

Central Limit Theorem with Exchangeable Summands and Mixtures of Stable Laws as Limits

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Dedicated to the memory of Enrico Magenes

Abstract. – *The problem of convergence in law of normed sums of exchangeable random variables is examined. First, the problem is studied w.r.t. arrays of exchangeable random variables, and the special role played by mixtures of products of stable laws – as limits in law of normed sums in different rows of the array – is emphasized. Necessary and sufficient conditions for convergence to a specific form in the above class of measures are then given. Moreover, sufficient conditions for convergence of sums in a single row are proved. Finally, a potentially useful variant of the formulation of the results just summarized is briefly sketched, a more complete study of it being deferred to a future work.*

1. – Motivations and organization of the paper

The extension of the *central limit theorem* (c.l.t., for short) from independent random variables (r.v.'s, for short) to sequences of exchangeable r.v.'s has drawn the attention of a number of researchers ever since the appearance of [3]. Unlike most papers, which have approached the topic in a direct way, in Section 6-7 of [9] results are derived from statements concerning the c.l.t. for arrays of partially exchangeable r.v.'s. The consequent methods are conducive to an original and fruitful approach to the problem. They are mentioned, for example, in a small number of works dealing with the asymptotic behavior of the solutions of kinetic equations, because of the recourse to a Skorokhod-type representation introduced in [9]. See [11], [1], [20], [12], [7]. With reference to the topic developed in the present work, one can mention that the methods introduced in [9] have been followed in [19] to extend the c.l.t. to exchangeable random elements with values in a Hilbert space. Other citations, such as in [6] and [17], are made to complete bibliographies about exchangeability or other forms of symmetry of probability distributions (p.d.'s, for short) of sequences of r.v.'s. We call the reader attention to [15] – a paper with which we have been acquainted recently – because of its critical content towards our approach and consequent results. As we are here preparing ourselves to follow such an approach to obtain new forms of the c.l.t., it is worth clearing the field of any suspicion of mistake by recalling

the recent correction note [16]. In it, Jiang and Hahn, authors of [15], admit their criticisms are mistaken and quite unjustified since “based on a misreading and therefore a subsequent misunderstanding of the results in [9]”.

The present paper aims at formulating conditions for the convergence of sums of exchangeable r.v.’s to random elements distributed according to mixtures of stable laws, thus encompassing the main result in [15], where only the case of mixtures of Gaussians is contemplated. A short description of our approach is contained in Section 2. Section 3 includes the formulation and the proof of the main results concerning the weak convergence of a sequence of sums of elements contained in rows of an array of exchangeable r.v.’s. In Section 4 these results are adapted to sums of exchangeable r.v.’s. Finally, in Section 5, a different approach – to be developed in a future paper – is mentioned.

2. – Methodological background

This section aims: (1) at providing an overview of the methodology for partially exchangeable arrays presented in [9]; (2) at explaining its adaptation to the solution of the central limit problem for sums of exchangeable r.v.’s. We begin presenting an array A of *exchangeable r.v.’s*, that is $A := \{X_{ij} : i, j = 1, 2, \dots\}$. Exchangeability means that the joint distribution of every finite subset of m of these r.v.’s depends only on m and not on the particular subset, $m \geq 1$. See page 223 of [4]. According to a classical representation theorem by de Finetti, exchangeability of the X_{ij} ’s is tantamount to saying that there exists a random probability measure p^* such that the X_{ij} ’s turn out to be conditionally independent and identically distributed (i.i.d., for short) given p^* . With symbols to be explained below, think of p^* as a random element defined on $(\Omega, \mathcal{F})$ with values in $(\mathbb{P}, \mathcal{P})$. Therefore, if β denotes the p.d. of p^* , assuming that all random elements considered throughout the paper are defined on the probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$, one obtains that

$$(1) \quad P(\cap_{i=1}^k \cap_{j=1}^m \{X_{ij} \in A_{ij}\}) = \int_{\mathbb{P}} \left(\prod_{i=1}^k \prod_{j=1}^m p(A_{ij}) \right) \beta(dp)$$

holds for every A_{ij} in $\mathcal{R}$ ($1 \leq i \leq k$, $1 \leq j \leq m$), for any k, m in $\mathbb{N}$. Note that $\mathcal{R}$ stands for the Borel σ -field on $\mathbb{R}$, $\mathbb{P}$ denotes the set of probability measures (p.m.’s, for short) on $(\mathbb{R}, \mathcal{R})$, endowed with the topology of weak convergence of p.m.’s. Hence, β is viewed as p.m. on $(\mathbb{P}, \mathcal{P})$, $\mathcal{P}$ being the Borel σ -field generated by such a topology. The p.d. β is usually referred to as *de Finetti’s measure*. From now on, weak convergence of p.m.’s will be denoted by $\Rightarrow$, while the symbols $\xrightarrow{d}, \overset{d}{=}$ will designate convergence in law and equality in law, respectively.

Consider sequences $(a_n)_{n \geq 1}$, $(b_n)_{n \geq 1}$ of real numbers such that

$$b_n > 0 \text{ for every } n, \quad b_n \rightarrow +\infty \text{ as } n \rightarrow +\infty$$

and set

$$(2) \quad \zeta_{ij}^{(n)} := \frac{X_{ij}}{b_n}, \quad c_n := \frac{a_n}{b_n}$$

for every i, j, n , and

$$(3) \quad S_{in} - c_n := \sum_{j=1}^n \zeta_{ij}^{(n)} - c_n = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^n X_{ij} - a_n}{b_n}$$

for any i in $\mathbb{N}$. The literature, mentioned in Section 1, deals directly with the convergence of $(S_{in} - c_n)_{n \geq 1}$ for a *single* i arbitrarily fixed (thanks to the exchangeability assumption). On the contrary, according to [9], our approach is that of tackling the same problem only after studying necessary and sufficient conditions for the convergence of the joint p.d. of the (infinite-dimensional) vector $(S_{1n} - c_n, S_{2n} - c_n, \dots)$. It should be noted that, as clarified by the following example, conclusions drawn from the latter study cannot be extended, without suitable adjustments, to the solution of the former problem. In fact, the example below shows that the main difference regards the uniqueness of the representation of the limiting distribution. The example is drawn from [15].

