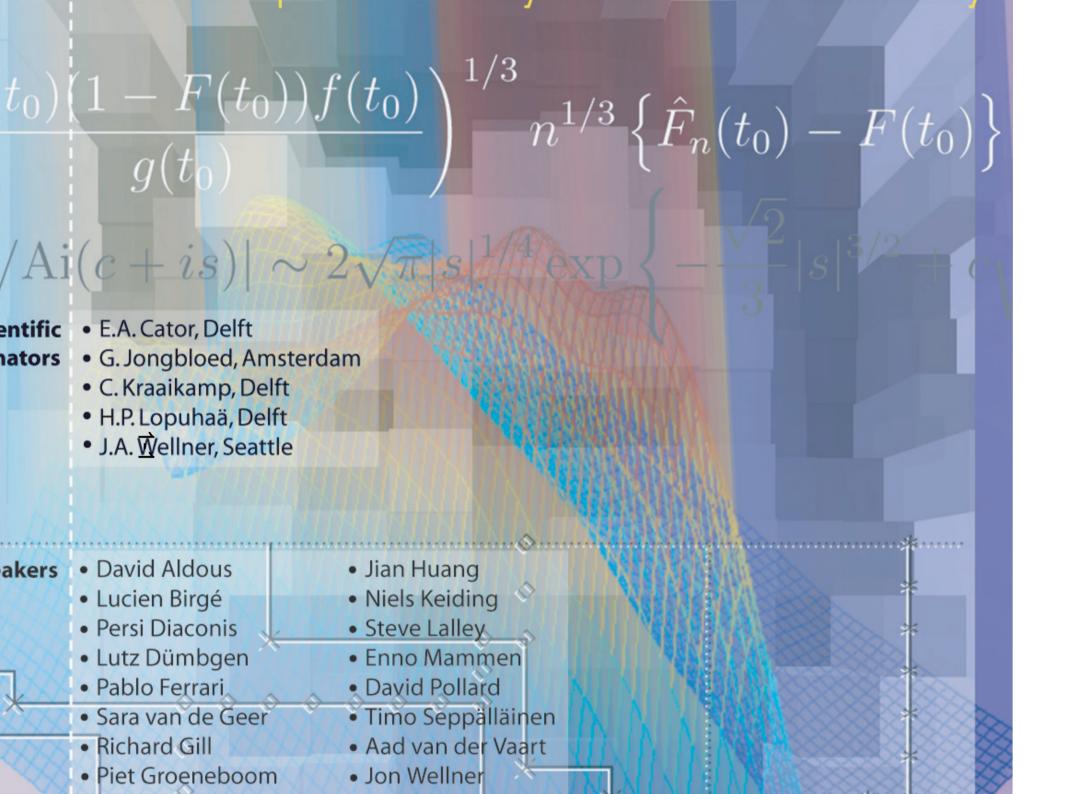
## A Kiefer - Wolfowitz theorem for Convex Densities

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- joint work with Fadoua Balabdaoui, University of Paris, Dauphine
- Talk at Asymptotics: particles, processes and inverse problems, Leiden, The Netherlands, July 14, 2006
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Introduction: the Kiefer-Wolfowitz theorem and Piet

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- Let  $\mathbb{F}_n(x) = n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n 1\{X_i \leq x\}$  be the empirical d.f. of  $X_1, \ldots, X_n$  i.i.d. with density f.

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- Let  $\widehat{f}_n$  be the Grenander estimator of f; i.e.  $\widehat{f}_n(x)$  is the slope at x of the least concave majorant  $\widehat{F}_n$  of the empirical d.f.  $\mathbb{F}_n$

$$\|\widehat{F}_n - \mathbb{F}_n\| \equiv \sup_{t < \alpha_1(F)} |\widehat{F}_n(t) - \mathbb{F}_n(t)|$$
  
=  $O((n^{-1} \log n)^{2/3})$  almost surely.

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• Theorem 2. (Wang (2000); Kulikov and Lopuhaa (2006)). If  $f(t_0) > 0$ ,  $f'(t_0) < 0$ , and f' is continuous in a neighborhood of  $t_0$ , then

$$n^{2/3}(\widehat{F}_n(t_0 + n^{-1/3}t) - \mathbb{F}_n(t_0 + n^{-1/3}t))$$

$$\Rightarrow \left(\frac{2f^2(t_0)}{-f'(t_0)}\right)^{1/3} \left\{ \mathbb{C}(at) - (W(at) - a^2t^2) \right\}$$

in D[-K,K] for each fixed K>0 where W is two-sided standard Brownian motion starting from 0,  $\mathbb C$  is the least concave majorant of  $W(t)-t^2$ , and

$$a \equiv ([f'(t_0)]^2/(4f(t_0)))^{1/3}$$
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- Thus prove similar results for  $\widetilde{F}_n$ .

 Groeneboom (1989), page 104 says: "We finally want to note that the process  $\{V(a): a \in \mathbb{R}\}$  not only describes the limiting global behavior of the Grenander maximum likelihood estimator of a (smooth and strictly decreasing) density (see Groeneboom (1985)), but also describes the limiting behavior of certain "isotonic" estimators of distribution functions and hazard functions. In particular, by using the properties of this process, a simple proof of results in Kiefer and Wolfowitz (1976) can be given, which at the same time clarifies the connection between these results (on the estimation of concave distribution functions) and results on the estimation of a monotone density." To the best of my knowledge Piet has not yet written the "simple proof" he promised in 1989. We encourage him to do so soon!

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# 2. Proof of the Kiefer-Wolfowitz (1976) theorem

• Lemma. (Marshall) Let  $\widehat{F}_n$  be the least concave majorant of  $\mathbb{F}_n$ , and let h be a concave function on  $[0,\infty)$ . Then

$$\|\widehat{F}_n - h\| \le \|\mathbb{F}_n - h\|.$$

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 $\circ$  Step 3. On  $A_n$  note that by Marshall's lemma we have

$$\|\widehat{F}_{n} - \mathbb{F}_{n}\| \leq \|\widehat{F}_{n} - \mathbb{L}_{n} + \mathbb{L}_{n} - \mathbb{F}_{n}\|$$

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• Step 4. Fix  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Take  $\mathbb{L}_n = I_2\mathbb{F}_n$ ,  $L_n = I_2F$  based on the knots  $a_j \equiv F^{-1}(j/k)$ ,  $j = 0, 1, \dots, k-1$ ,  $a_k = \alpha_1(F)$ .

• From de Boor (2001), page 36, (18):

$$||g - I_2 g|| \le \omega(g; |a|),$$
  $|a| = \max_{1 \le j \le k} (a_j - a_{j-1}),$   $\omega(g; b) \equiv \sup\{|g(t) - g(s)| : |t - s| \le b\}.$ 

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• Thus with  $R \equiv \max\{1, f(0)\}/f(\alpha_1(F))$ ,

$$D_{n} = \|\mathbb{F}_{n} - F - I_{2}(\mathbb{F}_{n} - F)\| \leq \omega(\mathbb{F}_{n} - F; |a|)$$

$$\stackrel{d}{=} n^{-1/2}\omega(\mathbb{U}_{n}(F); |a|)$$

$$\leq n^{-1/2}\omega(\mathbb{U}_{n}; Rp_{n}), \quad p_{n} = 1/k_{n} \times C(n^{-1}\log n)^{1/3}$$

$$\leq n^{-1/2}\{(2+\epsilon)Rp_{n}\log(1/p_{n})\}^{1/2} \text{ a.s.}$$

$$= O((n^{-1}\log n)^{2/3}) \text{ a.s.}.$$

• For  $E_n$ , use the inequality of de Boor (2001), page 31, (2): if  $||g''|| < \infty$ , then

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• Thus we are done if we can prove "step 2" for  $\mathbb{L}_n = I_2\mathbb{F}_n$ : i.e.  $P_F(\mathbb{L}_n \text{ concave on } [0,\infty)) \geq 1-n^{-2}$ .

