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# New adaptive strategies for nonparametric estimation in linear mixed models

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## Abstract

This paper surveys new estimators of the density of a random effect in linear mixed-effects models. Data are contaminated by random noise, and we do not observe directly the random effect of interest. The density of the noise is supposed to be known, without assumption on its regularity. However it can also be estimated. We first propose an adaptive nonparametric deconvolution estimation based on a selection method set up in Goldenshluger and Lepski (2011). Then we propose an estimator based on a simpler model selection devised by contrast penalization. For both of them, non-asymptotic  $\mathbb{L}^2$ -risk bounds are established implying estimation rates, much better than the expected deconvolution ones. Finally the two data-driven strategies are evaluated on simulations and compared with previous proposals.

**Keywords.** Deconvolution, linear mixed models, model selection, nonparametric estimation.

## 1 Introduction

In order to analyze repeated measures in time for individuals with the same behavior, we focus on a linear mixed-effects model. The observation value at time  $t_j$  with  $j \in \{0, \dots, J\}$  for individual  $k$ ,  $k \in \{1, \dots, N\}$ , denoted  $Y_{k,j}$ , follows the model

$$Y_{k,j} = \alpha_k + \beta_k t_j + \epsilon_{k,j}, \quad (1)$$

where the coefficients  $\alpha_k$  and  $\beta_k$  are the random effects of regression and depend on the subject  $k$ . The times of observation  $t_j$  are known and equidistant with a time step  $\Delta$ :  $t_j = j\Delta$ . The random variables  $(\epsilon_{k,j})_{1 \leq k \leq N, 0 \leq j \leq J}$  are the measurement errors of zero mean. They are supposed independent and identically distributed (i.i.d.) with common density  $f_\epsilon$ . We suppose  $\alpha_k$  i.i.d. with density  $f_\alpha$  and  $\beta_k$  i.i.d. with density  $f_\beta$ . Moreover we assume that  $(\epsilon_{k,j})_{1 \leq k \leq N, 0 \leq j \leq J}$  and  $(\alpha_k, \beta_k)_{1 \leq k \leq N}$  are independent sequences.

Mixed models with random effects are often used, for example in pharmacokinetics. They describe both individual behavior and variability between individuals. The distribution of random effects is of special interest. It allows for example to describe the heterogeneity of the drug kinetics in the population of individuals. Mixed models have been widely studied, often with parametric strategies and Gaussian random effects and noise (see Pinheiro and Bates, 2000). However it is not clear that this normality assumption of the random effects is truly satisfied in practice. The aim of this paper is to produce nonparametric estimation of the density of the random effects from the observations  $Y_{k,j}$ .

Several papers consider this problem. Wu and Zhu (2010) relax the Gaussian assumption proposing an orthogonality-based estimation of moments estimating the third and fourth moments of the random effects and errors. Komárek and Lesaffre (2008) suppose that the random effects are a mixture of Gaussian distributions, and estimate the weights of the mixture components using a penalized approach. Papageorgiou and Hinde (2012) propose semi-parametric density models of random effects. But it is the estimation of the complete random effects density which should be appropriate. This is the framework of nonparametric estimation that is adopted in this paper.

Complete nonparametric estimation of  $f_\beta$  and  $f_\alpha$  in model (1) has been little studied in the literature. The main reference is Comte and Samson (2012) who set up a nonparametric estimation with deconvolution ideas. Indeed, model (1) can be seen as a measurement error model. Deconvolution methods are various and have been initiated by the kernel study of Fan (1991), followed by adaptive strategies (Pensky and Vidakovic (1999), Comte *et al.* (2006), Delaigle and Gijbels (2004)) and optimality of rates (Butucea and Tsybakov, 2007). Except the penalized contrast estimator of Comte and Samson (2012), none of these previous estimators has been used in the mixed model framework. However, for all these methods, the noise density is usually assumed to be known with a certain regularity. The resulting rates are thus very specific and depend on the regularity of the noise and of the function under estimation. For example the noise is supposed to be ordinary smooth in Comte and Samson (2012).

This paper focuses on improving existing nonparametric strategies for the estimation of  $f_\beta$ . We focus on  $f_\beta$  and we refer to Comte *et al.* (2006) for  $f_\alpha$ , noticing that for  $t_0 = 0$  model (1) writes  $Y_{k,0} = \alpha_k + \epsilon_{k,0}$  which is a standard convolution equation. We first propose an estimator which uses all the available observations. A Mean Integrated Squared Error (MISE) bound is computed and it shows that a bias-variance compromise must be performed. The particularity here is the selection model procedure: we adapt a method set up in Goldenshluger and Lepski (2011) for kernel estimators. Then we establish a non-asymptotic oracle risk bound using Talagrand's inequality. In a second time, an other estimator is proposed, built using the last and the first time of observations. If two times of observation are separated by a quite long time, enough information is available to obtain a good estimation. As in the first case, risk bound leads us to propose a model selection strategy. In that case a more classical and easy to implant strategy can be adopted, namely a penalized criterion (Massart, 2007; Birgé and Massart, 1998).

What is new is that our two strategies take advantage of both nonparametric and deconvolution ideas. With very mild assumption on the noise regularity (we only require that the characteristic function of the noise is nonzero), the two estimators recover standard rates in density estimation for  $f_\beta$  (Stone, 1980; Donoho *et al.*, 1996) while deconvolution rates were expected. Precisely logarithmic speed of convergence implied by deconvolution methods is avoided. Therefore our two estimators have better rates. Furthermore we do not assume that the noise is ordinary smooth, which was assumed in Comte and Samson (2012).

This paper is organized as follows. We proceed with the construction of the estimators in Section 2.1 and 13. Bias-variance decompositions of the  $\mathbb{L}^2$ -risk are proved (Propositions 1, 5) and lead us to propose adaptive strategies. The main results (Theorems 3, 7) prove that the resulting estimators are adaptive. A short Section 3 provides a comparison of our estimators with Comte and Samson (2012). Lastly, we illustrate the different methods by simulation experiments presented in Section 4. We briefly discuss therein the case of unknown noise density (see Section 4.3 and Section 6.8) which is also implemented for comparison. Proofs are gathered in Section 6.

## 2 Construction of two estimators, risk bounds and adaptive results

Let us introduce some notations. For two functions  $f$  and  $g$  in  $\mathbb{L}^1(\mathbb{R}) \cap \mathbb{L}^2(\mathbb{R})$ , the scalar product is defined by  $\langle f, g \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x)\overline{g(x)}dx$  and the associated norm is  $\|f\|^2 = \int_{\mathbb{R}} |f(x)|^2 dx$ . The Fourier transform of  $f$  is  $f^*(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{ixu} f(u) du$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . When  $f$  is the density of a random variable  $X$ ,  $f^*(u) = \mathbb{E}[e^{iuX}]$  is called the characteristic function of  $X$ . Then the convolution product of  $f$  and  $g$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , is  $f \star g(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x-y)g(y)dy$ . Finally we remind the Plancherel-Parseval's formula:  $\forall f \in \mathbb{L}^1(\mathbb{R}) \cap \mathbb{L}^2(\mathbb{R})$ ,  $2\pi\|f\|^2 = \|f^*\|^2$ .

### 2.1 Estimator using all the observations: $\widehat{f}$

In this section we build an estimator of the density  $f_\beta$  using all the available observations. We consider the normalized variables  $Z_{k,m}$  defined by the difference between two observations, for all  $k \in \{1, \dots, N\}$ , and for all  $m \in \{1, \dots, J\}$

$$Z_{k,m} := \frac{Y_{k,m} - Y_{k,0}}{m\Delta} = \beta_k + \frac{\epsilon_{k,m} - \epsilon_{k,0}}{m\Delta} =: \beta_k + W_{k,m}. \quad (2)$$

For a given  $m$ , the variables  $W_{k,m}$ ,  $k \in \{1, \dots, N\}$ , are i.i.d. with density  $f_{W_m}$ . Due to the independence between the  $\epsilon_k$ 's and the  $\beta_k$ 's, the  $Z_{k,m}$  are i.i.d. with density denoted by  $f_{Z_m}$ , and

definition (2) implies

$$f_{Z_m} = f_\beta \star f_{W_m}. \quad (3)$$

The Fourier transform of (3) yields

$$f_{Z_m}^* = f_\beta^* f_{W_m}^*.$$

By independence of the  $\epsilon_{k,m}$  we have for all  $u \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\begin{aligned} f_{W_m}^*(u) &= \mathbb{E}[e^{iu(\epsilon_{k,m} - \epsilon_{k,0})/m\Delta}] = \mathbb{E}[e^{iu\epsilon_{k,m}/m\Delta}] \mathbb{E}[e^{-iu\epsilon_{k,0}/m\Delta}] \\ &= \left| f_\epsilon^* \left( \frac{u}{m\Delta} \right) \right|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Let us consider the following assumptions:

**(A1)**  $f_\beta \in \mathbb{L}^2(\mathbb{R})$  and  $f_\beta^* \in \mathbb{L}^1(\mathbb{R})$

**(A2)**  $f_\epsilon$  is known and  $f_\epsilon^* \neq 0$ .

**(A1)** is needed to compute the  $\mathbb{L}^2(\mathbb{R})$ -risk and apply the Fourier inversion:  $f_\beta(x) = 1/(2\pi) \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-iux} f_\beta^*(u) du$ . Assumption **(A2)** is true for most densities (Gaussian, exponential, Gamma, Laplace) but excludes for example the uniform density. Under **(A2)**, we obtain for all  $u \in \mathbb{R}$

$$f_\beta^*(u) = \frac{f_{Z_m}^*(u)}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{m\Delta})|^2},$$

and using the Fourier inversion, we deduce the following closed formula for  $f_\beta$

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R}, f_\beta(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-iux} \frac{f_{Z_m}^*(u)}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{m\Delta})|^2} du. \quad (4)$$

To propose an estimator of  $f_\beta$ ,  $f_{Z_m}^*$  is replaced by its empirical estimator

$$\forall u \in \mathbb{R}, \widehat{f}_{Z_m}^*(u) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N e^{iuZ_{k,m}}. \quad (5)$$

However, although formula (4) is well defined under **(A1)**, the integrability of the ratio  $\widehat{f}_{Z_m}^*/|f_\epsilon^*|^2$  is not ensured, since  $f_\epsilon^*$  tends to zero near infinity. Therefore, we do not only plug (5) in equation (4) but we also introduce a cut-off which avoids integrability problems. We choose  $m\Delta$  as a cut-off where  $m$  is as before the time of observation subscript  $m$ . Finally the estimator is defined by:

$$\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-m\Delta}^{m\Delta} e^{-iux} \frac{\widehat{f}_{Z_m}^*(u)}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{m\Delta})|^2} du = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-m\Delta}^{m\Delta} e^{-iux} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{e^{iuZ_{k,m}}}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{m\Delta})|^2} du. \quad (6)$$

This original choice of the cut-off impacts the risk bound and leads to unexpected better rates for  $\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}$ , as seen below. In the following, we first compute the MISE of  $\widehat{f}$ .

## 2.2 Risk bound for the estimator $\widehat{f}$

We define the function  $f_{\beta,m}$  by the relation

$$f_{\beta,m}(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-m\Delta}^{m\Delta} e^{-iux} f_\beta^*(u) du \quad (7)$$

which amounts to  $\mathbb{E}[\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}] = f_{\beta,m}$ . Thus  $\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}$  is an unbiased estimator of  $f_{\beta,m}$ .

The bias-variance decomposition is the first step to study the MISE. Then we bound the two terms using Plancherel-Parseval's theorem, and we get the following bound.

