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# Minimax hypothesis testing for curve registration

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## Abstract

This paper is concerned with the problem of goodness-of-fit testing for curve registration, and more precisely for the shifted curve model, whose application field reaches from computer vision and road traffic prediction to medicine. We give bounds for the asymptotic minimax separation rate, when the functions in the alternative lie in Sobolev balls and the separation from the null hypothesis is measured by the  $l_2$ -norm. We use the generalized likelihood ratio to build a nonadaptive procedure depending on a tuning parameter, which we choose in an optimal way according to the smoothness of the ambient space. Then, a Bonferroni procedure is applied to give an adaptive test over a range of Sobolev balls. Both achieve the asymptotic minimax separation rates, up to possible logarithmic factors.

## Introduction

### Curve registration

Our concern is the statistical problem of curve registration, which appears naturally in a large number of applications, when the available data consist of a set of noisy, distorted signals that possess a common structure or pattern. This pattern constitutes the essential information that we want to dig out from the observations. However, the deformations of the signals are generally nonlinear and relatively complex, which complicates the statistical task. Fortunately it is relevant in some cases to assume that the signals only differ from each other by a horizontal and vertical shift: we call this modelling the shifted curve model. For

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instance, it was successfully adopted for the interpretation of the ElectroCardioGramms: each deflection is considered as a repetition of the same signal starting at a random time. Trigano *et al.* (2011) proposed an estimator of the common pattern. Interestingly, the assumptions on the deformations are in practice violated due to the baseline wandering, a periodic vertical perturbation of the potential, but the estimation of the structural pattern performs well yet.

By contrast, SIFT descriptors (*cf.* Lowe (2004)) in computer vision are an example where the specification of the deformations is essential: selected keypoints of an image are assigned with descriptors including a histogram of the local gradient. If the image is rotated, the histogram of each keypoint is simply shifted by the angle of the rotation. To match the keypoints of the two images, it is then sufficient to test the adequation of their histograms with the shifted curve model. So, testing the model is sometimes the main concern, and even when estimation matters, the adequation of the model may have to be tested, as the estimation techniques depend on the structure of the deformations.

We refer to the papers Bigot and Gadat (2010), Bigot *et al.* (2009a), Bigot *et al.* (2009b), Castillo, Loubes (2009), Dalalyan *et al.* (2006) and Gamboa *et al.* (2007) for results on the estimation of different features of the curve registration model. The present work builds on another paper of the author (*cf.* Appendix B of the Supplementary Material), where a comprehensive overview can be found.

### Shifted curve model

In the shifted curve model, we assume to dispose of two noisy signals  $f$  and  $f^\#$  mapping the interval  $[0, 2\pi]$  into  $\mathbb{R}$ , or equivalently of their Fourier coefficients:

$$\begin{cases} Y_j = c_j + \sigma\xi_j \\ Y_j^\# = c_j^\# + \sigma\xi_j^\# \end{cases}, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots,$$

where

- $\{\xi_j, \xi_j^\#; j = 1, 2, \dots\}$  is a family of independent com-

- plex random variables, whose real and imaginary parts are independent standard Gaussian variables,
- $\mathbf{c} = (c_1, c_2, \dots)$ ,  $\mathbf{c}^\# = (c_1^\#, c_2^\#, \dots)$  are sequences in  $l_2$  that represent the Fourier coefficients of the underlying signals,
  - $\sigma$  is assumed to be known.

If we introduce the pseudo-distance  $d$  such that

$$d^2(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}^\#) \triangleq \inf_{\tau} \sum_{j=1}^{+\infty} |c_j - e^{-ij\tau} c_j^\#|^2,$$

testing that  $f$  was shifted from  $f^\#$  amounts to testing  $H_0$  against  $H_1$  with

$$\begin{cases} H_0 : d(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}^\#) = 0, \\ H_1 : d(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}^\#) \geq C\rho_\sigma, \end{cases}$$

where  $C$  is a positive constant and  $\rho_\sigma$  is a sequence of positive real numbers. For reasons that we shall explain later, we assume that  $\mathbf{c}$  and  $\mathbf{c}^\#$  belong under the alternative to a Sobolev ball

$$\mathcal{F}_{s,L} \triangleq \left\{ \mathbf{u} = (u_1, u_2, \dots) : \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} j^{2s} |u_j|^2 \leq L^2 \right\},$$

with  $s > 0$ . With this notation, we denote  $\Theta_0$  and  $\Theta_1$  the parameter sets corresponding to the hypotheses  $H_0$  and  $H_1$ ,  $\mathbf{Y}$  and  $\mathbf{Y}^\#$  the sequences  $(Y_1, Y_2, \dots)$  and  $(Y_1^\#, Y_2^\#, \dots)$ , and we call  $\mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}^\#}$  the probability engendered by  $(\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{Y}^\#)$  when the parameters are  $\mathbf{c}$  and  $\mathbf{c}^\#$ .

A detailed discussion of the model is deferred to Section 4.

### Minimax testing

A randomized test in our model is a random variable taking values in  $[0, 1]$  and measurable with respect to the  $\sigma$ -algebra engendered by  $(\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{Y}^\#)$ . In practice, the user simulates an independent random variable with a Bernoulli distribution of parameter the value of the test, which was computed from the data  $(\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{Y}^\#)$ . The null hypothesis is accepted, respectively rejected, when the result of the simulation is 0 or 1. We say that a test is nonrandomized when it only takes the values 0 or 1.

To measure the performance of a test  $\psi$ , we choose the minimax point of view, in which the errors of first and second kind are defined by

$$\begin{cases} \alpha(\psi, \Theta_0) = \sup_{\Theta_0} \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}^\#}(\psi), \\ \beta(\psi, \Theta_1) = \sup_{\Theta_1} \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}^\#}(1 - \psi). \end{cases}$$

Note that in the nonrandomized case, the first kind error is  $\sup_{\Theta_0} \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}^\#}(\psi = 1)$  and the second kind error  $\sup_{\Theta_1} \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}^\#}(\psi = 0)$ .

