

Space-time estimation of a particle system model

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Abstract

Let X be a discrete time contact process (CP) on \mathbb{Z}^2 as defined by Durrett and Levin (1994). We study the estimation of the model based on space-time evolution of X , that is, $T + 1$ successive observations of X on a finite subset S of sites. We consider the maximum marginal pseudo-likelihood (MPL) estimator and show that, when $T \rightarrow \infty$, this estimator is consistent and asymptotically normal for a non vanishing supercritical CP. Numerical studies confirm these theoretical.

Key words: contact process, parameter estimation, supercritical process, sub-ergodicity, marginal pseudo-likelihood, triangular martingale array.

AMS Classification: 62M30, 62M05, 62F12

1 Introduction and description of the model

Consider a simple model of spread of a single species population evolving in \mathbb{Z}^2 . Depending on some biological parameters, the dynamics is determined by specifying, for each site $s \in \mathbb{Z}^2$, the conditional probability that site s will be in state $X_{t+1}(s) = y \in \{0, 1\}$ at time $t + 1$ given X_t , the configuration at time t . State 1 (respectively 0) means that there is a (respectively no) plant in s . In this paper we propose an estimator for the parameters of the model, based on observations of X at instants $t = 0, \dots, T$ on a finite and fixed subset S of \mathbb{Z}^2 and study the asymptotic properties of the estimator when the process is non vanishing on S . Fiocco (1997) and Fiocco & Zwet (2003) considered the estimation problem based on one observation at time t , when t is sufficiently large.

We consider the *discrete time version* of the *Contact Process* (CP) as defined by Durrett & Levin (1994). So, let us suppose that the transition probability at a site s and at time t is stationary in space and time and depends locally on $x_{t-1}(\mathcal{N}_1(s))$, the first order neighborhood of the site s at time $t - 1$, where $\mathcal{N}_d(s) = \{u \in \mathbb{Z}^2 : \|s - u\|_1 \leq d\}$.

Denote $\partial s = \mathcal{N}_1(s) \setminus \{s\}$. The system evolves as follows:

- a. Each plant alive at time t dies with a probability γ at time $t + 1$,

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- b. If a plant in s at time t survives, then for each $u \in \partial s$ it produces an offspring that is sent to u at time $t + 1$ with probability λ (a surviving plant in s may produce 0 to 4 offsprings in ∂s); the reproducing events for different s and $u \in \partial s$ are independent,
- c. If there is one or more offsprings sent in u at time $t + 1$, or if a plant in u at time t survives, then $X_{t+1}(u) = 1$; otherwise $X_{t+1}(u) = 0$.

Furthermore, events defined on (a) and (b) are independent in space and time.

This model depends on the parameter $\theta = (\gamma, \lambda)$ and we suppose that $\theta \in]0, 1[^2$. Other models are possible by defining different rules of evolution (cf. Durrett & Levin, 1994; Griffeath, 1981). The methods developed here can be generalized to processes with non invariant transition in space and/or in time.

Denote $\tau = \inf\{t : X_t(s) = 0 \text{ for each } s \in \mathbb{Z}^2\}$ the extinction time of a CP starting from a single occupied site. A CP is *supercritical* (Durrett, 1995) if there is a positive probability for the species surviving forever, that is, $P(\tau = +\infty) > 0$. Since the “all 0 in \mathbb{Z}^2 ” is an absorbing state, we need a condition **(I)** of non-extinction of X on the domain of observation S to make sense for the asymptotic study. This condition, presented in §3, is verified for a non vanishing supercritical CP.

The paper is organized as follows. In section 2 we define the *marginal pseudo-likelihood* (MPL) estimator of θ and in section 3 we give a result which shows that the MPL allows to identify the parameter. The consistency and asymptotic normality of estimator are formulated in section 4. Proofs are postponed to section 6. Some numerical studies are presented in section 5.

2 Marginal pseudo-likelihood (MPL)

Let $x(T) = (x_0, x_1, \dots, x_T)$ be $T + 1$ successive configurations of X , S a finite subset of \mathbb{Z}^2 and $S_1 = \{u \in \mathbb{Z}^2 : \exists v \in S \text{ such that } \|u - v\|_1 \leq 1\}$. The estimator of θ we choose is a value which maximizes a Marginal Pseudo-Likelihood (MPL) of $x(T)$ observed on S_1 . The idea of pseudo-likelihood is classic in statistic: gaussian pseudo-likelihood for stationary field on \mathbb{Z}^d (Whittle, 1954), conditional pseudo-likelihood for a Markov field on a lattice (Besag, 1974). Besag proposed a similar method for the estimation of parameters of a simple statistical model for the spread of disease over a rectangular lattice of plants (see the discussion of Besag in Mollison, 1977).

For $A \subset S$, and if $x_t(B)$ is the configuration of X at time t on B , denote $P_A(x_t, x_{t+1}; \theta)$ the transition-probability

$$P_A(x_t, x_{t+1}; \theta) = P(X_{t+1}(A) = x_{t+1}(A) \mid X_t(S_1) = x_t(S_1)).$$

As the transition-probability for $A = S$ is analytically intractable, as $\#(S)$, the number of sites of S , is large, we use a *marginal pseudo-transition probability* $M_S(x_t, x_{t+1}; \theta)$ on S , in order to estimate θ . $M_S(x_t, x_{t+1}; \theta)$ is the product of $P_{\{s\}}(x_t, x_{t+1}; \theta)$ for $s \in I(x_t, S)$, where:

$$I(x_t, S) = \{s \in S \text{ such that } x_t(\mathcal{N}_1(s)) \neq 0\}$$

Since $0 < P_{\{s\}}(x_t, x_{t+1}; \theta) < 1$ for any $x_{t+1}(s)$ when $s \in I(x_t, S)$ and $P_{\{s\}}(x_t, x_{t+1}; \theta) = 0$ or 1 when $x_t(\mathcal{N}_1(s)) = 0$ only sites of $I(x_t, S)$ are informative for θ . The product of these marginal pseudo-transitions at consecutive instants defines the MPL. For $s \in S$ and A a finite subset of \mathbb{Z}^2 , denote $m(x_t, A) = \sum_{s \in A} x_t(s)$, the number of sites of A occupied by x_t . As the model is isotropic in space, the law of $X_{t+1}(s)$ given x_t depends only on $c(x_t, s)$, a summary for $x_t(\mathcal{N}_1(s))$, where :

$$c(x_t, s) = (x_t(s), m(x_t, \partial s)) \in \mathcal{C}_1 = \{0, 1\} \times \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}. \quad (1)$$

More precisely, $X_{t+1}(s)$ conditionally to x_t is a Bernoulli random variable:

$$P_{\{s\}}(x_t, x_{t+1}; \theta) = p(x_t, s; \theta)^{1-x_{t+1}(s)} (1 - p(x_t, s; \theta))^{x_{t+1}(s)},$$

with parameter $1 - p(x_t, s; \theta)$ where:

$$p(x_t, s; \theta) = \gamma^{x_t(s)} \delta^{m(x_t, \partial s)}. \quad (2)$$

$\delta = \gamma + (1 - \gamma)(1 - \lambda) = 1 - \lambda + \gamma\lambda$ controls non-proliferation at time $t + 1$ in s from a plant present in $s' \in \partial s$ at time t . Define

$$M_S(x_t, x_{t+1}; \theta) = \prod_{s \in I(x_t, S)} p(x_t, s; \theta)^{1-x_{t+1}(s)} (1 - p(x_t, s; \theta))^{x_{t+1}(s)} \quad (3)$$

if $I(x_t, S) \neq \emptyset$, and $M(0, 0; \theta) = 1$ otherwise.

