Universal Off-Policy Evaluation

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Off-Policy Evaluation

Definition: The problem of evaluating a **new strategy** for behavior, or policy, using only observations collected during the execution of **another policy**.

Motivation

- Want to evaluate new method without incurring the risk and cost of actually implementing this new method/policy.
- Existing logs containing huge amounts of historical data based on existing policies.
- It makes economical sense to, if possible, use these logs.
- It makes economical sense to, if possible, not risk the loss of testing out a new potentially bad policy.
- Online ad placement is a good example.

Motivation

Extra Dark Chocolate

Shop 80.000+ products with one cart. Your online Gourmet Food source.

Amazon.com/Gourmet

Fresh Dark Chocolate

Fresh gourmet dark chocolate sure to astound. Truffles, caramels.... www.lakechamplainchocolates. com

Chocolate by Marky's - Dark Chocolate

Leonidas Belgian chocolate gourmet gifts mail order online. www.markys.com

A Lindt Extra Dark Chocolate

Buy a Lindt Extra Dark Chocolate at SHOP COM.

www.SHOP.com



A Lindt Extra Dark

Chocolate

Buy a Lindt Extra Dark Chocolate at SHOP COM www.SHOP.com

Fresh Dark Chocolate

Fresh gourmet dark chocolate sure to astound. Truffles, caramels,... www.lakechamplainchocolates. com

Chocolate by Marky's - Dark Chocolate

Leonidas Belgian chocolate gourmet gifts mail order online www.markvs.com

Extra Dark Chocolate

Shop 80,000+ products with one cart Your online Gourmet Food SOURCE

Amazon com/Gournet

Importance Sampling

■ Naive importance sampling

$$\begin{split} J\left(\pi_{\theta}\right) &= \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim \pi_{\beta}\left(\tau\right)} \left[\frac{\pi_{\theta}\left(\tau\right)}{\pi_{\beta}\left(\tau\right)} \sum_{t=0}^{H} \gamma^{t} r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})\right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim \pi_{\beta}\left(\tau\right)} \left[\left(\prod_{t=0}^{H} \frac{\pi_{\theta}\left(\mathbf{a}_{t} \mid \mathbf{s}_{t}\right)}{\pi_{\beta}\left(\mathbf{a}_{t} \mid \mathbf{s}_{t}\right)}\right) \sum_{t=0}^{H} \gamma^{t} r(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{a})\right] \approx \sum_{i=1}^{n} w_{H}^{i} \sum_{t=0}^{H} \gamma^{t} r_{t}^{i} \\ \text{where } w_{t}^{i} &= \frac{1}{n} \Pi_{t'=0}^{t} \frac{\pi_{\theta}\left(a_{t'}^{i} \mid s_{t'}^{i}\right)}{\pi_{\beta}\left(a_{t'}^{i} \mid s_{t'}^{i}\right)} \end{split}$$

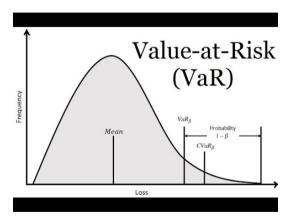
Weighted importance sampling

$$w_{t}^{i} = \frac{1}{n} \Pi_{t'=0}^{t} \frac{\pi_{\theta} \left(a_{t'}^{i} \mid s_{t'}^{i} \right)}{\pi_{\beta} \left(a_{t'}^{i} \mid s_{t'}^{i} \right)} \quad \Rightarrow \quad w_{t}^{i} = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} w_{t}^{i}} \Pi_{t'=0}^{t} \frac{\pi_{\theta} \left(a_{t'}^{i} \mid s_{t'}^{i} \right)}{\pi_{\beta} \left(a_{t'}^{i} \mid s_{t'}^{i} \right)}$$

Statistical Quantities

Consider a random variable X, the cumulative distribution function and probability distribution function of which are F(x) and p(x), respectively.

- lacksquare Mean $\mathbb{E}[X]$.
- $\qquad \qquad \text{Quantile} \quad \text{quantile}_{\alpha}(X) = F^{-1}(\alpha).$
- Value at Risk (VaR) $\operatorname{VaR}_{\alpha}(X) = \operatorname{quantile}_{\alpha}$.
- $\qquad \qquad \text{Conditional Value at Risk (CVaR)} \qquad \text{CVaR}_{\alpha}(X) = \mathbb{E}[X|X \leq \text{quantile}_{\alpha}(X)].$
- Variance $\mathbb{E}[(X \mathbb{E}X)^2]$.
- Entropy $H(X) = \int p(x) \log p(x) dx$.



