

Hoeffding's inequalities for Markov chains on general state space

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MCQMC 2010, Warsaw

Introduction

Hoeffding's inequalities

How we can check assumptions.

Method of proof

Sub-exponential bounds

Introduction

- ▶ Let $\mu := \int_{\mathcal{X}} f(x)\pi(dx)$
- ▶ In MCMC methods we construct a Markov chain X_1, X_2, \dots with stationary distribution π and we approximate μ by $\bar{X} := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n f(X_i)$.
- ▶ Our goal is to derive bounds of probabilities of estimation errors

$$\mathbf{P}(|\bar{X} - \mu| > \varepsilon) \leq? \quad (1)$$

- ▶ We will present a Hoeffding's type inequalities for bounded functions f .
- ▶ Using these inequalities we will construct sub-exponential bounds of (1) for functions f with exponential tails.

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Classic Hoeffding's inequalities

Theorem (Hoeffding 1963)

If X_1, X_2, \dots is a sequence of i.i.d. random variables with $0 \leq X_i \leq 1$ then for all n and all $0 < \varepsilon < 1 - \mu$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} P(\bar{X} - \mu > \varepsilon) &\leq \left\{ \left(\frac{\mu}{\mu + \varepsilon} \right)^{\mu + \varepsilon} \left(\frac{1 - \mu}{1 - \mu - \varepsilon} \right)^{1 - \mu - \varepsilon} \right\}^n \\ &\leq e^{-2n\varepsilon^2}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\mu := \mathbf{E}X_1$ and $\bar{X} := \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n X_i}{n}$.

León & Perron

- ▶ Consider X_1, X_2, \dots a **reversible** Markov chain on finite state space \mathcal{X} with transition matrix M and stationary distribution π .
- ▶ Let ρ_1 be the second largest eigenvalue of matrix M and let $\rho := \max\{0, \rho_1\}$.

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Theorem (León & Perron 2004)

Let $f : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ with stationary mean $\mu := \pi f$ then for all $0 < \varepsilon - \mu$ and all n

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}_\pi (S_n \geq n(\mu + \varepsilon)) &\leq \left[\frac{\mu + \bar{\mu}\rho}{1 - 2(\bar{\mu} - \varepsilon)/(1 + \sqrt{\Delta})} \right]^{n(\mu + \varepsilon)} \left[\frac{\bar{\mu} + \mu\rho}{1 - 2(\mu + \varepsilon)/(1 + \sqrt{\Delta})} \right]^{n(\bar{\mu} - \varepsilon)} \\ &\leq \exp \left\{ -2 \frac{1 - \rho}{1 + \rho} \varepsilon^2 n \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

where $S_n := \sum_{i=1}^n f(X_i)$, $\bar{\mu} = 1 - \mu$ and $\Delta = 1 + \frac{4\rho(\mu + \varepsilon)(\bar{\mu} - \varepsilon)}{\mu\bar{\mu}(1 - \rho)^2}$.

Main result

- ▶ We generalize this result in two direction:
- ▶ We assume only that state space \mathcal{X} is Polish space with Borel σ -field $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{X})$.
- ▶ We do not assume reversibility of chain X_1, X_2, \dots .

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Main result

- ▶ So X_1, X_2, \dots is a Markov chain on \mathcal{X} with transition kernel $P(x, \cdot)$ and stationary distribution π .
- ▶ Let L_π^2 be a Hilbert space of function $g : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with norm $\|\cdot\|_2$ defined by inner product

$$\langle f, g \rangle := \int_{\mathcal{X}} f(x)g(x)\pi(dx).$$

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Main result

► Assumption (A1)

$$\|P - \Pi\|_2 \leq \rho < 1$$

Theorem (Main result)

