DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

University of Wisconsin 1210 W. Dayton St. Madison, WI 53706

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A COMPARISON OF GCV AND GML FOR CHOOSING THE SMOOTHING PARAMETER IN THE GENERALIZED SPLINE SMOOTHING PROBLEM

by

Grace Wahba

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The partially improper prior behind the smoothing spline model is used to obtain a generalization of the maximum likelihood estimate for the smoothing parameter. Then this (GML) estimate is compared with the generalized cross validation (GCV) estimate both analytically and by Monte Carlo methods. The comparison is based on a predictive mean square error criteria. It is shown that if the true, unknown function being estimated is smooth in a sense to be defined then the GML estimate undersmooths relative to the GCV estimate and the predictive mean square error using the GML estimate goes to zero at a slower rate than the mean square error using the GCV estimate. If the true function is "rough" then the GCV and GML estimates have asymptotically similar behavior. A Monte Carlo experiment was designed to see if the asymptotic results in the smooth case were evident in small sample sizes. Mixed results were obtained for n = 32, GCV was somewhat better than GML for n = 64 and GCV was decidedly superior for n = 128. In the n = 32 case GCV was better for smaller σ^2 and the comparison close for larger σ^2 . The theoretical results are shown to extend to the generalized spline smoothing model, which includes the estimate of functions given noisy values of various integrals of them.

Keywords: SPLINE SMOOTHING, CROSS VALIDATION, MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD, INTEGRAL EQUATIONS

1. Introduction

We consider the same smoothing spline procedures as in Wahba (1978b,1983b) and elsewhere, and their extension to the solution of linear operator equations with noisy data. The (special) spline smoothing model is

$$y_i = f(t_i) + \epsilon_i, i = 1,2,...,n, t_i \in [0,1]$$

where $\varepsilon = (\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n) \sim N(0, \sigma^2 I_{n \times n})$, σ^2 unknown and $f(\cdot)$ is some function in the Sobolev space $W_2^m[0,1]$,

$$W_2^{m}[0,1] = \{f: f, f', \dots, f^{(m-1)} \text{ abs. cont., } f^{(m)} \in L_2[0,1] \}.$$

The smoothing spline estimate $f_{n,\lambda}$ of f is the minimizer in $W_2^m[0,1]$ of

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (f(t_i) - y_i)^2 + \lambda \int_{0}^{1} (f^{(m)}(t))^2 dt.$$
 (1.1)

 $f_{n,\lambda}$ is the celebrated polynomial smoothing spline of degree 2m-1. The bandwidth parameter λ controls the tradeoff between the infidelity to the data as measured by $\frac{1}{n}\sum\limits_{i=1}^{n}(f(t_i)-y_i)^2$ and the roughness $\int\limits_{0}^{1}(f^{(m)}(u))^2du$ of the estimated solution.

The generalized cross validation (GCV) estimate of λ is the minimizer of V(λ),

$$V(\lambda) = \frac{\frac{1}{n} ||(I - A(\lambda))y|||^2}{\left[\left(\frac{1}{n} Tr(I - A(\lambda))\right]^2\right]}$$
(1.2)

where $A(\lambda)$ is the n×n influence matrix, which satisfies

$$\begin{pmatrix} f_{n,\lambda}(t_1) \\ \vdots \\ f_{n,\lambda}(t_n) \end{pmatrix} = A(\lambda)y, \qquad y = (y_1, \dots, y_n)'.$$
 (1.3)

The GCV estimate of λ estimates the λ which minimizes the predictive mean square error R(λ) defined by

$$R(\lambda) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (f(t_i) - f_{n,\lambda}(t_i))^2.$$
 (1.4)

 $f_{n,\lambda}(t),t\epsilon[0,\bar{1}]$ is also a Bayes estimate of f(t), if f is endowed with a certain zero mean Gaussian prior, which is partially improper.

The purpose of this paper is to derive a maximum likelihood estimate for λ , based on this prior, which generalizes the usual notion of ML estimates to the case of improper distributions, and then to compare the properties of this estimate of λ (called the GML estimate) with the behavior of the GCV estimate of λ . We decided to make this comparison at this time because of recent interest in related ML estimators.

The GML estimate we derive is the minimizer of $M(\lambda)$ given by

$$M(\lambda) = \frac{y'(I-A(\lambda))y}{\left[Det^{+}(I-A(\lambda))\right]^{1/n-m}}$$
(1.5)

where $\operatorname{Det}^+(\operatorname{I-A}(\lambda))$ is the product of the n-m nonzero eigenvalues of $(\operatorname{I-A}(\lambda))$. The GML estimate reduces to the usual ML estimate, as first given by Anderssen and Bloomfield (1974) when the prior is "proper", and is an extension of an estimate recently given by Barry (1983). The comparisons we make between GCV and GML also hold for the proper prior case.

Our comparison of the GCV and GML estimate is based on the criterion of minimizing predictive mean square error $R(\lambda)$ defined in (1.4). Although this might appear to be a somewhat special criterion, under certain conditions other loss functions (for example, mean square error in the derivative) turn out to be minimized by a λ close to the minimizer of $R(\lambda)$. Some references are given below.

Let λ_{OPT} be the minimizer of $\mathrm{ER}(\lambda)$, where the expectation is taken over ϵ . The asymptotic behavior of λ_{OPT} and $\mathrm{ER}(\lambda_{\mathrm{OPT}})$ has been studied by

a number of authors, under mild regularity conditions on the data points. See Cox (1981,1982), Craven and Wahba (1979), Ragozin (1982), Rice and Rosenblatt (1983), Speckman (1981), Utreras (1981), Wahba (1975). The results include

$$f \epsilon \pi^{m-1} \Rightarrow \lambda_{OPT} = \infty, ER(\lambda_{OPT}) = O(\frac{1}{n}).$$

$$f \epsilon W_2^m \Rightarrow ER(\lambda_{OPT}) = O(n^{-2m/(2m+1)})$$
 and this rate is achieved with
$$\lambda = O(n^{-2m/(2m+1)})$$

$$f \epsilon C_p \Rightarrow ER(\lambda_{OPT}) = O(n^{-2mp/(2mp+1)})$$
 and this rate is achieved with
$$\lambda = O(n^{-2m/(2mp+1)}).$$

Here π^{m-1} are the polynomials of degree m-1 or less and $C_p = C_p(W_2^m)$ is the class of functions in W_2^m with $0 < \int\limits_0^1 (f^{(m)}(u))^2 du < \infty$, and satisfying certain additional smoothness conditions indexed by $p\varepsilon(1,2]$, to be defined more precisely later. If mp is an integer, then it is conjectured that $f\varepsilon C_p$ entails that $f\varepsilon W_2^{mp}$ and f satisfies the homogenous boundary conditions

$$f^{(j)}(0) = f^{(j)}(1) = 0, j = m,m+1,...,mp-1.$$

Let f be fixed and let $\lambda_{\rm GML}$ and $\lambda_{\rm GCV}$ be the minimizers of EM(λ) and EV(λ), respectively. Let the "expectation inefficiency" of λ_{χ} relative to λ_{γ} be $I_{\chi/\gamma}$ defined by

$$I_{\chi/\gamma} = ER(\lambda_{\chi})/ER(\lambda_{\gamma}).$$

In this paper, we obtain information concerning $I_{\mbox{GML/OPT}}$ as $n\!\to\!\infty$ under three (distinct) "smoothness" assumptions on f, namely

- (1) $f \varepsilon \pi^{m-1}$,
- (2) $f \in C_p$ for some $p \in (1,2]$
- (3) f behaves like a "sample function" from a stochastic process with the given prior.

The results are

(1)
$$\Rightarrow$$
 I_{GML/OPT} = 1

$$(2) \Rightarrow I_{GML/OPT} \rightarrow \infty$$

$$(3) \Rightarrow I_{GML/OPT} = 1 + o(1)$$

$$(1.6)$$

The "borderline" case $f \in \mathbb{W}_2^m$ with $0 < \int_0^1 (f^{(m)}(u))^2 du$ and $f \in \mathbb{C}_p$ for any p > 1 is unresolved at this time. (We call this the "borderline" case because $(u) = (u)^m + (u)^m$

It is well known that if f satisfies (1), (2), (3) or is a "borderline" case

$$I_{GCV/OPT} = 1 + o(1)$$
 (1.7)

For numerical and theoretical results, see Craven and Wahba (1979), Erdal (1983), Golub, Heath and Wahba (1979), Utreras (1979,1980,1981,1983), Wahba (1977b),

Wahba and Wendelberger (1980). Speckman (1982) has recently obtained stronger theoretical results, without the "expectation", and Li (1983) has recently related GCV and Steins unbiassed risk estimate. All of the results in this paper relate to ER, EV and EM rather than R, V and M. We believe that the "E" can be removed, possibly without strengthening the hypotheses, but that is not done here.

