

# Localized Conformal Prediction

Min, Xia

May 9, 2024

## 1 Conformal Prediction General[1]

**Definition 1.1** (Exchangeability). [4] For any r.v.  $x_1, \dots, x_k$ , we say they are exchangeable if for any permutation  $\sigma : [k] \rightarrow [k]$  (bijection),  $(x_1, \dots, x_k) \stackrel{d.}{=} (x_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, x_{\sigma(k)})$ .

**Definition 1.2** (Weighted Exchangeability). [5] For any r.v.  $x_1, \dots, x_k$ , we say they are weighted exchangeable if their joint density can be factorized as

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_k) = \prod_{i=1}^k w_i(x_i) \cdot g(x_1, \dots, x_k),$$

where  $g$  is exchangeable, i.e.,  $g(x_1, \dots, x_k) = g(x_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, x_{\sigma(k)})$ .

For conformal prediction two classes of targets are studied.

**Definition 1.3** (Marginal Coverage).  $(X, Y) \in \mathbb{R}^p \times \mathbb{R} \sim P_{XY}$  which is unknown. Given training set  $Tr = \{(X_i, Y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$ , and test on  $(X_{n+1}, Y_{n+1})$ , both i.i.d.

$C_\alpha$  satisfies distribution-free marginal coverage at level  $1 - \alpha$  if

$$P(Y_{n+1} \in C_\alpha(X_{n+1})) \geq 1 - \alpha, \quad \forall P_{XY}$$

The probability is with respect to  $\{(X_i, Y_i)\}_{i=1}^{n+1}$ .

**Definition 1.4** (Conditional Coverage).  $(X, Y) \in \mathbb{R}^p \times \mathbb{R} \sim P_{XY}$  which is unknown. Given training set  $Tr = \{(X_i, Y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$ , and test on  $(X_{n+1}, Y_{n+1})$ , both i.i.d.

$C_\alpha$  satisfies distribution-free marginal coverage at level  $1 - \alpha$  if

$$P\left(Y_{n+1} \in C_\alpha(X_{n+1}) \mid X_{n+1} = x\right) \geq 1 - \alpha, \forall P_{XY}$$

The probability is with respect to  $\{(X_i, Y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$  and  $Y_{n+1}$ .

**Definition 1.5** (Conformal Score Function). For data pair  $(X, Y)$  and point predictor and any loss function  $V(\cdot, \cdot)$ , call  $R = S(X, Y) = V(Y, \hat{f}(X))$  be the conformal score (or residual).

**Definition 1.6** (Efficiency).  $X$  is some r.v. following the testing distribution and  $C_\alpha$  is efficient if  $\mathbb{E}[|C_\alpha(X)|]$  is small. Define  $\text{Size}(C_\alpha) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |C_\alpha(X_i)|$ .

## 2 Localized CP Article1

Conformalized Quantile Regression [3]

The core idea is if conditional distribution function  $F(y|X = x)$  is known and conditional quantile is  $q_\alpha(x) = \inf\{y : F(y|X = x) \geq \alpha\}$ , for  $\alpha_1 = \alpha/2$ ,  $\alpha_2 = 1 - \alpha/2$  we can define conformal set to be  $C_\alpha(x) = [q_{\alpha_1}(x), q_{\alpha_2}(x)]$ . Next is to estimate quantiles from data.

Follow the split CP setting,

- First divide training set  $D$  into two sets:  $D_1$  for proper training set and  $D_2$  for calibration set. And let  $n_i = |D_i|$ , fit point predictor  $\hat{q}_{\alpha_1}$ ,  $\hat{q}_{\alpha_2}$  on  $D_1$ .
- Calculate conformity scores on calibration set:  $R_i = \max\{\hat{q}_{\alpha_1}(X_i) - Y_i, Y_i - \hat{q}_{\alpha_2}(X_i)\}$  for  $i \in D_2$ , and  $R = \max\{\hat{q}_{\alpha_1}(X_i) - Y_i, Y_i - \hat{q}_{\alpha_2}(X_i)\}$
- Find the  $\lceil(1 - \alpha)(n_2 + 1)\rceil$ -th empirical quantile of  $R_i$ ,  $i \in D_2$  as  $\hat{q}$  and construct conformal set  $C_\alpha(x) = [\hat{q}_{\alpha_1}(x) - \hat{q}, \hat{q}_{\alpha_2}(x) + \hat{q}]$

Note that  $\{Y \in C_\alpha(X)\} = \{R \leq \hat{q}\}$ . With exchangeability of  $R_i$ ,  $i \in D_2$  and  $R$  the coverage is assured.

**Remark 2.1.** Can also define  $R_1 = \hat{q}_{\alpha_1}(X_i) - Y_i$ ,  $R_2 = Y_i - \hat{q}_{\alpha_2}(X_i)$  and their  $\lceil(1 - \alpha)(n_2 + 1)\rceil$ -th empirical quantile  $\hat{q}_1$ ,  $\hat{q}_2$ . Define conformal set  $C_\alpha(X) = [\hat{q}_{\alpha_1}(X) - \hat{q}_1, \hat{q}_{\alpha_2}(X) + \hat{q}_2]$ .

### 3 Localized CP Article2

Distribution-Free Predictive Inference For Regression[2]

The setting is similar here. Consider the split setting, divide training set  $D$  into two sets:  $D_1$  for proper training set and  $D_2$  for calibration set.

- Train  $\hat{f}(x)$  on  $D_1$  as a point predictor and based on  $(X_i, |Y_i - \hat{f}(X_i)|)$ ,  $i \in D_1$ , train  $\hat{\rho}$  as an estimator of conditional MAD  $|Y - f(X)| \Big| X = x$ . For a given test point  $X$  fix trial data  $y$ .
- Calculate scores on calibration set  $R_i = \frac{|Y_i - \hat{f}(X_i)|}{\hat{\rho}(X_i)}$ ,  $i \in D_2$ ,  $R = \frac{|y - \hat{f}(X)|}{\hat{\rho}(X)}$  and find the  $\lceil (1 - \alpha)(n_2 + 1) \rceil$ -th empirical quantile  $\hat{q}_\alpha$ .
- Define conformal set  $C_\alpha(X) = \{y : R \leq \hat{q}_\alpha\}$ .

Note that  $\{Y \in C_\alpha\} = \{R \leq \hat{q}_\alpha\}$  and  $R, R_i, i \in D_2$  are exchangeable, it's easy to prove the coverage.

## References

- [1] Anastasios N Angelopoulos, Stephen Bates, et al. Conformal prediction: A gentle introduction. *Foundations and Trends® in Machine Learning*, 16(4):494–591, 2023.
- [2] Jing Lei, Max G’Sell, Alessandro Rinaldo, Ryan J Tibshirani, and Larry Wasserman. Distribution-free predictive inference for regression. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 113(523):1094–1111, 2018.
- [3] Yaniv Romano, Evan Patterson, and Emmanuel Candes. Conformalized quantile regression. *Advances in neural information processing systems*, 32, 2019.
- [4] Glenn Shafer and Vladimir Vovk. A tutorial on conformal prediction. *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, 9(3), 2008.
- [5] Ryan J Tibshirani, Rina Foygel Barber, Emmanuel Candes, and Aaditya Ramdas. Conformal prediction under covariate shift. *Advances in neural information processing systems*, 32, 2019.