**Proposition 1.** *Let assumptions **(A1)** and **(A2)** hold. Let estimator  $\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}$  of  $f_\beta$  be given by (6). Let us denote  $F_\epsilon := \int_{-1}^1 (1/|f_\epsilon^*(v)|^4) dv$ . Then,*

$$\mathbb{E}[|\widehat{f}_{\beta,m} - f_\beta|^2] \leq \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{|u| \geq m\Delta} |f_\beta^*(u)|^2 du + F_\epsilon \frac{m\Delta}{2\pi N}. \quad (8)$$

The proofs are relegated to Section 6. The first term of the bound (8) is the integrated bias term  $\|f_{\beta,m} - f_\beta\|^2$ . It is due to the replacement of  $f_\beta$  as defined in (4) by  $f_{\beta,m}$  in (6). This term is decreasing when  $m$  is increasing. The second term is the variance term which increases with  $m$  and comes from the estimation of  $f_{\beta,m}$  by  $\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}$ . It has the order  $m/N$ : it is the order we would obtain in a direct density estimation context. This was unexpected here because we do not observe  $\beta$ . This gain is due to the choice of the cut-off linked to the observation index. Besides  $F_\epsilon = \int_{-1}^1 1/|f_\epsilon^*(v)|^4 dv$  is a constant which depends on the model. Indeed, under **(A2)**, and because  $f_\epsilon$  is a density thus its Fourier transform is continue,  $F_\epsilon$  is a known numerical constant. Finally the bound (8) depends on the density of the noise only through a constant.

The next step is to select the cut-off  $m$  among the collection. It follows from Proposition 1 that we have to perform a bias-variance compromise to minimize the MISE. When  $f_\beta$  is in the Sobolev space with regularity parameter  $b$ , i.e.  $f_\beta$  belongs to the set  $\mathcal{A}_b(L)$  defined by

$$\mathcal{A}_b(L) = \{f \in \mathbb{L}^1(\mathbb{R}) \cap \mathbb{L}^2(\mathbb{R}), \int_{\mathbb{R}} |f^*(x)|^2 (1+x^2)^b dx \leq L\}$$

with  $b > 0$ ,  $L > 0$ . In this particular case, the bias term satisfies:

$$\|f_{\beta,m} - f_\beta\|^2 = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{|u| \geq m\Delta} |f_\beta^*(u)|^2 du \leq \frac{L}{2\pi} (m\Delta)^{-2b}.$$

Consequently, the  $\mathbb{L}^2$ -risk of  $\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}$  is bounded by,

$$\mathbb{E}[\|\widehat{f}_{\beta,m} - f_\beta\|^2] \leq C_1 (m\Delta)^{-2b} + C_2 \frac{m\Delta}{N}$$

with  $C_1 = (L/(2\pi)) > 0$ , and  $C_2 = F_\epsilon/(2\pi) > 0$ . Therefore, the optimal theoretical choice of  $m\Delta$  is  $(m\Delta)_{opt} = C_b N^{\frac{1}{2b+1}}$  with

$$C_b = (2bC_1/C_2)^{1/(2b+1)}. \quad (9)$$

Then we can prove the following corollary of Proposition 1.

**Corollary 2.** *Assume that the assumptions of Proposition 1 hold, that  $f_\beta \in \mathcal{A}_b(L)$ , and that  $C_b N^{\frac{1}{2b+1}} \leq J\Delta$ , with  $C_b$  given by (9). Then if we choose  $m_{opt}$  such that  $m_{opt}\Delta = (m\Delta)_{opt} = C_b N^{1/(2b+1)}$ , we have*

$$\mathbb{E}[\|\widehat{f}_{\beta,m_{opt}} - f_\beta\|^2] \leq KN^{-\frac{2b}{2b+1}}$$

for a constant  $K$  depending on  $b$ ,  $L$  and  $F_\epsilon$ .

The order of the risk is  $N^{-2b/(2b+1)}$  for a large  $N$ , it is the nonparametric estimation rate of convergence obtained when the observation are realizations of the variable of interest. We refer to Lacour (2006) Table 1 for classical rates of convergence for nonparametric deconvolution. Comparing with these rates, we observe that here we improve the speed of convergence. This order is  $N^{-b/(2b+1)}$  which is always larger than the parametric rate  $1/\sqrt{N}$ , but can get close to it when  $b$  increases. The condition  $C_b N^{\frac{1}{2b+1}} \leq J\Delta$  requires that  $J$  is asymptotically large when  $N$  grows, but the larger  $b$  the weaker the condition. Nevertheless, this choice is theoretical because it depends on the regularity  $b$  of  $f_\beta$  which is unknown.

### 2.3 Adaptive selection of $m$ and oracle risk bound for $\widehat{f}$

In this section we propose an adaptive selection of  $m$  which should outbalance the bias-variance compromise. We aim at finding a procedure that does not depend on the regularity of the density  $f_\beta$ , but only on the data. Suppose that  $m$  belongs to a finite set  $\mathcal{M}$ , the theoretical optimal choice for  $m$  is

$$m_{th} = \operatorname{argmin}_{m \in \mathcal{M}} \{\|f_{\beta,m} - f_\beta\|^2 + V(\widehat{f}_{\beta,m})\} = \operatorname{argmin}_{m \in \mathcal{M}} \{-\|f_{\beta,m}\|^2 + V(\widehat{f}_{\beta,m})\},$$

where we use the Plancherel-Parseval Theorem, and  $V(\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}) := \int \mathbb{E}[(\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}(x) - \mathbb{E}[\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}(x)])^2] dx = \mathbb{E}[\|\widehat{f}_{\beta,m} - f_{\beta,m}\|^2] \leq F_\epsilon m\Delta/(2\pi N)$ . The two terms appearing in this decomposition are unknown and thus replaced by estimators. The variance term is replaced by a penalty function proportional to the variance bound:

$$\operatorname{pen}^{(1)}(m) = \kappa^{(1)} F_\epsilon \frac{m\Delta}{N}$$

with  $m \in \mathcal{M} := \{1, \dots, N \wedge J\}$  where  $N \wedge J = \min(N, J)$  and  $\kappa^{(1)}$  a numerical constant. From the theoretical point of view  $\kappa^{(1)} \geq 24/\pi$ , but in practice,  $\kappa^{(1)}$  is calibrated by intensive preliminary simulation experiments (see Section 4). This choice of  $\mathcal{M}$  implies  $m \leq N$  and the penalty is bounded.

The dependence in  $m$  which holds in several aspects, prevents us from using usual selection method defined by penalized criterion. More precisely, Equation (6) depends on  $m$  in the bounds of the integral, and in the integrative term, thus estimator  $\hat{f}_{\beta, m}$  can not be written as the minimizer of a contrast (see Massart (2007)). This is why we use a more sophisticated method of selection due to a recent work of Goldenshluger and Lepski (2011). The index  $m$  is adaptively chosen as the value which minimizes the sum of two terms as follows

$$\hat{m}^{(1)} = \operatorname{argmin}_{m \in \mathcal{M}} \{\hat{\Gamma}_m + \operatorname{pen}^{(1)}(m)\} \quad (10)$$

with  $m \in \mathcal{M} = \{1, \dots, N \wedge J\}$

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\Gamma}_m &:= \max_{1 \leq j \leq N \wedge J} \left( \|\hat{f}_{\beta, m \wedge j} - \hat{f}_{\beta, j}\|^2 - \operatorname{pen}^{(1)}(j) \right)_+ \\ &= \max_{m \leq j \leq N \wedge J} \left( \|\hat{f}_{\beta, m} - \hat{f}_{\beta, j}\|^2 - \operatorname{pen}^{(1)}(j) \right)_+ \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

where  $(x)_+ = \max(0, x)$ . The contrast  $\hat{\Gamma}_m$  approximates the bias. The penalty term is subtracted in (11) to offset the variance effect implied by the estimation of the bias term. The final estimator  $\hat{f}_{\beta, \hat{m}^{(1)}}$  satisfies the following oracle inequality.

**Theorem 3.** *Construct an estimator of  $f_\beta$  of the form (6), and choose  $\hat{m}^{(1)}$  according to (10). Then, under assumptions (A1) and (A2), there exist two constants  $C$  and  $C'$  such that*

$$\mathbb{E}[\|\hat{f}_{\beta, \hat{m}^{(1)}} - f_\beta\|^2] \leq C \inf_{m \in \mathcal{M}} (\|f_{\beta, m} - f_\beta\|^2 + \operatorname{pen}^{(1)}(m)) + \frac{C'}{N}. \quad (12)$$

The constant  $C$  is numerical as soon as  $\kappa^{(1)}$  is fixed, and  $C'$  depends on  $F_\epsilon$ ,  $\Delta$ ,  $\|f_\beta\|$ .

We prove this result with the same kind of tools as Comte *et al.* (2013) for a continuous time model. Theorem 3 provides a non-asymptotic result and bound (12) shows that  $\hat{f}_{\beta, \hat{m}^{(1)}}$  realizes automatically the bias-variance compromise. This estimator fulfills the objective: it does not require any assumption on the regularity of  $f_\beta$  or  $f_\epsilon$ . The bound we obtain depends on the density  $f_\epsilon$  only through the constant  $F_\epsilon$ . This is new in the mixed model framework. Again, note that the variance is of order  $m/N$  which is better than a deconvolution order.

We establish the following asymptotic result in the particular case where  $f_\beta$  is in the Sobolev space with regularity  $b$ .

**Corollary 4.** *Assume that the assumptions of Theorem 3 hold, that  $f_\beta \in \mathcal{A}_b(L)$ , and that  $C_b N^{\frac{1}{2b+1}} \leq J\Delta$ , with  $C_b$  given by (9). Then there exists a constant  $C > 0$  such that*

$$\mathbb{E}[\|\hat{f}_{\beta, \hat{m}^{(1)}} - f_\beta\|^2] \leq CN^{-\frac{2b}{2b+1}}$$

Thus, if  $J$  is large enough compared to  $\sqrt{N}$ , the estimator reaches the best possible rate for a function with regularity  $b$  (Tsybakov (2004) shows that  $N^{-b/2b+1}$  is the optimal rate of convergence), without requiring the knowledge of  $b$ . This speed is the one we obtain when we observe directly the variable of interest. It is not the classical deconvolution speed which can be logarithmic in the Gaussian case for example (see Comte and Samson, 2012), or  $N^{-b/(2b+2\gamma+1)}$  if the noise is ordinary smooth of order  $\gamma$ .

## 2.4 Estimator built using the last observation time $\hat{f}^J$

In order to simplify the previous estimator and its selection method, we propose a second estimator. This estimator is based only on the variables defined by (2) for  $m = J$ ,  $\forall k \in \{1, \dots, N\}$ ,

$$Z_{k, J} = \frac{Y_{k, J} - Y_{k, 0}}{J\Delta} = \beta_k + \frac{\epsilon_{k, J} - \epsilon_{k, 0}}{J\Delta} = \beta_k + W_{k, J}.$$

The same arguments as before lead to, for any real-value  $x$ :

$$f_\beta(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-iux} \frac{f_{Z_J}^*(u)}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{J\Delta})|^2} du.$$

Then we replace  $f_{Z_J}^*$  by its empirical estimator and we introduce for some  $m$  the cut-off  $m\Delta$ . The second estimator is defined by the following equation:

$$\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-m\Delta}^{m\Delta} e^{-iux} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{e^{iuZ_{k,J}}}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{J\Delta})|^2} du. \quad (13)$$

We notice that  $m$  is only a cut-off here and no longer an observation time, then it does not need to be an integer. This estimator can also be seen as the argument minimum of a contrast type density. Indeed, for  $t \in S_m := \{t \in \mathbb{L}^2, \text{supp}(t^*) = [-m\Delta, m\Delta]\}$ , considering

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma(t) &:= \|t\|^2 - \frac{2}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{1}{2\pi} \int t^*(-u) \frac{e^{iuZ_{k,J}}}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{J\Delta})|^2} du \\ &= \|t\|^2 - 2 \langle t, \widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J \rangle = \|t - \widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J\|^2 - \|\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J\|^2, \end{aligned}$$

We have

$$\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J = \underset{t \in S_m}{\operatorname{argmin}} \gamma(t).$$

This new estimator uses  $2N$  observations like the previous estimator (6) when  $m$  is fixed. But as seen before the adaptive procedure of  $\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$  uses all the  $JN$  observations while the adaptive procedure for  $\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$  (see below) still uses only  $2N$  observations. We have to check if this estimator is competitive. In order to lead a theoretical study, we compute the MISE of  $\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$ . Definition (7) still gives that  $\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$  is an unbiased estimator of  $f_{\beta,m}$ . The bias-variance decomposition of the risk gives the following proposition.