In the light of (1.7), it follows that

$$(1) I_{GML/GCV} = 1$$

$$I_{GML/GCV} = \infty$$
 (1.8)

(3) $I_{GML/GCV} = 1 + o(1)$.

Following these theoretical results we present a small Monte Carlo study with three example f's satisfying (2). The inferiority of the GML estimate is perceptibly evident as n=64 and strongly evident at n=128.

Cross validated spline methods have been used with some success in the solution of linear integral equations with noisy data. See Crump and Seinfeld (1982), Halem and Kalnay (1983), Merz (1980), O'Sullivan and Wahba (1984), Wahba (1977b, 1979,1982). One of the reasons for this success is that under various circumstances the λ which minimizes $R(\lambda)$ also minimizes, or nearly minimizes other, possibly more interesting loss functions, for example $R_D(\lambda) = \int\limits_0^1 (f_{n,\lambda}{}'(u) - f'(u))^2 du$. For theoretical results see Cox (1983a), Lukas (1981), Nychka (1983), Ragozin (198T). Special cases of this may be obtained by, e. g. comparing the optimal λ for $ER(\lambda)$ and $ER_D(\lambda)$ using the results from Theorems 1-4 in Rice and Rosenblatt (1983), or by comparing the optimal λ 's in Theorems 1 and 2 of Wahba (1977b), Numerical evidence supporting this result may be found in Craven and Wahba (1979), Wahba (1979b,1982b).

It is fairly straightforward to state and prove most of our results comparing GML and GCV in the context of the generalized smoothing spline model, which includes spline smoothing on the plane and in several dimensions, and on the sphere (Cox (1982), Utreras (1979), Wahba (1979a,1981a,1982a), Wahba and Wendelberger (1980)), as well as the integral equation case discussed above. We will do that here.

The generalized smoothing spline model (of which the special spline smoothing model is the most widely known special case) is

$$y_{i} = L_{i}f + \varepsilon_{i}, i = 1,2,...,n$$
 (1.9)

where ε is as before, f is assumed to be in some reproducing kernel Hilbert space \mathcal{H}_Q of real valued functions on some index set \mathcal{T} , and the L_i are bounded linear functionals on \mathcal{H}_Q . The (generalized) smoothing spline estimate $f_{n,\lambda}$ of f is the minimizer in \mathcal{H}_Q of

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (L_{i} f - y_{i})^{2} + \lambda ||Pf||_{Q}^{2}, \qquad (1.10)$$

where $||\cdot||_Q$ is the norm in H_Q , and P is the orthogonal projection operator in H_Q onto the orthcomplement of the span of m given linearly independent basis functions $\{\phi_{\mathcal{V}}\}_{\mathcal{V}=1}^m$. See Kimeldorf and Wahba (1971), Wahba (1983a) and references cited there. The reader only interested in the special spline smoothing model may make the associations: T = [0,1], $\phi_{\mathcal{V}}(t) = t^{\mathcal{V}-1}/(\mathcal{V}-1)!$, $\mathcal{V} = 1,2,\ldots,m$, $H_Q = W_2^m[0,1]$, $L_i f = f(t_i)$, and $||Pf||_Q^2 = \int_0^1 (f^{(m)}(u))^2 du$.

When solving (first kind) integral equations, we have

$$L_{i}f = \int_{T} K(s_{i},t)f(t)dt, \quad i = 1,2,...,n,$$

where $K(\cdot,\cdot)$ is known.

In the general case $V(\lambda)$ and $M(\lambda)$ are still defined by (1.2) and (1.5) respectively, where now $A(\lambda)$ satisfies

$$\begin{pmatrix} L_1 f_{n,\lambda} \\ \vdots \\ L_n f_{n,\lambda} \end{pmatrix} = A(\lambda)y,$$

and $R(\lambda)$ becomes

$$R(\lambda) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (L_{i} f - L_{i} f_{n,\lambda})^{2}.$$
 (1.11)

The truth of (1.6) and (1.8) will actually be argued in this more general setting, with the extra smoothness condition $f \epsilon C_p$ appropriately generalized.

In Section 2 we derive the GML estimate of λ for the model of (1.9) and discuss the related maximum likelihood estimates of Barry (1983) and of Wecker and Ansley (1982). In Section 3 we obtain the asymptotic behavior of $\lambda_{\rm GML}$ under conditions (1)-(4). In Section 4 we compare $\lambda_{\rm GML}^{-1} \lambda_{\rm GCV}^{-1}$, and $\lambda_{\rm OPT}$. Section 5 presents the Monte Carlo results and Section 6 discusses the extension to the model of (1.9).

For the results under (2) (1.6) we have given very general hypothesis under which the conclusions hold. A limitation of this general approach is that verification of the hypotheses in many interesting cases requires further work.

We briefly indicate both the generality and the limitations of the analytical results of (2). First we note (see details in Section 3) that in both the special and generalized smoothing spline model I-A(λ) has a representation

$$I-A(\lambda) = nW(D+n\lambda I)^{-1}W'$$

where $W_{n\times n-m}$ satisfies $W'W=I_{n-m}$ and $D=\operatorname{diag}(\lambda_{1n},\dots,\lambda_{n-m,n})$ with $\lambda_{\nu n}\geqslant 0$. Here both W and D depend on (t_1,\dots,t_n) or (L_1,\dots,L_n) . Writing (t_{1n},\dots,t_{nn}) or (L_1,\dots,L_n) instead of (t_1,\dots,t_n) or (L_1,\dots,L_n) to denote the emphasis on n, define

$$\begin{pmatrix} g_{1,n} \\ \vdots \\ g_{n-m,n} \end{pmatrix} = W' \begin{pmatrix} f(t_{1n}) \\ \vdots \\ f(t_{nn}) \end{pmatrix} \text{or } W' \begin{pmatrix} L_{1n}f \\ \vdots \\ L_{nn}f \end{pmatrix}.$$

Our hypothesis for (2) are stated in terms of the conditions (as $n \rightarrow \infty$, and $\lambda \rightarrow 0$)

$$\frac{1}{n} \text{TrA}(\lambda)^{\hat{j}} \doteq \frac{1}{n} \sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \left(\frac{\lambda_{\nu n}}{n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu n}}\right)^{\hat{j}} = \frac{\text{const}(\hat{j})}{n\lambda^{1/r}} (1 + o(1)) \text{ for } \hat{j} = 1, 2 \text{ and some } r > 1$$
(1.13)

The expressions on the left depend on (t_{1n},\ldots,t_{nn}) or (L_{1n},\ldots,L_{nn}) as well as f and a certain reproducing kernel. In certain very special cases, for example, the special spline smoothing model with $t_{in}=(i/n)$ these conditions can be rigorously related to readily understandable smoothness conditions on f and the (known) eigenvalues of Q_1 , the repeoducing kernel for $H_Q \setminus \{\text{span } \phi_1,\ldots,\phi_m\}$. See Rice and Rosenblatt (1983), Utreras (1983). Conjectures relating to the general spline smoothing model may be found in Wahba (1973,1977b,1977c) and in Sections 4 and 6 below. Since this paper was written, Cox and Nychka (1984) have provided further information on convergence properties of the solution to the generalized spline smoothing problem.

Throughout the paper we assume "some regularity conditions" on the $\{t_i\} = \{t_{in}\}$. We believe that in the case $t\epsilon[0,1]$ sufficient regularity conditions for the results in (2) and (3) of (1.6) are: the $\{t_{in}\}$ satisfy

$$\frac{t_{in}}{n}(1+o(1)) = \int_{0}^{t_{in}} w(t)dt$$

for some strictly positive bounded density w; and that the arguments don't always hold if the $\{t_{in}^{}\}$ accumulate to a fixed finite number (independent of n) of accumulation points.