The following property that states the dependency between the conditional variables on different sites, will be useful for the calculation of the variance of our estimator. Denote $\eta = \gamma + (1 - \gamma)(1 - \lambda)^2$ the probability of non-proliferation at time $(t + 1)$ in the set $\{s, s'\}$ of a plant present in $u \in \partial s \cap \partial s'$ at time t , $\partial s \nabla \partial s' = (\partial s \setminus \mathcal{N}_1(s')) \cup (\partial s' \setminus \mathcal{N}_1(s))$; then,

$$P(X_{t+1}(\{s, s'\}) = (0, 0) \mid x_t) = \gamma^{m(x_t, \{s, s'\})} \delta^{m(x_t, \partial s \nabla \partial s')} \eta^{m(x_t, \partial s \cap \partial s')}$$

It follows that for $s \neq s'$:

$$\text{Cov}(X_{t+1}(s), X_{t+1}(s') \mid x_t) = p(x_t, s; \theta) p(x_t, s'; \theta) [b(x_t, s, s'; \theta) - 1]$$

where:

$$b(x_t, s, s'; \theta) = \begin{cases} \delta^{-m(x_t, \{s, s'\})} & \text{if } s' \in \mathcal{N}_1(s) \setminus \{s\} \\ \delta^{-2m(x_t, \partial s \cap \partial s')} \eta^{m(x_t, \partial s \cap \partial s')} & \text{if } s' \in \mathcal{N}_2(s) \setminus \mathcal{N}_1(s) \\ 1 & \text{if } s' \notin \mathcal{N}_2(s). \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

In particular if $s' \notin \mathcal{N}_2(s)$, $(X_{t+1}(s) \mid x_t)$ and $(X_{t+1}(s') \mid x_t)$ are independent.

Let us give the explicit expression of MPL based on observation of $x(T)$ on S_1 . Denote $n(x_t)$ the number of informative sites of the configuration x_t on S :

$$n(x_t) = \sharp(I(x_t, S)), \text{ and } n(x(T)) = \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} n(x_t).$$

For $c \in \mathcal{C}_1$, let $n(x_t, c)$ be the number of sites $s \in S$ with configuration c :

$$n(x_t, c) = \sharp\{s \in S : c(x_t, s) = c\}, \text{ and } n(x(T), c) = \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} n(x_t, c).$$

Then $n(\mathbf{x}(T)) = \sum_{c \neq (0,0)} n(\mathbf{x}(T), c)$. The normalized log-marginal pseudo-likelihood of $\mathbf{x}(T)$ observed on S_1 is:

$$l_{T,S}(\mathbf{x}(T); \theta) = \frac{1}{n(\mathbf{x}(T))} \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \log M_S(x_t, x_{t+1}; \theta).$$

As S is fixed, we omit in most cases the subscript S ; thus $I(x)$ or $M(x_t, x_{t+1}; \theta)$ stand for $I(x_t, S)$ or $M_S(x_t, x_{t+1}; \theta)$. In the same way, for a fixed $\mathbf{x}(T)$, we will write $n(T)$ for $n(\mathbf{x}(T))$, $n(T, c)$ for $n(\mathbf{x}(T), c)$ and $l_T(\theta) \equiv l_{T,S}(\mathbf{x}(T); \theta)$. Using (3) we have:

$$l_T(\theta) = \frac{1}{n(T)} \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \sum_{s \in I(x_t)} \{[1 - x_{t+1}(s)] \log p(x_t, s; \theta) + x_{t+1}(s) \log[1 - p(x_t, s; \theta)]\}. \quad (5)$$

The maximum MPL estimator of θ (or MPLE) is a value which maximizes the MPL,

$$\hat{\theta}_T = \arg \max_{\theta} l_T(\theta).$$

3 Marginal PL allows identification of θ

In this section we show that Marginal PL allows identification of θ under the condition **(I)** of non-extinction of X on S :

$$\textbf{(I)} : I_{\infty} = \{\mathbf{x} = (x_t, t \geq 0) \text{ such that } n(\mathbf{x}(T)) \rightarrow \infty \text{ as } T \rightarrow \infty\}.$$

In order to obtain this result we need to show that π_c are strictly positive for two linearly independent configurations, where:

$$\pi_c = \underline{\lim}_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n(T, c)}{n(T)}.$$

Let \mathcal{C}_1^* be the set of configurations on $\mathcal{N}_1(0)$ such that $x(0) = 1$. The following Lemma states the positivity $\pi_c > 0$ for $c \in \mathcal{C}_1^*$ under the condition **(I)** and is a particular case of a *the subergodicity result* (see Lemma 4 in section 6) useful to prove positivity of some pseudo-information matrix.

Lemma 1 *There exists $\alpha > 0$ such that, $\forall c \in \mathcal{C}_1^*$, and $\forall x \in I_{\infty}$, we have $\pi_c \geq \alpha$.*

Under **(I)** and for large T , $\theta \rightarrow l_T(\theta)$ allows identification of θ . Indeed:

- if $\mathbf{x}(T)$ realizes two linearly independent configurations $c_a = (u_a, v_a)$ and $c_b = (u_b, v_b)$, then $\theta \mapsto l_T(\theta)$ is an injective function;
- under **(I)**, the probability that each configuration c of \mathcal{C}_1^* appears on S converges to 1 when $T \rightarrow \infty$.

Remarks :

1. As a non-vanishing supercritical process is ergodic, with a spatially translation-invariant limite law μ (Durrett, 1995) satisfying $\mu_{\{0\}}(1) > 0$, it follows that $\pi_c = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n(T,c)}{n(T)}$ exists and is strictly positive.
2. Space and/or time invariance of the transitions model is not crucial in the proof of the subergodicity result: a similar result can be proved for non translation invariant models under some convenient condition that transition probabilities are uniformly positive.