We say that consistent testing in the asymptotic minimax sense is possible if for all  $\alpha, \beta > 0$ , there exists a test  $\psi_\sigma$  such that

$$\begin{cases} \overline{\lim}_{\sigma \rightarrow 0} \alpha(\psi_\sigma, \Theta_0) \leq \alpha, \\ \overline{\lim}_{\sigma \rightarrow 0} \beta(\psi_\sigma, \Theta_1) \leq \beta. \end{cases}$$

The distance between the null and the alternative hypotheses,  $C\rho_\sigma$ , determines the existence of such tests. Indeed, if  $C\rho_\sigma$  is too small, no testing procedure is asymptotically better than a blind guess, for which  $\alpha(\psi, \Theta_0) + \beta(\psi, \Theta_1) = 1$ . We call  $\rho_\sigma^*$  the asymptotic minimax separation rate if there are two positive constants  $C_*$  and  $C^*$  such that consistent testing is impossible for  $\rho_\sigma = \rho_\sigma^*$  and  $C < C_*$ , and possible for  $\rho_\sigma = \rho_\sigma^*$  and  $C > C^*$ . The best constants  $C_*$  and  $C^*$  satisfying these conditions are called exact separation constants. Conventionally, one applies the informal minimal writing length rule to avoid nonuniqueness of the minimax separation rate and of these constants. Moreover, a test which is consistent when  $\rho_\sigma = \rho_\sigma^*$  and for some  $C > 0$  is called asymptotically minimax rate optimal.

There is a vast literature on the subject of minimax testing: minimax separation rates were investigated in many models, including the Gaussian white noise model, the regression model, the Gaussian sequence model and the probability density model, for the greater part in signal detection, *i.e.*, testing the hypothesis " $f \equiv 0$ " against the alternative " $\|f\| \geq C\rho_\sigma$ ". We present a selective overview of the papers that are the most relevant in the context of this work.

Starting from Ingster (1982) and Ermakov (1990), where the minimax separation rate and the exact separation constants were obtained when the functions in the alternative lie in ellipsoids and the separation from 0 is measured by the  $l_2$ -norm, various cases were considered:  $l_p$ -bodies as well as Sobolev, Hölder and Besov classes. We refer to Ingster, Suslina (2003) and Ingster (1993) for a survey. The cases when the functions in the alternative set lie in Sobolev or Hölder classes and the separation from 0 is measured by the sup-norm or by their values at a fixed point were studied in Lepski, Tsybakov (2000). Finally, the case of the  $\mathbb{L}_p$ -norm with  $p < 2$  in Besov classes was considered in Lepski, Spokoiny (1999).

Now, all the previously cited results are asymptotic, in the sense that the noise level  $\sigma$  (in the white noise model) tends to 0. But from a practical point of view, it may be interesting to look at the problem from a nonasymptotic point of view. In the regression and Gaussian sequence models, Baraud (2002) derived nonasymptotic minimax separation rates when the functions in the alternative lie in  $l_p$ -bodies ( $0 < p \leq 2$ ) and the separation from 0 is measured by the  $l_2$ -norm.

Baraud *et al.* (2003,2005) proposed procedures for testing linear or convex hypotheses in the regression model, and Fromont *et al.* (2006) inspected the improvement implied by a further hypothesis on the periodicity of the signal in the periodic Sobolev balls.

### Composite null hypothesis testing

Up to here, we have reviewed results dealing mainly with a simple null hypothesis, namely in the case of signal detection: " $f \equiv 0$ ". In contrast, the testing problem in the shifted curve model deals with a composite null hypothesis. Here, we give a brief overview of the papers presenting hypothesis testing problems with composite null hypotheses.

The series of papers Baraud (2002), Baraud *et al.* (2003,2005) tackled with nonparametric null hypothesis, but their assumptions are not applicable in our set-up, since our null hypothesis is neither linear nor convex. On the other hand, the test of a parametric model against a nonparametric one was studied in a substantial number of papers (*cf.* Horowitz, Spokoiny (2001) and references therein), but only in Horowitz, Spokoiny (2001) from a minimax point of view. The minimax separation rate that they obtained is the same as with a simple null hypothesis. This is due to the strong assumptions made on the behaviour of the estimator of the parameter characterizing the model under  $H_0$ .

On a related note, Gayraud, Pouet (2001, 2005) treated a more general composite null hypothesis in the regression model, that is mainly characterized by its entropy. In fact, the set of functions in the null hypothesis can grow with the sample size, and so be nonparametric. Their rate is the same as in the case of a simple hypothesis.

### Adaptive testing

A limitation of the minimax approach is that the optimal tests depend on the smoothness class. This is not convenient from a practical point of view, because the choice of the smoothness seems to be unnatural and arbitrary. To obtain handier procedures, we need an adaptive definition for hypothesis testing.

Prior to testing, some sets of smoothness parameters  $s, L$  must be chosen, over which adaptation is performed. Typically, these sets are taken as compact intervals  $[s_1, s_2], [L_1, L_2]$ . To each couple of smoothness parameters  $(s, L)$ , we associate the smoothness set  $\mathcal{F}_{s,L}$ , and we write  $\Theta_0^{s,L}$  and  $\Theta_1^{s,L}$  the corresponding null and alternative hypotheses. Note that, in our problem,  $\Theta_0^{s,L} \equiv \Theta_0$  is independent of the smoothness parameters, and that  $\Theta_1^{s,L}$  depends on  $(s, L)$ , not

only because  $c$  and  $c^\#$  are in  $\mathcal{F}_{s,L}$ , but also since  $\rho_\sigma$  is allowed to be a function of  $s$ : as a matter of fact,  $\Theta_1^{s,L}$  depends on the choice of the radius  $C\rho_\sigma(s)$ . The easiest way to achieve adaptation is to use the test corresponding to the most constraining smoothness  $(s_1, L_2)$ , but this entails a significant loss of efficiency if the tested parameters are in fact smoother.

