# Asymptotic Theory for Density Ridges 

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## Density Ridges: High Density Curves

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## Application of Ridges: Cosmology



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$\rightarrow$ Chen et al. 'Detecting Effects of Filaments on Galaxy Properties in Sloan Digital Sky Survey III' (2015)


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- A galaxy's shape is associated with filaments.

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## The Importance of Filaments

Cosmic filaments play key roles in astronomy research.

- A galaxy's color, mass, and size are associated with filaments.
- A galaxy's shape is associated with filaments.
- Filaments can be used to constrain the cosmological models.

- Credit: Millennium Simulation and ESO/M. Kornmesser.


## Density Ridges

A statistical model for filaments is the density ridges.

## Example: Ridges in Mountains



Credit: Google

## Example: Ridges in Smooth Functions



## Example: Ridges in Smooth Functions



## Ridges: Local Modes in Subspace



- A generalized local mode in a specific 'subspace'.


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- Ridges:

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- Local modes:

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\operatorname{Mode}(p)=\left\{x: \nabla p(x)=0, \lambda_{1}(x)<0\right\}
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## Estimator and Algorithm

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- In general, finding ridges from a given function is hard.
- The Subspace Constraint Mean Shift (SCMS; Ozertem2011) algorithm allows us to find $\widehat{R}_{n}$, ridges of the KDE.


## SCMS: Ridge Recovery Algorithm



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## Example for Estimated Density Ridges



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In what follows, we ignore the bias for estimating $R$ and focus only on the stochastic variation of $\widehat{R}_{n}$.

## Useful Metric: Hausdorff Distance

We introduce a useful metric-the Hausdorff distance for sets:

$$
\operatorname{Haus}(A, B)=\max \left\{\sup _{x \in A} d(x, B), \sup _{x \in B} d(x, A)\right\}
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where $d(x, A)=\inf _{y \in A}\|x-y\|$ is the projection distance.

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- Haus is an $\mathcal{L}_{\infty}$ metric for sets.
- Consistency: $\operatorname{Haus}\left(\widehat{R}_{n}, R\right)=o_{\mathbb{P}}(1)$.

The $\oplus$ Operation

We define $A \oplus r=\{x: d(x, A) \leq r\}$.

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Then we have the following inclusion property:

$$
A \subset B \oplus \operatorname{Haus}(A, B), \quad B \subset A \oplus \operatorname{Haus}(A, B)
$$

## Hausdorff Distance and Confidence Sets

We can use Hausdorff distance and $\oplus$ operation to construct confidence sets.
Let $F_{n}$ be the $C D F$ for $\operatorname{Haus}\left(\widehat{R}_{n}, R\right)$ and $t_{1-\alpha}=F_{n}^{-1}(1-\alpha)$ be the $1-\alpha$ quantile.

## Hausdorff Distance and Confidence Sets

We can use Hausdorff distance and $\oplus$ operation to construct confidence sets.
Let $F_{n}$ be the CDF for $\operatorname{Haus}\left(\widehat{R}_{n}, R\right)$ and $t_{1-\alpha}=F_{n}^{-1}(1-\alpha)$ be the $1-\alpha$ quantile.

- It can be shown that

$$
\mathbb{P}\left(R \subset \widehat{R}_{n} \oplus t_{1-\alpha}\right) \geq 1-\alpha
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$\rightarrow$ This follows from the property

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- We need to find the distribution $F_{n}$.


## Asymptotic Theory

Key observation:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\sqrt{n h^{d+2}} \operatorname{Haus}\left(\widehat{R}_{n}, R\right) & \approx \sqrt{n h^{d+2}} \sup _{x \in R} d\left(x, \widehat{R}_{n}\right) \\
& \approx \sup \{\text { Empirical process on } R\} \\
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## Theorem

Under regularity conditions, there exists a tight Gaussian process $\mathbb{B}$ defined on a certain function space $\mathcal{F}$ such that

$$
\begin{aligned}
\sup _{t}\left|\mathbb{P}\left(\sqrt{n h^{d+2}} \operatorname{Haus}\left(\widehat{R}_{n}, R\right)<t\right)-\mathbb{P}\left(\sup _{f \in \mathcal{F}}|\mathbb{B}(f)|<t\right)\right| \\
=O\left(\left(\frac{\log ^{7} n}{n h^{d+2}}\right)^{1 / 8}\right) .
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$$

## The Bootstrap

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$\longrightarrow$ A solution: the bootstrap.

