On the Wassertein distance for a martingale central limit theorem

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Abstract

We prove an upper bound on the Wasserstein distance between normalized martingales and the standard normal random variable, which extends a result of Röllin [6]. The proof is based on a method of Bolthausen [1].

Keywords: Martingales; Central limit theorem; Wasserstein metric

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1. Introduction and main result

Let \( n \geq 1 \). Assume that \( X = (X_i)_{1 \leq i \leq n} \) is a sequence of martingale differences defined on probability space \((\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)\), \( \mathcal{F}_0 = \{\emptyset, \Omega\} \) and that \( X_i \) is adapted to the \( \sigma \)-fields \( \mathcal{F}_i, i = 1, 2, \ldots, n \), where \( \mathcal{F}_i \) is the \( \sigma \)-algebra generated by \( X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_i \). In other words, \( X_i \) satisfies \( \mathbb{E}[X_i | \mathcal{F}_{i-1}] = 0 \). Let \( M_n \) denote the class of all such sequences of length \( n \). If \( X \in M_n \), write

\[
S_n = X_1 + X_2 + \ldots + X_n, \\
\sigma_i^2 = \mathbb{E}[X_i^2 | \mathcal{F}_{i-1}], i = 1, 2, \ldots, n, \\
s_n^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \mathbb{E}X_i^2, \\
V_n^2 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sigma_i^2}{s_n^2}, \\
\|X\|_p = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \|X_i\|_p, \quad p \in [1, +\infty],
\]

where \( \|X_i\|_p = (\mathbb{E}|X_i|^p)^{1/p} \) for \( 1 \leq p < \infty \) and \( \|X_i\|_\infty = \inf \{a : \mathbb{P}(|X_i| \leq a) = 1\} \).

According to the martingale central limit theory, it is well known that if, as \( n \to \infty \),

\[
V_n^2 \xrightarrow{P} 1
\]

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and the conditional Lindeberg condition
\[
\sum_{i=1}^{n} E \left[ X_i^2 1_{\{|X_i| \geq \varepsilon\}} | \mathcal{F}_{i-1} \right] \to 0 \quad \text{for each } \varepsilon > 0
\]
are satisfied, then \( S_n/s_n \) converges to the standard Gaussian random variable in distribution, that is,
\[
\forall t \in \mathbb{R}, \quad P \left( S_n/s_n \leq t \right) \to \Phi(t), \quad \text{as } n \to \infty,
\]
where \( \Phi(t) = (2\pi)^{-1/2} \int_{-\infty}^{t} e^{-x^2/2} dx \). Define
\[
D \left( S_n/s_n \right) = \sup_t |P(S_n/s_n \leq t) - \Phi(t)|,
\]
then
\[
D \left( S_n/s_n \right) \to 0, \quad \text{as } n \to \infty.
\]

The Kolmogorov distance in central limit theorem for martingales has been intensely studied under various conditions. For instance, we recall the following result due to Heyde and Brown \([10]\): for a constant \( p \in (1, 2] \), they proved that
\[
D \left( S_n/s_n \right) \leq C_p \left( s_n^{-4p} \| V_n^2 - 1 \|^p + s_n^{-2p} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n} E |X_i|^{2p} \right) \right)^{1/(2p+1)},
\]
where, here and after, \( C_p \) is a constant depending only on \( p \). Bolthausen \([1]\) proved that if \( \|X\|_\infty \leq \gamma \) a.s., then
\[
D \left( S_n/s_n \right) \leq C_\gamma \left( \frac{n \log n}{s_n^2} + \min \left\{ \| V_n^2 - 1 \|_{\infty}^{1/2}, \| V_n^2 - 1 \|_1^{1/3} \right\} \right).
\]
Using a modification of the method developed by Bolthausen, Hauser \([9]\) gave an extension of \((1)\) to all \( p > 1 \); El Machkouri and Ouchti \([7]\) replaced the term \( n \log n/s_n^3 \) of \((2)\) by \( \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \gamma_i \log n/s_n \) to a large class of martingale difference sequences satisfying
\[
E \left[ |X_i|^3 | \mathcal{F}_{i-1} \right] \leq \gamma_i E \left[ |X_i|^2 | \mathcal{F}_{i-1} \right] \text{ a.s.},
\]
where \( \gamma_i, i = 1, 2, \ldots, n \) are constants. Following Bolthausen again, Mourrat \([2]\) has extended the term \( \min \left\{ \| V_n^2 - 1 \|_{\infty}^{1/2}, \| V_n^2 - 1 \|_1^{1/3} \right\} \) of \((2)\) to the more general term \( \left( \| V_n^2 - 1 \|_p^p + s_n^{-2p} \right)^{1/(2p+1)} \), for \( p \geq 1 \). Recently, with the methods of Grama and Hauser \([8]\) and Bolthausen \([1]\) (see also Fan et al. \([4]\)), Fan \([3]\) proved that if there exist two positive numbers \( \rho \) and \( \gamma \), such that
\[
E \left[ |X_i|^{2+\rho} | \mathcal{F}_{i-1} \right] \leq \gamma^\rho E \left[ |X_i|^2 | \mathcal{F}_{i-1} \right] \text{ a.s.}
\]
for all \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, n \), then for \( p \geq 1,
\[
D \left( S_n/s_n \right) \leq C_{p,\gamma,\rho} \left( \alpha_n + \left( \| V_n^2 - 1 \|_p^p + \frac{1}{s_n^p} E \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} |X_i|^{2p} \right)^{1/(2p+1)} \right),
\]
for each \( \varepsilon > 0 \).
where 