If Markov chain X_1, X_2, \dots satisfies (A1). Then for all functions $f : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ with stationary mean $\mu := \pi f$, all n and all $0 < \varepsilon < 1 - \mu$ we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}_\pi(S_n \geq n(\mu + \varepsilon)) &\leq \left[\frac{\mu + \bar{\mu}\rho}{1 - 2(\bar{\mu} - \varepsilon)/(1 + \sqrt{\Delta})} \right]^{n(\mu + \varepsilon)} \left[\frac{\bar{\mu} + \mu\rho}{1 - 2(\mu + \varepsilon)/(1 + \sqrt{\Delta})} \right]^{n(\bar{\mu} - \varepsilon)} \\ &\leq \exp \left\{ -2 \frac{1 - \rho}{1 + \rho} \varepsilon^2 n \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

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Reversible case

- ▶ In **reversible** case assumption **(A1)** is equivalent to geometric ergodicity. Reversible Markov chain, for all n , satisfies

$$\|P^n(x, \cdot) - \pi\|_{tv} \leq M_x \rho^n$$

iff holds **(A1)** with the same ρ

Non-reversible case

- ▶ In non-reversible case there exist simple examples of geometric ergodic chain such that for all n norm

$$\|P^n - \Pi\|_2 = 1$$

- ▶ We define an adjoint transition kernel $P^*(x, \cdot)$ by

$$\pi(dx)P(x, dy) = \pi(dy)P^*(y, dx)$$

Lemma

Markov chain with transition kernel P satisfies **(A1)** \iff the Markov chain with transition kernel $PP^*(x, \cdot)$ is geometrically ergodic.

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Drift condition

► We construct a drift condition which implies **(A1)**.

► Let function $V : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow [1, \infty)$ satisfies following properties

1. The level sets $C_r := \{x \in \mathcal{X} : V(x) \leq r\}$ are small sets for all $r \in \mathcal{X}$ i.e.

$$P(x, dy) \geq \beta_r \mathbb{1}(x \in V_r) \nu_r(dy),$$

where $\beta_r > 0$ and ν_r is a probability measure.

2. There exist λ_1 and λ_2 with $\lambda_1 \lambda_2 < 1$ and constant K such that

$$PV(x) \leq \lambda_1 V(x) + K$$

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Method of proof

► Notation:

- Let X'_1, X'_2, \dots be a Markov chain on \mathcal{X} with transition kernel $Q(x, A) := (1 - \rho)\pi(A) + \rho\mathbb{I}(x \in A)$.
- Let $\widehat{Q}_{t,f}$ be a linear self-adjoint operator on space L^2_π : for all $t > 0$

$$\widehat{Q}_{t,f}(g)(x) := e^{\frac{t}{2}f(x)} Q\left(g(x)e^{\frac{t}{2}f(x)}\right)$$

- Let Y_1, Y_2, \dots be a Markov chain on $\{0, 1\}$ with transition matrix

$$M := (1 - \rho)\mathbf{1}\mu^T + \rho\mathbb{I},$$

where $\mu := [1 - \mu, \mu]^T$

- Let \widehat{M}_t be a matrix

$$\widehat{M}_t = D_t M D_t,$$

where $D_t := \text{diag}[1, e^{\frac{t}{2}}]$

- Let θ_t be the largest eigenvalue of \widehat{M}_t

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- ▶ Idea of proof is the same as in León & Perron. We reduce problem to two-state space case:

- 1 We show that

$$\mathbf{E}_\pi \exp(tS_n) \leq \left\| \widehat{Q}_{t,f} \right\|_2^n$$

- 2 We obtain

$$\left\| \widehat{Q}_{t,f} \right\|_2 \leq \theta_t,$$

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New elements

- Under assumption (A1) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left\| e^{\frac{1}{2}f} P e^{\frac{1}{2}f} \right\|_2 &= \sup_{\{g, h : \|g\|_2 = \|h\|_2 = 1\}} \left\langle e^{\frac{1}{2}f} h, P e^{\frac{1}{2}f} g \right\rangle \\
 &= \sup_{\{g, h : \|g\|_2 = \|h\|_2 = 1\}} \left\{ \pi(e^{\frac{1}{2}f} h) \pi(e^{\frac{1}{2}f} g) + \left\langle (e^{\frac{1}{2}f} h)_C, P(e^{\frac{1}{2}f} g)_C \right\rangle \right\} \\
 &\leq \sup_{\{g, h : \|g\|_2 = \|h\|_2 = 1\}} \left\{ \pi(e^{\frac{1}{2}f} h) \pi(e^{\frac{1}{2}f} g) + \rho \left\| (e^{\frac{1}{2}f} h)_C \right\|_2 \left\| (e^{\frac{1}{2}f} g)_C \right\|_2 \right\} \\
 &\leq \sup_{\{g : \|g\|_2 = 1\}} \left\{ \left[\pi(e^{\frac{1}{2}f} g) \right]^2 + \rho \left\| (e^{\frac{1}{2}f} g)_C \right\|_2^2 \right\} \\
 &= \sup_{\{g : \|g\|_2 = 1\}} \left\langle e^{\frac{1}{2}f} g, \pi(e^{\frac{1}{2}f} g) + \rho(e^{\frac{1}{2}f} g)_C \right\rangle \\
 &= \left\| \widehat{Q}_{t,f} \right\|_2,
 \end{aligned}$$

where $g_C := g - \pi g$.

New elements

- ▶ Above observation gives us, that without reversibility we have

$$\mathbf{E}_\pi \exp(tS_n) \leq \left\| \widehat{Q}_{t,f} \right\|_2^n$$

- ▶ As in León & Perron we obtain

$$\mathbf{E}_\pi \exp \left(t \sum_{i=1}^n f(X'_i) \right) \leq \mathbf{E}_\mu \exp \left(t \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i \right)$$

- ▶ In finite space case it's obvious that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \mathbf{E}_\pi \exp \left(t \sum_{i=1}^n f(X'_i) \right) = \log \left(\left\| \widehat{Q}_{t,f} \right\|_2 \right),$$

in general space case we need to prove this.

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New elements

- Let $g_k \searrow f$ and $h_k \nearrow f$ be a sequences of step functions. We obtain that

$$\left\| \widehat{Q}_{t,g_k} \right\|_2 = u_k$$

and

$$\left\| \widehat{Q}_{t,h_k} \right\|_2 = l_k,$$

where u_k and l_k are eigenvalues of \widehat{Q}_{t,g_k} and \widehat{Q}_{t,h_k} respectively.

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$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \mathbf{E}_{\pi} \exp \left(t \sum_{i=1}^n g_k(X'_i) \right) = \log(u_k),$$

the same we have for pair l_k and h_k .

- ▶ Hence for all k

$$\log(l_k) \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \mathbf{E}_{\pi} \exp \left(t \sum_{i=1}^n f_k(X'_i) \right) \leq \log(u_k)$$

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Sub-exponential bounds

► Assumptions:

A1

$$\|P - \Pi\|_2 \leq \rho < 1$$

A2 Let $f : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfies: for all $M > M_0$

$$\mathbf{P}_\pi \left(|f(X_1)| > \frac{M}{2} \right) \leq ae^{bM}$$

A3 Let n be sufficiently large and ε sufficiently small :

$$\log(an) > bM_0 \quad \text{and} \quad \varepsilon < \frac{\log(an)}{2b} - \mu$$

or

$$\left(2 \frac{1 - \rho}{b(1 + \rho)} n \varepsilon^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} > M_0, \quad \text{and} \quad \varepsilon + \mu < \frac{1}{2} \left(2 \frac{1 - \rho}{b(1 + \rho)} n \varepsilon^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

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$$\left(2 \frac{1 - \rho}{b(1 + \rho)} n \varepsilon^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} > M_0, \quad \text{and} \quad \varepsilon + \mu < \frac{1}{2} \left(2 \frac{1 - \rho}{b(1 + \rho)} n \varepsilon^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

