

## IMPROVEMENT OF NORMAL APPROXIMATION FOR KERNEL DENSITY ESTIMATOR

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# IMPROVEMENT OF NORMAL APPROXIMATION FOR KERNEL DENSITY ESTIMATOR

By

Shota UMENO\* and Yoshihiko MAESONO†

## Abstract

Many papers have studied theoretical properties of a kernel density estimator. Especially mean integrated squared errors are precisely studied. The asymptotic distribution of the estimator is also discussed, and it is easy to show asymptotic normality. In this paper, we will discuss higher order approximation of the distribution of the kernel estimator. We will obtain an Edgeworth expansion, which takes an explicit form. Assuming a bandwidth  $h_n = O(n^{-\frac{1}{4}})$ , we also prove the validity of the expansion with residual term  $o(n^{-\frac{3}{4}})$ .

*Key Words and Phrases:* Kernel estimator, Density function, Edgeworth expansion, Normal approximation.

## 1. Introduction

Let  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  be independently and identically distributed (*i.i.d.*) random variables with distribution and density functions  $F(x)$ ,  $f(x)$ . The kernel type estimator of the density function  $f$  is given by

$$\hat{f}_n(x) = \frac{1}{nh_n} \sum_{i=1}^n K\left(\frac{x - X_i}{h_n}\right)$$

where  $h_n$  is a bandwidth parameter and  $h_n \rightarrow 0 (n \rightarrow \infty)$ .  $K$  is a kernel function which satisfies

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} K(x) dx = 1.$$

The kernel estimator was introduced by Fix and Hodges (1951) and Akaike (1954). Rosenblatt (1956) and Parzen (1962) have discussed basic properties of the estimator. Mean integrated squared errors of the kernel density estimator are discussed in many papers. The best order of the bandwidth which minimizes the mean integrated squared error, is  $O(n^{-\frac{1}{5}})$ . There are also many papers which studied bias reduction, bandwidth selection, etc. It is easy to show asymptotic normality of a standardized kernel estimator. For improvement of the normal approximation, Hall (1991) has obtained the Edgeworth

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expansion for the kernel density estimator with residual term  $O(\{nh_n\}^{-\frac{3}{2}} + n^{-1})$ . It is possible to obtain a higher order expansion with the general bandwidth  $h_n$ . Here we want to discuss an explicit form of the expansion, and so we use the bandwidth with  $h_n = cn^{-1/4}$  ( $c > 0$ ). We also discuss conditions for the validity of the expansion, which are different from those of Hall (1991).

In section 2, we will discuss the asymptotic normality and the Edgeworth expansion. We will also discuss the conditions which ensure the validity of the expansion. In section 3, we will compare the normal approximation and the expansion by simulation.

## 2. Asymptotic expansion

Since the kernel density estimator is a sample mean of the *i.i.d.* random variables, we have an asymptotic distribution of the standardized kernel density estimator:

$$P\left(\frac{(\hat{f}_n(x_0) - f(x_0))}{\sqrt{n}\sqrt{\text{Var}(\frac{1}{nh_n}K(\frac{x_0 - X_1}{h_n}))}} \leq y\right) = \Phi(y) + o(1)$$

where  $\Phi(y)$  is a distribution function of the standard normal  $N(0, 1)$  and  $x_0 \in \mathbf{R}$  is a fixed value. Here we assume that the kernel is the second order and satisfies

$$0 < \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} K^2(z)dz < \infty.$$

Let us define

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_\ell(x_0) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \{k(u)\}^\ell f(x_0 - h_n u) du, \\ Y_1 &= K\left(\frac{x_0 - X_1}{h_n}\right) - E\left[K\left(\frac{x_0 - X_1}{h_n}\right)\right], \\ Y_2 &= K^2\left(\frac{x_0 - X_1}{h_n}\right) - E\left[K^2\left(\frac{x_0 - X_1}{h_n}\right)\right], \\ \mu_{rs} &= h_n^{-1} E[Y_1^r Y_2^s].\end{aligned}$$

Using  $\mu_\ell(x_0)$  and  $\mu_{rs}$ , which depend on the sample size  $n$ , Hall (1991) has discussed the Edgeworth expansion with remainder term  $O(\{nh_n\}^{-\frac{3}{2}} + n^{-1})$ . Here we obtain explicit forms of these terms and prove the validity of the expansion under different conditions. In order to prove the validity of the expansion, we use the following Esséen's (1945) smoothing lemma. Let  $H(x)$  be a bounded non-decreasing function, and  $G(x)$  be a differentiable function of bounded variation on the real line and  $|G'(x)| \leq M < \infty$ . Further let  $H(\pm\infty) = G(\pm\infty)$ . Then for any  $T > 0$ ,  $b > \frac{1}{2\pi}$ , we have

$$\Delta = \sup_x |H(x) - G(x)| \leq b \int_{-T}^T \left| \frac{h(t) - g(t)}{t} \right| dt + d(b) \frac{M}{T} \quad (1)$$

where

$$h(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{itx} dH(x), \quad g(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{itx} dG(x)$$

and  $d(b)$  depends on  $b$ , but not on  $n$ .