4 Consistency and normality of the MPL estimator

4.1 The results

Let $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a real function twice continuously differentiable on an open subset U of \mathbb{R}^d and $f^{(1)}(\theta)$ the vector of first derivatives. The following result sets up the consistency and asymptotic normality of the maximum MPLE $\hat{\theta}_T$ associated with (5). The proof is postponed to section 6.

Let $q(c; \theta) = P(X_{t+1}(s) = 0 \mid c(x_t, s) = c)$, and $A_T(\theta_o)$, $B_T(\theta_o)$ the 2×2 matrices:

$$A_T(\theta_o) = \frac{1}{n(T)} \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \sum_{s \in I(x_t)} \frac{p^{(1)t}[p^{(1)}]}{p(1-p)}(x_t, s; \theta_o) \quad (6)$$

$$= \sum_{c \neq (0,0)} \frac{n(T,c)}{n(T)} \times \frac{q^{(1)t}[q^{(1)}]}{q(1-q)}(c; \theta_o)$$

$$B_T(\theta_o) = \frac{1}{n(T)} \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \sum_{s \neq s' \in I(x_t)} [b(x_t, s, s'; \theta_o) - 1] \frac{p^{(1)}(x_t, s; \theta_o)^t [p^{(1)}(x_t, s'; \theta_o)]}{[1-p(x_t, s; \theta_o)] [1-p(x_t, s'; \theta_o)]} \quad (7)$$

with $p(x_t, s; \theta)$ given by (2) and $b(x_t, s, s'; \theta_o)$ by (4).

Theorem 1 *Let $\theta_o = (\gamma_o, \lambda_o)$ be an interior point of a compact $\Theta \subset]0, 1]^2$ and the true unknown value of the parameter θ . Under condition (I):*

(1) *The maximum MPL estimator is consistent:*

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \hat{\theta}_T \stackrel{a.s.}{=} \theta_o.$$

(2) *This estimator is asymptotically normal,*

$$\sqrt{n(T)} [A_T(\theta_o) + B_T(\theta_o)]^{-1/2} A_T(\theta_o) (\hat{\theta}_T - \theta_o) \xrightarrow{d} \mathbf{G}_2(0, I_2)$$

where I_2 is the 2×2 identity matrix.

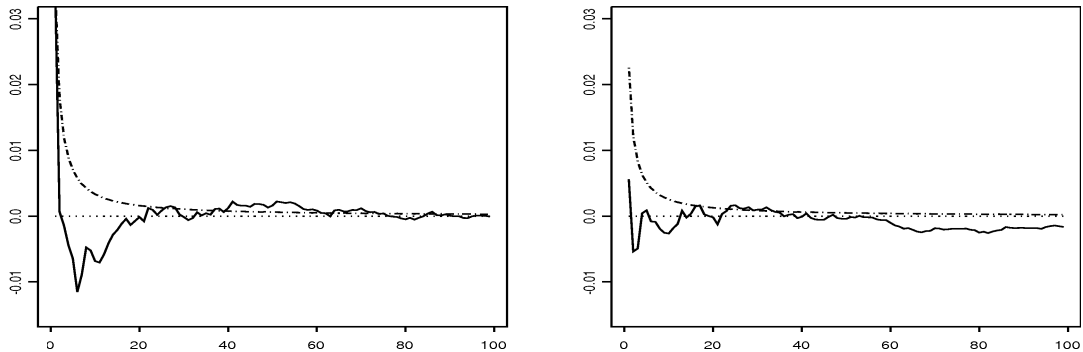


Figure 1: Evolution of the bias (solid lines) and standard deviation (multiplied by 100, dotted lines) for the estimators of γ_o (left) and λ_o (right) for the supercritical CP with parameters $\gamma_o = 0.35, \lambda_o = 0.25$.

5 Numerical studies

In this section we give some empirical results with S the 64×64 square lattice and initial configuration ‘all sites occupied’. To avoid boundary effects we have used periodic boundary conditions.

In Fig. ?? we present the evolution of the bias and the standard deviation of $\hat{\gamma}_T$ and $\hat{\lambda}_T$ for $T = 1, \dots, 99$ for the supercritical CP with parameters $\gamma_o = 0.35, \lambda_o = 0.25$.

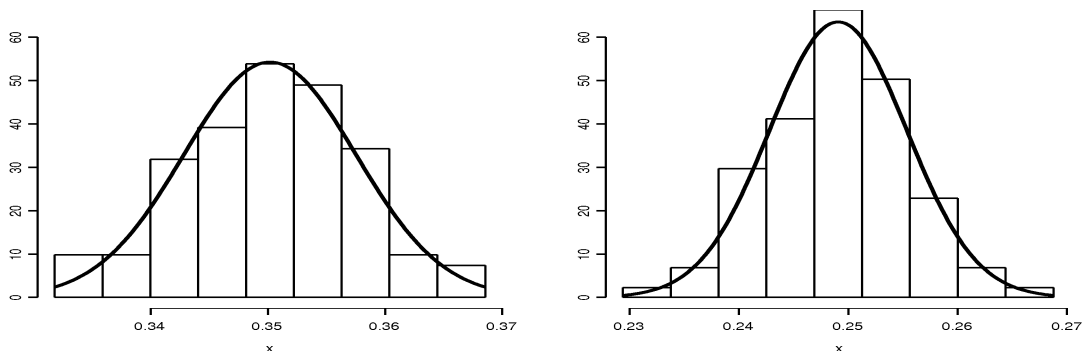


Figure 2: Histograms of 100 estimations of γ_o (left) and λ_o (right) for the supercritical CP with parameters $\gamma_o = 0.35, \lambda_o = 0.25$.

Empirical study of asymptotic normality of estimators for a supercritical CP is based on 100 simulations with $T = 99$. Histograms are presented in Fig. 2. Asymptotic normality is checked by using a chi-squared test at level 5% and defining 9 equiprobable classes. Normality is accepted for $\hat{\gamma}$ (resp. $\hat{\lambda}$) since $\chi^2 = 1.7$ (resp. $\chi^2 = 4.4$) and $\chi_{0.95}^2(6) = 12.59$.

We also compared the estimated theoretical standard errors $\hat{\sigma}_{\hat{\gamma}}, \hat{\sigma}_{\hat{\lambda}}$ and empirical standard errors $s_{\hat{\gamma}}, s_{\hat{\lambda}}$ for the supercritical CP with parameter $\gamma_o = 0.35, \lambda_o = 0.25$. The values $\hat{\sigma}_{\hat{\gamma}_4}, \hat{\sigma}_{\hat{\lambda}_4}$ are obtained from a single simulation with $T = 4$ by applying Theorem 1 where

$A_4(\theta_o)$ (resp. $B_4(\theta_o)$) are approximated by $A_4(\hat{\theta}_4)$ (resp. $B_4(\hat{\theta}_4)$). The empirical standard errors $s_{\hat{\gamma}_4}, s_{\hat{\lambda}_4}$ are empirical estimations obtained from the 100 estimations associated to the 100 simulations. The results are presented in table 1. We note that, as expected, there are few differences between estimated theoretical standard errors and empirical standard errors.

