Asymptotic normality of plug-in level set estimates

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Abstract

We establish the asymptotic normality of the $G$-measure of the symmetric difference between the level set and a plug-in-type estimator of it formed by replacing the density in the definition of the level set by a kernel density estimator. Our proof will highlight the efficacy of Poissonization methods in the treatment of large sample theory problems of this kind.

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1 Introduction

Let $f$ be a bounded Lebesgue density on $\mathbb{R}^d$, $d \geq 1$. Define the level set of $f$ at level $c \geq 0$ as

$$C(c) = \{ x : f(x) \geq c \}.$$

In this paper we are concerned with the estimation of $C(c)$. Such level sets play a crucial role in various scientific fields, and their estimation has received significant recent interest in the fields of statistics and machine learning/pattern recognition (see below for more details). Theoretical research on this topic is mainly concerned with rates of convergence of level set estimators. While such results are interesting, they show only limited potential to be useful in practical applications. The available results do not permit statistical inference or making quantitative statements about the contour sets themselves. The contribution of this paper constitutes a significant step forward in this direction, since we establish the asymptotic normality of a class of level set estimators $C_n(c)$ formed by replacing $f$ by a kernel density estimator $f_n$ in the definition of $C(c)$, in a sense that we shall soon make precise.

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Here is our setup. Let $X_1, X_2, \ldots$ be i.i.d. with density $f$ and consider the kernel density estimator of $f$ based on $X_1, \ldots, X_n$, $n \geq 1$,

$$f_n(x) = \frac{1}{nh_n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} K\left(\frac{x - X_i}{h_n^{1/d}}\right), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d,$$

where $K$ is a kernel and $h_n > 0$ is a smoothing parameter. Consider the plug-in estimator $C_n(c) = \{ x : f_n(x) \geq c \}$.

Let $G$ be a positive measure dominated by Lebesgue measure $\lambda$. Our interest is to establish the asymptotic normality of $d_G(C_n(c), C(c)) := G(C_n(c) \Delta C(c))$

$$= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |I\{f_n(x) \geq c\} - I\{f(x) \geq c\} | \, dG(x), \quad (1.1)$$

where $A \Delta B = (A \setminus B) \cup (B \setminus A)$ denotes the set-theoretic symmetric difference of two sets. Of particular interest is $G$ being the Lebesgue measure $\lambda$, as well as $G = H$ with $H$ denoting the measure having Lebesgue density $|f(x) - c|$. The latter corresponds to the so-called excess-risk which is used frequently in the classification literature, i.e.

$$d_H(C_n(c), C(c)) = \int_{C_n(c) \Delta C(c)} |f(x) - c| \, dx. \quad (1.2)$$

It is well-known that under mild conditions $d_{\lambda}(C_n(c), C(c)) \to 0$ in probability as $n \to \infty$, and also rates of convergence have already been derived (cf. Baillo et al. (2000, 2001), Cuevas et al. (2000), Baillo (2003), Baillo and Cuevas (2004)). Even more is known. Cadre (2006) derived assumptions under which for some $\mu_G > 0$ we have

$$\sqrt{n h_n} d_G(C_n(c), C(c)) \to \mu_G \quad \text{in probability as } n \to \infty. \quad (1.3)$$

However, asymptotic normality of $d_G(C_n(c), C(c))$ has not yet been considered.

Our main result says that under suitable regularity conditions there exist a normalizing sequence $\{a_{n,G}\}$ and a constant $0 < \sigma_{G}^2 < \infty$ such that

$$a_{n,G} \left\{ d_G(C_n(c), C(c)) - Ed_G(C_n(c), C(c)) \right\} \to_d \sigma_G Z, \quad \text{as } n \to \infty, \quad (1.4)$$

where $Z$ denotes a standard normal random variable. In the important special cases of $G = \lambda$ the Lebesgue measure, and $G = H$ we shall see that under suitable regularity conditions

$$a_{n,\lambda} = \left( \frac{n}{h_n} \right)^{\frac{1}{4}}, \quad \text{and} \quad (1.5)$$

$$a_{n,H} = \left( n^3 h_n \right)^{\frac{1}{4}}, \quad (1.6)$$

respectively.

In the next subsection we shall discuss further related work and relevant literature. In Section 2 we formulate our main result, provide some heuristics for its validity and then present its proof. A number of the technical details are relegated to the Appendix.
1.1 Related work and literature

Before we present our results in detail, we shall extend our overview of the literature on level set estimation to include regression level set estimation (with classification as a special case) as well as density level set estimation.

Observe that there exists a close connection between level set estimation and binary classification. The optimal (Bayes) classifier corresponds to a level set $C_\psi(0) = \{x : \psi(x) \geq 0\}$ of $\psi = (1 - p) f - pg$, where $f$ and $g$ denote the Lebesgue densities of two underlying class distributions $F$ and $G$ and $p \in [0, 1]$ defines the prior distribution on $\{f, g\}$. More precisely, if an observation $X$ falls into $\{x : \psi(x) \geq 0\}$ then it is classified by the optimal classifier as coming from $F$, otherwise as coming from distribution $G$. Hall and Kong (2005) derive large sample results for this optimal classifier that are very closely related to Cadre’s result (1.3). In fact, if $\text{Err}(C)$ denotes the probability of a misclassification of a binary classifier given by a set $C$, then Hall and Kong derive rates of convergence results for the quantity $\text{Err}(\hat{C}(0)) - \text{Err}(C_\psi(0))$ where $\hat{C}$ is the plug-in classifier given by $\hat{C}(0) = \{x : (1 - p) f_n(x) - pg_n(x) \geq 0\}$ with $f_n$ and $g_n$ denoting the kernel estimators for $f$ and $g$, respectively. It turns out that

$$\text{Err}(\hat{C}(0)) - \text{Err}(C_\psi(0)) = \int_{C(0) \Delta C_\psi(0)} |\psi(x)| \, dx.$$ 

The latter quantity is of exactly the form (1.2). The only difference is, that the function $\psi$ is not a probability density, but a (weighted) difference of two probability densities. Similarly, the plug-in estimate is a weighted difference of kernel estimates. Though the results presented here do not directly apply to this situation, the methodology used to prove them can be adapted to it in a more or less straightforward manner.

Hartigan (1975) introduced a notion of clustering via maximally connected components of density level sets. For more on this approach to clustering see Stuetzle (2003), and for an interesting application of this clustering approach to astronomical sky surveys refer to Jang (2006). Klemelä (2004, 2006a,b) applies a similar point of view to develop methods for visualizing multivariate density estimates. Goldenshluger and Zeevi (2004) use level set estimation in the context of the Hough transform, which is a well-known computer vision algorithm. Certain problems in flow cytometry involve the statistical problem of estimating a level set for a difference of two probability densities (Roederer and Hardy (2001); see also Wand, 2005). Further relevant applications include detection of minefields based on aerial observations, the analysis of seismic data, as well as certain issues in image segmentation; see Huo and Lu (2004) and references therein. Another application of level set estimation is anomaly detection or novelty detection. For instance, Theiler and Cai (2003) describe how level set estimation and anomaly detection go along in the context of multispectral image analysis, where anomalous locations (pixels) correspond to unusual spectral signatures in these images. Further areas of anomaly detection include intrusion detection (e.g. Fan et al. 2001, Yeung and Chow, 2002), anomalous jet engine vibrations (e.g. Nairac et al. 1997, Desforges et al. 1998, King et al. 2002) or medical imaging e.g.

2 Main result

The rates of convergence in our main result depend on a regularity parameter $1/\gamma_g$ that describes the behavior of the slope of $g$ at the boundary set $\beta(c) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : f(x) = c\}$ (see assumption (G) below). In the important special case of $G = \lambda$ the slope of $g$ is zero, and this implies $1/\gamma_g = 0$ (or $\gamma_g = \infty$). For $G = H$ our assumptions imply that the slope of $g$ close to the boundary is bounded away from zero and infinity which says that $1/\gamma_g = 1$.

Here is our main result. The indicated assumptions are quite technical to state and therefore for the sake of convenience they are formulated in Subsection 2.2 below. In particular, the integer $k \geq 1$ that appears in the statement of our theorem is defined in (B.ii).

**Theorem.** Under assumptions (D.i) – (D.iii), (K.i) – (K.iii), (H) and (B.i) – (B.ii), we have

$$a_{n,G}\{d_G(C_n(c), C(c)) - Ed_G(C_n(c), C(c))\} \to_d \sigma G Z,$$

where $Z$ denotes a standard normal random variable,

$$a_{n,G} = \left( \frac{n}{h_n} \right)^{\frac{1}{4}} \left( \sqrt{n h_n} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

The constant $0 < \sigma G^2 < \infty$ is defined as in (2.55) in the case $d \geq 2$ and $k = 1$; as in (2.59) in the case $d \geq 2$ and $k \geq 2$; and as in (2.60) in the case $d = 1$ and $k \geq 1$.

**Remark.** Write

$$\delta_n(c) = a_{n,G}\{d_G(C_n(c), C(c)) - Ed_G(C_n(c), C(c))\}.$$

A slight extension of the proof of our theorem shows that if $c_1, \ldots, c_m$, $m \geq 1$, are distinct positive numbers, each of which satisfies the assumptions of the theorem, then

$$(\delta_n(c_1), \ldots, \delta_n(c_m)) \to_d (\sigma_1 Z_1, \ldots, \sigma_m Z_m),$$

where $Z_1, \ldots, Z_m$ are independent standard normal random variables and $\sigma_1, \ldots, \sigma_m$ are as defined in the proof of the theorem.
2.1 Heuristics

Before we continue with our exposition, we shall provide some heuristics to indicate why \( a_n = \left( \frac{n}{h_n} \right)^{\frac{1}{4}} \) is the correct normalizing factor in (1.5), i.e. we consider the case \( G = \lambda \) or \( \gamma_g = \infty \). This should help the reader to understand why our theorem is true. It is well-known that under certain regularity conditions we have

\[
\sqrt{n h_n} \{ f_n(x) - f(x) \} = O_P(1), \quad \text{as } n \to \infty.
\]

Therefore the boundary of the set \( C_n(c) \) can be expected to fluctuate in a band \( B \) with a width (roughly) of the order \( O_P\left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{n h_n}} \right) \) around the boundary set \( \beta(c) = \{ x : f(x) = c \} \).

For notational simplicity we shall write \( \beta = \beta(c) \). Partitioning \( B \) by \( N = O\left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{n h_n}} \right) = O\left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{n h_n^3}} \right) \) regions \( R_k \), \( k = 1, \ldots, N \), of Lebesgue measure \( \lambda(R_k) = h_n \), we can approximate \( d_{\lambda}(C_n(c), C(c)) \) as

\[
d_{\lambda}(C_n(c), C(c)) \approx \sum_{k=1}^{N} \int_{R_k} \left| I\{ f_n(x) \geq c \} - I\{ f(x) \geq c \} \right| dx =: \sum_{k=1}^{N} Y_{n,k}.
\]

Here we use the fact that the band \( B \) has width \( \frac{1}{\sqrt{n h_n}} \). Writing

\[
Y_{n,k} = \int_{R_k} \Lambda_n(x) \, dx
\]

with,

\[
\Lambda_n(x) = | I\{ f_n(x) \geq c \} - I\{ f(x) \geq c \} |,
\]

we see that

\[
\text{Var}(Y_{n,k}) = \int_{R_k} \int_{R_k} \text{cov}(\Lambda_n(x), \Lambda_n(y)) \, dx \, dy = O\left( \lambda(R_k)^2 \right) = O(h_n^2),
\]

where the \( O \)-terms turns out to be exact. Further, due to the nature of the kernel density estimator the variables \( Y_{n,k} \) can be assumed to behave asymptotically like independent variables, since we can choose the regions \( R_k \) to be disjoint. Hence, the variance of \( d_{\lambda}(C_n(c), C(c)) \) can be expected to be of the order \( N h_n^2 = \left( \frac{h_n}{n} \right)^{1/2} \), which motivates the normalizing factor \( a_n = \left( \frac{n}{h_n} \right)^{\frac{1}{4}} \).