**Proposition 5.** *Let assumptions (A1) and (A2) hold. Let estimator  $\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$  of  $f_\beta$  be given by (13). Then, we have,*

$$\mathbb{E}[\|\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J - f_\beta\|^2] \leq \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{|u| \geq m\Delta} |f_\beta^*(u)|^2 du + \frac{1}{2\pi N} \int_{-m\Delta}^{m\Delta} \frac{du}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{J\Delta})|^4}. \quad (14)$$

The same comments we made after Proposition 1 apply here. We notice that if the observation time  $J\Delta$  is large enough, as the Fourier transform of a density evaluated in 0 is equal to 1, the variance term is under control. Under the condition  $m \leq N \wedge J$  we can prove the following result.

**Corollary 6.** *Let us denote  $B_\epsilon := \sup_{v \in [-1,1]} \frac{1}{|f_\epsilon^*(v)|^4}$ . If  $m \leq N \wedge J$ , then under assumptions (A1) and (A2) one has*

$$\mathbb{E}[\|\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J - f_\beta\|^2] \leq \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{|u| \geq m\Delta} |f_\beta^*(u)|^2 du + B_\epsilon \frac{m\Delta}{\pi N}. \quad (15)$$

Assumption (A2) assures that  $B_\epsilon$  is finite. The dependence on the noise is contained in this constant  $B_\epsilon$ . The estimator  $\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$  is well defined when  $m > J$ . Nevertheless, the variance in inequality (14) can be large in this case, that is the reason why we impose  $m \leq N \wedge J$  to obtain the bound (15). This assumption yields a variance order  $m/N$ , which is the best one can expect.

In the following we propose a penalization procedure. With the assumption of Corollary 6, the cut-off  $m$  is supposed to belong to the finite set  $\mathcal{M} = \{1, \dots, N \wedge J\}$  which is the same as in Section 2.3. The theoretical optimal choice of  $m$  is defined by

$$m_{th}^{(2)} = \underset{m \in \mathcal{M}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \{\|f_{\beta,m} - f_\beta\|^2 + V(\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J)\} = \underset{m \in \mathcal{M}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \{-\|f_{\beta,m}\|^2 + V(\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J)\}$$

where  $V(\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J) := \mathbb{E}[\|\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J - f_{\beta,m}\|^2] \leq B_\epsilon \frac{m\Delta}{\pi N}$ . As  $f_\beta$  is unknown, so are  $\|f_{\beta,m}\|^2$  and  $V(\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J)$ . Therefore the value  $m_{th}^{(2)}$  must be estimated, and we consider

$$\widehat{m}^{(2)} = \underset{m \in \mathcal{M}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \{-\|\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J\|^2 + \text{pen}^{(2)}(m)\} = \underset{m \in \mathcal{M}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \{\gamma(\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J) + \text{pen}^{(2)}(m)\} \quad (16)$$

with  $\text{pen}^{(2)}$  a penalty function proportional to the variance term obtained in the bound (15):

$$\text{pen}^{(2)}(m) = \kappa^{(2)} B_\epsilon \frac{\Delta m}{N}$$

where  $\kappa^{(2)}$  is a numerical constant calibrated in Section 4. As before the penalty function is bounded. In this case the data-driven choice of  $m$  uses less observations than the estimator defined by (6):  $NJ$  observations are used in the first case, only  $2N$  in the second. This method is more natural to realize the bias-variance trade off than the one set up in Section 2.1. But we can not set it up for the estimator  $\hat{f}_{\beta,m}$  in a theoretical point of view because of the dependence in  $m$ . It is easier to compute and the oracle risk bound we obtain is as good as the last one (12). In order to evaluate the order of the  $\mathbb{L}^2$ -risk of the final estimator  $\hat{f}_{\beta,\hat{m}^{(2)}}^J$  we establish the following oracle inequality.

**Theorem 7.** *Let assumption (A1) and (A2) hold. Construct an estimator of  $f_\beta$  of the form (13) and choose  $\hat{m}^{(2)}$  according to (16). Then, there exist two constants  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  such that*

$$\mathbb{E}[\|\hat{f}_{\beta,\hat{m}^{(2)}}^J - f_\beta\|^2] \leq C_2 \inf_{m \in \mathcal{M}} (\|f_{\beta,m} - f_\beta\|^2 + \text{pen}^{(2)}(m)) + \frac{C_1}{N}.$$

The constant  $C_2$  is a numerical constant as soon as  $\kappa^{(2)}$  is fixed, and  $C_1$  depends on  $B_\epsilon$ ,  $\Delta$ ,  $\|f_\beta\|$ .

Similarly to Theorem 3, this oracle inequality is a non-asymptotic result and is true for all  $N$ . The choice  $\hat{m}^{(2)}$  achieves automatically the bias penalty trade-off. It is worth stressing that the penalization procedure used to compute  $\hat{f}_{\beta,\hat{m}^{(2)}}^J$  is simpler and faster than the selection method used for  $\hat{f}_{\beta,\hat{m}^{(1)}}$  in Section 2.3. Thus, we shall check that its practical performances remain good even if the number of observations used here is much more limited.

### 3 Comparisons with previous results

In this section, estimators  $\hat{f}_{\beta,m}$  and  $\hat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$  are compared with the estimator proposed in Comte and Samson (2012). Their study is led in the same context. Thus we can compare the construction, the penalty order and theoretical results. Let us introduce the estimator in Comte and Samson (2012) denoted by  $\tilde{f}_{\beta,m}$ , for any real-value  $x$

$$\tilde{f}_{\beta,m}(x) = \frac{2}{NJ} \sum_{k=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^{J/2} \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi m}^{\pi m} e^{-iux} \frac{e^{iuU_{k,j}}}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{\Delta})|^2} du \quad (17)$$

with for  $k \in \{1, \dots, N\}$ ,  $j \in \{1, \dots, J/2\}$  the random variables defined as

$$U_{k,j} := \frac{Y_{k,2j} - Y_{k,2j-1}}{\Delta}.$$

We first compare the construction. This estimator is computed by deconvolution method as the two estimators presented in this paper. The main difference is the average over  $j$  appearing in the definition (17). Through this manipulation, this estimator uses all the observations even for a fixed  $m$ . The aim of the authors by averaging over  $j$  was to improve the variance. Then note that the parameter  $\Delta$  appears (alone) in the denominator of the estimator. This forbids one to take a  $\Delta$  too small. For example if the noise is Gaussian  $1/|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{\Delta})|^2 = e^{\sigma_\epsilon^2 u^2 / \Delta^2}$  can become very large as soon as  $\Delta < 1$ . Another remark is that the cut-off  $\pi m$  is independent of the observations as it is the case for  $\hat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$ . In our work the cut-off is  $m\Delta$ . We choose  $\Delta$  instead of  $\pi$  in order to simplify the calculation.

In a second time we compare the adaptive procedures. The cut-off  $\pi m$  is selected as the minimizer of a penalized contrast, as it is the case for the estimator  $\hat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$ . The chosen penalty is composed of two terms, when we have only one. The first term is  $m/N$  and the second term is  $1/(NJ)$  multiplied with an integrative term depending on  $m$ , for which assumptions on  $f_\epsilon$  are needed to determinate the order. On the contrary, for both of our estimators, the penalty functions have the order  $m/N$  and are explicit. They are thus simpler. Finally an oracle theorem is obtained in Comte and Samson (2012) assuming the noise is ordinary smooth. This assumption is strong and needed to bound the variance term, and to obtain a MISE order. However, they obtain the



optimal rate of convergence of deconvolution cases (in minimax sense Fan (1991)), which is rather slow. In the present work we follow a different strategy aiming to reduce directly the effect of the noise instead of reducing the variance order. Thanks to this approach, no assumption on the noise regularity is needed to obtain Theorems 3, and 7. Furthermore, the obtained rates of convergence are similar to those obtained in the case of density estimation with direct observations.

Furthermore, as already said, estimator  $\tilde{f}_{\beta,m}$  given by equation (17) uses all the available observations while, the two new estimators  $\hat{f}_{\beta,m}$  (when  $m$  is fixed) and  $\hat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$  use only  $2N$  observations for their construction. However for the data-driven selection we need only  $2N$  observations to compute  $\hat{m}^{(2)}$  whereas we need  $NJ$  for  $\hat{m}^{(1)}$ .

Nevertheless, we can define a field of design for each estimator. At first, note that it is possible to compute  $\hat{f}_{\beta,m}$  when  $\Delta < 1$ , while this does not seem reasonable with  $\tilde{f}_{\beta,m}$ . Then, estimator  $\hat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$  given by (13) should benefit from a large total time of observations  $J\Delta$ . Thus, when  $J$  is small we should prefer using  $\hat{f}_{\beta,m}$  to  $\tilde{f}_{\beta,m}$  if all the observations are available. When  $J$  is large and  $\Delta$  is small both  $\hat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$  and  $\hat{f}_{\beta,m}$  should be efficient. And when only the first and the last time of observation are available we use  $\hat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$ . However if  $J$  is large and  $\Delta$  not too small we would prefer  $\tilde{f}_{\beta,m}$ .

## 4 Numerical illustration

### 4.1 Implementation

In this part we implement the three estimators  $\hat{f}_{\beta,m}$ ,  $\hat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$ , and  $\tilde{f}_{\beta,m}$  in order to compare their performances on simulations. We try different scenarios: different designs for  $\beta, \alpha, \epsilon$  (ordinary smooth and super smooth) and different values of the parameters  $J, \Delta, N$ , to observe the behavior of each estimator. First we consider the case of known noise density. We consider simulated data according to model (1). For  $\beta$  we choose the distributions:

- Gaussian  $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$
- mixed Gaussian with  $0.3\mathcal{N}(-1, 1/16) + 0.7\mathcal{N}(1, 1/16)$
- Gamma  $\Gamma(25, 1/25) \times 5$
- mixed Gamma  $(0.3\Gamma(2, 1/2) + 0.7\Gamma(20, 1/5)) \times (1/\sqrt{3})$

for  $\alpha$ :

- Gaussian  $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$
- Gamma  $\Gamma(25, 1/25) \times 5$

for  $\epsilon$ :

- Gaussian  $\mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_\epsilon^2)$  with  $\sigma_\epsilon = 1/4$  and  $1/2$
- Laplace  $\epsilon = \sigma_\epsilon \times Y$  with  $Y$  standard Laplace distribution:  $f_Y(y) = (1/\sqrt{2}) \exp(-\sqrt{2}|x|)$ .

We choose the same distributions as in Comte and Samson (2012) in order to compare our results to theirs. These densities are all associated with variance one. Each estimation calls for Riemann Sums to compute the integrals. They appear in the estimators and in the quantities  $F_\epsilon, B_\epsilon$ . We choose a thin discretization of the interval by taking 200 points.

Then we need to calibrate the penalty constants  $\tilde{\kappa}, \kappa^{(1)}, \kappa^{(2)}$ . We refer to Comte and Samson (2012) for the formula of the penalty of estimator  $\tilde{f}$  and we denote by  $\tilde{\kappa}$  the associated constant. Classically, the constants  $\tilde{\kappa}, \kappa^{(1)}, \kappa^{(2)}$  are fixed thanks to preliminary simulation experiments. Different cases of function  $f_\beta$  have been investigated with different parameter values, and a large number of repetitions. Comparing the MISE obtained as functions of the constants  $\tilde{\kappa}, \kappa^{(1)}, \kappa^{(2)}$  yields to select values making a good compromise over all experiences.