	$\hat{\sigma}_{\hat{\gamma}_4}$	$s_{\hat{\gamma}_4}$	$\hat{\sigma}_{\hat{\lambda}_4}$	$s_{\hat{\lambda}_4}$
Estimations	0.0076	0.0079	0.0059	0.0064

Table 1: Theoretical and empirical standard errors of the estimators.

Finally, Table 2 gives the estimations of γ_o and λ_o for twelve CP with parameters $(\gamma_o, \lambda_o) \in (0.2, 0.4, 0.6) \times (0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4)$. In these simulations, $T = 4$ and 40% of randomly chosen sites were occupied at time $t = 0$.

γ	$\lambda = 0.1$					$\lambda = 0.2$				
	$\hat{\gamma}_4$	$\hat{\sigma}_{\hat{\gamma}_4}$	$\hat{\lambda}_4$	$\hat{\sigma}_{\hat{\lambda}_4}$	$n(4)$	$\hat{\gamma}_4$	$\hat{\sigma}_{\hat{\gamma}_4}$	$\hat{\lambda}_4$	$\hat{\sigma}_{\hat{\lambda}_4}$	$n(4)$
0.2	0.210	0.006	0.104	0.003	14598	0.189	0.006	0.193	0.004	15286
0.4	0.391	0.008	0.106	0.004	12402	0.399	0.008	0.188	0.005	13565
0.6	0.597	0.009	0.100	0.005	9224	0.607	0.009	0.206	0.008	10452
γ	$\lambda = 0.3$					$\lambda = 0.4$				
	$\hat{\gamma}_4$	$\hat{\sigma}_{\hat{\gamma}_4}$	$\hat{\lambda}_4$	$\hat{\sigma}_{\hat{\lambda}_4}$	$n(4)$	$\hat{\gamma}_4$	$\hat{\sigma}_{\hat{\gamma}_4}$	$\hat{\lambda}_4$	$\hat{\sigma}_{\hat{\lambda}_4}$	$n(4)$
0.2	0.202	0.006	0.294	0.006	15761	0.198	0.008	0.400	0.008	15843
0.4	0.394	0.008	0.305	0.007	14729	0.393	0.009	0.400	0.009	15106
0.6	0.596	0.009	0.292	0.010	11468	0.604	0.009	0.386	0.012	12402

Table 2: Estimation of the parameters and their standard deviation.

6 Proofs of Theorem 1

6.1 Proof of the consistency of $\hat{\theta}_T$

Denote $n_1(x_t, c)$ the number of occupied sites $s \in S$ at time $t + 1$ with configuration $c(x_t, s) = c$ at time t , $I^A(x_t) = I(x_t) \cap A$, $n^A(x_t) = \#(I^A(x_t))$ and $n_1(T, c) = \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} n_1(x_t, c)$.

Lemma 2 For each subset $A \subset S$: $Var \left[\sum_{s \in I^A(x_t)} X_{t+1}(s) \mid x_t \right] \leq (13/4) \cdot n^A(x_t)$.

Proof : This follows as $(X_{t+1}(s) \mid x_t)$, $(X_{t+1}(s') \mid x_t)$ are independent Bernoulli variables when $s' \notin \mathcal{N}_2(s)$, $\#(\mathcal{N}_2(s)) = 13$ and $Var[X_{t+1}(s) \mid x_t] \leq 1/4$ ■

Lemma 3 Let $c \in \mathcal{C}_1$. If $n(T, c) \rightarrow \infty$ when $T \rightarrow \infty$, then $\frac{n_1(T, c)}{n(T, c)} \xrightarrow{a.s.} 1 - q(c; \theta_o)$.

Proof : We apply the following result: if (a_n) is a sequence of real positive numbers and $b_n = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k$ then $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n^2} < \infty$. For $I(x, c) = \{s : s \in I(x), c(x, s) = c\}$, let:

$$\begin{aligned}\zeta_t(c; \theta_o) &= \sum_{s \in I(x_{t-1}, c)} \{X_t(s) - [1 - q(c; \theta_o)]\} \text{ for } 1 \leq t \leq T \\ S_T(c; \theta_o) &= \sum_{t=1, T} \zeta_t(c; \theta_o), \text{ and } \mathcal{F}_T = \sigma(X_t, t \leq T)\end{aligned}$$

$(S_T(c; \theta_o))$ is a (\mathcal{F}_T) -martingale. To prove the announced result, we apply Theorem 2.18 of Hall & Heyde (1980) with $X_T = \zeta_T(c; \theta_o)$, $U_T = n(T, c)$. It is sufficient to show that:

$$\sum_{T=1}^{\infty} \frac{E_{\theta_o} ([\zeta_T(c; \theta_o)]^2 | x_{T-1})}{[n(T, c)]^2} < \infty.$$

This follows from lemma 2 since $E_{\theta_o} ([\zeta_T(c; \theta_o)]^2 | x_{T-1}) \leq (13/4) \cdot n(x_{T-1}, c) \dots \dots \dots \blacksquare$

To prove *the consistency of $\hat{\theta}_T$* , we apply Theorem 3.4.3 of Guyon (1995; see also Dacunha-Castelle D. and Duflo, M., 1986). Let:

$$\begin{aligned}k_c(\theta_o, \theta) &= [1 - q(c; \theta_o)] \left\{ \log \frac{1 - q(c; \theta_o)}{1 - q(c; \theta)} - \log \frac{q(c; \theta_o)}{q(c; \theta)} \right\} + \log \frac{q(c; \theta_o)}{q(c; \theta)}, \\ K(\theta_o, \theta) &= \sum_{c \neq (0,0)} \pi_c \times k_c(\theta_o, \theta).\end{aligned}$$

$K(\theta_o, \theta)$ have a single minimum at θ_o : indeed, $K(\theta_o, \theta_o) = 0$, and $K(\theta_o, \theta) > 0$ if $\theta \neq \theta_o$ since $k_c(\theta_o, \theta) > 0$ and from Theorem 1, $\pi_c > 0$ for $c \in \mathcal{C}_1^*$.