2. The GML estimate of λ .

The Bayesian model behind the estimate $f_{n,\lambda}$ goes as follows:

$$y_{i} = L_{i}f + \varepsilon_{i}, \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n,$$
 (2.1)

where the ϵ_i are as before but f(t), teT is supposed to be a certain zero mean Gaussian stochastic process with a partially improper prior. The meaning of L_i will be given shortly. Let Q(s,t) be the reproducing kernel for H_Q and let Q₁(s,t) be the reproducing kernel for the orthocomplement of span $\{\phi_{\mathcal{V}}\}$ in H_Q, that is,

$$Q_{1}(s,t) = Q(s,t) - \sum_{\mu,\nu=1}^{m} \phi_{\mu}(s)\phi_{\nu}(t)k^{\mu\nu}$$
 (2.2)

where $k^{\mu\nu}$ is the $\mu\nu th$ entry of the inverse of the Gram matrix $\{<\!\!\varphi_{\mu},\!\!\varphi_{\nu}\!\!>_{\!\!Q}\}$ of the $\{\varphi_{\nu}\}.$

Let

$$X_{\xi}(t) = \sum_{j=1}^{m} \theta_{j} \phi_{j}(t) + b^{1/2} Z(t)$$
 (2.3)

where $\theta = (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_m) \sim N(0, \xi I_{m \times m})$, b is some constant, and Z(t), $t \in T$ is a zero mean Gaussian stochastic process independent of θ with

$$EZ(s)Z(t) = Q_1(s,t)$$
.

In the polynomial spline case, Q_1 is the covariance of the m-fold integrated Weiner process. We let f have the prior distribution of X_{ξ} , as $\xi \to \infty$. It is shown in Wahba (1978b), in the case $L_i f = f(t_i)$, that

$$f_{n,\lambda}(t) = \lim_{\xi \to \infty} E_{\xi}\{f(t)|y_1, \dots, y_n\}.$$
 (2.4)

with $\lambda = \sigma^2/nb$.

Now, the sample functions X_ξ are not in H_Q (see below), so that the exact meaning of L_i must be clarified. According to Parzen (1962) (for further details, see Wahba (1982a)), L_i is a bounded linear functional on H_Q if and only if $L_i X_\xi$ is a zero mean Gaussian random variable well defined in quadratic mean. Then the covariances will be

$$E(L_i X_{\xi})(L_j X_{\xi}) = L_i(s)^L j(t)^{\{EX_{\xi}(s)X_{\xi}(t)\}},$$
 (2.5)

where $L_{i(s)}$ means L_{i} is applied to the operand (in brackets) considered as a function of s.

Letting T be the n×m matrix with ivth entry $L_{i}\phi_{v}$ and Σ the n×n matrix with ijth entry $L_{i}(s)^{L}_{j}(t)^{Q_{j}}(s,t)$, we have, using (2.3) and (2.5),

$$\{E(L_i X_{\xi})(L_j X_{\xi})\} = \xi T T' + b \Sigma.$$
 (2.6)

Using this fact, straight forward substitution in Wahba (1978b) (see also Wahba (1983b)) can be used to show that (2.4) holds for the $\{L_i\}$ any set of bounded linear functionals on H_Q such that rank T is m. If $L_i f = f(t_i)$, etc., then $L_i(s)^L j(t)^Q l(s,t) = Q_l(t_i,t_j)$.

Using (2.1) and (2.6), it follows that

$$y \sim N(0,\xi TT'+b\Sigma+\sigma^2I)$$
.

Setting $\lambda = \sigma^2/\text{nb}$ and $\eta = \xi/\text{b}$, we have

$$y \sim N(0, b(\eta TT' + \Sigma + n\lambda I)).$$
 (2.7)

We find the GML estimate of λ by letting $n\!\!\to\!\!\infty$ in (2.7) in an appropriate manner. We do this by letting $R_{n-m\times n}$ be any $n\!-\!m\!\times\!n$ matrix satisfying

 $RR' = I_{n-m}$ and $RT = O_{n-m \times m}$. Let

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ u \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} R \\ \vdots \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{\eta}} T' \end{pmatrix} y.$$

Then

$$Exx' = b(R\Sigma R' + n\lambda I)$$
 (2.8)

 $\lim_{\eta\to\infty} \mathsf{Exu'} = 0$

lim Euu' = b(T'T)(T'T) $\eta \rightarrow \infty$

Since in the limit the distribution of u does not depend on λ , we claim it is appropriate to define the GML estimate of λ as the (usual) ML estimate based on the distribution of x. Peter Green has kindly pointed out to us that this argument has previously been used by Patterson and Thompson (1971) in a different context. A straightforward calculation

gives, that the ML estimate of λ based on $x_\sim N(0,b(R\Sigma R'+n\lambda I))$ is the minimizer of $M(\lambda)$ defined by

$$M(\lambda) = \frac{x!(R\Sigma R' + n\lambda I)^{-1}x}{\left[\det(R\Sigma R' + n\lambda I)^{-1}\right]^{1/n - m}}$$
(2.9)

Substituting in x = Ry and $det(R\Sigma R'+n\lambda I)^{-1} = det^+R'(R\Sigma R'+n\lambda I)^{-1}R$ gives

$$M(\lambda) = \frac{y'R'(R\Sigma R'+n\lambda I)^{-1}Ry}{\left[\det^{+}R'(R\Sigma R'+n\lambda I)^{-1}R\right]^{1/n-m}}.$$
 (2.10)

To put $M(\lambda)$ in final form for further study, we observe that

$$R'(R\Sigma R' + n\lambda I)^{-1}R = (\Sigma + n\lambda I)^{-1} - (\Sigma + n\lambda I)^{-1}T(T'(\Sigma + n\lambda I)^{-1}T)^{-1}T'(\Sigma + n\lambda I)^{-1}. \quad (2.11)$$

To see this note that both sides of (2.11) have the same action on the m columns of T and the n-m columns of $(\Sigma + n\lambda I)R'$. It can be shown from e.g. Kimeldorf and Wahba (1971) that $I-A(\lambda)$ is equal to $n\lambda$ times the right hand side of (2.11). Thus for $\lambda > 0$, $M(\lambda)$ can be rewritten

$$M(\lambda) = \frac{y'(I-A(\lambda))y}{\left[Det^{+}(I-A(\lambda))\right]^{1/(n-m)}}.$$
 (2.12)

Anderssen and Bloomfield (1974) were the first to suggest the use of a maximum likelihood estimate for λ in a smoothing context, and (2.12) will reduce essentially to their estimate in the case of a proper prior, that is, when the set of $\{\phi_V\}$ is empty, equivalently $||Pf||^2_Q = ||f||^2_Q$. Barry (1983), in a forthcoming thesis, has recently obtained the equivalent of (2.12) in two cases where the dimension of the null space of P is one. In the two cases he studied, the joint distributions for the n-1 variables $(y_2-y_1,\dots,y_n-y_{n-1})$ or $(y_1-\bar{y},\dots,y_{n-1}-\bar{y})$ are proper, and he exploited this fact to obtain his estimate. Thus the GML estimate generalizes the estimate obtained by Barry.

We compare this result with a maximum likelihood estimate for λ given by Wecker and Ansley (1983), eqn. (4.5). By making the associations, their λ is our $1/n\lambda$ and their Λ is our $(n\lambda)^{-1}(\Sigma + n\lambda I)$, and using (2.11) it can be shown that their maximum likelihood estimate is the minimizer of $M_{WA}(\lambda)$ given by

$$M_{WA}(\lambda) = \frac{y'R(R\Sigma R + n\lambda I)^{-1}Ry}{\left[\det(\Sigma + n\lambda I)\right]^{1/n}}$$
 (2.13)

which is to be compared with (2.10) and (2.11). The difference results from the fact that they include the estimation of $(\theta_1,\ldots,\theta_m)$ of (2.3) as part of the likelihood equations while we do not. See O'Hagan (1975) for more on the role of nuisance parameters in ML estimation. We remark that Wecker and Ansley are in error in their claim that GCV cannot be done with repeated observations. Neither the GCV nor the maximum likelihood estimates require Σ to be of full rank. The only condition on the observations is that the matrix T be of rank m.