Limitations

- Safety critical applications, e.g., automated healthcare.
 Risk-prone metrics: Value at risk (VaR) and conditional value at risk (CVaR).
- Applications like online recommendations are subject to noisy data Robust metrics: Median and other quantiles.
- Applications involving direct human-machine interaction, such as robotics and autonomous driving.
 - Uncertainty metrics: **Variance** and **entropy**.

How do we develop a universal off-policy method—one that can estimate **any desired performance metrics** and can also provide **high-confidence bounds** that hold simultaneously with high probability for those metrics?

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Notations

- Partial Observable Markov Decision Process (POMDP) $(S, O, A, P, \Omega, R, \gamma, d_0)$.
- $\begin{tabular}{l} \blacksquare \end{tabular} \begin{tabular}{l} \blacksquare \end{tabular} \begin{tabula$
- $\blacksquare \ G_i := \sum_{j=0}^T \gamma^j R_j$ is the return for $H_i.$
- T is the horizon length.
- lacksquare G_{π} and H_{π} is the random variables for return s and comlete trajectories under any policy π , respectively.
- g(h) is the return for trajectory h.
- \blacksquare \mathcal{H}_{π} is the set of all possible trajectories for policy $\pi.$



Assumptions

Assumption 1

The set $\mathcal D$ contains independent (not necessarily identically distributed) histories generated using $(\beta_i)_{i=1}^n$, along with the probability of the actions chosen, such that for some $\epsilon>0$, $(\beta_i(a|o)<\epsilon)\Longrightarrow (\pi(a|o)=0)$, for all $o\in\mathcal O$, $a\in\mathcal A$, and $i\in(1,\dots,n)$.

Method

- lacksquare First estimate its cumulative distribution F_π .
- \blacksquare Then use it to estimate its parameter $\psi(F_\pi).$



Method

■ Represent F_{π} with return G_{π} .

$$F_{\pi}(\nu) = \Pr\left(G_{\pi} \leq \nu\right) = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}, x \leq \nu} \Pr\left(G_{\pi} = x\right) = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}, x \leq \nu} \left(\sum_{h \in \mathcal{H}_{\pi}} \Pr\left(H_{\pi} = h\right) \mathbbm{1}_{\{g(h) = x\}}\right)$$

■ Exchange the order of Sum.

$$F_{\pi}(\nu) = \sum_{h \in \mathcal{H}_{-}} \Pr\left(H_{\pi} = h\right) \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}, x \leq \nu} \mathbb{1}_{\{g(h) = x\}} = \sum_{h \in \mathcal{H}_{-}} \Pr\left(H_{\pi} = h\right) \left(\mathbb{1}_{\{g(h) \leq \nu\}}\right)$$



Method

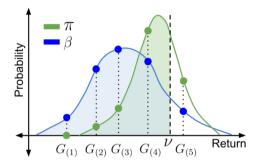
■ From Assumption $1 \, \forall \beta, \mathcal{H}_{\pi} \subset \mathcal{H}_{\beta}$,

$$F_{\pi}(\nu) = \sum_{h \in \mathcal{H}_{\beta}} \Pr\left(H_{\pi} = h\right) \left(\mathbb{1}_{\{g(h) \leq \nu\}}\right) = \sum_{h \in \mathcal{H}_{\beta}} \Pr\left(H_{\beta} = h\right) \frac{\Pr\left(H_{\pi} = h\right)}{\Pr\left(H_{\beta} = h\right)} \left(\mathbb{1}_{\{g(h) \leq \nu\}}\right)$$

Let $\rho_i := \prod_{j=0}^T \frac{\pi(A_j|O_j)}{\beta_i(A_i|O_j)}$, which is equal to $\Pr(H_\pi = h)/\Pr(H_\beta = h)$.

$$\forall \nu \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \hat{F}_n(\nu) := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \rho_i \mathbb{1}_{\{G_i \leq \nu\}}$$





