

Estimation, Simulation, and Prediction of Critical Exponential Sum Self-Exciting Processes

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1. SELF-EXCITING PROCESSES

1.1. The Self-Exciting Critical Exponential Sum Process of Order P .

Let

$$\theta(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & t \leq 0 \\ 1 & t > 0 \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

be the Heaviside step function and $\{t_i: t_i < t_{i+1}\} \in \mathbb{R}$ be the time of occurrence of the i -th event of a simple point process whose counting function is

$$N_t = \sum_{t_i < t} \theta(t - t_i) \quad (2)$$

and whose conditional intensity (event rate), also known in some contexts as the hazard function, is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda(t) &= \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{P(N_{t+\Delta t} > N_t | \mathcal{F}_n)}{\Delta t} \\ &= \lambda_0(t) + \int_{-\infty}^t f(t-s) dN_s \\ &= \lambda_0(t) + \sum_{T_k < t} f(t-T_k) \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where $\mathcal{F}_n = \{t_0, \dots, t_n\}$ is the filtration which is an increasing sequence of σ -algebras represented by the ordered sequence of the unique occurrence times of events of the process and $\lambda_0(t)$ is a deterministic function which will be regarded as a constant $\lambda_0(t) = \lambda_0 = E[\lambda_0(t)]$, [8][4][7][3] and $f: \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ is a kernel impulse response function which expresses the positive influence of past events T_i on the current value of the intensity process. The critical exponential sum self-exciting

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process of order P is then defined by the kernel function

$$f(t) = \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{j=1}^P \alpha_j e^{-\beta_j t} \quad (4)$$

where Z is a normalization factor defined by

$$Z = \sum_{j=1}^P \frac{\alpha_j}{\beta_j}$$

so that the branching rate is equal to 1

$$\rho = \int_0^\infty f(t) dt = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^P \alpha_j e^{-\beta_j t}}{\sum_{j=1}^P \frac{\alpha_j}{\beta_j}} = 1 \quad (5)$$

which puts the process in a state of criticality; precisely poised on the boundary between stationarity and non-stationarity. [2] The conditional intensity can then be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda(t) &= \lambda_0(t) + \int_0^t \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{j=1}^P \alpha_j e^{-\beta_j(t-s)} dN_s \\ &= \lambda_0(t) + \sum_{j=1}^P \sum_{k=0}^{N_t} \frac{1}{Z} \alpha_j e^{-\beta_j(t-t_k)} \\ &= \lambda_0(t) + \sum_{j=1}^P \frac{\alpha_j}{Z} \sum_{k=0}^{N_t} e^{-\beta_j(t-t_k)} \\ &= \lambda_0(t) + \sum_{j=1}^P \frac{\alpha_j}{Z} B_j(\check{N}_t) \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where $B_j(i)$ is given recursively by

$$\begin{aligned} B_j(i) &= \sum_{k=0}^{i-1} e^{-\beta_j(t_i-t_k)} \\ &= e^{-\beta_j(t_i-t_{i-1})} \sum_{k=1}^{i-1} e^{-\beta_j(t_{i-1}-t_k)} \\ &= e^{-\beta_j(t_i-t_{i-1})} \left(1 + \sum_{k=0}^{i-2} e^{-\beta_j(t_{i-1}-t_k)} \right) \\ &= e^{-\beta_j(t_i-t_{i-1})} (1 + B_j(i-1)) \\ &= A_j(i) - 1 \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

since $e^{-\beta_j(t_{i-1}-t_{i-1})} = e^{-\beta_j 0} = e^{-0} = 1$ and $A_j(i)$ is defined in Equation (9). For consecutive events,

