

Supplementary material of the article *Uncovering Causality from Multivariate Hawkes Integrated Cumulants*

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1 Introduction

1.1 In a nutshell

We prove here the consistency of NPHC estimator using the framework of Generalized Method of Moments Hansen [1982]. The main difference with the usual Generalized Method of Moments relies in the relaxation of the moment conditions, since we have $\mathbb{E}[\hat{g}_T(\theta_0)] = m_T \neq 0$. We adapt the proof of consistency given in Newey and McFadden [1994].

1.2 Sketch of the proof

We can relate the integral of the Hawkes process's kernels to the integrals of the cumulant densities, from Jovanović et al. [2015]. Our cumulant matching method would fall into the usual GMM framework if we could estimate - without bias - the integral of the covariance on \mathbb{R} , and the integral of the skewness on \mathbb{R}^2 . Unfortunately, we can't do that easily. We can however estimate without bias $\int f_t^T C_t^{ij} dt$ and $\int f_t^T K_t^{ijk} dt$ with f^T a compact supported function on $[-H_T, H_T]$ that weakly converges to 1, with $H_T \xrightarrow{T \rightarrow \infty} \infty$. In most cases we will take $f_t^T = \mathbb{1}_{[-H_T, H_T]}(t)$.

Denoting $\hat{C}^{ij,(T)}$ the estimator of $\int f_t^T C_t^{ij} dt$, the term $|\mathbb{E}[\hat{C}^{ij,(T)}] - C^{ij}| = |\int f_t^T C_t^{ij} dt - C^{ij}|$ can be considered a proxy to the *distance to the classical GMM*. This distance has to go to zero to make the rest of GMM's proof work: the estimator $\hat{C}^{ij,(T)}$ is then asymptotically unbiased towards C^{ij} when T goes to infinity.

1.3 Notations

We observe the multivariate point process (N_t) on \mathbb{R}^+ , with Z^i the events of the i^{th} component. We will often write covariance / skewness instead of integrated covariance / skewness. In the rest of the document, we use the following notations.

Hawkes kernels' integrals $G^{\text{true}} = \int \Phi_t dt = (\int \phi_t^{ij} dt)_{ij} = \mathbf{I}_d - (\mathbf{R}^{\text{true}})^{-1}$

Theoretical mean matrix $L = \text{diag}(\Lambda^1, \dots, \Lambda^d)$

Theoretical covariance $C = \mathbf{R}^{\text{true}} L (\mathbf{R}^{\text{true}})^\top$

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Theoretical skewness $K^c = (K^{ij})_{ij} = (\mathbf{R}^{\text{true}})^{\odot 2} \mathbf{C}^\top + 2[\mathbf{R}^{\text{true}} \odot (\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{R}^{\text{true}} \mathbf{L})](\mathbf{R}^{\text{true}})^\top$

Filtering function $f^T \geq 0$ $\text{supp}(f^T) \subset [-H_T, H_T]$ $F^T = \int f_s^T ds$ $\tilde{f}_t^T = f_{-t}^T$

Events sets $Z^{i,T,1} = Z^i \cap [H_T, T + H_T]$ $Z^{j,T,2} = Z^j \cap [0, T + 2H_T]$

Estimators of the mean $\hat{\Lambda}^i = \frac{N_{T+H_T}^i - N_{H_T}^i}{T}$ $\tilde{\Lambda}^j = \frac{N_{T+2H_T}^j}{T+2H_T}$

Estimator of the covariance $\hat{C}^{ij,(T)} = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{\tau \in Z^{i,T,1}} \left(\sum_{\tau' \in Z^{j,T,2}} f_{\tau'-\tau} - \tilde{\Lambda}^j F^T \right)$