EXAMPLE 1. – Let the X_{ij} 's be i.i.d. Cauchy r.v.'s, and let $a_n = 0$, $b_n = n$. Then the (Cauchy) limiting characteristic function of $(S_{1n} - c_n)_{n \geq 1}$ can be represented *both* as a mixture of Gaussians such as

$$e^{-|t|} = \int_0^{+\infty} e^{-\frac{1}{2}t^2\sigma^2} \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \frac{e^{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}}}{\sigma^2} d\sigma \quad (t \in \mathbb{R})$$

and as a mixture with mixing measure given by the point mass at the standard Cauchy p.d. But, as far as the convergence of $((S_{1n} - c_n, S_{2n} - c_n, \dots))_{n \geq 1}$ is concerned, one notices that

$$E\left(e^{i \sum_{k=1}^m t_k S_{kn}}\right) = \prod_{k=1}^m e^{-|t_k|}$$

is valid for every $(t_1, \dots, t_m)$ in $\mathbb{R}^m$ and m, n in $\mathbb{N}$. Hence, the limiting (exchangeable) p.d. is presentable – in a *unique way* – as a mixture with de Finetti's measure given by the above unit mass. $\square$

The reference point for the strategy briefly sketched above is given by Theorem 2 in [9] concerning a *sequence of arrays* such as

$$A^{(n)} := \{\xi_{ij}^{(n)} : i \in \mathbb{N}, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}\} \quad (n \in \mathbb{N})$$

whose elements are *partially exchangeable*, in the sense that the joint p.d. of every finite subset of m_1 elements from $(\xi_{i1}^{(n)})_{i \geq 1}$, m_2 elements from $(\xi_{i2}^{(n)})_{i \geq 1}$, $\dots$, m_n elements from $(\xi_{in}^{(n)})_{i \geq 1}$, depends only on $(m_1, \dots, m_n)$ and not on the particular subset, for any $m_1, \dots, m_n$ in $\mathbb{N}_0 := \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$. There is an extension of de Finetti's representation theorem according to which the above condition of partial exchangeability is equivalent to the existence of a *unique* p.m. β_n on $(\mathbb{P}^n, \mathcal{P}^n)$ – with $\mathcal{P}^n = \mathcal{P}^{\otimes n}$ – such that

$$P(\cap_{j=1}^n \cap_{i=1}^m \{\xi_{ij}^{(n)} \in A_{ij}\}) = \int_{\mathbb{P}^n} \prod_{j=1}^n \prod_{i=1}^m p_j(A_{ij}) \beta_n(dp_1, \dots, dp_n)$$

holds for every A_{ij} in $\mathcal{R}$ ($1 \leq j \leq n$, $1 \leq i \leq m$), n and m in $\mathbb{N}$. In addition to this representation, partial exchangeability can be characterized by saying that there exists a vector of random p.m.'s $(p_{1n}^*, \dots, p_{nn}^*)$ such that the elements of $A^{(n)}$ are conditionally independent given $(p_{1n}^*, \dots, p_{nn}^*)$ and the elements of each sequence $(\xi_{ij}^{(n)})_{i \geq 1}$ are conditionally identically distributed with common p.d. p_{jn}^* given $(p_{1n}^*, \dots, p_{nn}^*)$ for $j = 1, \dots, n$. The most general proposition in [9] states necessary and sufficient conditions in order that, for some suitable sequence $(c_n)_{n \geq 1}$ of real numbers, the infinite-dimensional vectors $(S_{1n} - c_n, S_{2n} - c_n, \dots)$ converge in law as n goes to infinity, with $S_{in} := \sum_{j=1}^n \xi_{ij}^{(n)}$. Moreover, it provides a complete characterization of the limiting p.d.'s under an assumption of *uniform asymptotic negligibility* for the elements of $A^{(n)}$, which reads

(H) For every $\varepsilon > 0$, $M_n(\varepsilon)$ converges in probability to zero as n goes to infinity, where $M_n(\varepsilon)$ is defined, for every n , by

$$M_n(\varepsilon) = \max_{1 \leq j \leq n} p_{jn}^*([-\varepsilon, \varepsilon]^c).$$

To formulate the c.l.t of interest, additional notation is needed. Let $\overline{\mathbb{R}}$ and $\overline{\mathcal{R}}$ denote the extended real line and the Borel σ -field on it, respectively. In addition let $\overline{\mathbb{M}}$ stand for the class of all finite (positive) measures on $\overline{\mathcal{R}}$, endowed with the topology of weak convergence. $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$ will indicate the σ -field generated by such a topology. The symbols $\mathbb{M}$ and $\mathcal{M}$ will be employed with the above very same meaning, but with regard to finite measures on $(\mathbb{R}, \mathcal{R})$. The subset of measures λ without mass neither at $-\infty$ nor at $+\infty$ will be denoted by $\overline{\mathbb{M}}_0$, i.e. $\overline{\mathbb{M}}_0 := \{\lambda \in \overline{\mathbb{M}} : \lambda(\{-\infty, +\infty\}) = 0\}$. Now, for given n in $\mathbb{N}$, j in $\{1, \dots, n\}$ and $\tau > 0$, set

$$(4) \quad m_{jn}^{(\tau)} := \int_{|x| \leq \tau} x p_{jn}^*(dx)$$

and consider the random p.m. $p_{jn}^{*(\tau)}$ on $\mathcal{R}$ defined by

$$(5) \quad p_{jn}^{*(\tau)}(A) := p_{jn}^*(\{x \in \mathbb{R} : x - m_{jn}^{(\tau)} \in A\}) \quad (A \in \mathcal{R}).$$

Next, put

$$(6) \quad \mu_n^{(\tau)} := \sum_{j=1}^n \left\{ m_{jn}^{(\tau)} + \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{x}{1+x^2} p_{jn}^{*(\tau)}(dx) \right\} - c_n$$

and

$$(7) \quad \psi_n^{(\tau)}(B) = \sum_{j=1}^n \int_B \frac{y^2}{1+y^2} p_{jn}^{*(\tau)}(dy) \quad (B \in \overline{\mathcal{R}}).$$

