



Statistics

New Kernel-type estimator of Shanonn's entropy

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ABSTRACT

In the present Note, we propose an estimator of Shanonn's entropy based on smooth estimators of quantile density. The consistency and asymptotic normality of the proposed estimates are obtained.

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R É S U M É

Dans cette Note, nous proposons un nouvel estimateur de l'entropie de Shanonn basé sur l'estimateur à noyau de la densité de quantile. Nous obtenons la consistance et la normalité de l'estimateur proposé.

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Soient X_1, \dots, X_n des variables aléatoires réelles, indépendantes et de même loi que X . Pour tout $x \in \mathbb{R}$, soit $F(x) = \mathbb{P}(X \leq x)$ la fonction de répartition de X . Soit $\mathcal{Q}(\cdot) := F^{-1}(\cdot)$ la fonction inverse, ou de quantiles, de $F(\cdot)$ définie par :

$$\mathcal{Q}(t) := \inf\{x: F(x) \geq t\}, \quad \text{pour } 0 < t < 1.$$

Posons $x_F = \sup\{x: F(x) = 0\}$, $x^F = \inf\{x: F(x) = 1\}$, $-\infty \leq x_F < x^F \leq \infty$. Nous supposons, dans la suite, que $F(\cdot)$ admet une densité $f(\cdot)$ par rapport à la mesure de Lebesgue. Soit $q(x) = d\mathcal{Q}(x)/dx = 1/f(\mathcal{Q}(x))$, pour $0 < x < 1$, la fonction de densité du quantile. Nous définissons l'entropie associée à la densité $f(\cdot)$, si elle existe, par :

$$\mathcal{H}(X) = - \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x) \log f(x) dx.$$

Supposons que $|\mathcal{H}(X)| < \infty$. On peut réécrire $\mathcal{H}(X)$ (voir par exemple [23]) sous la forme suivante :

$$\mathcal{H}(X) = \int_{[0,1]} \log\left(\frac{d}{dx} \mathcal{Q}(x)\right) dx = \int_{[0,1]} \log(q(x)) dx.$$

Rappelons que la fonction de quantile empirique $\mathcal{Q}_n(\cdot)$ est définie par :

$$\mathcal{Q}_n(t) := X_{k;n}, \quad (k-1)/n < t \leq k/n, \quad \text{pour } k = 1, \dots, n,$$

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où $X_{1,n}, \dots, X_{n,n}$ désignent les statistiques d'ordre associées à X_1, \dots, X_n . Une version lissée de $\mathcal{Q}_n(\cdot)$ peut être définie comme suit, voir [9] :

$$\widehat{\mathcal{Q}}_n(t) = \int_0^1 \mathcal{Q}_n(x) K_n(t, x) d\mu_n(x), \quad \text{pour } t \in (0, 1),$$

ce qui permet ensuite d'estimer la densité du quantile $q(\cdot)$ par :

$$\widehat{q}_n(t) = \frac{d}{dt} \widehat{\mathcal{Q}}_n(t) = \frac{d}{dt} \int_0^1 \mathcal{Q}_n(x) K_n(t, x) d\mu_n(x), \quad \text{pour } t \in (0, 1), \quad (1)$$

où les suite de noyaux $\{K_n(t, x), (t, x) \in [0, 1] \times (0, 1)\}_{n \geq 1}$ et de mesures $\{\mu_n(\cdot)\}_{n \geq 1}$ satisfont certaines conditions de régularité. Dans ce travail, nous caractérisons les propriétés asymptotiques de l'estimateur suivant, pour tout $\varepsilon \in]0, 1/2[$ petit,

$$\mathcal{H}_{n,\varepsilon}(X) = \varepsilon \log(\widehat{q}_n(\varepsilon)) + \varepsilon \log(\widehat{q}_n(1 - \varepsilon)) + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=\lceil \varepsilon n \rceil}^{\lfloor (1-\varepsilon)n \rfloor} \log \widehat{q}_n(F_n(X_i)),$$

où $F_n(\cdot)$ désigne la fonction de répartition empirique, i.e.,

$$F_n(t) := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{1}_{]-\infty, t]}(X_i), \quad \text{pour } t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

1. Introduction and estimation

Let X be a random variable [r.v.] with cumulative distribution function $F(x) = \mathbb{P}(X \leq x)$ for $x \in \mathbb{R}$ and a density function $f(\cdot)$ with respect to Lebesgue measure on \mathbb{R} . Then its differential (or Shannon) entropy is defined by:

$$\mathcal{H}(X) = - \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x) \log f(x) dx. \quad (2)$$

We assume that $\mathcal{H}(X)$ is properly defined by the integral (2), in the sense that:

$$|\mathcal{H}(X)| < \infty. \quad (3)$$

We recall from (cf. [2, p. 237], [4, p. 108]) that the finiteness of $\mathcal{H}(X)$ is guaranteed if both $\mathbb{E}\|X\|^2 < \infty$, where $\|\cdot\|$ denotes the Euclidean norm in \mathbb{R}^d (in which case $\mathcal{H}(X) < \infty$) and $f(\cdot)$ is bounded (in which case $\mathcal{H}(X) > -\infty$). In [2], Ash gives an example of a density function on \mathbb{R} for which $\mathcal{H}(X) = \infty$ and also one for which $\mathcal{H}(X) = -\infty$. We refer to [15, Section 4] for conditions characterizing (3) in terms of $f(\cdot)$. The concept of differential entropy was introduced in Shannon's original paper [18]. Since this early epoch, the notion of entropy has been the subject of great theoretical and applied interest. We refer to [10] (see their Chapter 8) for a comprehensive overview of differential entropy and their mathematical properties. In the literature, several proposals have been made to estimate entropy. Dmitriev and Tarasenko [12] and Ahmad and Lin [1] proposed estimators of the entropy using kernel-type estimators of the density $f(\cdot)$; we refer to [5,6] for more details. Vasicek [23] proposed an entropy estimator based on spacings. Inspired by the work of [23], some authors [22,24,13,7,16] proposed modified entropy estimators, improving in some respects the properties of Vasicek's estimator. The reader will find in [3] detailed accounts of the theory as well as surveys for entropy estimators.

This Note aims to introduce a new entropy estimator and obtains its asymptotic properties. Let us first set out the basic definitions and notation which will be used throughout the sequel. For each distribution function $F(\cdot)$, we define the quantile function by:

$$\mathcal{Q}(t) := \inf\{x: F(x) \geq t\}, \quad \text{for } 0 < t < 1.$$

Let:

$$x_F = \sup\{x: F(x) = 0\} \quad \text{and} \quad x^F = \inf\{x: F(x) = 1\}, \quad -\infty \leq x_F < x^F \leq \infty.$$

We assume that the distribution function $F(\cdot)$ has a density $f(\cdot)$ (with respect to Lebesgue measure in \mathbb{R}), and that $f(x) > 0$ for all $x \in (x_F, x^F)$. Let:

$$q(x) = d\mathcal{Q}(x)/dx = 1/f(\mathcal{Q}(x)), \quad \text{for } 0 < x < 1,$$

be the quantile density function (qdf). The entropy $\mathcal{H}(X)$, defined by (2), can be expressed in the form of a quantile-density functional as:

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