2.2 A connection to \( L_p \)-rates of convergence of kernel density estimates

The following heuristic on \( L_p \)-rates, \( p \geq 1 \), of convergence of kernel density estimates implicitly provides another heuristic for our result.
Consider the case $G = H_{p-1}$, where $H_{p-1}$ denotes the measure with Radon-Nikodym derivative $h_{p-1}(x) = |f(x) - c|^{p-1}$ with $p \geq 1$. Note that $H_1 = H$ with $H$ from above. Then we have the identity

$$
\int_0^\infty H_{p-1}(\mathcal{C}_n(c) \Delta C(c)) \, dc = \frac{1}{p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |f_n(x) - f(x)|^p \, dx, \quad p \geq 1. \tag{2.4}
$$

The proof is straightforward (see Detail 1 in the Appendix). The case $p = 1$ gives the geometrically intuitive relation

$$
\int_0^\infty \lambda(\mathcal{C}_n(c) \Delta C(c)) \, dc = \int_0^\infty \int_{\mathcal{C}_n(c) \Delta C(c)} dx \, dc = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |f_n(x) - f(x)| \, dx.
$$

Assuming $f$ to be bounded, we split up the vertical axis into successive intervals $\Delta(k)$, $k = 1, \ldots, N$ of length $\approx \frac{1}{\sqrt{n h_n}}$ with midpoints $c_k$. Approximate the integral (2.4) by

$$
\frac{1}{p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |f_n(x) - f(x)|^p \, dx = \int_0^\infty H_{p-1}(\mathcal{C}_n(c) \Delta C(c)) \, dc
$$

$$
\approx \sum_{k=1}^N \int_{\Delta(k)} H_{p-1}(\mathcal{C}_n(c) \Delta C(c)) \, dc
$$

$$
\approx \frac{1}{\sqrt{n h_n}} \sum_{k=1}^N H_{p-1}(\mathcal{C}_n(c_k) \Delta C(c_k)).
$$

Utilizing the $\frac{1}{\sqrt{n h_n}}$-rate of $f_n(x)$ we see that the last sum consists of (roughly) independent random variables. Assuming further that the variance of each (or of most) of these random variables is of the same order $a_{n,p}^{-2} = \left( \frac{n}{h_n} \right)^{-1/2} (nh_n)^{-p/(p-1)}$ (to obtain this, apply our theorem with $\gamma_g = 1/(p-1)$) we obtain that the variance of the sum is of the order

$$
a_{n,p}^{-2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n h_n}} = \left( \frac{1}{nh_n^{1-\frac{1}{p}}} \right)^p.
$$

In other words, the normalizing factor of the $L_p$-norm of the kernel density estimator in $\mathbb{R}^d$ can be expected to be $(nh_n^{1-\frac{1}{p}})^{\frac{p}{2}} = (nh_n^{p/2}) h_n^{-\frac{p}{2}}$. In the case $p = 2$ this gives the normalizing factor $nh_n h_n^{-1/2} = nh_n^{1/2}$, and this coincides with the results from Rosenblatt (1975). In the special case $d = 2$ these rates can also be found in Horvath (1991).

### 2.3 Assumptions and notation

**Assumptions on the density $f$**

(D.i) $f$ is bounded on $\mathbb{R}^d$ by a constant $M$;
(D.ii) $f$ is in $C^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and its partial derivatives of order 1 and 2 are bounded;
(D.iii) $\inf_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} f(x) < c < \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} f(x)$.

Notice that (D.ii) implies that
\begin{align}
\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{d} \sum_{j=1}^{d} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} \left| \frac{\partial^2 f(x)}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} \right| =: A < \infty.
\end{align}

Assumptions on $K$.
(K.i) $K$ is a kernel having support contained in the closed ball of radius $1/2$ centered at zero and is bounded by a constant $\kappa$.
(K.ii) $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} K(t) \, dt = 1$;
(K.iii) $\sum_{i=1}^{d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} t_i K(t) \, dt = 0$;
Observe that (K.i) implies that
\begin{align}
\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |t|^2 |K(t)| \, dt = \kappa_1 < \infty.
\end{align}

Assumptions on the boundary $\beta = \{ x : f(x) = c \}$ for $d \geq 2$.
(B.i) For all $(y_1, \ldots, y_d) \in \beta$,
$$f'(y) = f'(y_1, \ldots, y_d) = \left( \frac{\partial f(y_1, \ldots, y_d)}{\partial y_1}, \ldots, \frac{\partial f(y_1, \ldots, y_d)}{\partial y_d} \right) \neq 0.$$  
(B.ii) Define
$$I_d = \begin{cases} [0,2\pi), & d = 2 \\ [0,2\pi) \times [0,\pi]^{d-2}, & d > 2. \end{cases}$$

The $d-1$ sphere
$$S^{d-1} = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^d : |x| = 1 \},$$
can be parameterized by
$$x(\theta) = (x_1(\theta), \ldots, x_1(\theta)),$$
where
\begin{align*}
x_1(\theta) &= \cos(\theta_1), \\
x_2(\theta) &= \sin(\theta_1) \cos(\theta_2), \\
x_3(\theta) &= \sin(\theta_1) \sin(\theta_2) \cos(\theta_3), \\
& \vdots \\
x_{d-1}(\theta) &= \sin(\theta_1) \cdots \sin(\theta_{d-2}) \cos(\theta_{d-1}), \\
x_d(\theta) &= \sin(\theta_1) \cdots \sin(\theta_{d-2}) \sin(\theta_{d-1}).
\end{align*}
We assume that the boundary \( \beta \) can be written as
\[
\beta = \bigcup_{j=1}^{k} \beta_j,
\]
with \( \inf \{|x - y| : x \in \beta_j, y \in \beta_l\} > 0 \) if \( j \neq l \), where each \( \beta_j \) is diffeomorphic to \( S^{d-1} \), meaning that it is parameterized by a function
\[
y(\theta) = (y_1(\theta), \ldots, y_d(\theta)), \theta \in I_d,
\]
depending on \( \beta_j \) via the above parameterization \( x(\theta) \) of \( S^{d-1} \), which is 1–1 on \( J_d \), the interior of \( I_d \), with
\[
\frac{\partial y(\theta)}{\partial \theta_i} = \left( \frac{\partial y_1(\theta)}{\partial \theta_i}, \ldots, \frac{\partial y_d(\theta)}{\partial \theta_i} \right) \neq 0, \theta \in J_d.
\]
We further assume that for each \( j = 1, \ldots, k \) and \( i = 1, \ldots, d \), the function \( \frac{\partial y(\theta)}{\partial \theta_i} \) is continuous and uniformly bounded on \( J_d \), where \( y(\theta) \) is the parameterization pertaining to \( \beta_j \).

**Assumptions on the boundary \( \beta \) for \( d = 1 \).**

(B.i) \[
\inf_{i \leq i \leq k} \left| f'(z_i) \right| =: \rho_0 > 0.
\]

(B.ii) \( \beta = \{z_1, \ldots, z_k\}, k \geq 2; \)

**Assumptions on \( G \).**

(G) The measure \( G \) has a bounded continuous Radon-Nikodym derivative \( g \) w.r.t. Lebesgue measure \( \lambda \). There exists a constant \( 0 < \gamma_g \leq \infty \) such that the following holds.

In the case \( d \geq 2 \) there exists a function \( g^{(1)}(\cdot, \cdot) \) bounded on \( I_d \times S^{d-1} \) such that for each \( j = 1, \ldots, k \), for some \( c_j \geq 0 \),
\[
\sup_{|z|=1} \sup_{\theta \in I_d} \left| g(y(\theta) + a z) - c_j g^{(1)}(\theta, z) \right| = o(1), \text{ as } a \searrow 0,
\]
with \( 0 < \sup_{|z|=1} \sup_{\theta \in I_d} |g^{(1)}(\theta, z)| < \infty \), where \( y(\theta) \) is the parameterization pertaining to \( \beta_j \), with at least one of the \( c_j \) strictly positive.

In the case \( d = 1 \) there exists a function \( g^{(1)}(\cdot) \) with \( 0 < |g^{(1)}(z_j)| < \infty, j = 1, \ldots, k \) such that for each \( j = 1, \ldots, k \) for some \( c_j \geq 0 \),
\[
\sup_{|z|=1} \left| \frac{g(z_j + a z)}{a^{1/\gamma_g}} - c_j g^{(1)}(z_j) \right| = o(1), \text{ as } a \searrow 0,
\]
with at least one of the \( c_j \) strictly positive. By convention, in the above statement \( \frac{1}{\infty} = 0 \).
Assumptions on $h_n$.

As $n \to \infty$, $H \sqrt{nh_n^{1+2/d}} \to \gamma$, with $0 \leq \gamma < \infty$ and $nh_n / \log n \to \infty$, where $\gamma = 0$ in the case $d = 1$.

Some implications of assumption (B) in the case $d \geq 2$.

We shall end this subsection by recording some conventions and implications of assumption (B), which are needed in the proof of our theorem. Using the notation introduced in assumption (B), we define $\frac{\partial y(\theta)}{\partial \theta^i}$ for points on the boundary of $I_d$ to be the limit taken from points in $J_d$. In this way, we see that each vector $\frac{\partial y(\theta)}{\partial \theta^i}$ is continuous and bounded on the closure $T_d$ of $I_d$.

Notice in the case $d \geq 2$ that for each $j = 1, \ldots, k$ and $i = 1, \ldots, d - 1$,

$$\frac{df (y (\theta))}{d\theta^i} = \frac{\partial f (y (\theta))}{\partial y^1} \frac{\partial y^1 (\theta)}{\partial \theta^i} + \cdots + \frac{\partial f (y (\theta))}{\partial y^d} \frac{\partial y^d (\theta)}{\partial \theta^i} = 0,$$

(2.7)

where $y (\theta)$ is the parameterization pertaining to $\beta_j$. This implies that the unit vector

$$u (\theta) = (u^1 (\theta), \ldots, u^d (\theta)) := \left| \frac{f'(y (\theta))}{|f'(y (\theta))|} \right|$$

(2.8)

is normal to the tangent space of $\beta_j$ at $y (\theta)$.

From assumption (B.ii) we infer that $\beta$ is compact, which when combined with (B.i) says that

$$\inf_{(y_1, \ldots, y_d) \in \beta} \left| f' (y_1, \ldots, y_d) \right| =: \rho_0 > 0.$$

(2.9)

In turn, assumptions (D.ii), (B.i) and (B.ii), when combined with (2.9), imply that for each $1 \leq i \leq d - 1$, the vector

$$\frac{\partial u(\theta)}{\partial \theta^i} = \left( \frac{\partial u^1 (\theta)}{\partial \theta^i}, \ldots, \frac{\partial u^d (\theta)}{\partial \theta^i} \right)$$

is uniformly bounded on $I_d$.

