

STAT 811 Probability Theory II

Chapter 8: Convergence in Distribution

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8.1 Basic Definitions

This chapter discusses the basic notions of convergence in distribution. Given a sequence of random variables, when do their distributions converge in a useful way to a limit?

In statisticians' language, given a random sample X_1, \dots, X_n , the sample mean \bar{X}_n is CAN; that is, Consistent and Asymptotically Normal. This means that \bar{X} has an approximately normal distribution as the sample size grows. What exactly does this mean?

Recall our notation that *df* stands for distribution function. For the time being, we will understand this to correspond to a probability measure on \mathbb{R} . Recall that F is a *df* if

- (i) $0 \leq F(x) \leq 1$;
- (ii) F is non-decreasing;
- (iii) $F(x+) = F(x), \forall x \in \mathbb{R}$, where

$$F(x+) = \lim_{\epsilon > 0, \epsilon \downarrow 0} F(x + \epsilon)$$

that is, F is right continuous.

8.1 Basic Definitions

$$F(\infty) := \lim_{y \uparrow \infty} F(y) \quad F(-\infty) := \lim_{y \downarrow -\infty} F(y).$$

F is a *probability distribution function* if

$$F(-\infty) = 0, \quad F(+\infty) = 1$$

In this case, F is **proper** or *non-defective*. If $F(x)$ is a df, set

$$\mathcal{C}(F) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : F \text{ is continuous at } x\}$$

A finite interval I with endpoints $a < b$ is called an *interval of continuity* for F if both $a, b \in \mathcal{C}(F)$. We know that

$$(\mathcal{C}(F))^c = \{x : F \text{ is discontinuous at } x\}$$

is at most countable. For an interval $I = (a, b]$, we write, as usual, $F(I) = F(b) - F(a)$. If $a, b \in \mathcal{C}(F)$, then $F((a, b)) = F((a, b])$. For non-interval set B , we write $F(B) = P(X \in B)$ where $X \sim F$.

8.1 Basic Definitions

Lemma 8.1.1

A distribution function $F(x)$ is determined on a dense set. Let D be dense in \mathbb{R} . Suppose $F_D(\cdot)$ is defined on D and satisfies the following:

- (a) $F_D(\cdot)$ is non-decreasing on D .
- (b) $0 \leq F_D(x) \leq 1$, for all $x \in D$.
- (c) $\lim_{x \in D, x \rightarrow +\infty} F_D(x) = 1$, $\lim_{x \in D, x \rightarrow -\infty} F_D(x) = 0$

Define for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$

$$F(x) := \inf_{\substack{y > x \\ y \in D}} F_D(y) = \lim_{\substack{y \downarrow x \\ y \in D}} F_D(y)$$

Then F is a right continuous probability df. Thus, any two right continuous df's agreeing on a **dense set** will agree everywhere.

8.1 Basic Definitions

Proof of Lemma 8.1.1.

8.1 Basic Definitions

Four definitions.

We now consider four definitions related to weak convergence of probability measures. Let $\{F_n, n \geq 1\}$ be probability distribution functions and let F be a distribution function which is not necessarily proper.

(1) **Vague convergence.** The sequence $\{F_n\}$ converges vaguely to F , written $F_n \xrightarrow{v} F$, if for every finite interval of continuity I of F , we have

$$F_n(I) \rightarrow F(I)$$

(See Chung (1968), Feller (1971).)

(2) **Proper convergence.** The sequence $\{F_n\}$ converges properly to F , written $F_n \rightarrow F$ if $F_n \xrightarrow{v} F$ and F is a proper df; that is $F(\mathbb{R}) = 1$. (See Feller (1971).)

8.1 Basic Definitions

(3) **Weak convergence.** The sequence $\{F_n\}$ converges weakly to F , written $F_n \xrightarrow{w} F$, if

$$F_n(x) \rightarrow F(x)$$

for all $x \in \mathcal{C}(F)$. (See Billingsley (1968, 1995).)

(4) **Complete convergence.** The sequence $\{F_n\}$ converges completely to F , written $F_n \xrightarrow{c} F$, if $F_n \xrightarrow{w} F$ and F is proper. (See Loève (1977).)

8.1 Basic Definitions

Example.

