

Lecture 10

Inference for jumps Lévy processes from high frequency observations: a direct approach

By now, we have seen a way to estimate the Lévy measure of a compound Poisson process. Let us now see how to estimate the Lévy measure of a general Lévy process by means of a compound Poisson process approximation. More precisely, we will consider the following setting. Let X be a pure jumps Lévy process with Lévy measure ν . If $\int_{|x|\leq 1} |x|\nu(dx) < \infty$, the process associated with the sum of all the jumps of X is a Lévy process with Lévy triplet given by $(\int_{|x|\leq 1} x\nu(dx), 0, \nu)$. In the following, if $\int_{|x|\leq 1} |x|\nu(dx) < \infty$ we will assume that

$$X_t := \sum_{s \leq t} \Delta X_s \mathbf{1}_{\Delta X_s \neq 0}, \quad (1)$$

otherwise we will consider Lévy processes with Lévy triplets $(0, 0, \nu)$. That is, we will focus on the class \mathcal{L} of Lévy processes with Lévy triplet $(\gamma_\nu, 0, \nu)$ where

$$\gamma_\nu := \begin{cases} \int_{|x|\leq 1} x\nu(dx) & \text{if } \int_{|x|\leq 1} |x|\nu(dx) < \infty \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Thanks to the Lévy-Itô decomposition any element X of \mathcal{L} can be written as follows: for any $0 < \varepsilon \leq 1$

$$X_t = tb_\nu(\varepsilon) + M_t(\varepsilon) + B_t(\varepsilon),$$

where:

- the drift is given by

$$b_\nu(\varepsilon) := \begin{cases} \int_{|x|\leq \varepsilon} x\nu(dx) & \text{if } \int_{|x|\leq 1} |x|\nu(dx) < \infty \\ -\int_{\varepsilon < |x|\leq 1} x\nu(dx) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- $M(\varepsilon) = (M_t(\varepsilon))_{t \geq 0}$ is the martingale associated with the jumps of X the magnitude of which is less than ε . Formally:

$$M_t(\varepsilon) = \lim_{\eta \rightarrow 0} \left(\sum_{s \leq t} \Delta X_s \mathbf{1}_{\eta < |\Delta X_s| \leq \varepsilon} - t \int_{\eta < |x| \leq \varepsilon} x\nu(dx) \right).$$

- $B(\varepsilon) = (B_t(\varepsilon))_{t \geq 0}$ is the Lévy process associated with the jumps of X the magnitude of which is bigger than ε . Formally:

$$B_t(\varepsilon) = \sum_{s \leq t} \Delta X_s \mathbf{1}_{|\Delta X_s| > \varepsilon}.$$

In particular, $B(\varepsilon)$ is a compound Poisson process with intensity $\lambda_\varepsilon := \nu(\mathbb{R} \setminus [-\varepsilon, \varepsilon])$ and jump distribution $F_\varepsilon(dx) := \frac{\nu(dx)}{\lambda_\varepsilon} \mathbf{1}_{\mathbb{R} \setminus [-\varepsilon, \varepsilon]}$.

Let us suppose that ν and F_ε are absolutely continuous with respect to the Lebesgue measure with a density given by ρ and f_ε , respectively. Our aim is to estimate ρ and let us say that we are interested in finding an estimator $\widehat{\rho}$ of ρ on a compact set A uniformly bounded away from zero that “works well” with respect to the L_p -risk:

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\int_A |\widehat{\rho}(x) - \rho(x)|^p dx \right].$$

Clearly, for ε small enough,

$$\rho(x) \mathbf{1}_A(x) = \lambda_\varepsilon f_\varepsilon(x) \mathbf{1}_{|x| > \varepsilon} \mathbf{1}_A(x).$$

Thus, an estimator of ρ on A is given by

$$\widehat{\rho}(x) = \widehat{\lambda}_\varepsilon \widehat{f}_\varepsilon(x) \quad \forall x \in A,$$

where $\widehat{\lambda}_\varepsilon$ and \widehat{f}_ε are estimators of λ_ε and f_ε , respectively. Observe that:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_A |\widehat{\rho}(x) - \rho(x)|^p dx \right] &= \int_A \mathbb{E}[|\widehat{\lambda}_\varepsilon \widehat{f}_\varepsilon(x) - \lambda_\varepsilon f_\varepsilon(x)|^p] dx \\ &\leq 2^{p-1} \mathbb{E}[|\widehat{\lambda}_\varepsilon - \lambda_\varepsilon|^p] \int_A |f_\varepsilon(x)|^p dx + 2^{p-1} \mathbb{E} \left[|\widehat{\lambda}_\varepsilon|^p \int_A |\widehat{f}_\varepsilon(x) - f_\varepsilon(x)|^p dx \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Also,