Finally for  $\hat{f}_{\beta,m}$  we choose  $\kappa^{(1)} = 1$ , for  $\hat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$ :  $\kappa^{(2)} = 1$ , and for  $\tilde{f}_{\beta,m}$  we choose  $\tilde{\kappa} = 6$ .

In Section 4.3 we consider that the noise density is unknown, and the numerical results are presented. These new estimators are established in Section 6.8.

## 4.2 Numerical simulation results

All the designs discussed in Section 4.1 produce the same kind of results, thus we only present the case  $\beta$  Gaussian and mixed Gaussian, with  $\alpha, \epsilon$  Gaussian.

First we investigate the results on graphs. Figures 1, 2, and 3, represent two cases: on the left  $\beta$  is Gaussian, on the right  $\beta$  is mixed Gaussian. Figure 1 compares the estimator  $\widehat{f}_{\beta, \widehat{m}^{(1)}}$  (the bold red line), and all the estimators of the collection  $\widehat{f}_{\beta, m}$  (in coloured dashed lines), with the true density of  $\beta$ . We can see that the performance of the selection procedure is visually satisfying. Figure 2 represents 10 final estimators  $\widehat{f}_{\beta, \widehat{m}^{(2)}}^J$  (green dotted lines) versus the true density of  $\beta$ . This figure ensures the stability of the estimation procedure. Indeed the beam of estimators is really narrow. Figures 3 and 4 compare the three estimators for different values of  $\Delta$ . On Figure 3 we see that estimators are really close to each other and close to the true density  $f_\beta$ . Figure 4 illustrates the role of the parameter  $\Delta$ . Indeed, due to its construction, estimator  $\widehat{f}_{\beta, m}$  of Comte and Samson (2012) defined by (17) is more sensitive than the others to a small  $\Delta$ , which is clear on Figure 4.

During this study we also observe differences between estimators when  $\sigma_\epsilon$  increases, especially in the case of a bimodal density  $f_\beta$ . This highlights the role of the noise variance. Estimator  $\widehat{f}^J$  is the most stable with respect to the variance effects.

Finally we compare empirical MISE ( $\times 100$ ) of the three estimators. Results are presented in Table 1 as a function of  $J, N$  and of the distribution of  $\beta$ . One can notice that the three estimators are really close and seem very competitive. For example, estimator  $\widehat{f}_{\beta, m}$  has the smallest MISE for  $J = 6, 20$  and  $\beta$  Gaussian with  $\sigma_\epsilon = 1/4$ . Besides, for  $J = 6$  the two new estimators obtain smaller MISE than the previous estimator  $\widehat{f}_{\beta, m}$ . The influence of  $N$  is clear: the larger  $N$  the smaller the MISE. The MISE are improved when  $N = 200$ , or 2000 whereas for  $N = 20$  especially when  $\beta$  is mixed Gaussian the MISE are high. Nevertheless, the role of  $J$  is less explicit on this table. Indeed, when  $\beta$  is Gaussian, the MISE are smaller when  $J = 6$  than when  $J = 100$ . However, when  $\beta$  is mixed Gaussian, the result are a bit better when  $J$  increases. Besides, when  $J = 20$  or 100, estimator  $\widehat{f}_{\beta, \widehat{m}}^J$  produces the best MISE except for  $N = 2000$ . More precisely the results are better when  $J = N$  or if  $J$  is of order  $\sqrt{N}$ , as we noticed in the theoretical study of  $\widehat{f}_{\beta, m}$ , than when  $J > N$ .

At the end, in order to highlight the role of  $\Delta$  the cases  $\Delta = 0.5$  and  $\Delta = 1$  are surveyed (Table 2). The estimator  $\widehat{f}_{\beta, m}$  was expected to be the most sensitive to this change. Table 2 shows that for  $\Delta = 0.5$  and  $\beta$  Gaussian,  $\widehat{f}_{\beta, m}^J$  outperforms, and when  $\beta$  is mixed Gaussian,  $\widehat{f}_{\beta, m}$  has the smallest MISE.

Then when  $\Delta = 1$ , if  $\beta$  is Gaussian the competition is between  $\widehat{f}_{\beta, m}^J$  and  $\widehat{f}_{\beta, m}$ , and if  $\beta$  is mixed Gaussian  $\widehat{f}_{\beta, m}^J$  has the smallest MISE (except when  $N = 2000$ ). Nevertheless, for these values of  $\Delta$ , especially when  $\beta$  is mixed Gaussian, the results are not as good as before for the three estimators. For  $\widehat{f}_{\beta, m}^J$  and  $\widehat{f}_{\beta, m}$  this may be the consequence of the reduction of the interval of integration  $[-m\Delta, m\Delta]$  which becomes smaller than  $[-m, m]$  when  $\Delta < 1$  and thus the estimation may be affected.

## 4.3 Case of unknown noise density

We briefly consider the case of  $f_\epsilon$  unknown. Several papers study the deconvolution method with unknown noise density from a theoretical point of view: Neumann (1997), Comte and Lacour (2011), Meister and Neumann (2010), Kappus and Mabon (2014). Here, we plug estimators of unknown quantities using a transformation of the data adapted from Comte and Samson (2012).

We generalize  $\widehat{f}_{\beta, m}$  and  $\widehat{f}_{\beta, m}^J$  to unknown  $f_\epsilon$  by computing new estimators  $\widehat{\widehat{f}}_{\beta, m}$  and  $\widehat{\widehat{f}}_{\beta, m}^J$  (see Section 6.8 for details). The selection procedures presented in Section 2.3 and 13 are using the constants  $F_\epsilon$  and  $B_\epsilon$ . These quantities are estimated using relation (30) established in Section 6.8, and we obtain final estimators by applying the previous set up adaptive selection procedure with plugged estimated quantities. Of course, the new estimator  $\widehat{\widehat{f}}_{\beta, m}^J$  requires that intermediate observations between the first and the last are available.

In Table 3, we compare empirical MISE of  $\widehat{\widehat{f}}_{\beta, m}$ ,  $\widehat{\widehat{f}}_{\beta, m}^J$  and  $\widehat{\widehat{f}}_{\beta, m}$  built in Comte and Samson (2012), as a function of  $J, N$  and the distribution of  $\beta$ . The same comments as for Table 1 apply here.

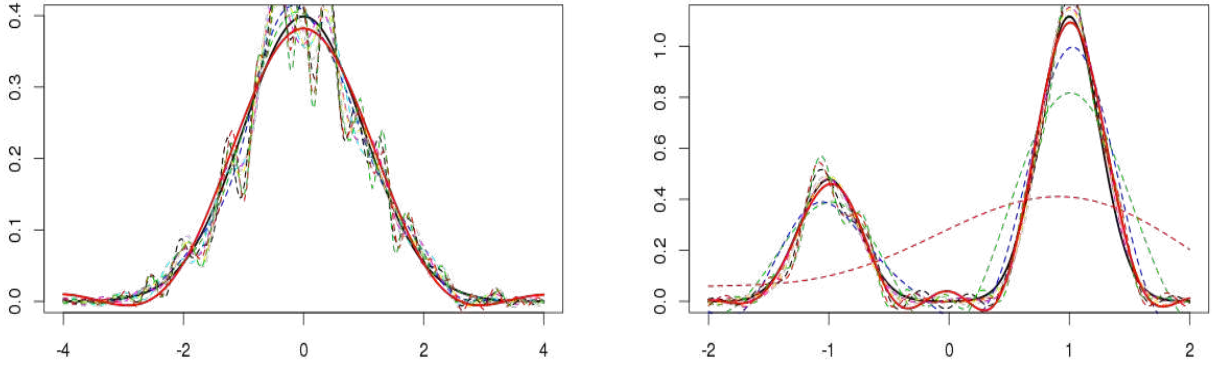


Figure 1: The black bold line is the true density of  $\beta$ : Gaussian on the left, mixed Gaussian on the right. The colored dashed lines are the proposed estimators  $\hat{f}_{\beta,m}$ , the red bold line is the selected estimator  $\hat{f}_{\beta,\hat{m}^{(1)}}$ , with  $N = 500$ ,  $J = 10$ ,  $\Delta = 2$ ,  $\sigma_\epsilon = 0.25$

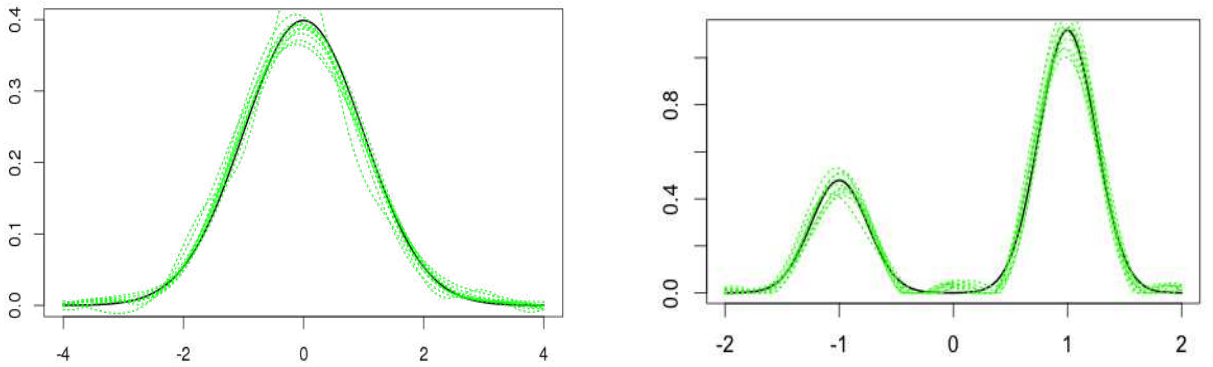


Figure 2: The black bold line is the true density of  $\beta$ : Gaussian on the left, mixed Gaussian on the right. The green dotted lines: 10 estimators  $\hat{f}_{\beta,\hat{m}^{(2)}}^J$  with  $N = 500$ ,  $J = 6$ ,  $\Delta = 2$ ,  $\sigma_\epsilon = 0.25$

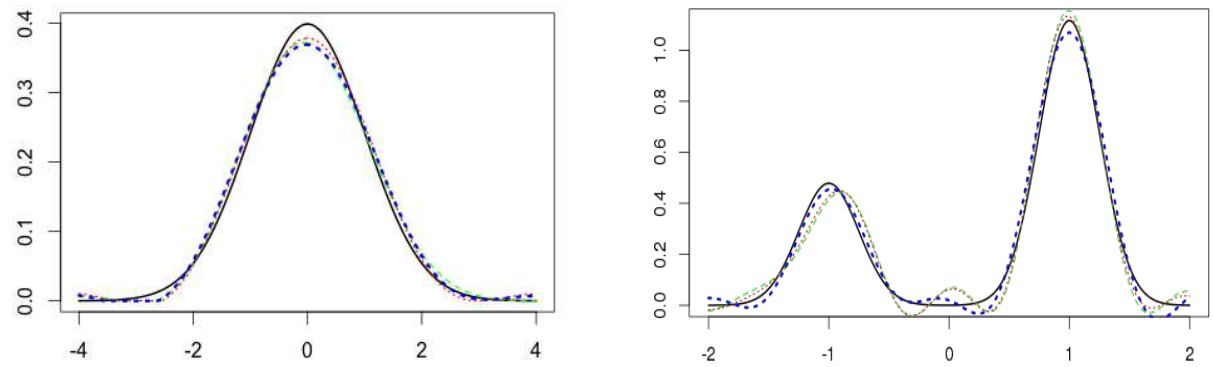


Figure 3: The black line is the true density of  $\beta$ : Gaussian on the left, mixed Gaussian on the right. The green dashed line is  $\tilde{f}_{\beta,\tilde{m}}$ , the red thin dotted line is  $\hat{f}_{\beta,\hat{m}^{(1)}}^J$ , the thick blue dotted line is  $\hat{f}_{\beta,\hat{m}^{(2)}}^J$ ,  $N = 500$ ,  $J = 6$ ,  $\Delta = 2$ ,  $\sigma_\epsilon = 0.25$