• Lemma. If  $p_n \to 0$  and  $\delta_n \to 0$ , then for the uniform(0,1) d.f. F=I,

$$Pr(|\mathbb{G}_n(p_n) - p_n| \ge \delta_n p_n) \le 2 \exp(-2^{-1} n p_n \delta_n^2 (1 + o(1)))$$

where o(1) depends only on  $\delta_n$ .

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Proof: Hoeffding's inequality gives

$$Pr((\mathbb{G}_n(p_n) - p_n)^{\pm} \ge p_n \lambda) \le \exp(-np_n h(1 \pm \lambda))$$

with  $h(x) = x(\log x - 1) + 1$ . Since  $h(1 \pm \lambda) \sim 2^{-1}\lambda$  as  $\lambda \searrow 0$ , the lemma follows.

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• Lemma. If  $\beta_1(F) > 0$  and  $\gamma_1(F) < \infty$ , then for  $k_n$  large

$$Pr(A_n^c) \le 4k_n \exp(-80^{-1}\beta_1^2(F)np_n^3).$$

• Proof: Set  $T_{n,j}\equiv \mathbb{F}_n(a_j)-\mathbb{F}_n(a_{j-1})$ ,  $j=1,\ldots,k=k_n$ , and  $\Delta_j a\equiv a_j-a_{j-1}$ . Then

$$A_n = \bigcap_{j=1}^{k_n-1} \left\{ \frac{T_{n,j}}{\Delta_j a} \ge \frac{T_{n,j+1}}{\Delta_{j+1} a} \right\}.$$

Thus

$$P(A_n^c) \leq \sum_{j=1}^{k_n-1} P\left\{\frac{T_{n,j}}{\Delta_j a} < \frac{T_{n,j+1}}{\Delta_{j+1} a}\right\} \equiv \sum_{j=1}^{k_n-1} P(B_{n,j})$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^{k_n-1} P\left(B_{n,j} \cap \{|T_{n,i} - 1/k_n| \leq \delta_n/k_n\}, \ i = j, j+1\right)$$

$$+ \sum_{j=1}^{k_n-1} P\left(B_{n,j} \cap \{|T_{n,i} - 1/k_n| > \delta_n/k_n\}, \ i = j, j+1\right)$$

$$\equiv I_n + II_n.$$

• If  $|T_{n,i} - 1/k_n| \le \delta_n/k_n$ , i = j, j + 1, and

$$\frac{\Delta_{j+1}a}{\Delta_{j}a} \ge 1 + 3\delta_n,\tag{1}$$

we have

$$T_{n,j} \ge \frac{1}{k_n} - \frac{\delta_n}{k_n} = \frac{1 - \delta_n}{k_n},$$
 $T_{n,j+1} \le \frac{1 + \delta_n}{k_n},$ 
 $\frac{T_{n,j}}{\Delta_j a} \Delta_{j+1} a \ge \frac{1 - \delta_n}{k_n} (1 + 3\delta_n) \ge \frac{1 - \delta_n}{k_n} \frac{1 + \delta_n}{1 - \delta_n} \ge T_{n,j+1}$ 

if  $\delta_n \leq 1/3$ . Thus when (1) holds, the events in the sum  $I_n$  are empty and hence  $I_n = 0$ .

## To show that (1) holds, note that

$$\Delta_{j+1}a = F^{-1}(\frac{j+1}{k}) - F^{-1}(\frac{j}{k})$$

$$= \frac{1}{k} \frac{1}{f(a_j)} + \frac{1}{2k_n^2} \frac{-f'}{f^3}(\xi), \quad a_j \le \xi \le a_{j+1}$$

$$\Delta_j a \le \frac{1}{k} \frac{1}{f(a_j)},$$

SO

$$\frac{\Delta_{j+1}a}{\Delta_{j}a} \geq 1 + \frac{1}{2k_{n}}f(a_{j})\frac{-f'(\xi)}{f^{3}(\xi)} \geq 1 + \frac{1}{2k_{n}}\frac{-f'(\xi)}{f^{2}(\xi)}$$

$$\geq 1 + \frac{1}{2k_{n}}\beta_{1}(F) \geq 1 + 3\delta_{n}$$

if 
$$\delta_n \equiv \beta_1(F)/(6k_n)$$
 (so  $3\delta_n = \beta_1(F)/(2k_n)$ ).

Then it follows from Lemma 1 that

$$II_{n} \leq 2\sum_{j=1}^{k_{n}} P(|T_{n,j} - 1/k_{n}| > \delta_{n}/k_{n})$$

$$\leq 4\sum_{j=1}^{k_{n}} \exp(-2^{-1}np_{n}\delta_{n}^{2}(1 + o(1)))$$

$$\leq 4k_{n} \exp(-2^{-1}np_{n}^{3}\frac{\beta_{1}^{2}(F)}{36}(1 + o(1)))$$

$$\leq 4k_{n} \exp(-np_{n}^{3}\frac{\beta_{1}^{2}(F)}{80})$$

for n sufficiently large. Choosing

 $1/k_n \asymp p_n = (7\log n/(3Kn))^{1/3}$  where  $K = \beta_1^2(F)/80$  makes this bound smaller than  $4n^{-2}$  for n sufficiently large.  $\square$ 

## 3. The convex case, k=2.

• Suppose that  $\widetilde{f}_n = \widetilde{H}_n^{(2)}$  where:

(a) 
$$\widetilde{H}_n(x) \geq \mathbb{Y}_n(x) \equiv \int_0^x \mathbb{F}_n(s) ds$$
,

(b) 
$$\int_0^\infty (\widetilde{H}_n - \mathbb{Y}_n) d\widetilde{H}_n^{(3)} = 0.$$

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• Theorem. If  $f(t_0) > 0$ ,  $f''(t_0) > 0$  and f and f'' are continuous in a neighborhood of  $t_0$ , then

$$\begin{pmatrix} n^{3/5}(\widetilde{F}_n(t_0 + n^{-1/5}t) - \mathbb{F}_n(t_0 + n^{-1/5}t)) \\ n^{4/5}(\widetilde{H}_n(t_0 + n^{-1/5}t) - \mathbb{Y}_n(t_0 + n^{-1/5}t)) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} c_1(f, t_0)(H_2^{(1)}(at) - \mathbb{Y}_2^{(1)}(at)) \\ c_2(f, t_0)(H_2(at) - \mathbb{Y}_2(at)) \end{pmatrix}$$

where

• the processes  $\mathbb{Y}_2$  and  $H_2$  are described by

$$\mathbb{Y}_2(t) = \int_0^t W(s)ds + t^4,$$
 $H_2(t) \ge \mathbb{Y}_2(t) \text{ for all } t \in \mathbb{R},$ 
 $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (H_2 - \mathbb{Y}_2)dH_2^{(3)} = 0,$ 

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• the constants  $c_i(f, t_0)$  are given by

$$c_1(f, t_0) = \left(24 \frac{f(t_0)^3}{f''(t_0)}\right)^{1/5}, \quad c_2(f, t_0) = \left(24^3 \frac{f(t_0)^4}{f''(t_0)^3}\right)^{1/5},$$