Denote $U_T(\theta) = -l_T(\theta)$, the opposite of log-MPL. Then:

$$U_T(\theta) = - \sum_{c \neq (0,0)} \frac{n(T, c)}{n(T)} \left\{ \frac{n_1(T, c)}{n(T, c)} \cdot \log \frac{1 - q(c; \theta)}{q(c; \theta)} + \log [q(c; \theta)] \right\}$$

Since $\frac{n_1(T, c)}{n(T, c)} \xrightarrow{as} 1 - q(c; \theta_o)$, it follows that:

$$\underline{\lim}_{T \rightarrow \infty} [U_T(\theta) - U_T(\theta_o)] \geq K(\theta_o, \theta) \text{ a.s. on } I_{\infty}.$$

It remains to prove that there exists $\epsilon_k \rightarrow 0$ such that $P_o(\overline{\lim}_{T \rightarrow \infty} (W_T(1/k) \leq \epsilon_k)) = 1$ where $W_T(\cdot)$ is the modulus of continuity of $U_T(\theta)$. This is a direct consequence of the compactity of $\Theta \subseteq]0, 1[^2$ and the fact that q is continuously differentiable. This completes the proof. $\dots \dots \dots \blacksquare$

6.2 Proof of asymptotic normality of $\hat{\theta}_T$

We apply Theorem 3.4.5 of Guyon (1995) by verifying conditions (H1)-(H3) for the asymptotic normality of the minimum U_n -contrast consistent estimator :

(H1) There exists a neighborhood V of θ_o over which U_n is twice continuously differentiable and P_o -integrable r.v. h such that for all $\alpha \in V$, $U_n^{(2)}(\alpha, x) \leq h(x)$.

(H2) There exists a sequence $(a_n) \rightarrow \infty$ such that $J_n = Var(\sqrt{a_n} U_n^{(1)}(\theta_o))$ exists and satisfies:

- (1) There exists $J > 0$ such that $J_n \geq J$ from a certain point on.
(2) $\sqrt{a_n} J_n^{-1/2} U_n^{(1)}(\theta_o) \longrightarrow N(0, I_p)$.

(H3) There exists a sequence of nonstochastic matrices I_n such that $I_n \geq I > 0$ from a certain point and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (U_n^{(2)}(\theta_o) - I_n) = 0$ in P_o probability.

It is easy to check that the condition (H2) is equivalent to:

(H2') There exists $(a_n) \rightarrow \infty$ and matrices J_n satisfying (1) and (2) of the condition (H2)

To prove asymptotic normality of $\hat{\theta}_T$ we need to verify conditions (H1), (H2') and (H3). Let us denote $p^{(1)}(x_t, s; \theta)$ the vector of first derivatives of $p(x_t, s; \theta)$ with respect to θ ,

$$u_{t+1}(x_t, s; \theta) = \left[\frac{X_{t+1}(s)}{1-p} - 1 \right] \times \frac{p^{(1)}}{p}(x_t, s; \theta), \quad \xi_{t+1}(\theta) = \sum_{s \in I(x_t)} u_{t+1}(x_t, s; \theta),$$

$$J_T(\theta_o) = A_T(\theta_o) + B_T(\theta_o) := \frac{1}{n(T)} \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \text{Var}[\xi_{t+1}(\theta_o) | x_t]$$

where $A_T(\theta_o)$ and $B_T(\theta_o)$ are given respectively by (6) and (7).

We proceed in two steps: firstly we calculate $U_T^{(1)}(\theta_o)$, then $U_T^{(2)}(\theta_o)$, the matrix of second derivatives of $U_T(\theta_o)$, $I_T = A_T(\theta_o)$, $J_T = J_T(\theta_o)$, the pseudo-information matrices, and show in Lemma 5 the existence of $I = A(\theta_o) > 0$, $J = J(\theta_o) > 0$ such that $A_T(\theta_o) \geq A(\theta_o)$, $J_T(\theta_o) \geq \epsilon_o \cdot J(\theta_o)$ for some $\epsilon_o > 0$. Secondly, we prove in Lemma 6 a Central Limit Theorem for $\sqrt{n(T)} J_T^{-1/2}(\theta_o) U_T^{(1)}(\theta_o)$. We have :

$$U_T^{(1)}(\theta_o) = \frac{1}{n(T)} \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \xi_{t+1}(\theta_o), \quad U_T^{(2)}(\theta_o) = A_T'(\theta_o) + C_T(\theta_o), \quad \text{where :}$$

$$A_T'(\theta_o) = \sum_{c \neq (0,0)} \frac{n(T, c)}{n(T)} \times \frac{n_1(T, c)}{n(T, c)} \times \frac{q^{(1)}(c; \theta_o)^t q^{(1)}(c; \theta_o)}{q(c; \theta_o) [1 - q(c; \theta_o)]^2},$$

$$C_T(\theta_o) = \sum_{c \neq (0,0)} \frac{n(T, c)}{n(T)} \left\{ \frac{n_1(T, c)}{n(T, c)} \frac{1}{1 - q(c; \theta_o)} - 1 \right\} (\log q)^{(2)}(c; \theta_o).$$

Let $\mathbf{L} = \{L_i, i \in \mathcal{I}\}$ be a partition of S , $\mathcal{L} = \{L_{i(t)}, t \geq 0\}$, an infinite sequence of elements of \mathbf{L} and $(c, 0)$ the configuration of $\mathcal{N}_2(0)$ such that $x(\mathcal{N}_1(0)) = c$ and $x(\mathcal{N}_2(0) \setminus \mathcal{N}_1(0)) \equiv 0$. Define

$$\pi_{c,0}^{\mathcal{L}} = \underline{\lim}_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{t=0}^{T-1} n^{L_{i(t)}}(x_t, c, 0)}{n(T)}$$

where $n^L(x_t, c, 0)$ is the number of sites of $S \cap L$ with configuration $(c, 0)$. Let now state the *sub-ergodicity result*:

Lemma 4 *Let \mathcal{C}_1^* be the set of configurations on $\mathcal{N}_1(0)$ such that $x(0) = 1$. Then there exists $\alpha > 0$ and \mathcal{L} , a sequence of elements of \mathbf{L} , such that, $\forall c \in \mathcal{C}_1^*$, and $\forall \mathbf{x} \in I_\infty$, we have $\pi_{c,0}^{\mathcal{L}} \geq \alpha$.*

Proof. We make use of the the following result : if $(Y_n, n \geq 1)$ is a sequence of independent Bernoulli variables with parameter $(q_n, n \geq 1)$ such that $\beta = \min\{q_n, n \geq 1\} > 0$, then, a.s., $\underline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1, N} Y_n \geq \beta/2$. The condition $\beta > 0$ is satisfied if $\beta_n = \beta(k_n) > 0, n \geq 1$, where $k_n \in \mathcal{K} = \{1, \dots, K\}$ is a finite set.

Let \mathcal{C}_3^* be the set of configurations on $\mathcal{N}_3(0)$ such that $x(0) = 1$. We will define two sequence of instants. The first one, $0 \leq T_1 < T_2 < \dots < T_{m_T} \leq T - 2$ is the sequence of informative instants between 0 and $T - 2$ such that $x_t(\mathcal{N}_1(s)) \neq (0, 0)$ for at least one site $s \in S$. Let us denote s_{T_k} a site at time T_k such that $x_{T_k}(\mathcal{N}_1(s_{T_k})) \neq (0, 0)$. The second one, $0 \leq T_1^* < T_2^* < \dots < T_{m_T}^* \leq T - 2$, is the subsequence of the precedent such that $x_t(s) = 1$ for at least one site of S ; let us denote $s_{T_k}^*$ an informative site at time T_k^* . Furthermore, we will choose sites s and s^* such that $s_{T_k} = s_{T_k}^*$ when $T_k = T_k^*$.