Thus, we prefer a more economical approach and we will say that consistent adaptive testing is possible uniformly over  $s \in [s_1, s_2]$  and  $L \in [L_1, L_2]$ , if for all  $\alpha, \beta > 0$ , there is a test  $\psi_\sigma$  depending only on  $s_1, s_2, L_1$  and  $L_2$  such that

$$\begin{cases} \overline{\lim}_{\sigma \rightarrow 0} \alpha(\psi_\sigma, \Theta_0) \leq \alpha, \\ \overline{\lim}_{\sigma \rightarrow 0} \sup_{s,L} \beta(\psi_\sigma, \Theta_1^{s,L}) \leq \beta. \end{cases}$$

However, adaptive testing is not always possible without loss of efficiency, *i.e.*, taking  $\rho_\sigma(s) = \rho_\sigma^*(s)$  for each  $s$ . That is why it was suggested to replace  $\sigma$  by  $\sigma d_\sigma$  in the expression of  $\rho_\sigma^*(s)$ , where  $d_\sigma$  is a sequence of positive real numbers, which can be seen as a necessary payment regarding the intensity of the noise to achieve adaptivity.

Now, we say that  $\rho_{\sigma d_\sigma}^*(s), s \in [s_1, s_2]$  is the adaptive asymptotic minimax separation rate if there are two positive constants  $C_*$  and  $C^*$  such that adaptive consistent testing is impossible for  $\rho_\sigma(s) = \rho_{\sigma d_\sigma}^*(s)$  and  $C < C_*$ , and possible for  $\rho_\sigma(s) = \rho_{\sigma d_\sigma}^*(s)$  and  $C > C^*$ .

Spokoiny (1996) proved that the optimal asymptotic factor is  $d_\sigma = (\log \log \sigma^{-1})^{1/4}$ , for signal detection in Besov balls. Gayraud, Pouet (2005) extended this result for Hölder classes in the regression model.

Fan *et al.* (2001) provided a generic tool to construct minimax and adaptive minimax tests: the generalized maximum likelihood, that we also use in the present work to build our procedures both in the nonadaptive and adaptive contexts.

### Our contribution

The problem considered in the present work is qualitatively different from the aforementioned works on the minimax separation rate, since our null hypothesis is not only composite but also semiparametric. Furthermore, it seems that the finite-dimensional parameter cannot be uniformly consistently estimated, which contrasts with the situation of Horowitz, Spokoiny(2001).

Nethertheless, we propose a testing procedure which is consistent when the separation rate is of order  $(\sigma^2 \sqrt{\log \sigma^{-1}})^{2s/4s+1}$ . This rate is then proven to be minimax, up to a possible logarithmic factor. Indeed, no testing procedure is consistent for a separation rate

smaller than  $\sigma^{4s/4s+1}$ , which is the rate of signal detection in the Gaussian sequence model when the signal to be detected belongs to a Sobolev ball and the separation from 0 is measured by the  $l_2$ -norm.

Further, an adaptive test is proposed to circumvent the limitations of the nonadaptive approach. This test is minimax rate optimal, up to a possible logarithmic factor, uniformly over a family of Sobolev balls.

Finally, there is a gap between our lower and upper bounds for the asymptotic minimax separation rate. It could be argued that the lower bound is suboptimal, and that the minimax separation rate for the shifted curve model does contain our logarithmic factor. Indeed, the problem of testing the goodness-of-fit of the shifted curve model can be regarded as an adaptation to the unknown shift parameter. As a matter of fact, if adaptation to the unknown smoothness typically entails a loglog-factor, other types of adaptation can bring simple logarithmic ones: it is proved in Lepski, Tsybakov (2000) that the asymptotic minimax separation rate for signal detection when the signal to be detected belongs to a Sobolev or Hölder ball and the separation from 0 is measured by the sup-norm is  $(\sigma^2 \sqrt{\log \sigma^{-1}})^{s/2s+1}$ , while it is  $\sigma^{2s/2s+1}$  when the separation from 0 is measured by the value of the signal at a fixed point. The logarithmic factor can be interpreted as a payment for the adaptation of the problem of testing at one point when this point is unknown. Furthermore, note that the same logarithmic factor appears in Fromont *et al.* (2006), where upper bounds on the minimax separation rate are established in the problem of periodic signal detection with unknown period.

## Organization of the paper

The rest of this paper is organized as follows: a nonadaptive procedure is proposed in Section 1, and adjusted in Section 2 to obtain an adaptive test. We also state their minimax performances, which Section 3 indicates to be at least nearly optimal in the minimax sense. Sketches of the proofs of the Theorems are given in Sections 5 to 7, and the lemmas used in these proofs are stated in Section 8. Long versions of the proofs are available in Appendix A of the Supplementary Material. The model is discussed in Section 4.

## 1 Nonadaptive testing procedure

Here, we build a test which will be proven later to be minimax, up to a possible logarithmic factor. Indeed, the procedure achieves the rate  $\rho_\sigma = (\sigma^2 \sqrt{\log \sigma^{-1}})^{2s/4s+1}$ .

Our proposal, which carries on the work presented

in Appendix B of the Supplementary Material, is based on standardized versions  $\lambda_\sigma(N)$  of estimators of  $d(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}^\#)$ :

$$\begin{cases} \lambda_\sigma(N) = \frac{\min_\tau \sum_{j=1}^N |Y_j - e^{-ij\tau} Y_j^\#|^2}{4\sigma^2 \sqrt{N}} - \sqrt{N}, \\ \psi_\sigma(N, q) = \mathbb{1}_{\{\lambda_\sigma(N) > q\}}. \end{cases}$$

Put into words, the test  $\psi_\sigma(N, q)$  rejects the null hypothesis when the statistic  $\lambda_\sigma(N)$  exceeds the threshold  $q$  and accepts it otherwise. The following theorem establishes the minimax properties of this testing procedure for a proper choice of the tuning parameters.

