

On the Hájek-Rényi-Type Inequality for Conditionally Associated Random Variables

Jeong-Yeol Choi^a, Hye-Young Seo^a, Jong-Il Baek^{1,a}

^aSchool of Mathematics and Informational Statistics, Wonkwang University

Abstract

Let $\{\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P\}$ be a probability space and $\{X_n | n \geq 1\}$ be a sequence of random variables defined on it. A finite sequence of random variables $\{X_i | 1 \leq i \leq n\}$ is a conditional associated given \mathcal{F} if for any coordinate-wise nondecreasing functions f and g defined on R^n , $\text{Cov}^{\mathcal{F}}(f(X_1, \dots, X_n), g(X_1, \dots, X_n)) \geq 0$ a.s. whenever the conditional covariance exists. We obtain the Hájek-Rényi-type inequality for conditional associated random variables. In addition, we establish the strong law of large numbers, the three series theorem, integrability of supremum, and a strong growth rate for \mathcal{F} -associated random variables.

Keywords: Associated random variables, conditional covariance, conditional associated random variables, Hájek-Rényi-type inequality.

1. Introduction

Let $\{\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P\}$ be a probability space and all random variables in this paper are defined on it unless specified otherwise. A finite sequence of random variables $\{X_i | 1 \leq i \leq n\}$ is said to be associated if for any coordinate-wise nondecreasing functions f and g defined on R^n ,

$$\text{Cov}(f(X_1, \dots, X_n), g(X_1, \dots, X_n)) \geq 0.$$

Assuming that the covariance exists. An infinite sequence of random variables $\{X_n | n \geq 1\}$ is said to be associated if every finite subsequence is associated. Esary *et al.* (1967) introduced a concept of association. Lately significant efforts have been dedicated to prove reliability theory: Limit theorems and statistics applications for such random variables Birkel (1998) provided some inequalities that Shao and Yu (1996) later generalized. Ioannides and Roussas (1999) established some exponential type inequalities, Oliveira (2005) presented some extensions, and Yang and Chen (2007) made further extensions. Newman and Wright (1981) obtained an invariance principle, and Lin (1997) improved it. Wang and Zhang (2006) developed a nonclassical law of the iterated logarithm, among authors.

Let X and Y be random variables with $EX^2 < \infty$ and $EY^2 < \infty$. Let \mathcal{F} be a sub- σ -algebra of \mathcal{A} . Prakasa Rao (2009) defined the notion of the conditional covariance of X and Y given \mathcal{F} (\mathcal{F} -covariance) as

$$\text{Cov}^{\mathcal{F}}(X, Y) = E^{\mathcal{F}}\left((X - E^{\mathcal{F}}X)(Y - E^{\mathcal{F}}Y)\right),$$

where $E^{\mathcal{F}}Z$ denotes the conditional expectation of a random variable Z given \mathcal{F} .

In contrast to the ordinary concept of variance, conditional variance of X given \mathcal{F} is defined as $\text{Var}^{\mathcal{F}}X \equiv \text{Cov}^{\mathcal{F}}(X, X)$. On the basis of the above definition of conditional covariance, Prakasa

¹ Corresponding author: Professor, School of Mathematics and Informational Statistics and Institute of Basic Natural Science, Wonkwang University, Ik-San, Chunbuk 570-749, South Korea. E-mail: jibaek@wku.ac.kr

Rao proposed a new kind of dependence called conditional association, which is an extension to the corresponding non-conditional case.

Definition 1. A finite sequence of random variables $\{X_i | 1 \leq i \leq n\}$ is said to be conditional associated given \mathcal{F} (\mathcal{F} -associated) if for any two coordinate-wise nondecreasing functions f and g defined on \mathbb{R}^n ,

$$\text{Cov}^{\mathcal{F}}(f(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n), g(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)) \geq 0, \text{ a.s.}$$

whenever the conditional covariance exists. An infinite sequence of random variables $\{X_n | n \geq 1\}$ is said to be \mathcal{F} -associated if every finite subsequence is \mathcal{F} -associated. Yuan and Yang (2011) presented the relation between (positive) association and conditional association where the association does not imply the conditional association, and vice versa.