Define \mathcal{L} as follows: (i) for each informative instant $t = T_k$, let $L_{i(T_k+1)}$ be the subset of \mathbf{L} containing s_{T_k} ; (ii) at the others instants, $L_{i(t)}$ may be chosen arbitrarily in \mathbf{L} .

For each configuration c of \mathcal{C}_1^* and $k^* = 1, \dots, m_T^*$ let $Z_{k^*} = \mathbf{1}\{X_{T_k^*+1}(\mathcal{N}_2(s_{T_k^*}^*)) = (c, 0)\}$. As $P(X_{t+1}(\mathcal{N}_2(s)) \mid x_t)$ depends only on $x_t(\mathcal{N}_3(s))$, the variables $(Z_{k^*}, k^* = 1, \dots, m_T^*)$ are independent Bernoulli variables with parameter

$$q(x_{T_k^*}(\mathcal{N}_3(s_{T_k^*}^*)), c) = P(x_{T_k^*+1}(\mathcal{N}_2(s_{T_k^*}^*)) = (c, 0) \mid x_{T_k^*}(\mathcal{N}_3(s_{T_k^*}^*))).$$

As $x_{T_k^*}(s_{T_k^*}^*) = 1$, every configuration $(c, 0)$, $c \in \mathcal{C}_1^*$, of $x_{T_k^*+1}(\mathcal{N}_2(s_{T_k^*}^*))$ is obtained with positive probability, it follows that:

$$\beta^* = \inf\{q(x_{T_k^*}(\mathcal{N}_3(s_{T_k^*}^*)), c) : x_{T_k^*}(\mathcal{N}_3(s_{T_k^*}^*)) \in \mathcal{C}_3^*, c \in \mathcal{C}_1^*, T_k^*, \text{ for } k^* \geq 1\} > 0.$$

Let, $W_k = X_{T_k+1}(s_{T_k})$ for $k = 1, \dots, m_T$. $P(X_{t+1}(s) \mid x_t)$ depending only on $x_t(\mathcal{N}_1(s))$, the variables $(W_k, k = 1, m_T)$ are independent Bernoulli variables with parameter

$$q(x_{T_k}(\mathcal{N}_1(s_{T_k}))) = P(X_{T_k+1}(s_{T_k}) = 1 \mid x_{T_k}(\mathcal{N}_1(s_{T_k}))).$$

Since $x_t(\mathcal{N}_1(s_{T_k})) \neq (0, 0)$, the configuration $X_{T_k+1}(s_{T_k}) = 1$ is obtained with positive probability, that is:

$$\beta = \inf\{q(x_{T_k}(\mathcal{N}_1(s_{T_k}))), x_{T_k}(\mathcal{N}_1(s_{T_k})) \neq (0, 0), T_k, \text{ for } k \geq 1\} > 0.$$

On the one hand, as $Z_{k^*} = 1$ contributes by 1 in $n^{L_{i(T_k^*+1)}}(x_{T_k^*+1}, c, 0)$,

$$\sum_{t=0}^{T-2} n^{L_{i(t+1)}}(x_{t+1}, c, 0) \geq \sum_{k^*=1}^{m_T^*} n^{L_{i(T_k^*+1)}}(x_{T_k^*+1}, c, 0) \geq \sum_{k^*=1}^{m_T^*} Z_{k^*}. \quad (8)$$

On the other hand, as there exists at most m_T informative instants, each with at most $\sharp(S)$ informative sites,

$$\sum_{t=0}^{T-2} n^{L_{i(t+1)}}(x_{t+1}) \leq \sum_{k=1}^{m_T} n(x_{T_k+1}) \leq \sharp(S) \cdot \frac{m_T}{\sum_{k=1, m_T} W_k} \cdot m_T^*. \quad (9)$$

Furthermore $m_T^* \geq \sum_{k=1, m_T} W_k$. It follows from (8) and (9) that:

$$\frac{\sum_{t=0}^{T-2} n^{L_{i(t+1)}}(x_{t+1}, c, 0)}{\sum_{t=0}^{T-2} n^{L_{i(t+1)}}(x_{t+1})} \geq \frac{1}{\#(S)} \cdot \frac{1}{m_T^*} \sum_{k=1}^{m_T^*} Z_{k^*} \cdot \frac{1}{m_T} \sum_{k=1}^{m_T} W_k. \quad (10)$$

The choice of \mathcal{L} entails:

$$\frac{\sum_{t=0}^{T-2} n^{L_{i(t+1)}}(x_{t+1})}{n(T) - n(1)} = \frac{\sum_{t=0}^{T-2} n^{L_{i(t+1)}}(x_{t+1})}{\sum_{t=0}^{T-2} n(x_{t+1})} \geq \frac{1}{\#(S)} \quad (11)$$

since $n^{L_{i(t+1)}}(x_{t+1}) \geq \frac{1}{\#(S)} n(x_{t+1})$, at each informative instant t , and $n^{L_{i(t+1)}}(x_{t+1}) = n(x_{t+1}) = 0$, for the other instants. The result of the Theorem 1 with $\alpha = \beta \cdot \beta^* / (4 \cdot \{\#(S)\}^2)$ is a consequence of (10) and (11) as $\frac{n(T) - n(1)}{n(T)} \rightarrow 1$ when $T \rightarrow \infty$. \blacksquare

In the case $\mathbf{L} = \{S\}$ we obtain the result of Lemma 1 as $\pi_c \geq \pi_{c,0}^S \geq \alpha$.