$$\int_A \mathbb{E}[|\widehat{\lambda}_\varepsilon|^p |\widehat{f}_\varepsilon(x) - f_\varepsilon(x)|^p] dx \leq \sqrt{\mathbb{E}[|\widehat{\lambda}_\varepsilon|^{2p}]} \int_A \sqrt{\mathbb{E}[|\widehat{f}_\varepsilon(x) - f_\varepsilon(x)|^{2p}]} dx.$$

In particular, in order to control the L_p -risk of $\widehat{\rho}$ it is enough to separately control the L_p -risks of $\widehat{\lambda}_\varepsilon$ and \widehat{f}_ε . We will only focus on the estimation of λ_ε , the estimation of f_ε being similar to the estimation of f in Lecture 9 but more involved due to the presence of the small jumps (see, e.g., [3]).

Estimation of λ_ε

In Lecture 8 we have seen that, for any Lévy process X with Lévy measure ν , we have:

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mathbb{P}(|X_t| > \varepsilon)}{t} = \nu(\mathbb{R} \setminus [-\varepsilon, \varepsilon]);$$

that is, using the previous notation,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mathbb{P}(|X_t| > \varepsilon)}{t} = \lambda_\varepsilon. \quad (2)$$

Equation (2) joined with the fact that we are assuming to have high frequency observations of X , justifies the following definition

$$\widehat{\lambda}_\varepsilon := \frac{n(\varepsilon)}{n\Delta} \quad (3)$$

where $n(\varepsilon) = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{1}_{|X_{i\Delta} - X_{(i-1)\Delta}| > \varepsilon}$.

Let us now compute the L_p -risk of $\widehat{\lambda}_\varepsilon$. To that aim, we will apply Rosenthal inequality, that is we will use the following result.

Rosenthal inequality: Let ξ_1, \dots, ξ_n be independent random variables with $\mathbb{E}[\xi_i] = 0$, $\mathbb{E}[|\xi_i|^p] < \infty$ for $p > 2$, $i = 1, \dots, n$. Let $S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n \xi_i$. Then, there exists $0 < C < \infty$ such that

$$\mathbb{E}[|S_n|^p] \leq C \max \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}[|\xi_i|^p], \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}[\xi_i^2] \right)^{p/2} \right).$$

Using the convexity inequality $(a+b)^p \leq 2^{p-1}a^p + 2^{p-1}b^p$ we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[|\lambda_\varepsilon - \widehat{\lambda}_\varepsilon|^p] &= \mathbb{E} \left[\left| \lambda_\varepsilon - \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{n(\varepsilon)}{n\Delta} \right] + \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{n(\varepsilon)}{n\Delta} \right] - \frac{n(\varepsilon)}{n\Delta} \right|^p \right] \\ &\leq 2^{p-1} \left| \lambda_\varepsilon - \frac{\mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon)}{\Delta} \right|^p + 2^{p-1} \frac{1}{\Delta^p} \mathbb{E} \left[\left| \mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon) - \frac{n(\varepsilon)}{n} \right|^p \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Set

$$U_i := \frac{\mathbf{1}_{(\varepsilon, \infty)}(|X_{i\Delta} - X_{(i-1)\Delta}|) - \mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon)}{n}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n.$$

In particular, $(U_i)_{i=1}^n$ are i.i.d. centered random variables such that

$$\left| \sum_{i=1}^n U_i \right| = \left| \mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon) - \frac{n(\varepsilon)}{n} \right|.$$

Therefore, applying Rosenthal inequality for $p > 2$, we get

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\left| \mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon) - \frac{n(\varepsilon)}{n} \right|^p \right] \leq C \max \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}[|U_i|^p], \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}[U_i^2] \right)^{p/2} \right),$$

for some positive constant C .