Hàjek-Rényi (1955) proved the following important inequality. If $\{X_n, n \geq 1\}$ is sequence of independent random variables with mean zero and finite second moments, and $\{b_n, n \geq 1\}$ is a sequence of positive nondecreasing real numbers, then for any $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$P\left(\max_{m \leq k \leq n} \left| \frac{\sum_{j=1}^k X_j}{b_k} \right| > \varepsilon\right) \leq \varepsilon^{-2} \left(\sum_{j=m+1}^n \frac{EX_j^2}{b_j^2} + \frac{1}{b_m^2} \sum_{j=1}^m EX_j^2 \right).$$

Many authors have studied the above inequality (Gan, 1997; Liu *et al.*, 1999; Cai, 2000; Prakasa Rao, 2002; Hu *et al.*, (2005); Qiu and Gan, 2005; Rao, 2002; Sung, 2008; *etc.*). Recently, Yuan and Yang extended the Hàjek-Rényi inequality to conditional associated random variables.

This paper develops a Hàjek-Rényi-type inequality for \mathcal{F} -associated random variables and uses a proof method different from Yuan and Yang. Using this result, we obtain the strong law of large numbers, three series theorem, and integrability of supremum for \mathcal{F} -associated random variables. Finally, throughout this paper, c will represent positive constants where their value may change from one place to another.

2. Conditional Hàjek-Rényi-Type Inequality

To prove the Hàjek-Rényi-type inequality for \mathcal{F} -associated random variables, we need the following Lemma 1.

Lemma 1. Let $\{X_i | 1 \leq i \leq n\}$ be a sequence of \mathcal{F} -associated random variables with $E^{\mathcal{F}} X_k = 0$ and $E^{\mathcal{F}} X_k^2 < \infty$ for each k with $1 \leq k \leq n$. Then for an arbitrary \mathcal{F} -measurable random variables $\varepsilon > 0$ a.s.,

$$P\left(\max_{1 \leq k \leq n} |S_k| \geq \varepsilon | \mathcal{F}\right) \leq c E^{\mathcal{F}} S_n^2,$$

where $S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$.

Proof: By applying proof of Newman and Wright (1982), we obtain that for $\varepsilon > 0$ a.s. is an arbitrary \mathcal{F} -measurable random variable,

$$\begin{aligned} P(\max(0, S_1, S_2, \dots, S_n) \geq \varepsilon | \mathcal{F}) &\leq c E^{\mathcal{F}} (\max(0, S_1, \dots, S_n))^2 \\ &\leq c E^{\mathcal{F}} S_n^2. \end{aligned}$$

Note that $-X_1, \dots, -X_n$ are also \mathcal{F} -associated random variables, replacing random variables X_1, \dots, X_n by $-X_1, \dots, -X_n$, we obtain that for $\varepsilon > 0$ a.s. is an arbitrary \mathcal{F} -measurable random variable,

$$P(\max(0, -S_1, -S_2, \dots, -S_n) \geq \varepsilon | \mathcal{F}) \leq cE^{\mathcal{F}} S_n^2.$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} P\left(\max_{1 \leq k \leq n} |S_k| \geq \varepsilon | \mathcal{F}\right) &\leq P\left(\max(0, S_1, \dots, S_n) \geq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} | \mathcal{F}\right) + P\left(\max(0, -S_1, \dots, -S_n) \geq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} | \mathcal{F}\right) \\ &\leq cE^{\mathcal{F}} S_n^2. \end{aligned}$$

The proof is complete \square

First, we will give a Hájek-Rényi-type inequality for \mathcal{F} -associated random variables.

