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On the maximum of discretely sampled fractional Brownian motion with small Hurst parameter.

Let $\{B_t^H\}_{t \geq 0}$ denote the fractional Brownian motion with Hurst parameter $H \in (0, 1]$, which is a continuous Gaussian process with $B_0^H = 0$, zero mean and covariance function $E(B_s^H B_t^H) = \frac{1}{2}(s^{2H} + t^{2H} - |t - s|^{2H})$, $s, t \geq 0$.

We show that the distribution of the maximum $\overline{B^{H, \mathbb{T}}} = \max_{t \in \mathbb{T}} B_t^H$ of the fractional Brownian motion with Hurst parameter $H \rightarrow 0$ over an n -point set $\mathbb{T} \subset [0, 1]$ can be approximated by the normal law with mean $\sqrt{\ln n}$ and variance $1/2$ provided that $n \rightarrow \infty$ slowly enough and the points in \mathbb{T} are not too close to each other.

The main results are as follows. Let $H_k \in (0, 1]$ be such that $H_k \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$, and $\mathbb{T}_k = \{t_{k,i}\}_{i=1}^{n_k}$ be a sequence of finite subsets of $(0, 1]$, $t_{k,1} < \dots < t_{k,n_k}$, such that $n_k \rightarrow \infty$, $\delta_k := \min_{1 \leq i \leq n_k} (t_i - t_{i-1}) \rightarrow 0$, where $t_0 = 0$.

Denote by \preceq the stochastic order relation for random variables, i.e. $\xi \preceq \eta$ iff $P(\xi \leq x) \geq P(\eta \leq x)$, for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$. Let $o_P(1)$ stand for a sequence of random variables converging to zero in probability.

Theorem. (i) *If $H_k(\ln n_k)^{1/2} \rightarrow 0$ and $H_k \ln(n_k \delta_k) \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$ then*

$$\overline{B^{H_k, \mathbb{T}_k}} \preceq \sqrt{\ln n_k} + \zeta_0/\sqrt{2} + o_P(1).$$

(ii) *If $H_k(\ln n_k)^2 \rightarrow 0$ and $H_k \ln \delta_k \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$, then*

$$\overline{B^{H_k, \mathbb{T}_k}} \succeq \sqrt{\ln n_k} + \zeta_0/\sqrt{2} + o_P(1).$$

Thus, under the assumptions from part (ii), one has

$$\overline{B^{H_k, \mathbb{T}_k}} - \sqrt{\ln n_k} \xrightarrow{d} Z/\sqrt{2} \quad \text{as } k \rightarrow \infty,$$

where Z has the standard normal distribution. The conditions $H_k \ln(n_k \delta_k) \rightarrow 0$, $H_k \ln \delta_k \rightarrow 0$ are automatically met in the case of uniform grids \mathbb{T}_k .