Consider for each $j = 1, \ldots, k$, with $y (\theta)$ being the parameterization pertaining to $\beta_j$, the absolute value of the determinant,

$$\left| \begin{array}{c}
\frac{\partial y(\theta)}{\partial \theta^1} \\
\vdots \\
\frac{\partial y(\theta)}{\partial \theta^{d-1}} \\
\frac{\partial y(\theta)}{\partial \theta^d} \\
u (\theta)
\end{array} \right| =: \iota (\theta).$$

(2.10)

We can infer from (B.ii) that we have

$$\sup_{\theta \in I_d} \iota (\theta) < \infty.$$

(2.11)
2.4 Proof of the Theorem in the case \( d \geq 2 \)

We shall only present a detailed proof for the case \( k = 1 \). However, at that end we shall describe how the proof of the general \( k \geq 1 \) case goes. Thus for ease of notation we shall drop the subscript \( j \) in the above assumptions. Also we shall assume \( c_1 = 1 \) in assumption \((G)\).

We shall first show that with a suitably defined sequence of centerings \( b_n \), we have

\[
(n/h_n)^{1/4} \left\{ \sqrt{n h_n} \right\}^{1/\gamma_2} \{ d_G(C_n(c), C(c)) - b_n \} \rightarrow_d \sigma Z 
\]  

(2.12)

for some \( \sigma^2 > 0 \). (For the sake of notational convenience, we write in the proof \( \sigma^2 = \sigma^2_G \).) From this result we shall infer that our central limit theorem (2.1) holds. The asymptotic variance \( \sigma^2 \) will be defined in the course of the proof. It finally appears in (2.55) below.

Theorem 1 of Einmahl and Mason (2005) implies that when \( h_n \) satisfies \((H)\) and \( f \) is bounded that for some constant \( \gamma_1 > 0 \)

\[
\limsup_{n \to \infty} \sqrt{n h_n} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} \left| f_n(x) - Ef_n(x) \right| \leq \gamma_1, \text{ a.s.} \tag{2.13}
\]

It is shown in (2.62) of Detail 2 in the Appendix, that under the assumptions \((D)\), \((K)\) and \((H)\) for some \( \gamma_2 > 0 \),

\[
\sup_{n \geq 2} \sqrt{n h_n} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} \left| Ef_n(x) - f(x) \right| \leq \gamma_2. \tag{2.14}
\]

Set with \( \rho > \sqrt{2} \vee \gamma_1 \),

\[
E_n = \left\{ x : \left| f(x) - c \right| \leq \frac{\rho \sqrt{\log n}}{\sqrt{n h_n}} \right\}. \tag{2.15}
\]

We see by (1.1), (2.13) and (2.14) that with probability 1 for all large enough \( n \)

\[
G \left( C_n(c) \Delta C(c) \right) = \int_{E_n} \left| I \{ f_n(x) \geq c \} - I \{ f(x) \geq c \} \right| g(x) dx \\
= L_n(c). \tag{2.16}
\]

It turns out that rather than considering the truncated quantity \( L_n(c) \) directly, it is more convenient to first study a Poissonized version of \( L_n(c) \) formed by replacing \( f_n(x) \) by

\[
\pi_n(x) = \frac{1}{n h_n} \sum_{i=1}^{N_n} K \left( \frac{x - X_i}{h_n^{1/d}} \right),
\]

where \( N_n \) is a mean \( n \) Poisson random variable independent of \( X_1, X_2, \ldots \) (When \( N_n = 0 \) we set \( \pi_n(x) = 0 \).) Notice that

\[
E \pi_n(x) = Ef_n(x).
\]
We shall make repeated use of the fact following from the assumption that $K$ has support contained in the closed ball of radius $1/2$ centered at zero, that $\pi_n(x)$ and $\pi_n(y)$ are independent whenever $|x - y| > \frac{1}{d} h_n$.

Here is the Poissonized version of $L_n(c)$ that we shall treat first. Define

$$
\Pi_n(c) = \int_{E_n} |I \{\pi_n(x) \geq c\} - I \{f(x) \geq c\}| \ g(x) \ dx.
$$

(2.17)

Our goal is to infer a central limit theorem for $L_n(c)$ and thus for $G(C_n) \Delta C(c)$ from a central limit theorem for $\Pi_n(c)$.

Set

$$
\Delta_n(x) = |I \{\pi_n(x) \geq c\} - I \{f(x) \geq c\}|.
$$

(2.18)

The first item on this agenda is to verify that $(n/h_n)^{1/4} \sqrt{\frac{1}{h_n} \text{Var}(\Pi_n(c))}$ is the correct sequence of norming constants. To do this we must analyze the exact asymptotic behavior of the variance of $\Pi_n(c)$. We see that

$$
\text{Var}(\Pi_n(c)) = \text{Var} \left( \int_{E_n} \Delta_n(x) \ dG(x) \right) = \int_{E_n} \int_{E_n} \text{cov}(\Delta_n(x), \Delta_n(y)) \ dG(x) \ dG(y).
$$

Let

$$
Y_n(x) = \left[ \sum_{j \leq N_1} K \left( \frac{x - X_j}{h_n^{1/d}} \right) - EK \left( \frac{x - X}{h_n^{1/d}} \right) \right] \sqrt{\text{EK}^2 \left( \frac{x - X}{h_n^{1/d}} \right)}
$$

and $Y_n^{(1)}(x), \ldots, Y_n^{(n)}(x)$ be i.i.d. $Y_n(x)$.

Clearly

$$
\left( \frac{\pi_n(x) - E\pi_n(x)}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(\pi_n(x))}}, \frac{\pi_n(y) - E\pi_n(y)}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(\pi_n(x))}} \right) = d \left( \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n Y_n^{(i)}(x)}{\sqrt{n}}, \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n Y_n^{(i)}(y)}{\sqrt{n}} \right) =: (\pi_n(x), \pi_n(y)).
$$

Set

$$
c_n(x) = \frac{\sqrt{n h_n} (c - Ef_n(x))}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{h_n} \text{EK}^2 \left( \frac{x - X}{h_n^{1/d}} \right)}} = \frac{\sqrt{n h_n} \left( c - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} K(y) f \left( x - y h_n^{1/d} \right) \ dy \right)}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{h_n} \text{EK}^2 \left( \frac{x - X}{h_n^{1/d}} \right)}}.
$$
Since $K$ has support contained in the closed ball of radius $1/2$ around zero, which implies that $\Delta_n (x)$ and $\Delta_n (y)$ are independent whenever $|x - y| > h_n^{1/d}$, we have

$$\text{Var} \left( \int_{E_n} \Delta_n (x) \, dG(x) \right)$$

$$= \int_{E_n} \int_{E_n} I(|x - y| \leq h_n^{1/d}) \text{cov} (\Delta_n (x), \Delta_n (y)) \, dG(x) \, dG(y),$$

where now we write

$$\Delta_n (x) = \left| I \{E_n (x) \geq c_n (x) \} - I \left\{ 0 \geq \sqrt{nh_n} (c - f (x)) \left( \frac{1}{h_n}EK^2 \left( \frac{x - X}{h_n} \right) \right)^{1/2} \right\} \right|.$$ 

The change of variables $y = x + th_n^{1/d}$, $t \in B$, with

$$B = \{ t : |t| \leq 1 \}, \quad (2.19)$$
gives

$$\text{Var} \left( \int_{E_n} \Delta_n (x) \, dx \right) = h_n \int_{E_n} \int_B g_n(x, t) \, dt \, dx,$$

where

$$g_n(x, t) = I_{E_n} (x) I_{E_n} (x + th_n^{1/d}) \text{cov} (\Delta_n (x), \Delta_n (x + th_n^{1/d})) \times g(x) g(x + t h_n^{1/d}). \quad (2.21)$$

For ease of notation let $a_n = a_{n,G} = \left( \frac{n}{h_n} \right)^{\frac{1}{4}} \left( \sqrt{nh_n} \right)^{\frac{1}{8}}$. We intend to prove that

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} a_n^2 \text{Var} \left( \int_{E_n} \Delta_n (x) \, dG(x) \right)$$

$$= \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{a_n^2}{h_n} \int_{E_n} \int_B g_n(x, t) \, dt \, dx$$

$$= \lim_{n \to \infty} \left( nh_n \right)^{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{q}} \int_{E_n} \int_B g_n(x, t) \, dt \, dx$$

$$= \lim_{n \to \infty} \lim_{\tau \to \infty} \left( nh_n \right)^{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{q}} \int_{D_n(\tau)} \int_B g_n(x, t) \, dt \, dx =: \sigma^2 < \infty, \quad (2.22)$$

where

$$D_n (\tau) := \left\{ z : z = y (\theta) + \frac{s u (\theta)}{\sqrt{nh_n}}, \theta \in I_d, \ |s| \leq \tau \right\}.$$ 

The set $D_n (\tau)$ forms a band around the surface $\beta$ of thickness $\frac{2 \tau}{\sqrt{nh_n}}$.

Recall the definition of $B$ in (2.19). Since $\beta$ is a closed submanifold of $\mathbb{R}^d$ without boundary the Tubular Neighborhood Theorem (see Theorem 11.4 on page 93 of Bredon
(1993)) says that for all \( \rho > 0 \) sufficiently small for each \( x \in \beta + \rho B \) there is an unique \( \theta \in I_d \) and \( |s| \leq \rho \) such that \( x = y(\theta) + s u(\theta) \). This, in turn, implies that for all \( \rho > 0 \) sufficiently small

\[
\{ y(\theta) + s u(\theta) : \theta \in I_d \text{ and } |s| \leq \rho \} = \beta + \rho B.
\]

In particular, we see by using (H) that for all large enough \( n \)

\[
D_n(\tau) = \beta + \frac{\tau}{\sqrt{nh_n}} B, \quad \text{where } B = \{ z : |z| \leq 1 \}. \tag{2.23}
\]

Moreover, it says that \( x = y(\theta) + s u(\theta), \theta \in I_d \) and \( |s| \leq \rho \) is a well–defined parameterization of \( \beta + \rho B \), and it validates the change of variables in the integrals below.

We now turn to the proof of (2.22). Let

\[
\rho_n(x, x + th_n^{1/d}) = \text{Cov}(\pi_n(x), \pi_n(x + th_n^{1/d}))
\]

\[
= h_n^{-1}E \left[ K \left( \frac{x - \pi_n}{h_n} \right) K' \left( \frac{x - \pi_n}{h_n} + t \right) \right] \sqrt{h_n^{-1}EK^2 \left( \frac{x - \pi_n}{h_n} \right) h_n^{-1}EK^2 \left( \frac{x - \pi_n}{h_n} + t \right)}.
\]

It is routine to show that for each \( \theta \in I_d, |s| \leq \tau, x = \sqrt{nh_n} y(\theta) + \frac{s u(\theta)}{\sqrt{nh_n}} \) and \( t \in B \) we have as \( n \to \infty \) that

\[
\rho_n(x, x + th_n^{1/d}) = \rho_n \left( y(\theta) + \frac{s u(\theta)}{\sqrt{nh_n}}, y(\theta) + \frac{s u(\theta)}{\sqrt{nh_n}} + th_n^{1/d} \right) \to \rho(t),
\]

where

\[
\rho(t) := \frac{\int_{\text{R}^d} K(u) K(u + t) \, du}{\int_{\text{R}^d} K^2(u) \, du}.
\]

(See Detail 4 in Appendix.) Notice that \( \rho(t) = \rho(-t) \). One can then infer by the central limit theorem that for each \( \theta \in I_d, |s| \leq \tau \) and \( t \in B \),

\[
\pi_n(x), \pi_n(x + th_n^{1/d}) \to_d (Z_1, \rho(t)Z_1 + \sqrt{1 - \rho^2(t)}Z_2), \tag{2.24}
\]

where \( Z_1 \) and \( Z_2 \) are independent standard normal random variables.

