_t$ when the process is "small".

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Problem (Very hard)

Let δ_i be i.i.d, $\mathbb{P}(\delta_i = 1) = p = 1 - \mathbb{P}(\delta_i = 0)$ and $T \subset \mathbb{R}^n$.

$$\mathbb{E} \sup_{t \in T} \sum_i t_i \delta_i \approx ?$$

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Fact (Talagrand)

g_1, \dots i.i.d $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$. Then

$$\left\{ \sup_{t \in T} \sum_i g_i t_i \geq L \mathbb{E} \sup_{t \in T} \sum_i g_i t_i \right\} \subset \bigcup_{k \geq 1} \left\{ \sum_i g_i t_i^k \geq u_k \right\}, \text{ where}$$

$$\sum_k \mathbb{P} \left(\sum_i g_i t_i^k \geq u_k \right) \leq 1/2.$$

Conjecture (Talagrand \sim 2010)

Is generalization of the above statement true for selector process?

Formulation of the Problem

Let δ_i be i.i.d, $\mathbb{P}(\delta_i = 1) = p = 1 - \mathbb{P}(\delta_i = 0)$, $\delta(T) := \mathbb{E} \sup_{t \in T} \sum_{i=1}^n t_i \delta_i$.

Theorem (Park, Pham 2022)

There exists constant L such that for any $T \subset (\mathbb{R}_+)^n$, there exists family \mathcal{G} of subsets of $[n]$ such that

$$\left\{ \sup_{t \in T} \sum_{i=1}^n t_i \delta_i \geq L \delta(T) \right\} \subset \bigcup_{S \in \mathcal{G}} \{ \delta_i = 1 \text{ for } i \in S \} \quad (1)$$

$$\sum_{S \in \mathcal{G}} \mathbb{P}(\delta_i = 1 \text{ for } i \in S) = \sum_{S \in \mathcal{G}} p^{|S|} \leq 1/2. \quad (2)$$

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Remark

The Theorem is obvious for $p > c > 0$ since

$$\sup_{t \in T} \sum_i t_i \delta_i \leq \sup_{t \in T} t_i = p^{-1} \sup_{t \in T} \mathbb{E} \sum_{i=1}^n t_i \delta_i$$

Small families

A collection \mathcal{F} of subsets of $[n] := \{1, \dots, n\}$ is p -small if there exists a collection \mathcal{G} of $[n]$ such that

$$\mathcal{F} \subset \langle \mathcal{G} \rangle := \bigcup_{S \in \mathcal{G}} \langle S \rangle = \bigcup_{S \in \mathcal{G}} \{I \subset \{1, \dots, n\} : S \subset I\}, \quad \sum_{S \in \mathcal{G}} p^{|S|} \leq 1/2,$$

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- $2^{[n]} = \bigcup_{k=1}^n \langle k \rangle \cup \emptyset$. If $np \leq 1/2$ than any family is small.
- $\mathcal{F} =$ all subsets of $[n]$ with cardinality $\geq k + 1$. Then

$$\mathcal{F} \subset \bigcup_{|I|=k} \langle I \rangle \subset \bigcup_{|I|=k-1} \langle I \rangle \subset \dots$$

If $\min_{I \leq k} p^I \binom{n}{I} \leq 1/2$ then \mathcal{F} is small.

Refomulation of Theorem

The following is equivalent to the Theorem formulated on the previous slides.

Theorem

Let \mathcal{F} be a family of subsets of $[n]$, which is not p -small and with each $I \in \mathcal{F}$ we have an associated probabilistic measure μ_I on $[n]$, $\mu_I(I) = 1$.

Then $\mathbb{E} \sup_{I \in \mathcal{F}} \sum_{i \in I} \mu_I(i) \delta_i \geq \frac{1}{220}$.