the dual-predictable projection, also known as the compensator, is expressed by

$$\begin{aligned}
\Lambda_i &= \Lambda(t_{i-1}, t_i) \\
&= \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \lambda(t) dt \\
&= \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \lambda_0(t) + \sum_{j=1}^P \frac{\alpha_j}{Z} B_j(N_t) dt \\
&= \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \lambda_0(s) ds + \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{j=1}^P \alpha_j \sum_{k=0}^{i-1} e^{-\beta_j(t-t_k)} dt \\
&= \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \lambda_0(s) ds + \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{j=1}^P \alpha_j \sum_{k=0}^{i-1} \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} e^{-\beta_j(t-t_k)} dt \\
&= \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \lambda_0(s) ds + \sum_{k=0}^{i-1} \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} f(t-t_k) dt \\
&= \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \lambda_0(s) ds + \sum_{k=0}^{i-1} \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{j=1}^P \frac{\alpha_j}{\beta_j} (e^{-\beta_j(t_{i-1}-t_k)} - e^{-\beta_j(t_i-t_k)}) \\
&= \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \lambda_0(s) ds + \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{j=1}^P \frac{\alpha_j}{\beta_j} (1 - e^{-\beta_j(t_i-t_{i-1})}) A_j(i)
\end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
A_j(i) &= \sum_{t_k \leq t_i} e^{-\beta_j(t_i-t_k)} \\
&= 1 + \sum_{\substack{t_k < t_i \\ k=0 \\ i-1}} e^{-\beta_j(t_i-t_k)} \\
&= 1 + \sum_{k=0}^{i-1} e^{-\beta_j(t_i-t_k)} \\
&= 1 + e^{-\beta_j(t_i-t_{i-1})} A_j(i-1) \\
&= 1 + B_j(i)
\end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

with $A_j(-1) = 0$ and $A_j(0) = 1$ since the integral of $f(t)$ over an interval spanning consecutive points is

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} f(t) dt &= \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{j=1}^P \alpha_j e^{-\beta_j(t-t_k)} dt \\
&= \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{j=1}^P \frac{\alpha_j}{\beta_j} (e^{-\beta_j t_{i-1}} - e^{-\beta_j t_i})
\end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

If $\lambda_0(t)$ is a constant function, $\lambda_0(t) = \lambda_0$ then (8) simplifies to

$$\begin{aligned}
\Lambda(t_{i-1}, t_i) &= \lambda_0(t_i - t_{i-1}) + \sum_{k=0}^{i-1} \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{j=1}^P \frac{\alpha_j}{\beta_j} (e^{-\beta_j(t_{i-1}-t_k)} - e^{-\beta_j(t_i-t_k)}) \\
&= \lambda_0(t_i - t_{i-1}) + \sum_{k=0}^{i-1} \frac{1}{Z} \int_{t_{i-1}-t_k}^{t_i-t_k} f(t) dt \\
&= \lambda_0(t_i - t_{i-1}) + \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{j=1}^P \frac{\alpha_j}{\beta_j} (1 - e^{-\beta_j(t_i-t_{i-1})}) A_j(i)
\end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

1.1.1. Maximum Likelihood Estimation.

The log-likelihood of a simple point process is written as

$$\begin{aligned}
\ln \mathcal{L}(N(t)_{t \in [0, T]}) &= \int_0^T (1 - \lambda(s)) ds + \int_0^T \ln \lambda(s) dN_s \\
&= T - \int_0^T \lambda(s) ds + \int_0^T \ln \lambda(s) dN_s
\end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

which in the case of the sums-of-exponentials self-exciting process of order P can be explicitly written [6] as

$$\begin{aligned}
\ln \mathcal{L}(\{t_i\}_{i=1\dots n}) &= T - \int_0^T \lambda(t) dt + \sum_{i=1}^n \ln \lambda(t_i) \\
&= T - \Lambda(0, T) + \sum_{i=1}^n \ln \lambda(t_i) \\
&= T + \sum_{i=1}^n (\ln \lambda(t_i) - \Lambda_i) \\
&= T - \Lambda(0, T) + \sum_{i=1}^n \ln \lambda(t_i) \\
&= T - \Lambda(0, T) + \sum_{i=1}^n \ln \left(\lambda_0(t_i) + \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{j=1}^P \sum_{k=0}^{i-1} \alpha_j e^{-\beta_j(t_i - t_k)} \right) \\
&= T - \Lambda(0, T) + \sum_{i=1}^n \ln \left(\lambda_0(t_i) + \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{j=1}^P \alpha_j B_j(i) \right) \\
&= T - \int_0^T \lambda_0(s) ds - \sum_{i=0}^n \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{j=1}^P \frac{\alpha_j}{\beta_j} (1 - e^{-\beta_j(t_n - t_i)}) \\
&\quad + \sum_{i=1}^n \ln \left(\lambda_0(t_i) + \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{j=1}^P \alpha_j B_j(i) \right)
\end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