Partial Observable Setting

- ullet $\mathcal{O}, \tilde{\mathcal{O}}$: Observation set for the behavior policy and the evaluation policy.
- If $\tilde{\mathcal{O}} = \mathcal{O} = \mathcal{S}$, it becomes MDP setting.
- If $\tilde{\mathcal{O}} = \mathcal{O}$, as $\beta(a|o) = \beta(a|\tilde{o})$, one can use density estimation on the available data, \mathcal{D} , to construct an estimator $\hat{\beta}(a|o)$ of $\Pr(a|\tilde{o}) = \beta(a|\tilde{o})$.
- $\tilde{\mathcal{O}} \neq \mathcal{O}$, it is only possible to estimate $\Pr(a|\tilde{o}) = \sum_{x \in o} \beta(a|x) \Pr(x|\tilde{o})$ through density estimation using data \mathcal{D} .



Probability Distribution and Inverse CDF

- \blacksquare Let $(G_{(i)})_{i=1}^n$ be the order statistics for samples $(G_i)_{i=1}^n$ and $G_0:=G_{\min}.$
- Inverse CDF $\hat{F}_n^{-1}(\alpha) := \min \left\{ g \in \left(G_{(i)}\right)_{i=1}^n \mid \hat{F}_n(g) \geq \alpha \right\}$
- $\begin{array}{l} \bullet \text{ Probability distribution} \\ \mathrm{d} \hat{F}_n \left(G_{(i)} \right) \coloneqq \hat{F}_n \left(G_{(i)} \right) \hat{F}_n \left(G_{(i-1)} \right) \end{array}$

Estimator

$$\blacksquare \ \mu_{\pi}\left(\hat{F}_{n}\right) := \sum_{i=1}^{n} \ \mathrm{d}\hat{F}_{n}\left(G_{(i)}\right)G_{(i)},$$

$$\label{eq:sigma_def} \bullet \ \sigma_{\pi}^2\left(\hat{F}_n\right) := \textstyle\sum_{i=1}^n \ \mathrm{d}\hat{F}_n\left(G_{(i)}\right)\left(G_{(i)} - \mu_{\pi}\left(\hat{F}_n\right)\right)^2,$$

$$CVaR_{\pi}^{\alpha}\left(\hat{F}_{n}\right) := \frac{1}{\alpha} \sum_{i=1}^{n} d\hat{F}_{n}\left(G_{(i)}\right) G_{(i)} \mathbb{1}_{\left\{G_{(i)} \leq Q_{\pi}^{\alpha}\left(\hat{F}_{n}\right)\right\}}.$$

Definition of CVaR:

$$\mathrm{CVaR}_{\pi}^{\alpha}\left(F_{\pi}\right) = \mathbb{E}\left[G_{\pi} \mid G_{\pi} \leq F_{\pi}^{-1}(\alpha)\right]$$

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High-Confidence Bounds

- 1. It's easy to obtain bounds for a single point.
- 2. It's hard hard to obtain bounds for a interval.
- 3. CDF is monotonically non-decreasing.
- Let $(\kappa_i)_{i=1}^K$ be any K "key points at which we obtain confidence interval for $(F_\pi(\kappa_i))_{i=1}^K$.
- Generalize to whole interval based on these "key points".

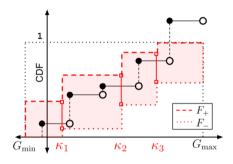
Let $\mathrm{CI}_{-}\left(\kappa_{i},\delta_{i}\right)$ and $\mathrm{CI}_{+}\left(\kappa_{i},\delta_{i}\right)$ be the lower and the upper confidence bounds on $F_{\pi}\left(\kappa_{i}\right)$, respectively, such that

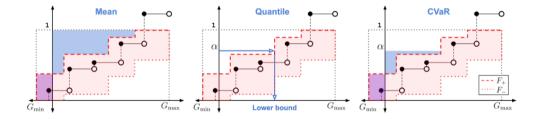
$$\forall i \in (1, \dots, K), \quad \Pr\left(\mathrm{CI}_{-}\left(\kappa_{i}, \delta_{i}\right) \leq F_{\pi}\left(\kappa_{i}\right) \leq \mathrm{CI}_{+}\left(\kappa_{i}, \delta_{i}\right)\right) \geq 1 - \delta_{i}$$