Note that $\psi_n^{(\tau)}$ turns out to be a random measure on Ω with values in $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_0$, whereas $\mu_n^{(\tau)}$ is a real-valued r.v. This allows us to define the p.d. $\nu_n^{(\tau)}$ of the random vector $(\mu_n^{(\tau)}, \psi_n^{(\tau)})$ as a p.m. on $\mathcal{R} \otimes \overline{\mathcal{M}}_0$, $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_0$ being of course the Borel σ -field on $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_0$. Now the way is paved for the formulation of

THEOREM 1 (Theorem 2 in [9]). – *Assume that $A^{(n)}$ is a sequence of partially exchangeable arrays with de Finetti's measures $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots$, meeting (H).*

1°. *If $((S_{1n} - c_n, S_{2n} - c_n, \dots))_{n \geq 1}$ converges in law, then there is a unique p.m. ν on $(\mathbb{R} \times \overline{\mathcal{M}}_0, \mathcal{R} \otimes \overline{\mathcal{M}}_0)$ such that the limiting law of $((S_{1n} - c_n, S_{2n} - c_n, \dots))_{n \geq 1}$ has Fourier-Stieltjes transform*

$$(8) \quad \phi_m(t_1, \dots, t_m) = \int_{\mathbb{R} \times \overline{\mathcal{M}}_0} \prod_{k=1}^m e^{\psi(t_k; \mu, \rho)} \nu(d\mu d\rho) \quad ((t_1, \dots, t_m) \in \mathcal{R}^m)$$

for every m in $\mathbb{N}$, where e^ψ is the infinitely divisible characteristic function with exponent

$$\psi(t; \mu, \rho) = i\mu t + \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left(e^{itx} - 1 - \frac{itx}{1+x^2} \right) \frac{1+x^2}{x^2} \rho(dx) \quad (t \in \mathcal{R}).$$

2°. *In order that $((S_{1n} - c_n, S_{2n} - c_n, \dots))_{n \geq 1}$ converges in law – for some numerical sequence $(c_n)_{n \geq 1}$ – to a sequence with law characterized as in (8), it is necessary and sufficient that $\nu_n^{(\tau)} \Rightarrow \nu$ for some strictly positive τ arbitrarily fixed.*

The former part of the theorem provides a complete characterization of the family of all possible limiting laws for the sequence $((S_{1n} - c_n, S_{2n} - c_n, \dots))_{n \geq 1}$ of infinite-dimensional vectors of sums of partially exchangeable r.v.'s satisfying (H). It turns out that such a family is constituted of all exchangeable laws that are mixtures of infinitely divisible distributions. Hence, the de Finetti measure

is a p.d. for the characteristic parameters (μ, ρ) in the Lévy-Khintchine representation of the characteristic functions (c.f.'s, for short). The latter part specifies, under (H), necessary and sufficient conditions in order that the limit is a distinguished element of the class mentioned in the former one. The proof of the theorem is based on a Skorokhod-type representation – described in details in Section 3 of [9] – we shall use to prove some theorems in the next section. Here it is important to emphasize the *uniqueness* of de Finetti's measure ν to represent the limiting p.d. as a mixture, a property which may fail when one confines the study to the convergence of a single sum, e.g. $(S_{1n} - c_n)_{n \geq 1}$. It is worth noting that, under such an assumption, if the $\xi_{ij}^{(n)}$'s are defined as in (2) for an exchangeable array, then (H) is satisfied and the sequence of the laws of the infinite-dimensional vector $(S_{1n} - c_n, S_{2n} - c_n, \dots)$ turns out to be (uniformly) tight. Therefore, there exists a subsequence (n') along which the laws converge weakly to a p.m. as in (8) with a de Finetti measure $\nu = \nu'$ which depends, in general on (n') . This remark, which plays an important role in the rest of the paper, will be made precise in the next section.

The section concludes with an explanation of the main assumption made in Theorem 1 – that is partial exchangeability – from the point of view of statistical modeling. Consider a potentially infinite sequence of observations affected by random errors. Assume that the error for the i -th observation is presentable as sum of n random quantities like

$$S_{in} = \xi_{i1}^{(n)} + \dots + \xi_{in}^{(n)}$$

for $i = 1, 2, \dots$. Suppose, in addition, that the observations are made under *homogeneous* conditions. Classically, when these circumstances are taken for granted, the r.v.'s $\xi_{i1}^{(n)}, \dots, \xi_{in}^{(n)}$ are viewed as *stochastically independent*, for each i , as well as the rows $(\xi_{i1}^{(n)}, \dots, \xi_{in}^{(n)})$ of the array $A^{(n)}$, $i \geq 1$. In other words, the classical assumption is that the elements of $A^{(n)}$ are stochastically independent and that the lines are identically distributed (in view of the aforesaid homogeneity). Finally, the common p.d.'s of the S_{in} 's ($i = 1, 2, \dots$) is approximated by the weak limit of the law of S_{1n} as n goes to infinity, provided such a limit exists. The study of conditions assuring this existence constitutes the essence of the *central limit problem* of probability theory. The aforesaid independence assumption is of course unfit to deal with situations in which correlation among different causes of error cannot be disregarded. This has led to introduce suitable forms of dependence among the elements $\xi_{i1}^{(n)}, \dots, \xi_{in}^{(n)}$, such as exchangeability. But also this assumption – according to which the law of the causes of error would be invariant with respect to their permutations – might be too restrictive. Therefore, making the most of the homogeneity assumption as described above, we have preferred to consider as exchangeable only the elements of each (infinite) sequence $(\xi_{ij}^{(n)})_{i \geq 1}$, for each j in $\{1, \dots, n\}$. In more precise terms, this setting can be made precise by resorting to the scheme of partially

exchangeable arrays. Then, in view of Theorem 1, the observable errors turn out to be exchangeable according to a p.d. that can be approximated by (8), which in turn gives rise to the Bayesian statistical model of conditionally i.i.d. observations, given (μ, ρ) , with common infinitely divisible p.d. characterized by the Lévy-Khintchine spectral measure ρ and the centering parameter μ .

3. – Central limit problem for arrays of exchangeable r.v.'s.