where $T = t_n$ and $B_j(i)$ [5] is defined by (7). If the baseline intensity is constant $\lambda_0(t) = \lambda_0$ then the log-likelihood can be written

$$\begin{aligned}
\ln \mathcal{L}(\{t_0, \dots, t_n\}) &= (1 - \lambda_0)t_n + \sum_{i=1}^n \ln \left(\lambda_0 + \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{j=1}^P \alpha_j B_j(i) \right) - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{j=1}^P \frac{\alpha_j}{\beta_j} (1 - e^{-\beta_j(t_n - t_i)}) \\
&= (1 - \lambda_0)t_n + \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\ln \left(\lambda_0 + \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{j=1}^P \alpha_j B_j(i) \right) - \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{j=1}^P \frac{\alpha_j}{\beta_j} (1 - e^{-\beta_j(t_n - t_i)}) \right) \\
&= (1 - \lambda_0)t_n + \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\ln \left(\lambda_0 + \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{j=1}^P \alpha_j B_j(i) \right) - \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{j=1}^P \frac{\alpha_j}{\beta_j} (1 - e^{-\beta_j(t_n - t_i)}) \right)
\end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

1.2. The Inverse Compensator.

Define the inverse compensator

$$\begin{aligned}
\Lambda_{t_{n+1}}^{-1}(t_n, y | \mathcal{F}_{T_n}) &= \{t_{n+1}: \Lambda(t_n, t_{n+1} | \mathcal{F}_{t_n}) = y\} \\
&= t_n + \{t: \varphi(t, y | \mathcal{F}_{t_n}) = 0\}
\end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

where

$$\varphi(t, y) = \sum_{j=1}^P (e^{-\beta_j t} - 1) \gamma(j) A_j(i) + y Z y \prod_{j=1}^P \beta_j \tag{16}$$

and

$$\gamma(k) = \prod_{j=1}^P \begin{cases} \alpha_j & j = k \\ \beta_j & j \neq k \end{cases} \tag{17}$$

with the time-derivative

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \varphi(t, y) = - \sum_{j=1}^P \beta_j e^{-\beta_j t} \gamma(j) A_j(i) \tag{18}$$

then the root of $\varphi(t, y | \mathcal{F}_{t_n})$; for a specific value of the exponentially distributed random variable y ; is such that

$$t_n + \{t: \varphi(t, y) = 0\} \tag{19}$$

is the inverse of $\Lambda(t_n, t_{n+1}|\mathcal{F}_{t_n}) = y$ in t_{n+1} so that

$$\Lambda(t_n, \Lambda_{t_{n+1}}^{-1}(t_n, y|\mathcal{F}_{t_n})|\mathcal{F}_{t_n}) = y \quad (20)$$

Therefore this slightly modified Newton iteration function is an automorphism of the real line expressed by

$$\begin{aligned} N_\varphi(t_{n+1}, y) &= t_n - \frac{\varphi(t_{n+1} - t_n, y)}{\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\varphi(t_{n+1} - t_n, y)} \\ &= t_n - \frac{\sum_{j=1}^P (e^{-\beta_j(t_{n+1}-t_n)} - 1)\gamma(j)A_j(i) + Zy\prod_{j=1}^P \beta_j}{-\sum_{j=1}^P \beta_j e^{-\beta_j(t_{n+1}-t_n)}\gamma(j)A_j(i)} \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

which has a unique real-valued fixed-point at the point $t_{n+1} = N_\varphi(t_{n+1}, y)$ where $\varphi(t_{n+1} - t_n, y) = 0$ which is the exact time of the next point of the process t_{n+1} such that $\Lambda_{n+1} = \Lambda(t_n, t_{n+1}) = y$. The expected duration until the $(n+1)$ -th point of the process occurs, conditional upon the points $\{t_n\} = \{t_i: i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n\}$ and parameters $\theta = \{\alpha_{1\dots P}, \beta_{1\dots P}\}$ in the filtration