Estimator of the skewness¹

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{K}^{ijk,(T)} &= \frac{1}{T} \sum_{\tau \in Z^{i,T,1}} \left(\sum_{\tau' \in Z^{j,T,2}} f_{\tau'-\tau} - \tilde{\Lambda}^j F^T \right) \left(\sum_{\tau'' \in Z^{k,T,2}} f_{\tau'-\tau} - \tilde{\Lambda}^k F^T \right) \\ &\quad - \frac{\hat{\Lambda}^i}{T + 2H_T} \sum_{\tau' \in Z^{j,T,2}} \left(\sum_{\tau'' \in Z^{k,T,2}} (f^T \star \tilde{f}^T)_{\tau'-\tau''} - \tilde{\Lambda}^k (F^T)^2 \right) \end{aligned}$$

GMM related notations

$$\begin{aligned} \theta &= \mathbf{R} \quad \text{and} \quad \theta_0 = \mathbf{R}^{\text{true}} \\ g_0(\theta) &= \text{vec} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{C} - \mathbf{R} \mathbf{L} \mathbf{R}^\top \\ \mathbf{K}^c - \mathbf{R}^{\odot 2} \mathbf{C}^\top - 2[\mathbf{R} \odot (\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{R} \mathbf{L})] \mathbf{R}^\top \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2d^2} \\ \hat{g}_T(\theta) &= \text{vec} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{C}}^{(T)} - \mathbf{R} \hat{\mathbf{L}} \mathbf{R}^\top \\ \hat{\mathbf{K}}^c - \mathbf{R}^{\odot 2} (\hat{\mathbf{C}}^{(T)})^\top - 2[\mathbf{R} \odot (\hat{\mathbf{C}}^{(T)} - \mathbf{R} \hat{\mathbf{L}})] \mathbf{R}^\top \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2d^2} \\ Q_0(\theta) &= g_0(\theta)^\top W g_0(\theta) \\ \hat{Q}_T(\theta) &= \hat{g}_T(\theta)^\top \hat{W}_T \hat{g}_T(\theta) \end{aligned}$$

2 Consistency

First, let's remind a useful theorem for consistency in GMM from Newey and McFadden [1994].

Theorem 2.1. *If there is a function $Q_0(\theta)$ such that (i) $Q_0(\theta)$ is uniquely maximized at θ_0 ; (ii) Θ is compact; (iii) $Q_0(\theta)$ is continuous; (iv) $\hat{Q}_T(\theta)$ converges uniformly in probability to $Q_0(\theta)$, then $\hat{\theta}_T = \arg \max \hat{Q}_T(\theta) \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} \theta_0$.*

We can now prove the consistency of our estimator.

Theorem 2.2. *Suppose that (N_t) is observed on \mathbb{R}^+ , $\hat{W}_T \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} W$, and*

1. W is positive semi-definite and $W g_0(\theta) = 0$ if and only if $\theta = \theta_0$,
2. $\theta \in \Theta$, which is compact,
3. the spectral radius of the kernel norm matrix satisfies $\|\Phi\|_* < 1$,
4. $\forall i, j, k \in [d]$, $\int f_u^T C_u^{ij} du \rightarrow \int C_u^{ij} du$ and $\int f_u^T f_v^T K_{u,v}^{ijk} dudv \rightarrow \int K_{u,v}^{ijk} dudv$,

¹When $f_t^T = \mathbb{1}_{[-H_T, H_T]}(t)$, we remind that $(f^T \star \tilde{f}^T)_t = (2H_T - |t|)^+$. This leads to the estimator we showed in the article.

5. $(F^T)^2/T \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$ and $\|f\|_\infty = O(1)$.

Then

$$\widehat{\theta}_T \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} \theta_0.$$

Remark 1. In practice, we use a constant sequence of weighting matrices: $\widehat{W}_T = \mathbf{I}_d$.