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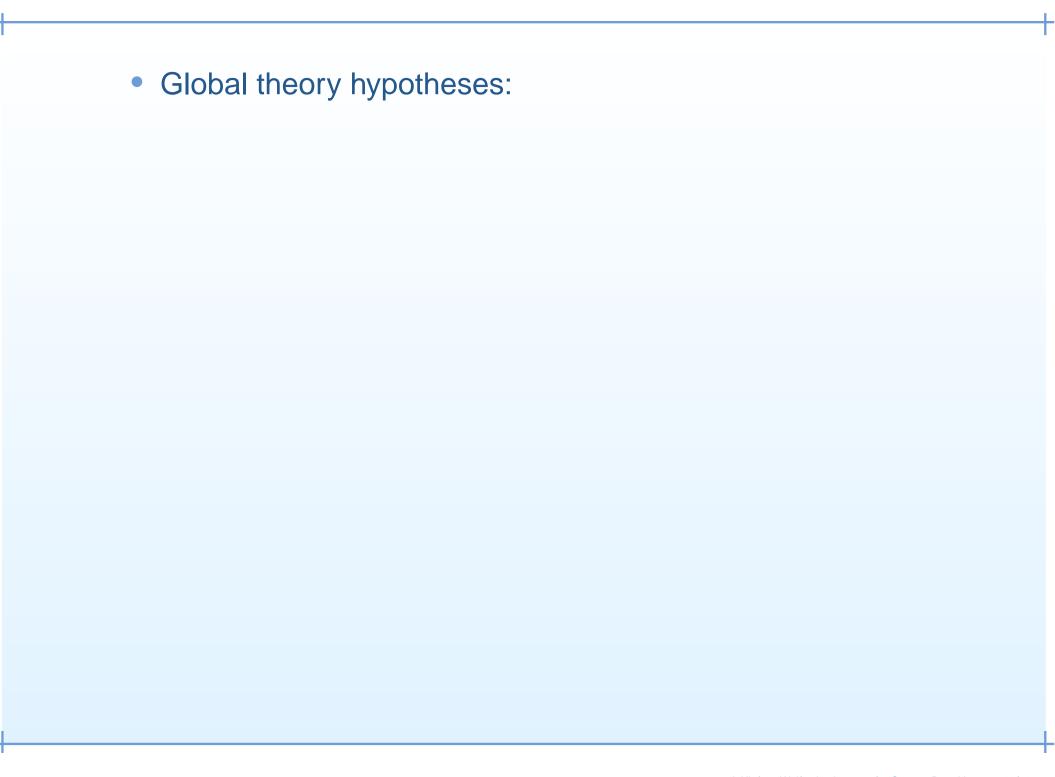
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and the constant a is defined by

$$a = \left(\frac{f''(t_0)^2}{24^2 f(t_0)}\right)^{1/5}.$$



- Global theory hypotheses:
  - $^{\circ}$  R1. F has continuous 3rd derivative  $F^{(3)}=f''(t)>0$ ,  $t\in[0,\tau]$ , and

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 R3.  $\gamma_2(F,\tau) \equiv \sup_{0 < t < \tau} f''(t) / \inf_{0 < t < \tau} f^3(t) < \infty$ .

- Global theory hypotheses:
  - $\circ$  R1. F has continuous 3rd derivative  $F^{(3)}=f''(t)>0$ ,  $t\in[0,\tau]$ , and

$$\beta_2(F,\tau) \equiv \inf_{0 < t < \tau} \frac{f''(t)}{f^3(t)} > 0.$$

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- **R4.**  $R \equiv \max\{1, f(0)\}/f(\tau) < \infty$ .

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- **R4.**  $R \equiv \max\{1, f(0)\}/f(\tau) < \infty$ .
- Theorem. Suppose that R1 R4 hold. Then

$$\|\widetilde{F}_n - \mathbb{F}_n\| \equiv \sup_{0 < t < \tau} |\widetilde{F}_n(t) - \mathbb{F}_n(t)| = O\left(\left(\frac{\log n}{n}\right)^{3/5}\right)$$
 a.s.

$$\sqrt{n}(\widetilde{F}_n - F) = \sqrt{n}(\mathbb{F}_n - F) + O(n^{-1/10}(\log n)^{3/5})$$
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uniformly on  $[0, \tau]$ .

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Outline of the Proof of the KW theorem, convex case:

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- Outline of the Proof of the KW theorem, convex case:
  - Step 1: Analogue of Marshall's lemma for the least squares estimator: for any h with convex second derivative,

$$\|\widetilde{\mathbb{H}}_n^{(1)} - h\| \le 2\|\mathbb{F}_n - h\|.$$

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- Outline of the Proof of the KW theorem, convex case:
  - Step 1: Analogue of Marshall's lemma for the least squares estimator: for any h with convex second derivative,

$$\|\widetilde{\mathbb{H}}_n^{(1)} - h\| \le 2\|\mathbb{F}_n - h\|.$$

 $\circ$  Step 2: Construct  $\mathbb{H}_{n,k_n}$  (convenient), show that

$$P_F(A_n) \equiv P_F(\mathbb{H}_{n,k_n}^{(2)} \text{ is convex on } [0,\infty)) \ge 1 - n^{-2}$$

for all n sufficiently large if

$$k = k_n = (C_0 \beta_2(F, \tau) n / \log n)^{1/5}$$
 for some  $C_0$ .



- Proof outline, continued:
  - $\circ$  Step 3. On  $A_n$  note that by the analogue of Marshall's lemma we have

$$\|\widetilde{F}_{n} - \mathbb{F}_{n}\| \leq \|\widetilde{H}_{n}^{(1)} - \mathbb{H}_{n,k_{n}}^{(1)} + \mathbb{H}_{n,k_{n}}^{(1)} - \mathbb{F}_{n}\|$$

$$\leq \|\widetilde{H}_{n}^{(1)} - \mathbb{H}_{n,k_{n}}^{(1)}\| + \|\mathbb{H}_{n,k_{n}}^{(1)} - \mathbb{F}_{n}\|$$

$$\leq 2\|\mathbb{F}_{n} - \mathbb{H}_{n,k_{n}}^{(1)}\| + \|\mathbb{H}_{n,k_{n}}^{(1)}\| - \mathbb{F}_{n}\|$$

$$= 3\|\mathbb{F}_{n} - \mathbb{H}_{n,k_{n}}^{(1)}\|$$

$$\leq 3\{\|\mathbb{F}_{n} - F - (\mathbb{H}_{n,k_{n}}^{(1)} - H_{k_{n}}^{(1)})\| + \|F - H_{k_{n}}^{(1)}\|\}$$

$$\equiv 3D_{n} + 3E_{n}.$$

- Proof outline, continued:
  - $\circ$  Step 3. On  $A_n$  note that by the analogue of Marshall's lemma we have

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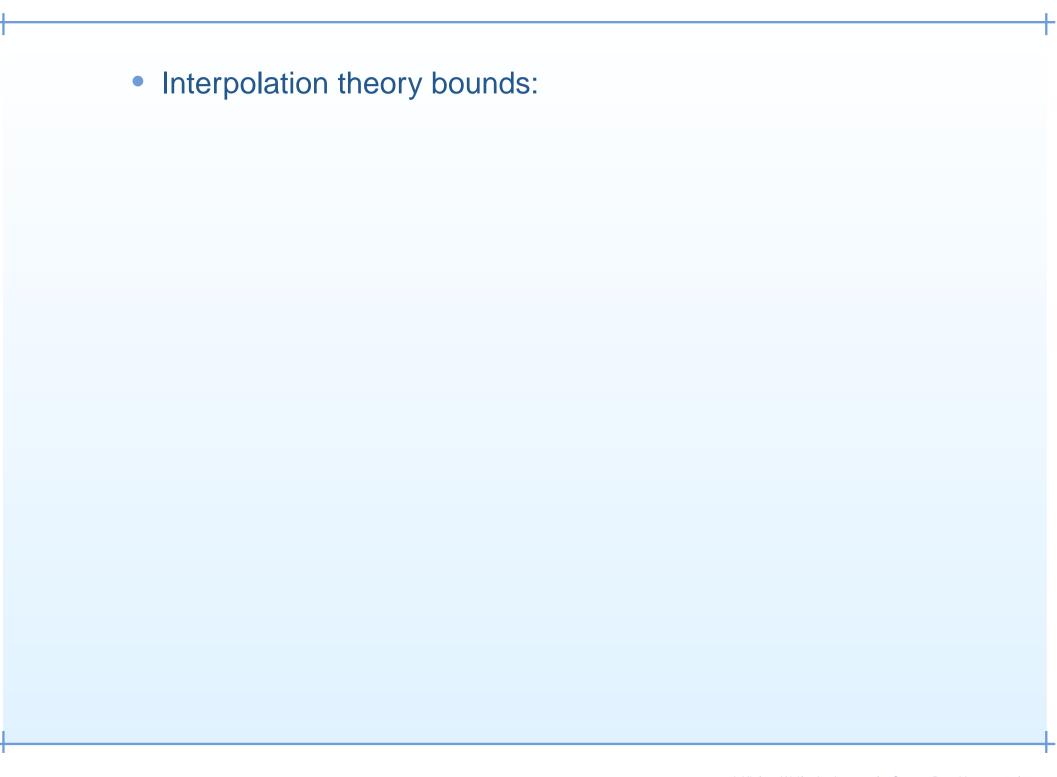
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• Step 4. Fix  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Take  $\mathbb{H}_{n,k_n} = I_4 \mathbb{Y}_n$ ,  $H_n = I_4 Y$  where  $I_4 g$  is the "complete spline interpolant" of g based on the knots  $a_j \equiv F^{-1}((j/k)F(\tau))$ ,  $j=0,1,\ldots,k$ . Thus  $\mathbb{H}_{n,k}^{(1)} = (I_4 \mathbb{Y}_n)^{(1)}$ ,  $H_n = (I_4 Y)^{(1)}$ .