First we will obtain an Edgeworth expansion of

$$S_n = \frac{\hat{f}_n(x_0) - E[\hat{f}_n(x_0)]}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(\hat{f}_n(x_0))}}.$$

For the standardized sample mean of the *i.i.d.* random variables, many papers discussed the approximation of the characteristic function. Let us define

$$Z_{n,j} = \frac{h_n^{-1}K\left(\frac{x_0 - X_j}{h_n}\right) - h_n^{-1} \int K\left(\frac{x_0 - y}{h_n}\right)f(y)dy}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(h_n^{-1}K\left(\frac{x_0 - X_1}{h_n}\right))}} \quad (\text{for } j = 1, 2, \dots, n)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} P_{n,0}(t) &= 1 \\ P_{n,1}(t) &= \frac{\kappa_{n,3}}{6}t^3, \\ P_{n,2}(t) &= \frac{\kappa_{n,4}}{24}t^4 + \frac{\kappa_{n,3}^2}{72}t^6, \\ P_{n,3}(t) &= \frac{\kappa_{n,5}}{120}t^5 + \frac{\kappa_{n,3}\kappa_{n,4}}{144}t^7 + \frac{\kappa_{n,3}^3}{1296}t^9, \\ \kappa_{n,3} &= \mu_3 - 3\mu_1\mu_2 + 2\mu_1^3, \\ \kappa_{n,4} &= \mu_4 - 3\mu_2^2 - 4\mu_1\mu_3 + 12\mu_1^2\mu_2 - 6\mu_1^4 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\mu_k = E(Z_{n,j}^k).$$

From the definition of  $Z_{n,j}$ , we have

$$S_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{j=1}^n Z_{n,j}.$$

Let  $\varphi_{S_n}(t)$  be a characteristic function of  $S_n$ , and then we have

$$\varphi_{S_n}(t) = \left\{ \varphi_{Z_{n,1}} \left( \frac{t}{\sqrt{n}} \right) \right\}^n.$$

Using the evaluation for the characteristic function of the standardized sample mean, we have the following lemma.

LEMMA 2.1. Assume  $E(|Z_{n,j}|^5) < \infty$ . Then for  $|t| \leq T_{5,n} = \frac{\sqrt{n}}{40\mu_5^{3/5}}$ , we have

$$\left| \varphi_{S_n}(t) - e^{-\frac{t^2}{2}} \left( 1 + \sum_{k=1}^3 P_{n,k}(it)n^{-\frac{k}{2}} \right) \right| \leq \frac{\varepsilon(n)}{(T_{5,n})^3} (|t|^5 + |t|^9) e^{-\frac{t^2}{4}} \quad (2)$$

where  $\varepsilon(n) \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

PROOF. See Gnedenko and Kolmogorov (1968).

Inverting this approximation of the characteristic function, we have the following Edgeworth expansion for  $S_n$ :

$$G_3(y) = \Phi(y) + n^{-\frac{1}{2}}\phi(y)Q_{n,1}(y) + n^{-1}\phi(y)Q_{n,2}(y) + n^{-\frac{3}{2}}\phi(y)Q_{n,3}(y),$$

$$\begin{aligned} Q_{n,1}(y) &= -\frac{\kappa_{n,3}}{6}H_2(y), \\ Q_{n,2}(y) &= -\frac{\kappa_{n,4}}{24}H_3(y) - \frac{\kappa_{n,3}^2}{72}H_5(y), \\ Q_{n,3}(y) &= -\frac{\kappa_{n,5}}{120}H_5(y) - \frac{\kappa_{n,3}\kappa_{n,4}}{144}H_7(y) - \frac{\kappa_{n,3}^3}{1296}H_9(y) \end{aligned}$$

where  $\{H_k(x)\}$  are Hermite polynomials. Further, let us define

$$G_2(y) = \Phi(y) + n^{-\frac{1}{2}}\phi(y)Q_{n,1}(y) + n^{-1}\phi(y)Q_{n,2}(y).$$

It is easy to show that

$$G_3(y) = G_2 + O(n^{-\frac{9}{8}}).$$

We will show that  $G_2(y)$  is the Edgeworth expansion of  $S_n$  with residual term  $o(n^{-\frac{3}{4}})$

Usually, when we prove the validity of the expansion for the sum of *i.i.d.* random variables, we assume the Cramer condition

$$\lim_{|t| \rightarrow \infty} |E((itX_j))| < 1.$$

Since  $Z_{n,j}$  depends on the bandwidth  $h_n$  or  $n$ , we cannot apply the previous results, directly. Assuming some regularity conditions for the kernel  $K(u)$  and the density  $f(x)$ , we have the following theorem for the standardized density estimator  $S_n$ .

**THEOREM 2.2.** *Assume that the bandwidth  $h_n = cn^{-\frac{1}{4}}$  ( $c > 0$ ),  $f^{(5)}(x)$  exists,  $K(u)$  is the second order kernel and  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} K^\ell(u)du < \infty$ , ( $\ell = 1, 2, \dots, 5$ ). The kernel function  $K$  takes a form*

$$K(u) = \tilde{K}(u)\chi_{[-1,1]}(u), \quad (3)$$

where  $\chi_{[-1,1]}(u)$  is an indicator function. Further, there exist  $0 < \alpha < 1, \gamma > 0$  which satisfy

$$P(|X_1 - x_0| \geq h_n) \leq 1 - \frac{\gamma}{n^\alpha} + o(n^{-\alpha}), \quad (4)$$

and for  $|t| > \frac{\sqrt{n}}{40\mu_5^{3/5}}$

$$\left| \int_{\left|\frac{x_0-y}{h_n}\right| \leq 1} e^{i\frac{t}{\sqrt{n}}K\left(\frac{x_0-y}{h_n}\right)} f(y)dy \right| = o(n^{-\alpha}). \quad (5)$$

Then we have

$$\sup_y \left| P(S_n \leq y) - G_2(y) \right| = o(n^{-\frac{3}{4}}).$$

PROOF. See Appendix.