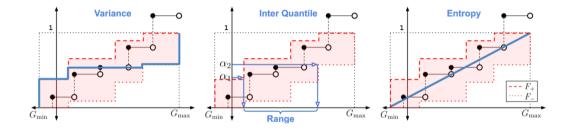
Based on this constuction, we formulate a lower function F_- and an upper function F_+ :

$$F_{-}(\nu) := \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 1 & \text{if } \nu > G_{\max} \\ \max_{\kappa_{i} \leq \nu} CI_{-}\left(\kappa_{i}, \delta_{i}\right) & \text{otherwise} \end{array} \right.$$

$$F_+(\nu) := \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 0 & \text{if } \nu < G_{\min} \\ \min_{\kappa_i > \nu} CI_+\left(\kappa_i, \delta_i\right) & \text{otherwise} \end{array} \right.$$







Bootstrap Bounds¹

Algorithm 1: Bootstrap Bounds for $\psi(F_{\pi})$

- 1 **Input:** Dataset \mathcal{D} , Confidence level 1δ
- 2 Bootstrap B datasets $(\mathcal{D}_i^*)_{i=1}^B$ and create $(\bar{F}_{n,i}^*)_{i=1}^B$
- 3 Bootstrap estimates $(\psi(\bar{F}_{n,i}^*))_{i=1}^B$ using $(\bar{F}_{n,i}^*)_{i=1}^B$
- 4 Compute (ψ_-, ψ_+) using BCa $((\psi(\bar{F}_{n,i}^*))_{i=1}^B, \delta)$
- 5 Return (ψ_-, ψ_+)

¹B. Efron and R. J. Tibshirani. "An introduction to the Bootstrap". CRC press, 1994.

Non-stationary

Assumption 3

For any $\nu, \exists w_{\nu} \in \mathbb{R}^d$, such that, $\forall i \in [1, L+\ell], \quad F_{\pi}^{(i)}(\nu) = \phi(i)^{\top}w_{\nu}.$

- lacksquare Estimating $F_{\pi}^{(i)}$ can now be seen as a time-series forecasting problem.
- Wild bootstrap² provides approximate Cls.

²E. Mammen. "Bootstrap and wild bootstrap for high dimensional linear models." The Annals of Statistics, pages 255–285, 1993.

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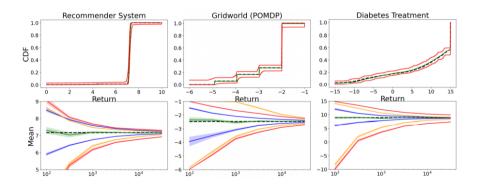
Analysis

Setting

- A simulated stationary and a non-stationary recommender system domain, where the user's interest for a finite set of items is represented using the corresponding item's reward.
- Type-1 Diabetes Mellitus Simulator (T1DMS) for the treatment of type-1 diabetes.
- A continuous-state Gridworld with partial observability (which also makes the domain non-Markovian in the observations), stochastic transitions, and eight discrete actions corresponding to up, down, left, right, and the four diagonal movements.

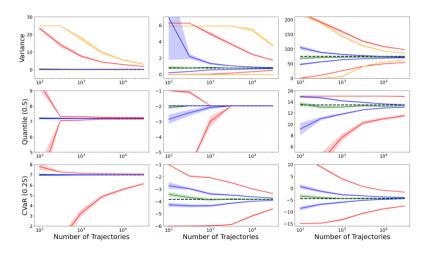
Experiments³





³P. Thomas, G. Theocharous, and M. Ghavamzadeh. "High confidence policy improvement." ICML. 2015.

Experiments⁴



⁴Y. Chandak, S. Shankar, and P. S. Thomas. "High confidence off-policy (or counterfactual) variance estimation." AAAI. 2021.