Define

$$F_n(x) := F(x + (-1)^n n)$$

8.1 Basic Definitions

Theorem 8.1 .1 (Equivalence of the Four Definitions)

If F is proper, then the four definitions (1),(2),(3),(4) are equivalent.

Proof.

8.1 Basic Definitions

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Notation: If $\{F, F_n, n \geq 1\}$ are probability distributions, write $F_n \Rightarrow F$ to mean any of the equivalent notions given by (1) – (4). If X_n is a random variable with distribution F_n and X is a random variable with distribution F , we write $X_n \Rightarrow X$ to mean $F_n \Rightarrow F$. This is read X_n converges in distribution to X or F_n converges weakly to F . Notice that unlike almost sure, in probability, or L_p convergence, convergence in distribution says **nothing** about the behavior of the random variables themselves and only comments on the behavior of the distribution functions of the random variables.

Example 8.1.1.

Let N be an $N(0, 1)$ random variable so that the distribution function is symmetric. Define for $n \geq 1$

$$X_n = (-1)^n N$$

Then $X_n \stackrel{d}{=} N$, so automatically $X_n \Rightarrow N$. But of course $\{X_n\}$ neither converges almost surely nor in probability.

8.1 Basic Definitions

Example 8.1.2.

Let $\{X_n, n \geq 1\}$ be iid with common unit exponential distribution

$$P[X_n > x] = e^{-x}, \quad x > 0$$

Set $M_n = \max_{i=1}^n X_i$ for $n \geq 1$. Then $M_n - \log n \Rightarrow Y$, where

$$P[Y \leq x] = \exp\{-e^{-x}\}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}$$

8.1 Basic Definitions

Remark 8.1.2

Weak limits are unique. If $F_n \xrightarrow{w} F$, and also $F_n \xrightarrow{w} G$, then $F = G$.

Why?

8.2 Scheffé's lemma

Consider the following modes of convergence that are stronger than weak convergence.

$$(a) F_n(A) \rightarrow F(A), \forall A \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$$

$$(b) \sup_{A \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})} |F_n(A) - F(A)| \rightarrow 0 .$$

Definition (a) (and hence (b)) would rule out many circumstances we would like to fall under weak convergence. Two examples illustrate the point of this remark.

8.2 Scheffé's lemma

Example 8.2.1 (i). Suppose $X_n \sim F_n$ puts mass $\frac{1}{n}$ at points $\{\frac{1}{n}, \frac{2}{n}, \dots, \frac{n}{n}\}$, and let

$$X_n \sim F(x) = x, \quad 0 \leq x \leq 1$$

where F is the uniform distribution on $[0, 1]$.

8.2 Scheffé's lemma

Example 8.2.1 (ii). *DeMoivre-Laplace central limit theorem:* This is a situation similar to what was observed in (i). Suppose $\{X_n, n \geq 1\}$ are iid, with

$$P[X_n = 1] = p = 1 - P[X_n = 0]$$

Set $S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$, which has a binomial distribution with parameters n, p . Then the DeMoivre-Laplace central limit theorem states

$$F_n(x) = P\left[\frac{S_n - np}{\sqrt{npq}} \leq x\right] \rightarrow F(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-u^2/2} du$$

Weak convergence, because of its connection to continuous functions, is more useful than the convergence notions (a) or (b).

8.2 Scheffé's lemma

The convergence definition (b) is called total variation convergence and has connections to density convergence through Scheffé's lemma.

Lemma 8.2.1 (Scheffé's lemma)

Suppose $\{F, F_n, n \geq 1\}$ are probability distributions with densities $\{f, f_n, n \geq 1\}$. Then

$$\sup_{B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})} |F_n(B) - F(B)| = \frac{1}{2} \int |f_n(x) - f(x)| dx$$

If $f_n(x) \rightarrow f(x)$ almost everywhere (that is, for all x except a set of Lebesgue measure 0), then

$$\int |f_n(x) - f(x)| dx \rightarrow 0$$

and thus $F_n \rightarrow F$ in total variation (and hence weakly).

8.2 Scheffé's lemma

Proof of Scheffé's lemma.

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Note that if $F_n \xrightarrow{w} F$ and F_n and F have densities f_n, f , it does not necessarily follow that $f_n(x) \rightarrow f(x)$.

Example.