Let us define

$$\bar{f}_n(x_0) = \frac{1}{h_n} \int K\left(\frac{x_0 - y}{h_n}\right) f(y) dy \quad \text{and} \quad b_n = \frac{\bar{f}_n(x_0) - f_n(x_0)}{\sqrt{n} \sqrt{\text{Var}\left(\frac{1}{nh_n} K\left(\frac{x_0 - X_1}{h_n}\right)\right)}}$$

where  $b_n$  is a standardized bias. Since

$$P\left(\frac{\hat{f}_n(x_0) - f_n(x_0)}{\sqrt{n} \sqrt{\text{Var}\left(\frac{1}{nh_n} K\left(\frac{x_0 - X_1}{h_n}\right)\right)}} \leq y\right) = P(S_n \leq y - b_n) = G_2(y - b_n) + o(n^{-\frac{3}{4}}),$$

using the Taylor expansion, we have the following theorem.

**THEOREM 2.3.** *Assume that the conditions of Theorem 2.2 are satisfied. Then we have*

$$P\left(\frac{\hat{f}(x_0) - f(x_0)}{\sqrt{n} \sqrt{\text{Var}\left(\frac{1}{nh_n} K\left(\frac{x_0 - X_1}{h_n}\right)\right)}} \leq y\right) = \Phi(y) + C_1 + C_2 + C_3 + C_4 + o(n^{-\frac{3}{4}}), \quad (6)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} A_{3, -\frac{1}{2}} &= \frac{\int K^3(z) dz}{(f(x_0))^{\frac{1}{2}} (\int K^2(z) dz)^{\frac{3}{2}}}, \\ A_{3, \frac{1}{2}} &= \frac{3(f'(x_0) \int z K^2(z) dz + f^2(x_0) \int K^3(z) dz)}{2(f(x_0))^{\frac{3}{2}} (\int K^2(z) dz)^{\frac{5}{2}}} \\ &\quad - \frac{f'(x_0) \int z K^3(z) dz + 3f^2(x_0) \int K^2(z) dz}{(f(x_0) \int K^2(z) dz)^{\frac{3}{2}}}, \\ A_{4, -1} &= \frac{\int K^4(z) dz}{f(x_0) (\int K^2(z) dz)^2}, \\ B_{\frac{5}{2}} &= \frac{\int z^2 K(z) f''(x_0) dz}{2\sqrt{f(x_0) \int K^2(z) dz}}, \\ B_{\frac{7}{2}} &= -\frac{\int z^3 K(z) f^{(3)}(x_0) dz}{6\sqrt{f(x_0) \int K^2(z) dz}} \\ &\quad + \frac{(f'(x_0) \int z K^2(z) dz + f(x_0) \int z^2 K(z) f''(x_0) dz)}{4(f(x_0) \int K^2(z) dz)^{\frac{3}{2}}}, \\ B_{\frac{9}{2}} &= \frac{\int z^4 K(z) f^{(4)}(x_0) dz}{24\sqrt{f(x_0) \int K^2(z) dz}} \\ &\quad - \frac{(f'(x_0) \int z K^2(z) dz + f(x_0) \int z^3 K(z) f^{(3)}(x_0) dz)}{12(f(x_0) \int K^2(z) dz)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \\ &\quad - \frac{f''(x_0) \int z^2 K^2(z) dz \int z^2 K(z) f''(x_0) dz}{8(f(x_0) \int K^2(z) dz)^{\frac{3}{2}}}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
C_1 &= -\phi(y)n^{\frac{1}{2}}h_n^{\frac{5}{2}}B_{\frac{5}{2}} + \frac{1}{2}\phi'(y)nh_n^5B_{\frac{5}{2}}^2 - \phi(y)n^{\frac{1}{2}}h_n^{\frac{7}{2}}B_{\frac{7}{2}} \\
&\quad - \frac{1}{6}\phi^{(2)}(y)n^{\frac{3}{2}}h_n^{\frac{15}{2}}B_{\frac{5}{2}}^3 + \phi'(y)nh_n^6B_{\frac{5}{2}}B_{\frac{7}{2}} + \frac{1}{24}\phi^{(3)}(y)n^2h_n^{10}B_{\frac{5}{2}}^4 \\
&\quad - \phi(y)n^{\frac{1}{2}}h_n^{\frac{9}{2}}B_{\frac{9}{2}} - \frac{1}{2}\phi^{(2)}(y)n^{\frac{3}{2}}h_n^{\frac{17}{2}}B_{\frac{5}{2}}^2B_{\frac{7}{2}} \\
&\quad - \frac{n^{\frac{5}{2}}h_n^{\frac{25}{2}}}{120}\phi^{(4)}(y)B_{\frac{5}{2}}^5 + \frac{1}{2}\phi'(y)nh_n^7(B_{\frac{7}{2}}^2 + 2B_{\frac{5}{2}}B_{\frac{9}{2}}) \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{6}\phi^{(3)}(y)n^2h_n^{11}B_{\frac{5}{2}}^3B_{\frac{7}{2}} + \frac{n^3h_n^{15}}{720}\phi^{(5)}(y)B_{\frac{5}{2}}^6, \\
C_2 &= -\frac{1}{6}\left\{n^{-\frac{1}{2}}h_n^{-\frac{1}{2}}\phi(y)(y^2-1)A_{3,-\frac{1}{2}}\right. \\
&\quad \left.-(h_n^2B_{\frac{5}{2}}^2 + h_n^3B_{\frac{7}{2}})A_{3,-\frac{1}{2}}\{\phi'(y)(y^2-1) + 2y\phi(y)\}\right. \\
&\quad \left.+n^{-\frac{1}{2}}h_n^{\frac{1}{2}}\phi(y)(y^2-1)A_{3,\frac{1}{2}}\right. \\
&\quad \left.+n^{\frac{1}{2}}h_n^{\frac{9}{2}}B_{\frac{5}{2}}^2A_{3,-\frac{1}{2}}\{\phi(y) + 2y\phi'(y) + \frac{1}{2}(y^2-1)\phi^{(2)}(y)\}\right. \\
&\quad \left.-h_n^3B_{\frac{5}{2}}^2A_{3,\frac{1}{2}}\{2y\phi(y) + (y^2-1)\phi'(y)\}\right. \\
&\quad \left.-nh_n^7B_{\frac{5}{2}}^3A_{3,-\frac{1}{2}}\{\phi'(y) + y\phi^{(2)}(y) + \frac{1}{6}(y^2-1)\phi^{(3)}(y)\}\right\}, \\
C_3 &= -\frac{1}{24}n^{-1}h_n^{-1}\phi(y)(y^3-2y^2)A_{4,-1}, \\
C_4 &= -\frac{1}{72}n^{-1}h_n^{-1}\phi(y)(y^5-10y^3+15y)A_{3,-\frac{1}{2}}^2,
\end{aligned}$$

