

Central Limit Theorems in $D[0, 1]$

Glorie G. Hahn

Department of Mathematics, Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155, USA

Summary. Let X be a stochastic process with sample paths in the usual Skorohod space $D[0, 1]$. For a sequence $\{X_n\}$ of independent copies of X , let $S_n = X_1 + \dots + X_n$. Conditions which are either necessary or sufficient for the weak convergence of $n^{-1/2}(S_n - ES_n)$ to a Gaussian process with sample paths in $D[0, 1]$ are discussed. Stochastically continuous processes are considered separately from those with fixed discontinuities. A bridge between the two is made by a Decomposition central limit theorem.

Introduction

The aim of this paper is to study the central limiting behavior of right-continuous stochastic processes with only jump discontinuities. For convenience the time set is assumed to be the unit interval. The sample paths of such processes take their values in $D \equiv D[0, 1]$, the space of functions which are right-continuous on $[0, 1)$ with left limits on $(0, 1]$. Thus, interchangeably we can, and will, speak of these processes as D -valued random variables. For details of D and the basic properties of the Skorohod topology on D , the reader is referred to Billingsley (1968) Chapter 3.

A D -valued random variable X is said to *satisfy the CLT* if there exists a D -valued Gaussian random variable Z which is the limit in distribution of the sequence of random variables

$$Z_n \equiv n^{-1/2}[X_1 + \dots + X_n - E(X_1 + \dots + X_n)],$$

where X_1, X_2, \dots are independent copies of X on the same probability space. Convergence will be denoted in symbols by $\mathcal{L}(Z_n) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(Z)$ where $\mathcal{L}(Y)$ represents the law of Y . We will call Z the limiting Gaussian process of X .

The main problem is to find necessary and sufficient conditions for X to satisfy the CLT. Two necessary conditions are obvious:

(1) $EX^2(t)$ is finite for each $t \in [0, 1]$, as a result of the converse to the CLT in the case of real-valued random variables.

(2) There exists a Gaussian process with sample paths in D and the covariance as X .

In Section 2 we show that for stochastically continuous processes the above necessary conditions can be strengthened to requiring:

- (1') X is continuous in quadratic mean (CQM), i.e. in L^2 .
- (2') There exists a sample-continuous Gaussian process with the covariance of X .

The latter condition is a consequence of

Theorem 1. Any stochastically continuous Gaussian process with sample paths in D has sample paths a.s. in the space C of continuous functions.

Since not every stochastically continuous process with finite second moments and sample paths in D is CQM, it is clear that not every D -valued random variable satisfies the CLT. In fact, examples of uniformly bounded continuous processes satisfying tight Lipschitz conditions but for which the CLT fails are discussed in Strassen and Dudley (1969), Dudley (1974), and Hall (1976).

In proving sufficient conditions it suffices to verify (2) and

- (3) Tightness of $\{P_n \equiv \mathcal{L}(Z_n)\}$.

Our main result for stochastically continuous processes, which generalizes previous results of Phoenix and Taylor ((1973), pp. 207-208) and Taylor ((1974), p. 2), is

Theorem 2. Let X be a stochastic process with sample paths in D such that, for t in $[0, 1]$, $EX(t) = 0$ and $EX^2(t) < \infty$. Assume there exist nondecreasing continuous functions G and F on $[0, 1]$ and numbers $\alpha > \frac{1}{2}$, $\beta > 1$ such that for $0 \leq s \leq t \leq u \leq 1$ the following two conditions hold:

- (i) $E(X(u) - X(t))^2 \leq (G(u) - G(t))^\alpha$,
- (ii) $E(X(u) - X(t))^2 (X(t) - X(s))^2 \leq (F(u) - F(s))^\beta$.

Then X satisfies the CLT in D and $\mathcal{L}(Z)(C) = 1$.

An immediate corollary is the result of Fisz ((1959), p. 15) that the right-continuous version of a stochastically continuous process with independent increments and finite second moments satisfies the CLT.

As another consequence of Theorem 2 we obtain, in Section 3, the following criterion for Markov processes to satisfy the CLT.

