

*Some Theory for Estimation
with Shape Constraints*

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- *Email: jaw@stat.washington.edu*
<http://www.stat.washington.edu/jaw/jaw.research.html>
- Based on joint work with Piet Groeneboom, Geurt Jongbloed;
former Ph.D. Students Jian Huang, Moulinath Banerjee,
Fadoua Balabdaoui, Marloes Maathuis, and Shuguang Song;
current Ph.D. student Marios Pavlides, current post-doc
Hanna Jankowski;
and the work of many others.

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- Problems and directions ...

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- **Step 6.** Preservation of (localized) Fenchel relations in the limit.

- **Step 7.** Unique (Gaussian world) estimator resulting from localized limit processes and limit Fenchel relations

Global analogues:

- Global rate result via Birgé & Massart, Wong & Shen global rate theorem (van der Vaart and Wellner (1996), Theorems 3.2.5 or 3.4.4).

- **Step 7.** Unique (Gaussian world) estimator resulting from localized limit processes and limit Fenchel relations
- **Step 8** Cross-check/compare limiting result with local pointwise lower bound theory provided by Groeneboom's lemma (Donoho & Liu, Le Cam).

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- Global minimax lower bounds (Assouad's lemma or Fano's lemma).

1.2 Illustration of the pattern: the Grenander estimator

Step 0. $X \sim f$ on $[0, \infty)$ with $f \searrow 0$.

Step 1. Optimization criterion: log-likelihood or least squares

$$\hat{f}_n = \operatorname{argmax}_{f \in \mathcal{M}} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n \log f(X_i) \right\} = \operatorname{argmin} \psi_n(f)$$

where

$$\psi_n(f) \equiv \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty f^2(x) dx - \int_0^\infty f(x) d\mathbb{F}_n(x).$$

Step 2. Characterization: the Fenchel conditions

$$\mathbb{F}_n(x) \leq \hat{F}_n(x) \equiv \int_0^x \hat{f}_n(t) dt \quad \text{for all } x \in [0, \infty), \text{ and}$$

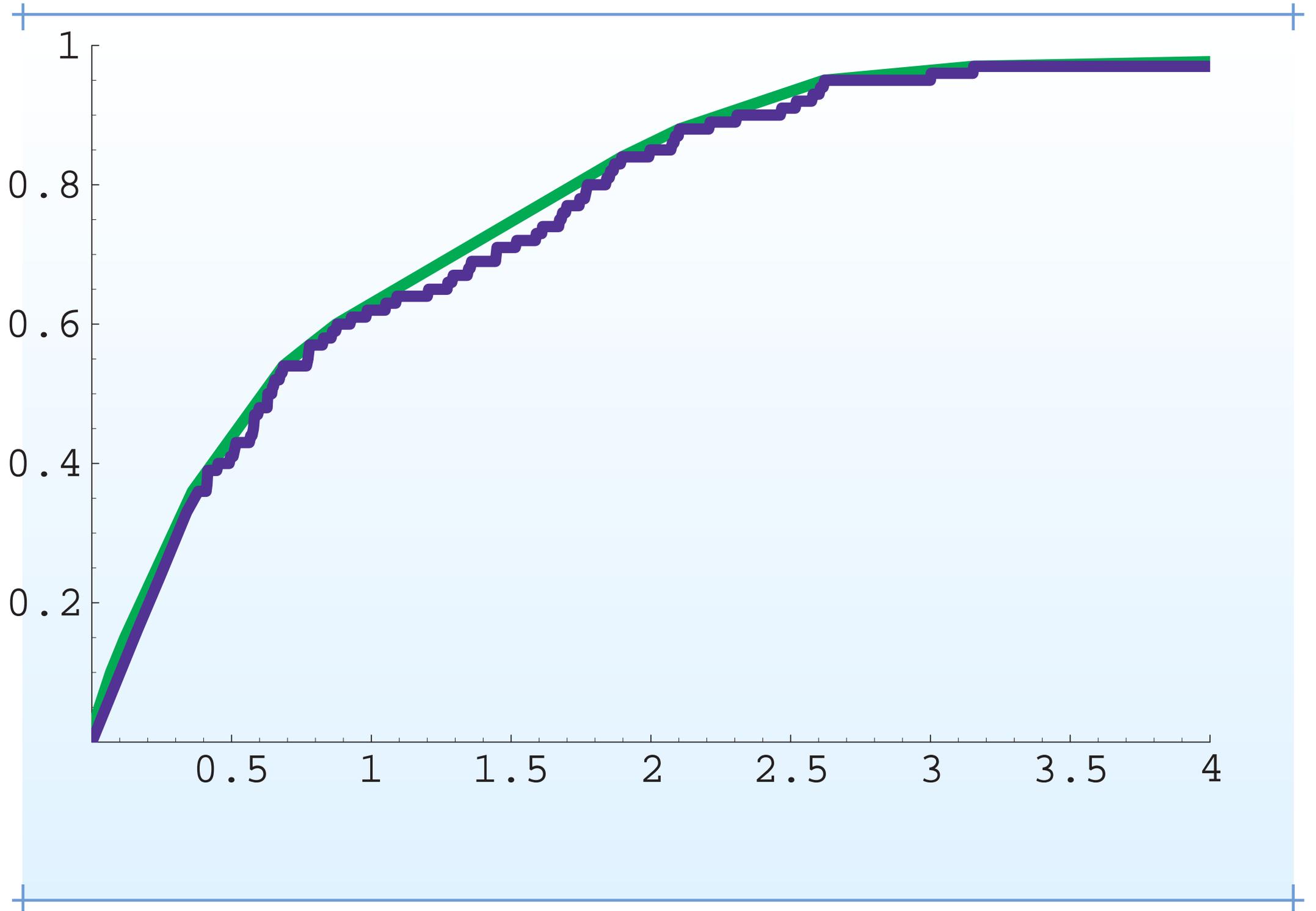
$$\mathbb{F}_n(x) = \hat{F}_n(x) \quad \text{if and only if } \hat{f}_n(x-) > \hat{f}_n(x+).$$