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- 1 We may assume that $np \geq 1/2$
- 2 Improvement over trivial argument for small p

$$\mathbb{E} \sup_{I \in \mathcal{F}} \sum_{i \in I} \mu_I(i) \delta_i \geq \sup_{I \in \mathcal{F}} \mathbb{E} \sum_{i \in I} \mu_I(i) \delta_i = p.$$

Proof - first step

Let $(\delta'_i), (\delta''_i)$ be independent Bernoulli r.v.'s,

$$\mathbb{P}(\delta'_i = 1) = Cp, \quad \mathbb{P}(\delta''_i = 1) = \frac{1}{C}.$$

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$$\mathbb{E} \sup_{I \in \mathcal{F}} \sum_i \mu_I(i) \delta_i = \mathbb{E} \sup_{I \in \mathcal{F}} \sum_i \mu_I(i) \delta'_i \delta''_i \geq \frac{1}{C} \mathbb{E} \sup_{I \in \mathcal{F}} \sum_i \mu_I(i) \delta'_i.$$

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Denote $S = \sum_{i=1}^n \delta'_i$ so that

$$\mathbb{E} \sup_{I \in \mathcal{F}} \sum_i \mu_I(i) \delta'_i \geq \sum_{m \geq Cpn} \mathbb{E} \left(\sup_{I \in \mathcal{F}} \sum_i \mu_I(i) \delta'_i \mid S = m \right) \mathbb{P}(S = m).$$

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Since $np \geq 1/2$, we may assume that Cnp is an integer and by N. Lord's result $\mathbb{P}(S \geq Cnp) \geq 1/2$. **Goal:** $\mathbb{E} \left(\sup_{I \in \mathcal{F}} \sum_i \mu_I(i) \delta'_i \mid S = m \right) \geq 0.1$ for $m \geq Cnp$.

Key Lemma

Definition

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Lemma (key lemma)

Let \mathcal{F} be not small p -small. Then for any $m \leq n$

$$\mathbb{P}(X \text{ is bad} \mid |X| = m) \leq \sum_{k=1}^n \left(4 \frac{np}{m}\right)^k.$$

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Proof of the main Theorem, assuming key lemma:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left(2 \sup_{I \in \mathcal{F}} \sum_i \mu_I(i) \delta'_i \mid S = m \right) &= \mathbb{E} \left(2 \sup_{I \in \mathcal{F}} \mu_I(X \cap I) \mid S = m \right) \\ &\geq \mathbb{P}(X \text{ not bad} \mid S = m) \stackrel{\text{key lemma}}{\geq} 1 - \sum_{k=1}^n \left(4 \frac{np}{m}\right)^k \stackrel{m \geq Cnp}{\geq} \frac{1}{5}. \end{aligned}$$

Structure of a bad set

We write elements of $\mathcal{F} \ni I = (i_1, i_2, \dots, i_{|I|})$ in such way that $\mu_I(i_1), \mu_I(i_2), \dots$ is non-increasing. Define $I_j := (i_1, \dots, i_j)$. So $I_j \subset I$ consisting of j elements with largest $\mu_I(i)$.

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Lemma (Bad sets intersects \mathcal{F} sparsely)

Fix $X \subset [n]$ a bad set. Then for any $I \in \mathcal{F}$ there exists $j = j(I, X)$ such that $|I_j \cap X| < \frac{1}{2}|I_j|$.

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$$f(\varepsilon) = \sum_{i \in I \cap X} \mu_I(i) \wedge \varepsilon - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \in I} \mu_I(i) \wedge \varepsilon.$$

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f is continuous, $f(1) < 0$ (X is bad), $f(0) = 0$. So exists largest $\varepsilon(I, X) \in [0, 1]$ such that $f(\varepsilon(I, X)) \geq 0$ and $f(x) < 0$ for $x > \varepsilon(I, X)$.