- Interpolation theory bounds:
  - $^{\circ}$  If g has bounded 4th derivative  $g^{(4)}$ , then

$$||g^{(1)} - (I_4g)^{(1)}|| \le \frac{1}{24}|a|^3||g^{(4)}||.$$

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 $\circ$  Applying this to  $Y(t) = \int_0^t F(s) ds$  yields

$$E_n = \|Y^{(1)} - H_{k_n}^{(1)}\| \le \frac{1}{24} |a|^3 \|Y^{(4)}\|$$

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• To handle the random term  $D_n$ , use de Boor's (2001) bounds together with empirical process oscillation theory:

• The random term  $D_n$  is bounded as follows:

$$D_{n} = \|\mathbb{F}_{n} - F - (\mathbb{H}_{n,k_{n}}^{(1)} - H_{k_{n}}^{(1)})\|$$

$$= \|(\mathbb{Y}_{n} - Y)^{(1)} - (I_{4}(\mathbb{Y}_{n} - Y))^{(1)}\|$$

$$\leq (19/4)\operatorname{dist}((\mathbb{Y}_{n} - Y)^{(1)}, \$_{3})$$

$$\leq (19/4)\operatorname{dist}((\mathbb{Y}_{n} - Y)^{(1)}, \$_{2})$$

$$\leq (19/4)\|(\mathbb{Y}_{n} - Y)^{(1)} - [I_{2}(\mathbb{Y}_{n} - Y))^{(1)}]\|$$

$$\leq (19/4)\|\mathbb{F}_{n} - F - I_{2}(\mathbb{F}_{n} - F)\|$$

$$\leq (19/4)\omega(\mathbb{F}_{n} - F; |a|) \leq (19/4)n^{-1/2}\omega(\mathbb{U}_{n}; Rp_{n})$$

$$\leq O(n^{-1/2}\sqrt{p_{n}\log(1/p_{n})}) \text{ a.s.}$$

$$= O((n^{-1}\log n)^{3/5})$$

if we choose  $p_n = (Mn^{-1} \log n)^{1/5}$  for some M; cf. de Boor (2001), pages 56 and 36.

• It remains to prove that step 2 holds: i.e. show that

$$P_F(A_n) \equiv P_F(\mathbb{H}_{n,k_n}^{(2)} \text{ is convex on } [0,\infty)) \ge 1 - n^{-2}$$

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Let

$$\mathbb{S}_{n,k} \equiv \mathbb{H}_{n,k_n} = I_4 \mathbb{Y}_n \equiv \mathcal{C} \mathbb{Y}_n,$$
  
$$S_{n,k} = H_{k_n} = I_4 Y \equiv \mathcal{C} Y.$$

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• The slope of  $\mathbb{S}_{n,k}^{(2)}$  on  $[a_{j-1},a_j]$  is

$$B_{j} \equiv B_{j}(CS) = \frac{12}{(\Delta_{j}a)^{3}} \left\{ \frac{\mathbb{S}_{n,k}^{(1)}(a_{j-1}) + \mathbb{S}_{n,k}^{(1)}(a_{j})}{2} \Delta_{j}a - \Delta_{j}\mathbb{Y}_{n} \right\}$$

$$\equiv \frac{12}{(\Delta_{j}a)^{3}} T_{n,j}$$

• The slope of the Hermite interpolant on  $[a_{j-1}, a_j]$  is

$$\tilde{B}_{j} \equiv B_{j}(Herm) = \frac{12}{(\Delta_{j}a)^{3}} \left\{ \frac{\mathbb{F}_{n}(a_{j-1}) + \mathbb{F}_{n}(a_{j})}{2} \Delta_{j}a - \Delta_{j}\mathbb{Y}_{n} \right\}$$

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$$\equiv \frac{12}{(\Delta_{j}a)^{3}} R_{n,j}$$

• Corresponding to the random  $T_{n,j}$  and  $R_{n,j}$  the corresponding population values are given by

$$t_{n,j} = \frac{(\mathcal{C}[Y])^{(1)}(a_{j-1}) + (\mathcal{C}[Y])^{(1)}(a_j)}{2} \Delta_j a - \Delta_j Y,$$
$$r_{n,j} = \frac{Y^{(1)}(a_{j-1}) + Y^{(1)}(a_j)}{2} \Delta_j a - \Delta_j Y.$$

# We write

$$T_{j} - r_{j} = T_{j} - t_{j} + t_{j} - r_{j}$$
  
 $= R_{j} - r_{j} + (T_{j} - t_{j} - (R_{j} - r_{j})) + t_{j} - r_{j}$   
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• For  $0 \le s < t < \infty$ , set

$$h_{s,t}(x) = \left(x - \frac{s+t}{2}\right) 1_{[s,t]}(x).$$

• Then:

$$Ph_{s,t} = \int h_{s,t}(x)dF(x) = \frac{1}{2}(F(t) + F(s))(t - s) - \int_{s}^{t} F(u)du,$$

$$\mathbb{P}_{n}h_{s,t} = \int h_{s,t}(x)d\mathbb{F}_{n}(x) = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbb{F}_{n}(t) + \mathbb{F}_{n}(s))(t - s) - \int_{s}^{t} \mathbb{F}_{n}(u)du,$$

$$r_{n,j} = Ph_{a_{j-1},a_{j}}, \quad R_{n,j} = \mathbb{P}_{n}h_{a_{j-1},a_{j}}.$$

$$Pr(|R_{n,j} - r_{n,j}| > \delta_n p_n^3) = Pr(|(\mathbb{P}_n - P)h_{s,t}| > \delta_n p_n^3)$$

$$\leq 2\exp(-3n\delta_n^2 p_n^3 f^2(a_j^*)(1 + o(1))).$$

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Proof. Bernstein's inequality.

