Fundamentals of Nonparametric Bayesian Inference

Explosive growth in computing power has made Bayesian methods for infinite-dimensional models – Bayesian nonparametrics – a nearly universal framework for inference, finding practical use in numerous subject areas. Written by leading researchers, this authoritative text draws on theoretical advances of the past 20 years to synthesize all aspects of Bayesian nonparametrics, from prior construction to computation and large sample behavior of posteriors. Because understanding the behavior of posteriors is critical to selecting priors that work, the large sample theory is developed systematically, illustrated by various examples of model and prior combinations. Precise sufficient conditions are given, with complete proofs, that ensure desirable posterior properties and behavior. Each chapter ends with historical notes and numerous exercises to deepen and consolidate the reader's understanding, making the book valuable for graduate students and researchers alike in statistics and machine learning, as well as application areas such as econometrics and biostatistics.

SUBHASHIS GHOSAL is Professor of Statistics at North Carolina State University.

AAD VAN DER VAART is Professor of Stochastics at Leiden University.

CAMBRIDGE SERIES IN STATISTICAL AND PROBABILISTIC MATHEMATICS

Editorial Board

- Z. Ghahramani (Department of Engineering, University of Cambridge) R. Gill (Mathematical Institute, Leiden University)
- F. P. Kelly (Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics, University of Cambridge)
 - B. D. Ripley (Department of Statistics, University of Oxford)
 - S. Ross (Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering,

University of Southern California)

M. Stein (Department of Statistics, University of Chicago)

This series of high-quality upper-division textbooks and expository monographs covers all aspects of stochastic applicable mathematics. The topics range from pure and applied statistics to probability theory, operations research, optimization, and mathematical programming. The books contain clear presentations of new developments in the field and also of the state of the art in classical methods. While emphasizing rigorous treatment of theoretical methods, the books also contain applications and discussions of new techniques made possible by advances in computational practice.

A complete list of books in the series can be found at www.cambridge.org/statistics. Recent titles include the following:

- 18. Statistical Mechanics of Disordered Systems, by Anton Bovier
- 19. The Coordinate-Free Approach to Linear Models, by Michael J. Wichura
- 20. Random Graph Dynamics, by Rick Durrett
- 21. Networks, by Peter Whittle
- 22. Saddlepoint Approximations with Applications, by Ronald W. Butler
- 23. Applied Asymptotics, by A. R. Brazzale, A. C. Davison and N. Reid
- 24. Random Networks for Communication, by Massimo Franceschetti and Ronald Meester
- 25. Design of Comparative Experiments, by R. A. Bailey
- 26. Symmetry Studies, by Marlos A. G. Viana
- 27. Model Selection and Model Averaging, by Gerda Claeskens and Nils Lid Hjort
- 28. Bayesian Nonparametrics, edited by Nils Lid Hjort et al.
- From Finite Sample to Asymptotic Methods in Statistics, by Pranab K. Sen, Julio M. Singer and Antonio C. Pedrosa de Lima
- 30. Brownian Motion, by Peter Mörters and Yuval Peres
- 31. Probability (Fourth Edition), by Rick Durrett
- 33. Stochastic Processes, by Richard F. Bass
- 34. Regression for Categorical Data, by Gerhard Tutz
- 35. Exercises in Probability (Second Edition), by Loïc Chaumont and Marc Yor
- 36. Statistical Principles for the Design of Experiments, by R. Mead, S. G. Gilmour and A. Mead
- 37. Quantum Stochastics, by Mou-Hsiung Chang
- 38. Nonparametric Estimation under Shape Constraints, by Piet Groeneboom and Geurt Jongbloed
- 39. Large Sample Covariance Matrices and High-Dimensional Data Analysis, by Jianfeng Yao, Shurong Zheng and Zhidong Bai
- 40. Mathematical Foundations of Infinite-Dimensional Statistical Models, by Evarist Giné and Richard
- 41. Confidence, Likelihood, Probability, by Tore Schweder and Nils Lid Hjort
- 42. Probability on Trees and Networks (Volume 1), by Russell Lyons and Yuval Peres
- 43. Random Graphs and Complex Networks, by Remco van der Hofstad
- 44. Fundamentals of Nonparametric Bayesian Inference, by Subhashis Ghosal and Aad van der Vaart

Fundamentals of Nonparametric Bayesian Inference

Subhashis Ghosal North Carolina State University

Aad van der Vaart Leiden University



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
4843/24, 2nd Floor, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, Delhi – 110002, India
79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521878265

© Subhashis Ghosal and Aad van der Vaart 2017

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2017

Printed in the United States of America by Sheridan Books, Inc.

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Names: Ghosal, Subhashis. | Vaart, A. W. van der.

Title: Fundamentals of nonparametric Bayesian inference / Subhashis Ghosal,
North Carolina State University, Aad van der Vaart, Leiden University.

Description: Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016. |
Series: Cambridge series in statistical and probabilistic mathematics |
Includes bibliographical references and indexes.

Identifiers: LCCN 2016056429 | ISBN 9780521878265

Subjects: LCSH: Nonparametric statistics. | Bayesian statistical decision theory.

Classification: LCC QA278.8 .G46 2016 | DDC 519.5/42–dc23

LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2016056429

ISBN 978-0-521-87826-5 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.