$$\mathcal{F}_n = \{t_n\} \cup \theta \quad (22)$$

is expressed by

$$\begin{aligned} E_y(t_{n+1} - t_n|\mathcal{F}_n) &= E_y(\Lambda_{t_{n+1}}^{-1}(t_n, y|\mathcal{F}_n)) \\ &= \int_0^\infty y e^{-y\Lambda_{t_{n+1}}^{-1}(t_n, y|\mathcal{F}_n)} dy \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

where the probability density f_y of y is $f_y = e^{-y}$. The expected inverse value of the marginal distribution of the duration $\Lambda_{t_{n+1}}^{-1}(t_n, y|\mathcal{F}_n)$ until the next point t_{n+1} of the process when y is not known ahead-of-time and is therefore marginalized, or integrated out, can then shown to be equal to

$$\begin{aligned} E_y^{-1}(\Lambda_{t_{n+1}}^{-1}(t_n, y|\mathcal{F}_n)) &= \int_0^\infty e^{-y\Lambda_{t_{n+1}}^{-1}(t_n, y|\mathcal{F}_n)} dy \\ &= \varphi(t_{n+1} - t_n, 1) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^P \gamma(j)(-1 - B_j(n))(1 - e^{-\beta_j(t_{n+1}-t_n)}) + Z \prod_{j=1}^P \beta_j \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^P \gamma(j)(-A_j(n))(1 - e^{-\beta_j(t_{n+1}-t_n)}) + Z \prod_{j=1}^P \beta_j \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^P (e^{-\beta_j(t_{n+1}-t_n)} - 1)\gamma(j)A_j(i) + Z \prod_{j=1}^P \beta_j \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

where the subscript y indicates that the expectation is taken with respect to the marginal distribution of the inverse compensator with respect to the standard/unit exponentially distributed random variable y and $B_j(i) = \sum_{k=0}^{i-1} e^{-\beta_j(t_i-t_k)}$ is defined in Equation (7) so that the expected value when y is not known is given by the root of the inverse expectation functional

$$\begin{aligned} E_y(\Lambda_{t_{n+1}}^{-1}(t_n, y|\mathcal{F}_n)) &= \{t_{n+1}: E_y^{-1}(\Lambda_{t_{n+1}}^{-1}(t_n, y|\mathcal{F}_n)) = 0\} \\ &= \{t_{n+1}: \varphi(t_{n+1} - t_n, 1) = 0\} \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

1.3. Iterated Expectations and the Infinite Horizon Discounted Control Problem.

The expected number of events given any time from now whatsoever can be calculated by integrating out ε since the process which is adapted to the compensator will be closer to being a unit rate Poisson process the closer the parameters are to being correct and the model actually being a good model of the phenomena it is being applied to. Let F_t be all points up until now, let

$$E(t_{n+1}) = \int_0^\infty \Lambda^{-1}(\varepsilon; \alpha, \beta, F_{t_n}) e^{-\varepsilon} d\varepsilon$$

then iterate the process, by proceeding as if the next point of the process will occur at the predicted time, simply append the expectation to the current state vector, and project the next point, repeating the process as fast the computer will go until some sufficient stopping criteria is met. It appears that (at least) in the vast majority of cases the iterated expectations $E(t_{n+1} - t_n)$ will converged to a fixed positive finite value due to the ergodicity of the process. In fact, this limit is the steady-state equilibrium distribution. This equation seems very similar to the infinite horizon discounted regulator of optimal control; see [1, 1.1]. Let

$$T_n(y_n): \{t_n\} \xrightarrow{\Lambda_{t_{n+1}}^{-1}(t_n, y_n | \mathcal{F}_{T_n})} \{t_{n+1}\} \quad (26)$$

denote the random dynamical evolution operator where y_n is a sequence of independent and identically distributed standard exponential random variables with distribution function e^{-y} .