In order to define $J(\theta_o)$, let $L = \{4 \times \mathbb{Z}^2\} \cup \{4 \times \mathbb{Z}^2 + (2, 2)\}$, and for $0 \leq k, l \leq 2$, $k + l < 4$ and $i = 3k + l + 1$, $L_i = \{L + (k, l)\} \cap S$. Let $\mathbf{L} = \{L_1, \dots, L_8\}$ the associated partition of S and $\mathcal{L} = \{L_{i(t)}, t \geq 0\}$ the sequence defined by Lemma 4. Let $A(\theta_o)$, $J(\theta_o)$ be the matrices defined by:

$$A(\theta_o) = \sum_{c \neq (0,0)} \pi_c \times \frac{q^{(1) t [q^{(1)}]}(c; \theta_o)}{q[1 - q]}(c; \theta_o), \quad J(\theta_o) = \sum_{c \neq (0,0)} \pi_{c,0}^{\mathcal{L}} \times \frac{q^{(1) t [q^{(1)}]}(c; \theta_o)}{[1 - q]^2 [q]^2}(c; \theta_o).$$

Note that variables $\{(X_{t+1}(s) \mid x_{t+1}(S_1 \setminus I_0^L(x_t)), x_t), s \in I_0^L(x_t)\}$ are independent where $I_0^L(x_t) = \{s \in L : x_t(\mathcal{N}_2(s) \setminus \mathcal{N}_1(s)) \equiv 0\}$. Indeed, for $A \supseteq S_1 \setminus I_0^L(x_t)$ and $s \in I_0^L(x_t) \setminus A$:

$$P[X_{t+1}(s) = 0 \mid x_{t+1}(A), x_t] = \gamma_o^{x_t(s)} \cdot (1 - \lambda_o)^{m(x_{t+1}, \partial s)} \quad (12)$$

$$= P[X_{t+1}(s) = 0 \mid x_{t+1}(S_1 \setminus I_0^L(x_t)), x_t] \quad (13)$$

as $\partial s \cap I_0^L(x_t) = \emptyset$.

We have the following result:

Lemma 5 For $\theta_o \in \Theta$ and under the condition **(I)** :

a) $A(\theta_o)$ is positive definite and $\underline{\lim}_{T \rightarrow \infty} A_T(\theta_o) = A(\theta_o)$,

b) $J(\theta_o)$ is positive definite and $\underline{\lim}_{T \rightarrow \infty} J_T(\theta_o) \geq \epsilon_o \times J(\theta_o)$ for some $\epsilon_o > 0$.

Proof :

a) $A(\theta_o)$ is a positive semidefinite matrix. Indeed for each $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$:

$${}^t \alpha A(\theta_o) \alpha = \sum_{c \neq (0,0)} \pi_c q(c; \theta_o) [(1 - q(c; \theta_o))]^{-1} \left({}^t \alpha (\log q)^{(1)}(c; \theta_o) \right)^2 \geq 0$$

as $\pi_c > 0$, $0 < q(c; \theta_o) < 1$ for $c \in \mathcal{C}_1^*$. It remains to prove that $\alpha = \mathbf{0}$ when ${}^t \alpha A(\theta_o) \alpha = 0$. Let $c_a = (u_a, v_a)$ and $c_b = (u_b, v_b)$ be two linearly independent configurations of \mathcal{C}_1^* and

suppose that ${}^t\alpha A(\theta_o)\alpha = 0$. It follows that ${}^t\alpha(\log q)^{(1)}(c_a; \theta_o) = {}^t\alpha(\log q)^{(1)}(c_b; \theta_o) = 0$ and $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = 0$. Finally, as $\pi_c = \underline{\lim}_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n(T, c)}{n(T)}$, $\underline{\lim}_{T \rightarrow \infty} A_T(\theta_o) = A(\theta_o)$.

b) We show in a similar way that $J(\theta_o) > 0$, since $\pi_{c,0}^c > 0$ for each $c \in \mathcal{C}_1^*$. The proof of $\underline{\lim}_{T \rightarrow \infty} J_T(\theta_o) \geq \epsilon_o \times J(\theta_o)$ is based upon inequality:

$$\text{Var}(X) = E_{\mathcal{G}}(\text{Var}(X | \mathcal{G})) + \text{Var}_{\mathcal{G}}(E(X | \mathcal{G})) \geq E_{\mathcal{G}}(\text{Var}(X | \mathcal{G})) \quad (14)$$

where \mathcal{G} is some σ -field that we have to choose. This idea was initially proposed by J. Jensen and is used in other estimation contexts: Ising model (Guyon & Künsch, 1992), point processes (Jensen & Künsch, 1994), dynamic of lattice data process (Guyon & Hardouin, 2001).

Applying (14) for $t = 0, \dots, T-1$ with $X = (\xi_{t+1}(\theta_o) | x_t)$, $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{G}_{t+1} = \sigma\{X_{t+1}(s), s \in S_1 \setminus I_0^L(x_t)\}$ and $L = L_{i(t)}$ and using (12), for $s \in I_0^L(x_t)$ and $m(X_{t+1}, \partial s) \geq 1$ it follows that:

$$E_{\mathcal{G}_{t+1}}[\text{Var}(X_{t+1}(s) | \mathcal{G}_{t+1}, x_t)] \geq \epsilon_o := \gamma_o(1 - \alpha_o)(1 - \lambda_o)^5 \quad (15)$$

where $\alpha_o = \gamma_o + (1 - \gamma_o)(1 - \lambda_o)^4$. Indeed $\text{Var}(X_{t+1}(s) | \mathcal{G}_{t+1}, x_t) \geq \gamma_o(1 - \lambda_o)^5$ as $\gamma_o \cdot (1 - \lambda_o)^4 \leq P(X_{t+1}(s) = 0 | \mathcal{G}_{t+1}, x_t) \leq 1 - \lambda_o$. Furthermore, $P[m(X_{t+1}, \partial s) = 0 | x_t] \leq \alpha_o$ as $s \in I(x_t)$ and (15) is a consequence of

$$E_{\mathcal{G}_{t+1}}[\text{Var}(X_{t+1}(s) | \mathcal{G}_{t+1}, x_t)] \geq \gamma_o(1 - \lambda_o)^5 \cdot \sum_{m \geq 1} P[m(X_{t+1}, \partial s) = m | x_t].$$

Then, for $s \in I_0^L(x_t)$, (15) implies:

$$E_{\mathcal{G}_{t+1}}[\text{Var}(u_{t+1}(x_t, s; \theta_o) | \mathcal{G}_{t+1}, x_t)] \geq \epsilon_o \frac{p^{(1)} \quad {}^t[p^{(1)}]}{[1 - p]^2 [p]^2}(x_t, s; \theta_o).$$

Finally, since conditional random variables $\{(X_{t+1}(s) | \mathcal{G}_{t+1}, x_t), s \in I_0^L(x_t)\}$ are independent, it follows that:

$$\begin{aligned} E_{\mathcal{G}_{t+1}}[\text{Var}(\xi_{t+1}(\theta_o) | \mathcal{G}_{t+1}, x_t)] &= E_{\mathcal{G}_{t+1}} \left[\sum_{s \in I_0^L(x_t)} \text{Var}(u_{t+1}(x_t, s; \theta_o) | \mathcal{G}_{t+1}, x_t) \right] \\ &\geq \epsilon_o \sum_{s \in I_0^L(x_t)} \frac{p^{(1)} \quad {}^t[p^{(1)}]}{[1 - p]^2 [p]^2}(x_t, s; \theta_o). \end{aligned}$$

The result follows from the last inequality, and

$$\text{Var}[\xi_{t+1}(\theta_o) | x_t] \geq \frac{1}{n(T)} \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} E_{\mathcal{G}_{t+1}}[\text{Var}(\xi_{t+1}(\theta_o) | \mathcal{G}_{t+1}, x_t)]. \quad \blacksquare$$