8.2.1 Scheffé's lemma and Order Statistics

Proposition 8.2.1 Suppose $\{U_n, n \geq 1\}$ are iid $U(0, 1)$ random variables and suppose

$$U_{(1,n)} \leq U_{(2,n)} \leq \cdots \leq U_{(n,n)}$$

are the order statistics. Assume $k = k(n)$ is a function of n satisfying $k(n) \rightarrow \infty$ and $k/n \rightarrow 0$, as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Let

$$\xi_n = \frac{U_{(k,n)} - \frac{k}{n}}{\sqrt{\frac{k}{n} \left(1 - \frac{k}{n}\right) \frac{1}{n}}}$$

Then the density of ξ_n converges to a standard normal density and hence by Scheffé's lemma, as $n \rightarrow \infty$,

$$\sup_{B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})} \left| P[\xi_n \in B] - \int_B \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-u^2/2} du \right| \rightarrow 0$$

A proof proceeds by playing with the density of $U_{(k,n)}$

$$f_n(x) = \frac{n!}{(k-1)!(n-k)!} x^{k-1} (1-x)^{n-k}, \quad 0 < x < 1.$$

8.3 The Baby Skorohod Theorem

8.3 The Baby Skorohod Theorem Skorohod's theorem is a conceptual aid which makes certain weak convergence results easy to prove by continuity arguments. The theorem is true in great generality. We only consider the result for real valued random variables and hence the name Baby Skorohod Theorem.

We begin with a brief discussion of the relationship of almost sure convergence and weak convergence.

Proposition 8.3.1

Suppose $\{X, X_n, n \geq 1\}$ are random variables.

$$\text{If } X_n \xrightarrow{\text{a.s.}} X, \text{ then } X_n \Rightarrow X$$

Proof.

8.3 The Baby Skorohod Theorem

The converse is false: Recall Example 8.1.1 .

8.3 The Baby Skorohod Theorem

Despite the fact that convergence in distribution does not imply a.s. convergence, Skorohod's theorem provides a partial converse.

Theorem 8.3.2 (Baby Skorohod Theorem)

Suppose $\{X_n, n \geq 0\}$ are random variables defined on the probability space (Ω, \mathcal{B}, P) such that

$$X_n \Rightarrow X_0$$

Then there exist random variables $\{X_n^\#, n \geq 0\}$ defined on the Lebesgue probability space $([0, 1], \mathcal{B}([0, 1]), \lambda = \text{Lebesgue measure})$ such that for each fixed $n \geq 0$

$$X_n \stackrel{d}{=} X_n^\# \quad \text{and} \quad X_n^\# \xrightarrow{\text{a.s.}} X_0^\#$$

where a.s. means almost surely with respect to λ .

8.3 The Baby Skorohod Theorem

The proof of Skorohod's theorem requires the following result.

Lemma 8.3.1

Suppose F_n is the distribution function of X_n so that $F_n \Rightarrow F_0$.

If $t \in (0, 1) \cap \mathcal{C}(F_0^{\leftarrow})$, then $F_n^{\leftarrow}(t) \rightarrow F_0^{\leftarrow}(t)$.

Proof.

8.3 The Baby Skorohod Theorem

This lemma only guarantees convergence of F_n^{\leftarrow} to F_0^{\leftarrow} at continuity points of the limit. However, convergence could take place on more points. For instance, if $F_n = F_0$ for all n , $F_n^{\leftarrow} = F_0^{\leftarrow}$ and convergence would be everywhere.

8.3 The Baby Skorohod Theorem

Proof of the Baby Skorohod Theorem.

8.3 The Baby Skorohod Theorem

The next corollary looks tame when restricted to \mathbb{R} , but its multidimensional generalizations have profound consequences. For a map $h : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R}$, define

$$\text{Disc}(h) = \{x : h \text{ is not continuous at } x\} = (\mathcal{C}(h))^c$$

Corollary 8.3.1 (Continuous Mapping Theorem)

Let $\{X_n, n \geq 0\}$ be a sequence of random variables such that

$$X_n \Rightarrow X_0$$

For $n \geq 0$, assume F_n is the distribution function of X_n . Let $h : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ satisfy $P[X_0 \in \text{Disc}(h)] = 0$. Then

$$h(X_n) \Rightarrow h(X_0)$$

and if h is bounded, dominated convergence implies

$$Eh(X_n) = \int h(x)F_n(dx) \rightarrow Eh(x) = \int h(x)F_0(dx).$$

8.3 The Baby Skorohod Theorem

Proof.