Going back to the same array $A := \{X_{ij} : i, j = 1, 2, \dots\}$ of exchangeable r.v.'s as at the beginning of Section 2 and to the normed sums $S_{in} - c_n$ as in (3), in the present section we want to deal with the following two problems: (I) To characterize the class of all limiting laws of $S_n := (S_{1n} - c_n, S_{2n} - c_n, \dots)$. (II) To provide a criterion (necessary and sufficient conditions) for the weak convergence of S_n to a specific form chosen from that class. As far as problem (I) is concerned, we prepare to prove that the limiting class consists of mixtures of *stable laws*, paralleling the well-known central limit theorem for i.i.d X_{ij} 's, in which the admissible limiting p.d.'s are simply stable laws. Let us recall that the c.f. of a stable law of index $\alpha \in (0, 2]$ has canonical representation

$$\exp\{g_\alpha(t; \gamma, c, \beta)\}$$

where

$$g_\alpha(t; \gamma, c, \beta) := it\gamma - c|t|^\alpha [1 + i\beta w(t, \alpha) \operatorname{sgn}(t)]$$

$$w(t, \alpha) := \begin{cases} \tan(\pi\alpha/2) & \text{if } \alpha \neq 1 \\ \log|t|/2\pi & \text{if } \alpha = 1 \text{ and } t \neq 0 \end{cases}$$

with γ in $\mathbb{R}$, and c in $\mathbb{R}_+ := [0, +\infty)$ and β in $B_1 := [-1, 1]$. Notice that, with this parametrization, the resulting class of p.m.'s, say $\mathbb{P}_s$, includes the unit masses. Our argument is based on Theorem 6 and the ensuing remarks in Section 6 of [9]. For the reader's convenience, we start by providing a detailed account of that part of our previous work.

LEMMA 1. – *In the above array A assume that $(S_{1n} - c_n)_{n \geq 1}$ converges in law to a nondegenerate r.v. Then the sequence of the laws of the S_n , $n = 1, 2, \dots$, forms a relatively compact family of p.d.'s or, equivalently, a tight family.*

For the terminology in this statement, see Section 5 in [2].

PROOF. – Convergence in law of $(S_{1n} - c_n)_{n \geq 1}$, combined with exchangeability, entails convergence of every $(S_{in} - c_n)_{n \geq 1}$, $i = 1, 2, \dots$. Then, designating the law of $V_n^{(\tau)} := (S_{1n} - c_n, \dots, S_{\tau n} - c_n)$ by $\mathcal{L}_n^{(\tau)}$, it is easy to verify that the se-

quence $\mathcal{L}_n^{(\tau)}$ is (uniformly) tight. From a well-known Prokhorov's theorem, this is equivalent to relative compactness of the same sequence: Every subsequence of $(\mathcal{L}_n^{(\tau)})_{n \geq 1}$ contains a subsequence that converges weakly to a p.d. on $(\mathbb{R}^\tau, \mathcal{R}^\tau)$, and this is true for $\tau = 1, 2, \dots$. Then, from Cantor's diagonal method, there exists an increasing sequence $n_1, n_2, \dots$ of integers such that $(\mathcal{L}_{n_k}^{(\tau)})_{k \geq 1}$ converges weakly to a p.d. for every τ . This is tantamount to stating that the law of S_{n_k} converges weakly to a p.d. $\mathcal{L}'$, depending on $(n') := (n_k)_{k \geq 1}$. It is plain that the above reasoning can be repeated to state that every subsequence of $(S_n)_{n \geq 1}$ contains a subsequence which converges in law (relative compactness), which entails uniform tightness of the laws of the S_n 's in view of the Prokhorov theorem. $\square$

We are now in a position to formulate and prove

THEOREM 2. – *Under the same assumptions as in Lemma 1, for every subsequence $(S_{n'})_{n'}$ which converges in law to an $S' := (S'_1, S'_2, \dots)$, S'_1 being a nondegenerate r.v., there are a number α' in $(0, 2]$ for which*

$$\lim_{n' \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{b_{mn'}}{b_{n'}} = m^{1/\alpha'}$$

for every m in $\mathbb{N}$, and a p.m. μ' on the Borel σ -field on $\Theta := \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}_+ \times B_1$ such that

$$\lim_{n' \rightarrow +\infty} E \left(\exp \left[i \sum_{k=1}^m t_k (S_{kn'} - c_{n'}) \right] \right) = \int_{\Theta} \prod_{k=1}^m \exp [g_{\alpha'}(t_k; \gamma, c, \beta)] \mu'(d\gamma \, dc \, d\beta)$$

holds for every $(t_1, \dots, t_m)$ in $\mathbb{R}^m$ and $m = 1, 2, \dots$, with $\mu'(d\gamma \, dc \, d\beta) \neq \delta_{\gamma_0}(\gamma) \delta_0(dc) \mu_3(d\beta)$ for every γ_0 in $\mathbb{R}$ and p.m. μ_3 on $(B_1, \mathcal{B}_1)$, $\mathcal{B}_1$ being the Borel σ -field on B_1 .

PROOF. – From the assumption, via Lemma 1, $V_{n'}^{(m)} := (S_{1n'} - c_{n'}, \dots, S_{mn'} - c_{n'})$ converges in law to $(S'_1, \dots, S'_m)$, for every m , where $(S'_k)_{k \geq 1}$ is an exchangeable sequence. Hence,

$$(9) \quad W_{n'}^{(m)} := \sum_{k=1}^m (S_{kn'} - c_{n'}) \xrightarrow{d} S'_1 + \dots + S'_m \quad (m = 1, 2, \dots)$$

with $(S'_1 + \dots + S'_m)$ nondegenerate r.v. for every m . Then, since exchangeability entails

$$(10) \quad W_{n'}^{(m)} \stackrel{d}{=} \frac{b_{mn'}}{b_{n'}} (S_{1mn'} - c_{mn'}) + \frac{a_{mn'} - m a_{n'}}{b_{n'}}$$

for every n' , in view of the convergence of $(S_{1n} - c_n)$ and of the convergence of types theorem (see, e.g., page 216 of [18]), we can say that there are b'_m and a'_m

such that

$$\frac{b_{mn'}}{b_{n'}} \rightarrow b'_m, \quad \frac{a_{mn'} - m a_{n'}}{b_{n'}} \rightarrow a'_m \quad (n' \rightarrow +\infty, m \in \mathbb{N}).$$