Observe that

$$\mathbb{E}[U_1^2] = \frac{\mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon)(1 - \mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon))}{n^2} \leq \frac{\mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon)}{n^2}$$

and so we conclude that

$$\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}[U_i^2] \right)^{p/2} \leq \left(\frac{\mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon)}{n} \right)^{p/2}.$$

Moreover, since

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}\left[|\mathbf{1}_{|X_\Delta|>\varepsilon} - \mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon)|^p\right] &= \mathbb{E}\left[|\mathbf{1}_{|X_\Delta|>\varepsilon} - \mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon)|^2 |\mathbf{1}_{|X_\Delta|>\varepsilon} - \mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon)|^{p-2}\right] \\ &\leq \mathbb{E}\left[|\mathbf{1}_{|X_\Delta|>\varepsilon} - \mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon)|^2\right] \leq \mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon),\end{aligned}$$

we obtain that $\mathbb{E}[|U_1|^p] \leq \frac{\mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta|>\varepsilon)}{n^p}$ and thus, for $p > 2$, there exists a constant C (only dependent on p) such that:

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\left|\mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon) - \frac{n(\varepsilon)}{n}\right|^p\right] \leq C\left(n^{p-1}\mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon), \left(\frac{\mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon)}{n}\right)^{p/2}\right).$$

Hence, for $p > 2$:

$$\mathbb{E}[|\lambda_\varepsilon - \widehat{\lambda}_\varepsilon|^p] \leq 2^{p-1}\left|\lambda_\varepsilon - \frac{\mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon)}{\Delta}\right|^p + 2^{p-1}\frac{C}{\Delta^p} \max\left(n^{p-1}\mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon), \left(\frac{\mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon)}{n}\right)^{p/2}\right).$$

Let us now study the case $p = 2$:

$$\mathbb{E}[|\lambda_\varepsilon - \widehat{\lambda}_\varepsilon|^2] = (\lambda_\varepsilon - \mathbb{E}[\widehat{\lambda}_\varepsilon])^2 + \text{Var}(\widehat{\lambda}_\varepsilon) = \left(\frac{\mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon)}{\Delta} - \lambda_\varepsilon\right)^2 + \frac{\mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon)(1 - \mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon))}{n\Delta^2},$$

i.e.

$$\mathbb{E}[|\lambda_\varepsilon - \widehat{\lambda}_\varepsilon|^2] \leq \left(\frac{\mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon)}{\Delta} - \lambda_\varepsilon\right)^2 + \frac{\mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon)}{n\Delta^2}. \quad (4)$$

If $1 \leq p < 2$, using Jensen inequality together with (4), we get:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[|\lambda_\varepsilon - \widehat{\lambda}_\varepsilon|^p] &\leq \left(\mathbb{E}[|\lambda_\varepsilon - \widehat{\lambda}_\varepsilon|^2]\right)^{p/2} \\ &\leq \left(\left(\frac{\mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon)}{\Delta} - \lambda_\varepsilon\right)^2 + \frac{\mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon)}{n\Delta^2}\right)^{p/2} \\ &\leq \left(\frac{\mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon)}{\Delta} - \lambda_\varepsilon\right)^p + \left(\frac{\mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon)}{n\Delta^2}\right)^{p/2}.\end{aligned}$$

Moreover, for any $\varepsilon = \varepsilon_n \in (0, 1]$ if $n\mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon_n) \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, it can be proven (for instance, by means of Bernstein inequality) that, for n large enough

$$\mathbb{E}[|\widehat{\lambda}_\varepsilon - \lambda_\varepsilon|^p] \leq \left|\lambda_\varepsilon - \frac{\mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon)}{\Delta}\right|^p + O\left(\left(\frac{\mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon)}{n\Delta^2}\right)^{\frac{p}{2}}\right), \quad \forall p \in [1, \infty).$$

Remark 1. In general, the quantity $\frac{\mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta|>\varepsilon)}{\Delta}$ is not easy to handle. From Lecture 8 we know that, for all $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$\lim_{\Delta \rightarrow 0} \left|\lambda_\varepsilon - \frac{\mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon)}{\Delta}\right| = 0$$

but the rate of convergence is not known in general. Nevertheless, one can notice that in many cases of interest, in terms of $\lambda_\varepsilon = \int_{|x|>\varepsilon} \nu(dx)$,

$$\left|\lambda_\varepsilon - \frac{\mathbb{P}(|X_\Delta| > \varepsilon)}{\Delta}\right| = O(\Delta\lambda_\varepsilon^2), \quad \text{as long as } \Delta\lambda_\varepsilon \rightarrow 0.$$

In this case the rate of convergence of $\widehat{\lambda}_\varepsilon$ in L_p risk, $p \in [1, \infty)$, is given by:

$$\mathbb{E}[|\widehat{\lambda}_\varepsilon - \lambda_\varepsilon|^p] = O\left(\left(\frac{\lambda_\varepsilon + \lambda_\varepsilon^2\Delta}{n\Delta}\right)^{\frac{p}{2}} + \lambda_\varepsilon^{2p}\Delta^p\right).$$

Compound Poisson approximation

Theorem 1. *Any infinitely divisible probability distribution can be obtained as the limit of a sequence of compound Poisson distributions.*

Before proving Theorem 1 let us recall some facts regarding the characteristic functions of infinitely divisible distributions. See, e.g., [6] for a proof.