3. Asymptotic behavior of λ_{GML}

Let $R_{n-m\times n}$ be defined as in the previous section and let the eigenvalue eigenvector decomposition of $R\Sigma R'$ be

$$R\Sigma R' = UDU'$$
 (3.1)

where UU' = I_{n-m} and D_{n-m} is diagonal with diagonal entries λ_{n} . Let

$$W_{n \times n - m} = R'U'$$

$$(w_{1n}, \dots, w_{n-m,n})' = w_{n-m} = W'y$$

Then

$$I-A(\lambda) = n\lambda R'(UDU'+n\lambda UU')^{-1}R$$

$$= n\lambda R'U'(D+n\lambda I)^{-1}UR$$

$$= n\lambda W(D+n\lambda I)^{-1}W'$$

and

$$M(\lambda) = \frac{\sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} w_{\nu}^{2} \left(\frac{n\lambda}{n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu}n}\right)}{n-m \left(\frac{\pi}{n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu}n}\right)}$$

$$(3.2)$$

Letting

$$\begin{pmatrix} h_{1} \\ \vdots \\ h_{n} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} L_{1}f \\ \vdots \\ L_{n}f \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} g_{1,n} \\ \vdots \\ g_{n-m,n} \end{pmatrix} = W'h$$
(3.3)

we have

$$EM(\lambda) = \frac{\sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \frac{n\lambda}{(n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu n})} g_{\nu n}^{2} + \sigma^{2} \sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \frac{n\lambda}{n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu n}}}{\sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \frac{n\lambda}{n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu n}}} \frac{1}{(n-m)}$$

$$= \frac{\sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \frac{n\lambda}{(n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu n})} g_{\nu n}^{2} + \sigma^{2} \sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \frac{n\lambda}{n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu n}}}{\sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \frac{n\lambda}{(n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu n})} g_{\nu n}^{2} + \sigma^{2} \sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \frac{n\lambda}{n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu n}}}$$
(3.4)

Letting

$$G(\lambda) = \sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \frac{g_{\nu n}^2}{(n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu n})}$$
(3.5)

$$\mu_{1}(\lambda) = \frac{1}{n-m} \sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \frac{\lambda_{\nu n}}{n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu n}} = \frac{1}{n-m} [TrA(\lambda) - m]$$
(3.6)

$$D(\lambda) = \frac{n-m}{\pi} \left(1 - \frac{\lambda_{\text{VN}}}{n\lambda + \lambda_{\text{VN}}}\right)^{1/(n-m)}$$
(3.7)

gives

$$\frac{1}{n}EM(\lambda) = \frac{\lambda G(\lambda) + \tilde{\sigma}^2(1 - \mu_1(\lambda))}{D(\lambda)}$$
(3.8)

where $\tilde{\sigma}^2 = \frac{n-m}{n} \sigma^2$.

We first assume feH_Q . We must consider the cases $||\text{Pf}||_{Q_m}^2 = 0$ and $||\text{Pf}||_Q^2 > 0$ separately. Now $||\text{Pf}||_Q^2 = 0$ if and only if $f = \sum\limits_{\nu=1}^\infty \theta_\nu \phi_\nu$ for some $\theta = (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_m)$, then $h = T\theta$, g = W'h = 0 and $G(\lambda) = 0$, all λ .

Then

$$\frac{1}{\sigma^{2}(n-m)} EM(\lambda) = \frac{\frac{1}{n-m} \sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \frac{n\lambda}{n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu}n}}{\frac{n-m}{n-m} \frac{n\lambda}{n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu}n}},$$

$$(3.9)$$

and the right hand side, being the ratio of an arithmetic to a geometric mean, is bounded below by 1. Assuming that the $\lambda_{\rm VN}$ are not all equal, then this expression achieves its lower bound for $\lambda = \infty$.

We now return to the case $||Pf||_Q^2 > 0$. Differentiating the right hand side of (3.8) with respect to λ , and using the fact that

$$D'(\lambda) = \frac{D(\lambda)}{\lambda} \mu_{1}(\lambda), \qquad (3.10)$$

and setting the result equal to 0 gives

$$\left[\lambda G(\lambda) + \widetilde{\sigma}^{2}(1 - \mu_{1}(\lambda))\right] \left[\frac{D(\lambda)}{\lambda} \mu_{1}(\lambda)\right] = D(\lambda) \left[\lambda G'(\lambda) + G(\lambda) - \widetilde{\sigma}^{2} \mu_{1}'(\lambda)\right],$$

$$\widetilde{\sigma}^{2} \left[\mu_{1}(\lambda) + \lambda \mu_{1}'(\lambda) - \mu_{1}^{2}(\lambda)\right] = \lambda G(\lambda) + \lambda^{2} G'(\lambda) - \lambda G(\lambda) \mu_{1}(\lambda).$$

$$(3.11)$$

Now

$$\mu_{1}(\lambda) + \lambda \mu_{1}'(\lambda) = \frac{1}{n-m} \left[\sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \frac{\lambda_{\nu n}}{n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu n}} - \frac{n\lambda \lambda_{\nu n}}{(n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu n})^{2}} \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{n-m} \sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \left(\frac{\lambda_{\nu n}}{n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu n}} \right)^{2}$$

$$= \mu_{2}(\lambda), \text{ say,}$$

$$(3.12)$$

and

$$\lambda G(\lambda) + \lambda^{2} G'(\lambda) = \sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \frac{\lambda g_{\nu n}^{2}}{(n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu n})} - \frac{n\lambda^{2} g_{\nu n}^{2}}{(n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu n})^{2}}$$

$$= \lambda \sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \frac{\lambda_{\nu n} g_{\nu n}^{2}}{(n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu n})^{2}}$$

$$= \lambda G_{1}(\lambda), \text{ say.}$$
(3.13)

Thus, (3.11) can be written

$$\tilde{\sigma}^2 \mu_2(\lambda) - \lambda G_1(\lambda) = \mu_1(\lambda) [\tilde{\sigma}^2_{\mu_1}(\lambda) - \lambda G(\lambda)]. \tag{3.14}$$

It is well known that if $0<||Pf||_{Q}<\infty$ it is necessary that $\lambda \to 0$ and $\mu_2(\lambda) \to 0$ in order that $R(\lambda) \to 0$. Since $\mu_2(\lambda) \geqslant \mu_1^{\ 2}(\lambda)$, we will only consider roots of this equation for which $\lambda \to 0$, $\mu_2(\lambda) \to 0$ and $\mu_1(\lambda) \to 0$.

We now want to impose a further "smoothness" condition. Further discussion of this condition will appear in Section 4. Define

$$J_{p}^{n} = \sum_{v=1}^{n-m} \frac{g_{vn}^{2}/n}{(\lambda_{vn}/n)^{p}}$$

and suppose that $J_p^n \le J_p$ for some p > 1 independent of n. Then

$$G(0) - G(\lambda) = \sum \left[\frac{n\lambda}{n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu n}} \right]^{2} \frac{g_{\nu n}^{2}}{\lambda_{\nu n}} + \sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \frac{2n\lambda}{(n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu n})^{2}} g_{\nu n}^{2}$$

$$\leq 3\lambda^{p-1} \sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \frac{g_{\nu n}^{2}/n}{(\lambda_{\nu n}/n)^{p}} \leq 3\lambda^{p-1} J_{p}$$

$$G_{1}(0) - G_{1}(\lambda) = \sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \frac{n\lambda}{(n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu n})} \frac{g_{\nu n}^{2}}{\lambda_{\nu n}} \leq \lambda^{p-1} \sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \frac{n\lambda}{(n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu n})^{2}} g_{\nu n}^{2} \leq \lambda^{p-1} J_{p}$$

and so, as $\lambda \to 0$, $G(\lambda) = G(0) + o(1)$, $G_1(\lambda) = G_1(0) + o(1)$, independent of n.

Now
$$G_1(0) = G(0) = \sum_{v=1}^{n-m} \frac{g_{vn}^2}{\lambda_{vn}}$$
.

