

Optimal Importance Sampling for the Approximation of Integrals

Special Session on Monte Carlo Methods and Functional Analysis
in Honor of Stefan Heinrich's 60th Birthday

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MCQMC
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The Problem

- $D \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ Borel measurable
- ϱ probability density on D
- H Hilbert space of functions $f : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
- **Integration Problem:**

$$I(f) = \int_D f(x) \varrho(x) dx$$

- Problem is well defined iff $H \subset L_1(\varrho)$ iff

$$C^{\text{init}} = \left(\int_D \int_D K(x, y) \varrho(x) \varrho(y) dx dy \right)^{1/2} < \infty$$

- **Algorithms:** Randomized Algorithm using n function values, in particular importance sampling
- to have function values well defined we assume that H is a **reproducing kernel Hilbert space** with kernel $K : D \times D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

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Importance Sampling

- another density function ω on D
- **Alternative Integration Problem:**

$$I(f) = \int_D \frac{f(x)\varrho(x)}{\omega(x)} \omega(x) dx$$

- **Monte-Carlo:** x_1, \dots, x_n iid according to probability density ω

$$Q_n(f) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{f(x_i)\varrho(x_i)}{\omega(x_i)}$$

- **Error:**

$$\begin{aligned} e_n^2 &= \sup_{\|f\|_H \leq 1} \mathbb{E} |I(f) - Q_n(f)|^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \sup_{\|f\|_H \leq 1} \left(\int_D \frac{f(x)^2 \varrho(x)^2}{\omega(x)} dx - I(f)^2 \right) \end{aligned}$$

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- Independent of the concrete integral $I(f)$:

$$e_n \leq n^{-1/2} C(\omega)$$

where $C(\omega)$ is given by

$$C(\omega) = \left(\sup_{\|f\|_H \leq 1} \int_D \frac{f(x)^2 \varrho(x)^2}{\omega(x)} dx \right)^{1/2}$$

- **Consequence:** Importance sampling has worst case error of order $n^{-1/2}$ if

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$$C^{\text{imps}} = \inf_{\omega} C(\omega) < \infty$$

- use $|f(t)| \leq \sqrt{K(t, t)}$ for $\|f\| \leq 1$ to obtain

$$C(\omega) \leq \left(\int_D \frac{K(x, x) \varrho^2(x)}{\omega(x)} dx \right)^{1/2}$$

- **Standard Monte-Carlo:** $\omega = \varrho$

$$C^{\text{std}} := \left(\int_D K(x, x) \varrho(x) dx \right)^{1/2} < \infty$$

sufficient for standard MC to have error of order $n^{-1/2}$

- **Optimization for ω :** with the condition

$$C^{\text{sqrt}} = \int_D \sqrt{K(x, x)} \varrho(x) dx < \infty$$

the density

$$\omega^*(x) = \frac{\sqrt{K(x, x)} \varrho(x)}{C^{\text{sqrt}}}$$

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The Result

- $C^{\text{init}} \leq C^{\text{imps}} \leq C^{\text{sqrt}} \leq C^{\text{std}}$
- $C^{\text{std}} < \infty \implies$ Standard MC has error of order $n^{-1/2}$
- $C^{\text{sqrt}} < \infty \implies$ PWZ-importance sampling has error of order $n^{-1/2}$
- $C^{\text{init}} < \infty \iff H \subset L_1(\varrho) \iff$ Problem is well defined $\iff J_H : H \rightarrow L_1(\varrho)$ is a bounded operator

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Theorem

If the initial error is finite or, equivalently, if the embedding $J_H : H \rightarrow L_1(\varrho)$ is a bounded operator then importance sampling has error of order $n^{-1/2}$. More precisely,

$$C^{\text{imps}} \leq \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \|J_H : H \rightarrow L_1(\varrho)\|.$$

In particular, if the kernel K is nonnegative then

$$C^{\text{imps}} \leq \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} C^{\text{init}}.$$

p -Summing Operators

- $1 \leq p < \infty$
- X, Y Banach spaces, $T : X \rightarrow Y$ bounded linear operator
- T is called p -summing if T maps weakly p -summable sequences in X to strongly p -summable sequences in Y .