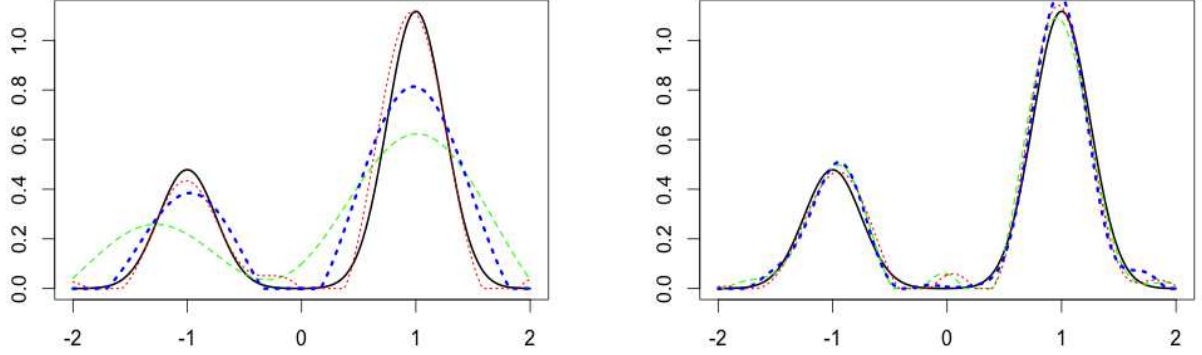


Figure 4: The black bold line is the true density of  $\beta$ : mixed Gaussian. The green dashed line is  $\tilde{f}_{\beta,\tilde{m}}$ , the red thin dotted line is  $\hat{f}_{\beta,\tilde{m}^{(1)}}$ , the thick blue dotted line is  $\hat{f}_{\beta,\tilde{m}^{(2)}}^J$ ,  $N = 500$ ,  $J = 6$ ,  $\sigma_\epsilon = 0.5$ . On the left  $\Delta = 1$ , on the right  $\Delta = 3$

Table 1: Empirical MISE ( $\times 100$ ) computed from 100 simulated data sets with  $\alpha, \epsilon$  Gaussian, and  $\Delta = 2$  when  $f_\epsilon$  is known

Estimator	$J$	distribution of $\beta$	$\sigma_\epsilon = 1/4$		$\sigma_\epsilon = 1/2$		
			$N = 20$	$N = 200$	$N = 20$	$N = 200$	$N = 2000$
$\tilde{f}_{\beta,m}$	6	Gaussian	5.08	0.47	6.78	0.55	0.04
$\hat{f}_{\beta,m}$	6	Gaussian	1.94	0.24	4.21	0.30	0.11
$\hat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$	6	Gaussian	2.27	0.29	2.88	0.32	0.03
$\tilde{f}_{\beta,m}$	6	Mixed Gaussian	30.0	2.40	34.9	6.30	3.04
$\hat{f}_{\beta,m}$	6	Mixed Gaussian	30.6	3.51	29.9	4.41	0.37
$\hat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$	6	Mixed Gaussian	9.71	2.77	10.8	2.84	2.42
$\tilde{f}_{\beta,m}$	20	Gaussian	3.71	0.43	4.26	5.74	0.04
$\hat{f}_{\beta,m}$	20	Gaussian	1.78	0.29	2.33	4.14	0.11
$\hat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$	20	Gaussian	2.44	0.44	2.54	2.76	0.03
$\tilde{f}_{\beta,m}$	20	Mixed Gaussian	16.1	1.51	21.2	5.75	1.39
$\hat{f}_{\beta,m}$	20	Mixed Gaussian	28.8	3.97	29.4	4.10	0.35
$\hat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$	20	Mixed Gaussian	10.3	1.24	10.0	1.17	0.33
$\tilde{f}_{\beta,m}$	100	Gaussian	3.83	0.36	12.9	0.35	0.53
$\hat{f}_{\beta,m}$	100	Gaussian	4.62	2.61	31.3	0.91	0.51
$\hat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$	100	Gaussian	2.73	0.27	9.97	0.30	2.22
$\tilde{f}_{\beta,m}$	100	Mixed Gaussian	12.4	1.30	14.2	3.28	0.56
$\hat{f}_{\beta,m}$	100	Mixed Gaussian	29.0	3.67	31.0	4.10	0.40
$\hat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$	100	Mixed Gaussian	10.1	1.20	10.7	1.24	0.36

Table 2: Empirical MISE ( $\times 100$ ) computed from 100 simulated data sets with  $\alpha, \epsilon$  Gaussian, when  $f_\epsilon$  is known,  $J = 6$

Estimator	distribution of $\beta$	$\sigma_\epsilon = 1/4$			$\sigma_\epsilon = 1/2$		
		$\Delta$	$N = 20$	$N = 200$	$N = 20$	$N = 200$	$N = 2000$
$\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}$	Gaussian	0.5	4.60	0.48	6.48	4.11	0.61
$\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}$	Gaussian	0.5	3.62	0.34	7.27	0.86	0.10
$\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$	Gaussian	0.5	2.61	0.24	2.46	0.30	0.10
$\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}$	Mixed Gaussian	0.5	36.5	15.4	29.6	35.6	35.5
$\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}$	Mixed Gaussian	0.5	29.8	37.1	29.8	4.03	0.50
$\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$	Mixed Gaussian	0.5	35.6	32.6	35.9	32.8	32.75
$\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}$	Gaussian	1	5.10	0.52	5.88	0.53	0.06
$\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}$	Gaussian	1	3.83	0.24	4.07	0.24	0.10
$\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$	Gaussian	1	2.65	0.31	2.75	0.31	0.03
$\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}$	Mixed Gaussian	1	31.9	6.76	38.7	23.9	14.1
$\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}$	Mixed Gaussian	1	37.6	6.81	37.6	6.96	2.24
$\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$	Mixed Gaussian	1	9.80	6.80	10.97	6.89	6.48

But we notice, more precisely, that  $\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}$  has the smallest MISE most of the time when  $J = 6, 20$  and  $\beta$  is Gaussian except for  $N = 2000$ , and it is  $\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$  when  $\beta$  mixed Gaussian. Similar plots than before were obtained in this case (not shown).

## 5 Concluding remarks

In summary, in this work we introduce two advanced estimators  $\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}$  and  $\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$  which are completely data driven. We obtained convincing theoretical results, validated by numerical study. In particular the original selection method set up in Section 2.1 leads to an adaptive estimator  $\widehat{f}_{\beta,\widehat{m}}$ . Furthermore it satisfies an oracle inequality which shows that it realizes automatically the bias-penalty trade-off for all  $N$  and all regularity of  $f_\beta, f_\epsilon$ . The second estimator  $\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$  seems simpler, nevertheless it produces really good theoretical results and also on simulations, in Section 4.2. It also has the advantage of using only the first and the last time of observation by opposition with  $\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}$ .

The numerical study confirms the theoretical study: we can define a field of designs  $N, J$  for each estimator. In particular, when  $J$  is small and all the observations are available we will prefer  $\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}$ . But when  $J\Delta$  is large, and/or when only the first and the last observations are available, we will prefer  $\widehat{f}_{\beta,m}^J$ .

We may wonder if the estimation of  $f_\alpha$  could be improved. Moreover as no independence assumption is set between  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , the joint distribution of the couple may be estimated over anisotropic regularity spaces. These two questions will be studied in forgoing works.

## Acknowledgements

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## 6 Proofs

### 6.1 Talagrand's inequality

The following result follows from the Talagrand concentration inequality given in Klein and Rio (2005) and arguments in Birgé and Massart (1998).

Table 3: Empirical MISE ( $\times 100$ ) computed from 100 simulated data sets with  $\alpha, \epsilon$  Gaussian, and  $\Delta = 2$ , with  $f_\epsilon$  unknown and estimated

Estimator	$J$	distribution of $\beta$	$\sigma_\epsilon = 1/4$		$\sigma_\epsilon = 1/2$		
			$N = 20$	$N = 200$	$N = 20$	$N = 200$	$N = 2000$
$\widetilde{f_{\beta,m}}$	6	Gaussian	6.37	0.66	6.37	0.54	0.04
$\widehat{f_{\beta,m}}$	6	Gaussian	2.22	0.28	2.32	0.30	0.11
$\widehat{f_{\beta,m}^J}$	6	Gaussian	3.14	0.31	3.53	0.29	0.04
$\widetilde{f_{\beta,m}}$	6	mixed Gaussian	25.7	2.75	35.5	6.61	3.78
$\widehat{f_{\beta,m}}$	6	mixed Gaussian	30.4	3.98	29.8	3.60	0.38
$\widehat{f_{\beta,m}^J}$	6	mixed Gaussian	10.3	1.23	10.3	1.36	0.17
$\widetilde{f_{\beta,m}}$	20	Gaussian	4.32	0.41	4.16	0.40	0.04
$\widehat{f_{\beta,m}}$	20	Gaussian	1.93	0.25	2.09	0.26	0.11
$\widehat{f_{\beta,m}^J}$	20	Gaussian	2.57	0.30	2.12	0.26	0.04
$\widetilde{f_{\beta,m}}$	20	mixed Gaussian	17.5	1.70	27.2	6.12	3.50
$\widehat{f_{\beta,m}}$	20	mixed Gaussian	31.1	4.02	28.8	4.13	0.17
$\widehat{f_{\beta,m}^J}$	20	mixed Gaussian	9.68	1.29	10.2	1.26	0.15
$\widetilde{f_{\beta,m}}$	100	Gaussian	3.62	0.38	3.27	0.41	0.38
$\widehat{f_{\beta,m}}$	100	Gaussian	6.62	2.91	5.46	0.74	0.73
$\widehat{f_{\beta,m}^J}$	100	Gaussian	2.136	0.32	2.314	0.33	0.28
$\widetilde{f_{\beta,m}}$	100	mixed Gaussian	13.4	1.16	23.3	5.95	3.50
$\widehat{f_{\beta,m}}$	100	mixed Gaussian	27.3	3.51	30.2	4.00	0.23
$\widehat{f_{\beta,m}^J}$	100	mixed Gaussian	10.6	1.10	10.7	1.26	0.14

**Proposition 8.** Consider  $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ ,  $\mathcal{F}$  a class at most countable of measurable functions, and  $(X_i)_{i \in \{1, \dots, N\}}$  a family of real independent random variables. One defines, for all  $f \in \mathcal{F}$ ,

$$\nu_N(f) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (f(X_i) - \mathbb{E}[f(X_i)]).$$

Supposing there are three positive constants  $M$ ,  $H$  and  $v$  such that  $\sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \|f\|_\infty \leq M$ ,

$\mathbb{E}[\sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} |\nu_N f|] \leq H$ , and  $\sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \text{Var}(f(X_i)) \leq v$ , then for all  $\alpha > 0$ ,

$$\mathbb{E} \left[ \left( \sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} |\nu_N(f)|^2 - 2(1 + 2\alpha)H^2 \right)_+ \right] \leq \frac{4}{K_1} \left( \frac{v}{N} \exp \left( -K_1 \alpha \frac{NH^2}{v} \right) \right) + \frac{49M^2}{K_1 C^2(\alpha) N^2} \exp \left( -\frac{\sqrt{2} K_1 C(\alpha) \sqrt{\alpha} NH}{7M} \right)$$

with  $C(\alpha) = (\sqrt{1 + \alpha} - 1) \wedge 1$ , and  $K_1 = \frac{1}{6}$ .

