

Parametric or Nonparametric: The Focused Information Criterion Approach

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Outline

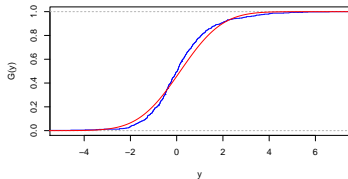
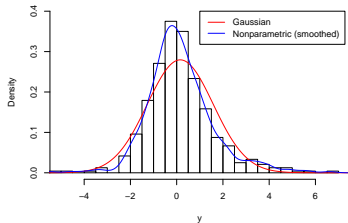
- 1 Motivation and idea
- 2 I.i.d. derivation and illustration
- 3 Extension: AFIC
- 4 Properties
- 5 Other data types and summary

Model selection

- Unknown underlying distribution G for data Y_1, \dots, Y_n
- Parametric approach
 - Restrict G to a specific parametric family F_θ
 - Estimate parameter θ (e.g. by ML) and use $\hat{G} = F_{\hat{\theta}}$
- Nonparametric approach
 - Let the data speak for themselves, no structural assumptions
 - Estimate G by ecdf:
 $\hat{G}_n(y) = n^{-1} \#\{Y_i \leq y\}.$
 - Smoother versions: Local kernel smoothers
- Several appropriate models – which one should we trust?

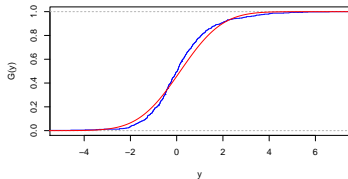
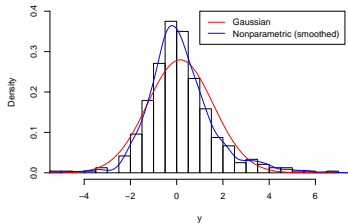
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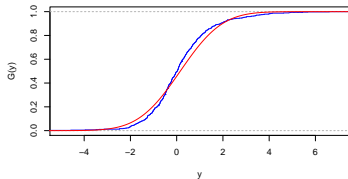
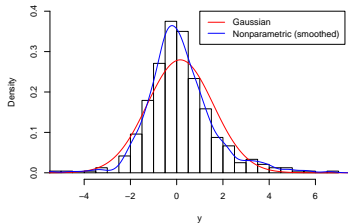
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Classical model selection

- Information criteria

- $AIC = 2 \log\text{-likelihood}_{\max} - 2 \dim(\theta)$
- $BIC = 2 \log\text{-likelihood}_{\max} - (\log n) \dim(\theta)$
- DIC, GIC, TIC, etc...

- Select the model optimizing the information criterion
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Goodness of fit measures

- Cramér–von Mises: $\int (\hat{G}_n(y) - F(y; \hat{\theta}))^2 dF(y; \hat{\theta})$
- Kolmogorov–Smirnov: $\sup_y |\hat{G}_n(y) - F(y; \hat{\theta})|$
- Categorical data: Pearson's chi-squared: $\sum_{j=1}^k \frac{(N_j - nf_j(\hat{\theta}))^2}{f_j(\hat{\theta})}$
- Select F if the goodness of fit measure $< \kappa_\alpha$ with significance level α
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Parametrics or nonparametrics

- No good criterion for model selection among parametrics and nonparametrics
- Different models have strengths and weaknesses on different parts of the data space
- Why you are doing the analysis should reflect your choice of model

Goal

Create a focused or interest driven model selection criterion for selection among a set of parametric and nonparametric models

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Focus parameter

- A general population quantity of interest – not(!) a model specific parameter
- A functional μ of the distribution G : $\mu(G)$

Examples

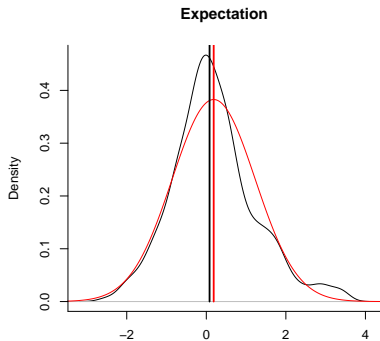
- Expectation: $\mu(G) = E_G[Y_i]$
- $Pr\{Y_i > 2\}$: $\mu(G) = 1 - G(2)$
- Interquartile range:
 $\mu(G) = G^{-1}(3/4) - G^{-1}(1/4)$