It can be shown that

$$\sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \frac{g_{\nu n}^{2}}{\lambda_{\nu n}} = ||Pf_{n}||_{Q}^{2} \le ||Pf||_{Q}^{2}$$
(3.15)

where f_n is that element in \mathcal{H}_Q which minimizes $||Pf||_Q$ subject to $L_i f_n = h_i$, $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n$. The demonstration proceeds by showing that

$$||Pf_n||_Q^2 = h'(\sum^{-1} - \sum^{-1} T(T'\sum^{-1} T)^{-1} T'\sum^{-1}) h = h'R'(R\sum R')^{-1}Rh.$$
 (3.16)

Thus, as $n \to \infty$, G(0) and $G_1(0)$ increase monotonically but are bounded above by $||Pf||_Q^2$. (Assuming, of course, that the set $\{L_1,\ldots,L_{n+1}\}$ contains the set $\{L_1,\ldots,L_n\}$). We have the following

Theorem:

Suppose

$$\int \frac{g_{\nu n}^2/n}{(\lambda_{\nu n}/n)^p} < J_p \text{ for some p > 1, independent of n}$$

and

$$\mu_1(\lambda) = \frac{\ell}{n\lambda^{1/r}}(1+o(1))$$
 (3.17)

$$\mu_2(\lambda) = \frac{2}{n\lambda^{1/r}}(1+o(1))$$
 (3.18)

and $n \rightarrow \infty$ for some r > 1. Then,

$$\lambda_{\text{GML}} = \left(\frac{-2^{2} }{||Pf_{n}||_{0}^{2}}\right)^{2} \frac{r/(r+1)}{n^{r/(r+1)}} (1+o(1))$$
 (3.19)

is a zero of (3.14).

Proof: Substituting (3.17) and (3.18) into (3.14) gives

$$(\tilde{\sigma}^{2} \frac{\tilde{\chi}^{2}}{n \lambda^{1/r}} - \lambda G_{1}(0))(1+o(1)) = \frac{\tilde{\chi}^{2}}{n \lambda^{1/r}} \left[\frac{\tilde{\sigma}^{2} \chi}{n \lambda^{1/r}} - \lambda G(0) \right] (1+o(1)), \quad (3.20)$$

which is satisfied by (3.19).

In the case L_i f = f(t_{in}), with t_{in} = i/n, it is generally believed that the asymptotic behavior of $\mu_1(\lambda)$ and $\mu_2(\lambda)$ can be related to the asymptotic behavior of the eigenvalues of the reproducing kernel Q₁. (See the heuristic

argument in Wahba (1977b). In the special spline smoothing case with H $_Q$ = W $_2$ ^m, it is known that (3.17) and (3.18) are satisfied with r = 2m. See Craven and Wahba (1979), Utreras (1980,1981,1983). Roughly, the $\lambda_{\rm vn}$ behave like n times the eigenvalues of the reproducing kernel.

Let w(s) be a strictly positive smooth density on [0,1], let $t = \int_0^t w(s)ds, \ K_1(s,t) = Q_1(F^{-1}(s), F^{-1}(t)) \text{ and let } t_{in} \text{ satisfy i/n} = \int_0^t w(s)ds.$

then by the same reasoning as in Wahba (1977b) one could argue that the behavior of $\mu_1(\lambda)$ and $\mu_2(\lambda)$ can be related to the behavior of the eigenvalues of K_1 . Letting $\{\xi_{\nu}\}$ and $\{\psi_{\nu}\}$ be the eigenvalues and eigenfunctions of K_1 , we have

$$\xi_{\nu}\psi_{\nu}(t) = \int_{0}^{1} Q_{1}(F^{-1}(t), F^{-1}(s))\psi_{\nu}(s)ds,$$

and making the change of variables $y = F^{-1}(t)$, $x = F^{-1}(s)$ gives

$$\xi_{y}\psi_{y}(F(y))w^{1/2}(y) = \int w^{1/2}(y)Q_{1}(y,x)w^{1/2}(x)\psi_{y}(F(x))w^{1/2}(x)dx$$

which shows that the eigenvalues of K_1 are the same as the eigenvalues of $\widetilde{K}_1(y,x)=w^{1/2}(y)Q_1(y,x)w^{1/2}(x)$. Now if Q_1 is the Greens function for a 2mth order self-adjoint differential operator \widetilde{K}_1 is also the Green's function for a 2mth order self adjoint differential operator, its eigenvalues are $\xi_v=0(v^{-2m})$ and the same heuristic argument gives (3.17) and (3.18) satisfied with r=2m. In the case of thin plate splines in d dimensions with

$$||Pf||_{Q}^{2} = \sum_{\alpha_{1}^{+} \dots + \alpha_{d}^{=m}} \int \dots \int \left(\frac{\partial^{m}}{\partial x_{1}^{\alpha_{1}} \dots \partial x_{d}^{\alpha_{d}}}\right)^{2} dx_{1} \dots dx_{d}$$

partial results are available to the effect that (3.17) and (3.18) are satisfied with r = 2m/d. See Cox (1982), Wahba (1979c). For information concerning

tensor product splines on the plane, see Barry (1983), Micchelli and Wahba (1981) Wahba (1978a), for splines on the sphere, see Wahba (1981a). Behavior of $\mu_1(\lambda)$ for other L_i is discussed in Section 6, and very recent results of Nychka and Cox (1984) shed light on this question.

Inspection of the proof of the Theorem reveals that if 0 < $||Pf|| < \infty$, and the L_i are such that $||Pf_n||^2 + ||Pf||_Q^2$, further smoothness assumptions of f cannot change the asymptotic behavior of λ_{GML} . A simple example will be given in the next section.

To complete our study of the behavior of λ_{GML} , we now cosider the case f "behaves like" a sample function from the original prior. If f is a random function from the original prior, it can be shown that

$$E_f g_{vn}^2 = b \lambda_{vn}$$

where E_{f} is expectation with respect to this prior. Then

$$E_{f}G(0) = b \sum_{v=1}^{n-m} \frac{\lambda_{vn}}{\lambda_{vn}} = b(n-m)$$

and

$$E_{f}||Pf||_{Q}^{2} = \infty.$$

Of course $||Pf||_{\mathbb{Q}}^2 = \infty$ entails $f \notin H_{\mathbb{Q}}$. To see quickly what will happen, set $g_{\mathbb{N}^n}^2 = b \lambda_{\mathbb{N}^n}$ in (3.4) giving

$$\frac{1}{b} E_{f} EM(\lambda) = \frac{\sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \left(\frac{n\lambda}{n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu}n}\right) \left(\lambda_{\nu}n + \frac{\sigma^{2}}{b}\right)}{\left[\sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \left(1 - \frac{\lambda_{\nu}n}{n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu}n}\right)\right]^{1/(n-m)}}.$$
(3.21)

Differentiation of the right hand side of (3.21) or substitution into (3.14) gives that (3.21) is minimized by

$$\lambda_{\text{GML}} = \frac{\sigma^2}{\text{nb}}$$
.

It appears that Wecker and Ansley's ML estimate, call it λ_{WA} would be only approximately equal to σ^2/nb in this case as $n\to\infty$, and slightly suboptimal in the case $f \in \pi^{m-1}$. It appears that we will have $\lambda_{GML} = O(\frac{1}{n})$, if f is a fixed function (not in H_{Q_1} !) and the L_i are such that

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{1}{n-m} \sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \frac{g_{\nu n}}{\lambda_{\nu n}} = constant$$

Conditions under which this will occur are suggested in the next section.