**Theorem 1.** *Set*

$$\begin{cases} \Theta_0 = \{\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}^\# \in l_2 \mid d(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}^\#) = 0\}, \\ \Theta_1 = \{\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}^\# \in \mathcal{F}_{s,L} \mid d(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}^\#) \geq C\rho_\sigma\}, \end{cases}$$

with  $s$  and  $L$  are positive real numbers,  $\rho_\sigma = (\sigma^2 \sqrt{\log \sigma^{-1}})^{\frac{2s}{4s+1}}$  and  $C^2 > 4L^2 c_{s,L}^{-2s} + \sqrt{\frac{256 c_{s,L}}{4s+1}}$ ,  $c_{s,L} = (4sL^2 \sqrt{4s+1})^{2/4s+1}$ . Consider the test  $\psi_\sigma = \psi_\sigma(N, q)$  with  $N = N_\sigma(s, L) = \lceil c_{s,L} \rho_\sigma^{-1/s} \rceil$  and  $q = q_\alpha$ , the quantile of order  $1 - \alpha$  of the standard Gaussian distribution. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{\sigma \rightarrow 0} \alpha(\psi_\sigma, \Theta_0) &\leq \alpha, \\ \lim_{\sigma \rightarrow 0} \beta(\psi_\sigma, \Theta_1) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

*Remark.* In the rest of this section and in the proof, we skip the dependence of  $N_\sigma(s, L)$  in  $s$  and  $L$  when no confusion is possible.

A sketch of the proof is given in Sections 5 to 7. Let us now develop a brief heuristic describing how one could have guessed the optimal value of  $\rho_\sigma$ .

### Heuristic for the performance of the nonadaptive procedure

Our proof will show that, under  $H_0$ ,  $\lambda_\sigma(N_\sigma)$  is bounded from above in probability. Thus, we decide to reject the null hypothesis when  $\lambda_\sigma(N_\sigma)$  is larger than a constant to be chosen properly.

On the other hand, we inspect the behaviour of the statistic under the alternative hypothesis and give a condition on  $\rho_\sigma$  under which the test statistic is orders of magnitude larger than a constant, so that the procedure can have the desired power.

We derive the heuristical lower bound

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_\sigma(N_\sigma) &\gtrsim \frac{\min_\tau \sum_{j=1}^{N_\sigma} |c_j - e^{-ij\tau} c_j^\#|^2}{4\sigma^2 \sqrt{N_\sigma}} \\ &- \left| \sum_{j=1}^{N_\sigma} \frac{|\xi_j|^2 + |\xi_j^\#|^2 - 4}{4\sqrt{N_\sigma}} \right| \\ &- \frac{1}{2\sqrt{N_\sigma}} \max_\tau \left| \sum_{j=1}^{N_\sigma} \operatorname{Re} (e^{ij\tau} \xi_j \bar{\xi}_j^\#) \right|. \end{aligned}$$

The proof will establish that the second term is bounded in probability, while the third, that we call perturbative, is of order  $\sqrt{\log N_\sigma}$ . The first term, up to a  $4\sqrt{N_\sigma}\sigma^2$  factor, is an approximation of the square of the pseudo-distance  $d(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}^\#)$ . Since  $\mathbf{c}$  and  $\mathbf{c}^\#$  lie in  $\mathcal{F}_{s,L}$ , the remainder of the sum can be bounded from above, up to a constant factor, by  $N_\sigma^{-2s}$ . In a nutshell, we get the heuristical lower bound

$$\lambda_\sigma(N_\sigma) \gtrsim \frac{d^2(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}^\#) - K N_\sigma^{-2s}}{\sqrt{N_\sigma}\sigma^2} - O_P(\sqrt{\log N_\sigma}).$$

Consequently, the alternative is detected as soon as

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_\sigma^2 &\gg \max \left( \sigma^2 \sqrt{N_\sigma}, N_\sigma^{-2s}, \sigma^2 \sqrt{N_\sigma \log N_\sigma} \right) \\ &\sim \left( \sigma^2 \sqrt{\log \sigma^{-1}} \right)^{\frac{4s}{4s+1}}. \end{aligned}$$

### Heuristic for the optimal constant

The previous optimization shows that the test achieves its best rate when  $N_\sigma$  is of the order of  $\rho_\sigma^*{}^{-1/s}$ . Now, denoting  $N_\sigma = \lceil c\rho_\sigma^*{}^{-1/s} \rceil$ , a similar heuristic can give an optimized constant  $C$  in the definition of  $\Theta_1$ . Indeed, Lemma 6 (*cf.* Section 8) gives the more precise lower bound  $(C^2 - 4L^2 c^{-2s})\rho_\sigma^*{}^2$  for the sum in the first term, and we will prove the exact order of magnitude of the third to be  $\sqrt{\frac{256c}{4s+1} \log N_\sigma}$ . Thus

$$\lambda_\sigma(N_\sigma) \geq \left( C^2 - 4L^2 c^{-2s} - \sqrt{\frac{256c}{4s+1}} \right) \sqrt{\log N_\sigma}.$$

and this leads to a minimization problem determining the choice of  $c$  (*cf.* Theorem 1).

## 2 Adaptive testing procedure

The procedure given in the previous section possesses asymptotic minimax optimality properties thanks to an appropriate choice of the tuning parameter  $N_\sigma$ , but the practitioner needs to determine values of  $s$  and  $L$  to implement the test. As it seems arbitrary and non-intuitive to make assumptions on the smoothness of the signals, it is necessary in practice to use an adaptive

procedure, *i.e.*, a procedure that does not require any precise knowledge of  $s$  and  $L$ .

