

**On the relationship between data sharpening and  
Firth's adjusted score function**

**John Braun & Patrick Brown**

## Data sharpening

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Two recipes - each data point is adjusted differently

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Standard asymptotics - Wand & Jones (1995)



## Data sharpening - Peter Hall

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No reliance on data greedy alternatives

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**DS for derivative estimation?**

**Density Estimation:**

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Note:  $\hat{f}(x)$ ,  $\hat{g}(x)$  solve score equations

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**Cox & Reid (1972), Barndorff-Nielsen. (1982),  
McCullagh and Tibshirani (1983), Firth (1993)**

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**Standard:** both terms contribute to bias

**Nonparametrics:** second term is of lower order



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Does this lead to an adjustment of the data?

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$$\mathbf{E}[U(\theta_x)] \approx -nh^2 \sigma_K^2 \ddot{g}(x)$$

$$U^*(\theta_x) = U(\theta_x) + nh^2\sigma_K^2\ddot{g}(x)$$

$$\begin{aligned}U^*(\theta_x) &= U(\theta_x) + nh^2\sigma_K^2\ddot{g}(x) \\ &= -2\sum K_h(X_i - x)\{Y_i - \theta_x\} + nh^2\sigma_K^2\ddot{g}(x)\end{aligned}$$

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$$Y_i^* = Y_i - \frac{1}{2}h^2\sigma_K^2\ddot{g}(X_i) \quad \text{Ideal Data Sharpening}$$

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$$\widehat{Y}_i^* = Y_i - [\widehat{g}(X_i) - Y_i] \quad \text{Data Sharpening (Hall)}$$



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$$X_i^* = X_i + h_s^2 \sigma_K^2 \frac{\dot{f}(X_i)}{f(X_i)}$$

**Ideal Data Sharpening**

$$X_i^* = X_i + h_s^2 \sigma_K^2 \frac{f'(X_i)}{f(X_i)}$$

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**Data Sharpening (Hall)**

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**Data Sharpening (Hall)**

**Proof of concept**

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$$Y_i^\star = Y_i - \frac{h^2 \mu_4^K}{6\sigma_K^2} \ddot{g}(X_i)$$

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**Ideal Data Sharpening**

$$\widehat{Y}_i^\star = Y_i - \frac{\mu_4^K}{3\sigma_K^4} [\widehat{g}(X_i) - Y_i]$$

**Data Sharpening (BBS)**

$$Y_i^* = Y_i - \frac{h^2 \mu_4^K}{6\sigma_K^2} \ddot{g}(X_i) \quad \text{Ideal Data Sharpening}$$

$$\widehat{Y}_i^* = Y_i - \frac{\mu_4^K}{3\sigma_K^4} [\widehat{g}(X_i) - Y_i] \quad \text{Data Sharpening (BBS)}$$

**Nadaraya-Watson Estimator**

$$Y_i^\star = Y_i - \frac{h^2 \mu_4^K}{6\sigma_K^2} \ddot{g}(X_i) \quad \text{Ideal Data Sharpening}$$

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## Nadaraya-Watson Estimator

$$Y_i^\star = Y_i - \frac{1}{2} h^2 \sigma_K^2 \ddot{g}(X_i) \quad \text{Ideal Data Sharpening}$$

$$Y_i^* = Y_i - \frac{h^2 \mu_4^K}{6\sigma_K^2} \ddot{g}(X_i) \quad \text{Ideal Data Sharpening}$$

$$\widehat{Y}_i^* = Y_i - \frac{\mu_4^K}{3\sigma_K^4} [\widehat{g}(X_i) - Y_i] \quad \text{Data Sharpening (BBS)}$$

### Nadaraya-Watson Estimator

$$Y_i^* = Y_i - \frac{1}{2} h^2 \sigma_K^2 \ddot{g}(X_i) \quad \text{Ideal Data Sharpening}$$

$$\widehat{Y}_i^* = Y_i - [\widehat{g}(X_i) - Y_i] \quad \text{Data Sharpening (Hall)}$$

Gas mileage  $Y$  as a function  $g$  of cruising speed  $X$

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Where does the first derivative  $\dot{g}$  equal zero?

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15 observations of gas mileage

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Where does the first derivative  $\dot{g}$  equal zero?

Usual local linear derivative estimate versus

Sharpened counterpart

**Data:**

15 observations of gas mileage

Equally spaced cruising speeds [5,75]

## Fuel Efficiency

**Model:**

$$g(x) = 25 \sin(x/30) + 5 + e$$

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**Standard: Bias of 9.79 & root MSE of 11.41**

**Sharpened: Bias of 6.41 & root MSE of 7.92**

## Derivative estimation

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Firth's adjusted score function ideal vehicle

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## Higher order derivatives

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Complex coefficients & residuals from higher order polynomial fits

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Clear how to "ideally" sharpen the data



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## Derivatives in a multivariate setting (spatial)

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A single adjustment may/will not bias correct in all directions

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Consider a very regular grid

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Consider a single direction