## Frontiers of Statistics: Contraction theory for posterior distributions

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**Note**: LaTeX template courtesy of UC Berkeley EECS dept & CMU's convex optimization course taught by Ryan Tibshirani.

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## 4.1 Proof of (an extension of) Schwartz's Theorem

Assume  $p_0$  is the true density and  $p_0 \in \mathrm{KL}(\pi)$ . There exists a test function  $\Phi_n$  such that

$$\sup_{p \in \mathcal{U}^c \cap \mathcal{P}_n} \mathbb{E}_p(1 - \mathbf{\Phi}_n) \le e^{-cn}$$

for some constant c > 0, where  $\mathcal{P}_n$  is a measurable subset of  $\mathcal{P}$  such that  $\pi(\mathcal{P}_n^c) < e^{-cn}$ .

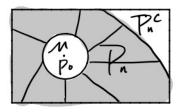


Figure 4.1:

The sets  $\{\mathcal{P}_n\}$  are called "Sieves" and  $\mathcal{P}_n \subset \mathcal{P}_{n+1}$  for large n.

**Lemma 4.1.** (Borel-Centelli lemma) If  $V_n$  is a sequence of random variabless such that for any  $\epsilon > 0$ ,

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P(|V_n| > \epsilon) < \infty,$$

then  $V_n \to 0$  a.s.

*Proof.* Goal: show that  $\pi_n(\mathcal{U}^c|X^{(n)}) \to 0$  a.s.  $[p_0]$ . For any subset of densities  $\mathcal{B}$  (that is  $\mathcal{B} \subset \mathcal{P}$ ), the posterior is defined as

$$\pi_n(\mathcal{B}|X^{(n)}) = \frac{\int_{\mathcal{B}} \prod_{i=1}^n p(X_i) \pi(dp)}{\int_{\mathcal{P}} \prod_{i=1}^n p(X_i) \pi(dp)} = \frac{\int_{\mathcal{B}} \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{p(X_i)}{p_0(X_i)} \pi(dp)}{\int_{\mathcal{P}} \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{p(X_i)}{p_0(X_i)} \pi(dp)}$$

Note that

$$\begin{split} \pi_n(\mathcal{U}^c|X^{(n)}) &= \pi_n(\mathcal{U}^c \cap \mathcal{P}_n|X^{(n)}) + \pi_n(\mathcal{U}^c \cap \mathcal{P}_n^c|X^{(n)}) \\ &\leq \pi_n(\mathcal{U}^c \cap \mathcal{P}_n|X^{(n)}) + \pi_n(\mathcal{P}_n^c|X^{(n)}) \\ &= \Phi_n\pi_n(\mathcal{U}^c \cap \mathcal{P}_n|X^{(n)}) + (1 - \Phi_n)\pi_n(\mathcal{U}^c \cap \mathcal{P}_n|X^{(n)}) + \pi_n(\mathcal{P}_n^c|X^{(n)}) \\ &\leq \Phi_n + (1 - \Phi_n)\pi_n(\mathcal{U}^c \cap \mathcal{P}_n|X^{(n)}) + \pi_n(\mathcal{P}_n^c|X^{(n)}) \end{split}$$

Claim 1:  $\Phi_n \to 0$  a.e  $[p_0]$ .

*Proof.* Fix  $\delta > 0$ ,

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{P}_0[\mathbf{\Phi}_n > \delta] \le \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\mathbb{E}_{p_0[\mathbf{\Phi}_n]}}{\delta} \le \frac{1}{\delta} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} e^{-cn} < \infty.$$

The first inequality is given by Markov inequality. Then according to Borel-Cantelli lemma,

$$\Phi_n \to 0$$
 a.s.

Claim 2: For any  $\epsilon > 0$ , define  $\mathcal{P}_{\epsilon} = \{ p \in \mathcal{P}, D(p_0 || p) < \epsilon \}$ . Then

$$\int_{\mathcal{P}} \prod_{i=1}^{n} \frac{p(X_i)}{p_0(X_i)} \pi(dp) \ge \pi(\mathcal{P}_{\epsilon}) e^{-n\epsilon} \text{ eventually a.e } [p_0]$$

Proof.

$$\int_{\mathcal{P}} \prod_{i=1}^{n} \frac{p(X_i)}{p_0(X_i)} \pi(dp) \ge \pi(\mathcal{P}_{\epsilon}) \int_{\mathcal{P}_{\epsilon}} \prod_{i=1}^{n} \frac{p(X_i)}{p_0(X_i)} \pi_{\epsilon}(dp)$$

where  $\pi_{\epsilon}$  is the "truncation" of  $\pi$  on  $\mathcal{P}_{\epsilon}$ , that is  $\pi_{\epsilon}(\mathcal{B}) = \frac{\pi(\mathcal{B} \cap \mathcal{P}_{\epsilon})}{\pi(\mathcal{P}_{\epsilon})}$ .

