### A moment-matching problem with an entropy constraint

Adway Girish





July 2, 2025

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Adway Girish thanks to Shlomo Shamai and Emre Telatar (Girish–Shamai–Telatar, ISIT 2025)



formation Processing Group

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for polynomial g of degree  $\leq k$ 

• given  $f_W$  and constraints on X, how large can k be?





2 Entropy-constrained version



Application to a hypothesis testing problem

## Outline



2 Entropy-constrained version



3 Application to a hypothesis testing problem

• Q: Given  $s_1, s_2, s_3, \ldots$ , does there exist X on  $\mathbb{R}$  such that  $\mathbb{E}[X^n] = s_n$  for  $n = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$ ?

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Q: Given s<sub>1</sub>, s<sub>2</sub>, s<sub>3</sub>,..., s<sub>k</sub>, does there exist X on ℝ such that E[X<sup>n</sup>] = s<sub>n</sub> for n = 1, 2, 3, ..., k?
A: iff (k odd)
(k even)

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A: iff (k odd) there exists  $\tilde{s}_{k+1}$  such that  $H_{\frac{k+1}{2}}(s_1, \ldots, s_k, \tilde{s}_{k+1}) \succeq 0$ (k even)

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 with density  $\varphi(w) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp(-\frac{w^2}{2})$ 

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atom 
$$x_i$$
 = root of  $P_m(x) = \frac{(-1)^m}{\varphi(x)} \frac{\mathrm{d}^m \varphi(x)}{\mathrm{d} x^m}$ ,

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 $\mathbb{E}[X] = 0 \quad \mathbb{E}[X^2] \neq 1$ 

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• optimal trade-off of atoms to moments matched









3 Application to a hypothesis testing problem

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• for discrete X with probability masses  $p_i > 0$ , define entropy as

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- can we find  $(X_k)_k$  such that  $\mathbb{H}[X_k] \le h < \infty$  and  $\mathbb{E}[X_k^n] = \mathbb{E}[W^n]$  for  $n = 1, \ldots, k$ ?

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- no (would imply weak convergence to W + lower semi-continuity of  $\mathbb{H}$ )
- how many moments can we match if entropy is at most *h* then?

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• check:  $s_1, \ldots, s_4$  "valid" iff  $\epsilon > \eta_W$ , but  $s_1, s_2, s_3$  always "valid"

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For symmetric W,

$$\eta_{W} = \begin{cases} \frac{\mathbb{E}[W^{2}]^{2}}{\mathbb{E}[X^{4}]} & \text{if } \frac{\mathbb{E}[W^{2}]^{2}}{\mathbb{E}[X^{4}]} \leq \frac{1}{3}, \\\\ \frac{5\mathbb{E}[W^{2}]^{2} - \mathbb{E}[W^{4}]}{9\mathbb{E}[W^{2}]^{2} - \mathbb{E}[W^{4}]} & \text{if } \frac{\mathbb{E}[W^{2}]^{2}}{\mathbb{E}[X^{4}]} > \frac{1}{3}. \end{cases}$$

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2 Entropy-constrained version



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• 
$$H = 0: \quad X_i \sim X ext{ discrete with } \mathbb{H}[X] \leq h$$
  
 $H = 1: \quad X_i \sim G \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ 

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• proof: Taylor expansion,  $k^{\text{th}}$  term depends on first k moments, can match only 3 moments



• entropy-constrained moment problem



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- can match only three moments if the entropy is "small"



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Thank you!