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \|Tx_i\|^p \leq c^p \sup_{\|a\|_{X'} \leq 1} \sum_{i=1}^n |a(x_i)|^p$$

- $\pi_p(T) = \inf c$
- **Pietsch Domination Theorem:** $T : X \rightarrow Y$ is p -summing if and only if there exists a constant $c \geq 0$ and a regular Borel probability measure ν on the weak- $*$ -compact closed unit ball $B_{X'}$ of X' such that for all $x \in X$

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Theorem (Rosenthal, Johnson/Schechtman)

$X \subset L_1(\Omega, \mu)$, μ is a probability measure, $J : X \rightarrow L_1(\mu)$ bounded embedding. If the dual operator $J' : L_\infty(\Omega, \mu) \rightarrow X'$ is q -summing for some $1 \leq q < \infty$ then there exists a measurable function $g > 0$ on Ω such that $\int_\Omega g \, d\mu = 1$ and such that the isometry

$$M : L_1(\Omega, \mu) \rightarrow L_1(\Omega, g \, d\mu) \quad \text{given by } Mf = fg^{-1}$$

maps X to a space $\tilde{X} = M(X)$ which is contained in $L_p(\Omega, g \, d\mu)$, where p is the dual index of q defined as $1/p + 1/q = 1$. Moreover, if we equip \tilde{X} with the norm from X , i.e. if we set

$$\|Mf|_{\tilde{X}}\| = \|f|_X\| \quad \text{for } f \in X,$$

then the embedding $\tilde{J} : \tilde{X} \rightarrow L_p(\Omega, g \, d\mu)$ has norm

$$\|\tilde{J} : \tilde{X} \rightarrow L_p(\Omega, g \, d\mu)\| \leq \pi_q(J' : L_\infty(\Omega, \mu) \rightarrow X').$$

The Method

- $C^{\text{init}} < \infty$ means $H \subset L_1(\varrho)$
- we want to change the density so that $H \subset L_2$
- recall: $J_H : H \rightarrow L_1(\varrho)$ is a linear bounded operator
- the **Little Grothendieck Theorem** tells you that the dual operator is 2-summing
- the **Change of Density Theorem** tells you that then the measure ϱdx can be changed with a density so that H then actually becomes a subspace of L_2
- that is exactly what we need
- the density ω for the importance sampling algorithm can be obtained from the **Pietsch measure** in the **Pietsch Domination Theorem** associated with the 2-summing operator J'_H

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Theorem

Assume that we have a sequence I_d of d -dimensional integration problems with normalized initial error. If the embeddings $J_{H_d} : H_d \rightarrow L_1(\varrho_d)$ are uniformly bounded, then the multivariate weighted integration problem is strongly polynomially tractable in the randomized setting with exponent 2. This is in particular the case if all the kernels K_d are nonnegative.

- **Novak, Wozniakowski:** The exponent 2 is sharp for tensor product Hilbert spaces whose univariate reproducing kernel is nonnegative and decomposable and univariate integration is not trivial for the two spaces corresponding to decomposable parts.

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Toy Example

- $D = [0, \infty)$
- $K(x, y) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} a_j^2 \mathbf{1}_j(x) \mathbf{1}_j(y)$
- $\varrho(x) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} r_j \mathbf{1}_j(x)$ for some $r_j \geq 0$ summing to 1
- The functions $a_j \mathbf{1}_j$ are an orthonormal basis of H .
- $C^{\text{init}} < \infty \iff (a_j r_j) \in \ell_2$
- $C^{\text{sqrt}} < \infty \iff (a_j r_j) \in \ell_1$
- $C^{\text{std}} < \infty \iff (a_j^2 r_j) \in \ell_1$
- $C^{\text{imps}} < \infty \iff (a_j r_j) \in \ell_2$
- direct construction of the density

$$\omega(x) = (C^{\text{init}})^{-2} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} a_j^2 r_j^2 \mathbf{1}_j(x)$$

leads to $C^{\text{imps}} = C^{\text{init}}$

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Finally - A Real Example

- tractability of uniform integration on weighted Sobolev spaces
- $K_d(x, t) = \prod_{j=1}^d K^{\gamma_j}(x_j, t_j)$ for $x, t \in [0, 1]^d$
- $K^\gamma(x, t) = 1 + \gamma \min(x, t)$ (non-periodic case) or
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- Plaskota, Wasilkowski, Zhao 2009: importance sampling is strongly polynomial for the periodic case if $\sum \gamma_j^3 < \infty$
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