Proof. Proceed by verifying the hypotheses of Theorem 2.1 from Newey and McFadden [1994]. Condition 2.1(i) follows by (i) and by $Q_0(\theta) = [W^{1/2}g_0(\theta)]^\top [W^{1/2}g_0(\theta)] > 0 = Q_0(\theta_0)$. Indeed, there exists a neighborhood N of θ_0 such that $\theta \in N \setminus \{\theta_0\}$ and $g_0(\theta) \neq 0$ since $g_0(\theta)$ is a polynomial. Condition 2.1(ii) follows by (ii). Condition 2.1(iii) is satisfied since $Q_0(\theta)$ is a polynomial. Condition 2.1(iv) is harder to prove. First, since $\widehat{g}_T(\theta)$ is a polynomial of θ , we prove easily that $\mathbb{E}[\sup_{\theta \in \Theta} |\widehat{g}_T(\theta)|] < \infty$. Then, by Θ compact, $g_0(\theta)$ is bounded on Θ , and by the triangle and Cauchy-Schwarz inequalities,

$$\begin{aligned} & |\widehat{Q}_T(\theta) - Q_0(\theta)| \\ & \leq |(\widehat{g}_T(\theta) - g_0(\theta))^\top \widehat{W}_T(\widehat{g}_T(\theta) - g_0(\theta))| + |g_0(\theta)^\top (\widehat{W}_T + \widehat{W}_T^\top)(\widehat{g}_T(\theta) - g_0(\theta))| + |g_0(\theta)^\top (\widehat{W}_T - W)g_0(\theta)| \\ & \leq \|\widehat{g}_T(\theta) - g_0(\theta)\|^2 \|\widehat{W}_T\| + 2\|g_0(\theta)\| \|\widehat{g}_T(\theta) - g_0(\theta)\| \|\widehat{W}_T\| + \|g_0(\theta)\|^2 \|\widehat{W}_T - W\|. \end{aligned}$$

To prove $\sup_{\theta \in \Theta} |\widehat{Q}_T(\theta) - Q_0(\theta)| \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$, we should now prove that $\sup_{\theta \in \Theta} \|\widehat{g}_T(\theta) - g_0(\theta)\| \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$. By Θ compact, it is sufficient to prove that $\|\widehat{L} - L\| \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$, $\|\widehat{C}^{(T)} - C\| \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$, and $\|\widehat{K}^{c(T)} - K^c\| \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$.

Proof that $\|\widehat{L} - L\| \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$

The estimator of L is unbiased so let's focus on the variance of \widehat{L} .

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[(\widehat{\Lambda}^i - \Lambda^i)^2] &= \mathbb{E} \left[\left(\frac{1}{T} \int_{H_T}^{T+H_T} (dN_t^i - \Lambda^i dt) \right)^2 \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{T^2} \int_{H_T}^{T+H_T} \int_{H_T}^{T+H_T} \mathbb{E}[(dN_t^i - \Lambda^i dt)(dN_{t'}^i - \Lambda^i dt')] \\ &= \frac{1}{T^2} \int_{H_T}^{T+H_T} \int_{H_T}^{T+H_T} C_{t'-t}^{ii} dt dt' \\ &\leq \frac{1}{T^2} \int_{H_T}^{T+H_T} C^{ii} dt = \frac{C^{ii}}{T} \rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

By Markov inequality, we have just proved that $\|\widehat{L} - L\| \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$.

Proof that $\|\widehat{C}^{(T)} - C\| \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$

First, let's remind that $\mathbb{E}(\widehat{C}^{(T)}) \neq C$. Indeed,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(\widehat{C}^{ij,(T)}) &= \mathbb{E} \left(\frac{1}{T} \int_{H_T}^{T+H_T} dN_t^i \int_0^{T+2H_T} dN_{t'}^j f_{t'-t} - \widehat{\Lambda}^i \widetilde{\Lambda}^j F^T \right) \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left(\frac{1}{T} \int_{H_T}^{T+H_T} dN_t^i \int_{-t}^{T+2H_T-t} dN_{t+s}^j f_s - \Lambda^i \Lambda^j F^T \right) + \epsilon^{ij,T,H_T} F^T \\ &= \frac{1}{T} \int_{H_T}^{T+H_T} \int_{-H_T}^{H_T} f_s \mathbb{E}(dN_t^i dN_{t+s}^j - \Lambda^i \Lambda^j ds) + \epsilon^{ij,T,H_T} F^T \\ &= \int f_s C_s^{ij} ds + \epsilon^{ij,T,H_T} F^T \end{aligned}$$