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$$\sum_{i \in I \cap X} \mu_I(i) \wedge \varepsilon(I, X) \geq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \in I} \mu_I(i) \wedge \varepsilon(I, X) \quad (\text{since } f(\varepsilon(I, X)) \geq 0), \quad (3)$$

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$$\sum_{i \in I \cap X} \mu_I(i) \wedge (\varepsilon(I, X) + \delta) < \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \in I} \mu_I(i) \wedge (\varepsilon(I, X) + \delta). \quad (4)$$

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and the same hold for I replaced by $I \cap X$. Substituting this to (4) and using (3) gives

$$\sum_{i \in I \cap X} \mathbf{1}_{\mu_I(i) > \varepsilon(I, X)} < \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \in I} \mathbf{1}_{\mu_I(i) > \varepsilon(I, X)}$$

Witnesses

Since $\sum_{i \in I \cap X} \mathbf{1}_{\mu_I(i) > \varepsilon(I, X)} < \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \in I} \mathbf{1}_{\mu_I(i) > \varepsilon(I, X)}$, we take

$\tilde{I} := \{i \in I : \mu_I(i) > \varepsilon(I, X)\}$ and $j(I, X) := |\tilde{I}|$. The result follows, since $I_{j(I, X)} = \tilde{I}$. □

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To remember: Set $I_{j(I, X)}$ consists of elements of I for which coefficient $\mu_I(i)$ exceeds certain level.

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Definition (Pivotal definition)

Fix bad set $X \subset [n]$. To each $I \in \mathcal{F}$ we associate number $j(I, X)$ from the previous lemma. Fix $I \in \mathcal{F}$. Among all $I' \in \mathcal{F}$ such that $I'_{j(I', X)} \setminus X \subset I \setminus X$ we chose the ones for which $j(I', X)$ is smallest. Among the latter we pick any I' such that $I'_{j(I', X)} \setminus X$ has a minimal number of elements. We define (I, X) witness as

$$W(I, X) := I'_{j(I', X)}.$$

Remark: Park and Pham used $I'_{j(I', X)} \setminus X$ rather than $W(I, X)$.

The cover

Definition

The cover of \mathcal{F} is given by $\mathcal{G}(X) = \{W(I, X) \setminus X : I \in \mathcal{F}\}$. It is a cover since for any $I \in \mathcal{F}$, $W(I, X) \setminus X \subset I$.

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Plan: \mathcal{F} is not p -small so $\sum_{G \in \mathcal{G}(X)} p^{|G|} \geq 1/2$ and as a result

$$\mathbb{P}(X \text{ is bad} \mid |X| = m) \binom{n}{m} = \sum_{\substack{X \text{ is bad} \\ |X|=m}} 1 \leq 2 \sum_{\substack{X \text{ is bad} \\ |X|=m}} \sum_{G \in \mathcal{G}(X)} p^{|G|}$$

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Questions:

- 1 How to control the above sum?
- 2 Can we somehow "parameterize" pairs (G, X) ?

Properties of bad sets

Lemma

Let X, Y be bad sets, $I, J \in \mathcal{F}$. Let $I'_j = W(I, X)$, $J'_k = W(J, Y)$. Assume that

1) $j := j(I', X) = j(J', Y)$ 2) $Z := I'_j \cup X = J'_j \cup Y$ 3) $t := |I'_j \setminus X| = |J'_j \setminus Y|$.

Then

$$\sum_{i \in I' \cap Y} \mu_{I'}(i) \wedge \varepsilon(I', X) \geq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \in I'} \mu_{I'}(i) \wedge \varepsilon(I', X), \quad (5)$$

where $\varepsilon(\cdot, \cdot)$ is the proper threshold from the key lemma.

Properties of bad sets

Lemma

Let X, Y be bad sets, $I, J \in \mathcal{F}$. Let $I'_j = W(I, X)$, $J'_k = W(J, Y)$. Assume that

$$1) j := j(I', X) = j(J', Y) \quad 2) Z := I'_j \cup X = J'_j \cup Y \quad 3) t := |I'_j \setminus X| = |J'_j \setminus Y|.$$

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where $\varepsilon(\cdot, \cdot)$ is the proper threshold from the key lemma.

