

On some problems of semi-parametric estimation related to stochastic volatility models

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Our goal is to estimate $\theta \in \mathbb{R}^+$ based on the observations $X_i = [v + \theta w(t_i)]\xi_i + \epsilon_i$, $i = 1, \dots, n$. Here $w(t)$ is a standard Wiener process, ξ_i and ϵ_i are independent white Gaussian noises with $\mathbf{E} \xi_i^2 = 1$, $\mathbf{E} \epsilon_i^2 = \epsilon^2$. It is assumed also that $t_i = i/n$ and that the parameter $v > 0$ is known. This statistical model approximates well [2] the stochastic volatility model proposed in [3]. All interesting properties of this model are due to the fact that the nuisance function w is a stochastic process. For instance, if this function w is known, then one can estimate θ with the usual parametric rate of convergence $n^{-1/2}$. On the other hand if this function is an unknown constant, then we cannot recover θ at all. It was shown recently [1,2] that if w is the standard Wiener process, then the rate of convergence is $n^{-1/4}$. In the talk I shall discuss statistical models and approaches which help to find the solution of the problem up to a constant. In particular, it will be shown that

$$\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \inf_{\hat{\theta}} \sup_{\theta > 0} \mathbf{E}[(\hat{\theta} - \theta) \varphi_n(\theta, w)]^2 \geq 1,$$

where \inf is taken over all estimators and the stochastic rate of convergence $\varphi_n(\theta, w)$ is defined by

$$\varphi_n^2(\theta, w) = \frac{\theta}{2\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\sqrt{[v + \theta w(t_i)]^2 + \epsilon^2}}.$$

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