Now,

$$\begin{aligned}
\epsilon^{ij,T,H_T} &= \mathbb{E} \left(\Lambda^i \Lambda^j - \widehat{\Lambda}^i \widetilde{\Lambda}^j \right) \\
&= -\frac{1}{T^2} \int_{H_T}^{T+H_T} \int_0^{T+2H_T} \mathbb{E} \left(dN_t^i dN_{t'}^j - \Lambda^i \Lambda^j dt dt' \right) \\
&= -\frac{1}{T^2} \int_{H_T}^{T+H_T} \int_0^{T+2H_T} C_{t-t'}^{ij} dt dt' \\
&= -\frac{1}{T} \int \left(1 + \left(\frac{H_T - |t|}{T} \right)^- \right)^+ C_t^{ij} dt
\end{aligned}$$

Since f satisfies $F^T = o(T)$, we have $\mathbb{E}(\widehat{C}^{(T)}) \rightarrow C$. It remains now to prove that $\|\widehat{C}^{(T)} - \mathbb{E}(\widehat{C}^{(T)})\| \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$. Let's now focus on the variance of $\widehat{C}^{ij,(T)}$: $\mathbb{V}(\widehat{C}^{ij,(T)}) = \mathbb{E} \left((\widehat{C}^{ij,(T)})^2 \right) - \mathbb{E}(\widehat{C}^{ij,(T)})^2$.

Now,

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E} \left((\widehat{C}^{ij,(T)})^2 \right) &= \mathbb{E} \left(\frac{1}{T^2} \sum_{(\tau,\eta,\tau',\eta') \in (Z^{i,T,1})^2 \times (Z^{j,T,2})^2} (f_{\tau'-\tau} - F^T/(T+2H_T))(f_{\eta'-\eta} - F^T/(T+2H_T)) \right) \\
&= \mathbb{E} \left(\frac{1}{T^2} \int_{t,s \in [H_T, T+H_T]} \int_{t',s' \in [0, T+2H_T]} dN_t^i dN_{t'}^j dN_s^i dN_{s'}^j (f_{t'-t} - F^T/(T+2H_T))(f_{s'-s} - F^T/(T+2H_T)) \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{T^2} \int_{t,s \in [H_T, T+H_T]} \int_{t',s' \in [0, T+2H_T]} \mathbb{E} \left(dN_t^i dN_{t'}^j dN_s^i dN_{s'}^j \right) (f_{t'-t} - F^T/(T+2H_T))(f_{s'-s} - F^T/(T+2H_T))
\end{aligned}$$

And,

$$\mathbb{E}(\widehat{C}^{ij,(T)})^2 = \frac{1}{T^2} \int_{t,s \in [H_T, T+H_T]} \int_{t',s' \in [0, T+2H_T]} \mathbb{E} \left(dN_t^i dN_{t'}^j \right) \mathbb{E} \left(dN_s^i dN_{s'}^j \right) (f_{t'-t} - F^T/(T+2H_T))(f_{s'-s} - F^T/(T+2H_T))$$

Then, the variance involves the integration towards the difference of moments $\mu^{r,s,t,u} - \mu^{r,s} \mu^{t,u}$. Let's write it as a sum of cumulants, since cumulants density are integrable.