The combination of (9) with (10) gives

$$(11) \quad S'_1 \stackrel{d}{=} \frac{S'_1 + \dots + S'_m - a'_m}{b'_m} \quad (m \in \mathbb{N}).$$

On the other hand, exchangeability of the limiting r.v.'s S'_i implies that there is a random p.m. π' on $\mathcal{R}$ with Fourier-Stieltjes transform $\tilde{\pi}'$ such that

$$E\left(\exp\left\{i \sum_{k=1}^m t_k S'_k\right\}\right) = E\left(\prod_{k=1}^m \tilde{\pi}'(t_k)\right)$$

holds for every $(t_1, \dots, t_m)$ in $\mathbb{R}^m$ and every m in $\mathbb{N}$. Whence, by resorting to (11),

$$E(\tilde{\pi}'(t)) = E\left(\exp\left(-it \frac{a'_m}{b'_m}\right) \tilde{\pi}'\left(\frac{t}{b'_m}\right)^m\right) \quad (t \in \mathbb{R}, m \in \mathbb{N})$$

This and the uniqueness of de Finetti's representation yield

$$(12) \quad P\{\tilde{\pi}'(t) = \exp(-it \frac{a'_m}{b'_m}) \tilde{\pi}'(\frac{t}{b'_m})^m \text{ for every } t \text{ and } m\} = 1.$$

Hence $\pi'(t)$ is a stable p.d. with the exception of a set of points of Ω of P -probability zero. Moreover, since the set $\mathbb{P}_s$ is a closed subset of $\mathbb{P}$, one gets

$$(13) \quad E\left(\exp\left\{i \sum_{k=1}^m t_k S'_k\right\}\right) = \int_{\mathbb{P}_s} \left(\prod_{k=1}^m \tilde{\pi}(t_k)\right) \rho'(d\pi)$$

ρ' being the restriction of the law of π' to $\mathbb{P}_s$. Now, define T to be the function which associates with each p.m. in $\mathbb{P}_s$ the parameters $(\alpha, \gamma, c, \beta)$ of the canonical representation of its c.f., with the proviso that $T(\delta_\gamma) := (1, \gamma, 0, 0)$. See, e.g., [18]. Then

$$(14) \quad \tilde{\pi}(t) = \exp(g_\alpha(t; \gamma, c, \beta)) \quad (t \in \mathbb{R})$$

and (13) becomes

$$E\left(\exp\left\{i \sum_{k=1}^m t_k S'_k\right\}\right) = \int_{(0,2] \times \Theta} \prod_{k=1}^m \exp(g_\alpha(t_k; \gamma, c, \beta)) M'(dx d\gamma dc d\beta)$$

where $M' = \rho' T^{-1}$. Now, (12) and (14) give

$$g_\alpha(t; \gamma, c, \beta) = -it \frac{a'_m}{b'_m} + g_\alpha\left(\frac{t}{b'_m}; \gamma, c, \beta\right) m \quad (t \in \mathbb{R}, m \in \mathbb{N})$$

which in turn entails

$$(15) \quad \begin{cases} \gamma \left(1 - \frac{m}{b'_m}\right) = -\frac{a'_m}{b'_m} \\ c \left(1 - \frac{m}{(b'_m)^\alpha}\right) = 0 \\ c\beta \left[w(t, \alpha) - \frac{m}{(b'_m)^\alpha} w\left(\frac{t}{b'_m}, \alpha\right) \right] = 0 \end{cases} \quad (m \in \mathbb{N}).$$

Recalling that S'_1 is a nondegenerate r.v., a consequence of (15) is:

$b'_m \equiv m \Rightarrow P(\{c = 0\} \cup \{c \neq 0, \alpha = 1, \beta = 0\}) = 1$ with $P(\{c = 0\} \cap \{\gamma = \gamma'\}) < 1$ for any $\gamma' \in \mathbb{R}$;

$b'_m \not\equiv m \Rightarrow P\left(\{c = 0\} \cup \left\{c \neq 0, b'_m \equiv m^{1/\alpha}, \alpha = \alpha' \neq 1, \gamma = -\frac{a'_m}{b'_m - m}\right\}\right) = 1$ with $P(\{c = 0\}) < 1$.

A careful study of (15) and the ensuing implications give $\alpha = \alpha'$ with α' constant and $(b'_m)_{m \geq 1}$ must coincide with $(m^{1/\alpha'})_{m \geq 1}$. Moreover, $M'(d\alpha \, d\gamma \, dc \, d\beta) = \delta_{\alpha'}(d\alpha) \cdot \mu'(d\gamma \, dc \, d\beta)$. $\square$

Starting from (15), further specifications about the support of μ' can be given under the same assumptions as in Theorem 2.

REMARK 1. – (1) If $b'_m \equiv m$, then $a'_m = 0 = \lim_{n'} (a_{mn'} - m a_{n'})$ for every m in $\mathbb{N}$ and

$$(R_1) \quad E\left(\exp i \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^m t_k S'_k \right\}\right) = \int_{\Theta} \prod_{k=1}^m \exp\{g_1(t_k; \gamma, c, 0)\} \mu'_{12}(d\gamma \, dc)$$

$(m \in \mathbb{N}, (t_1, \dots, t_m) \in \mathcal{R}^m)$ with either $\mu'_{12}(\mathbb{R} \times (0, +\infty)) > 0$ or $\mu'_{12}(d\gamma \, dc) = \mu'_1(d\gamma) \delta_0(dc)$ provided that μ'_1 is a nondegenerate p.m. on $\mathcal{R}$.

(2) If $b'_m \equiv m^{1/\alpha'}$ for some α' in $(0, 1) \cup (1, 2]$, then

$$(R_2) \quad E\left(\exp i \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^m t_k S'_k \right\}\right) = \int_{\mathbb{R}_+ \times B_1} \prod_{k=1}^m \exp\{g_{\alpha'}(t_k; \gamma', c, \beta)\} \mu'_{23}(dc \, d\beta)$$

$(m \in \mathbb{N}, (t_1, \dots, t_m) \in \mathcal{R}^m)$ with $\gamma' = -a'_m/(b'_m - m)$, $\mu'_{23}((0, +\infty) \times B_1) > 0$. Note that $g_2(t; \gamma', c, \beta) = i\gamma't - ct^2$, so that μ'_{23} can be replaced by $\mu'_2(dc) \neq \delta_0(dc)$. $\square$

A partial answer to problem (I) appears, as a straightforward consequence of Theorem 2, in the following theorem. The function h therein, defined on $\mathbb{N}$, designates, as well as in the rest of the paper, a *slowly varying function*. See Appendix 1 in [14].