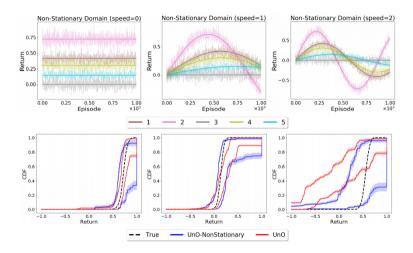


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Theorem

Estimator

$$\forall \nu \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \hat{F}_n(\nu) := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \rho_i \mathbb{1}_{\{G_i \leq \nu\}}$$

■ Theoretical guarantee

Theorem 1. Under Assumption 1, \hat{F}_n is an unbiased and uniformly consistent estimator of F_{π} ,

$$\forall \nu \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{D}} \Big[\hat{F}_n(\nu) \Big] = F_{\pi}, \qquad \qquad \sup_{\nu \in \mathbb{R}} \quad \Big| \hat{F}_n(\nu) - F_{\pi}(\nu) \Big| \xrightarrow{a.s.} 0.$$

Part 1 Unbiasedness

Recall that

$$F_{\pi}(\nu) = \sum_{h \in \mathcal{H}_{\beta}} \Pr\left(H_{\pi} = h\right) \left(\mathbb{1}_{\{g(h) \leq \nu\}}\right) = \sum_{h \in \mathcal{H}_{\beta}} \Pr\left(H_{\beta} = h\right) \frac{\Pr\left(H_{\pi} = h\right)}{\Pr\left(H_{\beta} = h\right)} \left(\mathbb{1}_{\{g(h) \leq \nu\}}\right)$$

The probability of a trajectory under a policy π with partial observations and non-Markovian structure is

$$\begin{split} &\operatorname{Pr}\left(H_{\pi}=h\right) = \operatorname{Pr}\left(s_{0}\right) \operatorname{Pr}\left(o_{0} \mid s_{0}\right) \operatorname{Pr}\left(\tilde{o}_{0} \mid o_{0}, s_{0}\right) \operatorname{Pr}\left(a_{0} \mid s_{0}, o_{0}, \tilde{o}_{0}; \pi\right) \\ &\times \prod_{i=0}^{T-1} \left(\operatorname{Pr}\left(r_{i} \mid h_{i}\right) \operatorname{Pr}\left(s_{i+1} \mid h_{i}\right) \operatorname{Pr}\left(o_{i+1} \mid s_{i+1}, h_{i}\right) \operatorname{Pr}\left(\tilde{o}_{i+1} \mid s_{i+1}, o_{i+1}, h_{i}\right) \\ &\times \operatorname{Pr}\left(a_{i+1} \mid s_{i+1}, o_{i+1}, \tilde{o}_{i+1}, h_{i}; \pi\right)\right) \operatorname{Pr}\left(r_{T} \mid h_{T}\right) \end{split}$$

The ratio can be written as

$$\begin{split} \frac{\Pr\left(H_{\pi} = h\right)}{\Pr\left(H_{\beta} = h\right)} &= \frac{\Pr\left(a_{0} \mid s_{0}, o_{0}, \tilde{o}_{0}; \pi\right)}{\Pr\left(a_{0} \mid s_{0}, o_{0}, \tilde{o}_{0}; \beta\right)} \prod_{i=0}^{T-1} \frac{\Pr\left(a_{i+1} \mid s_{i+1}, o_{i+1}, \tilde{o}_{i+1}, h_{i}; \pi\right)}{\Pr\left(a_{i+1} \mid s_{i+1}, o_{i+1}, \tilde{o}_{i+1}, h_{i}; \beta\right)} \\ &= \prod_{i=0}^{T} \frac{\pi\left(a_{i} \mid \tilde{o}_{i}\right)}{\beta\left(a_{i} \mid o_{i}\right)} \\ &= \rho(h) \end{split}$$

Then we have

$$F_{\pi}(\nu) = \sum_{h \in \mathcal{H}_{\beta}} \Pr(H_{\beta} = h) \rho(h) (\mathbb{1}_{\{g(h) \leq \nu\}}).$$

$$\begin{split} \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{D}}\left[\hat{F}_{n}(\nu)\right] &= \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{D}}\left[\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\rho_{i}\left(\mathbbm{1}_{\{G_{i}\leq\nu\}}\right)\right] \\ &= \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{D}}\left[\rho_{i}\left(\mathbbm{1}_{\{G_{i}\leq\nu\}}\right)\right] \\ &= \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\sum_{h\in\mathcal{H}_{\beta_{i}}}\Pr\left(H_{\beta_{i}} = h\right)\rho(h)\left(\mathbbm{1}_{\{g(h)\leq\nu\}}\right) \\ &\stackrel{(a)}{=} \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}F_{\pi}(\nu) \\ &= F_{\pi}(\nu) \end{split}$$

Part 2 Uniform Consistency

- First we show pointwise consistency, i.e., for all ν , $\hat{F}_n(\nu) \xrightarrow{\text{a.s.}} F_\pi(\nu)$.
- Then we use this to establish uniform consistency.

