

MOMENT INEQUALITIES WITH APPLICATIONS TO REGRESSION AND TIME SERIES MODELS

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Herein we review several important moment inequalities in the literature and discuss their applications to strong (almost sure) limit theorems for linear processes and for least squares estimates in multiple regression models.

1. Introduction and Summary. A classical model for random noise in the regression and time series literature is that of *equinormed orthogonal* random variables ϵ_n , i.e.,

$$(1.1) \quad \begin{aligned} E(\epsilon_i \epsilon_j) &= 0 && \text{for } i \neq j, \\ &= \sigma^2 && \text{for } i = j. \end{aligned}$$

Such random variables have the important mean square property that for all constants c_i ,

$$(1.2) \quad E(\sum_{i=m}^n c_i \epsilon_i)^2 = \sigma^2 \sum_{i=m}^n c_i^2 \quad \text{for all } n \geq m.$$

For example, the so-called Gauss-Markov model in multiple regression theory is of the form

$$(1.3) \quad z_i = \beta_1 t_{i1} + \dots + \beta_k t_{ik} + \epsilon_i \quad (i=1, 2, \dots)$$

where t_{ij} are known constants, z_i are observed random variables, β_1, \dots, β_k are unknown parameters, and ϵ_i are equinormed orthogonal random variables that represent unobservable random errors. Throughout the sequel we shall let \mathbf{T}_n denote the design matrix $(t_{ij})_{1 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq j \leq k}$, and let $\mathbf{Z}_n = (z_1, \dots, z_n)'$. For $n \geq k$, the least squares estimate $\mathbf{b}_n = (b_{n1}, \dots, b_{nk})'$ of $\beta = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_k)'$ based on the design matrix \mathbf{T}_n and the response vector \mathbf{Z}_n is given by

$$(1.4) \quad \mathbf{b}_n = (\mathbf{T}'_n \mathbf{T}_n)^{-1} \mathbf{T}'_n \mathbf{Z}_n,$$

provided that $\mathbf{T}'_n \mathbf{T}_n$ is nonsingular. From (1.1), it follows easily that

$$(1.5) \quad \text{cov}(\mathbf{b}_n) = \sigma^2 (\mathbf{T}'_n \mathbf{T}_n)^{-1},$$

and therefore \mathbf{b}_n is weakly consistent (i.e., $\mathbf{b}_n \xrightarrow{P} \mathbf{B}$) if

$$(1.6) \quad (\mathbf{T}'_n \mathbf{T}_n)^{-1} \rightarrow \mathbf{0} \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

If $\sigma \neq 0$, the condition (1.6) is also necessary for the weak consistency of \mathbf{b}_n (cf. Drygas (1976)).

In time series theory, it is well known that every wide-sense stationary sequence $\{y_n\}$ with zero means and an absolutely continuous spectral distribution can be represented as

$$(1.7) \quad y_n = \text{l.i.m.}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=-N}^N a_{n-i} \epsilon_i,$$

where $\{\epsilon_n\}$ is an orthonormal sequence (i.e., $\sigma=1$ in (1.1)), $\{a_n\}$ is a sequence of constants such that $\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} a_n^2 < \infty$, and l.i.m. denotes limit in quadratic mean (cf. Doob (1953), page 499). From this representation, it follows that

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