and  $\phi(y)$  denotes a density function of the standard normal distribution.

PROOF. See Appendix.

If the kernel  $K(u)$  is the Epanechnikov (1969) kernel and the density function satisfies regularity conditions, we have the following theorem.

**THEOREM 2.4.** *Assume that the kernel is the Epanechnikov one and satisfies the conditions of Theorem 2.2. Further we assume that there exists a neighborhood  $x_0 - \delta \leq x \leq x_0 + \delta$ , in which  $f(x) \geq a$  for some  $a > 0$ ,  $\delta > 0$ . Then the equation (6) in Theorem 2.3 holds.*

PROOF. See Appendix.

If the kernel  $K(u)$  is symmetric about the origin and 4-th order kernel, the Edgeworth expansion takes the following simple form.

**COROLLARY 2.5.** *Assume that the conditions of Theorem 2.4, and the kernel  $K(u)$  is symmetric about the origin and 4-th order kernel. Then we have the simple form of*



each terms of the Edgeworth expansion as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
A_{3,-\frac{1}{2}} &= \frac{\int K^3(z)dz}{(f(x_0))^{\frac{1}{2}}(\int K^2(z)dz)^{\frac{3}{2}}}, \\
A_{3,\frac{1}{2}} &= \frac{3f^2(x_0) \int K^3(z)dz}{2(f(x_0))^{\frac{3}{2}}(\int K^2(z)dz)^{\frac{5}{2}}} - \frac{3f^2(x_0) \int K^2(z)dz}{(f(x_0) \int K^2(z)dz)^{\frac{3}{2}}}, \\
A_{4,-1} &= \frac{\int K^4(z)dz}{f(x_0)(\int K^2(z)dz)^2}, \\
B_{\frac{5}{2}} &= B_{\frac{7}{2}} = 0, \\
B_{\frac{9}{2}} &= \frac{\int z^4 K(z) f^{(4)}(x_0) dz}{24 \sqrt{f(x_0) \int K^2(z) dz}}, \\
C_1 &= -\phi(y) n^{\frac{1}{2}} h_n^{\frac{9}{2}} B_{\frac{9}{2}}, \\
C_2 &= -\frac{1}{6} \left\{ n^{-\frac{1}{2}} h_n^{-\frac{1}{2}} \phi(y) (y^2 - 1) A_{3,-\frac{1}{2}} + n^{-\frac{1}{2}} h_n^{\frac{1}{2}} \phi(y) (y^2 - 1) A_{3,\frac{1}{2}} \right\}, \\
C_3 &= -\frac{1}{24} n^{-1} h_n^{-1} \phi(y) (y^3 - 2y^2) A_{4,-1}, \\
C_4 &= -\frac{1}{72} n^{-1} h_n^{-1} \phi(y) (y^5 - 10y^3 + 15y) A_{3,-\frac{1}{2}}^2.
\end{aligned}$$

### 3. Simulation

In this section, we will compare the simple normal approximation and the Edgeworth expansion by simulation. Here we use the Epanechnikov kernel

$$K(u) = \frac{3}{4}(1 - u^2)\chi_{[-1,1]}(u)$$

with bandwidth  $h_n = n^{-\frac{1}{4}}$ . In the tables, "True" means an estimate of

$$P \left( \frac{(\hat{f}(x_0) - f(x_0))}{\sqrt{n} \sqrt{\text{Var}(\frac{1}{nh_n} K(\frac{x_0 - X_1}{h_n})}} \leq y \right)$$

based on 1,000,000 replication of the sample sets  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ . Table 1 denotes the results of the comparison when  $x_0$  is 5% quantile of the standard normal distribution  $N(0, 1)$ .