## The Bootstrap Consistency

- Bootstrap sample $\Longrightarrow$ bootstrap ridges $\widehat{R}_{n}^{*}$.
- Compute $\operatorname{Haus}\left(\widehat{R}_{n}^{*}, \widehat{R}_{n}\right)$ to get a CDF estimator $\widehat{F}_{n}$.
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## Theorem

Under regularity conditions,

$$
\mathbb{P}\left(R \subset \widehat{R}_{n} \oplus \widehat{t}_{1-\alpha}\right)=1-\alpha+O\left(\left(\frac{\log ^{7} n}{n h^{d+2}}\right)^{1 / 8}\right) .
$$

## Example for Confidence Sets



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## Concluding Remarks

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Density ridges are very cool objects because
(1) they have cosmological applications,
(2) they are well-defined objects,
(3) there is a fast algorithm to compute them,
(0) their statistical properties are well-studied.


## Thank you!

## References

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## Smoothed Density Ridges

In particular, we focus on making inference for the smoothed version of the density, denoted as $p_{h}$ :

$$
p_{h}(x)=p \otimes K_{h}(x)=\mathbb{E}\left(\widehat{p}_{n}(x)\right), \quad K_{h}(x)=\frac{1}{h^{d}} K\left(\frac{x}{h}\right),
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where $\otimes$ denotes the convolution.

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- We define $R_{h}=\operatorname{Ridge}\left(p_{h}\right)$.
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- Always well-defined.
- Topologically similar.
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- Fast rate of convergence.


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- The advantages for focusing on $R_{h}$ :
- Always well-defined.
- Topologically similar.
- Asymptotically the same.
- Fast rate of convergence.
- One can always slightly undersmooth so that inference for $R_{h}$ is asymptotically valid for $R$.


## Bandwidth Selection for Density Ridges

## Effect of Smoothing Bandwidth



## Risk for Ridges

Let $R$ and $\widehat{R}_{n}$ be the density ridges and their estimators.
Let

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U_{R} \sim \operatorname{Unif}(R), \quad U_{\widehat{R}_{n}} \sim \operatorname{Unif}\left(\widehat{R}_{n}\right) .
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Define

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W_{n}=d\left(U_{R}, \widehat{R}_{n}\right), \quad \widetilde{W}_{n}=d\left(U_{\widehat{R}_{n}}, R\right)
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be the projected distance of $U_{R}$ onto $\widehat{R}_{n}$ and $U_{\widehat{R}_{n}}$ onto $R$. We define $L_{2}$ risk as

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\text { Risk }_{2, n}=\frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}\left(W_{n}^{2}+\widetilde{W}_{n}^{2}\right) .
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\text { Risk }_{2, n}=\frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}\left(W_{n}^{2}+\widetilde{W}_{n}^{2}\right) .
$$

- This is a generalized mean integrated square errors.
- Similarly, one can define Risk $_{1, n}$ using $L_{1}$ loss.


## Estimating Risks

We can use bootstrap or data splitting to estimate the risk Risk ${ }_{2, n}$. Let $\widehat{R}_{n}^{*}$ be the bootstrap version of $\widehat{R}_{n}$. Let

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\widehat{\operatorname{Risk}}_{2, n}=\frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}\left(W_{n}^{* 2}+\widetilde{W}_{n}^{* 2} \mid X_{1}, \cdots, X_{n}\right) .
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## Theorem

Under regularity conditions,

$$
\frac{{\widehat{\operatorname{Risk}_{2, n}}}_{\text {Risk }_{2, n}}^{P} 1, \quad{\widehat{\text { Risk }_{1, n}}}_{\text {Risk }_{1, n}}^{\rightarrow} 1 .}{}
$$

## Bandwidth Selection via Risk Minimization





## Application to Cosmology Dataset




## Illustration for Asymptotic Theory

## Asymptotic Theory



## Asymptotic Theory



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(3) $\operatorname{Haus}\left(\widehat{D}_{n}, D_{h}\right)=$
$\sup \{$ projection distance $\} \approx$ $\sup \{$ Empirical process $\}$.