We also get by using our assumptions and straightforward Taylor expansions that for \( |s| \leq \tau, u = su(\theta), x = y(\theta) + \frac{u}{\sqrt{nh_n}} \) and \( \theta \in I_d \)

\[
c_n(x) = c_n \left( y(\theta) + \frac{u}{\sqrt{nh_n}} \right) = \frac{\sqrt{nh_n} \left( c - Ef_n \left( y(\theta) + \frac{u}{\sqrt{nh_n}} \right) \right)}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{h_n}EK^2 \left( \frac{y(\theta) + \frac{u}{\sqrt{nh_n}} - X}{h_n^{1/d}} \right)}}
\]

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\[ -\frac{f'(y(\theta)) \cdot u}{\sqrt{f'(y(\theta))} \| K \|_2} = -\frac{s |f'(y(\theta))|}{\sqrt{c} \| K \|_2} =: c(s, \theta, 0) \quad (2.25) \]

and similarly since \( \sqrt{nh_n^{1+2/d}} \to \gamma \),

\[ c_n (x + th_n^{1/d}) \to -\frac{f'(y(\theta)) \cdot (u + t)}{\sqrt{f'(y(\theta))} \| K \|_2} = -\frac{s |f'(y(\theta))|}{\sqrt{c} \| K \|_2} - \frac{\gamma f'(y(\theta)) \cdot t}{\sqrt{c} \| K \|_2} =: c(s, \theta, \gamma t). \]

We also have

\[ \frac{\sqrt{nh_n} (c - f(x))}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{nh_n} E K^2 \left( \frac{x - X}{nh_n} \right)}} \to c(s, \theta, 0) \]

and

\[ \frac{\sqrt{nh_n} (c - f(x + th_n^{1/d}))}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{nh_n} E K^2 \left( \frac{x - X}{nh_n} \right)}} \to c(s, \theta, \gamma t). \]

(See Detail 5 in the Appendix.) Hence by (2.24) and (G) for \( y(\theta) \in \beta \),

\[ (nh_n)^{1/\gamma g} g_n(x, t) = (nh_n)^{1/\gamma g} g_n \left( y(\theta) + \frac{u}{\sqrt{nh_n}}, t \right) \]

\[ = I_{E_n} \left( y(\theta) + \frac{u}{\sqrt{nh_n}} \right) I_{E_n} \left( y(\theta) + \frac{u}{\sqrt{nh_n}} + th_n^{1/d} \right) \]

\[ \times \text{cov} \left( \Delta_n \left( y(\theta) + \frac{u}{\sqrt{nh_n}} \right), \Delta_n \left( y(\theta) + \frac{u}{\sqrt{nh_n}} + th_n^{1/d} \right) \right) \]

\[ \times (nh_n)^{1/\gamma g} g \left( y(\theta) + \frac{u}{\sqrt{nh_n}} \right) g \left( y(\theta) + \frac{u}{\sqrt{nh_n}} + th_n^{1/d} \right) \]

\[ \to \text{cov} \left( \left| I \left\{ Z_1 \geq c(s, \theta, 0) \right\} - I \left\{ 0 \geq c(s, \theta, 0) \right\} \right|, \right. \]

\[ \left. \left| I \left\{ \rho(t) Z_1 + \sqrt{1 - \rho^2(t)} Z_2 \geq c(s, \theta, \gamma t) \right\} - I \left\{ 0 \geq c(s, \theta, \gamma t) \right\} \right| \right) \]

\[ \times |s| \sqrt{g^{(1)}(\theta, u(\theta))} |su(\theta) + \gamma t| \sqrt{g^{(1)}(\theta, su(\theta) + \gamma t)} \]

\[ =: \Gamma (\theta, s, t). \quad (2.26) \]

Using the change of variables

\[ x_1 = y_1(\theta) + \frac{su_1(\theta)}{\sqrt{nh_n}}, \ldots, x_d = y_d(\theta) + \frac{su_d(\theta)}{\sqrt{nh_n}}, \quad (2.27) \]
we get
\[
\int_{D(\tau)} \int_B g_n(x, t) \, dt \, dx = \int_{-\tau}^\tau \int_{I_d} \int_B g_n \left( y(\theta) + \frac{su(\theta)}{\sqrt{nh_n}}, t \right) \, |J_n(\theta, s)| \, dt \, d\theta \, ds,
\]
where
\[
|J_n(\theta, s)| = \left| \det \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial y(\theta)}{\partial \theta_1} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{nh_n}} \frac{\partial u(\theta)}{\partial \theta_1} & \cdots & \cdots \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ \frac{\partial y(\theta)}{\partial \theta_{d-1}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{nh_n}} \frac{\partial u(\theta)}{\partial \theta_{d-1}} & \cdots & \cdots \\ u(\theta) & \cdots & \cdots \end{vmatrix} \right|.
\] (2.28)

Clearly, with \( \iota(\theta) \) as in (2.10),
\[
\sqrt{nh_n} |J_n(\theta, s)| \rightarrow \iota(\theta). \] (2.29)

Under our assumptions we have \( \sqrt{nh_n} |J_n(\theta, s)| \) is uniformly bounded in \( n \geq 1 \) and \( (\theta, s) \in I_d \times [-\tau, \tau] \). Also by using \((G)\) we see that for all \( n \) large enough \( (nh_n)^{\frac{1}{g}} g_n \) is bounded on \( I_d \times B \). Thus since \( (nh_n)^{\frac{1}{g}} g_n \) and \( \sqrt{nh_n} |J_n| \) are eventually bounded on the appropriate domains, and (2.26) and (2.29) hold, we get by the dominated convergence theorem and \((G)\) that
\[
(nh_n)^{\frac{1}{g} + \frac{1}{g'}} \int_{D_n(\tau)} \int_B g_n(x, t) \, dt \, dx = \int_{-\tau}^\tau \int_{I_d} \int_B g_n \left( y(\theta) + \frac{su(\theta)}{\sqrt{nh_n}}, t \right) \, |J_n(\theta, s)| \, dt \, d\theta \, ds
\]
\[
\rightarrow \int_{-\tau}^\tau \int_{I_d} \int_B \Gamma(\theta, s, t) \iota(\theta) \, dt \, d\theta \, ds, \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty. \] (2.30)

We claim that as \( \tau \rightarrow \infty \) we have
\[
\int_{-\tau}^\tau \int_{I_d} \int_B \Gamma(\theta, s, t) \iota(\theta) \, dt \, d\theta \, ds
\]
\[
\rightarrow \int_{-\infty}^\infty \int_{I_d} \int_B \Gamma(\theta, s, t) \iota(\theta) \, dt \, d\theta \, ds =: \sigma^2 < \infty \] (2.31)
and
\[
\lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} (nh_n)^{\frac{1}{g} + \frac{1}{g'}} \int_{D_n(\tau) \cap E_n} \int_B g_n(x, t) \, dt \, dx = 0, \] (2.32)
which in light of (2.30) implies that the limit in (2.22) is equal to \( \sigma^2 \) as defined in (2.31).

First we show (2.31). Consider
\[
\Gamma^+(\tau) := \int_0^\tau \int_{I_d} \int_B \Gamma(\theta, s, t) \iota(\theta) \, dt \, d\theta \, ds.
\]
We shall show existence and finiteness of the limit \( \lim_{\tau \to \infty} \Gamma^+(\tau) \). Similar arguments apply to
\[
\lim_{\tau \to \infty} \Gamma^-(\tau) := \lim_{\tau \to \infty} \int_0^\infty \int_{I_4} \int_B \Gamma(\theta, s, t) \nu(\theta) \, dt \, d\theta \, ds < \infty.
\]

Observe that when \( s \geq 0 \),
\[
\left| I \{ Z_1 \geq c(s, \theta, 0) \} - I \{ 0 \geq c(s, \theta, 0) \} \right| = I \{ Z_1 < c(s, \theta, 0) \}
\]
and with \( \Phi \) denoting the cdf of a standard normal distribution we write
\[
E \left( I \{ Z_1 < c(s, \theta, 0) \} \right) = \Phi \left( c(s, \theta, 0) \right).
\]
Hence by taking into account (2.26), the assumed finiteness of \( \sup_{|z|=1} \sup_{\theta} g^{(1)}(\theta, z) \), and using the elementary inequality
\[
|\text{cov}(X, Y)| \leq 2E|X|, \quad \text{whenever } |Y| \leq 1,
\]
we get for all \( s \geq 0 \) and some \( c_1 > 0 \) that
\[
|\Gamma(\theta, s, t)| \leq c_1 |s|^{\frac{1}{\gamma_\theta}} \left( |s|^{\frac{1}{\gamma_\theta}} + \gamma^{\frac{1}{\gamma_\theta}} \right) \Phi \left( c(s, \theta, 0) \right). \tag{2.33}
\]
The lower bound (2.9) implies the existence of a constant \( \tilde{c} > 0 \) such that
\[
\Phi \left( c(s, \theta, 0) \right) = \Phi \left( -\frac{s |f'(y(\theta))|}{\sqrt{c \|K\|_2}} \right) \leq \Phi(-\tilde{c} s).
\]
Together with (2.33) and (2.11) it follows that for some \( \bar{c} > 0 \) we have
\[
\lim_{\tau \to \infty} \Gamma^+(\tau) \leq \bar{c} \lim_{\tau \to \infty} \int_0^\tau |s|^{\frac{1}{\gamma_\theta}} \left( |s|^{\frac{1}{\gamma_\theta}} + \gamma^{\frac{1}{\gamma_\theta}} \right) (1 - \Phi(\tilde{c} s)) \, ds < \infty.
\]
Similarly,
\[
|\Gamma^+(\infty) - \Gamma^+(\tau)| \leq \bar{c} \int_\tau^\infty |s|^{\frac{1}{\gamma_\theta}} \left( |s|^{\frac{1}{\gamma_\theta}} + \gamma^{\frac{1}{\gamma_\theta}} \right) (1 - \Phi(\tilde{c} s)) \, ds \to 0, \quad \text{as } \tau \to \infty.
\]
This validates claim (2.31).

Next we turn to the proof of (2.32). Recall the definition of \( g_n(x, t) \) in (2.21). Notice that for all \( n \) large enough, we have
\[
(nh_n)^{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{\gamma_\theta}} \int_{D_n^C(\tau) \cap E_n} \int_B g_n(x, t) \, dt \, dx
\]
\[
\leq \sqrt{nh_n} \int_{D_n^C(\tau) \cap E_n} \int_B |\text{cov} \left( \Delta_n(x), \Delta_n(x + th_{1/d}^n) \right)|
\]
\[
\times (nh_n)^{\frac{1}{2}} g(x) g(x + th_{1/d}^n) \, dt \, dx \tag{2.34}
\]
\[
\leq \sqrt{nh_n} \int_{D_n^C(\tau) \cap E_n} \int_B \left( \text{Var} \left( \Delta_n(x) \right) \right)^{1/2}
\]
\[
\times (nh_n)^{\frac{1}{2}} g(x) g(x + th_{1/d}^n) \, dt \, dx \tag{2.35}
\]
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The last inequality uses the fact that $\Delta_n(x + th_n^{1/d}) \leq 1$ and thus $\text{Var}(\Delta_n(x + th_n^{1/d})) \leq 1$. Applying the inequality

$$|I \{a \geq b\} - I \{0 \geq b\}| \leq I \{|a| \geq |b|\},$$

we obtain that

$$\text{Var}(\Delta_n(x)) + \text{Var}(|I \{\pi_n(x) \geq c\} - I \{f(x) \geq c\}|),$$

$$\leq E(|\pi_n(x) - f(x)| \geq |c - f(x)|)^2 = P(|\pi_n(x) - f(x)| \geq |c - f(x)|).$$

Thus we get that

$$\sqrt{nh_n} \int_{D_n^C(\tau) \cap E_n} \int_B \sqrt{\text{Var}(\Delta_n(x))}(nh_n)^{1/2} g(x) g(x + th_n^{1/d}) \ dt \ dx$$

$$\leq \sqrt{nh_n} \int_{D_n^C(\tau) \cap E_n} \int_B \sqrt{P(|\pi_n(x) - f(x)| \geq |c - f(x)|)}$$

$$\times (nh_n)^{1/2} g(x) g(x + th_n^{1/d}) \ dt \ dx. \quad (2.37)$$

We must bound the probability inside the integral. For this purpose we need a lemma.