Table 1. (Normal,  $x_0$  : 5% quantile)

$y$	Normal	Edgeworth	True
-2.5	0.006209665	<b>-0.003506837</b>	0.00000
-2	0.022750132	<b>-0.004460385</b>	0.00000
-1.5	0.066807201	<b>0.030039624</b>	0.00000
-1	<b>0.158655254</b>	0.139079764	0.16776
-0.5	<b>0.308537539</b>	0.319048671	0.30392
0	0.500000000	<b>0.519034876</b>	0.53508
0.5	0.691462461	<b>0.694662961</b>	0.69585
1	0.841344746	<b>0.829284154</b>	0.82807
1.5	0.933192799	<b>0.916289906</b>	0.91041
2	0.977249868	<b>0.960553435</b>	0.95716
2.5	0.993790335	<b>0.980211679</b>	0.98201

Similarly, Table 2 denotes the results when  $x_0$  is 25% quantile of  $N(0, 1)$ .

Table 2. (Normal,  $x_0$  : 25% quantile)

$y$	Normal	Edgeworth	True
-2.5	0.006209665	<b>0.003716433</b>	0.00143
-2	0.022750132	<b>0.017044958</b>	0.01331
-1.5	0.066807201	<b>0.063640227</b>	0.06137
-1	0.158655254	<b>0.168916606</b>	0.16682
-0.5	0.308537539	<b>0.334351260</b>	0.33662
0	0.500000000	<b>0.528575325</b>	0.53068
0.5	0.691462461	<b>0.710160457</b>	0.71300
1	0.841344746	<b>0.849451459</b>	0.84582
1.5	<b>0.933192799</b>	0.935266886	0.92844
2	0.977249868	<b>0.976106958</b>	0.97148
2.5	0.993790335	<b>0.991382658</b>	0.99016

Tables 3 and 4 denote the results when  $x_0$  are 5% and 25% quantiles of the  $\chi^2$ -distribution with 2 degrees of freedom.

Table 3. ( $\chi^2$ ,  $x_0$  : 5% quantile)

$y$	Normal	Edgeworth	True
-2.5	0.006209665	<b>-0.001857202</b>	0.00000
-2	0.022750132	<b>0.006498395</b>	0.00000
-1.5	0.066807201	<b>0.059326133</b>	0.00000
-1	<b>0.158655254</b>	0.189813229	0.16937
-0.5	0.308537539	<b>0.382560488</b>	0.39447
0	0.500000000	<b>0.579719202</b>	0.54887
0.5	0.691462461	<b>0.741135940</b>	0.73580
1	<b>0.841344746</b>	0.860013287	0.84644
1.5	<b>0.933192799</b>	0.935735257	0.92448
2	0.977249868	<b>0.972805897</b>	0.96403
2.5	0.993790335	<b>0.987253348</b>	0.98469

Table 4. ( $\chi^2$ ,  $x_0$  : 25% quantile)

$y$	Normal	Edgeworth	True
-2.5	0.006209665	<b>0.0003166831</b>	0.00000
-2	0.022750132	<b>0.0091356232</b>	0.00000
-1.5	0.066807201	<b>0.0544712728</b>	0.05068
-1	0.158655254	<b>0.1667606621</b>	0.17876
-0.5	0.308537539	<b>0.3425255064</b>	0.33485
0	0.500000000	<b>0.5393735618</b>	0.53925
0.5	0.691462461	<b>0.7146763830</b>	0.71463
1	<b>0.841344746</b>	0.8472006341	0.84124
1.5	0.933192799	<b>0.9303698805</b>	0.92115
2	0.977249868	<b>0.9713245879</b>	0.96650
2.5	0.993790335	<b>0.9878142460</b>	0.98661

From the above simulation study, we can see that the Edgeworth expansion improves the normal approximation in most cases.