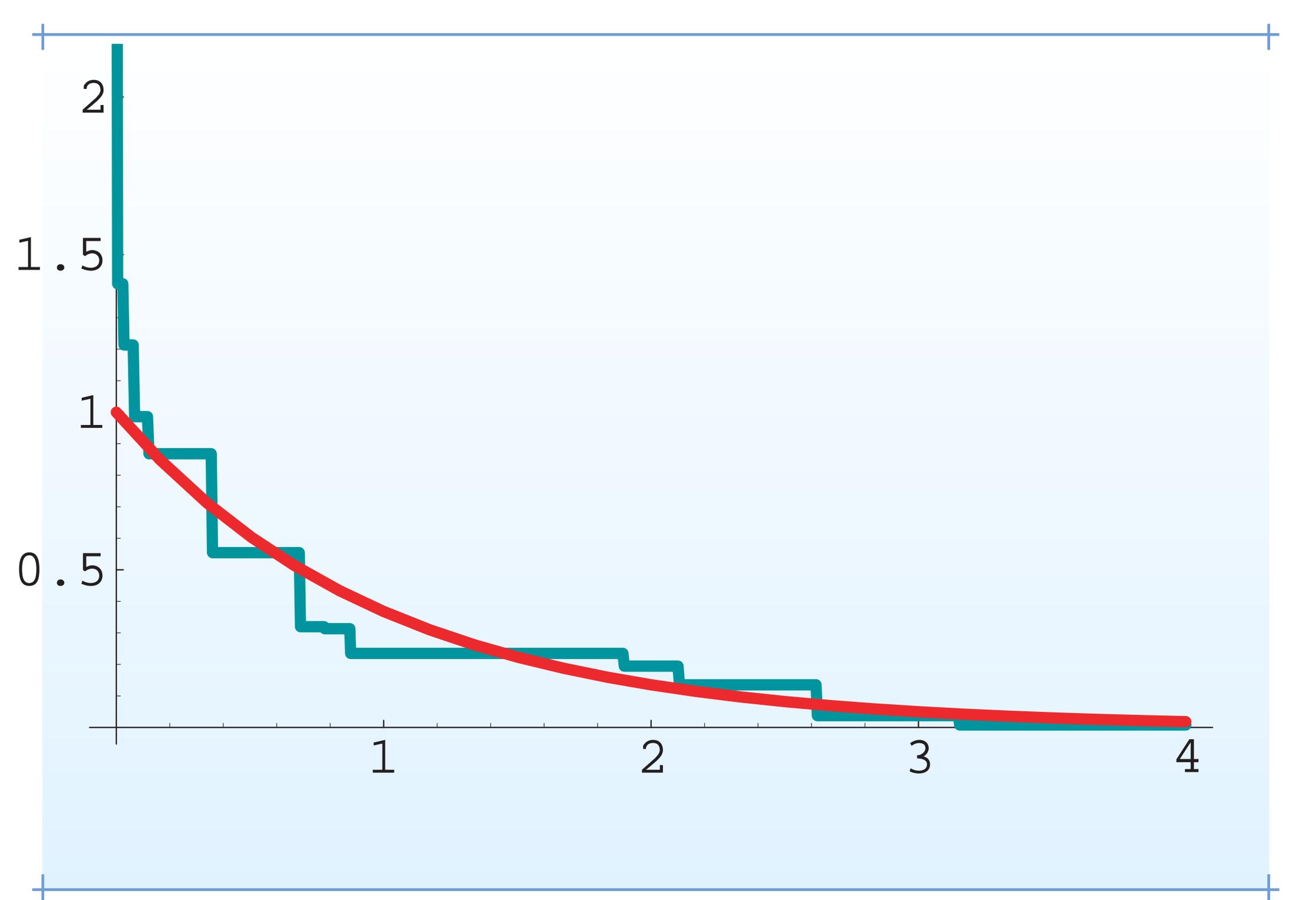
The second of these is equivalent to

$$\int_0^{\infty} (\hat{F}_n(x) - \mathbb{F}_n(x)) d\hat{f}_n(x) = 0.$$

The geometric interpretation of these two conditions is

$\hat{f}_n(x) =$ the left-derivative of the slope at x of the least concave majorant \hat{F}_n of \mathbb{F}_n





Special feature:

Grenander and other monotone function problems.