## 6.2 Proof of Proposition 1

The MISE of  $\widehat{f}_{\beta, m}$  is defined by  $\mathbb{E}[\|\widehat{f}_{\beta, m} - f_\beta\|^2] = \|\mathbb{E}[\widehat{f}_{\beta, m}] - f_\beta\|^2 + \mathbb{E}[\|\widehat{f}_{\beta, m} - \mathbb{E}[\widehat{f}_{\beta, m}]\|^2]$ . First, according to the definition of  $f_{\beta, m}$ ,  $\widehat{f}_{\beta, m}$  is an unbiased estimator of  $f_{\beta, m}$ , thus the squared integrated bias term is  $\|\mathbb{E}[\widehat{f}_{\beta, m}] - f_\beta\|^2 = \|f_{\beta, m} - f_\beta\|^2$ . But, for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ :

$$f_\beta(x) - \mathbb{E}(\widehat{f}_{\beta, m}(x)) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-iux} (f_\beta^*(u) - f_{\beta, m}^*(u)) du = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{|u| \geq m\Delta} e^{-iux} f_\beta^*(u) du.$$

We obtain with Plancherel-Parserval's theorem

$$\|f_\beta - f_{\beta, m}\|^2 = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{|u| \geq m\Delta} |f_\beta^*(u)|^2 du.$$

We study now the term of variance  $V(\widehat{f}_{\beta, m}) = \|\mathbb{E}[\widehat{f}_{\beta, m} - \mathbb{E}(\widehat{f}_{\beta, m})]\|^2 = \mathbb{E}[\|\widehat{f}_{\beta, m} - f_{\beta, m}\|^2]$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \|\widehat{f}_{\beta, m} - f_{\beta, m}\|^2 &= \left\| \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-m\Delta}^{m\Delta} e^{-iux} \frac{\widehat{f}_{Z_m}^*(u) - f_{Z_m}^*(u)}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{m\Delta})|^2} du \right\|^2 = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-m\Delta}^{m\Delta} \left| \frac{\widehat{f}_{Z_m}^*(u) - f_{Z_m}^*(u)}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{m\Delta})|^2} \right|^2 du \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-m\Delta}^{m\Delta} \left| \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{e^{iuZ_{k, m}} - \mathbb{E}[e^{iuZ_{k, m}}]}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{m\Delta})|^2} \right|^2 du. \end{aligned}$$

By noticing that the random variables in the last sum are i.i.d, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[\|\widehat{f}_{\beta, m} - f_{\beta, m}\|^2] &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-m\Delta}^{m\Delta} \text{Var} \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{e^{iuZ_{k, m}}}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{m\Delta})|^2} \right) du = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-m\Delta}^{m\Delta} \frac{1}{N} \frac{\text{Var}(e^{iuZ_{k, m}})}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{m\Delta})|^4} du \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2\pi N} \int_{-m\Delta}^{m\Delta} \frac{du}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{m\Delta})|^4} = F_\epsilon \frac{m\Delta}{2\pi N}. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

## 6.3 Notations

We define

$$\begin{aligned} S_m &= \{t \in \mathbb{L}^2, \text{supp}(t^*) = [-m\Delta, m\Delta]\} \\ B_{m, m'} &= \{t \in S_m \vee m', \|t\| = 1\} \end{aligned}$$

and for  $t \in S_m$ :

$$\phi_t^j(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int t^*(-u) \frac{e^{iux}}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{j\Delta})|^2} du. \quad (18)$$

Then we define the empirical contrast for an estimator  $\hat{f}$  of  $f$ , for  $t \in S_m$

$$\nu(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \langle t^*, (\hat{f}_m - f_m)^* \rangle. \quad (19)$$

In order to make the reading easier we suppress the subscript  $\beta$ , and the exponents (1) in the following.

### 6.4 Proof of Theorem 3

Let us study the term  $\|\hat{f}_{\hat{m}} - f\|^2$ . For all  $m \in \mathcal{M}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \|\hat{f}_{\hat{m}} - f\|^2 &\leq \left( \|\hat{f}_{\hat{m}} - \hat{f}_{\hat{m} \wedge m}\| + \|\hat{f}_{\hat{m} \wedge m} - \hat{f}_m\| + \|\hat{f}_m - f\| \right)^2 \\ &\leq 3 \left( \|\hat{f}_{\hat{m}} - \hat{f}_{\hat{m} \wedge m}\|^2 + \|\hat{f}_{\hat{m} \wedge m} - \hat{f}_m\|^2 + \|\hat{f}_m - f\|^2 \right). \end{aligned}$$

We are going to examine the three terms involved separately. For the first:

$$\begin{aligned} \|\hat{f}_{\hat{m}} - \hat{f}_{\hat{m} \wedge m}\|^2 &= \|\hat{f}_{\hat{m}} - \hat{f}_m\|^2 \mathbf{1}_{\{\hat{m} \geq m\}} \\ &= (\|\hat{f}_{\hat{m}} - \hat{f}_m\|^2 - \text{pen}(\hat{m})) \mathbf{1}_{\{\hat{m} \geq m\}} + \text{pen}(\hat{m}) \mathbf{1}_{\{\hat{m} \geq m\}} \\ &\leq \hat{\Gamma}_m + \text{pen}(\hat{m}). \end{aligned}$$

After,

$$\begin{aligned} \|\hat{f}_{\hat{m} \wedge m} - \hat{f}_m\|^2 &= \|\hat{f}_{\hat{m}} - \hat{f}_m\|^2 \mathbf{1}_{\{\hat{m} \leq m\}} \\ &= (\|\hat{f}_{\hat{m}} - \hat{f}_m\|^2 - \text{pen}(m)) \mathbf{1}_{\{\hat{m} \leq m\}} + \text{pen}(m) \mathbf{1}_{\{\hat{m} \leq m\}} \\ &\leq \hat{\Gamma}_{\hat{m}} + \text{pen}(m), \end{aligned}$$

what gives

$$\begin{aligned} \|\hat{f}_{\hat{m}} - f\|^2 &\leq 3 \left( \hat{\Gamma}_{\hat{m}} + \text{pen}(m) + \hat{\Gamma}_m + \text{pen}(\hat{m}) + \|\hat{f}_m - f\|^2 \right) \\ &\leq 6(\text{pen}(m) + \hat{\Gamma}_m) + 3\|\hat{f}_m - f\|^2. \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

Now we study  $\hat{\Gamma}_m$ . For  $j \geq m$ , we have

$$\|\hat{f}_j - \hat{f}_m\|^2 \leq 3 \left( \|\hat{f}_j - f_j\|^2 + \|f_j - f_m\|^2 + \|f_m - \hat{f}_m\|^2 \right).$$

According to Plancherel-Parseval's theorem

$$\begin{aligned} \|f_j - f_m\|^2 &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \|f_j^* - f_m^*\|^2 = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{m\Delta \leq |u| \leq j\Delta} |f^*(u)|^2 du \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{|u| \geq m\Delta} |f^*(u)|^2 du = \|f - f_m\|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Besides

$$\begin{aligned} \|\hat{f}_m - f\|^2 &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \|\hat{f}_m^* - f^*\|^2 = \frac{1}{2\pi} \|(\hat{f}_m^* - f_m^*) + (f_m^* - f^*)\|^2 \\ &= \|\hat{f}_m - f_m\|^2 + \|f_m - f\|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\|\hat{f}_j - \hat{f}_m\|^2 \leq 3(\|\hat{f}_j - f_j\|^2 + \|\hat{f}_m - f\|^2).$$

Finally,

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\Gamma}_m &= \max_{m \leq j \leq N \wedge J} \left( \|\hat{f}_m - \hat{f}_j\|^2 - \text{pen}(j) \right)_+ \\ &\leq \max_{m \leq j \leq N \wedge J} \left( 3\|\hat{f}_j - f_j\|^2 + 3\|\hat{f}_m - f\|^2 - \text{pen}(j) \right)_+ \\ &\leq 3 \max_{m \leq j \leq N \wedge J} \left( \|\hat{f}_j - f_j\|^2 - \frac{1}{3} \text{pen}(j) \right)_+ + 3\|\hat{f}_m - f\|^2 \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$



Finally, gathering (20) and (21) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\|\widehat{f}_{\widehat{m}} - f\|^2 &\leq 6 \left( 3 \max_{m \leq j \leq N \wedge J} \left( \|\widehat{f}_j - f_j\|^2 - \frac{1}{3} \text{pen}(j) \right)_+ + 3 \|\widehat{f}_m - f\|^2 + \text{pen}(m) \right) + 3 \|\widehat{f}_m - f\|^2 \\ &\leq 18 \max_{m \leq j \leq N \wedge J} \left( \|\widehat{f}_j - f_j\|^2 - \frac{1}{3} \text{pen}(j) \right)_+ + 21 \|\widehat{f}_m - f\|^2 + 6 \text{pen}(m).\end{aligned}$$

The Proposition 1 implies for all  $m \in \{1, \dots, N \wedge J\}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[\|\widehat{f}_{\widehat{m}} - f\|^2] &\leq 18 \sum_{j=m}^J \mathbb{E} \left[ \left( \|\widehat{f}_j - f_j\|^2 - \text{pen}(j)/3 \right)_+ \right] + 21 \|f_m - f\|^2 + 6 \text{pen}(m) + \frac{21\Delta}{2\pi} F_\epsilon \frac{m}{N} \\ &\leq 18 \sum_{j=m}^J \mathbb{E} \left[ \left( \|\widehat{f}_j - f_j\|^2 - \text{pen}(j)/3 \right)_+ \right] + 21 \|f_m - f\|^2 + \left(6 + \frac{21}{2\pi\kappa}\right) \text{pen}(m) \quad (22)\end{aligned}$$

It remains to bound from above the term  $\sum_{j=m}^{N \wedge J} \mathbb{E} \left[ \left( \|\widehat{f}_j - f_j\|^2 - \text{pen}(j)/3 \right)_+ \right]$ , this is the aim of Lemma 9.

**Lemma 9.** *There exists a constant  $C''$  such that for all  $m \in \mathcal{M}$ ,*

$$\sum_{j=m}^{N \wedge J} \mathbb{E} \left[ \left( \|\widehat{f}_j - f_j\|^2 - \text{pen}(j)/3 \right)_+ \right] \leq \frac{C''}{N}.$$

Lemma 9 and inequality (22) imply that, for all  $m \in \mathcal{M}$

$$\mathbb{E}[\|\widehat{f}_{\widehat{m}} - f\|^2] \leq 21 \|f_m - f\|^2 + \left(6 + \frac{21}{2\pi\kappa}\right) \text{pen}(m) + 18 \frac{C''}{N}.$$

Thus, in particular

$$\mathbb{E}[\|\widehat{f}_{\widehat{m}} - f\|^2] \leq C \inf_{m \in \mathcal{M}} (\|f_m - f\|^2 + \text{pen}(m)) + \frac{C'}{N}$$

with  $C$  and  $C'$  two constants.  $\square$

## 6.5 Proof of Lemma 9

Consider  $j \in \mathcal{M}$ , and  $t \in S_j$ , define the empirical contrast:

$$\begin{aligned}\nu(t) &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \langle t^*, (\widehat{f}_j - f_j)^* \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} t^*(-u) \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{e^{iuZ_{k,j}}}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{j\Delta})|^2} \mathbf{1}_{[-j\Delta, j\Delta]}(u) - f_j^*(u) \right) du \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \int_{-j\Delta}^{j\Delta} t^*(-u) \frac{e^{iuZ_{k,j}} - \mathbb{E}[e^{iuZ_{k,j}}]}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{j\Delta})|^2} du \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \phi_t^j(Z_{k,j}) - \mathbb{E}[\phi_t^j(Z_{k,j})].\end{aligned}$$

Let us define  $A_j = \{t \in S_j, \|t\| = 1\}$ , then  $\|\widehat{f}_j - f_j\|^2 = \sup_{t \in A_j} |\nu(t)|^2$ . We use Talagrand's inequality

