

**A Note on the Bandwidth Choice When the Null Hypothesis
is Semiparametric**

Jorge Barrientos-Marín*

University of Alicante, Spain

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Abstract. This work presents a tool for the additivity test. The additive model is widely used for parametric and semiparametric modeling of economic data. The additivity hypothesis is of interest because it is easy to interpret and produces reasonably fast convergence rates for non-parametric estimators. Another advantage of additive models is that they allow attacking the problem of the curse of dimensionality that arises in non-parametric estimation. Hypothesis testing is based in the well-known bootstrap residual process. In nonparametric testing literature, the dominant idea is that bandwidth utilized to produce bootstrap sample should be bigger than bandwidth for estimating model under null hypothesis. However, there is no hint so far about how to choose such bandwidth in practice. We will discuss a first step to find some rule of thumb to choose bandwidth in that context. Our suggestions are accompanied by simulation studies.

Keywords: additive models, bootstrap, bootstrap test, kernel smoothing, nonparametric regression.

JEL Classification: C13, C14, C52

Resumen. Este artículo presenta un contraste de aditividad. El modelo aditivo es usado para modelar estructuras paramétricas y semiparamétricas. La hipótesis de aditividad es interesante porque es fácil de interpretar y produce unas tasas de convergencia razonablemente rápidas de estimadores no paramétricos. Una ventaja adicional de las estructuras aditivas es que permite atacar directamente el problema de la maldición de la dimensionalidad que surge en estimación no paramétrica. El procedimiento que proponemos para el contraste de hipótesis está basado en un proceso de remuestreo (bootstrap) de los residuales del modelo aditivo. La idea dominante en la selección de la banda usada para generar las muestras bootstrap, es que esta debe ser más grande que la banda utilizada para la estimación del modelo aditivo. No obstante, hasta el momento la literatura existente no suministra ayuda alguna. Nosotros discutimos, como un primer paso, un tipo de regla para elegir tal banda en este contexto.

Palabras Clave: modelos de aditividad, bootstrap, test de bootstrap, suavizamiento Kernel, regresión no paramétrica.

Clasificación JEL: C13, C14, C52

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Profesor Asistente, Departamento de Fundamentos del Análisis Económico. Dirección de correspondencia: 03080, Campus de San Vicente del Raspeig. E-mail: jbarr@merlin.fae.ua.es.

1. Motivation

Smoothing techniques such as density estimation have an important role in the current development of theoretical econometrics. The usual practice when constructing regression models is to specify a parametric family. The most usual of these families is the linear model. But there is no reason to limit ourselves to this kind of model: since it belongs to a continuum of possible functional forms, there is a probability close to zero that we will choose correctly. A way to avoid the misspecification is to assume a non-functional form. Data can give us all the information we need to investigate functional forms, using, e.g. the kernel estimator for the regression function. This approach is known as a nonparametric estimation. A popular semiparametric model that has been investigated in recent years is the additive one. The estimation procedure for this kind of structure uses nonparametric techniques. The additive structure is present in many models of economic behavior, including the usual parametric estimation. Then given a data set, one could be interested in knowing what kind of structure follows the data.

Härdle and Marron (1991) propose a technique to construct confidence intervals by a bootstrap method. We take advantage from this procedure to construct the additivity test. Their approach consists in resampling the estimated residuals, $\hat{\varepsilon}_i = Y_i - \hat{m}_g(X_i)$, and then using these data to construct an estimator, whose distribution will approximate the distribution of the original estimator. Such a procedure allows for selection of two smoothing parameters, g and h , where g is the selected smoothing parameter for the bootstrap estimation and h is the bandwidth for the model under the null hypothesis. The band g must be oversmoothed. To test the hypothesis, Dette, Von Lieres and Sperlich (2003) used the bootstrap to construct statistics, and evaluated its performance. In fact, for our simulation studies, we are going to use the same tests statistic.

Deaton and Muellbauer (1980) provide many microeconomic examples in which a separable structure is convenient for analysis and important for interpretability. It has reasonably fast convergence rates for nonparametric estimators. Another advantage of the additive model is that it allows us to attack the problem of the *curse of dimensionality* that arises in nonparametric estimation. Let $m : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a smooth function and suppose that we want to estimate:

$$E[Y | X = x] = m(x) \quad (1)$$

where $m(x) = c + \sum_{\alpha \in \Lambda} m_\alpha(x_\alpha)$, c is a constant, m_α are d functions each one defined on \mathbb{R} for all $\alpha \in \Lambda = \{1, \dots, d\}$, and Λ is a set of indexes. Note that in this model we need to estimate functions of one dimension. Therefore, it is possible to speak of dimensionality reduction through additive modeling. Stone (1985) shows that the optimal rate for estimating the nonparametric function regression (1) is $n^{-\ell/(2\ell+d)}$ where ℓ is an index of smoothness of m and n is the sample size.