Lemma 1. *If μ is an infinitely divisible distribution, then its characteristic function ϕ_μ has no zero, i.e. $\phi_\mu(u) \neq 0$ for any $u \in \mathbb{R}$.*

Lemma 2. *Suppose that $\phi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a continuous function such that $\phi(0) = 1$ and $\phi(z) \neq 0$ for any z . Then, there exists a unique continuous function $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that $f(0) = 0$ and $e^{f(z)} = \phi(z)$. Moreover, for any positive integer n there exists a unique continuous function $g_n : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that $g_n(0) = 1$ and $g_n(z)^n = \phi(z)$. They are related as $g_n(z) = e^{f(z)/n}$.*

In the following, we will write $f(z) = \log(\phi(z))$ and $g_n(z) = \phi(z)^{1/n}$.

Proof of Theorem 1. Let ϕ be the characteristic function of an arbitrary infinitely divisible probability measure μ . Since μ is infinitely divisible, for any $n \geq 1$ there exists a probability measure $\mu^{1/n}$ such that μ can be written as the convolution of n -times $\mu^{1/n}$:

$$\mu = \mu^{1/n} * \dots * \mu^{1/n}. \quad (5)$$

Let us denote by $\phi^{1/n}$ the characteristic function of $\mu^{1/n}$. Then, (5) is equivalent to

$$\phi(u) = \left(\phi^{1/n}(u) \right)^n.$$

Define

$$\phi_n(u) := \exp \left(n(\phi^{1/n}(u) - 1) \right) = \exp \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}} (e^{iux} - 1) n \mu^{1/n}(dx) \right).$$

In particular, ϕ_n is the characteristic function of a compound Poisson process with intensity n and jump measure $\mu^{1/n}$. We conclude the proof by observing that

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_n(u) &= \exp \left(n((\phi(u))^{1/n} - 1) \right) = \exp \left(n \left(e^{\frac{1}{n} \log(\phi(u))} - 1 \right) \right) \\ &= \exp \left(\log(\phi(u)) + n o \left(\frac{1}{n} \right) \right) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \phi(u). \end{aligned}$$

□

Inference for Lévy processes from low frequency observations: a spectral approach

Let $X = (X_t)_{t \geq 0}$ be a jump diffusion process of the form

$$X_t = \gamma_0 t + \sigma W_t + \sum_{i=1}^{N_t} Y_i$$

with the jump distribution of Y_1 absolutely continuous with respect to the Lebesgue measure.

Suppose that we are interested in the estimation of the Lévy density ρ from n discrete observations of X at the sampling rate $\Delta = 1$:

$$X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n.$$

Let us denote by ϕ_{X_1} the characteristic function of X_1 , i.e.

$$\phi_{X_1}(u) = e^{\psi(u)}, \quad \psi(u) = iu\gamma - \frac{u^2\sigma^2}{2} + \int_{\mathbb{R}} (e^{iux} - 1)\rho(x)dx,$$

with $\gamma_0 = \gamma - \int x \mathbf{1}_{|x| \leq 1} \rho(x)dx$ and suppose that the Lévy density ρ satisfies $\int_{\mathbb{R}} x^2 \rho(x)dx < \infty$. In particular, from Proposition 1 in Lecture 8 it follows that $\mathbb{E}[X_1^2] < \infty$ and therefore $\mathbb{E}[|X_1|] < \infty$, too. By differentiation (using that $\mathbb{E}[|X_1|] < \infty$) we get

$$\phi'_{X_1}(u) = \exp(\psi(u))\psi'(u)$$

so that, using Lemma 1, we can write

$$\frac{\phi'_{X_1}}{\phi_{X_1}}(u) = \psi'(u).$$

Taking the derivative in u once again (and using the hypothesis $\int_{\mathbb{R}} x^2 \rho(x)dx < \infty$) we get

$$\frac{\phi''_{X_1} \phi_{X_1} - (\phi'_{X_1})^2}{\phi_{X_1}^2}(u) = \frac{d}{du} \psi'(u) = -\sigma^2 + i \frac{d}{du} \int_{\mathbb{R}} x e^{iux} \rho(x)dx = -\sigma^2 - \int_{\mathbb{R}} x^2 e^{iux} \rho(x)dx.$$