\[
\alpha_n = \begin{cases} 
\frac{1}{s_n} & \text{if } \rho \in (0, 1), \\
\frac{1}{s_n} \log s_n & \text{if } \rho \geq 1.
\end{cases}
\]

Despite the Kolmogorov distance in central limit theorem has been intensely studied, research of bounds with respect to the Wasserstein distance are rare. To the best of our knowledge, we only aware the articles of Van Dung et al. [5] and Röllin [6]. Denote by \[ d \] the Wassertein distance between the distributions of \( S \). That is, if \( L \), Van Dung et al. [5] extended Mourrat’s bounds to the \( d \)-term of bound (6).

The following theorem is our main result.

**Theorem 1.1.** For any \( p \geq 1 \), there exists a constant \( C_p > 0 \) such that

\[
d_w(S_n/s_n) \leq C_p \left( \frac{n \log n}{s_n^2} + \left( \|V_n^2 - 1\|_p^p + s_n^{-2p} \right)^{1/2p} \right). \tag{6}
\]

Röllin [6] provided a new proof of already known result by using combination of both Lindeberg’s and Stein’s methods. His result states that if \( V_n^2 = 1 \) a.s., then for any \( a \geq 0 \),

\[
d_w(S_n/s_n) \leq \frac{2}{s_n^2} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E} \frac{|X_i|^3}{\rho_i^2 + a^2} + \frac{2a}{s_n}, \tag{7}
\]

where \( \rho_i^2 = \sum_{k=1}^n \sigma_k^2 \). The aim of this article is to extend (7) by relaxing the condition \( V_n^2 = 1 \) a.s. to \( \|V_n^2 - 1\|_p \rightarrow 0 \) for any \( p \geq 1 \).

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**Theorem 1.1.** For any \( p \geq 1 \), there exists a constant \( C_p > 0 \) such that

\[
d_w(S_n/s_n) \leq C_p \left( \frac{1}{s_n} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E} |X_i|^3 \right)^{1/3} + \left( \|V_n^2 - 1\|_p + \frac{1}{s_n^p} \mathbb{E} \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} |X_i|^{2p} \right)^{1/2p} \right). \tag{8}
\]

Notice that if \( \|X\|_{\infty} \leq \gamma \) a.s., then the order of the term \( \left( \|V_n^2 - 1\|_p + \frac{1}{s_n^p} \mathbb{E} \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} |X_i|^{2p} \right)^{1/2p} \) is less than that of \( \left( \|V_n^2 - 1\|_p + s_n^{-2p} \right)^{1/2p} \). Thus the second term of bound (8) implies the second term of bound (6).

Let \( p = 3/2 \). The following corollary is an immediate consequence of Theorem 1.1.