Consider

$$\log\left(\int_{\mathcal{P}_{\epsilon}} \prod_{i=1}^{n} \frac{p(X_i)}{p_0(X_i)} \pi_{\epsilon}(dp)\right) \ge n \int_{\mathcal{P}_{\epsilon}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \log \frac{p(X_i)}{p_0(X_i)} \pi_{\epsilon}(dp)$$

by Jensen's inequality.

Now

$$\int_{\mathcal{P}_{\epsilon}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \log \frac{p(X_i)}{p_0(X_i)} \pi_{\epsilon}(dp) \underline{\text{a.s.}} \int_{\mathcal{P}_{\epsilon}} D(p_0 || p) \pi_{\epsilon}(dp) \ge -\epsilon$$

by construction of  $\mathcal{P}_{\epsilon}$ . This proves claim 2.

Now back to proof of (an extension of) Schwartz's Theorem.

$$(1 - \mathbf{\Phi}_n)\pi_n(\mathcal{U}^c \cap \mathcal{P}_n | X^{(n)}) \le (1 - \mathbf{\Phi}_n) \frac{e^{n\epsilon}}{\pi(\mathcal{P}_\epsilon)} \int_{\mathcal{U}^c \cap \mathcal{P}_n} \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{p(X_i)}{p_0(X_i)} \pi(dp)$$
$$= ce^{n\epsilon} (1 - \mathbf{\Phi}_n) \int_{\mathcal{U}^c \cap \mathcal{P}_n} \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{p(X_i)}{p_0(X_i)} \pi(dp)$$

Consider

$$\mathbb{E}_{p_0}[(1-\boldsymbol{\Phi}_n)\int_{\mathcal{U}^c\cap\mathcal{P}_n}\prod_{i=1}^n\frac{p(X_i)}{p_0(X_i)}\pi(dp)]$$

$$=\int_{\mathcal{U}^c\cap\mathcal{P}_n}[\int (1-\boldsymbol{\Phi}_n)\prod_{i=1}^n\frac{p(X_i)}{p_0(X_i)}\prod_{i=1}^np_0(X_i)dX_i]\pi(dp) \text{ Fubini's theorem}$$

$$=\int_{\mathcal{U}^c\cap\mathcal{P}_n}[\int (1-\boldsymbol{\Phi}_n)\prod_{i=1}^np(X_i)dX_i]\pi(dp)$$

$$=\int_{\mathcal{U}^c\cap\mathcal{P}_n}\mathbb{E}_p(1-\boldsymbol{\Phi}_n)\pi(dp)$$

$$< e^{-nc}$$

This implies  $(1-\Phi_n)\pi_n(\mathcal{U}^c\cap\mathcal{P}_n|X^{(n)})\to 0$  [a.e.] if we take  $\epsilon=\frac{c}{2}$ 

$$\pi_n(\mathcal{P}_n^c|X^{(n)}) \le ce^{n\epsilon} \int_{\mathcal{P}_n^c} \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{p(X_i)}{p_0(X_i)} \pi_{\epsilon}(dp)$$

Consider

$$\mathbb{E}_{p_0} \left[ \int_{\mathcal{P}_n^c} \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{p(X_i)}{p_0(X_i)} \pi(dp) \right]$$

$$= \int_{\mathcal{P}_n^c} \left[ \int \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{p(X_i)}{p_0(X_i)} \prod_{i=1}^n p_0(X_i) \right] \pi(dp) \text{ Fubini's theorem}$$

$$= \int_{\mathcal{P}_n^c} \prod_{i=1}^n p(X_i) \pi(dp)$$

$$= \pi(\mathcal{P}_n^c) \le e^{-nc}$$

This implies  $\pi_n(\mathcal{P}_n^c|X^{(n)}) \to 0$  [a.e.] if we take  $\epsilon = \frac{c}{2}$ .

Question: How to construct such test?

$$H_0: p = p_0$$
  
$$H_1: p \in \bigcup_{i=1}^N \mathcal{B}_{\epsilon}(p_i)$$

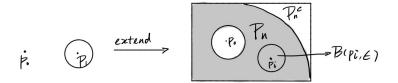


Figure 4.2:

where 
$$\mathcal{B}_{\epsilon}(p_i) = \{p : ||p - p_i||_{\text{TV}} < \frac{||p - p_0||_{\text{TV}}}{2}\}.$$

Let  $\Phi_i$  be an usual test function for  $p_0$  against  $\mathcal{B}_{\epsilon}(p_i)$ . Define  $\Phi = \max\{\Phi_1, ..., \Phi_N\}$  (that is taking the union of the rejection region), we need to control over N: number of balls to cover  $\mathcal{U}^c \cap \mathcal{P}_n$ .