THEOREM 3. – *If $(S_n) = (S_{1n} - c_n, S_{2n} - c_n, \dots)$, converges in law to $S = (S_1, S_2, \dots)$, then*

$$(16) \quad E\left(\exp\left\{i \sum_{k=1}^m t_k S_k\right\}\right) = \int_{\Theta} \left(\prod_{k=1}^m \exp\{g_\alpha(t_k; \gamma, c, \beta)\}\right) \mu(d\gamma dc d\beta)$$

for every $(t_1, \dots, t_m)$ in $\mathbb{R}^m$ and m in $\mathbb{N}$, with α fixed number in $(0, 2]$ and μ p.m. on the Borel σ -field on Θ , with the proviso that $\alpha = 1$ if $\mu(\mathbb{R} \times \{0\} \times B_1) = 1$. The constants b_n take the form $b_n = n^{1/\alpha} h(n)$ provided that S_1 is nondegenerate. Moreover, if $b_n = nh(n)$ (i.e. $\alpha = 1$), then (16) is of type (R_1) , while if $b_n = n^{1/\alpha} h(n)$ with $\alpha \neq 1$ then (16) is of type (R_2) . The mixing measure in each representation (R_i) ($i = 1, 2$) is uniquely determined.

We go on to problem (II). Following [9], we concentrate our attention on the elements involved in the solution to the central limit problem for i.i.d. summands with common p.d. p^* . With a view to the convergence criteria, these elements will be connected with problem (II) by means of a suitable application of the Skorokhod representation theorem. In agreement with the notation introduced at the beginning of Section 2, p^* denotes a random p.m. conditionally on which the X_{ij} 's turn out to be i.i.d. with common p.d. p^* , and F^* is defined to be the p.d. function associated with p^* . We also consider

$$L_n^*(x) := nF^*(xb_n)\mathbb{I}_{(-\infty, 0)}(x) - n\{1 - F^*(xb_n)\}\mathbb{I}_{(0, +\infty)}(x) \quad (x \in \mathbb{R})$$

and the distribution function

$$G_n^*(x) := -nF^*\left(\frac{b_n}{x}\right)\mathbb{I}_{(-\infty, 0)}(x) + n\left\{1 - F^*\left(\frac{b_n}{x}\right)\right\}\mathbb{I}_{(0, +\infty)}(x) \quad (x \in \mathbb{R})$$

along with the corresponding Lebesgue-Stieltjes measure λ_n^* on $(\mathbb{R}, \mathcal{R})$, i.e.

$$\lambda_n^*(A) := \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{I}_A(x) dG_n^*(x) \quad (A \in \mathcal{R}).$$

In addition to L_n^* , the so-called central convergence criterion takes into account other “characteristic” quantities such as

$$\sigma_n^*(\eta)^2 := \frac{n}{b_n^2} \left[\int_{|x| < \eta b_n} x^2 p^*(dx) - \left(\int_{|x| < \eta b_n} x p^*(dx) \right)^2 \right],$$

$$m_n^*(\tau) := \frac{n}{b_n} \int_{|x| < \tau b_n} x p^*(dx), \quad m_{1n}^* := n \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{b_n x}{b_n^2 + x^2} p^*(dx)$$

and

$$\bar{\sigma}^*(\eta)^2 := \limsup_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \sigma_n^*(\eta)^2,$$

defined for every n and any positive τ , η .

The elements $(m_n^*(\tau), m_{1n}^*)$ are seen as functions from $(\Omega, \mathcal{F})$ into $\mathbb{R}^2$. Furthermore, the vector $(\sigma_n^*(\eta)^2, \bar{\sigma}^*(1/n)^2)$ will be considered as a random element taking values in $\overline{\mathbb{R}}_+^2$, although $\sigma_n^*(\eta)^2$ is finite with probability one; this position allows to simplify future notations. As to λ_n^* , it is considered as taking value in the space $\mathbb{M}^\#$ of boundedly finite Borel (Lebesgue-Stieltjes) measures on $\mathcal{R}$ endowed with the metric

$$d^\#(\mu, \nu) := \int_{(0, +\infty)} \frac{d_r(\mu^{(r)}, \nu^{(r)})}{1 + d_r(\mu^{(r)}, \nu^{(r)})} e^{-r} dr$$

where $\mu^{(r)}$ and $\nu^{(r)}$ are the restrictions of μ and ν to $(-r, r)$, and d_r is the Prokhorov distance between the restrictions. See A2.6 in [5] for more information on $\mathbb{M}^\#$.

We shall deal with the possible types of limiting distributions, singled out in Theorem 3, in the following two subsections.

3.1 – Mixtures of Gaussian distributions

First we are interested in limiting p.d.'s for $\mathcal{S}_n$ characterized by

$$E\left(\exp\left\{i \sum_{k=1}^m t_k S_k\right\}\right) = \int_{\mathbb{R}_+} \left(\prod_{k=1}^m \exp\{it_k \gamma - ct_k^2\}\right) \pi_2(dc)$$

for every $(t_1, \dots, t_m)$ in $\mathbb{R}^m$, m in $\mathbb{N}$, with π_2 different from δ_0 . Gather the “characteristic” quantities, which are relevant to the present case, in the random vectors

$$W_n := (m_n^*(\tau) - c_n, \lambda_n^*, \sigma_n^*(\tau)^2, p^*, \mu_n^*)$$

$$W_n^{(1)} := (p^*, \mu_n^*)$$

for every n , μ_n^* being the convolution of n copies of the p.d. p_n^* of $\frac{X_{ij}}{b_n} - \frac{c_n}{n}$, when