**Corollary 1.1.** There exists a constant \( C > 0 \) such that

\[
d_w(S_n/s_n) \leq C \left( \frac{1}{s_n} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E} |X_i|^3 \right)^{1/3} + \|V_n^2 - 1\|_{3/2}^{1/2} \right). \tag{9}
\]

Though our bound may not be smaller than the bound of Röllin (cf. (7)), the advantage of (9) is that the term \( \rho_i^2 \) appearing in (7) does not appear any more. Moreover, inequality (9) gives a rate of convergence under weaker condition, that is the condition \( V_n^2 = 1 \) a.s. has been relaxed to \( \|V_n^2 - 1\|_{3/2} \rightarrow 0 \).
2. Proof of Theorem 1.1

In the proof of the Theorem 1.1, we shall use the following lemma which is a consequence of Röllin’s inequality (7) by dropping $\rho_i^2$.

**Lemma 2.1.** Assume that $V_n^2 = 1$ a.s., there exists a constant $C > 0$ such that

$$d_w(S_n/s_n) \leq C \left( \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} E[X_i^3]}{s_n} \right)^{1/3}.$$  (10)

**Proof of Lemma 2.1.** From (7), by the fact $\rho_i^2 \geq 0$, it is easy to see that

$$d_w(S_n/s_n) \leq 3 \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} E[X_i^3]}{s_n} + \frac{2a}{s_n}.$$  (11)

Let $f(a) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{E[X_i^3]}{a^2} + 2a$. Clearly if $a = \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n} E[X_i^3] \right)^{1/3}$, then $f(a)$ achieves the minimum, which gives the desired inequality (10). □

Now, we are in position to prove Theorem 1.1. The idea is to construct a new sequence of martingale differences $(\tilde{X}_i, \tilde{F}_i)_{1 \leq i \leq N}$ based on $X$ such that $\sum_{i=1}^{N} E[\tilde{X}_i^2|\tilde{F}_{i-1}]/s_n^2 = 1$ a.s., where the exact value of $N$ is given later, and then apply Lemma 2.1 to $X$. Consider the stopping time

$$\tau = \sup \left\{ 1 \leq k \leq n : \sum_{i=1}^{k} E[X_i^2|\mathcal{F}_{i-1}] \leq s_n^2 \right\}.$$  

Assume that $\varepsilon > 0$. Let $r = \left[ \frac{s_n^2 - \sum_{i=1}^{r} E[X_i^2|\mathcal{F}_{i-1}]}{\varepsilon^2} \right]$, where $[x]$ stands for the largest integer not exceeding $x$. Clearly $r \leq \left[ \frac{s_n^2}{\varepsilon^2} \right]$. Let $N = n + \left[ \frac{s_n^2}{\varepsilon^2} \right] + 1$. Conditionally on $\mathcal{F}_{\tau}$, and for $\tau + 1 \leq i \leq \tau + r$, let $Y_i$ be independent random variables such that $P(Y_i = \pm \varepsilon) = 1/2$. When $i = \tau + r + 1$, let $Y_{\tau+r+1}$ be such that

$$P\left(Y_{\tau+r+1} = \pm \left( s_n^2 - \sum_{i=1}^{\tau} E[X_i^2|\mathcal{F}_{i-1}] - r\varepsilon^2 \right)^{1/2} \right) = \frac{1}{2},$$

with the sign determined independent of everything else. Finally, if $\tau + r + 1 < i \leq N$, then we let $Y_i = 0$. By the definition of $X_i$, we have

$$\tilde{X}_i = X_i 1_{\{i \leq \tau\}} + Y_i 1_{\{\tau < i \leq \tau + r\}} + Y_{\tau+r+1} 1_{\{i = \tau + r + 1\}}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq N.$$  