In this section, we give an adaptive procedure over  $s \in [s_1, s_2]$  and  $L \in [L_1, L_2]$ , and prove that it achieves the same rate as the nonadaptive one, *i.e.*,  $(\sigma^2 \sqrt{\log \sigma^{-1}})^{2s/4s+1}$ . Note that the test only depends on  $s_1$  and  $s_2$ , and not on  $L_1$  or  $L_2$ .

Here is the idea of its construction. The nonadaptive testing procedure proposed above depends on  $s$  only via the tuning parameter  $N_\sigma(s)$ . Using a Bonferroni procedure like in Gayraud, Pouet (2005) or Horowitz, Spokoiny (2001), we consider the maximum of these tests for several values of  $N_\sigma(s)$ . However, the set  $\mathcal{N}(s_1, s_2)$  of these parameters has to be chosen properly. Indeed, it is not necessary to consider a maximum over every possible  $N_\sigma(s)$ , we only need to consider a smaller set of parameters of logarithmic size (which will be justified by Lemma 6 of Section 8). For every  $s_2 > s_1 > 0$ , define

$$\begin{cases} \Sigma(s_1, s_2) = \left\{ s = s_1 + \frac{j}{\log \sigma^{-1}} \mid s_1 \leq s \leq s_2 \right\}, \\ \mathcal{N}(s_1, s_2) = \left\{ N_\sigma(s) \mid s \in \Sigma(s_1, s_2) \right\}. \end{cases}$$

**Theorem 2.** *Set*

$$\begin{cases} \Theta_0 = \left\{ \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}^\# \in l_2 \mid d(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}^\#) = 0 \right\}, \\ \Theta_1^{s,L} = \left\{ \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}^\# \in \mathcal{F}_{s,L} \mid d(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}^\#) \geq C\rho_\sigma(s) \right\}, \end{cases}$$

with  $C > 0$ ,  $\rho_\sigma(s) = r_\sigma \rho_\sigma^*(s)$ ,  $\rho_\sigma^*(s) = (\sigma^2 \sqrt{\log \sigma^{-1}})^{\frac{2s}{4s+1}}$ ,  $r_\sigma \rightarrow +\infty$ .

Consider the test  $\tilde{\psi}_\sigma = \max_N \psi_\sigma(N, \sqrt{2 \log \log \sigma^{-1}})$  where the maximum is taken over all  $N$  in  $\mathcal{N}(s_1, s_2)$  with  $\forall s \in [s_1, s_2]$ ,  $N_\sigma(s) = \lceil \rho_\sigma^*(s)^{-1/s} \rceil$ . Then, for all finite intervals  $[s_1, s_2]$  and  $[L_1, L_2]$  included in  $\mathbb{R}_*^+$ ,

$$\lim_{\sigma \rightarrow 0} \alpha(\tilde{\psi}_\sigma, \Theta_0) = 0,$$

$$\lim_{\sigma \rightarrow 0} \sup_{[L_1, L_2]} \sup_{[s_1, s_2]} \beta(\tilde{\psi}_\sigma, \Theta_1^{s,L}) = 0,$$

### Heuristic for the performance of the adaptive procedure

Here we explain why our adaptive procedure achieves the same rate as the nonadaptive one. The heuristic of the previous section roughly holds, with this difference that  $\max_N \lambda_\sigma(N)$  is of loglog-order under the null hypothesis. But this term is negligible in view of the perturbative term, so that the performances of the test do not deteriorate in the adaptive problem.

### 3 Lower bound for the minimax rate

After stating the performance of our tests, we prove in this section that they are at least nearly rate optimal. Indeed, we are able to establish a lower bound for our model, by proving that the detection of a signal lying in a Sobolev ball when the separation from 0 is measured by the  $l_2$ -norm is simpler than ours, in the sense that every lower bound result for this model is adaptable for our purpose.

Let us first introduce the classical signal detection problem, for which the minimax separation rate, and even the exact separation constants, are known:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} Y_j = c_j + \sigma \xi_j, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, \\ \Theta_0^{\text{class}} = \{0\}, \\ \Theta_1^{\text{class}} = \left\{ \mathbf{c} \in \mathcal{F}_{s,L} \mid \|\mathbf{c}\|_2 \geq C\rho\sigma \right\}. \end{array} \right.$$

For this model, we define the errors of first and second kind of a test  $\psi^{\text{class}}$  by

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha^{\text{class}}(\psi^{\text{class}}, \Theta_0^{\text{class}}) = \sup_{\Theta_0^{\text{class}}} \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{c}}(\psi), \\ \beta^{\text{class}}(\psi^{\text{class}}, \Theta_1^{\text{class}}) = \sup_{\Theta_1^{\text{class}}} \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{c}}(1 - \psi), \end{array} \right.$$

where we denote  $\mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{c}}$  the probability engendered by  $\mathbf{Y} = (Y_1, Y_2, \dots)$  when  $(c_1, c_2, \dots) = \mathbf{c}$ .

**Theorem 3.** *Given the two models exposed above, we have*

$$\inf_{\psi_\alpha} \beta(\psi_\alpha, \Theta_1) \geq \inf_{\psi_\alpha^{\text{class}}} \beta^{\text{class}}(\psi_\alpha^{\text{class}}, \Theta_1^{\text{class}}),$$

where the infima are taken over all tests of level  $\alpha$  respectively for our model and for the classical one.

Thus, our model can benefit from every lower bound result on the classical model. We choose to exploit the nonasymptotic results presented in Baraud (2002), Proposition 3. The following theorem shows that the asymptotic minimax separation rate for our problem is not smaller than  $\sigma^{4s/4s+1}$ .