Lemma 6 As T tends to ∞ : $\sqrt{n(T)} J_T^{-1/2}(\theta_o) U_T^{(1)}(\theta_o) \xrightarrow{d} \mathbf{G}_2(0, I_2)$

Proof : We will show that for each $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^2$, $\alpha \neq \mathbf{0}$, $\frac{1}{\sqrt{n(T)}} {}^t\alpha J_T^{-1/2}(\theta_o) \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \xi_{t+1}(\theta_o) \xrightarrow{d} \mathbf{G}_1(0, {}^t\alpha \alpha)$. We apply a result for triangular martingale arrays (see Hall & Heyde, Theorem 3.2, Dacunha-Castelle & Duflo, Theorem 2.8.43) to $(S_{T,t}, 1 \leq t \leq T)$, $(\mathcal{F}_{T,t}, 1 \leq t \leq T)$ where:

$$S_{T,t} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n(T)}} {}^t\alpha J_T^{-1/2}(\theta_o) \sum_{t'=0, t-1} \xi_{t'+1}(\theta_o), \text{ and } \mathcal{F}_{T,t} = \sigma(X_{t'}, 1 \leq t' \leq t) \equiv \mathcal{F}_t.$$

Since for each $T \geq 0$ and $1 \leq t \leq T$, $E[\xi_{t+1}(\theta_o) \mid \mathcal{F}_{T,t}] = E[\xi_{t+1}(\theta_o) \mid x_t] = 0$, $\{S_{T,t}, \mathcal{F}_{T,t}, 1 \leq t \leq T\}$ is a zero-mean, square-integrable martingale for each $T \geq 0$. From (??) we get:

$$V_{T,T} = \frac{1}{n(T)} {}^t\alpha J_T^{-1/2}(\theta_o) \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} Var[\xi_{t+1}(\theta_o) \mid x_t] J_T^{-1/2}(\theta_o) \alpha = {}^t\alpha \alpha > 0.$$

It remains to verify the Lindeberg condition. Let $B^2 = \max_{i,j=1,2} |b_i \cdot b_j|$ where for $i = 1, 2$, $b_i = \sup_{\theta_o \in \Theta, c \in \mathcal{C}_1} |\log q_i^{(1)}(c; \theta_o)| \cdot \frac{2-q(c; \theta_o)}{1-q(c; \theta_o)}$. It follows that:

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} E \left(\frac{1}{n(T)} [{}^t\alpha J_T^{-1/2}(\theta_o) \xi_{t+1}(\theta_o)]^2 \cdot \mathbf{1}_{\left| \frac{1}{\sqrt{n(T)}} {}^t\alpha J_T^{-1/2}(\theta_o) \xi_{t+1}(\theta_o) \right| > \epsilon} \mid x_t \right) \\ & \leq \frac{B^2}{n(T)} {}^t\alpha J_T^{-1}(\theta_o) \alpha \cdot \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} P \left(\left| {}^t\alpha J_T^{-1/2}(\theta_o) \xi_{t+1}(\theta_o) \right| > \epsilon \sqrt{n(T)} \mid x_t \right) \\ & \leq \frac{B^4}{n(T)} [{}^t\alpha J_T^{-1}(\theta_o) \alpha]^2 \cdot \frac{13}{4\epsilon^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Clearly, for a fixed α , ${}^t\alpha J_T^{-1}(\theta_o) \alpha$ is bounded in T . Indeed, let $\mu_{J_T}(\theta_o), \mu_J(\theta_o)$ be respectively the smallest eigenvalue of $J_T(\theta_o)$ and $J(\theta_o)$. From Lemma 5 $\underline{\lim}_T J_T(\theta_o) \geq \epsilon_o J(\theta_o) > 0$. It follows that $\mu_{J_T}(\theta_o) \geq \epsilon_o \mu_J(\theta_o) > 0$ and:

$$\left| {}^t\alpha J_T^{-1}(\theta_o) \alpha \right| \leq \sup_{\alpha} \left| {}^t\alpha J_T^{-1}(\theta_o) \alpha \right| = [\mu_{J_T}(\theta_o)]^{-1} \leq [\epsilon_o \mu_J(\theta_o)]^{-1}.$$

Since for each fixed $\epsilon > 0$, $\frac{B^4}{n(T)} [{}^t\alpha J_T^{-1}(\theta_o) \alpha]^2 \cdot \frac{13}{4\epsilon^2} \rightarrow 0$ as $T \rightarrow \infty$, the Lindeberg condition is fulfilled and the proof of Lemma completed. ■

We are now able to establish the asymptotic normality of $\hat{\theta}_T$. As $\hat{\theta}_T \xrightarrow{a.s.} \theta_o$, it is enough to verify conditions (H1), (H2') and (H3) of Theorem 3.4.5 (Guyon, 1995). Let $a_T = \sqrt{n(T)}$.

(H1) is satisfied as $p(x_t, s; \theta)$ is two times continuously differentiable on θ and θ_o is an interior point of Θ , a compact of $]0, 1]^2$. Furthermore, denoting $K^2 = \max_{i,j=1,2} (k_{ij})$ where $k_{i,j} = \max \left\{ \sup_{c \in \mathcal{C}_1, \theta_o \in \Theta} \left| \frac{q^{(1)}({}^t q^{(1)}(c; \theta_o))_{i,j}}{q(c; \theta_o) [1-q(c; \theta_o)]^2} \right|, \sup_{c \in \mathcal{C}_1, \theta_o \in \Theta} \left| \frac{(\log q)_{i,j}^{(2)}(c; \theta_o)}{[1-q(c; \theta_o)]} \right| \right\}$ for $i, j = 1, 2$, it follows that $|U_T^{(2)}(\theta_o)| = |A_T'(\theta_o) + C_T(\theta_o)| \leq \left[\sum_{c \neq (0,0)} n_1(T, c) / n(T) \cdot 2 + 1 \right] \cdot K^2$.

(H2') $a_T = \sqrt{n(T)} \rightarrow \infty$ since the process survives forever on S . Lemma 5 establishes the existence of $J(\theta_o) > 0$ and Lemma 6 the asymptotic normality of $\sqrt{a_T} J_T^{-1/2}(\theta_o) U_T^{(1)}(\theta_o)$.

(H3) $\underline{\lim}_T A_T(\theta_o) = A(\theta_o)$ from Lemma 5. Finally, as $n_1(T, c) / n(T, c) \xrightarrow{a.s.} 1 - q(c; \theta_o)$ when $T \rightarrow \infty$, it follows that $C_T(\theta_o) \xrightarrow{a.s.} 0$ and $A_T'(\theta_o) - A_T(\theta_o) \xrightarrow{a.s.} 0$ and this completes the proof. ■

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