X_{ij} is distributed according to p^* and τ is a fixed positive number. In view of these positions, W_n ($W_n^{(1)}$, respectively) turns out to be a random vector from $(\Omega, \mathcal{F})$ into the topological product $\mathcal{S} := \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{M}^\# \times \overline{\mathbb{R}}_+ \times \overline{\mathbb{P}}_0 \times \overline{\mathbb{P}}$ ($\mathcal{S}^{(1)} := \overline{\mathbb{P}}_0 \times \overline{\mathbb{P}}$, respectively) endowed with the σ -field $\mathcal{S} := \mathcal{R} \otimes \mathcal{M}^\# \otimes \overline{\mathcal{R}}_+ \otimes \overline{\mathcal{P}}_0 \otimes \overline{\mathcal{P}}$ ($\mathcal{S}^{(1)} := \overline{\mathcal{P}}_0 \otimes \overline{\mathcal{P}}$, respectively), for every n . The law of W_n ($W_n^{(1)}$ respectively) will be indicated by Q_n ($Q_n^{(1)}$, respectively). After denoting the p.d. of $(m_n^*(\tau) - c_n, \lambda_n^*, \sigma_n^*(\tau)^2)$ by $\nu_n^{(\tau)}$, mimicking the proof of Lemma 1 in [9] gives

LEMMA 2. – *Let A be the same array as in Theorems 2-3.*

(i) *If $\nu_n^{(\tau)}$ converges weakly as $n \rightarrow +\infty$ to a probability measure ν such that $\nu(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{M}^\# \times \mathbb{R}_+) = 1$, then each subsequence of $(Q_n)_{n \geq 1}$ contains a subsequence $(Q_{n'})_{n'}$, which converges weakly to a p.m. Q' supported by $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{M}^\# \times \mathbb{R}_+ \times \overline{\mathbb{P}}_0 \times \overline{\mathbb{P}}$.*

(ii) *If $(S_{1n} - c_n)_{n \geq 1}$ converges in law, then each subsequence of $Q_n^{(1)}$ contains a subsequence $(Q_{n''}^{(1)})_{n''}$, which converges weakly to a p.m. $Q''^{(1)}$ supported by $\overline{\mathbb{P}}_0 \times \overline{\mathbb{P}}_0$.*

We now introduce a Skorokhod representation, tailored with a view to mixtures of Gaussians as limiting p.d.'s. Since $\mathbb{S}$ is a Polish space, the Skorokhod representation theorem (see, e.g., Theorem 6.7 in [2] or Theorem 11.7.2 in [8]) can be applied to the sequence $(Q_{n'})_{n'}$ in (i) of Lemma 2 to state there are random elements $\hat{W}_{n'}$ and $\hat{W}$ defined on a common probability space $(\hat{\Omega}, \hat{\mathcal{F}}, \hat{P})$, such that the law of $\hat{W}_{n'}$ is $(Q_{n'})_{n'}$ for every n' , the law of $\hat{W}$ is Q' and $\hat{W}_{n'}(\hat{\omega})$ converges to $\hat{W}(\hat{\omega})$ w.r.t. the metric on $\mathbb{S}$, for every $\hat{\omega} \in \hat{\Omega}$. Setting

$$\hat{W}_{n'} := (\widehat{m_{n'}(\tau) - c_{n'}}, \hat{\lambda}_{n'}, \widehat{\sigma_{n'}(\tau)^2}, \hat{p}, \hat{\mu}_{n'})$$

and

$$\hat{W} := (\hat{m}(\tau), \hat{\lambda}, \hat{\sigma}(\tau)^2, \hat{p}, \hat{\mu})$$

the following relations hold with the exception of a set of $\hat{P}$ -probability zero:

(a) $\hat{\mu}_{n'} =$ convolution of n' copies of $\hat{p}_{n'}$, where $\hat{p}_{n'}((-\infty, x]) := \hat{p}((-\infty, b_{n'}(x + \frac{c_{n'}}{n'}))]$ for every x in $\mathbb{R}$.

(b) $\hat{\lambda}_{n'} =$ Lebesgue-Stieltjes measure associated to the distribution function

$$\hat{G}_{n'}(x) := -n'\hat{p}\left(\left(-\infty, \frac{b_{n'}}{x}\right]\right)\mathbb{I}_{(-\infty, 0)}(x) + n'\hat{p}\left(\left(\frac{b_{n'}}{x}, +\infty\right)\right)\mathbb{I}_{(0, +\infty)}(x)$$

for every x in $\mathbb{R}$.

$$(c) \widehat{m_{n'}(\tau) - c_{n'}} = \frac{n'}{b_{n'}} \int_{|x| < \tau b_{n'}} x \hat{p}(dx) - c_{n'}$$

$$(d) \widehat{\sigma_{n'}(\tau)^2} = \frac{n'}{b_{n'}^2} \left[\int_{|x| < b_{n'} \tau} x^2 \hat{p}(dx) - \left(\int_{|x| < b_{n'} \tau} x \hat{p}(dx) \right)^2 \right].$$

Passing to the sequence $(Q_n^{(1)})_n$, without any loss of generality one can state there are random elements $\hat{W}_{n''}^{(1)}$ and $\hat{W}^{(1)}$ defined on the same space $(\hat{\Omega}, \hat{\mathcal{F}}, \hat{P})$ such that the law of $\hat{W}_{n''}^{(1)}$ is $Q_{n''}^{(1)}$, the law of $\hat{W}^{(1)}$ is $Q''^{(1)}$ and $\hat{W}_{n''}^{(1)}(\hat{\omega}) \rightarrow \hat{W}^{(1)}(\hat{\omega})$ in the metric of $\mathbb{S}^{(1)}$. Using the same notations as in the previous point, $\hat{\mu}_{n''}$ turns out to be the convolution of n'' copies of $\hat{p}_{n''}$ for every n'' , with the exception of a set of $\hat{P}$ -probability zero.

The above representation paves the way for a convergence criterion, that makes use of

$$\begin{aligned}\pi_n^{(\tau)} &:= \text{p.d. for } \sigma_n^*(\tau)^2 \\ q_n^{(\varepsilon)} &:= \text{p.d. for } L_n^*(-\varepsilon) - L_n^*(\varepsilon)\end{aligned}$$

τ and ε being strictly positive numbers.