Switching

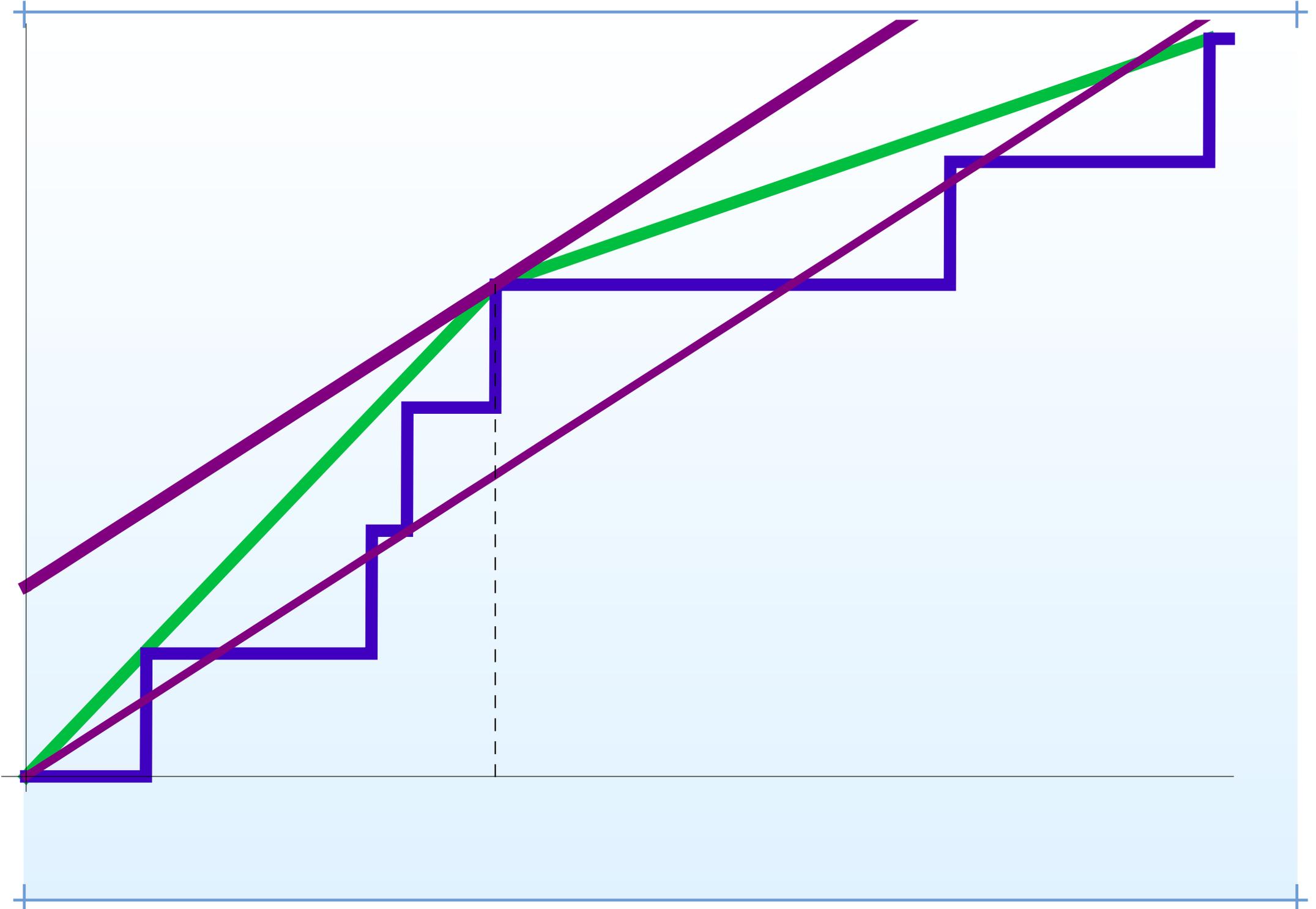
Let

$$\hat{s}_n(a) \equiv \operatorname{argmax}_s \{F_n(s) - as\}, \quad a > 0.$$

Then for each fixed $t \in (0, \infty)$ and $a > 0$

$$\left\{ \hat{f}_n(t) \leq a \right\} = \left\{ \hat{s}_n(a) \leq t \right\}.$$

Warning: Not available (yet?) for other models.



Steps 3-8 in Case 1. When f is the Uniform density on $[0, 1]$, Groeneboom and Pyke (1983) show that for each $x_0 \in (0, 1)$

$$\sqrt{n}(\hat{f}_n(x_0) - f(x_0)) \rightarrow_d \mathbb{S}(x_0)$$

where \mathbb{S} is the left derivative of the least concave majorant \mathbb{C} of a standard Brownian bridge process \mathbb{U} on $[0, 1]$. See handout.

- “Driving process” is \mathbb{U} .
- Process related to estimator maintaining Fenchel relations in the limit is \mathbb{C} and its slope process $\mathbb{C}^{(1)} \equiv \mathbb{S}$:

$$\mathbb{C}(t) \geq \mathbb{U}(t) \text{ for all } t \in (0, 1),$$