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- Proof. Bernstein's inequality.
- Lemma. With  $A_j \equiv T_{n,j} t_{n,j} (R_{n,j} r_{n,j})$ ,

$$Pr(|A_j| > \delta_n p_n^3) \le 4 \exp(-100^{-1} n \delta_n^2 p_n^3 f^2(a_j^*) (1 + o(1))).$$

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Proof. Interpolation theory bounds and Bernstein's inequality.

$$Pr(|R_{n,j} - r_{n,j}| > \delta_n p_n^3) = Pr(|(\mathbb{P}_n - P)h_{s,t}| > \delta_n p_n^3)$$

$$\leq 2\exp(-3n\delta_n^2 p_n^3 f^2(a_j^*)(1 + o(1))).$$

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- Lemma.

$$Pr(|T_{n,j} - r_{n,j}| > 3\delta_n p_n^3) \le 6 \exp(-100^{-1} n \delta_n^2 p_n^3 f^2(a_j^*)(1 + o(1))).$$

$$Pr(|R_{n,j} - r_{n,j}| > \delta_n p_n^3) = Pr(|(\mathbb{P}_n - P)h_{s,t}| > \delta_n p_n^3)$$

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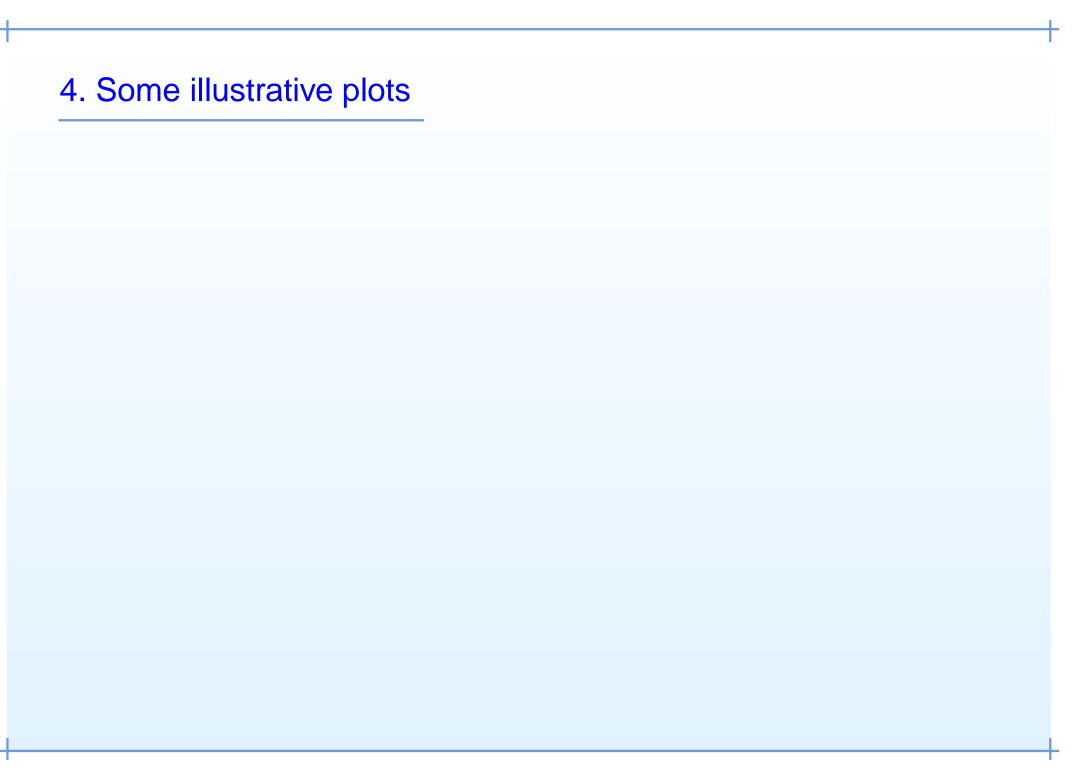
$$Pr(|T_{n,j} - r_{n,j}| > 3\delta_n p_n^3) \le 6 \exp(-100^{-1} n \delta_n^2 p_n^3 f^2(a_j^*)(1 + o(1))).$$

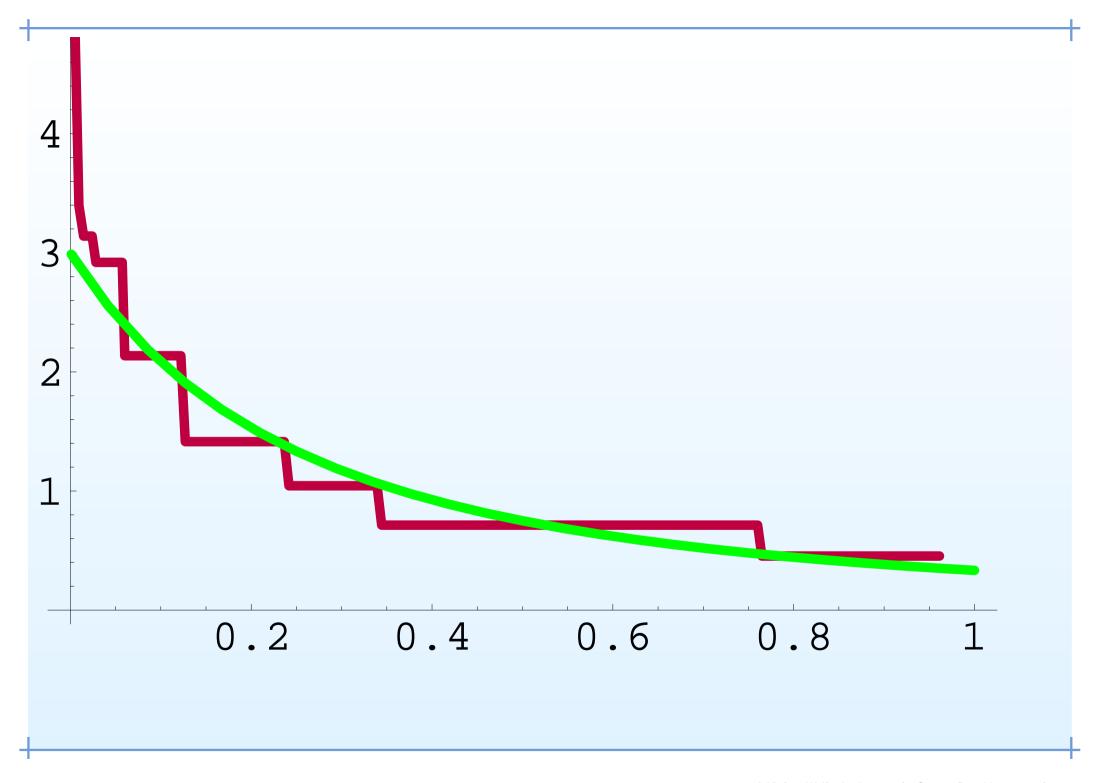
• Proof. Combine the previous 3 lemmas

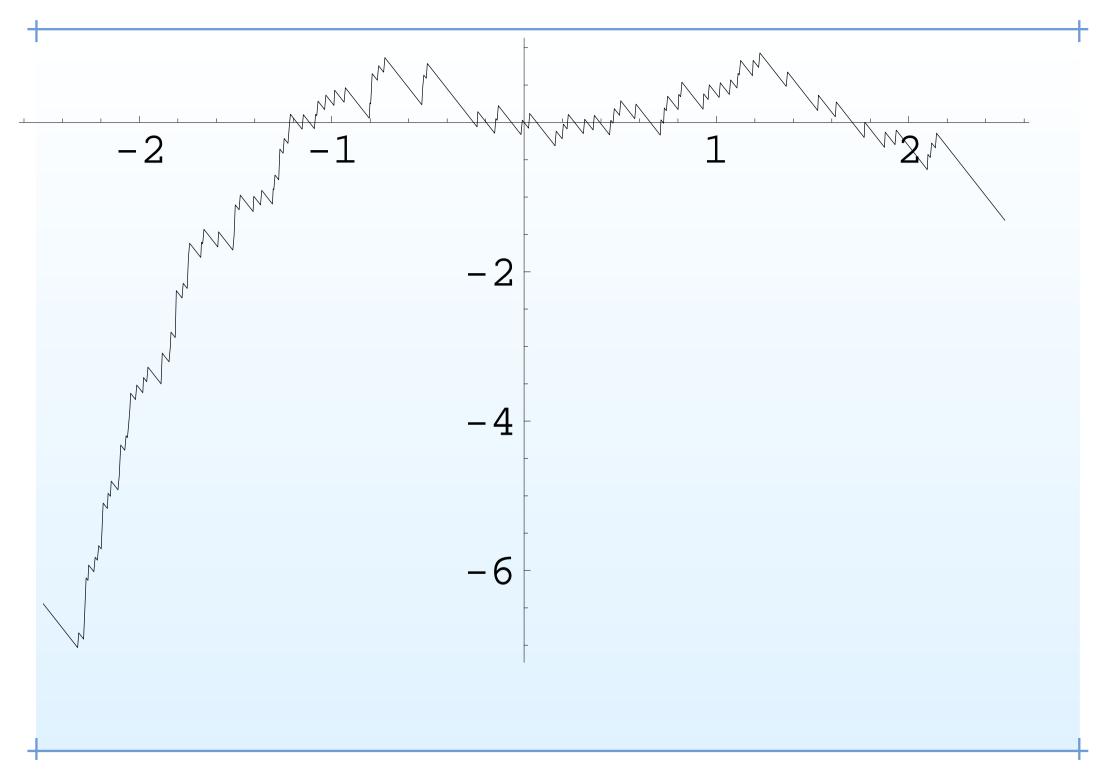
• Lemma. (Final exponential bound for step 2.)