8.3.1 The Delta Method

The delta method allows us to take a basic convergence, for instance to a limiting normal distribution, and apply smooth functions and conclude that the functions are asymptotically normal as well.

In statistical estimation we try to estimate a parameter θ from a parameter set Θ based on a random sample of size n with a statistic

$$T_n = T_n(X_1, \dots, X_n)$$

This means we have a family of probability models

$$\{(\Omega, \mathcal{B}, P_\theta), \theta \in \Theta\}$$

and we are trying to choose the correct model. The estimator T_n is consistent if

$$T_n \xrightarrow{P_\theta} \theta$$

for every θ . The estimator T_n is CAN, if for all $\theta \in \Theta$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P_\theta [\sigma_n (T_n - \theta) \leq x] = N(0, 1, x)$$

for some $\sigma_n \rightarrow \infty$

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for some $\sigma_n \rightarrow \infty$.

8.3.1 The Delta Method

Suppose we have a CAN estimator of θ , but we need to estimate a smooth function $g(\theta)$. For example, in a family of exponential densities, θ may represent the mean but we are interested in the variance θ^2 . We see from the delta method that $g(T_n)$ is also CAN for $g(\theta)$.

We illustrate the method using the central limit theorem (CLT) to be proved in the next chapter. Let $\{X_j, j \geq 1\}$ be iid with $E(X_n) = \mu$ and $\text{Var}(X_n) = \sigma^2$. From the CLT we get in terms of $\bar{X} = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i/n$ that

$$\sqrt{n} \left(\frac{\bar{X} - \mu}{\sigma} \right) \Rightarrow N(0, 1)$$

So \bar{X} is CAN for μ . The delta method asserts that if $g(x)$ has a non-zero derivative $g'(\mu)$,

$$\sqrt{n} \left(\frac{g(\bar{X}) - g(\mu)}{\sigma g'(\mu)} \right) \Rightarrow N(0, 1) \quad (*)$$

So $g(\bar{X})$ is CAN for $g(\mu)$.

8.3.1 The Delta Method

Proof of (*).

8.3.1 The Delta Method

Remark. Suppose $\{X_n, n \geq 0\}$ is a sequence of random variables such that

$$X_n \Rightarrow X_0$$

Suppose further that

$$h : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{S}$$

where \mathbb{S} is some nice metric space, for example, $\mathbb{S} = \mathbb{R}^2$. Then if

$$P[X_0 \in \text{Disc}(h)] = 0$$

Skorohod's theorem suggests that it should be the case that

$$h(X_n) \Rightarrow h(X)$$

in \mathbb{S} . But what does weak convergence in \mathbb{S} mean?

8.4 Weak Convergence Equivalences; Portmanteau Theorem

In this section we discuss several conditions which are equivalent to weak convergence of probability distributions. Some of these are of theoretical use and some allow easy generalization of the notion of weak convergence to higher dimensions and even to function spaces. The definition of weak convergence of distribution functions on \mathbb{R} is notable for not allowing easy generalization to more sophisticated spaces. The modern theory of weak convergence of stochastic processes rests on the equivalences to be discussed next. We need the following definition. For $B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$, let

$$\begin{aligned}\partial(B) &= \text{the boundary of } B \\ &= \bar{B} \setminus B^\circ = \text{the closure of } B \text{ minus the interior of } B \\ &= \{x : \exists y_n \in B, y_n \rightarrow x \text{ and } \exists z_n \in B^c, z_n \rightarrow x\} \\ &= \text{points reachable from both outside and inside } B.\end{aligned}$$

8.4 Weak Convergence Equivalences; Portmanteau Theorem

Theorem 8.4.1 (Portmanteau Theorem) Alexandrov

Let $\{F_n, n \geq 0\}$ be a family of proper distributions with random vectors $X_n \sim F_n$ and $X \sim F_0$. The following are equivalent.

(i) $F_n \Rightarrow F_0$.

(ii) For all $f : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ which are bounded and continuous,

$$\int f dF_n \rightarrow \int f dF_0 \quad \text{or} \quad Ef(X_n) \rightarrow Ef(X_0).$$

(iii) $Ef(X_n) \rightarrow Ef(X_0)$ for all bounded, Lipschitz functions f .