Theorem 1. Let $\{X_n | n \geq 1\}$ be a sequence of \mathcal{F} -associated random variables with $E^{\mathcal{F}} X_i = 0$ and $E^{\mathcal{F}} X_i^2 < \infty$ a.s. for each $i \geq 1$ and let $\{b_n | n \geq 1\}$ be a sequence of positive nondecreasing real numbers. Then for an arbitrary \mathcal{F} -measurable random variables $\varepsilon > 0$ a.s. and positive integer $m \leq n$,

$$\begin{aligned} &P\left(\max_{m \leq k \leq n} \frac{1}{b_k} \sum_{i=1}^k (X_i - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_i) \geq \varepsilon | \mathcal{F}\right) \\ &\leq c \left(\sum_{i=1}^m \frac{\text{Var}^{\mathcal{F}} X_i}{b_m^2} + \sum_{1 \leq i \neq k \leq m} \frac{\text{Cov}^{\mathcal{F}}(X_i, X_k)}{b_m^2} + \sum_{j=m+1}^n \frac{\text{Var}^{\mathcal{F}} X_j}{b_j^2} + \sum_{m+1 \leq j \neq k \leq n} \frac{\text{Cov}^{\mathcal{F}}(X_j, X_k)}{b_j b_k} \right) \text{ a.s.} \end{aligned}$$

Proof: Noting that $\{X_n | n \geq 1\}$ is an \mathcal{F} -associated random variables implies $\{(X_n - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_n) | n \geq 1\}$ is an also \mathcal{F} -associated random variables and that $\varepsilon > 0$ a.s. is an \mathcal{F} -measurable random variable, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} &P\left(\max_{m \leq k \leq n} \left| \frac{1}{b_k} \left(\sum_{i=1}^k (X_i - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_i) \right) \right| \geq \varepsilon | \mathcal{F}\right) \\ &= P\left(\max_{m \leq k \leq n} \left| \frac{1}{b_k} \left(\sum_{i=1}^m (X_i - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_i) + \sum_{i=1}^k (X_i - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_i) - \sum_{i=1}^m (X_i - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_i) \right) \right| \geq \varepsilon | \mathcal{F}\right) \\ &\leq P\left(\max_{m \leq k \leq n} \left| \frac{1}{b_k} \left(\sum_{i=1}^m (X_i - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_i) \right) \right| \geq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} | \mathcal{F}\right) + P\left(\max_{m \leq k \leq n} \left| \frac{1}{b_k} \left(\sum_{i=1}^k (X_i - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_i) - \sum_{i=1}^m (X_i - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_i) \right) \right| \geq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} | \mathcal{F}\right) \\ &=: I_1 + I_2. \end{aligned}$$

As to I_1 , using Lemma 1, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} I_1 &= P\left(\max_{m \leq k \leq n} \left| \frac{1}{b_k} \left(\sum_{i=1}^m (X_i - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_i) \right) \right| \geq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} | \mathcal{F}\right) \\ &\leq P\left(\frac{1}{b_m} \left| \sum_{i=1}^m (X_i - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_i) \right| \geq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} | \mathcal{F}\right) \\ &\leq P\left(\frac{1}{b_m} \max_{1 \leq k \leq m} \left| \sum_{i=1}^k (X_i - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_i) \right| \geq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} | \mathcal{F}\right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\leq \frac{c}{b_m^2} E^{\mathcal{F}} \left(\sum_{i=1}^m X_i - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_i \right)^2 \\
&= \frac{c}{b_m^2} \text{Var}^{\mathcal{F}} \left(\sum_{i=1}^m X_i \right) \\
&= c \left(\frac{1}{b_m^2} \sum_{i=1}^m \text{Var}^{\mathcal{F}} X_i + \frac{1}{b_m^2} \sum_{1 \leq i \neq k}^m \text{Cov}^{\mathcal{F}} (X_i, X_k) \right).
\end{aligned}$$