Define $\tilde{F}_i = \mathcal{F}_i$ for $i \leq \tau$, $\tilde{F}_i = \sigma\{\mathcal{F}_{\tau}, Y_j, \tau + 1 \leq j \leq i\}$ for $\tau + 1 \leq i \leq N$. Since $1_{\{i \leq \tau\}} = 1 - 1_{\{\tau < i\}}$ is $\mathcal{F}_{i-1}$ measurable, we deduce that

$$E[\tilde{X}_i|\tilde{F}_{i-1}] = E[X_i 1_{\{i \leq \tau\}}|\tilde{F}_{i-1}] + E[Y_i 1_{\{\tau < i \leq \tau + r\}}|\tilde{F}_{i-1}] + E[Y_{\tau+r+1} 1_{\{i = \tau + r + 1\}}|\tilde{F}_{i-1}]$$

$$= E[X_i 1_{\{i \leq \tau\}}|\mathcal{F}_{i-1}] + \left( \frac{\varepsilon}{2} E[1_{\{\tau < i \leq \tau + r\}}|\tilde{F}_{i-1}] - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} E[1_{\{\tau < i \leq \tau + r\}}|\tilde{F}_{i-1}] \right)$$

$$+ \left( \frac{1}{2} s_n^2 - \sum_{i=1}^{\tau} E[X_i^2|\mathcal{F}_{i-1}] - r\varepsilon^2 \right)^{1/2} - \frac{1}{2} \left( s_n^2 - \sum_{i=1}^{\tau} E[X_i^2|\mathcal{F}_{i-1}] - r\varepsilon^2 \right)^{1/2}$$

$$= 0 \quad \text{a.s.}$$
Thus $\hat{X} = (\hat{X}_i, \hat{F}_i)_{1 \leq i \leq N}$ is also a martingale difference sequence. Moreover, it holds

$$
\sum_{i=\tau+1}^{N} E[\hat{X}_i^2 | \hat{F}_{i-1}] = \sum_{i=\tau+1}^{\tau+r} \varepsilon^2 + s_n^2 - \sum_{i=1}^{\tau} E[X_i^2 | F_i-1] - r\varepsilon^2 = s_n^2 - \sum_{i=1}^{\tau} E[X_i^2 | F_i-1],
$$

which implies that

$$
\sum_{i=1}^{N} E[\hat{X}_i^2 | \hat{F}_{i-1}] = s_n^2 \quad \text{a.s.}
$$

Consequently, $\sum_{i=1}^{N} E[\hat{X}_i^2 | \hat{F}_{i-1}]/s_n^2 = 1$ a.s., by Lemma 2.1 it is easy to see that:

$$
d_w(\hat{S}_N/s_n) \leq \frac{C}{s_n} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{N} E|\hat{X}_i|^3 \right)^{1/3}. \quad (12)
$$

According to the construction of $\hat{X}$, we can easily give an estimation of $\sum_{i=1}^{N} E|\hat{X}_i|^3$ as following:

$$
\sum_{i=1}^{N} E|\hat{X}_i|^3 = \sum_{i=1}^{\tau} E|X_i|^3 + \sum_{i=\tau+1}^{N} E|\hat{X}_i|^3 \leq \sum_{i=1}^{n} E|X_i|^3 + (1 + s_n^2/\varepsilon^2) \varepsilon^3.
$$

Thus we get,

$$
d_w(\hat{S}_N/s_n) \leq \frac{C}{s_n} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n} E|X_i|^3 + \varepsilon^3 + s_n^2 \varepsilon \right)^{1/3}. \quad (13)
$$

For any $x > 0$, we have

$$
d_w(S_n/s_n) \leq d_w(\hat{S}_N/s_n) + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \Phi(t + x) - \Phi(t) \right) \notag dt + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \Phi(t + x) - \Phi(t) \right) \notag dt
$$

$$
\leq d_w(\hat{S}_N/s_n) + \frac{C}{x^{2p-1} s_n^{2p}} E|\hat{S}_N - S_n|^{2p} + 2x, \quad (14)
$$

see (5.3) of Van Dung et al. [3]. We give an estimation for the second term in the right-hand side of (14). First we note that

$$
S_n - \hat{S}_N = \sum_{i=\tau+1}^{N} (X_i - \hat{X}_i),
$$

where we put $X_i = 0$ for $i > n$. As $\tau$ is a stopping time, conditionally on $\tau$, the $(X_i - \hat{X}_i)_{\tau+1 \leq i \leq N}$ still forms a martingale difference sequence, see Mourrat [2] for details. By Burkholder’s inequality, we deduce that