**Lemma 2.1** Let $Y, Y_1, Y_2, \ldots$ be i.i.d. with mean $\mu$ and bounded by $0 < M < \infty$. Independent of $Y_1, Y_2, \ldots$ let $N_n$ be a Poisson random variable with mean $n$. For any $v \geq 2(e30)^2 EY^2$ and with $d = e30M$ we have for all $\lambda > 0$,

$$P\left\{\sum_{i=1}^{N_n} Y_i - n\mu \geq \lambda \right\} \leq \exp\left(-\frac{\lambda^2/2}{nv + d\lambda}\right). \quad (2.38)$$

**Proof.** Let $N$ be a Poisson random variable with mean 1 independent of $Y_1, Y_2, \ldots$ and let

$$\omega = \sum_{i=1}^{N} Y_i.$$

Clearly if $\omega_1, \ldots, \omega_n$ are i.i.d. $\omega$, then

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N_n} Y_i - n\mu = d \sum_{i=1}^{n} (\omega_i - \mu).$$

Our aim is to use Bernstein’s inequality to prove (2.38). Notice that for any integer $r \geq 2$,

$$E|\omega - \mu|^r = E\left|\sum_{i=1}^{N} Y_i - \mu\right|^r. \quad (2.39)$$

At this point we need the following fact, which is Lemma 2.3 of Giné, Mason and Zaitsev (2003).
Fact 1. If, for each \( n \geq 1 \), \( \zeta, \zeta_1, \zeta_2, \ldots, \zeta_n, \ldots \), are independent identically distributed random variables, \( \zeta_0 = 0 \), and \( \eta \) is a Poisson random variable with mean \( \gamma > 0 \) and independent of the variables \( \{ \zeta_i \}_{i=1}^{\infty} \), then, for every \( p \geq 2 \),

\[
E \left| \sum_{i=0}^{\eta} \zeta_i - \gamma E[\zeta] \right|^p \leq \left( \frac{15p}{\log p} \right)^p \max \left[ \left( \frac{\gamma E[\zeta^2]}{2} \right)^{p/2}, \gamma E[|\zeta|^p] \right].
\]

(2.40)

Applying inequality (2.40) to (2.39) gives for \( r \geq 2 \)

\[
E |\omega - \mu|^r = E \left| \sum_{i=1}^{N} Y_i - \mu \right|^r \leq \left( \frac{15r}{\log r} \right)^r \max \left[ \left( EY^2 \right)^{r/2}, E|Y|^r \right].
\]

Now

\[
\max \left[ \left( EY^2 \right)^{r/2}, E|Y|^r \right] \leq \max \left[ \left( EY^2 \right)^{r/2-1}, \left( EY^2 \right) M^{r-2} \right] \leq EY^2 M^{r-2}.
\]

Moreover, since \( \log 2 \geq 1/2 \), we get

\[
E |\omega - \mu|^r \leq (30r)^r EY^2 M^{r-2}.
\]

By Stirling’s formula (see page 864 of Shorack and Wellner (1986))

\[
r^r \leq e^r r!.
\]

Thus

\[
E |\omega - \mu|^r \leq (e30r)^r EY^2 M^{r-2} \leq \frac{2(e30)^2 EY^2}{2} r! (e30M)^{r-2} \leq \frac{v}{2} r! d^{r-2},
\]

where \( v \geq 2 (e30)^2 EY^2 \) and \( d = e30M \). Thus by Bernstein’s inequality (see page 855 of Shorack and Wellner (1986)) we get (2.38). \( \square \)

Here is how Lemma 2.1 is used. Let \( Y_i = K \left( \frac{x - X_{\omega,n}}{h_n} \right) \). Since by assumption both \( K \) and \( f \) are bounded, and \( K \) has support contained in the closed ball of radius 1/2 around zero, we obtain that for some \( D_0 > 0 \) and all \( n \geq 1 \),

\[
\sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} E \left[ K \left( \frac{x - X_{\omega,n}}{h_n} \right) \right]^2 \leq D_0 h_n.
\]

Consider \( z \geq a/\sqrt{nh_n} \) for some \( a > 0 \). With this choice, and since by (2.61) of Detail 2 in Appendix, \( \sup_{x} |Ef_n(x) - f(x)| \leq A_1 h^{2/d} \leq \frac{a}{2 \sqrt{nh_n}} \) for \( n \) large enough by using \( (H) \), we have

\[
P \{ \pi_n(x) - f(x) \geq z \} = P \{ \pi_n(x) - Ef_n(x) \geq z - (Ef_n(x) - f(x)) \}
\leq P \{ \pi_n(x) - Ef_n(x) \geq z - \frac{1}{2} \frac{a}{\sqrt{nh_n}} \}
\leq P \{ \pi_n(x) - Ef_n(x) \geq \frac{z}{2} \}
\leq \frac{1}{2} 18
for $z \geq a/\sqrt{nh_n}$ and $n$ large enough. We get then from inequality (2.38) that for $n \geq 1$, all $z > 0$ that for some constants $D_1$ and $D_2$

$$P\{ \pi_n(x) - Ef_n(x) \geq \frac{z}{2} \} = P\{ \sum_{i=1}^{N_n} K\left( \frac{x - X_i}{h_n^{1/d}} \right) - nE K\left( \frac{x - X}{h_n^{1/d}} \right) \geq \frac{nh_n z}{2} \} \leq \exp \left( - \frac{(nh_n)^2 z^2}{D_1 nh_n + D_2 nh_n z} \right) \leq \exp \left( - \frac{nh_n z^2}{D_1 + D_2 z} \right).$$

We see that for some $a > 0$ for all $z \geq a/\sqrt{nh_n}$ and $n$ large enough,

$$\frac{nh_n z^2}{D_1 + D_2 z} \geq \sqrt{nh_n z}.$$

Observe that for $0 \leq z \leq a/\sqrt{nh_n},

$$\exp (a) \exp \left( - \sqrt{nh_n z} \right) \geq \exp (a) \exp (-a) = 1 \geq P\{ \pi_n(x) - f(x) \geq z \}.$$

Therefore by setting $A = \exp (a)$ we get for all large enough $n \geq 1$, and $z > 0$ and $x$,

$$P\{ \pi_n(x) - f(x) \geq z \} \leq A \exp \left( - \sqrt{nh_n z} \right).$$

In the same way, for all large enough $n \geq 1$, and $z > 0$ and $x$,

$$P\{ \pi_n(x) - f(x) \leq -z \} \leq A \exp \left( - \sqrt{nh_n z} \right).$$

Notice these inequalities imply that for all large enough $n \geq 1$, and $z > 0$ and $x$,

$$\sqrt{P\{|\pi_n(x) - f(x)| \geq |c - f(x)|\}} \leq \sqrt{A} \exp \left( - \frac{\sqrt{nh_n} |c - f(x)|}{2} \right). \quad (2.41)$$

Returning to the proof of (2.32), from (2.34), (2.35), (2.37) and (2.41) we get that for all large enough $n \geq 1$,

$$(nh_n)^{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2g}} \int_{D_n^C(\tau) \cap E_n} \int_B g_n(x, t) dt \, dx \leq \sqrt{nh_n} \sqrt{A} \int_{D_n^C(\tau) \cap E_n} \int_B e^{-\frac{nh_n |c - f(x)|}{2}} (nh_n)^{\frac{1}{2g}} g(x) g(x + th_n^{1/d}) dt \, dx,$$

which equals

$$\lambda(B) \sqrt{nh_n} \int_{D_n^C(\tau) \cap E_n} \varphi_n(x) \, dx,$$

where

$$\varphi_n(x) = \sqrt{A} \exp \left( - \frac{\sqrt{nh_n} |c - f(x)|}{2} \right) (nh_n)^{\frac{1}{2g}} g(x) g(x + th_n^{1/d}).$$
Now our assumptions imply that for some $0 < \eta < 1$ for all $1 \leq |s| \leq \rho \sqrt{\log n}$ and $n$ large

$$\frac{\sqrt{nh_n}}{2} \left| c - f \left( y(\theta) + \frac{su(\theta)}{\sqrt{nh_n}} \right) \right| \geq \eta |s|.$$  

(See Detail 3 in Appendix.) We get using the change of variables (2.27) that for all $\tau > 1$,

$$\int_{D_n^C(\tau) \cap E_n} \varphi_n(x) \, dx = \int_{\tau \leq |s| \leq \rho \sqrt{\log n}} \int_{I_d} \varphi_n \left( y(\theta) + \frac{su(\theta)}{\sqrt{nh_n}} \right) |J_n(\theta, s)| \, d\theta \, ds,$$

which by our assumptions (refer to the remarks after equation (2.29) and assumption (G)) is for some constant $C > 0$, for all large enough $\tau$ and $n$.

$$\leq \frac{C}{\sqrt{nh_n}} \int_{\tau \leq |s| \leq \rho \sqrt{\log n}} \int_{I_d} |s|^{\frac{7}{9}} \exp \left( -\frac{\sqrt{nh_n}}{2} \left| c - f \left( y(\theta) + \frac{su(\theta)}{\sqrt{nh_n}} \right) \right| \right) \, d\theta \, ds$$

$$\leq \frac{C}{\sqrt{nh_n}} \int_{\tau \leq |s| \leq \rho \sqrt{\log n}} \int_{I_d} \exp \left( -\frac{\eta |s|}{2} \right) \, d\theta \, ds.$$

Thus

$$\int_{D_n^C(\tau) \cap E_n} \int_B \varphi_n(x) \, dx \leq \frac{4 \pi^{d-1} C \exp \left( -\frac{\eta \tau}{2} \right)}{\eta \sqrt{nh_n}}. \quad (2.42)$$

Therefore after inserting all of the above bounds we get that

$$(nh_n)^{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{7}{9}} \int_{D_n^C(\tau) \cap E_n} \int_B g_n(x, t) \, dx \, dt \leq \frac{4 \pi^{d-1} C \exp \left( -\frac{\eta \tau}{2} \right)}{\eta}$$

and hence we readily conclude that (2.32) holds.