Next, noting that

$$\max_{m \leq k \leq n} \frac{\left| \sum_{i=1}^k (X_i - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_i) - \sum_{i=1}^m (X_i - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_i) \right|}{b_k} = \max_{1 \leq k \leq n-m} \frac{\left| \sum_{j=1}^k (X_{m+j} - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_{m+j}) \right|}{b_{m+k}},$$

and using Lemma 1, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
I_2 &= P \left(\max_{m \leq k \leq n} \frac{\left| \sum_{i=1}^k (X_i - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_i) - \sum_{i=1}^m (X_i - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_i) \right|}{b_k} \geq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \middle| \mathcal{F} \right) \\
&= P \left(\max_{1 \leq k \leq n-m} \frac{\left| \sum_{j=1}^k (X_{m+j} - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_{m+j}) \right|}{b_{m+k}} \geq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \middle| \mathcal{F} \right) \\
&\leq \frac{c E^{\mathcal{F}} \left(\sum_{j=1}^{n-m} (X_{m+j} - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_{m+j}) \right)^2}{b_{m+j}^2} \\
&= \frac{c E^{\mathcal{F}} \left(\sum_{j=m+1}^n (X_j - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j) \right)^2}{b_j^2} \\
&= \frac{c \text{Var}^{\mathcal{F}} \left(\sum_{j=m+1}^n X_j \right)}{b_j^2} \\
&= c \left(\sum_{j=m+1}^n \frac{\text{Var}^{\mathcal{F}} X_j}{b_j^2} + \sum_{m+1 \leq j \neq k}^n \frac{\text{Cov}^{\mathcal{F}} (X_j, X_k)}{b_j b_k} \right).
\end{aligned}$$

The proof is complete. □

As corollary to Theorem 1, we obtain the following results.

Corollary 1. *In Theorem 1, if $b_k = k$, $k = 1, 2, \dots, m$, then we obtain the following inequality.*

$$\begin{aligned}
&P \left(\max_{m \leq k \leq n} \left| \frac{\sum_{i=1}^k (X_m - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_i)}{k} \right| \geq \varepsilon \middle| \mathcal{F} \right) \\
&\leq c \left(\sum_{i=1}^m \frac{\text{Var}^{\mathcal{F}} X_i}{m^2} + \sum_{1 \leq j \neq k}^n \frac{\text{Cov}^{\mathcal{F}} (X_j, X_k)}{m^2} + \sum_{j=m+1}^m \frac{\text{Var}^{\mathcal{F}} X_j}{j^2} + \sum_{m+1 \leq j \neq k} \frac{\text{Cov}^{\mathcal{F}} (X_j, X_k)}{jk} \right) a.s.
\end{aligned}$$

3. Almost Sure Convergence for \mathcal{F} -Associated Random Variables

In this section, we will give the strong law of large numbers, the three series theorem, integrability of supremum, and a strong growth rate for \mathcal{F} -associated random variables by using the results which we have obtained in Section 2.

Theorem 2. Let $\{X_n | n \geq 1\}$ be a sequence of \mathcal{F} -associated random variables such that

$$\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \text{Var}^{\mathcal{F}} X_j + \sum_{1 \leq j \neq k}^{\infty} \text{Cov}^{\mathcal{F}}(X_j, X_k) < \infty \quad a.s.$$

Then, conditionally on \mathcal{F} ,

$$\sum_{j=1}^n (X_j - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j) \rightarrow 0 \quad a.s. \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

Proof: Without loss of generality, we may assume that $E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j = 0$ for all $j \geq 1$, and let $\varepsilon > 0$ a.s. be an \mathcal{F} -measurable random variable. Then by Lemma 1 and Theorem 1,

$$\begin{aligned} & P \left(\max_{k, m \geq n} \left| \sum_{j=1}^k (X_j - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j) - \sum_{j=1}^m (X_j - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j) \right| \geq \varepsilon \mid \mathcal{F} \right) \\ & \leq P \left(\max_{k \geq n} \left| \sum_{j=1}^k (X_j - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j) - \sum_{j=1}^m (X_j - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j) \right| \geq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \mid \mathcal{F} \right) \\ & \quad + P \left(\max_{m \geq n} \left| \sum_{j=1}^m (X_j - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j) - \sum_{j=1}^n (X_j - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j) \right| \geq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \mid \mathcal{F} \right) \\ & \leq c \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} P \left(\max_{n \leq k \leq N} \left| \sum_{j=1}^k (X_j - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j) - \sum_{j=1}^n (X_j - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j) \right| \geq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \mid \mathcal{F} \right) \\ & \leq c \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} E^{\mathcal{F}} \left(\max_{n \leq k \leq N} \left| \sum_{j=1}^k (X_j - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j) - \sum_{j=1}^n (X_j - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j) \right|^2 \right) \\ & \leq c \left(\sum_{j=n}^{\infty} \text{Var}^{\mathcal{F}} X_j + \sum_{n \leq j \neq k}^{\infty} \text{Cov}^{\mathcal{F}}(X_j, X_k) \right) < \infty \quad a.s. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, the sequence of \mathcal{F} -associated random variables $\{\sum_{j=1}^n (X_j - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j) | n \geq 1\}$ is a Cauchy which implies that $\sum_{j=1}^n (X_j - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j) \rightarrow 0$ a.s. as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