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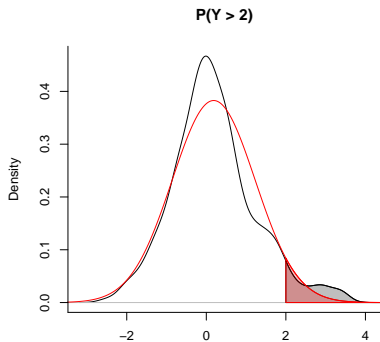


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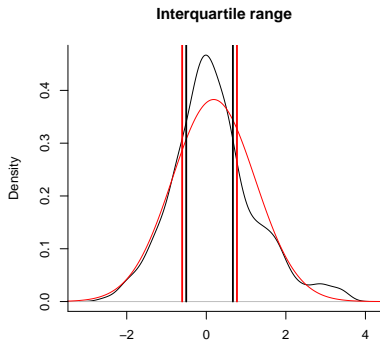


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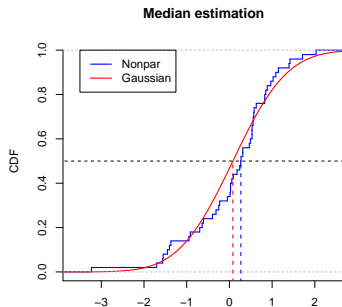
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Simple illustration

- I.i.d. univariate observations
 $Y = (Y_1, \dots, Y_n)^t$
- Focus parameter of interest:
 $\mu(G) = G^{-1}(1/2)$, the median
of the unknown data
generating distribution G
- Gaussian or nonparametric?
- Nonparametric sample median
 $\text{med}(Y)$ or the Gaussian
alternative $\bar{Y} = n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i$?



Criterion idea

- Performance measure: Mean squared error (mse) of the focus parameter estimator $\hat{\mu}_M$

$$E[(\hat{\mu}_M - \mu_{\text{true}})^2] = \text{bias}^2(\hat{\mu}_M) + \text{Var}(\hat{\mu}_M)$$

Basic idea

- For each candidate model M with estimator $\hat{\mu}_M = \mu(\hat{G}_M)$:
Estimate the mean squared error (mse) as squared bias + variance:

$$\text{FIC}(M) = \widehat{\text{mse}}(\hat{\mu}_M) = \widehat{\text{bias}}^2(\hat{\mu}_M) + \widehat{\text{Var}}(\hat{\mu}_M)$$

- Choose the model and estimator with the smallest estimated mse

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I.i.d derivation – notation

I.i.d. data Y_1, \dots, Y_n from an unknown distribution G

Focus parameter $\mu = \mu(\cdot)$

- True value: $\mu_{\text{true}} = \mu(G)$
- Nonparametric estimator: $\hat{\mu}_{\text{np}} = \mu(\hat{G}_n)$
- Parametric estimators: $\hat{\mu}_{\text{pm}} = \mu(F_{\hat{\theta}}) = \mu_F(\hat{\theta})$
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Basic setup

Under weak regularity conditions (omitted) we have

- Nonparametric: $\hat{\mu}_{\text{np}} = \mu_{\text{true}} + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \text{IF}_{\mu}(Y_i; G) + o_p(n^{-1/2})$
 - $\text{IF}_{\mu}(y; G)$ the influence function of the functional $\mu(G)$:

$$\left. \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} \mu(H + \lambda(\delta_y - H)) \right|_{\lambda=0}$$
 - δ_y is point mass at y
- Parametric: $\hat{\theta} = \theta_0 + J^{-1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n U(Y_i; \theta_0) + o_p(n^{-1/2})$
 - $U(y; \theta) = \partial \log f(y; \theta) / \partial \theta$ is the score function
 - $J = -E[\partial U(Y_i; \theta_0) / \partial \theta]$ is the information matrix
 - $K = \text{Var}(U(Y_i; \theta_0))$
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Key limiting distribution

CLT+Slutsky+delta method gives

$$\sqrt{n} \begin{pmatrix} \hat{\mu}_{\text{np}} - \mu_{\text{true}} \\ \hat{\mu}_{\text{pm}} - \mu_{0,\text{pm}} \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{L} N_2 \left(\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} V_{\text{np}}(G) & V_c(G, \theta_0) \\ V_c(G, \theta_0) & V_{\text{pm}}(\theta_0) \end{pmatrix} \right)$$

where

- $V_{\text{np}}(G) = \mathbb{E} [\text{IF}_{\mu}(Y_i; G)]^2 = \int \text{IF}_{\mu}(y; G)^2 dG(y)$
- $V_{\text{pm}}(\theta_0) = c^{\text{t}} J^{-1} K J^{-1} c$
- $V_c(G, \theta_0) = c^{\text{t}} J^{-1} d$
- $c = \partial \mu(F_{\theta_0}) / \partial \theta$
- $d = \text{Cov}(U(Y_i; \theta_0), \text{IF}_{\mu}(Y_i; G)) = \int U(y; \theta_0) \text{IF}_{\mu}(y; G) dG(y)$