Putting everything together we get that as $n \to \infty$,

$$a_n^2 \text{Var} \left( \Pi_n(c) \right) \to \sigma^2,$$  \hspace{1cm} (2.43)

with $\sigma^2$ defined as in (2.31). For future use, we point out that we can infer by (2.43) and (2.32) that for all $\epsilon > 0$ there exist a $\tau_0$ and an $n_0 \geq 1$ such that for all $\tau \geq \tau_0$ and $n \geq n_0$

$$|\sigma_n^2(\tau) - \sigma^2| < \epsilon,$$  \hspace{1cm} (2.44)

where

$$\sigma_n^2(\tau) = \text{Var} \left( \left( \frac{n}{h_n} \right)^{1/4} \left( \sqrt{nh_n} \right)^{\frac{1}{9}} \int_{D_n(\tau)} \Delta_n(x) g(x) \, dx \right). \quad (2.45)$$

Our next goal is to de-Poissonize by applying the following version of a theorem in Beirlant and Mason (1995).
Lemma 2.2 Let $N_{1,n}$ and $N_{2,n}$ be independent Poisson random variables with $N_{1,n}$ being Poisson($n\beta_n$) and $N_{2,n}$ being Poisson($n(1-\beta_n)$) where $\beta_n \in (0,1)$. Denote $N_n = N_{1,n} + N_{2,n}$ and set
\[ U_n = \frac{N_{1,n} - n\beta_n}{\sqrt{n}} \quad \text{and} \quad V_n = \frac{N_{2,n} - n(1-\beta_n)}{\sqrt{n}}. \]

Let $\{S_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ be a sequence of random variables such that

(i) for each $n \geq 1$, the random vector $(S_n, U_n)$ is independent of $V_n$,  
(ii) for some $\sigma^2 < \infty$, $S_n \rightarrow_d \sigma Z$, as $n \rightarrow \infty$,  
(iii) $\beta_n \rightarrow 0$, as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Then, for all $x$,
\[ P\{S_n \leq x \mid N_n = n\} \rightarrow P\{\sigma Z \leq x\}. \]

The proof follows along the same lines as Lemma 2.4 in Beirlant and Mason (1995). Consult Detail 6 of the Appendix for a proof.

We shall now use this de-Poissonization lemma to complete the proof of our theorem. Recall the definitions of $L_n(c)$ and $\Pi_n(c)$ in (2.16) and (2.17), respectively. Noting that $D_n(\tau) \subset E_n$ for all large enough $n \geq 1$, we see that
\[
 a_n (L_n(c) - E\Pi_n(c)) = a_n \int_{D_n(\tau)} \{I\{f_n(x) \geq c\} - I\{f(x) \geq c\} \mid - E\Delta_n(x)\} \ g(x) \, dx
 \]
\[ + \ a_n \int_{D_n(\tau) \cap E_n} \{I\{f_n(x) \geq c\} - I\{f(x) \geq c\} \mid - E\Delta_n(x)\} \ g(x) \, dx
 \]
\[ =: \ T_n(\tau) + R_n(\tau). \]

We can control the $R_n(\tau)$ piece of this sum using the inequality, which follows from Lemma 2.3 below,
\[
 E(R_n(\tau))^2 \leq 2a_n^2 \text{Var} \left( \int_{D_n(\tau) \cap E_n} |I\{\pi_n(x) \geq c\} - I\{f(x) \geq c\}| \  g(x) \, dx \right)
 \]
\[ = 2 \left( nh_n \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \int_{D_n(\tau) \cap E_n} \int_B g_n(x,t) \, dt \, dx, \quad (2.46) \]

which goes to zero as $n \rightarrow \infty$ and $\tau \rightarrow \infty$ as we proved in (2.32).

The needed inequality is a special case of the following result in Giné, Mason and Zaitsev (2003). We say that a set $D$ is a (commutative) semigroup if it has a commutative and associative operation, in our case sum, with a zero element. If $D$ is equipped with a $\sigma$-algebra $\mathcal{D}$ for which the sum, $+: (D \times D, \mathcal{D} \otimes \mathcal{D}) \leftarrow (D, \mathcal{D})$, is measurable, then we say the $(D, \mathcal{D})$ is a measurable semigroup.

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**Lemma 2.3** Let $(D, \mathcal{D})$ be a measurable semigroup; let $Y_0 = 0 \in D$ and let $Y_i, i \in \mathbb{N}$, be independent identically distributed $D$-valued random variables; for any given $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let $\eta$ be a Poisson random variable with mean $\eta$ independent of the sequence $\{Y_i\}$; and let $B \in \mathcal{D}$ be such that $P\{Y_1 \in B\} \leq 1/2$. If $G : D \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ is non-negative and $\mathcal{D}$-measurable, then

$$E G \left( \sum_{i=0}^{n} I(Y_i \in B)Y_i \right) \leq 2E G \left( \sum_{i=0}^{\eta} I(Y_i \in B)Y_i \right).$$

(2.47)

Next we consider $T_n(\tau)$. Observe that

$$(S_n(\tau) | N_n = n) =_d \frac{T_n(\tau)}{\sigma_n(\tau)},$$

(2.48)

where as above $N_n$ denotes a Poisson random variable with mean $n$,

$$S_n(\tau) = \frac{a_n \int_{D_n(\tau)} \{\Delta_n(x) - E\Delta_n(x)\} \, g(x) \, dx}{\sigma_n(\tau)},$$

and $\sigma_n^2(\tau)$ is defined as in (2.45). We shall apply Lemma 2.2 to $S_n(\tau)$ with

$$N_{1,n} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_n} 1 \{X_i \in D_n(\tau + \sqrt{nh_n})\},$$

$$N_{2,n} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_n} 1 \{X_i \notin D_n(\tau + \sqrt{nh_n})\}$$

and

$$\beta_n = P \{X_i \in D_n(\tau + \sqrt{nh_n})\}.$$ 

We first need to verify that as $n \to \infty$

$$S_n(\tau) = \frac{a_n \int_{D_n(\tau)} \{\Delta_n(x) - E\Delta_n(x)\} \, g(x) \, dx}{\sigma_n(\tau)} \to_d Z.$$ 

To show this we require the following special case of Theorem 1 of Shergin (1990).

**Fact 2.** (Shergin (1990)) Let $\{X_{i,n} : i \in \mathbb{Z}^d\}$ denote a triangular array of mean zero $m$-dependent random fields, and let $\mathcal{J}_n \subset \mathbb{Z}^d$ be such that

(i) $\text{Var} \left( \sum_{i \in \mathcal{J}_n} X_{i,n} \right) \to 1$, as $n \to \infty$, and

(ii) for some $2 < s < 3$, $\sum_{i \in \mathcal{J}_n} E|X_{i,n}|^s \to 0$, as $n \to \infty$.

Then

$$\sum_{i \in \mathcal{J}_n} X_{i,n} \to_d Z,$$

where $Z$ is a standard normal random variable.
We use Shergin’s result as follows. Under our regularity conditions, for each \( \tau > 0 \) there exist positive constants \( d_1, \ldots, d_5 \) such that for all large enough \( n \),

\[
|D_n(\tau)| \leq \frac{d_1}{\sqrt{nh_n}}; \quad (2.49)
\]

\[
d_2 \leq \sigma_n(\tau) \leq d_3. \quad (2.50)
\]

Clearly (2.50) follows from (2.44), and (2.49) is shown in Detail 7 in the Appendix. There it is also shown that for each such integer \( n \geq 1 \) there exists a partition \( \{R_i, i \in J_n \subset \mathbb{Z}^d\} \) of \( D_n(\tau) \) such that for each \( i \in J_n \)

\[
|R_i| \leq d_4 h_n, \quad (2.51)
\]

where

\[
|J_n| =: m_n \leq \frac{d_5}{\sqrt{nh_n^3}}. \quad (2.52)
\]

Define

\[
X_{i,n} = \frac{a_n \int_{R_i} \{\Delta_n(x) - E\Delta_n(x)\} \, g(x) \, dx}{\sigma_n(\tau)}, \quad i \in J_n.
\]

It follows from Detail 7 in the Appendix that \( X_{i,n} \) can be extended to a \( 1 \)-dependent random field on \( \mathbb{Z}^d \).

Notice that by \((G)\) there exists a constant \( A > 0 \) such that for all \( x \in D_n(\tau) \),

\[
|g(x)| \leq A \left( \sqrt{nh_n} \right)^{-\frac{1}{\gamma}}.
\]

Recalling that \( a_n = a_{n,G} = \left( \frac{n}{h_n} \right)^{\frac{1}{4}} \left( \sqrt{nh_n} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} \) we thus obtain for all \( i \in J_n \),

\[
|X_{i,n}| \leq \frac{a_n \, 2A \, |R_i| \, A \left( \sqrt{nh_n} \right)^{-\frac{1}{\gamma}}}{\sigma_n(\tau)}
\]

\[
\leq \frac{2d_4Ah_n}{d_2} \left( \frac{n}{h_n} \right)^{\frac{1}{4}} = \frac{2Ad_4}{d_2} (nh_n^3)^{1/4}.
\]

Therefore,

\[
\sum_{i \in J_n} E|X_{i,n}|^{\frac{5}{2}} \leq m_n \left( \frac{2d_4}{d_2} (nh_n^3)^{1/4} \right)^{\frac{5}{2}} \leq d_5 \left( \frac{2d_4}{d_2} \right)^{\frac{5}{2}} (nh_n^3)^{1/8}.
\]

This bound when combined with \((H)\) implies that as \( n \to \infty \),

\[
\sum_{i \in J_n} E|X_{i,n}|^{\frac{5}{2}} \to 0
\]

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which by the Shergin fact (with $s = 5/2$) yields

$$S_n(\tau) = \sum_{i \in J_n} X_{i,n} \rightarrow_d Z.$$  

Thus, using (2.48) and $\beta_n = P \{X_i \in D_n(\tau + \sqrt{nh_n})\} \rightarrow 0$, Lemma 2.2 implies that

$$\frac{T_n(\tau)}{\sigma_n(\tau)} \rightarrow_d Z. \quad (2.53)$$  

Putting everything together we get from (2.46) that

$$\lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} E(R_n(\tau))^2 = 0$$  

and from (2.44) that

$$\lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} |\sigma_n^2(\tau) - \sigma^2| = 0,$$

which in combination with (2.53) implies that

$$a_n(L_n(c) - E\Pi_n(c)) \rightarrow_d \sigma Z, \quad (2.54)$$  

where

$$\sigma^2 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{I_d} \int_{B} \Gamma(\theta, s, t) \iota(\theta) dt d\theta ds. \quad (2.55)$$

Since by Lemma 2.3

$$E(a_n(L_n(c) - E\Pi_n(c)))^2 \leq 2 \text{Var}(a_n\Pi_n(c))$$

and

$$\text{Var}(a_n\Pi_n(c)) \rightarrow \sigma^2 < \infty,$$

we can conclude that

$$a_n(EL_n(c) - E\Pi_n(c)) \rightarrow 0$$

and thus

$$a_n(L_n(c) - EL_n(c)) \rightarrow_d \sigma Z.$$

This gives that

$$a_n \left( G(C_n(c) \Delta C(c)) - \int_{E_n} E[I \{f_n(x) \geq c\} - I \{f(x) \geq c\}] dG(x) \right)$$

$$\rightarrow_d \sigma Z \quad (2.56)$$

which is (2.12). In light of (2.56) and keeping mind that

$$EG(C_n(c) \Delta C(c)) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} E[I \{f_n(x) \geq c\} - I \{f(x) \geq c\}] g(x) dx,$$
we see that to complete the proof of (2.1) it remains to show that

\[ a_n E \int_{E_n^c} |I \{ f_n (x) \geq c \} - I \{ f (x) \geq c \}| g(x) \, dx \to 0. \]  

(2.57)

We shall begin by bounding

\[ E |I \{ f_n (x) \geq c \} - I \{ f (x) \geq c \}|, \quad x \in E_n^c. \]

Applying inequality (2.36) with \( a = f_n (x) - f (x) \) and \( b = c - f (x) \) we have for \( x \in E_n^c, \)

\[ E |I \{ f_n (x) \geq c \} - I \{ f (x) \geq c \}| \]

\[ \leq E I \{|f_n (x) - f (x)| \geq |c - f (x)|\} \]

\[ = P \{|f_n (x) - f (x)| \geq |c - f (x)|\} \]

\[ \leq P \{|f_n (x) - Ef_n (x)| \geq |c - f (x)| - |f (x) - Ef_n (x)|\}, \]

which by recalling the definition of \( E_n \) in (2.15) is

\[ \leq P \left\{ |f_n (x) - Ef_n (x)| \geq \frac{\rho (\log n)^{1/2}}{(nh_n)^{1/2}} - |f (x) - Ef_n (x)| \right\}. \]