The steady-state characterization of T which is relevant for the infinite-horizon problem in which T_n goes to $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_n$ can be found by iterating the dynamical evolution operator with $y = 1$

$$T_n(1): \{t_n\} \xrightarrow{\Lambda_{t_{n+1}}^{-1}(t_n, 1 | \mathcal{F}_{T_n})} \{t_{n+1}\} \quad (27)$$

repeatedly until $T = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{T_n(1)}{n} = E(t_n - t_{n-1})$ converges; then $T_n(1)$ is characterized by removing the time subscripts from its dynamic equation and denoting it as the steady-state evolution operator

$$T_n(1): \{t_n\} \xrightarrow{E_y(\Lambda_{t_{n+1}}^{-1} | \mathcal{F}_n)} \{t_{n+1}\} \quad (28)$$

1.3.1. Prediction.

The next event arrival time of the m -th dimension of a multivariate Hawkes process having the usual exponential kernel can be predicted in the same way as the uni-variate process in Section (?), by solving for the unknown t_{n+1} in the equation

$$\left\{ t_{n+1}^m: \varepsilon = \Lambda^m(t_n^m, t_{n+1}^m) = \int_{t_n^m}^{t_{n+1}^m} \lambda^m(s; \mathfrak{F}_s) ds \right\} \quad (29)$$

where $\Lambda^m(t_n^m, t_{n+1}^m)$ is the compensator from Equation (?) and \mathfrak{F}_s is the filtration up to time s and the parameters of λ^m are fixed. As is the case for the uni-variate Hawkes process, the idea is to average over all possible realizations of ε (of which there are uncountably infinite) weighted by a standard exponential distribution to calculate the expected value of the next point of the process. Another idea for more accurate prediction is to model the deviation of the generalized residuals from a true exponential distribution and then include the predicted error when calculating this expectation.

Let the most recent arrival time of the pooled and m -th processes respectively be given by

$$T = \max(T_m; m = 1 \dots M) \quad (30)$$

$$T_m = \max(t_n^m: n = 0 \dots N^m - 1) = t_{N^m-1}^m \quad (31)$$

and

$$\check{N}_{T_m}^n = \#(t_k^n < T_m) \quad (32)$$

count the number of points occurring in the n -th dimension strictly **before** the most recent point of the m -th dimension then the next arrival time for a given value of the exponential random variable ε of the m -th dimension of a multivariate Hawkes process having the standard exponential kernel is found by solving for the real root of

$$\varphi_m(x(\varepsilon); \mathcal{F}_T) = \tau_m(x, \varepsilon) + \sum_{l=1}^P \sum_{i=1}^M \phi_{m,i,l} \sum_{k=0}^{\check{N}_{T_m}^i} (\sigma_{m,i,l,k}(x, x) - \sigma_{m,i,l,k}(x, T_m)) \quad (33)$$

which is similar to the uni-variate case

$$\varphi_P(x(\varepsilon)) = \tau(x, \varepsilon) + \sum_{j=1}^P \phi_j \sum_{k=0}^{\check{N}_T} (\sigma_{j,k}(x, x) - \sigma_{j,k}(x, T)) \quad (34)$$

where

$$\mathcal{F}_T = \{\kappa \dots, \alpha \dots, \beta \dots, t_0^1 \dots t_{N^1}^1 \leq T, \dots, t_0^m \dots t_{N^m}^m \leq T, \dots, t_0^M \dots t_{N^M}^M \leq T\} \quad (35)$$

is the filtration up to time T , to be interpreted as the set of available information, here denoting fitted parameters and observed arrival times of all dimensions, and where

$$\tau_m(x, \varepsilon) = ((x - T_m)\kappa_m - \varepsilon)v_m\eta_m(x) \quad (36)$$

$$\eta_m(x) = e^{(x+T_m)\sum_{j=1}^P \sum_{n=1}^M \beta_{m,n,j}} \quad (37)$$

can be seen to be similar to the uni-variate equations $\tau(x, \varepsilon) = ((x - T)\kappa - \varepsilon)v\eta(x)$ and $\eta(x) = e^{(x+T)\sum_{k=1}^P \beta_k}$ and

$$v_m = \prod_{j=1}^P \prod_{n=1}^M \beta_{m,n,j} \quad (38)$$

$$\phi_{m,p,k} = \prod_{j=1}^P \prod_{n=1}^M \begin{cases} \alpha_{m,n,j} & n=p \text{ and } j=k \\ \beta_{m,n,j} & n \neq p \text{ or } j \neq k \end{cases} \quad (39)$$

$$\sigma_{m,i,l,k}(x, a) = e^{\sum_{j=1}^P \sum_{n=1}^M \beta_{m,n,j} \begin{cases} a+t_k^n & n=i \text{ and } j=l \\ x+T_n & n \neq i \text{ or } j \neq l \end{cases}} \quad (40)$$

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