The proof is complete. \square

To prove Theorem 3, we need the following conditional version of Borel-cantelli lemma that is proved by Majerak *et al.* (2005).

Lemma 2. Majerak *et al.* (2005) Let $\{\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P\}$ be a probability space and let \mathcal{F} be a sub- σ -algebra of \mathcal{A} . Then the following results hold.

- (i) Let $\{A_n | n \geq 1\}$ be a sequence of events such that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P(A_n) < \infty$. Then $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P(A_n | \mathcal{F}) < \infty$ a.s.
- (ii) Let $\{A_n | n \geq 1\}$ be a sequence of events and let $A = \{\omega | \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P(A_n | \mathcal{F}) < \infty\}$ with $P(A) < 1$. Then, only finitely many events from the sequence $\{A_n \cap A, n \geq 1\}$ hold with probability one, namely $P(\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_{k=n}^{\infty} (A_k \cap A)) = 0$.

Theorem 3. (The three series theorem). Let $\{X_n | n \geq 1\}$ be a sequence of \mathcal{F} -associated random variables such that

- (1) $\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \text{Var}^{\mathcal{F}} X_j^c + \sum_{1 \leq j \neq k}^{\infty} \text{Cov}^{\mathcal{F}}(X_j^c, X_k^c) < \infty$ a.s.
- (2) $\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j^c < \infty$ a.s.
- (3) $\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} P(|X_j| \geq c | \mathcal{F}) < \infty$ for some constant $c > 0$.

Then $\sum_{j=1}^n X_j \rightarrow 0$ a.s. as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Proof: Let $X_j^c = X_j I(|X_j| \leq c)$. Then, by Theorem 2 and (1), it follows that for condition on \mathcal{F} ,

$$\sum_{j=1}^n (X_j^c - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j^c) \rightarrow 0 \text{ a.s. as } n \rightarrow \infty,$$

and from (2), $\sum_{j=1}^n X_j^c \rightarrow 0$ a.s. as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Which together with (3), implies that $n \rightarrow \infty$.

$$\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} P(X_j \neq X_j^c | \mathcal{F}) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} P(|X_j| \geq c | \mathcal{F}) < \infty.$$

Hence, by Lemma 2, we obtain that

$$\sum_{j=1}^n X_j \rightarrow 0 \text{ a.s. as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

The proof is complete. □

Theorem 4. Let $\{X_n | n \geq 1\}$ be a sequence of \mathcal{F} -associated random variables such that

$$\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{\text{Var}^{\mathcal{F}} X_j}{b_j^2} + \sum_{1 \leq j \neq k}^{\infty} \frac{\text{Cov}^{\mathcal{F}}(X_j, X_k)}{b_j b_k} < \infty \text{ a.s.}$$

and let $\{b_n | n \geq 1\}$ be a sequence of positive nondecreasing real numbers. Then,

- (a) For $0 < r < 2$ and conditionally on \mathcal{F} ,

$$E^{\mathcal{F}} \sup_{n \geq 1} \left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n |(X_i - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_i)|}{b_n} \right)^r < \infty \text{ a.s.}$$