This last bound is, in turn, by (2.61)

\[ \leq P \left\{ |f_n (x) - Ef_n (x)| \geq \frac{\rho (\log n)^{1/2}}{(nh_n)^{1/2}} - A_1 h_n^{2/d} \right\}. \]

Thus for all large enough \( n \) uniformly in \( x \in E_n^c, \)

\[ E |I \{ f_n (x) \geq c \} - I \{ f (x) \geq c \}| \]

\[ \leq P \left\{ |f_n (x) - Ef_n (x)| \geq \frac{\rho (\log n)^{1/2}}{(nh_n)^{1/2}} - A_1 h_n^{2/d} \right\} \]

\[ \leq P \left\{ |f_n (x) - Ef_n (x)| \geq \frac{\rho (\log n)^{1/2}}{2(nh_n)^{1/2}} \right\} =: p_n (x). \]

We shall bound \( p_n (x) \) using Bernstein’s inequality on the i.i.d. sum

\[ f_n (x) - Ef_n (x) = \frac{1}{nh_n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left\{ K \left( \frac{x - X_i}{h_n^{1/d}} \right) - E K \left( \frac{x - X_i}{h_n^{1/d}} \right) \right\}. \]
Notice that for each \( i = 1, \ldots, n \),

\[
\text{Var} \left( \frac{1}{nh_n} K \left( \frac{x - X_i}{h_n^{1/d}} \right) \right) \leq \frac{1}{(nh_n)^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} K^2 \left( \frac{x - y}{h_n^{1/d}} \right) f(y) \, dy
\]

\[
= \frac{1}{n^2 h_n} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} K^2(u) f(x - h_n^{1/d} u) \, du \leq \frac{\|K\|^2_2 M}{n^2 h_n}
\]

and by \((K.i)\),

\[
\frac{1}{nh_n} \left| K \left( \frac{x - X_i}{h_n^{1/d}} \right) - \mathbb{E} K \left( \frac{x - X_i}{h_n^{1/d}} \right) \right| \leq \frac{2 \kappa}{nh_n}.
\]

Therefore by Bernstein’s inequality (i.e. page 855 of Shorack and Wellner (1986)),

\[
p_n(x) \leq 2 \exp \left( -\frac{\rho^2 \log n}{4n \kappa} \left( \frac{\|K\|^2_2 M}{n h_n} + \frac{3 \rho(\log n)^{1/2}}{2(2nh_n)^{1/2}} \kappa \right) \right)
\]

\[
= 2 \exp \left( -\frac{\rho^2 \log n}{4} \left( \frac{\|K\|^2_2 M}{n h_n} + \frac{\kappa(\log n)^{1/2}}{3(2nh_n)^{1/2}} \right) \right).
\]

Hence by \((H)\) and keeping in mind that \( \rho > \sqrt{2} \) in (2.15), we get for some constant \( a > 0 \) that for all large enough \( n \), uniformly in \( x \in E_n^c \), we have the bound

\[
p_n(x) \leq 2 \exp (-\rho a \log n). \tag{2.58}
\]

We shall show below that \( \lambda(C_n^c (c) \Delta C(c)) \leq m < \infty \) for some \( 0 < m < \infty \). Assuming this to be true, we have the following (similar lines of arguments are used in Rigollet and Vert, 2008)

\[
\mathbb{E} \int_{E_n^c} |I \{ f_n(x) \geq c \} - I \{ f(x) \geq c \}| \, g(x) \, dx
\]

\[
= \mathbb{E} \int_{E_n^c \cap (C_n(c) \Delta C(c))} |I \{ f_n(x) \geq c \} - I \{ f(x) \geq c \}| \, g(x) \, dx
\]

\[
\leq \sup_{A: \lambda(A) \leq m} \mathbb{E} \int_{E_n^c \cap A} |I \{ f_n(x) \geq c \} - I \{ f(x) \geq c \}| \, g(x) \, dx
\]

\[
\leq \sup_{A: \lambda(A) \leq m} \int_{E_n^c \cap A} \mathbb{E} |I \{ f_n(x) \geq c \} - I \{ f(x) \geq c \}| \, g(x) \, dx
\]

\[
\leq m \sup_{x} g(x) \sup_{x \in E_n^c} E |I \{ f_n(x) \geq c \} - I \{ f(x) \geq c \}|
\]

\[
\leq m \sup_{x} g(x) \sup_{x \in E_n^c} p_n(x).
\]
With $c_0 = m \sup_x g(x)$ and (2.58) this gives the bound

$$a_n \mathbb{E} \int_{\mathbb{B}_n} |I \{f_n(x) \geq c\} - I \{f(x) \geq c\}| g(x) \, dx$$

$$\leq 2 c_0 a_n \exp(-\rho a \log n).$$

Clearly by (H), we see that for large enough $\rho > 0$

$$a_n \exp(-\rho a \log n) \to 0$$

and thus (2.57) follows. It remains to verify that there exists $0 < m < \infty$ with

$$\lambda(\mathbb{C}_n(c) \Delta C(c)) \leq m.$$ 

Notice that

$$1 \geq \int_{\mathbb{C}_n(c)} f_n(x) \, dx \geq c \lambda(\mathbb{C}_n(c))$$

and

$$1 \geq \int_{C(c)} f(x) \, dx \geq c \lambda(C_n(c)).$$

Thus

$$\lambda(\mathbb{C}_n(c) \Delta C(c)) \leq 2/c =: m.$$ 

We see now that the proof of the theorem in the case $k = 1$ and $d \geq 2$ is complete.

The proof for the case $k \geq 2$ goes through by an obvious extension of the argument used in the case $k = 1$. On account of (B.ii) we can write for large enough $n$

$$\int_{\mathbb{B}_n} \Delta_n(x) \, dG(x) = \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{E_{j,n}} \Delta_n(x) \, dG(x),$$

where the sets $E_{j,n}, j = 1, \ldots, k$, are disjoint and constructed from the $\beta_j$ just as $E_n$ was formed from the boundary set $\beta$ in the proof for the case $k = 1$. Therefore by reason of the Poissonization, the summands are independent. Hence the asymptotic normality readily follows as before, where the limiting variance in (2.1) becomes

$$\sigma^2 = \sum_{j=1}^k c_j^2 \sigma_j^2, \quad (2.59)$$

where each $\sigma_j^2$ is formed just like (2.55).
2.5 Proof of the theorem in the case \( d = 1 \)

The case \( d = 1 \) follows along very similar ideas as presented above in the case \( d \geq 2 \) and is in fact somewhat simpler than the case \( d \geq 2 \). We therefore skip all the details and only point out that by assumption (B.ii) the boundary set \( \beta = \{ x \in \mathbb{R} : f(x) = c \} \) consists of \( k \) points \( z_i, \ i = 1, \ldots, k \). Therefore, the integral over \( \theta \) in the definition of \( \sigma^2 \) in (2.55) has to be replaced by a sum, leading to

\[
\sigma^2 := \sum_{i=1}^{k} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-1}^{1} \Gamma (i, s, t) \ g(z_i) \ dt \ ds
\]

where

\[
\Gamma (i, s, t) = \text{cov} \left( \left| I \left\{ Z_1 \geq -\frac{s \ f'(z_i)}{\sqrt{c \ ||K||_2}} \right\} - I \left\{ 0 \geq -\frac{s \ f'(z_i)}{\sqrt{c \ ||K||_2}} \right\} \right|, \right.
\]

\[
\left| I \left\{ \rho(t) Z_1 + \sqrt{1 - \rho^2(t)} Z_2 \geq -\frac{(s + \gamma t) f'(z_i)}{\sqrt{c \ ||K||_2}} \right\} - I \left\{ 0 \geq -\frac{(s + \gamma t) f'(z_i)}{\sqrt{c \ ||K||_2}} \right\} \right| \right)
\]

We can drop the absolute value sign on \( f'(z_i) \) in our definition of \( \Gamma (i, s, t) \) for \( i = 1, \ldots, k \) and thus \( \sigma^2 \), since \( \rho(t) = \rho(-t) \).

APPENDIX

In this appendix we supply a number of technical details that are needed in our proofs.

**Detail 1.** The proof of (2.4) is as follows:

\[
\int_{0}^{\infty} \int_{C_n(c) \Delta C(c)} |f(x) - c|^{p-1} \ dx \ dc
\]

\[
= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \int_{0}^{\infty} \left[ I \left\{ (x, c) : f(x) < c \leq f_n(x) \right\} \right.
\]

\[
\left. + \ I \left\{ (x, c) : f_n(x) < c \leq f(x) \right\} \right] |f(x) - c|^{p-1} \ dc \ dx
\]

\[
= \int_{\{x : f(x) \leq f_n(x)\}} \int_{0}^{\infty} I \left\{ c : f(x) < c \leq f_n(x) \right\} |f(x) - c|^{p-1} \ dc \ dx
\]

\[
+ \int_{\{x : f_n(x) \leq f(x)\}} \int_{0}^{\infty} I \left\{ c : f_n(x) < c \leq f(x) \right\} |f(x) - c|^{p-1} \ dc \ dx
\]
Thus we see that for \( 1 \leq |x| \), an application of Taylor’s formula for \( f \). Notice that (Detail 2) that for some constant \( A_1 > 0 \),

\[
\sup_{n \geq 2} h_n^{-2/d} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} |E f_n(x) - f(x)| \leq A_1.
\]

Thus we see by \( (H) \) that there exists a \( \gamma_2 > 0 \) such that

\[
\sup_{n \geq 2} \sqrt{n h_n} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} |E f_n(x) - f(x)| \leq A_1 \sqrt{n h_n} h_n^{2/d} \leq \gamma_2 h_n^{1/d}.
\]

(Detail 3) By (2.6) for all \( x, v \in \mathbb{R}^d \)

\[
\left| f(x + v) - f(x) - \sum_{i=1}^{d} \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_i} v_i \right| \leq 2 A \left| v \right|^2.
\]

Thus we see that for \( 1 \leq |s| \leq \rho \sqrt{\log n} \), with \( n \) large enough,

\[
\sqrt{n h_n} \left| c - f \left( y(\theta) + \frac{s u(\theta)}{\sqrt{n h_n}} \right) \right| = \sqrt{n h_n} \left| f \left( y(\theta) \right) - f \left( y(\theta) + \frac{s u(\theta)}{\sqrt{n h_n}} \right) \right|
\]

\[
\geq \left| s f'(y(\theta)) \cdot u(\theta) \right| - \frac{2 A s^2}{\sqrt{n h_n}} - \gamma_2 h_n^{1/d}
\]

\[
\geq \left| s \right| \inf_{\theta \in I_d} |f'(y(\theta))| - \frac{2 A s^2}{\sqrt{n h_n}} - \gamma_2 h_n^{1/d},
\]

\[
\geq \left| s \right| \left( \rho_0 - \frac{2 A \rho \sqrt{\log n}}{\sqrt{n h_n}} \right) - \gamma_2 h_n^{1/d},
\]

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where for the last inequality we use (2.9). Since \((H)\) implies \(\frac{2A_{0} \log n}{\sqrt{n}} \to 0\), we readily see that there is a \(0 < \eta < 1\) such that for all large enough \(n\) we have for all \(\theta \in I_d\) and \(1 \leq |s| \leq \rho \sqrt{\log n},\)

\[
\frac{\sqrt{n} h_n}{2} \left| c - f \left( y(\theta) + \frac{su(\theta)}{\sqrt{n} h_n} \right) \right| \geq \eta |s|. \tag{2.64}
\]