**Corollary.** *Let  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  be in  $]0, 1]$ . Define  $\eta = 2(1 - \alpha - \beta)$ ,  $\mathcal{L} = \log(1 + \eta^2)$  and  $\rho^2 = \sup_{d \geq 1} [\sqrt{2\mathcal{L}d}\sigma^2 \wedge L^2 d^{-2s}]$ . Then*

$$\rho_\sigma \leq \rho \quad \Rightarrow \quad \inf_{\psi_\alpha} \beta(\psi_\alpha, \Theta_1) \geq \beta,$$

where the infimum is taken over all tests of level  $\alpha$  for the shifted curve model.

*Remark.* We can approximate  $\rho$  by computing

$$\sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^+} \sqrt{2\mathcal{L}x}\sigma^2 \wedge L^2 x^{-2s} = L^{\frac{1}{4s+1}} (\sigma^2 \sqrt{2\mathcal{L}})^{\frac{2s}{2s+1}}.$$

*Remark.* Our proof shows that every lower bound result for adaptive testing could be used for our purpose as well.

### 4 Discussion

#### Model

The choice of our model was inspired by practical considerations, and we consider applying it to a problem in computer vision. Accordingly, it is necessary to justify the realism of this model.

#### Variance

First of all, we assumed that the common variance is known, which is not satisfied in practice. Nevertheless, a consistent estimator for the Gaussian sequence model can be computed. Then, we can plug the estimator of the common variance in the expressions of the test statistics, as done in Gayraud, Pouet (2001) for example.

#### Symmetry of the model

In our modelization, the two parts corresponding in the Gaussian white noise model to two different functions are treated symmetrically: the same model, with the same variance and the same noise, applies to both. But, in applications, the signals that we want to match with each other are thought to have the same nature. On the other hand, as we can compute an estimator of the variance in the Gaussian sequence model, we are free to normalize the equations of the model to get the same variance for both parts.

#### Gaussian sequence model

Our choice of the Gaussian sequence model is not restrictive, since this model is equivalent in Le Cam's sense to many other models, including Gaussian white noise, density estimation (*cf.* Nussbaum (1996)), nonparametric regression (*cf.* Brown, Low (1996), in the case of random design in Reiss (2008), in the case of nonGaussian noise in Grama, Nussbaum (1998,2002)), ergodic diffusion (*cf.* Dalalyan, Reiss (2007)). On the other hand, the Gaussian noise is accepted in computer vision as a good approximation of the Poisson noise, that is more natural in this context.

#### Nonasymptotic approach

The statement of our results concerning the performance of both the nonadaptive and adaptive testing procedure are asymptotic: the first and second kind errors are asymptotically bounded by some prescribed levels, and no precision is given about the convergence speed. For the practitioner, nonasymptotic results are preferable, since real studies consider finite samples of observations. Nevertheless, the proofs of Theo-

rems 1 and 2 use only nonasymptotic upper bounds, and nonasymptotic statements can be derived.

## 5 Sketch of the proof of Theorem 1

### 5.1 First kind error

Here, we prove that the asymptotic first kind error of the test  $\psi_\sigma$  does not exceed the prescribed level  $\alpha$ . To this end, denote  $\tau^*$  a real number such that, under  $H_0$ ,  $\forall j \geq 1$ ,  $c_j^\# = e^{ij\tau^*} c_j$ . We skip the dependence of  $\tau^*$  on  $\mathbf{c}$  and  $\mathbf{c}^\#$ . Using the inequality

$$\min_{\tau} \sum_{j=1}^{N_\sigma} |Y_j - e^{-ij\tau} Y_j^\#|^2 \leq \sigma^2 \sum_{j=1}^{N_\sigma} |\xi_j - e^{-ij\tau^*} \xi_j^\#|^2,$$

we get that  $\alpha(\psi_\sigma, \Theta_0)$  equals

$$\sup_{\Theta_0} \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}^\#} \left( \frac{\min_{\tau} \sum_{j=1}^{N_\sigma} |Y_j - e^{-ij\tau} Y_j^\#|^2}{4\sigma^2 \sqrt{N_\sigma}} - \sqrt{N_\sigma} > q_\alpha \right) \\ \leq \mathbf{P} \left( \frac{1}{4\sqrt{N_\sigma}} \sum_{j=1}^{N_\sigma} (\eta_j^2 + \tilde{\eta}_j^2 - 4) > q_\alpha \right),$$

where  $\eta_j, \tilde{\eta}_j \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, 2)$ ,

and we conclude by Berry-Esseen's inequality.

### 5.2 Second kind error

It remains to study the second kind error of the test, and to show that it tends to 0. Our proof is based on the heuristic given in the main paper: we decompose  $\lambda_\sigma(N_\sigma)$  into several terms, and make use of their respective orders of magnitude. The decomposition gives

$$\beta(\psi_\sigma, \Theta_1) \leq \sup_{\Theta_1} \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}^\#} \left( D_\sigma(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}^\#) - \sigma^2 \sqrt{N_\sigma} A_\sigma - 2\sigma^2 B_\sigma \leq 4q_\alpha \sigma^2 \sqrt{N_\sigma} \right).$$

with the notation:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} D_\sigma(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}^\#) = \min_{\tau} \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^{N_\sigma} |c_j - e^{-ij\tau} c_j^\#|^2 \right. \\ \left. + 2\sigma \sum_{j=1}^{N_\sigma} \operatorname{Re} \left( (c_j - e^{-ij\tau} c_j^\#) (\overline{\xi_j - e^{-ij\tau} \xi_j^\#}) \right) \right\}, \\ A_\sigma = \left| \sum_{j=1}^{N_\sigma} \frac{|\xi_j|^2 + |\xi_j^\#|^2 - 4}{\sqrt{N_\sigma}} \right|, \\ B_\sigma = \max_{\tau} \left| \sum_{j=1}^{N_\sigma} \operatorname{Re} \left( e^{ij\tau} \xi_j \overline{c_j^\#} \right) \right|. \end{array} \right.$$