(see Proposition 8) to prove the lemma. We study first the upper bound:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sup_{t \in A_j} \|\phi^j\|_\infty &\leq \sup_{t \in A_j} \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} |t^*(u)| \frac{\mathbf{1}_{[-j\Delta, j\Delta]}(u)}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{j\Delta})|^2} du \\
&\leq \sup_{t \in A_j} \frac{1}{2\pi} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}} |t^*(u)|^2 du \right)^{1/2} \left( \int_{-j\Delta}^{j\Delta} \frac{1}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{j\Delta})|^4} du \right)^{1/2} \\
&\leq \sup_{t \in A_j} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \|t\| \left( \int_{-j\Delta}^{j\Delta} \frac{du}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{j\Delta})|^4} \right)^{1/2} \\
&\leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left( \int_{-j\Delta}^{j\Delta} \frac{du}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{j\Delta})|^4} \right)^{1/2} = \sqrt{\frac{\Delta}{2\pi}} \sqrt{jF_\epsilon} := M.
\end{aligned} \tag{23}$$

Then according to Proposition 1, for all  $j \in \mathcal{M}$

$$\mathbb{E}[\|\widehat{f}_j - f_j\|^2] \leq F_\epsilon \frac{j\Delta}{2\pi N},$$

thus

$$\mathbb{E}[\sup_{t \in A_j} |\nu(t)|^2] = \mathbb{E}[\|\widehat{f}_j - f_j\|^2] \leq F_\epsilon \frac{j\Delta}{2\pi N} := H^2. \tag{24}$$

Finally we examine the term:

$$\begin{aligned}
4\pi^2 \text{Var} \phi_t^j(Z_{k,j}) &\leq 4\pi^2 \mathbb{E} \left( \phi_t^j(Z_{k,j}) \overline{\phi_t^j(Z_{k,j})} \right) \\
&\leq \mathbb{E} \left[ \left( \int_{-j\Delta}^{j\Delta} t^*(-u) \frac{e^{iuZ_{k,j}}}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{j\Delta})|^2} du \right) \overline{\left( \int_{-j\Delta}^{j\Delta} t^*(-v) \frac{e^{ivZ_{k,j}}}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{v}{j\Delta})|^2} dv \right)} \right] \\
&= \mathbb{E} \left[ \left( \int_{-j\Delta}^{j\Delta} t^*(-u) \frac{e^{iuZ_{k,j}}}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{j\Delta})|^2} du \right) \left( \int_{-j\Delta}^{j\Delta} t^*(v) \frac{e^{-ivZ_{k,j}}}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{v}{j\Delta})|^2} dv \right) \right] \\
&= \mathbb{E} \left[ \int_{-j\Delta}^{j\Delta} \int_{-j\Delta}^{j\Delta} t^*(-u) t^*(v) \frac{e^{i(u-v)Z_{k,j}}}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{j\Delta})|^2 |f_\epsilon^*(\frac{v}{j\Delta})|^2} dudv \right].
\end{aligned}$$

Yet  $\mathbb{E}(e^{i(u-v)Z_{k,j}}) = f_Z^*(u-v) = f^*(u-v) |f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u-v}{j\Delta})|^2$ , with Fubini's Theorem, it implies

$$4\pi^2 \text{Var}(\phi^j(Z_{k,j})) \leq \int_{-j\Delta}^{j\Delta} \int_{-j\Delta}^{j\Delta} t^*(-u) t^*(v) \frac{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u-v}{j\Delta})|^2}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{j\Delta})|^2 |f_\epsilon^*(\frac{v}{j\Delta})|^2} f^*(u-v) dudv.$$

Under assumption **(A2)** we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sup_{u, v \in [-j\Delta, j\Delta]} \left| \frac{f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u-v}{j\Delta})}{f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{j\Delta}) f_\epsilon^*(\frac{v}{j\Delta})} \right|^2 &= \sup_{x, y \in [-1, 1]} \left| \frac{f_\epsilon^*(x-y)}{f_\epsilon^*(x) f_\epsilon^*(y)} \right|^2 \leq \sup_{x, y \in [-1, 1]} \left| \frac{1}{f_\epsilon^*(x) f_\epsilon^*(y)} \right|^2 \\
&\leq \sup_{x \in [-1, 1]} \left| \frac{1}{f_\epsilon^*(x)} \right|^4 := C^2 < +\infty.
\end{aligned}$$

thus

$$\begin{aligned}
4\pi^2 \sup_{t \in A_j} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \text{Var}(\phi^j(Z_{j,k})) &\leq \sup_{t \in A_j} \int_{-j\Delta}^{j\Delta} \int_{-j\Delta}^{j\Delta} C^2 |t^*(-u) t^*(v) f^*(u-v)| dudv \\
&\stackrel{C.S.}{\leq} \sup_{t \in A_j} 2\pi C^2 \|t\|^2 \left( \int_{-j\Delta}^{j\Delta} \int_{-j\Delta}^{j\Delta} |f^*(u-v)|^2 dudv \right)^{1/2} \\
&\leq 2\pi C^2 \left( \int_{-2j\Delta}^{2j\Delta} \int_{-j\Delta}^{j\Delta} |f^*(z)|^2 dudz \right)^{1/2} \\
&\leq C^2 4\pi \sqrt{\pi\Delta} \|f\| \sqrt{j} := 4\pi^2 v,
\end{aligned}$$

with

$$v := \frac{C^2 \|f\|}{\sqrt{\pi}} \sqrt{j\Delta}. \quad (25)$$

We achieve with the Talagrand's theorem, gathering the bounds (23), (24), (25), for  $\alpha = 1/2$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left[ \left( \|\widehat{f}_j - f_j\|^2 - 4H^2 \right)_+ \right] &\leq \frac{4}{K_1} \left( \frac{C^2 \|f\|}{\sqrt{\pi}} \frac{\sqrt{j\Delta}}{N} \exp \left( -\frac{K_1}{4} \frac{F_\epsilon}{\sqrt{\pi} C^2 \|f\|} \sqrt{j\Delta} \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{49\Delta F_\epsilon}{2\pi K_1 C^2 (1/2)} \frac{j}{N^2} \exp \left( -\frac{K_1 C (1/2)}{7\sqrt{2}} \sqrt{N} \right) \right) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\mathbb{E} \left[ \left( \|\widehat{f}_j - f_j\|^2 - 4H^2 \right)_+ \right] \leq C_1 C^2 \|f\| \sqrt{\Delta} \frac{\sqrt{j}}{N} \exp \left( -C_2 \frac{F_\epsilon \sqrt{\Delta}}{C^2 \|f\|} \sqrt{j} \right) + C_3 F_\epsilon \Delta \frac{j}{N^2} \exp \left( -C_4 \sqrt{N} \right)$$

where  $C_i$  are positive numerical constants. Then we sum this inequality if  $\kappa \geq 24/\pi$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=m}^J \mathbb{E} \left( \|\widehat{f}_j - f_j\|^2 - \text{pen}(j)/3 \right)_+ &\leq \sum_{j=m}^J \left( C_1 C^2 \|f\| \sqrt{\Delta} \frac{\sqrt{j}}{N} \exp \left( -C_2 \frac{F_\epsilon \sqrt{\Delta}}{C^2 \|f\|} \sqrt{j} \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + C_3 F_\epsilon \Delta \frac{j}{N^2} \exp \left( -C_4 \sqrt{N} \right) \right) \end{aligned}$$

We remark that  $1 \leq j \leq N \wedge J$  implies:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=m}^{N \wedge J} \mathbb{E} \left[ \left( \|\widehat{f}_j - f_j\|^2 - \text{pen}(j)/3 \right)_+ \right] &\leq \frac{C_1 C^2 \|f\| \sqrt{\Delta}}{N} \sum_{j=1}^{+\infty} \sqrt{j} e^{-(C_2 \frac{F_\epsilon \sqrt{\Delta}}{C^2 \|f\|}) \sqrt{j}} \\ &\quad + \frac{C_3 F_\epsilon \Delta}{N^2} \sum_{j=1}^{+\infty} j e^{-C_4 \sqrt{j}}. \end{aligned}$$

The sum  $\sum_{j=0}^{+\infty} j e^{-C\sqrt{j}}$  converges  $\forall C > 0$ , there exists a constant  $C''$  such as

$$18 \sum_{j=m}^{N \wedge J} \mathbb{E} \left( \|\widehat{f}_j - f_j\|^2 - \text{pen}(j)/3 \right)_+ \leq \frac{C''}{N}. \quad \square$$

## 6.6 Proof of Theorem 7

We also omit the subscript  $\beta$ , and the exponents (2) in the following.

For  $t \in S_m$ , and  $m \in \mathcal{M}$ , we consider the contrast  $\gamma$  (independent on  $m$ )

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma(t) &= \|t\|^2 - \frac{2}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{1}{2\pi} \int t^*(-u) \frac{e^{iuZ_{k,J}}}{|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{J\Delta})|^2} du \\ &= \|t\|^2 - \frac{2}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \phi_t^J(Z_{k,J}) \\ &= \|t\|^2 - 2 \langle t, \widehat{f}_m^J \rangle = \|t - \widehat{f}_m^J\|^2 - \|\widehat{f}_m^J\|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Obviously  $\gamma(\widehat{f}_m^J) = -\|\widehat{f}_m^J\|^2$ . We define

$$\nu(t) := \frac{1}{2\pi} \langle t^*, (\widehat{f}_m^J - f_m)^* \rangle = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \phi_t^J(Z_{k,J}) - \mathbb{E}[\phi_t^J(Z_{k,J})]$$

then

$$(\gamma(t) - \|t - f\|^2) - (\gamma(s) - \|s - f\|^2) = -2\nu(t - s) \quad (26)$$

Thanks to the definition (16) of  $\widehat{m}$ :  $\gamma(\widehat{f}_{\widehat{m}}^J) + \text{pen}(\widehat{m}) \leq \gamma(f_m) + \text{pen}(m)$ . Using the equation (26) we obtain

$$\|\widehat{f}_{\widehat{m}}^J - f\|^2 \leq \|f_m - f\|^2 + 2\nu(\widehat{f}_{\widehat{m}}^J - f_m) + \text{pen}(m) - \text{pen}(\widehat{m}).$$

Let us remark that

$$\nu(\widehat{f}_{\widehat{m}}^J - f_m) = \|\widehat{f}_{\widehat{m}}^J - f_m\| \nu \left( \frac{\widehat{f}_{\widehat{m}}^J - f_m}{\|\widehat{f}_{\widehat{m}}^J - f_m\|} \right).$$

This leads us to

$$\begin{aligned} \|\widehat{f}_{\widehat{m}}^J - f\|^2 &\leq \|f_m - f\|^2 + 2\|\widehat{f}_{\widehat{m}}^J - f_m\| \nu \left( \frac{\widehat{f}_{\widehat{m}}^J - f_m}{\|\widehat{f}_{\widehat{m}}^J - f_m\|} \right) + \text{pen}(m) - \text{pen}(\widehat{m}) \\ &\leq \|f_m - f\|^2 + 2\|\widehat{f}_{\widehat{m}}^J - f_m\| \sup_{t \in B_{m, \widehat{m}}} \nu(t) + \text{pen}(m) - \text{pen}(\widehat{m}) \\ &\leq \|f_m - f\|^2 + \frac{1}{4}\|\widehat{f}_{\widehat{m}}^J - f_m\|^2 + 4 \sup_{t \in B_{m, \widehat{m}}} \nu^2(t) + \text{pen}(m) - \text{pen}(\widehat{m}) \\ &\leq 3\|f_m - f\|^2 + 8 \sup_{t \in B_{m, \widehat{m}}} \nu^2(t) + 2\text{pen}(m) - 2\text{pen}(\widehat{m}) \\ &\leq 3\|f_m - f\|^2 + 4\text{pen}(m) + 8 \left[ \sup_{t \in B_{m, \widehat{m}}} \nu^2(t) - p(m, \widehat{m}) \right] \\ &\leq 3\|f_m - f\|^2 + 4\text{pen}(m) + 8 \sum_{m' \in \mathcal{M}} \left( \sup_{t \in B_{m, m'}} \nu^2(t) - p(m, m') \right)_+ \end{aligned}$$

with a function  $p$  such that  $\forall m, m', 4p(m, m') \leq \text{pen}(m) + \text{pen}(m')$ .