$$\mathbb{C}(t) = \mathbb{U}(t) \text{ if and only if } \mathbb{C}^{(1)}(t-) > \mathbb{C}^{(1)}(t+).$$

- No localization in this case!

Steps 3-7 in Case 2. When f satisfies $f'(x_0) < 0$, $f(x_0) > 0$ and f' is continuous in a neighborhood of x_0 , then Prakasa-Rao (1970) showed that

$$n^{1/3}(\hat{f}_n(x_0) - f(x_0)) \rightarrow_d (|f'(x_0)f(x_0)|/2)^{1/3}\mathbb{S}(0)$$

where $\mathbb{S}(0)$ is the slope at 0 of the least concave majorant of $W(h) - h^2$ for a two-sided Brownian motion process W .

Proof: See van der Vaart and Wellner (1996), pages 296 - 297.

- “Driving process” is
$$\mathbb{Z}(h) \equiv \sqrt{f(x_0)}W(h) + f'(x_0)h^2 \equiv aW(h) - bh^2.$$
- Process related to estimator maintaining Fenchel relations in the limit is \mathbb{C} and its slope process $\mathbb{C}^{(1)} \equiv \mathbb{S}$:

$$\mathbb{C}(h) \geq \mathbb{Z}(h) \text{ for all } h \in (-\infty, \infty),$$

$$\mathbb{C}(h) = \mathbb{Z}(h) \text{ if and only if } \mathbb{C}^{(1)}(h-) > \mathbb{C}^{(1)}(h+).$$