Mse approximation

- $\text{mse}(\hat{\mu}_M) = \text{E}[(\hat{\mu}_M - \mu_{\text{true}})^2] = \text{bias}^2(\hat{\mu}_M) + \text{Var}(\hat{\mu}_M)$
- From the limiting distribution:

$$\text{Nonparametric: } \text{mse}(\hat{\mu}_{\text{np}}) \approx 0 + \frac{1}{n} V_{\text{np}}(G)$$

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Mse estimation

Insert empirical analogues for unknown quantities:

$\hat{\theta}$ for θ_0 and \hat{G}_n for G

FIC scheme

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The criterion selects the model with the smallest FIC score

- $b(\hat{\theta}, \hat{G}_n) = \hat{\mu}_{\text{pm}} - \hat{\mu}_{\text{np}}; \quad V_{\text{b}} = V_{\text{pm}} + V_{\text{np}} - 2V_{\text{c}}$
- $b(\hat{\theta}, \hat{G}_n)^2$ overestimates $b(\theta_0, G)^2$:

$$\begin{aligned} E[b(\hat{\theta}, \hat{G}_n)^2] &= (E[b(\hat{\theta}, \hat{G}_n)])^2 + \text{Var}(b(\hat{\theta}, \hat{G}_n)) \\ &\approx b(\theta_0, G)^2 + \text{Var}(b(\hat{\theta}, \hat{G}_n)) \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} E[b(\hat{\theta}, \hat{G}_n)^2] &= (E[b(\hat{\theta}, \hat{G}_n)])^2 + \text{Var}(b(\hat{\theta}, \hat{G}_n)) \\ &\approx b(\theta_0, G)^2 + \text{Var}(b(\hat{\theta}, \hat{G}_n)) \end{aligned}$$

Illustration: Running through the cdf

- Sample ($n = 100$) of school averaged grade data from the math part of SAT in Pennsylvania 2009
- Sequentially focus on $\mu(y) = G(y) = Pr\{Y_i \leq y\}$

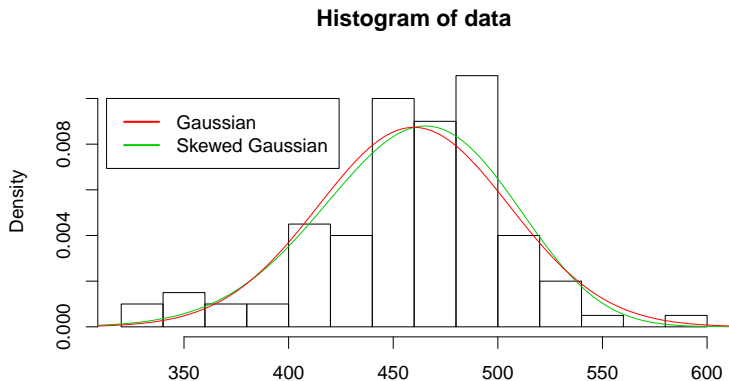


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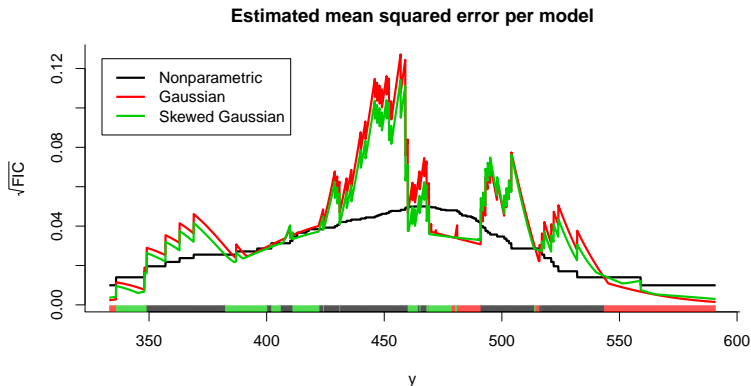
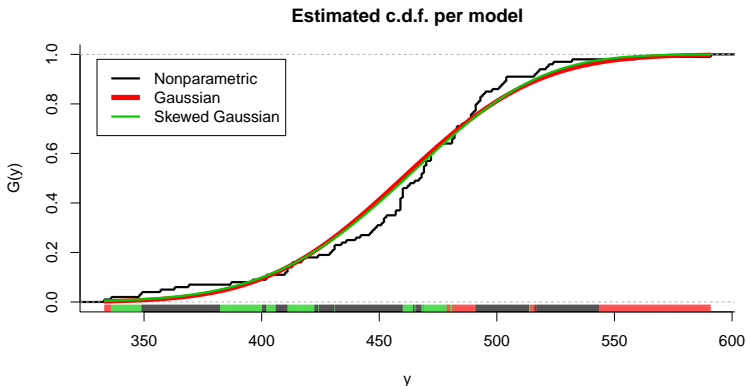