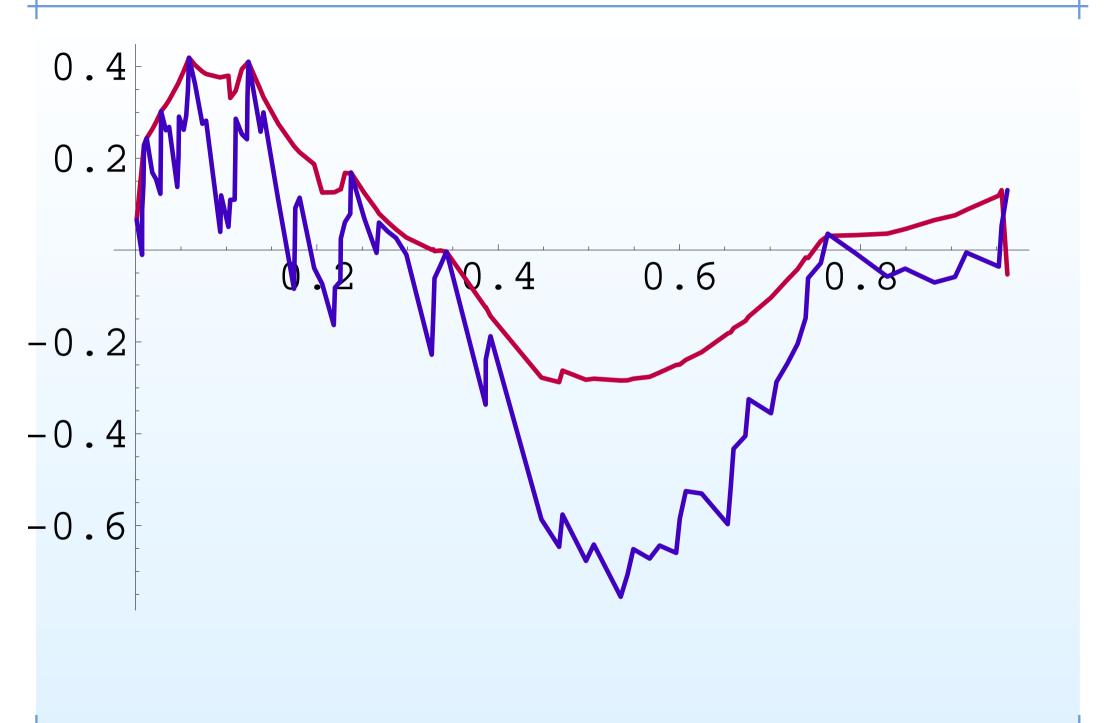
$$P_F(A_n^c) \le 12k_n \exp(-K\beta_2^2(F,\tau)np_n^5)$$

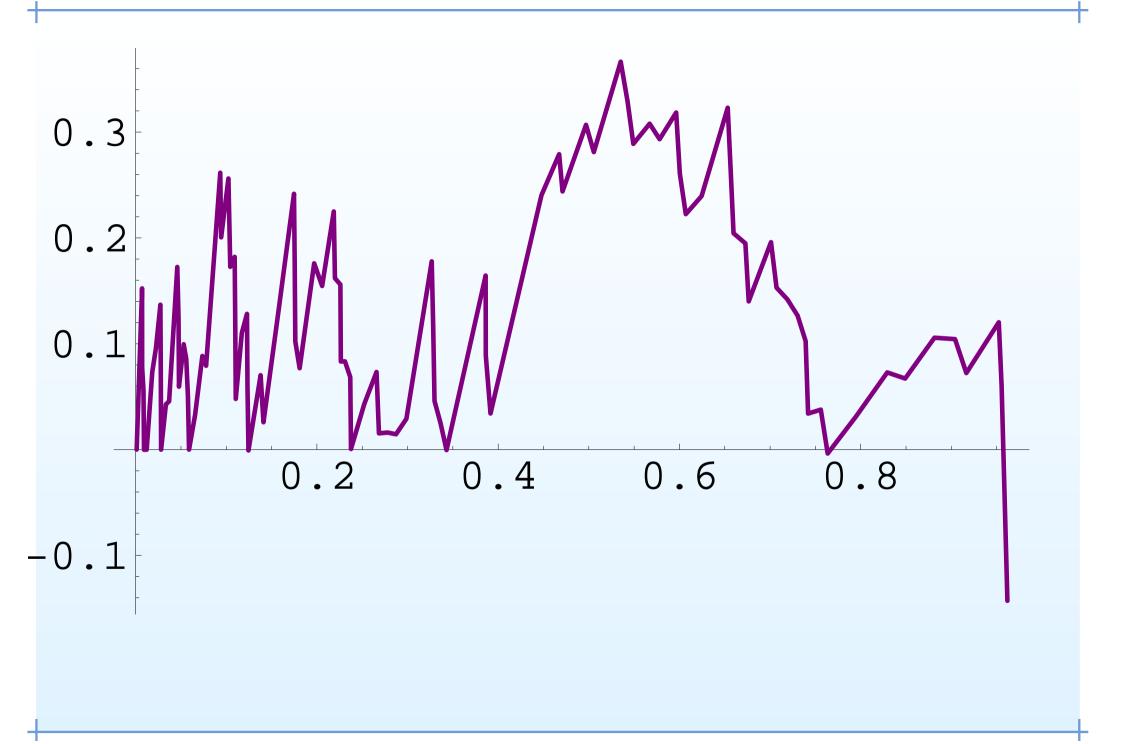
where 
$$K^{-1} = 4246732800 \le 4.3 \times 10^9$$
.