Kolmogorov' Strong Law of Large Numbers

The strong law of large numbers states that the sample average converges almost surely to the expexted value:

$$\bar{X}_n \stackrel{\text{a.s.}}{\longrightarrow} \mu \quad \text{ when } n \to \infty$$

if one of the following conditions is satisfied:

- 1. The random variables are identically distributed;
- 2. For each n, the variance of X_n is finite, and

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\operatorname{Var}\left[X_{n}\right]}{n^{2}} < \infty$$

Let

$$X_i := \rho_i \left(\mathbb{1}_{\{G_i \le \nu\}} \right)$$

- By assumption 1, $\beta(a|o) \ge \epsilon$ when $\pi(a|\tilde{o}) > 0$. This implies the ratio is bounded above, and hence X_i are bounded above and have a finite variance.
- By Kolmogorov's strong law of large numbers:

$$\hat{F}_n(\nu) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \overset{\text{a.s.}}{\to} \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{D}} \left[\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \right] = F_{\pi}(\nu)$$

lacksquare Some extra notation to tackle discontinuities in CDF F_π

$$F_{\pi}\left(\nu^{-}\right):=\operatorname{Pr}\left(G_{\pi}<\nu\right)=F_{\pi}(\nu)-\operatorname{Pr}\left(F_{\pi}=\nu\right),\quad \hat{F}_{n}\left(\nu^{-}\right):=\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\rho_{i}\left(\mathbb{1}_{\left\{G_{i}<\nu\right\}}\right)$$

■ Similarly, we have

$$\hat{F}_n(\nu^-) \xrightarrow{\text{a.s}} F_\pi(\nu^-)$$

Let $\epsilon_1 > 0$, and let K be any value more than $1/\epsilon_1$. Let $(\kappa_i)_{i=0}^K$ be K key points,

$$G_{\min} = \kappa_0 < \kappa_1 \leq \kappa_2 \ldots \leq \kappa_{K-1} < \kappa_K = G_{\max}$$

which create K intervals such that for all $i \in (1, ..., K-1)$,

$$F_{\pi}\left(\kappa_{i}^{-}\right) \leq \frac{i}{K} \leq F_{\pi}\left(\kappa_{i}\right)$$

Then by construction, if $\kappa_{i-1} < \kappa_i$,

$$F_{\pi}\left(\kappa_{i}^{-}\right)-F_{\pi}\left(\kappa_{i-1}\right)\leq\frac{i}{K}-\frac{i-1}{K}=\frac{1}{K}<\epsilon_{1}.$$

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For any ν , let κ_{i-1} and κ_i be such that $\kappa_{i-1} \leq \nu < \kappa_i$. Then,

$$\begin{split} \hat{F}_{n}(\nu) - F_{\pi}(\nu) &\leq \hat{F}_{n}\left(\kappa_{i}^{-}\right) - F_{\pi}\left(\kappa_{i-1}\right) \\ &\leq \hat{F}_{n}\left(\kappa_{i}^{-}\right) - F_{\pi}\left(\kappa_{i}^{-}\right) + \epsilon_{1}. \end{split}$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{split} \hat{F}_{n}(\nu) - F_{\pi}(\nu) &\geq \hat{F}_{n}\left(\kappa_{i-1}\right) - F_{\pi}\left(\kappa_{i}^{-}\right) \\ &\geq \hat{F}_{n}\left(\kappa_{i-1}\right) - F_{\pi}\left(\kappa_{i-1}\right) - \epsilon_{1} \end{split}$$

Then. $\forall \nu \in \mathbb{R}$.

$$\hat{F}_{n}\left(\kappa_{i-1}\right) - F_{\pi}\left(\kappa_{i-1}\right) - \epsilon_{1} \leq \hat{F}_{n}(\nu) - F_{\pi}(\nu) \leq \hat{F}_{n}\left(\kappa_{i}^{-}\right) - F_{\pi}\left(\kappa_{i}^{-}\right) + \epsilon_{1},$$