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Averaged Focused Information Criterion (AFIC)

- Focus on a (weighted) set of focus parameters simultaneously
- Performance measure: $\text{risk} = \int \mathbb{E} [(\hat{\mu}(t) - \mu_{\text{true}}(t))^2] dW(t)$,
for some cumulative weight function W

AFIC scheme

$$\text{Nonparametric: } \text{AFIC}(\hat{\mu}_{\text{np}}) = \int \frac{1}{n} V_{\text{np}}(t; \hat{G}_n) dW(t)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Parametric: } \text{AFIC}(\hat{\mu}_{\text{pm}}) = \max & \left[0, \int \{b(t; \hat{\theta}, \hat{G}_n)^2 - \frac{1}{n} V_b(t; \hat{\theta}, \hat{G}_n)\} dW(t) \right] \\ & + \int \frac{1}{n} V_{\text{pm}}(t; \hat{\theta}) dW(t) \end{aligned}$$

The criterion selects the model with the smallest AFIC score

- Estimate W empirically if it depends on unknown quantities

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Robust mse estimation

- Consistent variance estimators
- Consistent and asymptotically unbiased* squared bias estimators
- Estimation outside model conditions

FIC asymptotics

- Parametrics biased ($\mu_{0,\text{pm}} \neq \mu_{\text{true}}$): $Pr \{\text{Select pm}\} \rightarrow 0$
- Parametrics correct: $Pr \{\text{Select pm}\} \rightarrow \chi_1^2(2) \approx 1 - 0.157$
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AFIC asymptotics depend on μ and W

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AFIC curiosity 1

- Consider count data $(N_1, \dots, N_k), (p_1, \dots, p_k), \sum p_j = 1, \sum N_j = n$
- Focus on all p_j , with weight $1/p_j$
- Direct comparison between parametrics and nonparametrics reduces to

$$X_n = n \sum \frac{(\hat{p}_{np,j} - \hat{p}_{pm,j})^2}{\hat{p}_{np,j}} \text{ vs. } 2\text{df}$$

- Implicit test level for test of pm true with $\text{df}=1, \dots, 10$:
0.157, 0.135, 0.112, 0.092, 0.075, 0.062, 0.051, 0.042, 0.035.

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- Focus on the complete $G(y)$, weighted by $W(y) = F(y; \theta_0)$
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$$\text{CvM}_n = \int n(\hat{G}_n(y) - F(y; \hat{\theta}))^2 dF(y; \hat{\theta}) \text{ vs. } \kappa$$

- If $G = F \sim N(\xi, \sigma^2)$: $Pr \{\text{Select pm}\} \rightarrow 1 - 0.062$
- Replacing $dW(y)$ by $1 dy$ gives $Pr \{\text{Select pm}\} \rightarrow 1 - 0.049$

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Extensions to other data types

Same strategy, but more mathematics:

- Multivariate data, categorical data, time series, comparison across several populations
- Hazard rate models: Kaplan–Meier vs. parametrics or Nelson–Aalen vs. parametrics
- Cox regression vs. parametric regression

Other strategies:

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- Density estimation

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Summary

- Focus driven model selection with a nonparametric alternative
- Rank models according to $\hat{\mu}_M$'s estimated risk
- Robustifies parametric model selection by including the nonparametric candidate model
- AFIC allows several focus parameters to be handled simultaneously
- FIC and AFIC **Are** model selection schemes, but may also justify the use of different significance levels in hypothesis testing of models
- R-function automatically performing FIC for the handled situations
 - `folk.uio.no/martinju/FIC`