Carnegie Mellon University

Response Matrix Estimation in Unfolding Differential Cross Sections

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Richard Zhu Mikael Kuusela Larry Wasserman Department of Statistics and Data Science Carnegie Mellon University

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Forward model for unfolding



 $g(y) = \int_{x \in T} k(y, x) f(x) dx, \qquad k(y, x) = p(\text{smeared observation } y \mid \text{true event } x)$

Discretization

Let $\{T_j\}_{j=1}^n$ be a partition of the particle-level space T and $\{S_i\}_{i=1}^m$ be a partition of the detector-level space S.

$$f \to \lambda, g \to \mu$$
$$\lambda = \left[\int_{T_1} f(x) dx, \dots, \int_{T_n} f(x) dx \right], \mu = \left[\int_{S_1} g(y) dy, \dots, \int_{S_m} g(y) dy \right]$$

 $\mu = K\lambda$ where the elements of the response matrix K are given by

$$K_{ij} = \frac{\int_{y \in S_i} \int_{x \in T_j} k(y, x) f(x) dx dy}{\int_{y \in S_i} f(x) dx}$$

= P(smeared observation in bin i | true event in bin j)

Goal: Inference on the true mean λ

Statistical uncertainty in the response matrix

- The response matrix *K* is usually not known analytically, but instead estimated with Monte Carlo simulation, which introduces **statistical uncertainty** on *K*.
- Traditionally, this has been estimated by binning the true and smeared events and counting the propagation of events between the bins, i.e.

 $\widehat{K}_{ij} = \frac{\# Events \text{ originating from bin } j \text{ that have been recorded by detector in bin } i}{\# Events \text{ originating from bin } j}$

• The response matrix can be noisy, especially with a small MC sample size.



Two-step Approach

• Recall that

$$K_{ij} = \frac{\int_{y \in S_i} \int_{x \in T_j} k(y, x) f(x) dx dy}{\int_{x \in T_j} f(x) dx}$$

Consider the estimator

$$\widehat{K}_{ij} = \frac{\int_{y \in S_i} \int_{x \in T_j} \widehat{k}(y, x) f(x) dx dy}{\int_{x \in T_j} f(x) dx}$$

- 1. Estimate the response kernel k on the unbinned space.
- 2. Plug back into the above equation.
- Potentially provide smoother estimate for K_{ij} .

- k(y, x) = p(smeared observation y | true event x).
- Given $(X_1, Y_1), ..., (X_n, Y_n) \sim p_{X,Y}$ from Monte Carlo generator, where X_i denotes the particle-level data and Y_i denotes the detector-level observation, estimating k(y, x) is equivalent to conditional density estimation of $p_{Y|X}(y|x)$.
- Accurate estimate of the response kernel k should lead to accurate estimate of response matrix K.
- We will consider several nonparametric methods for conditional density estimation and make some comparisons.

1. Kernel method

$$\hat{p}_{h_1,h_2}(y|x) = argmin_a \sum_{i=1}^n (K_{h_2}(y - Y_i) - a)^2 K_{h_1}(x - X_i)$$
$$= \sum_{i=1}^n w_i(x) K_{h_2}(y - Y_i)$$

where $w_i(x) = \frac{K_{h_1}(x-X_i)}{\sum_{j=1}^n K_{h_1}(x-X_j)}$ and K_h is some kernel function with bandwidth h > 0 (not the response kernel).

2. Local linear method

$$(\hat{a}, \hat{b}) = argmin_{a,b} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(K_{h_2}(y - Y_i) - a - b(X_i - x) \right)^2 K_{h_1}(x - X_i)$$
$$\hat{p}_{h_1,h_2}(y|x) = \hat{a}$$

• Two global bandwidth parameters h_1 , h_2 control the amount of smoothing along X and Y, respectively.

- Global bandwidth is not optimal in some cases, e.g. different amount of smearing applied to different regions for the response matrix.
- 3. Kernel method with local bandwidths

$$\hat{p}_{h_1(x),h_2(x)}(y|x) = \sum_{i:||x-X_i|| < \delta(x)} w_i(x) K_{h_2(x)}(y-Y_i)$$

where $w_i(x) = \frac{K_{h_1(x)}(x-X_i)}{\sum_{j:||x-X_j||} K_{h_1(x)}(x-X_j)}$ and $\delta(x)$ is the window size at x.

• Local bandwidth parameters $h_1(x)$, $h_2(x)$ control the amount of smoothing along X and Y conditioning on each x.

4. Location-scale model

Suppose we assume the smeared observations are generated from the following model $Y = \mu(X) + \sigma(X)\epsilon$

1

where ϵ follows some distribution with mean 0 and variance 1.

• Then p(y|x) can be written as

$$p(y|x) = \frac{1}{\sigma(x)} p_{\epsilon} \left(\frac{y - \mu(x)}{\sigma(x)} \right)$$

and an estimator can be obtained by

$$\hat{p}(y|x) = \frac{1}{\hat{\sigma}(x)} \hat{p}_{\epsilon} \left(\frac{y - \hat{\mu}(x)}{\hat{\sigma}(x)} \right).$$

• $\hat{\mu}$, $\hat{\sigma}^2$ can be estimates by some regression method (e.g. splines) and \hat{p}_{ϵ} by density estimation (e.g. KDE).