Let

$$\Delta_{n} := \max_{i \in \left(1 \dots K-1\right)} \left\{ \left| \hat{F}_{n}\left(\kappa_{i}\right) - F_{\pi}\left(\kappa_{i}\right) \right|, \left| \hat{F}_{n}\left(\kappa_{i}^{-}\right) - F_{\pi}\left(\kappa_{i}^{-}\right) \right| \right\}$$

By the pointwise convergence, we have

$$\Delta_n \stackrel{\text{a.s.}}{\to} 0$$

and thus,

$$\left|\hat{F}_n(\nu) - F_\pi(\nu)\right| \le \Delta_n + \epsilon_1$$

Finally, since the inequality holds for $\forall \nu \in \mathbb{R}$ and is valid for any $\epsilon_1 > 0$, making $\epsilon_1 \to 0$ gives the desired result,

$$\sup_{\nu \in \mathbb{R}} \left| \hat{F}_n(\nu) - F_\pi(\nu) \right| \stackrel{\mathrm{a.s.}}{\longrightarrow} 0$$

Variance Reduction

Inspired by weighted importance sampling

$$\forall \nu \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \bar{F}_n(\nu) := \frac{1}{\sum_{j=1}^n \rho_j} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \rho_i \left(\mathbb{1}_{\{G_i \leq \nu\}} \right) \right).$$

 \blacksquare Under Assumption 1, \bar{F}_n may be biased but is a uniformly consistent estimator of F_π ,

$$\forall \nu \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{D}}\left[\bar{F}_n(\nu)\right] \neq F_{\pi}, \quad \sup_{\nu \in \mathbb{R}} \left|\bar{F}_n(\nu) - F_{\pi}(\nu)\right| \xrightarrow{\text{a.s.}} 0$$

Part 1 Biased: We prove this using a counter-example. Let n = 1, so

$$\begin{split} \forall \nu \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{D}} \left[\bar{F}_n(\nu) \right] &= \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{D}} \left[\frac{1}{\sum_{j=1}^1 \rho_j} \left(\sum_{i=1}^1 \rho_i \mathbb{1}_{\{G_i \leq \nu\}} \right) \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{D}} \left[\mathbb{1}_{\{G_1 \leq \nu\}} \right] \\ &\stackrel{(a)}{=} \sum_{h \in \mathcal{H}_{\beta_1}} \Pr \left(H_{\beta_1} = h \right) \left(\mathbb{1}_{\{g(h) \leq \nu\}} \right) \\ &= F_{\beta_1}(\nu) \\ &\neq F_{\pi}(\nu) \end{split}$$

Part 2 Uniform Consistency: First, we will establish pointwise consistency, i.e., for any $\nu, \bar{F}_n(\nu) \stackrel{\text{a.s.}}{\to} F_\pi(\nu)$, and then we will use this to establish uniform consistency, as required.

$$\begin{split} \forall \nu \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \bar{F}_n(\nu) &= \frac{1}{\sum_{j=1}^1 \rho_j} \left(\sum_{i=1}^1 \rho_i \mathbb{1}_{\{G_i \leq \nu\}} \right) \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \rho_j \right)^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \rho_i \mathbb{1}_{\{G_i \leq \nu\}} \right). \end{split}$$

If both $\left(\lim_{n\to T}\frac{1}{n}\sum_{j=1}^n\rho_j\right)^{-1}$ and $\left(\lim_{n\to\infty}\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n\rho_i\mathbb{1}_{\{G_i\leq\nu\}}\right)$ exist, then using Slutsky's theorem, $\forall \nu\in\mathbb{R}$,

$$\lim_{n\to\infty}\bar{F}_n(\nu) = \left(\lim_{n\to\infty}\frac{1}{n}\sum_{j=1}^n\rho_j\right)^{-1} \left(\lim_{n\to\infty}\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n\rho_i\mathbb{1}_{\{G_i\leq\nu\}}\right)$$

Notice using Kolmogorov's strong law of large numbers that the term in the first parentheses will converge to the expected value of importance ratios, which equals one. Similarly, we know that the term in the second parentheses will converge to $F_\pi(\nu)$ almost surely. Therefore,

$$\forall \nu \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \bar{F}_n(\nu) \xrightarrow{\mathrm{a.s.}} (1)^{-1} \left(F_\pi(\nu) \right) = F_\pi(\nu)$$