4. Comparison of $\lambda_{\rm GML}$, $\lambda_{\rm OPT}$, and $\lambda_{\rm GCV}$

We first consider the case feH $_{\mbox{\scriptsize Q}}.$ The predictive mean square error R($\lambda)$ is defined by

$$R(\lambda) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (L_i f_{\lambda} - L_i f)^2,$$

and

$$ER(\lambda) = \frac{1}{n} ||(I-A(\lambda))h||^2 + \frac{\sigma^2}{n} TrA^2(\lambda)$$
 (4.1)

or

$$ER(\lambda) - \frac{\sigma^2 m}{n} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \left(\frac{n\lambda}{n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu n}}\right)^2 g_{\nu n}^2 + \tilde{\sigma}^2 \mu_2(\lambda). \tag{4.2}$$

If $\Sigma g_{vn}^2 = 0$, then

$$ER(\lambda) = \frac{\sigma^2}{n} TrA^2(\lambda) \qquad (4.3)$$

which is minimized for $\lambda=\lambda_{\rm GML}=\infty$, in which case ${\rm f}_{\rm n\lambda}$ is that element in span $\{\phi_{\rm N}\}$ best fitting the data in the least squares sense and

$$ER(\infty) = \sigma^2 \frac{m}{n} \tag{4.4}$$

Thus, from (3.9)

(1)
$$f_{\epsilon}span\{\phi_{V}\} \Rightarrow I_{GML/OPT} = 1$$
 (4.5)

Returning to the general case we have

$$ER(\lambda) - \sigma^2 \frac{m}{n} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n-m} \left(\frac{n\lambda}{n\lambda + \lambda_{i} \nu_{i}}\right)^2 g_{\nu n}^2 + \tilde{\sigma}^2 \mu_{2}(\lambda)$$
 (4.6)

$$\leq \lambda \sum_{n=1}^{n-m} \frac{g_{vn}^2}{\lambda_{vn}} + \tilde{\sigma}^2 \mu_2(\lambda)$$
 (4.7)

$$\leq \lambda ||\mathsf{Pf}||_{0}^{2} + \tilde{\sigma}^{2} \mu_{2}(\lambda), \tag{4.8}$$

If $\mu_2(\lambda)=\frac{\tilde{\lambda}}{n\lambda^{1/r}}$ (1+o(1)) for some r, the right hand side of (4.8) is minimized by setting

$$\lambda^* = \left(\frac{\tilde{\sigma}^2 \tilde{\ell}}{r ||Pf||_{\mathbb{Q}}^2}\right)^{r/(r+1)} \frac{1}{n^{r/(r+1)}} (1+o(1)) \tag{4.9}$$

and $ER(\lambda_{OPT}) \le ER(\lambda^*) = O(n^{-r/(r+1)})$ (= $O(n^{-2m/(2m+1)})$) in the special spline case). If no further assumptions are made on f it appears that this rate cannot be improved upon.

However, it is well known that if f satisfies certain additional smoothness conditions then higher rates of convergence can be obtained by choosing λ to go to 0 more slowly. We always have, for any ps[1,2],

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \left(\frac{n\lambda}{n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu}n}\right)^{2} g_{\nu n}^{2} \leq \lambda^{p} \sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \frac{\left(g_{\nu n}^{2}/n\right)}{\left(\lambda_{\nu n}/n\right)^{p}}$$
(4.10)

$$= \lambda^p J_p^n .$$

If J_p^n is uniformly bounded by J_p independent of n, and $\mu_2(\lambda) = \frac{\widetilde{\ell}}{n\lambda^{1/r}}(1+\varrho(1))$, then

$$ER(\lambda) - \sigma^{2} \frac{m}{n} \leq \lambda^{p} J_{p} + \frac{\tilde{\sigma}^{2} \tilde{\lambda}}{n \lambda^{1/r}} (1 + o(1)) \qquad (4.11)$$

The right hand side of (4.11) is minimized by

$$\lambda_{p}^{\star} = \left(\frac{\tilde{\sigma}^{2}\tilde{\lambda}}{rpJ_{p}}\right)^{r/(r+1)} \frac{1}{n^{r/(rp+1)}} (1+o(1))$$

and

$$ER(\lambda_{OPT}) \le ER(\lambda_p^*) = O(\frac{1}{n^{rp/(rp+1)}}).$$
 (4.12)

Thus

$$I_{GML/OPT} = const n^{rp/(rp+1)-r/(r+1)} \rightarrow \infty . \tag{4.13}$$

The condition $J_p^n \leq J_p$ is satisfied in some interesting cases. For example, suppose $H_Q = W_2^m(\text{per})$, the space of periodic functions in $W_2^m[0,\bar{1}]$ satisfying the periodic boundary conditions $f^{(\nu)}(0) = f^{(\nu)}(1)$, $\nu = 0,1,\ldots,m-1$, and suppose $L_i f = f(\frac{i}{n})$. Then, very roughly, (for details, see Craven and Wahba (1979), Utreras (1980))

$$g_{\nu n}^2 \simeq n f_{\nu}^2$$
, $f_{\nu} = \int_0^1 f(s) \cos(2\pi \nu s) ds$ or $\int_0^1 f(s) \sin(2\pi \nu s) ds$
 $\lambda_{\nu n} \simeq n \lambda_{\nu}$, $\lambda_{\nu} = (2\pi \nu)^{-2m}$.

Then if $f \in W_2^{mp}$ (per) for some 1 , we have

$$\int_{0}^{1} (f^{(mp)}(s))^{2} ds = \Sigma (2\pi \nu)^{2mp} f_{\nu}^{2} \simeq \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{g_{\nu n}^{2}/n}{(\lambda_{\nu n}/n)^{p}} (1+o(1)).$$

This example, with $f(t) = f_0 \cos 2\pi v_0 t$, say, can be used to show directly that $ER(\lambda_{GML})$ is still $O(n^{-2m/(2m+1)})$ while $ER(\lambda_{OPT}) = O(n^{-4m/(4m+1)})$ by observing that in this example

$$\lambda G_1(\lambda) \simeq \lambda \frac{(2\pi v_0)^{2m} f_0^2}{(1+\lambda(2\pi v_0)^{2m})^2}$$

and

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \left(\frac{n\lambda}{n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu}n}\right)^{2} g_{\nu n}^{2} \simeq \lambda^{2} \frac{(2\pi\nu_{0})^{4m} f_{0}^{2}}{(1 + \lambda(2\pi\nu_{0})^{2m})^{2}}$$

and carrying through the minimizations directly.

For the case $L_i f = f(t_i)$, we state as a conjecture a general condition for $J_p^n = \sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \frac{g_{\nu n}^2/n}{(\lambda_{\nu n}/n)^p}$ to be uniformly bounded. Suppose $Q_1(s,t)$

possess the Mercer-Hilbert-Schmidt expansion

$$Q_{\uparrow}(s,t) = \sum_{\nu=1}^{\infty} \lambda_{\nu} u_{\nu}(s) u_{\nu}(t),$$

where the $\{\lambda_{\mathcal{V}}, u_{\mathcal{V}}\}$ are the eigenvalues and eigenfunctions of Q_1 . (For this it is sufficient that $\iint_{T\times T}Q_1^2(s,t)\mathrm{d}s\mathrm{d}t=\sum_{\mathcal{V}=1}^\infty\lambda_{\mathcal{V}}<\infty$, see Riesz and Sz-Nagy (1955), this condition is being implicitly assumed throughout this paper). Let $J^*_p(f)$ be defined by

$$J^{*}_{p}(f) = \sum_{v=1}^{\infty} \frac{(Pf, u_{v})^{2}}{\lambda_{v}^{p}}, \quad (f, u_{v}) = \int f(t)u_{v}(t)dt. \quad (4.14)$$

We say that $f \epsilon \mathcal{C}_p^*$ if $0 < J_p^*(f) < \infty$. It is conjectured that $f \epsilon \mathcal{C}_p^*$ and some regularity conditions on the $\{t_i\} = \{t_{in}\}_{i=1}^n$, $n=1,2,\ldots$, imply that there is some constant c_p such that

$$0 < J_p^n(f) \le c_p J_p^*(f).$$

To see the behavior of R(λ) when f behaves like a sample function, we only consider the case $g_{\nu n}=\pm b\lambda_{\nu n}$, we suggest that the results can be extended to functions f for which $\lim_{n\to\infty}\frac{1}{n-m}\sum\limits_{\nu=1}^{n-m}\frac{g_{\nu n}^2}{\lambda_{\nu n}}\to \text{constant}$, and we conjecture that it is sufficient for this that some regularity conditions hold in the L_i and

$$Pf \sim \sum_{v=1}^{\infty} f_{v}u_{v} \qquad f_{v} = (f_{v}u_{v})$$

with $\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{1}{n} \int_{\sqrt{-1}}^{n} \frac{f_{\sqrt{2}}^2}{\lambda_{\sqrt{2}}} \to b$ for some $0 < b < \infty$. Letting $g_{\sqrt{2}}^2 = b\lambda_{\sqrt{2}}$ in (4.2)

gives

$$nb[ER(\lambda)-m\sigma^{2}] = \sum_{v=1}^{n-m} \lambda_{vn} \left\{ \frac{(n\lambda)^{2} + \frac{\sigma^{2}}{b} \lambda_{vn}}{(n\lambda + \lambda_{vn})^{2}} \right\}$$

Differentiating the expression in brackets on the right with respect to $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$ and setting the result equal to 0 gives

$$[(n\lambda)^2 + \frac{\sigma^2}{b}\lambda_{vn}] n (n\lambda + \lambda_{vn}) = (n\lambda + \lambda_{vn})^2 [n (n\lambda)]$$

which is satisfied for

$$\lambda_{OPT} = \frac{\sigma^2}{nb}$$

for every $\lambda_{\rm OPT}$. Thus, in this example (assuming $\lambda_{\rm OPT}$ and $\lambda_{\rm GML}$ are global minimizers!), $I_{\rm GML/OPT}$ = 1.