#### 4. Appendix

##### Proof of Theorem 2.2

Let  $F_{S_n}(y)$  be a distribution function of  $S_n$ . Putting  $F(y) = F_{S_n}(y)$ ,  $G(y) = G_3(y)$  and  $T = n^{\frac{3}{4}} \log n$ , we apply the Esseen's smoothing lemma. Let us define

$$\varphi_{S_n}(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{ity} dF_{S_n}(y)$$

and

$$\psi(t) = e^{-\frac{t^2}{2}} \left( 1 + \sum_{k=1}^3 P_{n,k}(it) n^{-\frac{k}{2}} \right) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{ity} dG_3(y).$$

Using the proof of the validity for the Edgeworth expansion of the sample mean (See Gnedenko and Kolmogorov (1968)), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \sup_y |F_{S_n}(y) - G_3(y)| \\ &= \int_{|t| \leq T_{5,n}} \left| \frac{\varphi_{S_n}(t) - \psi(t)}{t} \right| dt + \int_{T_{5,n} < |t| \leq T} \left| \frac{\varphi_{S_n}(t) - \psi(t)}{t} \right| dt + o(n^{-\frac{3}{4}}). \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to show that

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_5 &= E(Z_{n,1}^5) = O((n^2 h_n)^{\frac{5}{2}}) \left\{ \frac{1}{n^5 h_n^5} \left( h_n \int K^5(z) f(x_0 - h_n z) dy + O(h_n^2) \right) \right\} \\ &= O(n^{\frac{3}{8}}). \end{aligned}$$

Then, from the usual evaluation for the sample mean, we can show that

$$\int_{|t| \leq T_{5,n}} \left| \frac{\varphi_{T_n}(t) - \psi(t)}{t} \right| dt = o(n^{-\frac{3}{4}}).$$

Note that

$$\int_{T_{5,n} < |t| \leq T} \left| \frac{\varphi_{S_n}(t) - \psi(t)}{t} \right| dt \leq \int_{T_{5,n} < |t| \leq T} \left| \frac{\varphi_{S_n}(t)}{t} \right| dt + \int_{T_{5,n} < |t| \leq T} \left| \frac{\psi(t)}{t} \right| dt.$$

It is easy to show that

$$\int_{T_{5,n} < |t| \leq T} \left| \frac{\psi(t)}{t} \right| dt = o(n^{-\frac{3}{4}}).$$

It follows from the assumption (5) of Theorem 2.2 that

$$\begin{aligned} |\varphi_{Z_{n,1}}(t)| &= \left| \int_{\left|\frac{x_0-y}{h_n}\right| \leq 1} e^{i\frac{t}{\sqrt{n}}K\left(\frac{x_0-y}{h_n}\right)} f(y) dy + \int_{\left|\frac{x_0-y}{h_n}\right| \geq 1} e^{i\frac{t}{\sqrt{n}}K\left(\frac{x_0-y}{h_n}\right)} f(y) dy \right| \\ &\leq \left| \int_{\left|\frac{x_0-y}{h_n}\right| \geq 1} e^{i\frac{t}{\sqrt{n}}K\left(\frac{x_0-y}{h_n}\right)} f(y) dy \right| + o(n^{-\alpha}). \end{aligned}$$

Further, using the inequality (4), we can show that

$$\begin{aligned} &\left| \int_{\left|\frac{x_0-y}{h_n}\right| \geq 1} e^{i\frac{t}{\sqrt{n}}K\left(\frac{x_0-y}{h_n}\right)} f(y) dy \right| \leq \left| \int_{\left|\frac{x_0-y}{h_n}\right| \geq 1} f(y) dy \right| \\ &= P\left(\left|\frac{x_0 - X_1}{h_n}\right| \geq 1\right) = P(|X_1 - x_0| \geq h_n) \leq 1 - \frac{c}{n^\alpha} + o(n^{-\alpha}). \end{aligned}$$

Using the above evaluations, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\varphi_{S_n}(t)| &\leq \left| 1 - \frac{c}{n^\alpha} + o(n^{-\alpha}) \right|^n \\ &= \left\{ \left( 1 - \frac{c}{n^\alpha} + o(n^{-\alpha}) \right)^{n^\alpha} \right\}^{n^{1-\alpha}} = O(e^{-cn^{1-\alpha}}). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, under the assumptions of Theorem 2.2, we can show that

$$\int_{T_{5,n} < |t| \leq T} \left| \frac{\varphi_{S_n}(t)}{t} \right| dt = o(n^{-\frac{3}{4}}),$$

and so

$$\sup_y \left| P \left( \frac{\hat{f}_n(x_0) - \bar{f}_n(x_0)}{\sqrt{n} \sqrt{\text{Var}\left(\frac{1}{nh_n} K\left(\frac{x_0 - X_1}{h_n}\right)\right)}} \leq y \right) - G_3(y) \right| = o(n^{-\frac{3}{4}}).$$

### Proof of Theorem 2.3

At first, we will obtain an approximation of the variance  $\text{Var}(h_n^{-1} K(\frac{x_0 - X_1}{h_n}))$ . Using

a transformation  $z = \frac{x_0 - y}{h_n}$  and Taylor expansion, we can easily show that

$$\begin{aligned}
& \text{Var}\left(h_n^{-1}K\left(\frac{x_0 - X_1}{h_n}\right)\right) \\
&= h_n^{-1} \int K^2(z)f(x_0 - h_n z)dz - \left(\int K(z)f(x_0 - h_n z)dz\right)^2 \\
&= h_n^{-1} \int K^2(z)\{f(x_0) - h_n z f'(x_0) + \frac{1}{2}h_n^2 z^2 f''(x_0) + O(h_n^3)\}dz \\
&\quad - (f(x_0) + O(h_n^2))^2 \\
&= h_n^{-1} f(x_0) \int K^2(z)dz - f'(x_0) \int z K^2(z)dz - f^2(x_0) \\
&\quad + \frac{h_n f''(x_0)}{2} \int z^2 K^2(z)dz + O(h_n^2).
\end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, using the Taylor expansion