(iv) $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} P(X_n \in G) \geq P(X \in G)$ for every open set G .

(v) $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} P(X_n \in F) \leq P(X \in F)$ for every closed set F .

(vi) $P(X_n \in B) \rightarrow P(X \in B)$ for all $B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$ satisfies $P(X \in \partial(B)) = 0$.

(vii) $Ef(X_n) \rightarrow Ef(X_0)$ for all bounded, uniformly continuous functions f .

8.4 Weak Convergence Equivalences; Portmanteau Theorem

Proof.

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Example 8.4.1 The discrete uniform distribution is close to the continuous uniform distribution.

Suppose F_n has atoms at i/n , $1 \leq i \leq n$ of size $1/n$. Let F_0 be the uniform distribution on $[0, 1]$. Then $F_n \Rightarrow F_0$.

Proof.

8.5 More Relations Among Models of Convergence

Proposition 8.5.1

Let $\{X, X_n, n \geq 1\}$ be random variables on the same probability space (Ω, B, P)

(i) If $X_n \xrightarrow{a.s.} X$ then $X_n \xrightarrow{P} X$.

(ii) If $X_n \xrightarrow{P} X$ then $X_n \Rightarrow X$.

All the converses are false.

Proof.

8.5 More Relations Among Models of Convergence

There is one special case where convergence in probability and convergence in distribution are the same.

Proposition 8.5.2

Suppose $\{X_n, n \geq 1\}$ are random variables. If c is a constant, then

$$X_n \xrightarrow{P} c \iff X_n \Rightarrow c.$$

Proof.

8.6 New Convergences from Old

Theorem 8.6.1 (Slutsky's Theorem)

Suppose $\{X, X_n, Y_n, \xi_n, n \geq 1\}$ are random variables.

(a) If $X_n \Rightarrow X$, and $X_n - Y_n \xrightarrow{P} 0$ then $Y_n \Rightarrow X$.

(b) Equivalently, if $X_n \Rightarrow X$, and $\xi_n \xrightarrow{P} 0$, then $X_n + \xi_n \Rightarrow X$.

Proof.

8.6 New Convergences from Old

Theorem 8.6.2 (Second Converging Together Theorem)

Let us suppose that $\{X_{un}, X_u, Y_n, X; n \geq 1, u \geq 1\}$ are random variables such that for each n $Y_n, X_{un}, u \geq 1$ are defined on a common domain. Assume for each u , as $n \rightarrow \infty$

$$X_{un} \Rightarrow X_u$$

and as $u \rightarrow \infty$

$$X_u \Rightarrow X$$

Suppose further that for all $\epsilon > 0$,

$$\lim_{u \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} P[|X_{un} - Y_n| > \epsilon] = 0.$$

Then we have

$$Y_n \Rightarrow X$$

as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

8.6 New Convergences from Old

Proof.

8.7 The Convergence to Types Theorem

Many convergence in distribution results in probability and statistics are of the following form: Given a sequence of random variables $\{\xi_n, n \geq 1\}$ and $a_n > 0$ and $b_n \in \mathbb{R}$, we prove that

$$\frac{\xi_n - b_n}{a_n} \Rightarrow Y$$

where Y is a non-degenerate random variable; that is, Y is not a constant a.s. This allows us to write

$$P \left[\frac{\xi_n - b_n}{a_n} \leq x \right] \approx P[Y \leq x] =: G(x)$$

or by setting $y = a_n x + b_n$

$$P[\xi_n \leq y] \approx G \left(\frac{y - b_n}{a_n} \right)$$

This allows us to approximate the distribution of ξ_n with a location-scale family.

8.7 The Convergence to Types Theorem

Example. suppose $\{X_n, n \geq 1\}$ are iid with $E(X_n) = \mu$ and $\text{Var}(X_n) = \sigma^2$. The Central Limit Theorem: for $x \in \mathbb{R}$

$$P\left[\frac{S_n - n\mu}{\sigma\sqrt{n}} \leq x\right] \rightarrow P[Y \leq x] = \int_{-\infty}^x \frac{e^{-u^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} du$$

so that

$$P[S_n \leq y] \approx N\left(\frac{y - n\mu}{\sigma\sqrt{n}}\right)$$

Definition. Two distribution functions $U(x)$ and $V(x)$ are of the same type if there exist constants $A > 0$ and $B \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$V(x) = U(Ax + B)$$

In terms of random variables, if X has distribution U and Y has distribution V , then

$$Y \stackrel{d}{=} \frac{X - B}{A}$$

For example, if $X_{0,1}$ has $N(0, 1, x)$ as its distribution and $X_{\mu,\sigma}$ has $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ as its distribution, then $X_{\mu,\sigma} \stackrel{d}{=} \sigma X_{0,1} + \mu$.