In addition to  $c_{s,L}$ , introduced in the definition of  $N_\sigma$ , we will need the constant  $c'$  and  $\epsilon$ , defined as

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} c' = \sqrt{\frac{256 c_{s,L}}{4s+1}}, \\ \epsilon = \frac{1}{2} (C^2 - 4L^2 c_{s,L}^{-2s} - \sqrt{\frac{256 c_{s,L}}{4s+1}}). \end{array} \right.$$

Separating the different terms to study them independently, we write

$$\beta(\psi_\sigma, \Theta_1) \leq \sup_{\Theta_1} \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}^\#} \left( D_\sigma(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}^\#) \leq \kappa_\sigma \rho_\sigma^2 \right) \\ + \mathbf{P} \left( \sigma^2 \sqrt{N_\sigma} A_\sigma > \epsilon \rho_\sigma^2 \right) + \mathbf{P} \left( 2\sigma^2 B_\sigma > c' \rho_\sigma^2 \right),$$

with  $\kappa_\sigma = c' + \epsilon + \frac{4q_\alpha \sqrt{c_{s,L}}}{\sqrt{\log \sigma^{-1}}}$ .

The conclusion follows by using respectively Lemma 1 and 2, Berry-Esseen's inequality and Lemma 3.

## 6 Sketch of the proof of Theorem 2

### 6.1 First kind error

With the same arguments as for Theorem 1, we derive the inequality

$$\alpha(\tilde{\psi}_\sigma, \Theta_0) \leq \sum_{N \in \mathcal{N}(s_1, s_2)} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi N}} + \frac{\exp(-\log \log \sigma^{-1})}{\sqrt{4\pi \log \log \sigma^{-1}}} \\ \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{\mathbf{Card} \mathcal{N}(s_1, s_2)}{\sqrt{N_\sigma(s_2)}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}} \frac{\mathbf{Card} \mathcal{N}(s_1, s_2)}{\log \sigma^{-1} \sqrt{\log \log \sigma^{-1}}}.$$

As  $\mathbf{Card} \mathcal{N}(s_1, s_2) = 1 + [(s_2 - s_1) \log \sigma^{-1}]$  is of logarithmic order, this implies that  $\alpha(\tilde{\psi}_\sigma, \Theta_0) \rightarrow 0$ .

### 6.2 Second kind error

Finally, we study the second kind error and prove that it converges to 0.

For  $s \in [s_1, s_2]$ , define  $S = \max \{t \in \Sigma(s_1, s_2) \mid t \leq s\}$ , where we omit the dependence of  $S$  in  $s$  for simplicity sake. With this definition,  $\sup_{s,L} \beta(\tilde{\psi}_\sigma, \Theta_1^{s,L})$  is smaller than

$$\sup_{s,L} \sup_{\Theta_1^{s,L}} \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}^\#} \left( \lambda_\sigma(N_\sigma(S)) \leq \sqrt{2 \log \log \sigma^{-1}} \right).$$

Then, the computations are similar to those of Theorem 1, with the additional use of Lemma 4, which justifies the approximation of  $s$  by  $S$ .

## 7 Proof of Theorem 3

Consider a randomized test  $\psi$  in the shifted curve model. We will define a corresponding test in the classical model with smaller first and second kind errors, and it is sufficient to establish the result.

First note that there is a measurable function  $f$  with respect to the  $\sigma$ -algebra engendered by the sequences  $\mathbf{Y}$  and  $\mathbf{Y}^\#$  and with values in  $[0, 1]$  such that

$\psi = f(\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{Y}^\#)$ . Denoting  $\epsilon$  a sequence of i.i.d random variables  $\mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$  independent from  $\mathbf{Y}$ , we define  $\psi^{\text{class}} = \mathbf{E}_\epsilon(f(\mathbf{Y}, \epsilon) | \mathbf{Y})$ , where  $\mathbf{E}_\epsilon$  is the integration with respect to the probability engendered by  $\epsilon$ .  $\psi^{\text{class}}$  is  $\sigma(\mathbf{Y})$ -measurable and thus constitutes a test for the classical model.

This testing procedure can be interpreted as a test in the shifted curve model when  $\mathbf{c}^\# = 0$ . Indeed,  $d(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}^\#) = \|\mathbf{c}\|_2$  when  $\mathbf{c}^\# = 0$ , so that  $\Theta_0^{\text{class}} \times 0 \subseteq \Theta_0$  and  $\Theta_1^{\text{class}} \times 0 \subseteq \Theta_1$ . By Tonelli-Fubini's theorem,  $\psi^{\text{class}}$  satisfies  $\alpha^{\text{class}}(\psi^{\text{class}}, \Theta_0^{\text{class}}) \leq \alpha(\psi, \Theta_0)$  and  $\beta^{\text{class}}(\psi^{\text{class}}, \Theta_1^{\text{class}}) \leq \beta(\psi, \Theta_1)$ .