- (b) If $0 < b_n \rightarrow \infty$, then $\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_i) / b_n \rightarrow 0$ a.s. as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Proof: Proof of (a). Noting that

$$\begin{aligned} E^{\mathcal{F}} \sup_{n \geq 1} \left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n |(X_i - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_i)|}{b_n} \right)^r &< \infty \text{ a.s.} \\ \Leftrightarrow \int_1^\infty P \left(\sup_{n \geq 1} \frac{|\sum_{j=1}^n (X_j - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j)|}{b_n} \geq t^{\frac{1}{r}} \mid \mathcal{F} \right) dt &< \infty \text{ a.s.} \end{aligned}$$

by Lemma 1 and Theorem 1, we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_1^\infty P \left(\sup_{n \geq 1} \frac{|\sum_{j=1}^n (X_j - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j)|}{b_n} \geq t^{\frac{1}{r}} \mid \mathcal{F} \right) dt \\ &\leq c \int_1^\infty t^{-\frac{2}{r}} \left(\sum_{j=1}^\infty \frac{\text{Var}^{\mathcal{F}} X_j}{b_j^2} + \sum_{1 \leq j \neq k} \frac{\text{Cov}^{\mathcal{F}}(X_j, X_k)}{b_j b_k} \right) dt \\ &= c \left(\sum_{j=1}^\infty \frac{\text{Var}^{\mathcal{F}} X_j}{b_j^2} + \sum_{1 \leq j \neq k} \frac{\text{Cov}^{\mathcal{F}}(X_j, X_k)}{b_j b_k} \right) \int_1^\infty t^{-\frac{2}{r}} < \infty \text{ a.s.} \end{aligned}$$

Proof of (b). For $\varepsilon > 0$ a.s. is an \mathcal{F} -measurable random variable, by Lemma 1 and Theorem 1,

$$\begin{aligned} &P \left(\max_{m \leq k \leq n} \frac{|\sum_{j=1}^k X_j - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j|}{b_k} \geq \varepsilon \mid \mathcal{F} \right) \\ &\leq c \left(\frac{E^{\mathcal{F}} \left(\sum_{j=1}^m (X_j - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j) \right)^2}{b_m^2} + \frac{E^{\mathcal{F}} \left(\sum_{j=m+1}^n (X_j - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j) \right)^2}{b_j^2} \right) \\ &= c \left(\frac{\sum_{j=1}^m \text{Var}^{\mathcal{F}} X_j}{b_m^2} + \sum_{1 \leq j \neq k} \frac{\text{Cov}^{\mathcal{F}}(X_j, X_k)}{b_m^2} + \sum_{j=m+1}^n \frac{\text{Var}^{\mathcal{F}} X_j}{b_j^2} + \sum_{m+1 \leq j \neq k} \frac{\text{Cov}^{\mathcal{F}}(X_j, X_k)}{b_j b_k} \right). \end{aligned}$$

But for $\varepsilon > 0$ a.s. is an \mathcal{F} -measurable random variable,

$$\begin{aligned} &P \left(\bigcup_{n=m} \max_{m \leq k \leq n} \frac{|\sum_{j=1}^k (X_j - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j)|}{b_k} \geq \varepsilon \mid \mathcal{F} \right) \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P \left(\max_{m \leq k \leq n} \frac{|\sum_{j=1}^k (X_j - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j)|}{b_k} \geq \varepsilon \mid \mathcal{F} \right) \\ &\leq c \left(\frac{E^{\mathcal{F}} \left(\sum_{j=1}^m (X_j - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j) \right)^2}{b_m^2} + \frac{E^{\mathcal{F}} \left(\sum_{j=m+1}^n (X_j - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j) \right)^2}{b_j^2} \right) \\ &= c \left(\frac{\sum_{j=1}^m \text{Var}^{\mathcal{F}} X_j}{b_m^2} + \sum_{1 \leq j \neq k} \frac{\text{Cov}^{\mathcal{F}}(X_j, X_k)}{b_m^2} + \sum_{j=m+1}^n \frac{\text{Var}^{\mathcal{F}} X_j}{b_j^2} + \sum_{m+1 \leq j \neq k} \frac{\text{Cov}^{\mathcal{F}}(X_j, X_k)}{b_j b_k} \right). \quad (3.1) \end{aligned}$$