$$\begin{aligned}
\mu^{r,s,t,u} - \mu^{r,s} \mu^{t,u} &= \kappa^{r,s,t,u} + \kappa^{r,s,t} \kappa^u [4] + \kappa^{r,s} \kappa^{t,u} [3] + \kappa^{r,s} \kappa^t \kappa^u [6] + \kappa^r \kappa^s \kappa^t \kappa^u - (\kappa^{r,s} + \kappa^r \kappa^s)(\kappa^{t,u} + \kappa^t \kappa^u) \\
&= \kappa^{r,s,t,u} \\
&\quad + \kappa^{r,s,t} \kappa^u + \kappa^{u,r,s} \kappa^t + \kappa^{t,u,r} \kappa^s + \kappa^{s,t,u} \kappa^r \\
&\quad + \kappa^{r,t} \kappa^{s,u} + \kappa^{r,u} \kappa^{s,t} \\
&\quad + \kappa^{r,t} \kappa^s \kappa^u + \kappa^{r,u} \kappa^s \kappa^t + \kappa^{s,t} \kappa^r \kappa^u + \kappa^{s,t} \kappa^r \kappa^u
\end{aligned}$$

In the rest of the proof, we denote $a_t = \mathbb{1}_{t \in [H_T, T+H_T]}$, $b_t = \mathbb{1}_{t \in [0, T+2H_T]}$, $c_t = \mathbb{1}_{t \in [-H_T, H_T]}$, $g_t = f_t - \frac{1}{T+2H_T} F^T$. Before starting the integration of each term, let's remark that:

1. $\Psi_t = \sum_{n \geq 1} \Phi_t^{(\star n)} \geq 0$ since $\Phi_t \geq 0$.
2. The regular parts of C_u^{ij} , $S_{u,v}^{ijk}$ (skewness density) and $K_{u,v,w}^{ijkl}$ (fourth cumulant density) are positive as polynomials of integrals of ψ^{ab} with positive coefficients. The integrals of the singular parts are positive as well.
3. (a) $\int a_t b_{t'} f_{t'-t} dt dt' = T F^T$
(b) $\int a_t b_{t'} g_{t'-t} dt dt' = 0$
(c) $\int a_t b_{t'} |g_{t'-t}| dt dt' \leq 2T F^T$

4. $\forall t \in \mathbb{R}, a_t(b \star \tilde{g})_t = 0$, where $\tilde{g}_s = g_{-s}$.

Fourth cumulant We want here to compute $\int \kappa_{t,t',s,s'}^{i,j,i,j} a_t b_{t'} a_s b_{s'} g_{t'-t} g_{s'-s} dt dt' ds ds'$.

We remark that $|g_{t'-t} g_{s'-s}| \leq (\|f\|_\infty (1 + 2H_T/T))^2 \leq 4\|f\|_\infty^2$.

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{1}{T^2} \int \kappa_{t,t',s,s'}^{i,j,i,j} a_t b_{t'} a_s b_{s'} g_{t'-t} g_{s'-s} dt dt' ds ds' \right| &\leq \left(\frac{2\|f\|_\infty}{T} \right)^2 \int dt a_t \int dt' b_{t'} \int ds a_s \int ds' b_{s'} K_{t'-t, s-t, s'-t}^{ijij} \\ &\leq \left(\frac{2\|f\|_\infty}{T} \right)^2 \int dt a_t \int dt' b_{t'} \int ds a_s \int dw K_{t'-t, s-t, w}^{ijij} \\ &\leq \left(\frac{2\|f\|_\infty}{T} \right)^2 \int dt a_t \int K_{u,v,w}^{ijij} du dv dw \\ &\leq \frac{4\|f\|_\infty^2}{T} K^{ijij} \xrightarrow{T \rightarrow \infty} 0 \end{aligned}$$

