



A note on the limiting spectral distribution of a symmetrized auto-cross covariance matrix



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ABSTRACT

In Jin et al. (2014), the limiting spectral distribution (LSD) of a symmetrized auto-cross covariance matrix is derived using matrix manipulation. The goal of this note is to provide a new method to derive the LSD, which greatly simplifies the derivation in Jin et al. (2014). Moreover, as a by-product, the moment condition of the underlying random variables can be weakened from $2 + \delta$ to 2.

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1. Introduction

Consider a large dimensional dynamic k -factor model with lag q taking the form of

$$\mathbf{R}_t = \sum_{i=0}^q \Lambda_i \mathbf{F}_{t-i} + \mathbf{e}_t, \quad t = 1, \dots, T$$

where Λ_i 's are $N \times k$ non-random matrices with full rank. For $t = 1, \dots, T$, \mathbf{F}_t 's are k -dimensional vectors of independent identically distributed (i.i.d.) standard complex components and \mathbf{e}_t 's are N -dimensional vectors of i.i.d. complex components with mean zero and finite second moment σ^2 , independent of \mathbf{F}_t . This can also be considered as a type of *information-plus-noise model* (Dozier and Silverstein, 2007a,b; Bai and Silverstein, 2012) where the information comes from the summation part and the noise is \mathbf{e}_t 's. Here both k and q are fixed but unknown, while both N and T tend to ∞ proportionally.

Under this high dimensional setting, an important statistical problem is the estimation of k and q (Bai and Ng, 2002; Harding, submitted for publication). To this objective, the following two variables are defined for fixed non-negative integer

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τ , namely:

$$\Phi_N(\tau) = \frac{1}{2T} \sum_{j=1}^T (\mathbf{R}_j \mathbf{R}_{j+\tau}^* + \mathbf{R}_{j+\tau} \mathbf{R}_j^*)$$

and

$$\mathbf{M}_N(\tau) = \sum_{j=1}^T (\gamma_j \gamma_{j+\tau}^* + \gamma_{j+\tau} \gamma_j^*),$$

where $\gamma_j = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2T}} \mathbf{e}_j$ and $*$ denotes the conjugate transpose.

Suppose \mathbf{A}_n is an $n \times n$ random Hermitian matrix with eigenvalues λ_j , $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$. Define a one-dimensional distribution function

$$F^{\mathbf{A}_n}(x) = \frac{1}{n} \#\{j \leq n : \lambda_j \leq x\}$$

called the empirical spectral distribution (ESD) of matrix A . Here $\#E$ denotes the cardinality of the set E . The limit distribution of $\{F^{\mathbf{A}_n}\}$ for a given sequence of random matrices $\{\mathbf{A}_n\}$ is called the limiting spectral distribution (LSD).

Note that when $\tau = 0$, we have $\mathbf{M}_N(\tau) = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{j=1}^T \mathbf{e}_j \mathbf{e}_j^*$, which is a sample covariance matrix, whose LSD follows MP law (Marčenko and Pastur, 1967) with density

$$f_c(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi c x} \sqrt{(b_c - x)(x - a_c)}, \quad x \in [a_c, b_c]$$

and a point mass $1 - 1/c$ at the origin if $c > 1$. Here $c = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} N/T$, $a_c = (1 - \sqrt{c})^2$ and $b_c = (1 + \sqrt{c})^2$.

Moreover, if we write

$$\mathbf{\Lambda} = (\mathbf{\Lambda}_0, \mathbf{\Lambda}_1, \dots, \mathbf{\Lambda}_q)_{N \times k(q+1)},$$

then the covariance matrix of \mathbf{R}_t will be similar to

$$\begin{pmatrix} \sigma^2 \mathbf{I} + \mathbf{\Lambda}^* \mathbf{\Lambda} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \sigma^2 \mathbf{I} \end{pmatrix},$$

with the size of the upper block and lower block $k(q+1)$ and $N - k(q+1)$, respectively. Thus, we have a *spiked population model* (Johnstone, 2001; Baik and Silverstein, 2006; Bai and Yao, 2008). In fact, under certain conditions, the quantity $k(q+1)$ can be estimated by counting the number of eigenvalues of $\Phi_N(0)$ that are larger than $\sigma^2 b_c$. Therefore, it remains to estimate the numbers k and q separately. To this end, it is necessary to investigate the LSD of $\mathbf{M}_N(\tau)$ for at least one $\tau \geq 1$. As such, Jin et al. (2014) have established the following result.

Theorem 1.1 (Theorem 1.1 in Jin et al., 2014). Assume:

- (a) $\tau \geq 1$ is a fixed integer.
 (b) $\mathbf{e}_k = (\varepsilon_{1k}, \dots, \varepsilon_{Nk})'$, $k = 1, 2, \dots, T + \tau$, are N -dimensional vectors of independent standard complex components with $\sup_{1 \leq i \leq N, 1 \leq t \leq T+\tau} E|\varepsilon_{it}|^{2+\delta} \leq M < \infty$ for some $\delta \in (0, 2]$, and for any $\eta > 0$,

$$\frac{1}{\eta^{2+\delta} N T} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^{T+\tau} E(|\varepsilon_{it}|^{2+\delta} I(|\varepsilon_{it}| \geq \eta T^{1/(2+\delta)})) = o(1). \quad (1.1)$$

- (c) $N/(T + \tau) \rightarrow c > 0$ as $N, T \rightarrow \infty$.

- (d) $\mathbf{M}_N = \sum_{k=1}^T (\gamma_k \gamma_{k+\tau}^* + \gamma_{k+\tau} \gamma_k^*)$, where $\gamma_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2T}} \mathbf{e}_k$.

Then as $N, T \rightarrow \infty$, $F^{\mathbf{M}_N} \xrightarrow{d} F_c$ a.s. and F_c has a density function given by

$$\phi_c(x) = \frac{1}{2c\pi} \sqrt{\frac{y_0^2}{1+y_0} - \left(\frac{1-c}{|x|} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+y_0}} \right)^2}, \quad |x| \leq a,$$

where

$$a = \begin{cases} \frac{(1-c)\sqrt{1+y_1}}{y_1-1}, & c \neq 1, \\ 2, & c = 1, \end{cases}$$

y_0 is the largest real root of the equation: $y^3 - \frac{(1-c)^2 - x^2}{x^2} y^2 - \frac{4}{x^2} y - \frac{4}{x^2} = 0$ and y_1 is the only real root of the equation:

$$((1-c)^2 - 1)y^3 + y^2 + y - 1 = 0 \quad (1.2)$$

such that $y_1 > 1$ if $c < 1$ and $y_1 \in (0, 1)$ if $c > 1$. Further, if $c > 1$, then F_c has a point mass $1 - 1/c$ at the origin.

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