Theorem 3. Let X be a Markov process with sample paths in D and a nondecreasing continuous function. Suppose there exists $\beta > \frac{1}{2}$ such that for $s \leq t$ either one of the following two conditions holds:

- (i) $\text{ess}_\omega \sup E[(X(t) - X(s))^2 | X(s)] \leq (F(t) - F(s))^\beta$;
- (ii) $\text{ess}_\omega \sup E[(X(t) - X(s))^2 | X(t)] \leq (F(t) - F(s))^\beta$.

Then X satisfies the CLT in D .

These conditions are shown to be satisfied by a large class of stochastically continuous Markov processes with stationary transitions.

In the approach in some external processes a number of continuous

Second, the at most $C(J_T)$, the Utilization continuous the Jain an moments of Class (1977

Applica whether or characteriza dimensiona stochastic Skorohod (Doob (195 Kinney (19

2. Stochastic

A stochastic $[0, 1]$ if for paths in D , notice that

there exists

$$\sum_{t=1}^n P(|X(t_0) - X(t_1)| > k^{-2} \text{ i.o.}) =$$

stochastically

A stochastic for all t , limit CQM if and

Proposition is CQM.

Proof. Let Z the right-continuous

$$0 = \lim_{s \downarrow t} E$$

in D and the same processes the above with the covariance

with sample paths in D

finite second moment every D -valued uniformly bounded, for which the CLT (1974), and Hahn

which generalizes and Taylor ((1972),

such that, for all nondecreasing continuous such that for all

that the right-continuous with independent

13, the following

in D and F such that for all

of stochastically

In the final section, processes with fixed discontinuities are discussed. Our approach is two-fold. First a Decomposition CLT is proved which justifies, to some extent, separate treatments of stochastically continuous processes and processes with fixed discontinuities. For instance, processes with only a finite number of fixed discontinuities can be immediately reduced to the stochastically continuous case.

Second, whenever a process X is continuous a.s. at all points except those in the at most countable set T of fixed discontinuities, it suffices to prove a CLT in (J_T) , the space of continuous functions on a certain compact metric space J_T . Utilization may now be made of known sufficient conditions for sample-continuous processes to satisfy the CLT such as the metric entropy condition in the Jain and Marcus theorem (1975) or the Lipschitz conditions on the second moments of increments appearing in Hahn (1977(a)), (1977(b)) and Hahn and Klass (1977).

Application of the results in this paper necessarily requires verification of whether or not a process under consideration has sample paths in D . A characterization of processes with sample paths in D in terms of their finite-dimensional distributions can be found in Dubins and Hahn (1978). Separable stochastically continuous processes with independent increments (Gihman and Skorohod (1969) p. 168), separable stochastically continuous sub-martingales (Doob (1953), p. 361), and Markov processes under extremely broad conditions (Kinney (1953)) all have versions with sample paths in D .

2. Stochastically Continuous Processes

A stochastic process X is said to be *stochastically continuous at a point* t_0 in $[0, 1]$ if for each $\epsilon > 0$, $P(|X(t) - X(t_0)| \geq \epsilon) \rightarrow 0$ as $|t - t_0| \rightarrow 0$. If X has sample paths in D , stochastic continuity at t_0 implies that $P(|X(t_0) - X(t_0 -)| > 0) = 0$. Just notice that by stochastic continuity, $\lim_{s \uparrow t_0} P(|X(t_0) - X(s)| > k^{-2}) \leq k^{-2}$; hence, there exists $s_k \uparrow t_0$ such that $P(|X(t_0) - X(s_k)| > k^{-2}) \leq 2k^{-2}$. Consequently, $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} P(|X(t_0) - X(s_k)| > k^{-2}) < \infty$; so, by Borel-Cantelli, $P(|X(t_0) - X(s_k)| > k^{-2} \text{ i.o.}) = 0$. X is said to be *stochastically continuous on* $[0, 1]$ if it is stochastically continuous at each point.

A stochastic process X is *continuous in quadratic mean (CQM)* if and only if for all t , $\lim_{s \rightarrow t} E(X(t) - X(s))^2 = 0$. It is well known that a Gaussian process is CQM if and only if it is stochastically continuous.

Proposition 1. *A stochastically continuous process X which satisfies the CLT in D is CQM.*

Proof. Let Z be the limiting Gaussian process which has sample paths in D . By the right-continuity of Z ,

$$0 = \lim_{s \uparrow t} E(Z(s) - Z(t))^2 = \lim_{s \uparrow t} E(X(s) - X(t))^2;$$