$$\frac{1}{(x+a)^{\frac{3}{2}}} = \frac{1}{a^{\frac{3}{2}}} - \frac{3x}{2a^{\frac{5}{2}}} + \dots,$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{1}{\left(\text{Var}\left(\frac{1}{h_n}K\left(\frac{x_0 - X_1}{h_n}\right)\right)\right)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \\
&= h_n^{\frac{3}{2}} \left[ \frac{1}{\{f(x_0) \int K^2(z)dz\}^{\frac{3}{2}}} + \frac{3h_n\{f'(x_0) \int z K^2(z)dz + f^2(x_0)\}}{2\{f(x) \int K^2(z)dz\}^{\frac{5}{2}}} + O(h_n^2) \right].
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we can show that

$$\begin{aligned}
& E\left[\left\{h_n^{-1}K\left(\frac{x_0 - X_i}{h_n}\right) - h_n^{-1} \int K\left(\frac{x_0 - y}{h_n}\right)f(y)dy\right\}^3\right] \\
&= h_n^{-2} \int K^3(z)f(x_0 - h_n z)dz - 3h_n^{-1} \int K^2(z)f(x_0 - h_n z)dz \int K(z)f(x_0 - h_n z)dz \\
&\quad + 2\left(\int K(z)f(x_0 - h_n z)dz\right)^3.
\end{aligned}$$

Combining these evaluations, we get

$$E(Z_{n,i}^3) = h_n^{-\frac{1}{2}} A_{3,-\frac{1}{2}} + h_n^{\frac{1}{2}} A_{3,\frac{1}{2}} + O(h_n^{\frac{3}{2}}).$$

Using the same method, we can obtain

$$E(Z_{n,i}^4) = h_n^{-1} A_{4,-1} + O(1).$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned}
\bar{f}_n(x_0) - f(x_0) &= \frac{1}{2}h_n^2 \int z^2 K(z)f''(x_0)dz - \frac{1}{6}h_n^3 \int z^3 K(z)f^{(3)}(x_0)dz \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{24}h_n^4 \int z^4 K(z)f^{(4)}(x_0)dz + O(h_n^5),
\end{aligned}$$

we can show that

$$b_n = n^{\frac{1}{2}} h_n^{\frac{5}{2}} B_{\frac{5}{2}} + n^{\frac{1}{2}} h_n^{\frac{7}{2}} B_{\frac{7}{2}} + n^{\frac{1}{2}} h_n^{\frac{9}{2}} B_{\frac{9}{2}} + O(n^{-\frac{7}{8}}).$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} & G_2(y) \\ = & \Phi(y) - \frac{1}{6} n^{-\frac{1}{2}} \phi(y) (y^2 - 1) \{h_n^{-\frac{1}{2}} A_{3, -\frac{1}{2}} + h_n^{\frac{1}{2}} A_{3, \frac{1}{2}}\} \\ & - \frac{1}{24} n^{-1} h_n^{-1} \phi(y) (y^3 - 3y) A_{4, -1} \\ & - \frac{1}{72} n^{-1} \phi(y) (y^5 - 10y^3 + 15y) \{h_n^{-1} A_{3, -\frac{1}{2}}^2 + 2A_{3, -\frac{1}{2}} A_{3, \frac{1}{2}}\} + O(n^{-\frac{7}{8}}) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$P \left( \frac{(\hat{f}(x_0) - f(x_0))}{\sqrt{n} \sqrt{\text{Var}(\frac{1}{nh_n} K(\frac{x_0 - X_1}{h_n})}} \leq y \right) = G_2(y - b_n) + o(n^{-\frac{3}{4}}).$$

First, using the Taylor expansion, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \Phi(y - b_n) \\ = & \Phi(y) - \phi(y) n^{\frac{1}{2}} h_n^{\frac{5}{2}} B_{\frac{5}{2}} + \frac{1}{2} \phi'(y) n h_n^5 B_{\frac{5}{2}}^2 - \left( \phi(y) n^{\frac{1}{2}} h_n^{\frac{7}{2}} B_{\frac{7}{2}} + \frac{1}{6} \phi^{(2)}(y) n^{\frac{3}{2}} h_n^{\frac{15}{2}} B_{\frac{5}{2}}^3 \right) \\ & + \left( \phi'(y) n h_n^6 B_{\frac{5}{2}} B_{\frac{7}{2}} + \frac{1}{24} \phi^{(3)}(y) n^2 h_n^{10} B_{\frac{5}{2}}^4 \right) \\ & - \left( \phi(y) n^{\frac{1}{2}} h_n^{\frac{9}{2}} B_{\frac{9}{2}} + \frac{1}{2} \phi^{(2)}(y) n^{\frac{3}{2}} h_n^{\frac{17}{2}} B_{\frac{5}{2}}^2 B_{\frac{7}{2}} + \frac{n^{\frac{5}{2}} h_n^{\frac{25}{2}}}{120} \phi^{(4)}(y) B_{\frac{5}{2}}^5 \right) \\ & + \left( \frac{1}{2} \phi'(y) n h_n^7 (B_{\frac{7}{2}}^2 + 2B_{\frac{5}{2}} B_{\frac{9}{2}}) + \frac{1}{6} \phi^{(3)}(y) n^2 h_n^{11} B_{\frac{5}{2}}^3 B_{\frac{7}{2}} + \frac{n^3 h_n^{15}}{720} \phi^{(5)}(y) B_{\frac{5}{2}}^6 \right) \\ & + O(n^{-\frac{7}{8}}) \\ = & \Phi(y) + C_1 + O(n^{-\frac{7}{8}}). \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we can show that