Third \times First We have four terms, but only two different forms since the roles of (s, s') and (t, t') are symmetric.
First form

$$\begin{aligned} \int \kappa_{t,t',s}^{i,j,i} \Lambda^j G_t dt &= \frac{\Lambda^j}{T^2} \int \kappa_{t,t',s}^{i,j,i} a_t b_{t'} a_s b_{s'} g_{t'-t} g_{s'-s} dt dt' ds ds' \\ &= \frac{\Lambda^j}{T^2} \int \kappa_{t,t',s}^{i,j,i} a_t b_{t'} a_s (b \star \tilde{g})_s g_{t'-t} dt dt' ds \\ &= 0 \quad \text{since } a_s (b \star \tilde{g})_s = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Second form

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int \kappa_{t,t',s}^{i,j,j} \Lambda^i G_t dt \right| &= \left| \frac{\Lambda^i}{T^2} \int \kappa_{t,t',s}^{i,j,j} a_t b_{t'} a_s b_{s'} g_{t'-t} g_{s'-s} dt dt' ds ds' \right| \\ &= \left| \frac{\Lambda^i}{T^2} \int \kappa_{t,t',s}^{i,j,j} a_t b_{t'} g_{t'-t} b_{s'} (a \star g)_{s'} dt dt' ds' \right| \\ &\leq \frac{\Lambda^i}{T^2} 2\|f\|_\infty \int ds' b_{s'} (a \star |g|)_{s'} \int dt a_t \int dt' b_{t'} S_{t'-s', t-s'}^{ijj} \\ &\leq 4\|f\|_\infty S^{ijj} \Lambda^i \frac{F^T}{T} \xrightarrow{T \rightarrow \infty} 0 \end{aligned}$$

Second \times Second

First form

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int \kappa_{t,s}^{i,i} \kappa_{t',s'}^{j,j} G_t dt \right| &\leq \frac{2\|f\|_\infty}{T^2} \int C_{t-s}^{ii} C_{t'-s'}^{jj} a_t b_{t'} |g_{t'-t}| a_s b_{s'} dt dt' ds ds' \\ &\leq \frac{2\|f\|_\infty}{T^2} C^{ii} C^{jj} \int a_t b_{t'} |g_{t'-t}| dt dt' \\ &\leq 4\|f\|_\infty C^{ii} C^{jj} \frac{F^T}{T} \xrightarrow{T \rightarrow \infty} 0 \end{aligned}$$

Second form

$$\left| \int \kappa_{t,s}^{i,j} \kappa_{t',s}^{i,j} G_t dt \right| \leq 4\|f\|_\infty (C^{ij})^2 \frac{F^T}{T} \xrightarrow{T \rightarrow \infty} 0$$

Second \times First \times First

First form

$$\int \kappa_{t,t'}^{i,j} \Lambda^i \Lambda^j G_t dt = \frac{\Lambda^i \Lambda^j}{T^2} \int \kappa_{t,t}^{i,j} a_t b_{t'} g_{t'-t} dt dt' \int a_s b_{s'} g_{s'-s} ds ds' = 0$$

Second form

$$\int \kappa_{t,s}^{i,i} \Lambda^j \Lambda^j G_t d\mathbf{t} = \left(\frac{\Lambda^j}{T} \right)^2 \int \kappa_{t,s}^{i,i} a_t b_{t'} g_{t'-t} a_s (b \star \tilde{g})_s dt dt' ds = 0$$

We have just proved that $\mathbb{V}(\widehat{\mathbf{C}}^{(T)}) \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$. By Markov inequality, it ensures us that $\|\widehat{\mathbf{C}}^{(T)} - \mathbb{E}(\widehat{\mathbf{C}}^{(T)})\| \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$, and finally that $\|\widehat{\mathbf{C}}^{(T)} - \mathbf{C}\| \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$. \square

Proof that $\|\widehat{\mathbf{K}}^c{}^{(T)} - \mathbf{K}^c\| \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}} 0$

The scheme of the proof is similar to the previous one. The upper bounds of the integrals involve the same kind of terms, plus the new term $(F^T)^2/T$ that goes to zero thanks to the assumption 5 of the theorem.

References

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