It follows that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} x^2 e^{iux} \rho(x)dx = \frac{-\phi''_{X_1}(u)\phi_{X_1}(u) + (\phi'_{X_1}(u))^2}{\phi_{X_1}^2(u)} - \sigma^2$$

and therefore, by Fourier inversion,

$$x^2 \rho(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-iux} \left(\frac{-\phi''_{X_1}(u)\phi_{X_1}(u) + (\phi'_{X_1}(u))^2}{\phi_{X_1}^2(u)} - \sigma^2 \right) du.$$

If $x \neq 0$,

$$\rho(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi x^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-iux} \left(\frac{-\phi''_{X_1}(u)\phi_{X_1}(u) + (\phi'_{X_1}(u))^2}{\phi_{X_1}^2(u)} - \sigma^2 \right) du. \quad (6)$$

Remark 2. Under stronger moment conditions on X_1 one may differentiate $\phi_{X_1}(u) = \exp(\psi(u))$ three times thereby eliminating σ^2 from (6).

Set $Z_j := X_j - X_{j-1}$ and observe that Z_1, \dots, Z_n are independent and with the same law as X_1 . Let $\hat{\phi}_n$ be the empirical characteristic function of Z_1 , i.e.:

$$\hat{\phi}_n(t) := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n e^{itZ_j}.$$

By the strong law of large numbers, for any fixed time t , $\widehat{\phi}_n(t)$, $\frac{d}{dt}\widehat{\phi}_n(t)$ and $\frac{d^2}{dt^2}\widehat{\phi}_n(t)$ converge a.s. to $\phi_{X_1}(t)$, $\phi'_{X_1}(t)$ and $\phi''_{X_1}(t)$, respectively. Then a first instinct is to simply use a plug-in device:

$$\frac{1}{2\pi x^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-iux} \left(\frac{-\widehat{\phi}_n''(u)\widehat{\phi}_n(u) + (\widehat{\phi}_n'(u))^2}{\widehat{\phi}_n^2(u)} - \widehat{\sigma}^2 \right) du, \quad (7)$$

where $\widehat{\sigma}^2$ is some estimator of σ^2 . However, we cannot use (7) as an estimator of ρ since the integrand may be not integrable and anyway, since $\widehat{\phi}(t)$ appears at the denominator, (7) could be numerically unstable. Several “working” modifications of the natural but “not-working” quantity (7) have been proposed in the literature. As an example, in [5] the suggested estimator is

$$\widehat{\rho}(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi x^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-iux} \left(-\frac{\widehat{\phi}_n''(u)}{\widehat{\phi}_n(u)} \mathbf{1}_{G_u} + \frac{\widehat{\phi}_n'(u)^2}{\widehat{\phi}_n^2(u)} \mathbf{1}_{G_u} - \widehat{\sigma}^2 \right) \phi_{\omega}(hu) du, \quad (8)$$

where ϕ_{ω} is the Fourier transform of a kernel function ω and $h > 0$ is a bandwidth.

The integral in (8) is finite under the assumption that ϕ_{ω} has a compact support. The set G_t is defined by

$$G_t = \left\{ |\widehat{\phi}_n(t)| \geq \kappa_n e^{-\frac{\Sigma^2}{2h^2}} \right\},$$

where $\kappa_n \rightarrow 0$ and Σ are suitably chosen.

The result in [5] is then that under appropriate hypothesis on the kernel and an appropriate choice for $\widehat{\sigma}$ (see, e.g. [4]) the rate of convergence of

$$\mathbb{E}[(\widehat{\rho}(x) - \rho(x))^2], \quad \forall x \neq 0$$

is logarithmic. This rate is minimax-optimal for the estimation of the Lévy density ρ at a fixed point $x \neq 0$ over a suitable class of Lévy triplets when the risk is measured by the mean square error.

For an overview about the estimation of the Lévy triplet of a discretely observed Lévy process via the Lévy Khintchine formula see, e.g., [1].

References

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