We can summarize the result of the last two sections as follows: Let $H_{\mathbb{Q}}$ and L_1,\ldots,L_n be such that

$$\mu_1(\lambda) \rightarrow \frac{\ell}{n\lambda^{1/r}}$$

$$\mu_2(\lambda) \rightarrow \frac{2}{n\lambda^{1/r}}$$

for some r > 1, as $n \to \infty$, $\lambda \to 0$, and let C_p be defined by

$$C_{p} = \{f: ||Pf||_{Q} > 0 \text{ and } \sum_{v=1}^{n-m} \frac{g_{vn}^{2}/n}{(x_{vn}/n)^{p}} \le J_{p}(f)(1+o(1))$$

for some constant $J_{\rm p}$ independent of n. We have:

Table 1

- (1) $fespan\{\phi_{\mathcal{V}}\} \Longrightarrow I_{GML/OPT} = 1$
- (2) $f \in C_p$ for some $p > 1 \Longrightarrow I_{GML/0PT} \Longrightarrow$
- (3) f "behaves like" a sample function \Rightarrow I $_{GML/OPT} = 1 + o(1)$.

We remark that we do not prove, but merely state as a conjecture that in the special spline case with $t_i=i/n$, and mp an integer, that the definitions of C_p here and in the introduction are equivalent, and that the methods in, e.g. Cox (1981), Rice and Rosenblatt (1983) can be used to show it.

To compare λ_{GML} and λ_{GCV} , we have, from Craven and Wahba, that

(1)
$$fespan \{\phi_{\mathcal{V}}\} \Rightarrow I_{GCV/OPT} = 1$$

(2)
$$f \in H_Q$$
, $\mu_1(\lambda_{OPT}) \to 0$ and $\mu_1^2(\lambda_{OPT})/\mu_2(\lambda_{OPT}) \to 0$ imply $I_{GCV/OPT} = 1 + o(1)$.

Although the arguments are carried out for a special case, it is seen by following them that the results hold in the generality of this paper.

Now, suppose f behaves like a sample function from the stochastic process.

 $V(\lambda)$ is given by

$$nV(\lambda) = \frac{\sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} w_{\nu n}^{2} \left(\frac{n\lambda}{n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu n}}\right)^{2}}{\sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \left(1 - \frac{\lambda_{\nu n}}{n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu n}}\right)^{2}}$$

and

$$nEV(\lambda) = \frac{\sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \left(\frac{n\lambda}{n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu}n}\right)^{2} g_{\nu n}^{2} + \sigma^{2} \sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \left(\frac{n\lambda}{n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu}n}\right)}{\left(\sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \left(1 - \frac{\lambda_{\nu}n}{n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu}n}\right)\right)^{2}}$$
(4.15)

Replacing $g_{\nu n}^2$ by its expected value $b\lambda_{\nu n}$ under the prior in (4.5) gives

$$\frac{1}{b} E_{f} nEV(\lambda) = \frac{\sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \left(\frac{n\lambda}{n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu}n}\right)^{2} (\lambda_{\nu}n + \frac{\sigma^{2}}{b})}{\left(\sum_{\nu=1}^{n-m} \frac{n\lambda}{n\lambda + \lambda_{\nu}n}\right)^{2}}$$
(4.16)

and a straightforward calculation (which appears in Wahba (1977a)) shows that the right hand side of this expression is minimzed for $\lambda=\sigma^2/nb$. It appears that, for $g_{\nu n}^2/\lambda_{\nu n}\sim constant$, we have $\lambda_{GCV}=0(\frac{1}{n})$. The proof of Theorem 4.2 in Craven and Wahba shows that $\lambda_{OPT}=0(\frac{1}{n})$, $\lambda_{GCV}=(0(\frac{1}{n})$ and $\mu_1(\lambda)\simeq \ell/n\lambda^{1/r}$, $\mu_2(\lambda)=\tilde{\ell}/n\lambda^{1/r}$ for some r>1 entails that $I_{GCV/OPT}=1+o(1)$. We conclude that

(4) f "behaves like" a sample function \Longrightarrow $I_{GCV/OPT} = 1 + o(1)$. Thus, in each of the three entries in Table (1), we may replace $I_{GML/OPT}$ by $I_{GML/GCV}$.

5. Monte Carlo results

A Monte Carlo study was carried out to see whether some of the preceding asymptotic results would be manifest in small to medium sized samples. Three experimental test functions were used, given in Cases 1, 2 and 3 below.

Case 1
$$f(t) = \frac{1}{3}\beta_{10,5}(t) + \frac{1}{3}\beta_{7,7}(t) + \frac{1}{3}\beta_{5,10}(t)$$
Case 2
$$f(t) = \frac{6}{10}\beta_{30,17}(t) + \frac{4}{10}\beta_{3,11}(t)$$
Case 3
$$f(t) = \frac{1}{3}\beta_{20,5}(t) + \frac{1}{3}\beta_{12,12}(t) + \frac{1}{3}\beta_{7,30}(t)$$

where

$$\beta_{p,q}(t) = \frac{\Gamma(p+q)}{\Gamma(p)\Gamma(q)} t^{p-1} (1-t)^{q-1}, 0 \le t \le 1.$$

We considered only m = 2, all of these functions are in $W_2^4(\text{per})$, and the periodic smoothing spline in W_2^2 was implemented. The study reported on here was done simultaneously with the Monte Carlo study in Wahba (1983b) but not published at that time. Plots of f of cases 1-3 above and sample Monte Carlo data appear there, and some of the values of $F_{GCV/OPT}$ appearing here for comparison purposes are also reported there. We considered only $F_{ij} = f(\frac{i}{n})$, $F_{ij} = f(\frac{i}{n})$,

$$y_i = f(\frac{i}{n}) + \epsilon_i, \epsilon_i \sim N(0, \sigma^2), i = 1, 2, ..., n.$$

For each replicate the GML and GCV estimates $\hat{\lambda}_{GML}$ and $\hat{\lambda}_{GCV}$, the minimizers of V(λ) and M(λ), were computed, along with $\hat{\lambda}_{OPT}$, the minimizer of R(λ). Then the inefficiencies $\hat{I}_{GML/OPT}$ and $\hat{I}_{GCV/OPT}$ defined by

$$\hat{I}_{GML} = \frac{R(\hat{\lambda}_{GML})}{R(\tilde{\lambda}_{OPT})}, \hat{I}_{GCV} = \frac{R(\hat{\lambda}_{GCV})}{R(\tilde{\lambda}_{OPT})}$$

were computed. In the Appendix is given a complete table of \hat{I}_{GML} and \hat{I}_{GCV} for each of the 3 × 3 × 5 sets of 10 replicates. A summary of this data appears in Table 2. For each n, σ and case, Table 2 gives \bar{I}_{GML} and \bar{I}_{GCV} , where \bar{I}_{GML} is the average of the 10 replicated values of \hat{I}_{GML} , and similarly for \bar{I}_{GCV} . Table 2 also gives the GML score, defined as the number of times out of 10 replicates, that \hat{I}_{GML} < \hat{I}_{GCV} . A tie is counted as 1/2. It can be seen that in

the extreme NE corner of the table, n=32, $\sigma=.2$, GML appears to have a modest edge over GCV (perhaps not "significant"!), and mixed results obtain in other entries towards the NE. For smaller σ and all of the n=128 entries except the $\sigma=.20$ case, the GCV edge is fairly striking. The results of this experiment, with n=32 and 64, are in rough agreement with the Monte Carlo results of Barry (1983) and Davies et.al. (1983). Barry considered n=20 and 40, and Davies et.al, considered n=50.