- 1 By the definition $\varepsilon(I', Y)$ is the greatest number for which (5) holds. Thus, $\varepsilon(I', Y) \geq \varepsilon(I', X)$. This is a key consequence of the above lemma.
- 2 In fact under the above assumptions, $W(I, X) \setminus Y = W(J, Y) \setminus Y$.

Proof of Lemma

$$\sum_{i \in I' \cap Y} \mu_{I'}(i) \wedge \varepsilon(I', X) = \sum_{i \in (I'_j)^c \cap Y} \mu_{I'}(i) + \sum_{i \in I'_j \cap Y} \varepsilon(I', X)$$

Proof of Lemma

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i \in I' \cap Y} \mu_{I'}(i) \wedge \varepsilon(I', X) &= \sum_{i \in (I'_j)^c \cap Y} \mu_{I'}(i) + \sum_{i \in I'_j \cap Y} \varepsilon(I', X) \\ &= \sum_{i \in (I'_j)^c \cap Z} \mu_{I'}(i) - \sum_{i \in (I'_j)^c \cap (Z \setminus Y)} \mu_{I'}(i) + \varepsilon(I', X) |I'_j \cap Y| \end{aligned}$$

Proof of Lemma

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i \in I' \cap Y} \mu_{I'}(i) \wedge \varepsilon(I', X) &= \sum_{i \in (I'_j)^c \cap Y} \mu_{I'}(i) + \sum_{i \in I'_j \cap Y} \varepsilon(I', X) \\ &= \sum_{i \in (I'_j)^c \cap Z} \mu_{I'}(i) - \sum_{i \in (I'_j)^c \cap (Z \setminus Y)} \mu_{I'}(i) + \varepsilon(I', X) |I'_j \cap Y| \\ &= \sum_{i \in (I'_j)^c \cap Z} \mu_{I'}(i) - \sum_{i \in (I'_j)^c \cap (J'_j \setminus Y)} \mu_{I'}(i) + \varepsilon(I', X) (|I'_j \cap Z| - |I'_j \cap (Z \setminus Y)|) \end{aligned}$$

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 &= \sum_{i \in (I'_j)^c \cap Z} \mu_{I'}(i) - \sum_{i \in (I'_j)^c \cap \underline{(J'_j \setminus I'_j) \setminus Y}} \mu_{I'}(i) + \varepsilon(I', X) (j - t + \underline{|(J'_j \setminus I'_j) \setminus Y|}) \\
 &\geq \sum_{i \in (I'_j)^c \cap Z} \mu_{I'}(i) + \varepsilon(I', X) (j - t) = \sum_{i \in I' \cap X} \mu_{I'}(i) \wedge \varepsilon(I', X)
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 &\geq \sum_{i \in (I'_j)^c \cap Z} \mu_{I'}(i) + \varepsilon(I', X)(j - t) = \sum_{i \in I' \cap X} \mu_{I'}(i) \wedge \varepsilon(I', X) \\
 &\geq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \in I'} \mu_{I'}(i) \wedge \varepsilon(I', X). \text{ We used that on } (I'_j)^c, \mu_{I'}(i) \leq \varepsilon(I', X). \quad \square
 \end{aligned}$$

Structure of bad sets

Lemma

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As before let $I'_j = W(I, X)$, $J'_j = W(J, Y)$.

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Assume $j_0 = j(I', Y) > j = j(I', X)$. Thus,

$$I'_j = \{i \in I' : \mu_{I'}(i) \geq \varepsilon(I', X)\} \subsetneq I'_{j_0} = \{i \in I' : \mu_{I'}(i) \geq \varepsilon(I', Y)\}$$

so $\varepsilon(I', Y) < \varepsilon(I', X)$. This contradicts the previous lemma, so $j_0 = j$. So by construction $|I'_j \setminus Y| \geq |J'_j \setminus Y|$ and since (6) the assertion follows.