Sub-exponential bounds

► Assumptions:

A1

$$\|P - \Pi\|_2 \leq \rho < 1$$

A2 Let $f : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfies: for all $M > M_0$

$$\mathbf{P}_\pi \left(|f(X_1)| > \frac{M}{2} \right) \leq ae^{bM}$$

A3 Let n be sufficiently large and ε sufficiently small :

$$\log(an) > bM_0 \quad \text{and} \quad \varepsilon < \frac{\log(an)}{2b} - \mu$$

or

$$\left(2 \frac{1 - \rho}{b(1 + \rho)} n \varepsilon^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} > M_0, \quad \text{and} \quad \varepsilon + \mu < \frac{1}{2} \left(2 \frac{1 - \rho}{b(1 + \rho)} n \varepsilon^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

Sub-exponential bounds

Theorem

Under assumptions A1-A3. For all initial distribution ν with density $\frac{d\nu}{d\pi}$ w.r.t. π and all $1 \leq p, q \leq \infty$, with $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$, we have

$$\mathbf{P}_\nu (S_n \geq n(\mu + \varepsilon)) \leq \left\| \frac{d\nu}{d\pi} \right\|_p 2 \exp \left\{ -\frac{2}{q} \frac{1-\rho}{1+\rho} \varepsilon^2 \frac{n}{M^{*2}} \right\},$$

where M^* is a solution of

$$M^3 - M^2 \frac{\log(an)}{b} - 2 \frac{1-\rho}{b(1+\rho)} n \varepsilon^2 = 0.$$

Moreover

$$\left(2 \frac{1-\rho}{b(1+\rho)} n \varepsilon^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} \leq M^* \leq 1.465571 \max \left\{ \left(2 \frac{1-\rho}{b(1+\rho)} n \varepsilon^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{3}}, \frac{\log(an)}{b} \right\}.$$

Sub-exponential bounds

- ▶ If Markov chain satisfies drift condition with $V, \lambda_1, \lambda_2, K$ then for all functions $|f| \leq \log(V)$ we have

$$\mathbf{P}_\pi \left(|f(X_1)| > \frac{M}{2} \right) \leq \frac{K}{1-\lambda} e^{-\frac{M}{2}},$$

where $\lambda = \min\{\lambda_1, \lambda_2\}$.

Sketch of proof

- ▶ Under these assumptions we can decompose

$$\mathbf{P}_\pi (S_n \geq n(\mu + \varepsilon)) \leq \mathbf{P}_\pi (S_{n,M} \geq n(\mu_M + \varepsilon)) + n\mathbf{P}_\pi \left(|f(X_1)| > \frac{M}{2} \right),$$

where $S_{n,M} := \sum_{i=1}^n f(X_i)\mathbb{I}(|X_i| \leq \frac{M}{2})$ and $\mu_M := \pi(f\mathbb{I}(|X| \leq \frac{M}{2}))$.

- ▶ To first term we use Hoeffding's inequality to second term we use A2 and we have

$$\mathbf{P}_\pi (S_n \geq n(\mu + \varepsilon)) \leq \exp \left\{ -2 \frac{1-\rho}{1+\rho} n \frac{\varepsilon^2}{M^2} \right\} + \exp \{ -bM + \log(an) \}.$$

- ▶ Now we can optimize by M and obtain

$$\mathbf{P}_\pi (S_n \geq n(\mu + \varepsilon)) \leq 2 \exp \left\{ -2 \frac{1-\rho}{1+\rho} n \frac{\varepsilon^2}{M^{*2}} \right\}$$

where M^* is a solution of equation $M^3 - M^2 \frac{\log(an)}{b} - 2 \frac{1-\rho}{b(1+\rho)} n \varepsilon^2 = 0$.

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Some References

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