- Localization rate is $n^{-1/3}$

Steps 3-8 in Case 3. If $f^{(j)}(x_0) = 0, j = 1, \dots, p - 1, f^{(p)}(x_0) \neq 0,$ then from the methods of Wright (1981) and Leurgans (1982) that

$$n^{p/(2p+1)}(\widehat{f}_n(x_0) - f(x_0)) \rightarrow_d (f(x_0)^p A)^{1/(2p+1)} \mathbb{S}_p(0);$$

with $A = f^{(p)}(x_0)/(p + 1)!. Here $\mathbb{S}_p(0)$ is the slope at 0 of the least concave majorant of $W(h) - |h|^{p+1}.$$

- “Driving process” is $\mathbb{Z}(h) \equiv \sqrt{f(x_0)}W(h) - A|h|^{p+1}.$
- Process related to estimator maintaining Fenchel relations in the limit is \mathbb{C}_p and its slope process $\mathbb{C}_p^{(1)} \equiv \mathbb{S}_p:$

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Steps 3-8 in Case 4. If $x_0 \in (a, b)$ with $f(x)$ constant on (a, b) , then Carolan and Dykstra (1999) showed that

$$\sqrt{n}(\hat{f}_n(x_0) - f(x_0)) \rightarrow_d \frac{f(x_0)}{\sqrt{p}} \left\{ \sqrt{1-p}Z + \mathbb{S} \left(\frac{x_0 - a}{b - a} \right) \right\}$$

where $p \equiv f(x_0)(b - a) = F(b) - F(a)$, $Z \sim N(0, 1)$, \mathbb{S} is the process of slopes of a Brownian bridge process \mathbb{U} as in case 1, and Z and \mathbb{S} are independent.

This is much as in case 1, but with a twist or two; see the handout.

- “Driving process” is $\mathbb{Z}(h) \equiv \mathbb{U}(F(a + h)) - \mathbb{U}(F(a))$.
- Process related to estimator maintaining Fenchel relations in the limit is \mathbb{C}_{loc} and its slope process $\mathbb{C}_{loc}^{(1)} \equiv \mathbb{S}_{loc}$:

$$\mathbb{C}_{loc}(h) \geq \mathbb{Z}(h) \text{ for all } h \in [0, b - a],$$

$$\mathbb{C}_{loc}(h) = \mathbb{Z}(h) \text{ if and only if } \mathbb{C}_{loc}^{(1)}(h-) > \mathbb{C}_{loc}^{(1)}(h+).$$

Steps 3-8 in Case 5. If f is discontinuous at x_0 , then Anevski and Hössjer (2002) show that

$$P(\widehat{f}_n(x_0) - \bar{f}(x_0) \leq x) \rightarrow P(\operatorname{argmax}\{\mathbb{N}_0(h) - \rho_{x+d/2, x-d/2}(h)\} \leq 0)$$

where \mathbb{N}_0 is a two-sided, centered Poisson process with rates $f(x_0+)$ and $f(x_0-)$ to the right and left of 0 respectively,

$$\rho_{B,C}(h) \equiv \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} Bh, & h \geq 0 \\ -Ch, & h < 0. \end{array} \right\},$$

$\bar{f}(x_0) \equiv (f(x_0+) + f(x_0-))/2$, $d \equiv f(x_0-) - f(x_0+)$. Somewhat more naturally,

$$\widehat{f}_n(x_0) - \bar{f}(x_0) \rightarrow_d \mathbb{R}(0)$$

where $\mathbb{R}(h)$ is the process of slopes (left derivatives) of the least concave majorant of the process

$$\mathbb{M}(h) \equiv \mathbb{N}_0(h) - (d/2)|h|.$$

- “Driving process” is $\mathbb{M}(h) \equiv \mathbb{N}_0(h) - (d/2)|h|$.
- Process related to estimator maintaining Fenchel relations in the limit is \mathbb{K} and its slope process $\mathbb{K}(1) \equiv \mathbb{R}$:

$$\mathbb{K}(h) \geq \mathbb{M}(h) \text{ for all } h \in R,$$

$$\mathbb{K}(h) = \mathbb{M}(h) \text{ if and only if } \mathbb{K}^{(1)}(h-) > \mathbb{K}^{(1)}(h+).$$

- Localization rate is n^{-1} !