## 8 Statements of the lemmas

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $N$  be some positive integer, let  $\xi_j, \tilde{\xi}_j, j = 1, \dots, N$  be independent complex valued random variables such that their real and imaginary parts are independent standard Gaussian variables, and let  $\mathbf{c} = (c_1, \dots, c_N)$ ,  $\tilde{\mathbf{c}} = (\tilde{c}_1, \dots, \tilde{c}_N)$  be complex vectors. Denote  $\boldsymbol{\xi} = (\xi_1, \dots, \xi_N)$ ,  $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\xi}} = (\tilde{\xi}_1, \dots, \tilde{\xi}_N)$  and*

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} D_{\sigma, N}(\mathbf{c}, \tilde{\mathbf{c}}) = \min_{\tau} \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^N |c_j - e^{-ij\tau} \tilde{c}_j|^2 \right. \\ \left. + 2\sigma \sum_{j=1}^N \operatorname{Re} \left( (c_j - e^{-ij\tau} \tilde{c}_j) (\xi_j - e^{-ij\tau} \tilde{\xi}_j) \right) \right\}, \\ d_{N, \tau}(\mathbf{c}, \tilde{\mathbf{c}}) = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^N |c_j - e^{-ij\tau} \tilde{c}_j|^2}, \\ u_N(\boldsymbol{\xi}, \mathbf{c}, \tilde{\mathbf{c}}) = \sup_{\tau} \left| \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{\operatorname{Re} [\xi_j (c_j - e^{-ij\tau} \tilde{c}_j)]}{d_{N, \tau}(\mathbf{c}, \tilde{\mathbf{c}})} \right|. \end{array} \right.$$

Assume that  $x_0 \leq \min_{\tau} d_{N, \tau}(\mathbf{c}, \tilde{\mathbf{c}})$ , then for every real  $M$ ,

$$\mathbf{P} \left( D_{\sigma}(\mathbf{c}, \tilde{\mathbf{c}}) \leq M \right) \leq 2 \mathbf{P} \left( \sigma u_N(\boldsymbol{\xi}, \mathbf{c}, \tilde{\mathbf{c}}) \geq \frac{x_0}{4} - \frac{M}{4x_0} \right) + 2 \mathbf{P} \left( \frac{x_0}{2} < \sigma u_N(\boldsymbol{\xi}, \mathbf{c}, \tilde{\mathbf{c}}) \right).$$

Assume further that  $\mathbf{c}$  and  $\tilde{\mathbf{c}}$  are in  $\mathcal{F}_{s, L}$  and that  $\frac{x_0}{4} - \frac{M}{4x_0} > 0$ , then combining the last result with Lemma 2,

$$\mathbf{P} \left( D_{\sigma}(\mathbf{c}, \tilde{\mathbf{c}}) \leq M \right) \leq 2 \left( 1 + x_0^{-1} L \max\{1, N^{1-s}\} \right) \times \left( \exp \left\{ -\frac{(x_0 - M)^2}{32x_0^2\sigma^2} \right\} + \exp \left\{ -\frac{x_0^2}{8\sigma^2} \right\} \right).$$

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $\mathbf{c} = (c_1, c_2, \dots)$  and  $\tilde{\mathbf{c}} = (\tilde{c}_1, \tilde{c}_2, \dots)$  in  $\mathcal{F}_{s, L}$  with  $s > 0$  and let  $N$  be an integer. Denoting  $\eta_j, \tilde{\eta}_j \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ , we define*

$$S(t) = \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{\eta_j \operatorname{Re}(c_j - e^{-ij t} \tilde{c}_j) + \tilde{\eta}_j \operatorname{Im}(c_j - e^{-ij t} \tilde{c}_j)}{\sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^N |c_j - e^{-ij t} \tilde{c}_j|^2}}$$

for every  $t$  in  $[0, 2\pi]$ . Then  $\mathbf{P} \left( \|S\|_{\infty} \geq x \right)$  is smaller than

$$\left( \frac{L \cdot \max\{1, N^{1-s}\}}{\sqrt{\min_{\tau} \sum_{j=1}^N |c_j - e^{-ij\tau} \tilde{c}_j|^2}} + 1 \right) e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}}.$$

**Lemma 3.** *Let  $\xi_j, \tilde{\xi}_j$  be independent complex valued random variables such that their real and imaginary parts are independent standard Gaussian variables, let  $c, s$  and  $\sigma$  be some positive real numbers. Denote  $\rho_{\sigma} = (\sigma^2 \sqrt{\log \sigma^{-1}})^{\frac{2s}{4s+1}}$ ,  $N_{\sigma} = \lfloor c \rho_{\sigma}^{-1/s} \rfloor$  and  $B = \max_{\tau} \left| \sum_{j=1}^{N_{\sigma}} \operatorname{Re} (e^{ij\tau} \xi_j \tilde{\xi}_j) \right|$ . Then, for  $\sigma$  small enough,*

$$\mathbf{P} \left( 2\sigma^2 B_{\sigma} > c' \rho_{\sigma}^2 \right) \leq 2c (\log \sigma^{-1})^{\frac{-1}{4s+1}} \sigma^{\frac{c'^2}{64c} - \frac{4}{4s+1}} + e^{-N_{\sigma}/2}.$$

The proofs of the lemmas are based on the following formula.

**Theorem** (Berman (1988)). *Let  $N$  be a positive integer,  $a < b$  some real numbers and  $g_j, j = 1, \dots, N$  be continuously differentiable functions on  $[a, b]$  satisfying  $\sum_{j=1}^N g_j(t)^2 = 1$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $j \in [1, N]$ , and  $\eta_j, j = 1, \dots, N$ , some independent standard Gaussian variables. Then*

$$\mathbf{P} \left( \sup_{[a, b]} \sum_{j=1}^N g_j(t) \eta_j \geq x \right) \leq \frac{I}{2\pi} e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} + \int_x^{\infty} \frac{e^{-\frac{t^2}{2}}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} dt$$

with  $I = \int_a^b \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n g'_j(t)^2 \right]^{1/2} dt.$

**Lemma 4.** *Let  $\sigma$  be a positive real number and  $s, S$  in  $[s_1, s_2] \subseteq \mathbb{R}_*^+$  be such that  $0 \leq s - S \leq \frac{1}{\log \sigma^{-1}}$ . Denote  $\rho_{\sigma}^*(s) = (\sigma^2 \sqrt{\log \sigma^{-1}})^{\frac{2s}{4s+1}}$ , then, for  $\sigma$  small enough,*

$$\frac{\rho_{\sigma}^*(S)}{\rho_{\sigma}^*(s)} \leq e^{\frac{4}{(4s_1+1)^2}}.$$

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