8.7 The Convergence to Types Theorem

Theorem 8.7.1 (Convergence to Types Theorem)

We suppose $\mathcal{U}(x)$ and $\mathcal{V}(x)$ are two proper distributions, neither of which is concentrated at a point. Suppose $X_n \sim F_n$ and the $U \sim \mathcal{U}$, $V \sim \mathcal{V}$. We have constants $a_n > 0, \alpha_n > 0, b_n \in \mathbb{R}, \beta_n \in \mathbb{R}$

(a) If $F_n(a_n x + b_n) \xrightarrow{w} \mathcal{U}(x)$, $F_n(\alpha_n x + \beta_n) \xrightarrow{w} \mathcal{V}(x)$ or equivalently

$$\frac{X_n - b_n}{a_n} \Rightarrow U, \quad \frac{X_n - \beta_n}{\alpha_n} \Rightarrow V \quad (*1)$$

then there exist constants $A > 0$, and $B \in \mathbb{R}$ such that as $n \rightarrow \infty$,

$$\frac{\alpha_n}{a_n} \rightarrow A > 0, \quad \frac{\beta_n - b_n}{a_n} \rightarrow B \quad (*2)$$

and $\mathcal{V}(x) = \mathcal{U}(Ax + B)$, $V \stackrel{d}{=} (U - B)/A \quad (*3)$.

(b) Conversely, if $(*2)$ holds, then either of the relations in $(*1)$ implies the other and $(*3)$ holds.

8.7 The Convergence to Types Theorem

Proof.

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8.7.1 Application of Convergence to Types: Limit Distributions for Extremes

A beautiful example of the use of the convergence to types theorem is the derivation of the extreme value distributions. These are the possible limit distributions of centered and scaled maxima of iid random variables.

Suppose $\{X_n, n \geq 1\}$ is an iid sequence of random variables with common distribution F . The extreme observation among the first n is

$$M_n := \bigvee_{i=1}^n X_i$$

8.7.1 Application of Convergence to Types: Limit Distributions for Extremes

Theorem 8.7.2

Suppose there exist normalizing constants $a_n > 0$ and $b_n \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$F^n(a_n x + b_n) = P \left[\frac{M_n - b_n}{a_n} \leq x \right] \xrightarrow{w} G(x)$$

where the limit distribution G is proper and non-degenerate. Then G is the type of one of the following extreme value distributions:

(i) $\Phi_\alpha(x) = \exp\{-x^{-\alpha}\}$, $x > 0$, $\alpha > 0$

(ii)

$$\Psi_\alpha(x) = \begin{cases} \exp\{-(x)^\alpha\}, & x < 0, \\ 1 & x > 0 \end{cases} \quad \alpha > 0$$

(iii) $\Lambda(x) = \exp\{-e^{-x}\}$, $x \in \mathbb{R}$

8.7.1 Application of Convergence to Types: Limit Distributions for Extremes

The statistical significance is the following. The types of the three extreme value distributions can be united as a one parameter family indexed by a shape parameter $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$:

$$G_\gamma(x) = \exp \left\{ -(1 + \gamma x)^{-1/\gamma} \right\}, \quad 1 + \gamma x > 0$$

where we interpret the case of $\gamma = 0$ as

$$G_0 = \exp \left\{ -e^{-x} \right\}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}$$

Often in practical contexts the distribution F is unknown and we must estimate the distribution of M_n or a quantile of M_n . For instance, we may wish to design a dam so that in 10,000 years, the probability that water level will exceed the dam height is 0.001 . If we assume F is unknown but satisfies (8.24) with some G_γ as limit, then we may write

$$P [M_n \leq x] \approx G_\gamma (a_n^{-1} (x - b_n))$$

and now we have a three parameter estimation problem since we ^{56 / 65}

8.7.1 Application of Convergence to Types: Limit Distributions for Extremes

Proof.

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