$$\begin{aligned} & -\frac{1}{6} n^{-\frac{1}{2}} \phi(y - b_n) \{(y - b_n)^2 - 1\} (h_n^{-\frac{1}{2}} A_{3, -\frac{1}{2}} + h_n^{\frac{1}{2}} A_{3, \frac{1}{2}}) \\ = & C_2 + O(n^{-\frac{7}{8}}), \\ & -\frac{1}{24} n^{-1} \phi(-b_n) \{(y - b_n)^3 - 2(y - b_n)^2\} h_n^{-1} A_{4, -1} \\ = & C_3 + O(n^{-\frac{7}{8}}), \\ & -\frac{1}{72} n^{-1} \phi(y - b_n) \{(y - b_n)^5 - 10(y - b_n)^3 + 15(y - b_n)\} (h_n^{-1} A_{3, -\frac{1}{2}}^2 + 2A_{3, -\frac{1}{2}} A_{3, \frac{1}{2}}) \\ = & C_4 + O(n^{-\frac{7}{8}}). \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have

$$P \left( \frac{(\hat{f}(x_0) - f(x_0))}{\sqrt{n} \sqrt{\text{Var}(\frac{1}{nh_n} K(\frac{x_0 - X_1}{h_n})}} \leq y \right) = \Phi(y) + C_1 + C_2 + C_3 + C_4 + o(n^{-\frac{3}{4}}).$$

**Proof of Theorem 2.4**

Since the Epanechnikov kernel takes a form

$$K(u) = \frac{3}{4}(1 - u^2)\chi_{[-1,1]}(u),$$

the condition (3) is satisfied. For sufficiently large  $n$ , we have  $0 \leq h_n \leq \delta$ . Thus we can show that

$$P(|X_1 - x_0| \geq h_n) = 1 - \int_{x_0 - h_n}^{x_0 + h_n} f(y)dy \leq 1 - 2ah_n,$$

and the condition (4) is satisfied. Further, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_{Z_{n,1}}\left(\frac{t}{\sqrt{n}}\right) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp\left(i\frac{3t}{4\sqrt{n}}\left(1 - \frac{(x_0 - y)^2}{h_n^2}\right)I\left(\left|\frac{x_0 - y}{h_n}\right| \leq 1\right)\right) f(y)dy \\ &= e^{\frac{3it}{4\sqrt{n}}} \left\{ \int_{x_0 - h_n}^{x_0 + h_n} \exp\left(-\frac{3it(x_0 - y)^2}{4\sqrt{n}h_n^2}\right) f(y)dy + P(|X_1 - x_0| \geq h_n) \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{x_0 - h_n}^{x_0 + h_n} \exp\left(-\frac{3it(x_0 - y)^2}{4\sqrt{n}h_n^2}\right) f(y)dy \\ &= \int_{x_0 - h_n}^{x_0 + h_n} \cos\left(\frac{3t(x_0 - y)^2}{4\sqrt{n}h_n^2}\right) f(y)dy - i \int_{x_0 - h_n}^{x_0 + h_n} \sin\left(\frac{3t(x_0 - y)^2}{4\sqrt{n}h_n^2}\right) f(y)dy. \quad (7) \end{aligned}$$

For the first term of (7), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{x_0 - h_n}^{x_0 + h_n} \cos\left(\frac{3t(x_0 - y)^2}{4\sqrt{n}h_n^2}\right) f(y)dy &= h_n \int_{-1}^1 \cos\left(\frac{3tu^2}{4\sqrt{n}}\right) f(h_n u + x_0) du \\ &= h_n \int_{-1}^1 \cos\left(\frac{3tu^2}{4\sqrt{n}}\right) (f(x_0) + O(h_n)) du \\ &= 2h_n f(x_0) \sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{n}}{3t}} \int_{-\sqrt{\frac{3t}{4\sqrt{n}}}}^{\sqrt{\frac{3t}{4\sqrt{n}}}} \cos(w^2) dw + O(h_n^2) \\ &\leq 2h_n f(x_0) \sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{n}}{3t}} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} + O(h_n^2). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore for  $t > \frac{\sqrt{n}}{40\mu_5^{\frac{3}{5}}} = O(n^{\frac{29}{40}})$ , we can show

$$\int_{x_0 - h_n}^{x_0 + h_n} \cos\left(\frac{3t(x_0 - y)^2}{4\sqrt{n}h_n^2}\right) f(y)dy = o(h_n)$$

and

$$\int_{x_0 - h_n}^{x_0 + h_n} \sin\left(\frac{3t(x_0 - y)^2}{4\sqrt{n}h_n^2}\right) f(y)dy = o(h_n).$$

Combining the above evaluations, we get

$$|\varphi_{z_{n,1}}(t)| = o(h_n),$$

and the condition (5) is satisfied.

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