• Directly model the variance function $\sigma^2(x)$ and hence avoid the problem of finding local bandwidths as in the case of local kernel method.

Simulation study

• We mimic unfolding the inclusive jet transverse momentum spectrum by simulating the data using the particle-level function

$$f(p_{\perp}) = LN_0 \left(\frac{p_{\perp}}{GeV}\right)^{-\alpha} \left(1 - \frac{2}{\sqrt{s}}p_{\perp}\right)^{\beta} e^{-\gamma/p_{\perp}}$$

• The parameters are given by

$$\begin{split} L &= 5.1 f b^{-1}, N_0 = 10^{17} \frac{f b}{G e V}, \alpha = 5, \beta = 10, \gamma = \\ 10 \; G e V, \sqrt{s} = 7 \; T e V. \end{split}$$

• The number of bins = 40.





Simulation study

• The response kernel is modeled as an additive Gaussian noise

 $k(p'_{\perp}, p_{\perp}) = N(p'_{\perp} - p_{\perp}|0, \sigma(p_{\perp})^2)$

with heteroscedastic variance satisfying $\left(\frac{\sigma(p_{\perp})}{p_{\perp}}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{C_1}{\sqrt{p_{\perp}}}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{C_2}{p_{\perp}}\right)^2 + C_3^2.$

• The parameters are $C_1 = 1 GeV^{1/2}$, $C_2 = 1 GeV$, $C_3 = 0.05$.

true response matrix



Comparison of the response matrix estimators

- The sample size (number of paired Monte Carlo events) for estimating the response matrix *K* is 100000.
- The performance of the estimators is compared using bin-wise mean absolute error (MAE)

$$\frac{1}{M}\sum_{l=1}^{M} \left|\widehat{K}_{ij}^{(l)} - K_{ij}\right| \text{ for all } i \in [m], j \in [n]$$

with M = 1000 Monte Carlo simulations.





Response Matrix Estimation (K=40x40, n=100000)

Effect of the estimated response matrix on the unfolded spectrum

- Does a better estimated response matrix lead to a better unfolded point estimator?
- Least-squares estimator with Tikhonov regularization.
- D'Agostini iteration (EM algorithm, Iterative Bayesian unfolding, Lucy-Richardson deconvolution).

Tikhonov regularization

• With some $\delta \ge 0$, the least squares solution with Tikhonov regularization is $\hat{\lambda} = (\hat{R}^{\top}\hat{R} + \delta I)^{-1}\hat{R}^{\top}y.$

 Better estimated response matrix generally leads to better unfolded solution.

- When there is no regularization ($\delta = 0$), the solution with the true response matrix (without noise) performs worse compared to estimated response matrices.
- The estimated response matrices implicitly perform regularization (an ill-conditioned matrix with some additive random noise becomes well-conditioned with high probability¹).

¹ T. Tao, V. Vu, The condition number of a randomly perturbed matrix, in: Symposium on the Theory of Computing, 2007.



D'Agostini iteration

• After r + 1 iterations, the solution is given by

$$\hat{\lambda}_j^{(r+1)} = \frac{\hat{\lambda}_j^{(r)}}{\sum_{i=1}^m \widehat{K}_{ij}} \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{\widehat{K}_{ij} y_i}{\sum_{l=1}^n \widehat{K}_{il} \, \hat{\lambda}_l^{(r)}}$$

$$\hat{\pmb{\lambda}}^{(r+1)} = \left[\hat{\lambda}_1^{(r+1)}, \dots, \hat{\lambda}_n^{(r+1)}\right]$$

- Again, better estimated response matrix generally leads to better unfolded solution.
- Most estimated response matrices lead to similar MSE when the number of iterations is small.



Summary

- Estimated response matrix from a Monte Carlo simulation has statistical uncertainty.
- Traditional binning (histogram) method can be noisy in regions that have small sample sizes.
- Two-step approach can remedy this issue by first estimating response kernel using conditional density estimation on the unbinned space, and then constructing a plug-in estimator of response matrix based on the estimated response kernel.
- The estimated response matrix is a more well-conditioned matrix compared to the true response matrix without any noise, which implicitly regularizes the solution.
- Uncertainty quantification for the unfolded solution in the presence of uncertainty in the response matrix is not immediately clear.

Backup

• Tikhonov regularization with different regularization strengths



🔺 local linear

binning (histogram)
Truth

Backup

• MSE for Tikhonov regularization with different regularization strengths

 $\delta = 1e - 8$



$$\delta = 1e - 9$$







Backup

• D'Agostini solution with different number of iterations



- location-scale
- global kernel
- local kernel
- 🔺 local linear
- binning (histogram)



1014

1012

10¹⁰

error 108

106

104

10²

100

niter = 3



niter = 40