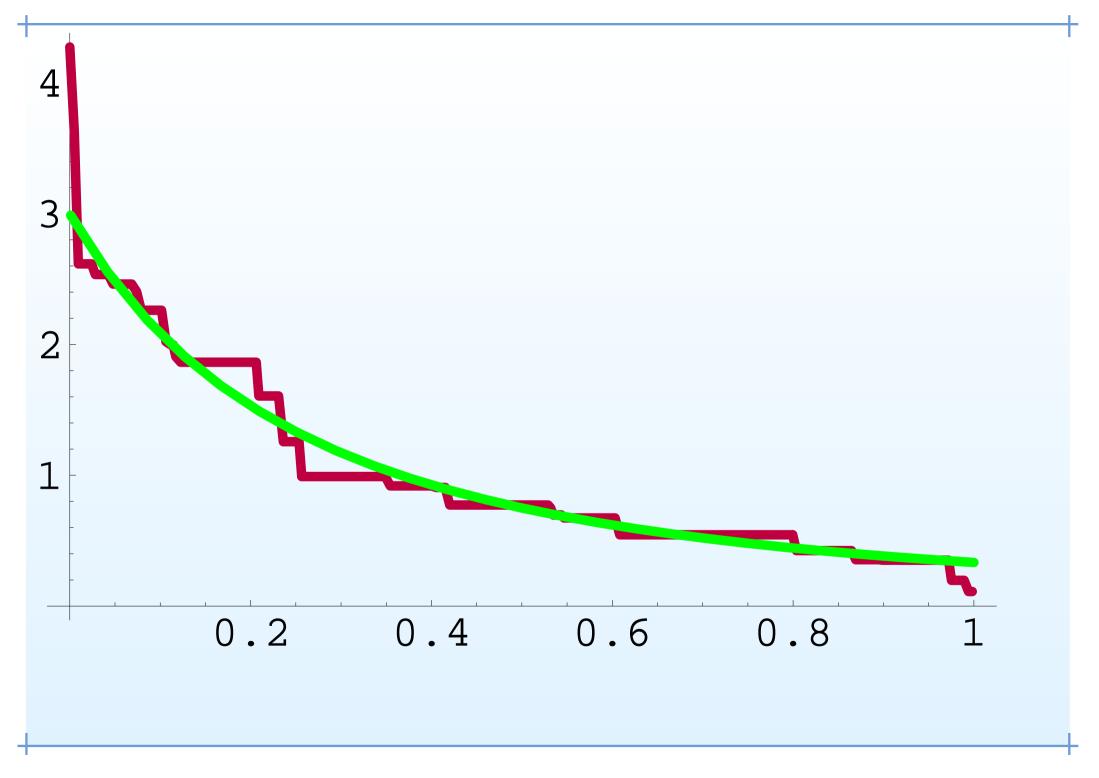


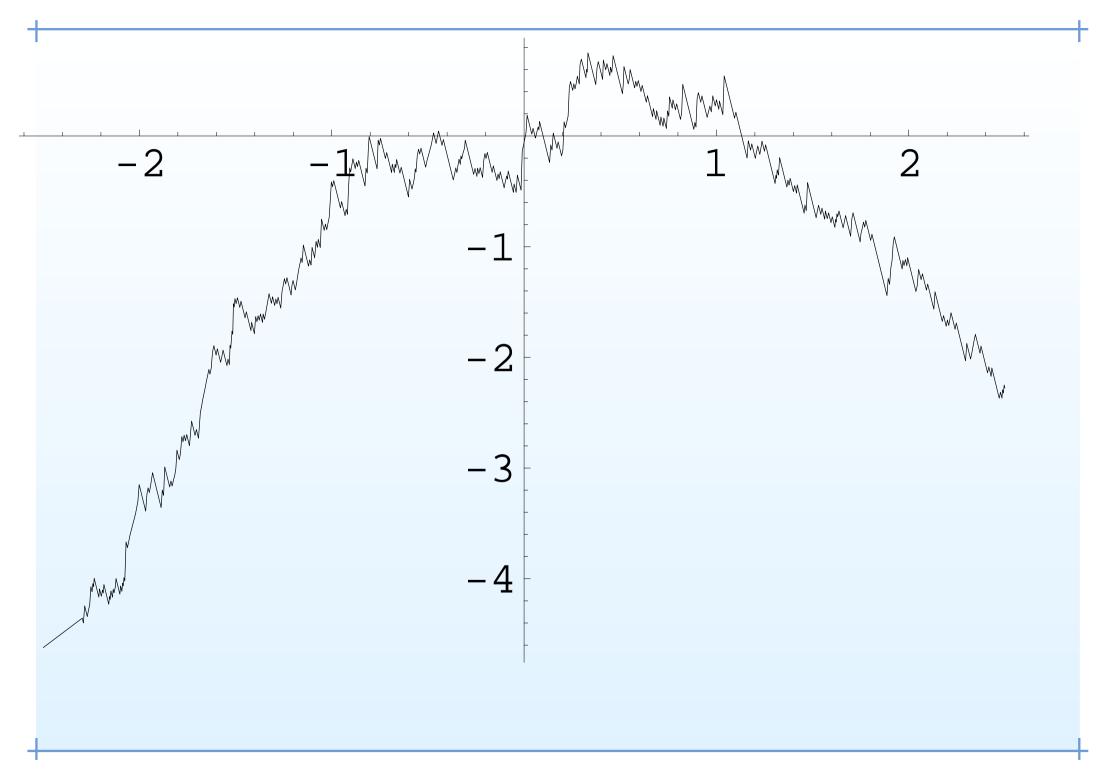


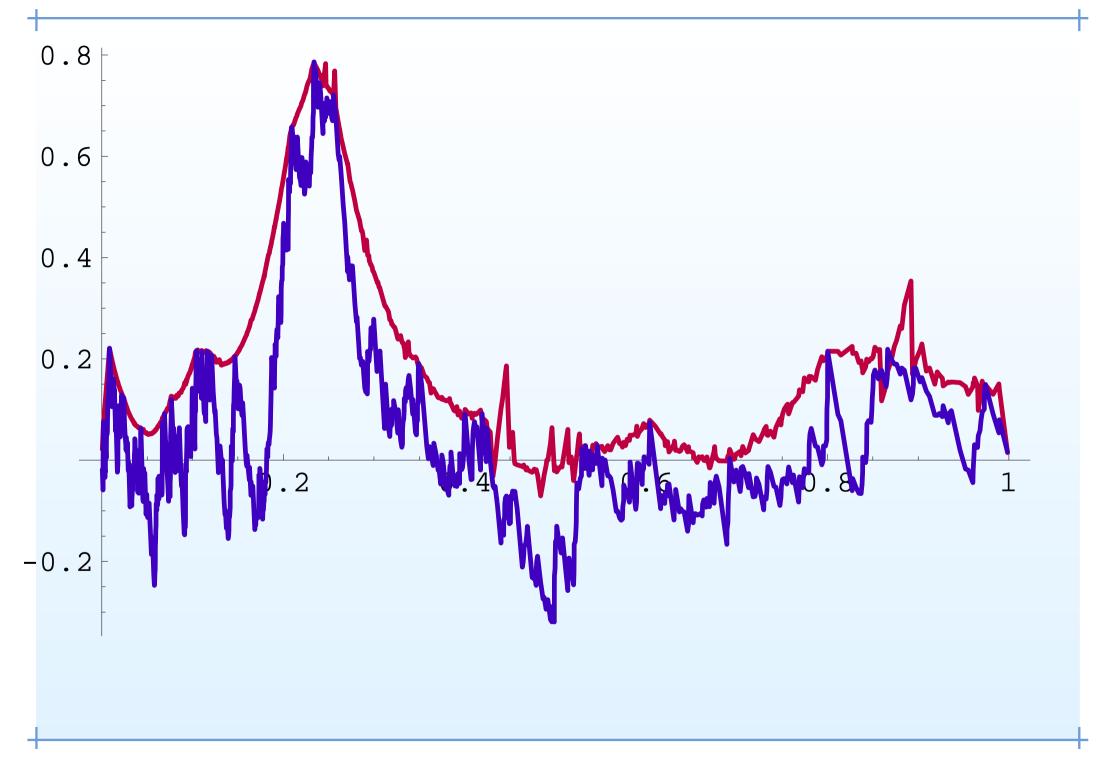


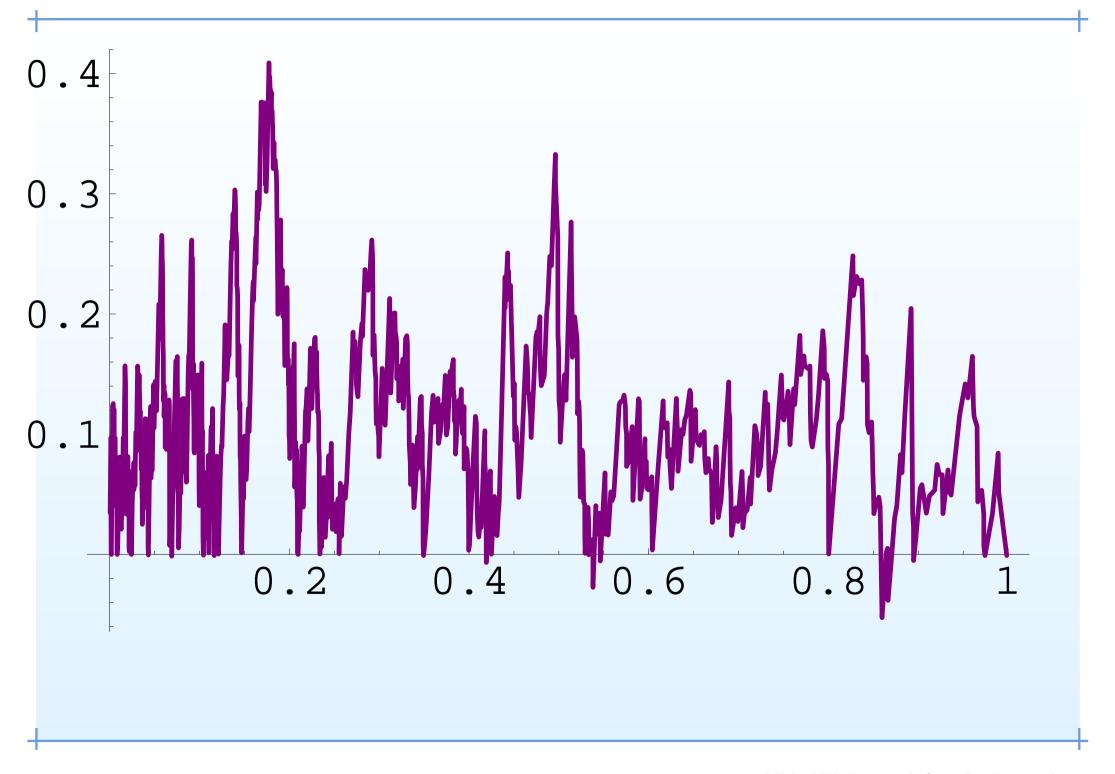