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The performance of several statistical tests under the null and the alternative hypotheses are also studied. The alternative model is the well-known Nadaraya-Watson kernel regression function estimator. The null model is the aforementioned additive model. The method’s procedure is to estimate a multidimensional functional of m first and then use the internal marginal integration to get the marginal effect. Under the additive structure this procedure yields m_α , $\alpha \in \Lambda$, plus a constant (see Linton and Nielsen, 1995). The asymptotic power of a test of H_0 is often investigated by deriving the asymptotic probability that the test rejects H_0 against an alternative model.

The objective of this work is to propose a rule of thumb to choose oversmoothed bandwidth in bootstrap estimation. To test such rule, we estimate the null model with an optimal bandwidth and after that we construct the statistics to test additivity, and to estimate the additive model we use a technique known as marginal integration estimation. Additional motivations for this work are: first, due to the advantages additive models offer to empirical researcher there is an increased interest in testing the additive structure. Second, at present there is not much theoretical work about testing and hardly empirical studies on internal marginal integrated estimator (IMIE). Sperlich, Tjostheim and Yang (2002) introduce a bootstrap based additivity test applying the marginal integration. In Dette, Von Lieres and Sperlich (2003) various statistical tests to check additive separability are introduced; they concentrate on the differences that result from the use of a different smoother in marginal integrations.

The work is organized as follows. In section 2, we present the models to be estimated under both null and alternative hypotheses and the statistical tests to verify the hypothesis. In section 3 the procedure of estimation is described in detail. In the section 4, we provide some results based on simulations. In section 5 we present the conclusion and topics for further research. In the appendix 1 we show the results related to the simulations.

2. Models to Be Estimated

2.1. The Internalized Nadaraya-Watson Estimator

Let $\{(X_i, Y_i)\}_{i=1}^n \in \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$ be a finite sequence of random vectors and $m : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ an unknown Borel measurable function. Our goal is to estimate $m(x) = E(Y | X = x)$. Denoting $\varepsilon_i = Y_i - m(X_i)$ we get the regression model $Y_i = m(X_i) + \varepsilon_i$. Note that by construction $E[\varepsilon_i | X_i] = 0$. The regression function $m(\cdot)$ takes the form: $m(x) = \int \frac{yf(x, y)}{f(x)} dx$, if $f(x) > 0$ and the marginal density of $f(x, y)$ becomes: $f(x) = \int f(x, y) dy$. The form of the (internalized) kernel regression estimator, developed by Nadaraya (1964) and Watson (1964), is:

$$\hat{m}_h(x) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{K_h(x - X_i) Y_i}{\hat{f}_h(X_i)} \quad \text{where } \hat{f}_h(x) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n K_h(x - X_i) \tag{2}$$

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vative than when we use the optimal bandwidth. See tables 1, 2, 5 and 6. However, we can get a reasonable power level. We hope results under H_1 to be closer to 1 with the oversmoothing band, but this is not the case. Results show that is more difficult to reject H_0 when bandwidth g is bigger than the optimal one. With $\gamma = 2$, $l = 0$ and $g = h_{opt}$, and trim at 5% and 10% it is remarkable that T_1 has a good performance. For $\gamma = 2$, $l = 2$ and for any level of trimming and all significance levels, results are bad and the power of test are too low. Although the statistical procedure works better in the case of variables uncorrelated and without trim, results obtained indicate that the statistical procedure we have proposed works reasonably well.

5. Conclusion

In this work we obtain a bandwidth for testing a semiparametric model against a nonparametric alternative. The bandwidth posed by the alternative model still deserves some discussions. In this paper, we are not interested in local alternatives but in a fixed one. Then, bandwidth selection for the alternative, k , does not affect the result about estimation under the null hypothesis. Therefore, k can be any of them. In particular, we take the band chosen as an argument that minimizes the cross-validation average. Moreover, since for this paper purposes it is not necessary to make a consistent estimation of any parameter, either with H_0 being true or false, the problem refers only to the selection of bootstrap bandwidth g .

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Table 7. Percentage of rejection. $\gamma = 2$. $l = 2$ **Table 8.** Percentage of rejection. $\gamma = 2$. $l = 2$

$g = h_{opt}$	α	T_1	T_2	T_3	$g > h_{opt}$	α	T_1	T_2	T_3
tr0	15%	0.39	0.39	0.37	tr0	15%	0.33	0.23	0.16
	10%	0.26	0.26	0.22		10%	0.20	0.14	0.07
	5%	0.12	0.10	0.08		5%	0.09	0.04	0.01
	1%	0.01	0.009	0.002		1%	0.005	0.001	0.0
tr5	15%	0.40	0.38	0.32	tr5	15%	0.26	0.15	0.07
	10%	0.30	0.26	0.19		10%	0.18	0.09	0.02
	5%	0.17	0.12	0.07		5%	0.09	0.02	0.006
	1%	0.03	0.01	0.004		1%	0.01	0.001	0.0
tr10%	15%	0.40	0.36	0.30	tr10	15%	0.29	0.17	0.08
	10%	0.30	0.25	0.17		10%	0.21	0.10	0.03
	5%	0.18	0.12	0.07		5%	0.11	0.04	0.01
	1%	0.03	0.01	0.002		1%	0.01	0.003	0.0

