Bootstrap methods for time series

Part 3: Block Bootstrap Methods

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3.1. Motivation

Motivation

If the data is dependent (e.g., time series, spatial data), the random resampling data points destroys the existing correlation structure, leading to incorrect statistical inferences.



Block bootstrap methods are designed to handle dependent data, such as time series and spatial data, where observations are correlated.

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Some block bootstrap methods for stationary time series:

- Moving Block Bootstrap (MBB),
- Circular Block Bootstrap (CBB),
- Nonoverlapping Block Bootstrap (NBB),
- Stationary Bootstrap (SB).

We will discuss the first two methods.

Let $\{X_t, t \in \mathbb{N}\}$ be a stationary time series. That is, a mean and an autocovariance functions are constant is time

$$\mathbb{E}X_t = \mu$$

and

$$\operatorname{Cov}(X_t, X_{t+h}) = \operatorname{Cov}(X_1, X_{1+h}) = \gamma(h).$$

3.2. Moving Block Bootstrap

Fix an integer number b < n.

Define a block B_i of size b, starting with X_i :

$$B_i = (X_1, \ldots, X_{i+b-1}), \qquad 1 \le i \le n-b+1,$$

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Algorithm

- 1. Fix *b* < *n*.
- 2. From the set $B = \{B_1, \ldots, B_{n-b+1}\}$, we randomly select, with replacement, *l* blocks: B_1^*, \ldots, B_l^* . The probability of selecting any given block is $\frac{1}{n-b+1}$.
- 3. We concatenate the selected blocks and take the first *n* observations to obtain the bootstrap sample (X_1^*, \ldots, X_n^*) .

$$X^{*} = (\underbrace{X_{k_{1}}, X_{k_{1}+1}, \dots, X_{k_{1}+b-1}}_{B_{1}^{*}}, \underbrace{X_{k_{2}}, X_{k_{2}+1}, \dots, X_{k_{2}+b-1}}_{B_{2}^{*}}, \dots, \underbrace{X_{k_{l}}, X_{k_{l}+1}, X_{k_{l}+b-1}}_{B_{l}^{*}})$$

The observations in the center of the considered sample are present in b different blocks, while **the observations from the beginning and the end of the sample appear more rarely**.

For example, the first observation X_1 is present only in block B_1 . This fact **leads to an increase in the bias of the estimator.**

To reduce the bias, Politis and Romano in 1998 proposed **treating the data as wrapped in the circle**. Then each observation is present in the same number of blocks.

3.3. Circular Block Bootstrap

Fix an integer number $b = b_n < n$.

$$B_{i} = \begin{cases} (X_{1}, \dots, X_{i+b-1}), & i = 1, \dots, n-b+1, \\ (X_{i}, \dots, X_{n}, X_{1}, \dots, X_{b-n+i-1}), & i = n-b+2, \dots, n. \end{cases}$$

$$X_1 \quad X_2 \quad X_3 \quad X_4 \quad X_5 \quad X_6 \quad \dots \quad X_{n-2} \quad X_{n-1} \quad X_n \quad X_1 \quad X_2 \quad X_3$$

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3.4. few words about NBB and SB methods

- Non-overlapping Block Bootstrap (NBB): Similar to MBB but uses non-overlapping blocks, meaning each block is drawn independently without overlapping.
- Stationary Bootstrap (SB): Uses random-length blocks where block lengths follow a geometric distribution. It preserves the stationary distribution of the original time series.

3.5. Optimal block length

The optimal choice of the block length *b* is a difficult problem. By 'optimal' we mean one that minimizes the mean squared error of the bootstrap estimator's variance.

In the case of estimating the mean and variance of a stationary time series, we can show that for MBB and CBB the optimal block length *b* satisfies

$$b_{opt} = Cn^{\frac{1}{3}},$$

where for C > 0 the formula can be determined¹.

¹See Lahiri, S.N. (2003). Resampling Methods for Dependent Data. Springer. New York.



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