Parametrization of bad sets

Corollary

Fix m, t and $Z \subset [n]$, where $|Z| = m + t$. Fix bad set $X \subset [n]$, $|X| = m$.

For any $t \leq j \leq n$ there are at most $\binom{j}{t}$ sets of the form $W(I, X) \setminus X$ where $I \in \mathcal{F}$, $|W(I, X)| = j$, $Z = W(I, X) \cup X$, $|W(I, X) \setminus X| = t$.

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Remark

X is bad so by one of the previous lemma

$$j = |W(I, X)| = |W(I, X) \cap X| + |W(I, X) \setminus X| \leq \frac{1}{2}j + t, \text{ so } t \geq \frac{1}{2}j.$$

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The last hard thing to understand:

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{|X|=m, \text{bad}} \sum_{G \in \mathcal{G}(X)} p^{|G|} \\ &= \sum_{j \geq 1} \sum_{j/2 \leq t \leq j} \sum_{\substack{Z \subset [n] \\ |Z|=m+t}} p^t \{ \underbrace{W(I, X) \setminus X}_{=G \text{ element from } \mathcal{G}(X)} : \\ & \quad Z = W(I, X) \cup X, |W(I, X)| = j, |W(I, X) \setminus X| = t \} \end{aligned}$$

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- 1 We parameterise pairs (X, G) by $X \cup G ; |G|, |G \setminus X|$.
- 2 The previous Corollary gives upper bound for the cardinality of the set in the above formula.

Proof of the key lemma

The assertion of our Corollary states that

$$|\{W(I, X) \setminus X : Z = W(I, X) \cup X, |W(I, X)| = j, |W(I, X) \setminus X| = t\}| \leq \binom{j}{t}.$$

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$$\frac{1}{2} \mathbb{P}(X \text{ is bad} \mid |X| = m) \binom{n}{m} \leq \sum_{|X|=m, \text{bad}} \sum_{G \in \mathcal{G}(X)} p^{|G|}$$

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$$= \sum_{t=1}^n \sum_{j=t}^{2t} \binom{j}{t} \binom{n}{m+t} p^t = \sum_{t=1}^n \binom{n}{m+t} p^t \sum_{j=t}^{2t} \binom{j}{t}$$

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$$= \sum_{t=1}^n \binom{n}{m+t} p^t \binom{2t+1}{t+1} \leq \sum_{t=1}^n \binom{n}{m+t} (4p)^t \leq \sum_{t=1}^n \left(4 \frac{np}{m}\right)^t \binom{n}{m}$$

since $\binom{n}{m+t} \leq \left(\frac{n}{m}\right)^t \binom{n}{m}$.



Further results and questions

Theorem (Park, Pham; different proof Bednorz, Martynek, Meller)

(E, ρ) a metric space, fix $d \in \mathbb{N}$. Let X_1, \dots, X_d be i.i.d with values in E with distribution μ . Assume μ has no atoms. Let T be a finite class of nonnegative Borel measurable functions on E . Then there exists a family \mathcal{F} of pairs (g, u) where each $g : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ is μ -measurable and $u \geq 0$ such that

$$\left\{ \sup_{t \in T} \sum_{i=1}^d t(X_i) \geq K \mathbb{E} \sup_{t \in T} \sum_{i=1}^d t(X_i) \right\} \subset \bigcup_{(g,u) \in \mathcal{F}} \left\{ \frac{1}{d} \sum_{i=1}^d g(X_i) \geq u \right\}$$

$$\sum_{(g,u) \in \mathcal{F}} \mathbb{P} \left(\frac{1}{d} \sum_{i=1}^d g(X_i) \geq u \right) \leq \frac{1}{2}.$$

Questions: Can T be infinite? What for not i.i.d variables?

We know: We can skip the assumptions about atoms. Also similar result for infinitely divisible processes.