By the kronecker Lemma and $\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \text{Var}^{\mathcal{F}} X_j b_j^2 + \sum_{1 \leq j \neq k} \text{Cov}^{\mathcal{F}}(X_j, X_k)/(b_j b_k) < \infty$ a.s., we obtain that

$$\sum_{j=1}^m \frac{\text{Var}^{\mathcal{F}} X_j}{b_m^2} + \sum_{1 \leq j \neq k}^m \frac{\text{Cov}^{\mathcal{F}}(X_j, X_k)}{b_m^2} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } m \rightarrow \infty. \quad (3.2)$$

Hence, by (3.1) and (3.2), we obtain that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P \left(\sup_{k \geq n} \frac{\sum_{j=1}^k (X_j - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j)}{b_k} \geq \varepsilon \mid \mathcal{F} \right) = 0, \\ \text{i.e., } \frac{\sum_{j=1}^n (X_j - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j)}{b_n} \rightarrow 0 \text{ a.s. as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

The proof is complete. \square

Remark 1. Taking $b_n = 1$, we can obtain the result

$$\sum_{j=1}^n (X_j - E^{\mathcal{F}} X_j) \rightarrow 0 \text{ a.s. as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

Finally, we obtain the almost sure convergence of weighted sums of sequence of \mathcal{F} -associated random variables.

Theorem 5. Assume that $\{X_n | n \geq 1\}$ be a sequence of \mathcal{F} -associated random variables satisfying

$$\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \text{Var}^{\mathcal{F}} X_j + \sum_{1 \leq j \neq k} \text{Cov}^{\mathcal{F}}(X_j, X_k) < \infty \text{ a.s.}$$

and let $\{a_{ni} | 1 \leq i \leq n, n \geq 1\}$ be a sequence of real numbers such that $a_{ni} = 0, i > n, \sup_{n \geq 1} \sum_{i=1}^n |a_{ni}| < \infty$ and let $\{b_n | n \geq 1\}$ be a sequence of positive nondecreasing real numbers such that $0 < b_n \rightarrow \infty$. Then

$$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n a_{ni} X_i}{b_n} \rightarrow 0 \text{ a.s. as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

Proof: Note that $\{a_{ni} X_i | 1 \leq i \leq n, n \geq 1\}$ is a sequence of \mathcal{F} -associated random variables and let

$$S_k = \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{X_i}{b_k}, \quad c_{ni} = \frac{b_i}{b_n} (a_{ni} - a_{ni+1}), \quad \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq n-1,$$

and $c_{nn} = a_{nn}$. Then

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_{ni} X_i}{b_n} = \sum_{i=1}^n c_{ni} S_i, \quad \sum_{i=1}^n |c_{ni}| \leq 2 \sup_{n \geq 1} \sum_{i=1}^n |a_{ni}| \quad (3.3)$$

$$\text{and } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |c_{ni}| = 0, \quad \text{for every fixed } i. \quad (3.4)$$

From (3.3) and (3.4), we obtain for every sequence real numbers d_n with $d_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, $\sum_{j=1}^n c_{nj}d_j \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Hence, by Theorem 4(b), (3.3) and (3.4), we obtain the result of Theorem 5.

The proof is complete. \square

Corollary 2. Let $\{X_n | n \geq 1\}$ be a sequence of \mathcal{F} -associated random variables $E^{\mathcal{F}} X_k = 0$ and $\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \text{Var}^{\mathcal{F}} X_j + \sum_{1 \leq j \neq k} \text{Cov}^{\mathcal{F}}(X_j, X_k) < \infty$ a.s., and $\{a_{ni} | 1 \leq i \leq n, n \geq 1\}$ be a sequence of real numbers with $a_{ni} = 0, i > n, \sup_{n \geq 1} \sum_{i=1}^n |a_{ni}| < \infty$. Then for $0 < t < 1$,

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_{ni} X_i}{n^{\frac{1}{t}}} \rightarrow 0 \text{ a.s. as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

Proof: Note that $\{a_{ni} X_i | 1 \leq i \leq n, n \geq 1\}$ is a sequence of \mathcal{F} -associated random variables. Then taking $b_n = n^{1/t}$, from Theorem 5, we obtain the result of Corollary 2. \square

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank the referees for their valuable comments and suggestions. The first author was supported by a Wonkwang University Research Grant in 2011.

