

**BOOTSTRAP FOR THE SAMPLE MEAN AND FOR U-STATISTICS  
 OF WEAKLY DEPENDENT OBSERVATIONS**

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In many statistical applications the data does not come from an independent stochastic process. A standard assumption of weak dependence is given by the strong mixing condition:

Definition 1. Let  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  be a stationary process. Then the strong mixing coefficient is given by

$$\alpha(k) = \sup \left\{ \left| P(A \cap B) - P(A)P(B) \right| : A \in F_1^n, B \in F_{n+k}^\infty, n \in \mathbb{N} \right\}$$

where  $F_a^l$  is the  $\sigma$ -field generated by r. v. 's  $X_a, \dots, X_l$ , and  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is called strongly mixing, if  $\alpha(k) \rightarrow 0$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .

For further information on strong mixing and a detailed description of other mixing conditions see Doukhan [4] and Bradley [2].

In many statistical applications, for example in the determination of confidence bands, one faces the task to compute the distribution of a statistic  $T_n = T_n(X_1, \dots, X_n)$ . This is usually rather difficult, as the distribution  $F$  of  $X_i$  is unknown, so one often has to use approximation by the normal distribution. Efron [5] proposed the bootstrap as an alternative. For i.i.d. data, the validity of the bootstrap was established by Bickel and Freedman [1], and by Singh [11]. Using Edgeworth expansion, one can often show that the bootstrap works better than normal approximation, see Hall [6] for details. Computation of the distribution of  $T_n$  becomes even more difficult when the observations are dependent, e.g., in the case of the sample mean

$\bar{X} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$ , one gets for weakly dependent data under some technical assumptions

$$\sqrt{n} \left( \bar{X}_n - EX_1 \right) \rightarrow N(0, \sigma^2) \quad \text{in} \quad \text{distribution,} \quad \text{where}$$

$\sigma^2 = \text{Var}[X_1] + 2 \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \text{Cov}[X_1, X_{i+1}]$ . So one has not only the variance to estimate, but

also the autocovariances of the process. The naïve bootstrap can fail under dependence, as Singh [11] mentioned. Therefore, block bootstrappings method are commonly used for nonparametric inference under dependence. There are different ways to resample blocks, for example the circular block bootstrap or the moving block bootstrap (for a detailed description of the different bootstrapping methods see Lahiri [7]). For the circular block bootstrap, Shao and Yu [10] have shown that under strong mixing the distribution of the block bootstrap version  $\bar{X}_n^*$  of the sample mean converges almost surely to the same distribution as the sample mean  $\bar{X}_n$ .

Peligrad [8] has proved asymptotic normality of  $\bar{X}_n^*$  under another set of conditions, which does not necessarily imply the central limit theorem for  $\bar{X}_n$ . Radulovic [9] has established weak consistency under very weak conditions. We consider the nonoverlapping bootstrap, proposed

by Carlstein [3], for the sample mean and for U-statistics. Let  $(X_n)_{n \in N}$  be a sequence of r.v.'s. Let  $p \in N$  be the block length such that  $p = p(n) = o(n)$ ,  $p \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . We introduce the following blocks of indices and r.v.'s:

$$I_i = (X_{(i-1)p+1}, \dots, X_{ip}),$$

$$B_i = \{(i-1)p + 1, \dots, ip\}, \quad i = 1, \dots, k$$

where  $k = k(n) = \left\lfloor \frac{n}{p} \right\rfloor$  is the number of blocks. We consider a new sample  $X_1^*, \dots, X_{kp}^*$ ,

which is constructed by choosing randomly and independently blocks  $k$  times with

$$P\left((X_1^*, \dots, X_p^*) = I_i\right) = \frac{1}{k}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, k.$$

As a bootstrap version of the sample mean we consider

$$\bar{X}_{n,kp}^* = \frac{1}{kp} \sum_{i=1}^{kp} X_i^*.$$

With  $P^*, E^*, \text{var}^*$  we denote the probability, expectation and variance conditionally on  $(X_n)_{n \in N}$ . Note that

$$E^* \bar{X}_{n,kp}^* = \frac{1}{kp} \sum_{i=1}^{kp} X_i =: \bar{X}_{n,kp}.$$

In what follows, we denote by  $\bar{X}_n$  the sample mean of the observations  $X_1, \dots, X_n$ , by  $N(0, \sigma^2)$  a Gaussian r.v. with mean zero and variance  $\sigma^2$  and by  $1_{\{\cdot\}}$  an indicator function.

Here we will give results for the sample mean only. First we will give theorems for general stationary sequences which are analogues to the results of Peligrad [8], and Shao and Yu [10].