$$
\frac{1}{C_p} E \left[ |\hat{S}_N - S_n|^{2p} \right] \leq E \left[ \left( \sum_{i=\tau+1}^{N} E \left[ (X_i - \hat{X}_i)^2 | \hat{F}_{i-1} \right] \right)^p \right] + E \left[ \max_{\tau+1 \leq i \leq N} |X_i - \hat{X}_i|^{2p} \right]. \quad (15)
$$
As $E[X_i \hat{X}_i | F_{i-1}] = 0$ for $i \geq \tau + 1$, we have
\[
\sum_{i=\tau+1}^{N} E \left[ (X_i - \hat{X}_i)^2 | F_{i-1} \right] = \sum_{i=\tau+1}^{N} E \left[ X_i^2 | F_{i-1} \right] + \sum_{i=\tau+1}^{N} E \left[ \hat{X}_i^2 | F_{i-1} \right]
\]
\[
= s_n^2 V_n^2 + s_n^2 - 2 \sum_{i=1}^{\tau+1} E \left[ X_i^2 | F_{i-1} \right] + 2 E \left[ X_{\tau+1}^2 | F_{\tau} \right].
\]  \(16\)

Notice that $\sum_{i=1}^{\tau+1} E \left[ X_i^2 | F_{i-1} \right] > s_n^2$. Hence, we get
\[
\sum_{i=\tau+1}^{N} E \left[ (X_i - \hat{X}_i)^2 | F_{i-1} \right] \leq s_n^2 V_n^2 - s_n^2 + 2E \left[ X_{\tau+1}^2 | F_{\tau} \right].
\]  \(17\)

Using the inequality $|a + b|^k \leq 2^{k-1} (|a|^k + |b|^k), k \geq 1$, we have
\[
\left( \sum_{i=\tau+1}^{N} E \left[ (X_i - \hat{X}_i)^2 | F_{i-1} \right] \right)^p \leq 2^{p-1} s_n^2 V_n^2 - s_n^2 |p + 2^{2p-1} (E \left[ X_{\tau+1}^2 | F_{\tau} \right])^p.
\]  \(18\)

For the second term in the right-hand side of \(18\), by Jensen’s inequality, we obtain
\[
(E \left[ X_{\tau+1}^2 | F_{\tau} \right])^p \leq E \left[ |X_{\tau+1}|^{2p} | F_{\tau} \right].
\]  \(19\)

Taking expectations on both sides of \(18\), we deduce that
\[
E \left[ \left( \sum_{i=\tau+1}^{N} E \left[ (X_i - \hat{X}_i)^2 | F_{i-1} \right] \right)^p \right] \leq 2^{p-1} s_n^2 p \left| V_n^2 - 1 \right|^p + 2^{2p-1} E \left[ |X_{\tau+1}|^{2p} \right]
\]
\[
\leq 2^{p-1} s_n^2 p \left| V_n^2 - 1 \right|^p + 2^{2p-1} E \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} |X_i|^{2p}. \]  \(20\)

By an argument similar to that of \(18\), we get
\[
E \left[ \max_{\tau+1 \leq i \leq N} |X_i - \hat{X}_i|^2 \right] \leq 2^{p-1} E \left[ \max_{\tau+1 \leq i \leq n} |X_i|^{2p} + \varepsilon^2 \right]
\]
\[
\leq 2^{p-1} E \left[ \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} |X_i|^{2p} + \varepsilon^2 \right]. \]  \(21\)

Combining the inequalities \(15\), \(20\) and \(21\) together, we have
\[
E \left[ |S_N - S_n|^{2p} \right] \leq C_p \left( s_n^{2p} \left| V_n^2 - 1 \right|^p + E \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} |X_i|^{2p} + \varepsilon^2 \right). \]  \(22\)

Now we combine this with the inequalities \(13\) and \(14\) together, and then let $\varepsilon \to 0$, we get
\[
d_w(S_n/s_n) \leq C \frac{1}{s_n} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n} E |X_i|^3 \right)^{1/3} + C x^{1-2p} \left( \left| V_n^2 - 1 \right|^p + \frac{1}{s_n^{2p}} E \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} |X_i|^{2p} \right) + 2x. \]  \(23\)

Putting $x = \left( \left| V_n^2 - 1 \right|^p + \frac{1}{s_n^{2p}} E \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} |X_i|^{2p} \right)^{1/2p}$, the final bound follows. \(\square\)


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