**Lemma 10.** *There exists a constant  $C > 0$  such that*

$$\sum_{m' \in \mathcal{M}} \mathbb{E} \left[ \left( \sup_{t \in B_{m, m'}} \nu^2(t) - p(m, m') \right)_+ \right] \leq \frac{C}{N}.$$

We conclude that there exist two constants  $C_1, C_2 > 0$  such that

$$\mathbb{E}[\|\widehat{f}_{\widehat{m}} - f\|^2] \leq C_1 \inf_{m \in \mathcal{M}} \{\|f_m - f_\beta\|^2 + \text{pen}(m)\} + \frac{C_2}{N}.$$

## 6.7 Proof of the Lemma 10

We remind that  $B_\epsilon = \sup_{v \in [-1, 1]} \frac{1}{|f_\epsilon^*(v)|^4}$ . For  $m \in \mathcal{M}$  we consider  $t \in S_m$ . We use Talagrand's inequality to demonstrate Lemma 10 similarly to Lemma 9. We get:

$$M := \sqrt{\frac{\Delta B_\epsilon m^*}{\pi}}, \tag{27}$$

$$H := \sqrt{\frac{B_\epsilon \Delta m^*}{\pi N}}, \tag{28}$$

and

$$v = \frac{B_\epsilon^2 \|f\|}{\sqrt{\pi}} \sqrt{m^* \Delta}. \tag{29}$$

According to Talagrand's inequality, for  $\alpha = 1/2$  there exist four numerical constants  $A_1, A_2, A_3, A_4$  such that:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left[ \left( \sup_{t \in B_{m, m'}} \nu^2(t) - 4H^2 \right)_+ \right] &\leq A_1 B_\epsilon^2 \sqrt{\Delta} \frac{\sqrt{m^*}}{N} \exp \left( -A_2 \frac{\sqrt{\Delta}}{2B_\epsilon \|f\|} \sqrt{m^*} \right) \\ &\quad + A_3 \Delta B_\epsilon \frac{m^*}{N^2} \exp(-A_4 \sqrt{N}). \end{aligned}$$

Then we use that  $1 \leq m^* \leq N \wedge J$ , thus for  $\kappa \geq 4/\pi$  we obtain there exists a constant  $C > 0$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{m' \in \mathcal{M}} \mathbb{E} \left[ \left( \sup_{t \in B_{m,m'}} \nu^2(t) - p(m, m') \right)_+ \right] &\leq \sum_{m=1}^{+\infty} A_1 B_\epsilon^2 \frac{\sqrt{m\Delta}}{N} \exp \left( -A_2 \frac{\sqrt{m\Delta}}{2B_\epsilon \|f\|} \right) \\ &+ \sum_{m=1}^{+\infty} A_3 B_\epsilon \frac{m\Delta}{N^2} \exp(-A_4 \sqrt{m}) \\ &\leq \frac{C}{N} \end{aligned}$$

with  $p(m, m') = 4 \frac{B_\epsilon \Delta m^*}{\pi N}$ .  $\square$

## 6.8 Estimator with unknown noise density

We compute an estimator of the density  $f_\beta$  when  $f_\epsilon$  is unknown, corresponding to (6). We use the same idea as Comte and Samson (2012). However it is  $1/|f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{m\Delta})|^2$  which has to be estimated and not  $1/(f_\epsilon^*(\frac{u}{\Delta}))^2$ . This quantity is more reachable and the noise does not need to be symmetric for the estimation. In this part we stand assumption **(A2)** for: **(A2')**  $f_\epsilon$  is unknown and  $f_\epsilon^* \neq 0$ .

We consider the random variables

$$A_k := \Delta(3Z_{k,3} - 2Z_{k,2} - Z_{k,1}) = \epsilon_{k,3} - \epsilon_{k,2} - \epsilon_{k,1} + \epsilon_{k,0}.$$

These new variables are i.i.d. with a density  $f_A$ . Then we have

$$\forall u \in \mathbb{R}, f_A^*(u) = \mathbb{E}[e^{iAu}] = |f_\epsilon^*(u)|^4 = \mathbb{E}[\cos(Au)].$$

This leads to the unbiased empirical estimator of  $|f_\epsilon^*|^4$ :

$$\widehat{|f_\epsilon^*|^4}(u) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \cos(A_k u).$$

Nevertheless, this function can reach zero and has to be inverted. We define a truncated estimator following Comte and Lacour (2011) and we propose the estimator of  $|1/f_\epsilon^*|^2$  following:

$$\frac{1}{\widetilde{|f_\epsilon^*|^2}(u)} = \frac{\mathbf{1}_{\widehat{|f_\epsilon^*|^4}(u) \geq N^{-1/2}}}{[\widehat{|f_\epsilon^*|^4}(u)]^{1/2}}. \quad (30)$$

The new estimator of  $f_\beta$  is

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R}, \widehat{f_{\beta,m}}(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-m\Delta}^{m\Delta} e^{-iux} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{e^{iuZ_{k,m}}}{\widetilde{|f_\epsilon^*|^2}(\frac{u}{m\Delta})} du. \quad (31)$$

**Proposition 11.** *If  $m > 3$ , and denoting  $K_\epsilon := 5F_\epsilon + 68G_\epsilon$ , where  $G_\epsilon := \int_{-1}^1 \frac{du}{|f_\epsilon^*(u)|^8}$ , under **(A1)**-**(A2')** we have*

$$\mathbb{E}[\|\widehat{f_{\beta,m}} - f_\beta\|^2] \leq \|f_{\beta,m} - f_\beta\|^2 + K_\epsilon \frac{m\Delta}{\pi N}.$$

*Proof*

We denote

$$R(u) := \frac{1}{\widetilde{|f_\epsilon^*|^2}(u)} - \frac{1}{|f_\epsilon^*(u)|^2}$$

which is the subject of the following lemma. This lemma is an extension of the Neumann's Lemma (Neumann (1997)), demonstrated in Comte and Samson (2012) with a symmetric noise. The proof can be straightforwardly adapted and thus is omitted.

**Lemma 12.**

$$\mathbb{E} \left[ \left( \frac{1}{\widetilde{|f_\epsilon^*|^2}(u)} - \frac{1}{|f_\epsilon^*(u)|^2} \right)^2 \right] \leq \frac{2}{|f_\epsilon^*(u)|^4} \wedge \frac{3N^{-1/2}}{|f_\epsilon^*(u)|^8} \wedge \frac{34N^{-1}}{|f_\epsilon^*(u)|^{12}}.$$

We notice that  $R(u)$  and  $\widehat{f_{Z_m}^*} = 1/N \sum_{k=1}^N e^{iuZ_{k,m}}$  are independent as soon as  $m > 3$ . Let us decompose the norm:  $\|\widehat{\widehat{f_{\beta,m}}} - f_{\beta}\|^2$ .

$$\|\widehat{\widehat{f_{\beta,m}}} - f_{\beta}\|^2 = \|\widehat{\widehat{f_{\beta,m}}} - f_{\beta,m}\|^2 + \|f_{\beta,m} - f_{\beta}\|^2 \leq 2\|\widehat{\widehat{f_{\beta,m}}} - \widehat{f_{\beta,m}}\|^2 + 2\|\widehat{f_{\beta,m}} - f_{\beta,m}\|^2 + \|f_{\beta,m} - f_{\beta}\|^2.$$

The first member of the right hand side is simplified by Plancherel-Parseval's Theorem

$$\begin{aligned} \|\widehat{\widehat{f_{\beta,m}}} - \widehat{f_{\beta,m}}\|^2 &= \left\| \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-m\Delta}^{m\Delta} e^{-iux} \widehat{f_{Z_m}^*}(u) R\left(\frac{u}{m\Delta}\right) du \right\|^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-m\Delta}^{m\Delta} |\widehat{f_{Z_m}^*}(u) R\left(\frac{u}{m\Delta}\right)|^2 du \\ &\leq \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-m\Delta}^{m\Delta} |\widehat{f_{Z_m}^*}(u) - f_{Z_m}^*(u)|^2 |R\left(\frac{u}{m\Delta}\right)|^2 du \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-m\Delta}^{m\Delta} |f_{\beta}^*(u)|^2 |f_{\epsilon}^*\left(\frac{u}{m\Delta}\right)|^4 |R\left(\frac{u}{m\Delta}\right)|^2 du \end{aligned}$$

note that

$$\mathbb{E}\left[|\widehat{f_{Z_m}^*}(u) - f_{Z_m}^*(u)|^2\right] = \text{Var}\left(\widehat{f_{Z_m}^*}(u) - f_{Z_m}^*(u)\right) = \text{Var}\left(\frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N e^{iuZ_{k,m}}\right) \leq \frac{1}{N}.$$

Then, using Lemma 12, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[\|\widehat{\widehat{f_{\beta,m}}} - \widehat{f_{\beta,m}}\|^2] &\leq \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-m\Delta}^{m\Delta} \frac{1}{N} \mathbb{E}[|R\left(\frac{u}{m\Delta}\right)|^2] du + \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-m\Delta}^{m\Delta} |f_{\beta}^*(u)|^2 \frac{3N^{-1/2}}{|f_{\epsilon}^*\left(\frac{u}{m\Delta}\right)|^4} \wedge \frac{34N^{-1}}{|f_{\epsilon}^*\left(\frac{u}{m\Delta}\right)|^8} du \\ &\leq \frac{2}{\pi N} \int_{-m\Delta}^{m\Delta} \frac{1}{|f_{\epsilon}^*\left(\frac{u}{m\Delta}\right)|^4} du + \frac{1}{\pi} \left( \frac{3}{\sqrt{N}} \int_{-m\Delta}^{m\Delta} \frac{|f_{\beta}^*(u)|^2}{|f_{\epsilon}^*\left(\frac{u}{m\Delta}\right)|^4} du \right) \wedge \left( \frac{34}{N} \int_{-m\Delta}^{m\Delta} \frac{|f_{\beta}^*(u)|^2}{|f_{\epsilon}^*\left(\frac{u}{m\Delta}\right)|^8} du \right) \\ &\leq \frac{2m\Delta}{\pi N} F_{\epsilon} + 34 \frac{m\Delta}{\pi N} G_{\epsilon}. \end{aligned}$$

Finally, using Proposition 1, it yields

$$\mathbb{E}[\|\widehat{\widehat{f_{\beta,m}}} - f_{\beta}\|^2] \leq \|f_{\beta,m} - f_{\beta}\|^2 + \frac{m\Delta}{\pi N} F_{\epsilon} + 4 \frac{m\Delta}{\pi N} F_{\epsilon} + 68 \frac{m\Delta}{\pi N} G_{\epsilon}. \quad \square$$

The same construction can be used to propose a version of  $\widehat{f_{\beta,m}^J}$  with estimated noise density. Adopting the same arguments we consider then the new estimator of  $f_{\beta}$

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R}, \widehat{\widehat{f_{\beta,m}^J}}(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\Delta m}^{\Delta m} e^{-iux} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{e^{iuZ_{k,J}}}{\widehat{|f_{\epsilon}^*|^2}\left(\frac{u}{J\Delta}\right)} du. \quad (32)$$

Using Corollary 6 and Lemma 12 we obtain the following risk bound.

**Proposition 13.** *If  $3 < m \leq N \wedge J$ , and denoting  $D_{\epsilon} := 4B_{\epsilon} + 136C_{\epsilon}$ , where  $C_{\epsilon} := \sup_{u \in [-1,1]} \frac{1}{|f_{\epsilon}^*(u)|^8}$ , under (A1)-(A2') we have*

$$\mathbb{E}[\|\widehat{\widehat{f_{\beta,m}^J}} - f_{\beta}\|^2] \leq \|f_{\beta,m} - f_{\beta}\|^2 + D_{\epsilon} \frac{m\Delta}{\pi N}.$$

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