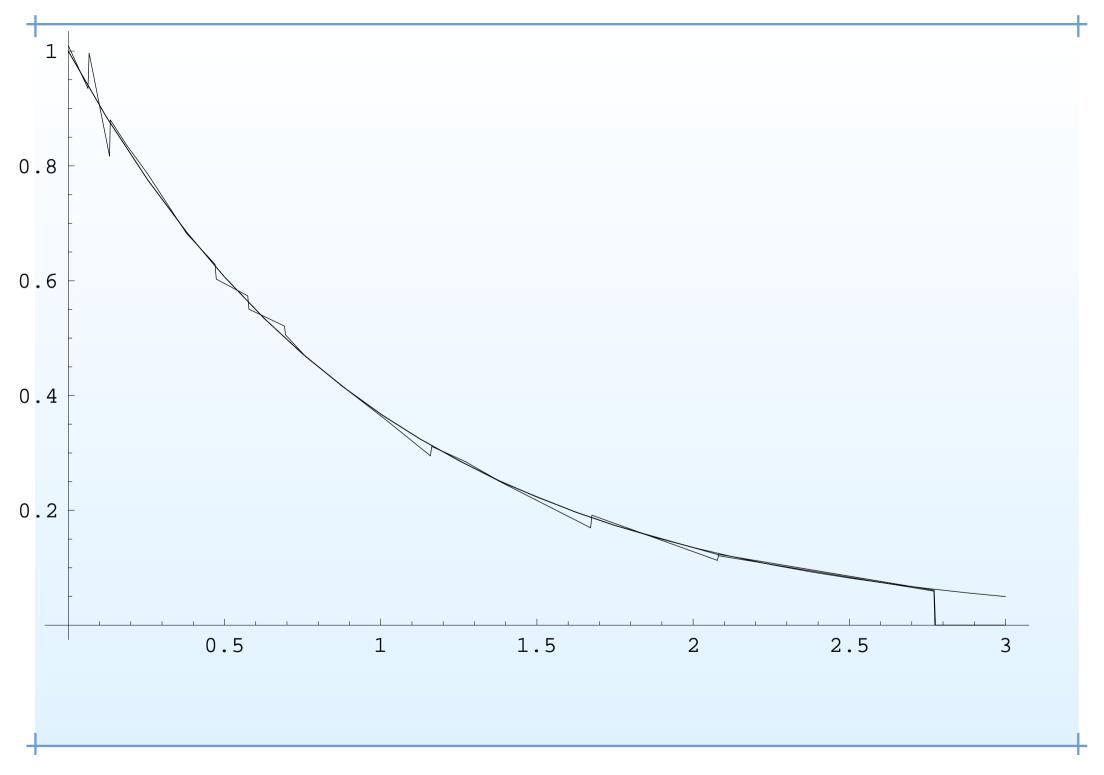


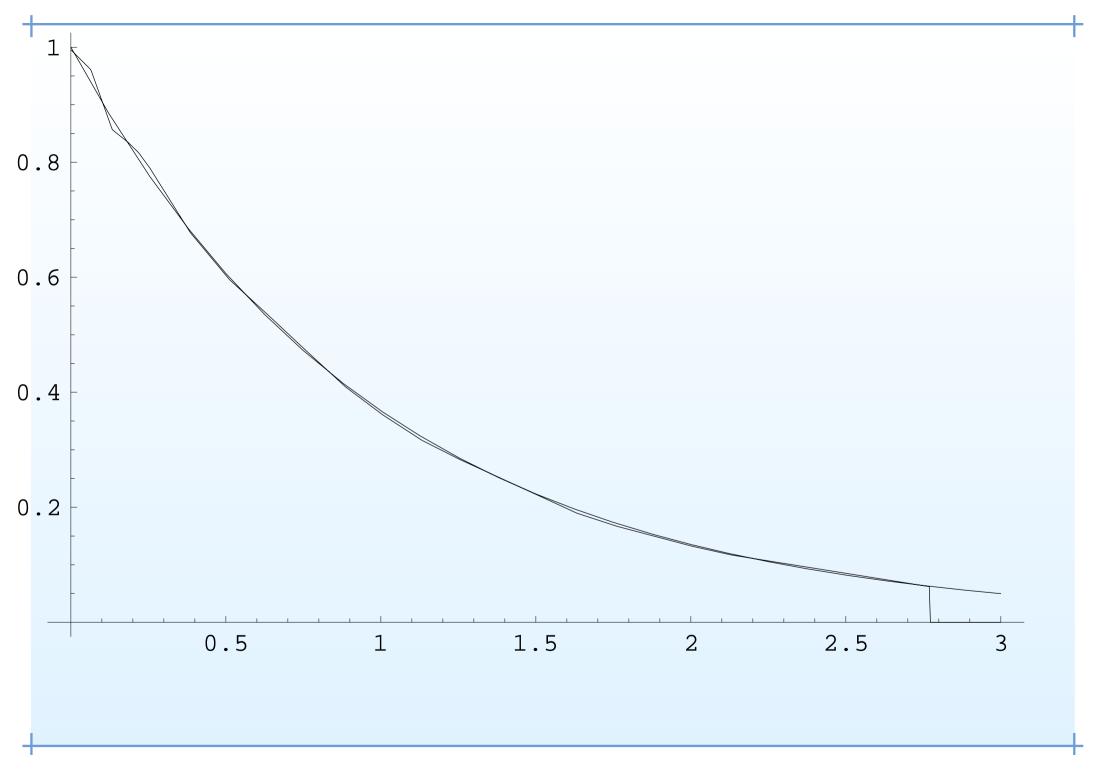












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