References

- Birkel, T. (1998). Moment bounds for associated sequences, *Annals of Probability*, **16**, 1184–1193.
- Cai, G. (2000). *The Hájek-Rényi Inequality for p^* -Mixing Sequences of Random Variables*, Department of Mathematics, Zhejiang University, Preprint.
- Esary, J. D., Proschan, F. and Walkup, D. W. (1967). Association of random variables with applications, *The Annals of Mathematical Statistics*, **38**, 1466–1474.
- Gan, S. (1997). The Hájek-Rényi Inequality for Banach space valued martingales and the p smoothness of Banach space, *Statistics & Probability Letters*, **32**, 245–248.
- Hájek, J. and Rényi, A. (1955). Generalization of an inequality of Kolmogorov, *Acta Mathematica Hungarica*, **6**, 281–283.
- Hu, S. H., Hu, X. P. and Zhang, L. S. (2005). The Hájek-Rényi-type inequality under second moment condition and its application, *Acta Mathematicae Applicatae Sinica*, **28**, 227–235.
- Ioannides, D. A. and Roussas, G. G. (1999). Exponential inequality for associated random variables, *Statistics & Probability Letters*, **42**, 423–431.
- Lin, Z. Y. (1997). An invariance principle for negatively associated random variables, *Chinese Science Bulletin*, **42**, 359–364.
- Liu, J., Gan, S. and Chen, P. (1999). The Hájek-Rényi inequality for NA random variables and its application, *Statistics & Probability Letters*, **43**, 99–105.
- Majerak, D., Nowak, W. and Zie, W. (2005). Conditional strong law of large numbers, *International Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics*, **20**, 143–157.
- Newman, C. M. and Wright, A. L. (1981). An invariance principle for certain dependent sequences, *Annals of Probability*, **9**, 671–675.
- Newman, C. M. and Wright, A. L. (1982). Associated random variables and martingale inequalities, *Probability Theory and Related Fields*, **59**, 361–371.
- Oliveira, P. D. (2005). An exponential inequality for associated variables, *Statistics & Probability Letters*, **73** 189–197.

- Prakasa Rao, B. L. S. (2002). Hájek-Rényi inequality for associated sequences, *Statistics & Probability Letters*, **57**, 139–143.
- Prakasa Rao, B. L. S. (2009). Conditional independence, conditional mixing and conditional association, *Annals of the Institute of Statistical Mathematics*, **61**, 441–460.
- Qiu, D. and Gan, S. (2005). The Hájek-Rényi inequality for the NA random variables, *Journal of Mathematics. Wuhan University*, **25**, 553–557.
- Rao, B. L. S. P. (2002). The Hájek-Rényi type inequality for associated sequences, *Statistics & Probability Letters*, **57**, 139–143.
- Shao, Q. M. and Yu, H. (1996). Weak convergence for weighted empirical processes of dependent sequences, *Annals of Probability*, **24**, 2098–2127.
- Sung, H. S. (2008). A note on the Hájek-Rényi inequality for associated random variables, *Statistics & Probability Letters*, **78**, 885–889.
- Wang, J. F. and Zhang, L. X. (2006). A nonclassical law of the iterated logarithm for function of positively associated random variables, *Metrika*, **64**, 361–378.
- Yang, S. C. and Chen, M. (2007). Exponential inequalities for associated random variables and strong laws of large numbers, *Science in China Series A: Mathematics*, **50**, 705–714.
- Yuan, D. M. and Yang, Y. K. (2011). Conditional versions of limit theorems for conditionally associated random variables, *Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications*, **376**, 282–293.

Received July 2011; Accepted October 2011