		,		
	GML Score	527	8 7 4	m 0 m
0.20	111	1.40	1.32	1.50
	IGML	1.39	1.22	1.07
0	GML Score	2 2 3 3 3 3	2 2 2 1	2 1
σ=.10	T _{GCV}	1.20	1.83	1.16
	I GML	1.25	1.48	1.32
	GML Score	∞ <u></u> / ₂	0	202
σ=. 05	ĪGCV	1.94 1.09 1.43	1.05	1.06
	IGML	1.22	1.23	1.29
0.9	GML Score	3	0	- 0
σ=.0250	ĪĠĊV	1.33 1.27 1.13	1.09 1.33 1.06	1.09
	IGML	1.32	1.40	1.39
5	GML Score out of	L 8.4	2 1 0	-0-
σ=.0125	- I _{GCV}	1.41	1.07	1.06 1.03 1.09
,	I GML	1.38	1.40	1.67
	case	-0 m	-28	-28
	c	32	64	128

Table 2

 \bar{I}_{GML} , \bar{I}_{GCV} and the GML score

6. The case of general L_i

We may study the asymptotic behavior of $\lambda_{\rm GML}$, $\lambda_{\rm GCV}$ and $\lambda_{\rm OPT}$ with general L_i if the {L_i} can be imbedded in a nice family L_s, seS, of bounded linear functionals on $H_{\rm Q}$. This generally can be done if one is trying to solve a so called Fredholm integral equation of the first kind. To show how this study proceeds, we first review some relevant facts from Nashed and Wahba (1974).

Let S be an index set and, for each $s \in S$, let L_s be a bounded linear functional on H_Q . Later we shall let $L_i = L_s$. We can define a linear operator K with domain H_Q and range contained in the real valued functions on S by

$$Kf = g$$
, $g(s) = (Kf)(s) = L_s f$, $f \in H_Q$, $s \in S$.

The most interesting case concerns K an integral operator,

$$(Kf)(s) = \int K(s,t)f(t)dt$$
, seS,

for some known K. It was shown by Nashed and Wahba (1974), that

$$K(H_0) = H_R$$

where H_{R} is the reproducing kernel space with reproducing kernel R(u,v) with

$$R(u,v) = L_{u(s)}L_{v(t)}Q(s,t),$$

which, if K is an integral operator, becomes

$$R(u,v) = \iint K(u,s)Q(s,t)K(v,t)dsdt.$$

We also have $K(H_{Q_1}) = H_{R_1}$ where

$$R_1(u,v) = L_{u(s)}L_{v(t)}Q_1(s,t).$$

The null space of K in H_Q consists of all $f \in H_Q$ with $L_S f = 0$, $S \in S$. Let V be the null space perpendicular of K in H_Q . If we endow H_R with its reproducing kernel space topology, then there is a l:l inner product preserving map between V and $H_R = K(V)$ under which

$$f \in V \sim g = K f \in H_R$$
 (6.1)

and

$$\langle f_1, f_2 \rangle_Q = \langle g_1, g_2 \rangle_R$$
 (6.2)

whenever $f_1, f_2 \in V$, $Kf_1 = g_1$, $Kf_2 = g_2$. Thus the geometry of V and H_R are the same under the 1:1 correspondence "given in (6.1).

We assume that the dimension of the span of $\{K\phi_{\mathbb{Q}}\}$ is m. (If it is not, T cannot be of rank m). Let \widetilde{P} be the orthogonal projection in H_R onto H_{R_1} , (which is the orthocomplement of span $\{K\phi_{\mathbb{Q}}\}$). Letting K^+ be defined, for g in H_R , as that element in H_R of minimal norm which satisfies Kf = g, we have $K^+(H_R) = V = K^+(H_R) + (\phi_{\mathbb{Q}})$, $PK^+g \sim \widetilde{P}g$ and so $||PK^+g||_Q^2 = ||\widetilde{P}g||_R^2$. Let $g_{n,\lambda}$ be that element in H_R which minimizes

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (g(s_i) - y_i)^2 + \lambda ||\tilde{P}g||_{R}^2.$$

Using $g(s_i) = L_i f$, $||P g||_R^2 = ||PK^\dagger g||_Q^2$ and the fact that $f_{n,\lambda}$ must be in V, it can be shown that $Kf_{n,\lambda} = g_{n,\lambda}$ and $K^\dagger g_{n,\lambda} = f_{n,\lambda}$. Furthermore,

$$||f - f_{n,\lambda}||_{Q}^{2} = ||K^{+}Kf - f_{n,\lambda}||_{Q}^{2} + ||f - K^{+}Kf||_{Q}^{2}$$

and

$$||K^{+}Kf - f_{n,\lambda}||_{Q}^{2} = ||g - g_{n,\lambda}||_{R}^{2}$$

by (6.2). Further details may be found in Nashed and Wahba (1974).

Now consider the problem of studying the behavior of λ_{GML} , λ_{GCV} and λ_{OPT} for the case of general L_i , and suppose the L_i can be embedded in a family L_s , seS, by $L_i = L_s$. The problem then reduces to examining the properties of g and $g_{n,\lambda}$ in H_R , with the loss function of (1.11) becoming $R(\lambda) = \frac{1}{n}\sum\limits_{i=1}^{n}(g(s_i)-g_{n,\lambda}(s_i))^2$. The entries of Σ are $R_1(s_i,s_j)$. Thus if the s_i are regularly distributed, the behavior of the $\{\lambda_{\lambda n}\}$ will be related to the eigenvalues of R_1 (instead of Q_1). This can be used in some cases to establish the asymptotic behavior of $\mu_1(\lambda)$ and $\mu_2(\lambda)$, see e.g. Lukas (1981), Rice and Rosenblatt (1983), Wahba (1977b),

Conditions (1) - (3) on f can now be transported to conditions on g = Kf and we have

- (1) $g \in \text{span } K\{\phi_{\mathcal{V}}\} \Longrightarrow I_{\text{GML/OPT}} = 1$
- (2) $g \in C_p$ for some $p > 1 = > I_{GML/OPT} \rightarrow \infty$
- (3) g "behaves like" a sample function $\Rightarrow I_{GML/OPT} = 1 + o(1)$.

With some abuse of notation, we are letting $\mathcal{C}_{_{\mathrm{D}}}$ be defined by

$$C_{p} = \{g: ||Pg||_{R}^{2} > 0 \text{ and } \sum_{v=1}^{n-m} \frac{g_{\lambda n}^{2}/n}{(\lambda_{vn}/n)^{p}} \le J_{p}(g)(1+o(1)),$$

for some constant $J_{\rm p}$ independent of n.

Let $\tilde{J}_{p}^{*}(g)$ be defined by

$$\tilde{J}_{p}^{*}(g) = \sum_{v=1}^{\infty} \frac{(\tilde{P}g, \tilde{u}_{v})}{\tilde{\lambda}_{v}^{P}}$$

where $\{\tilde{\lambda}_{V} \text{ and } \tilde{u}_{V}\}$ are the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of R_{1} , and say that $g \in \mathcal{C}_{p}^{*}$ if $0 < J_{p}^{*}(g) < \infty$. It is now conjectured that $g \in \mathcal{C}_{p}^{*}$ and some regularity conditions on the $\{s_{i}\}$, $i=1,\ldots,n$, imply that $g \in \mathcal{C}_{p}^{*}$. Since

$$||g-g_{n,\lambda}||_{R}^{2} = ||K^{+}Kf-f_{n,\lambda}||_{Q}^{2},$$

the study of the optimal λ with certain other loss functions referenced to f can be studied by examining the problem in H_R . For example, compare the methods and conclusions of Theorems 1 and 2 of Wahba (1977). There is some continuing research in this area, see Cox (1983), Nychka (1983). We remark that the generalized spline smoothing problem has recently been extended to nonlinear functionals and non-Gaussian errors by O'Sullivan (1983).

7. Acknowledgments

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Appendix

Values of $\hat{\mathbf{I}}_{\mathrm{GML}}$ and $\hat{\mathbf{I}}_{\mathrm{GCV}}$ for all replicates.

ISUBM =
$$\hat{I}_{GML}$$

REPL = replicate number

σ=.20

 $\sigma = .10$

σ=·50

σ=.0250

σ=.0125

n = 32

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n = 64

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