*Theorem 1.* Let  $\{X_i, i \geq 1\}$  be a stationary sequence of r.v.'s such that  $EX_1 = \mu$  and  $\text{Var}X_1 < \infty$ . Assume that the following conditions hold

- (1)  $\text{Var} n^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \bar{X}_n - \mu \right) \rightarrow \sigma^2 > 0,$
- (2)  $n^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \bar{X}_n - \mu \right) \rightarrow N(0, \sigma^2)$  in distribution,
- (3)  $p^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \bar{X}_{n,kp} - \mu \right) \rightarrow 0$  a. s. ,
- (4)  $\frac{1}{kp} \sum_{i=1}^k \left[ \left( \sum_{j \in B_i}^p (X_j - \mu) \right)^2 - E \left( \sum_{j \in B_i}^p (X_j - \mu) \right)^2 \right] \rightarrow 0$  a. s.

$$\frac{1}{kp} \sum_{i=1}^k \left( \sum_{j \in B_i} (X_j - \mu) \right)^2 \mathbf{1}_{\left\{ \sum_{j \in B_i} (X_j - \mu)^2 > \varepsilon kp \right\}} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{a. s.}$$

for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Then the following takes place as  $n \rightarrow \infty$

$$\text{Var}^* \left( \sqrt{kp} \bar{X}_{n,kp}^* \right) \rightarrow \sigma^2 \quad \text{a. s.}$$

$$\sup_{x \in R} \left| P^* \left( \sqrt{kp} \left( \bar{X}_{n,kp}^* - \bar{X}_{n,kp} \right) \leq x \right) - P \left( \sqrt{n} \left( \bar{X}_n - \mu \right) \leq x \right) \right| \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{a. s.}$$

*Theorem 2.* Let  $(X_n)_{n \in N}$  be a stationary sequence of r.v.'s with  $EX_1 = \mu$ ,  $\text{Var} X_1 < \infty$ . Assume that conditions (1), (2), (4) and for each fixed  $x \in R$

$$\frac{1}{kp} \sum_{k=1}^k \left( \mathbf{1}_{\left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{p}} \sum_{j \in B_i} (X_j - \mu) \leq x \right\}} - P \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{p}} \sum_{i=1}^p (X_i - \mu) \leq x \right) \right) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{a. s.}$$

hold. Then the statement of Theorem 1 remains true.

*Theorem 3.* Let  $(X_n)_{n \in N}$  be a stationary sequence of bounded almost surely r.v.'s with  $EX_1 = \mu$ . Assume that (3) and following conditions hold

$$(5) \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{p^2}{n} &\rightarrow 0 && \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty, \\ \frac{1}{n} \text{Var} S_n &\rightarrow \sigma^2 && \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty, \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{1}{kp} \sum_{i=1}^k \left( \sum_{j \in B_i} (X_j - \mu) \right)^2 \rightarrow \sigma^2 \quad \text{a. s. as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

Then almost surely as  $n \rightarrow \infty$

$$(6) \quad \text{Var}^* \left( \sqrt{kp} \bar{X}_{n,kp}^* \right) \rightarrow \sigma^2,$$

$$(7) \quad \sqrt{kp} \left( \bar{X}_{n,kp}^* - \bar{X}_{n,kp} \right) \rightarrow N(0, \sigma^2).$$

We formulate theorems under assumptions on the strong mixing coefficients which are analogues to the results of Peligrad [8] and Shao, Yu [10].

*Theorem 4.* Let  $(X_n)_{n \in N}$  be a stationary sequence of strong mixing r.v.'s with

$$EX_1 = \mu \text{ and } \left( E|X_1|^{2+\delta} \right)^{\frac{1}{2+\delta}} < \infty \text{ for some } 0 < \delta \leq \infty. \text{ Assume}$$

$$\alpha(n) \leq Cn^{-1} \text{ for some } C > 0, r > \frac{2+\delta}{\delta},$$

$$p(n) \leq Cn^\varepsilon \text{ for some } 0 < \varepsilon < 1 \text{ and}$$

$$(8) \quad p(n) = p(2^l) \text{ for } 2^l < n \leq 2^{l+1}, l = 1, 2, \dots$$

Then  $\sigma^2 = EX_1^2 + 2\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} Cov(X_1, X_i) < \infty$  and in the case  $\sigma^2 > 0$  the statement of Theorem 1 holds.

*Theorem 5.* Let  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  be a stationary sequence of almost surely bounded strongly mixing r.v. 's. Assume that (5), (8) and the following conditions hold

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{p^2(n)\alpha(p(n))}{n} < \infty,$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{p^3(n)}{n^2} < \infty.$$

Then (6), (7) hold.

We have established consistency of the bootstrap version of U-statistics of mixing observations, but results will be given in another paper.

### References

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