**Detail 4.** Let

\[
\rho_n(x, x + th_n^{1/d}) = \text{Cov} \left( \bar{\pi}_n(x), \bar{\pi}_n(x + th_n^{1/d}) \right)
\]

\[
= \frac{h_n^{-1} E \left[ K \left( \frac{x - X}{h_n} \right) K \left( \frac{x - X}{h_n} + t \right) \right]}{\sqrt{h_n^{-1} E K^2 \left( \frac{x - X}{h_n} \right) h_n^{-1} E K^2 \left( \frac{x - X}{h_n} + t \right)}}.
\]

Choose any \(\theta \in I_d\), \(|s| \leq \tau\), \(x = y(\theta) + \frac{su(\theta)}{\sqrt{n} h_n}\). We see that with the change of variable \(y = x - uh_n^{1/d}\),

\[
\rho_n(x, x + th_n^{1/d}) = \rho_n \left( y(\theta) + \frac{su(\theta)}{\sqrt{n} h_n}, y(\theta) + \frac{su(\theta)}{\sqrt{n} h_n} + th_n^{1/d} \right)
\]

\[
= \frac{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} K(u) K(u + t) f(y_n(s, \theta, u)) du}{\sqrt{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} K^2(u) f(y_n(s, \theta, u)) du \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} K^2(u + t) f(y_n(s, \theta, u)) du}}
\]

where \(y_n(s, \theta, u) = y(\theta) + \frac{su(\theta)}{\sqrt{n} h_n} - uh_n^{1/d}\), which by the bounded convergence theorem converges as \(n \to \infty\) to

\[
\frac{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} K(u) K(u + t) f(y(\theta)) du}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} K^2(u) f(y(\theta)) du} = \frac{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} K(u) K(u + t) du}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} K^2(u) du} =: \rho(t).
\]

**Detail 5.** We shall show that for \(|s| \leq \tau\), \(u = su(\theta), x = y(\theta) + \frac{u}{\sqrt{n} h_n}\) and \(\theta \in I_d\) that

\[
c_n(x) = \frac{\sqrt{n} h_n (c - Ef_n(x))}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{h_n} E K^2 \left( \frac{x - X}{h_n^{1/d}} \right)}}
\]

\[
= c_n \left( y(\theta) + \frac{u}{\sqrt{n} h_n} \right) = \frac{\sqrt{n} h_n \left( c - Ef_n \left( y(\theta) + \frac{u}{\sqrt{n} h_n} \right) \right)}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{h_n} E K^2 \left( \frac{y(\theta) + \frac{u}{\sqrt{n} h_n} - X}{h_n^{1/d}} \right)}}
\]

\[
\to_{n \to \infty} \frac{f'(y(\theta)) \cdot u}{\sqrt{f(y(\theta))} \|K\|_2} = -\frac{s |f'(y(\theta))|}{\|K\|_2}.
\]

First the argument in **Detail 4** implies that

\[
\sqrt{\frac{1}{h_n} E K^2 \left( \frac{y(\theta) + \frac{u}{\sqrt{n} h_n} - X}{h_n^{1/d}} \right)} \to_{n \to \infty} \sqrt{c} \|K\|_2.
\]
Next by (2.61) and (H)

\[
\sqrt{n h_n} \left( c - \mathbb{E} f_n \left( y(\theta) + \frac{u}{\sqrt{n h_n}} \right) \right) =
\]

\[
\sqrt{n h_n} \left( c - f \left( y(\theta) + \frac{u}{\sqrt{n h_n}} \right) \right) + o(1)
\]

and clearly by (2.63)

\[
\sqrt{n h_n} \left( c - f \left( y(\theta) + \frac{u}{\sqrt{n h_n}} \right) \right) \to_{n \to \infty} -s |f'(y(\theta))|.
\]

**Detail 6.** Here we provide the proof of Lemma 2.2. Consider the characteristic function

\[
\phi_n(t, u) := \mathbb{E} \exp(itS_n + iuN_n)
\]

\[
= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} e^{iuk} \mathbb{E} (\exp(itS_n) | N_n = k) P(N_n = k).
\]

From this we see by Fourier inversion that the conditional characteristic function of \( S_n \), given \( N_n = n \), is

\[
\psi_n(t) := \mathbb{E} (\exp(itS_n) | N_n = n) = \frac{1}{2\pi P(N_n = n)} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} e^{-iun} \phi_n(t, u) du.
\]

Applying Stirling’s formula, we obtain as \( n \to \infty \)

\[
2\pi P(N_n = n) = 2\pi e^{-n} n^{n-1} / (n-1)! \sim (2\pi/n)^{1/2},
\]

which, after changing variables from \( u \) to \( v/\sqrt{n} \) and using assumption (i), gives

\[
\psi_n(t) = (2\pi)^{-1/2} (1 + o(1)) \int_{-\pi\sqrt{n}}^{\pi\sqrt{n}} \mathbb{E} \exp(itS_n + ivU_n) \mathbb{E} \exp(ivV_n) dv.
\]

We shall deduce our proof from this expression for the conditional characteristic function \( \psi_n(t) \), after we have collected some facts about the asymptotic behavior of the components in \( \psi_n(t) \).

First, by assumption (iii) we have \( U_n \to_P 0 \), which in combination with (ii) implies

\[
\mathbb{E} \exp(itS_n + ivU_n) \to \phi(t),
\]

where

\[
\phi(t) = \exp \left( -\sigma^2 t^2 / 2 \right).
\]

Next, by arguing as in the proof of Theorem 3 on pages 490-91 of Feller (1966) we see that as \( n \to \infty \)

\[
\int_{-\pi\sqrt{n}}^{\pi\sqrt{n}} |\mathbb{E} \exp(ivU_n) - \exp(-v^2/2)| dv + \int_{|v| > \pi\sqrt{n}} \exp(-v^2/2) dv \to 0,
\]

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which implies that
\[
\int_{-\pi \sqrt{n}}^{\pi \sqrt{n}} |E \exp(itS_n + iuU_n) \ [E \exp(ivV_n) - \exp(-v^2/2)] \ dv \to 0. \tag{2.68}
\]

Here is the argument that shows (2.67). Now
\[
\phi_n(t) := E \exp(itV_n) = \exp \left( n\beta_n \left( \exp \left( \frac{it}{\sqrt{n}} \right) - 1 - \frac{it}{\sqrt{n}} \right) \right).
\]

Next using the elementary inequality
\[
\left| \exp(ix) - 1 - ix + \frac{x^2}{2} \right| \leq \frac{|x|^3}{6}
\]
gives
\[
|\phi_n(t)| \leq \exp \left( -\frac{\beta_n t^2}{2} + \frac{\beta_n |t|^3}{6\sqrt{n}} \right),
\]
which for all large enough \( n \) and \( |t| \leq \pi \sqrt{n} \) is
\[
\leq \exp \left( -\frac{t^2}{3} \right).
\]

Now since \( \phi_n(t) \to \exp(-t^2/2) \) for all \( t \), we infer by setting
\[
g_n(t) = \phi_n(t) 1 \{|t| \leq \pi \sqrt{n}\}
\]
and applying the Lebesgue dominated convergence theorem that
\[
\int_{\mathbb{R}} |g_n(t) - \exp(-t^2/2)| \ dt \to 0, \text{ as } n \to \infty,
\]
which yields (2.67). To complete the proof of the lemma, we get by putting (2.66) and (2.68) together with the Lebesgue dominated convergence theorem that
\[
\psi_n(t) \to \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi(t) \exp(-v^2/2) \ dv = \exp(-\sigma^2 t^2/2).
\]

\[\square\]

**Detail 7.** First we show (2.49). For any measurable set \( C \subset I_d \) define
\[
D_n(\tau, C) = \bigcup_{\theta \in C} \left\{ y(\theta) + \frac{\tau}{\sqrt{nh_n}}B \right\}.
\]

We see that, with \(|A| = \lambda(A)\) for a measurable subset \( A \) of \( \mathbb{R}^d \),
\[
|D_n(\tau, C)| = \int_{D_n(\tau, C)} \ dx,
\]

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which by the change of variables (2.27) is equal to
\[
\int_{-\tau}^{\tau} \int_{C} |J_n(\theta, s)| \, d\theta \, ds,
\]
where \( J_n(\theta, s) \) is defined as in (2.28). Since uniformly in \((\theta, s) \in I_d \times [-\tau, \tau], \)
\[
\sqrt{nh_n} |J_n(\theta, s)| \to \iota(\theta)
\]
and there exists a constant \( 0 < b/2 < \infty \) such that
\[
0 \leq \iota(\theta) \leq b/2,
\]
we see that for all large enough \( n \geq 1 \) for all \((\theta, s) \in I_d \times [-\tau, \tau], \)
\[
0 \leq |J_n(\theta, s)| \leq b.
\]
This implies that,
\[
\sqrt{nh_n} |D_n(\tau, C)| \to 2\tau \int_{C} \iota(\theta) \, d\theta
\]
and for all large enough \( n \geq 1, \)
\[
0 \leq \sqrt{nh_n} |D_n(\tau, C)| < 2\tau b |C|.
\]
Since \( D_n(\tau) = D_n(\tau, I_d), \)
we get, in particular, that for all large enough \( n \geq 1, \)
\[
0 \leq |D_n(\tau)| \leq \frac{2\tau b |I_d|}{\sqrt{nh_n}} = \frac{4\tau b \pi^{d-1}}{\sqrt{nh_n}}.
\]
(2.69)
This establishes (2.49).

Next, we construct the partition asserted after (2.52). Consider the regular grid given by
\[
A_i = (x_{i_1}, x_{i_1+1}] \times \cdots \times (x_{i_d}, x_{i_d+1}],[
\]
where \( i = (i_1, \ldots, i_d), i_1, \ldots, i_d \in Z \) and \( x_i = i h_i^{1/d} \) for \( i \in Z. \) Define
\[
R_i = A_i \cap D_n(\tau).
\]
With \( J_n = \{i : A_i \cap D_n(\tau) \neq \emptyset\} \) we see that
\[
\{R_i : i \in J_n\}
constitutes a partition of $D_n(\tau)$ with
\[ |R_i| \leq h_n. \]
Further we have
\[ \bigcup_{i \in \mathcal{J}_n} R_i \subset \bigcup_{i \in \mathcal{J}_n} A_i \subset D_n(\tau + \sqrt{d} h_n^{1/d}). \]
The inequality $|\bigcup_{i \in \mathcal{J}_n} A_i| \leq |D_n(\tau + \sqrt{d} h_n^{1/d})|$ implies via (2.69) that with $m_n := |\mathcal{J}_n|$ and for $n$ large enough we have
\[ m_n h_n \leq \frac{5\tau b \pi^{d-1}}{\sqrt{nh_n}}, \]
giving
\[ m_n \leq \frac{5\tau b \pi}{\sqrt{nh_n^d}}, \]
which is (2.52). Observing the fact that if $B_1, \ldots, B_k$ are disjoint sets such that for $1 \leq i \neq j \leq k$
\[ \inf \{|x - y| : x \in B_i, y \in B_j\} > h_n^{1/d}, \]
then
\[ \int_{B_i} \Delta_n(x) g(x) \, dx, \ i = 1, \ldots, k, \] are independent, (2.71)
we can easily infer that
\[ X_{i,n} := \left( \frac{n}{h_n} \right)^{1/4} \left( \sqrt{nh_n} \right)^{d-1} \int_{R_i} \{\Delta_n(x) - \mathbb{E}\Delta_n(x)\} g(x) \, dx \]
constitutes a 1-dependent random field on $\mathbb{Z}^d$.

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References