THEOREM 4. – *In order that $(S_n)_{n \geq 1}$ derived from the exchangeable array A as in Theorem 3 converge in distribution to a nondegenerate $(S_1, S_2, \dots)$ with law characterized by*

$$(17) \quad E\left(\exp\left\{i \sum_{k=1}^m t_k S_k\right\}\right) = \int_{\mathbb{R}_+} \left(\prod_{k=1}^m \exp\left\{it_k \gamma - \frac{1}{2} t_k^2 \sigma^2\right\}\right) \pi(d\sigma^2)$$

($(t_1, \dots, t_m)$ in $\mathbb{R}^m$, m in $\mathbb{N}$) it is necessary and sufficient that $m_n^(\tau) - c_n \xrightarrow{P} \gamma$, $\pi_n^{(\tau)} \Rightarrow \pi \neq \delta_0$, with $\pi(\mathbb{R}_+) = 1$, for some $\tau > 0$ and $q_n^{(\varepsilon)} \Rightarrow \delta_0$ for every $\varepsilon > 0$. If this is so, then $b_n = n^{1/2}h(n)$.*

PROOF. – Necessity. Convergence of S_n to a nondegenerate $(S_1, S_2, \dots)$ distributed according to (17), in conjunction with Theorem 3, entails $\alpha = 2$ and $b_n = n^{1/2}h(n)$. By resorting to Lemma 2 (ii) and to the ensuing Skorokhod representation, one gets

$$\prod_{k=1}^m \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{it_k x} \hat{\mu}_{n''}(dx) \rightarrow \prod_{k=1}^m \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{it_k x} \hat{\mu}(dx)$$

at each point of $\hat{\Omega}$, for every $(t_1, \dots, t_m)$ and m . Hence,

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\mathbb{R}_+} \left(\prod_{k=1}^m \exp\left\{it_k \gamma - \frac{1}{2} t_k^2 \sigma^2\right\}\right) \pi(d\sigma^2) &= \lim_{n''} E\left(\exp\left\{i \sum_{k=1}^m t_k (S_{kn''} - c_{n''})\right\}\right) \\ &= \lim_{n''} \hat{E}\left(\prod_{k=1}^m \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{it_k x} \hat{\mu}_{n''}(dx)\right) \\ &= \hat{E}\left(\prod_{k=1}^m \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{it_k x} \hat{\mu}(dx)\right)\end{aligned}$$

where the last equality follows from a simple application of the dominated convergence theorem. Now, in view of the uniqueness of de Finetti's representation, there exists $\hat{\sigma}^2$ such that $\hat{P}(\hat{\sigma}^2 < +\infty) = 1$ and

$$(18) \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{itx} \hat{\mu}(dx) = \exp\left\{it\gamma - \frac{1}{2} t^2 \hat{\sigma}^2\right\} \quad (t \in \mathbb{R})$$

almost surely w.r.t. $\hat{P}$. Then, from the classical central convergence criterion (cf. Subsection 23.5 of [18]), combined with the Lévy representation of the Gaussian c.f. as infinitely divisible law, one gets $\hat{L}_{n''}(-x) - \hat{L}_{n''}(x) \rightarrow 0$ at every strictly positive x , which is tantamount to noting that $\hat{\lambda}_{n''}$ converges to the null measure (in $\mathbb{M}^\#$). Moreover,

$$\hat{\sigma}_{n''}(\tau)^2 \rightarrow \hat{\sigma}^2, \quad \hat{m}_{n''}(\tau) - c_{n''} \rightarrow \gamma.$$

At this stage, it should be noted that neither γ nor the p.d. of $\hat{\sigma}^2$ depend on the specific subsequence (n'') . This implies that both $\pi_{n''}^{(\tau)}$ and $q_{n''}^{(\varepsilon)}$ have weak limits that are independent of (n'') . Therefore, by repeated application of the Skorokhod representation based on Lemma 2, the entire sequences $(m_n^*(\tau) - c_n)_{n \geq 1}$, $(\pi_n^{(\tau)})_{n \geq 1}$ and $(q_n^{(\varepsilon)})_{n \geq 1}$ converge in the sense specified by the theorem.

Sufficiency. Let $(m_n^*(\tau) - c_n)_{n \geq 1}$, $(\pi_n^{(\tau)})_{n \geq 1}$ and $(q_n^{(\varepsilon)})_{n \geq 1}$ be convergent in the sense specified by the theorem. Since $q_n^{(\varepsilon)} \Rightarrow \delta_0$ for every ε , then the p.d. of λ_n^* converges weakly to δ_{λ_0} , where λ_0 is the null measure. This, together with the other hypotheses, obviously implies that the p.d. $\nu_n^{(\tau)}$ in Lemma 2 (i) converges weakly. Whence, the above Skorokhod representation can be applied to yield

$$(\hat{m}_{n'}(\tau) - c_{n'}) \rightarrow \gamma, \quad d^\#(\hat{\lambda}_{n'}, \lambda_0) \rightarrow 0, \quad \hat{\sigma}^2 = \lim_{n'} \widehat{\sigma_{n'}(\tau)}^2$$

for $n' \rightarrow +\infty$ and $\hat{\sigma}^2$ random number with p.d. π . Moreover, from the classical normal convergence criterion (see, e.g., Section 23.5 in [18]), $\hat{\mu}$ belongs to $\overline{\mathbb{P}}_0$ and (18) holds. Finally,

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n'} E \left(\exp \left\{ i \sum_{k=1}^m t_k (S_{kn'} - c_{n'}) \right\} \right) &= \lim_{n'} \hat{E} \left(\prod_{k=1}^m \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{it_k x} \hat{\mu}_{n'}(dx) \right) \\ &= \hat{E} \left(\prod_{k=1}^m \exp \left\{ it_k \gamma - \frac{1}{2} t_k^2 \hat{\sigma}^2 \right\} \right) \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}_+} \left(\prod_{k=1}^m \exp \left\{ it_k \gamma - \frac{1}{2} t_k^2 \sigma^2 \right\} \right) \pi(d\sigma^2) \end{aligned}$$

which is invariant with respect to the choice of (n') in Lemma 2 (i). Then, $((S_{1n}, S_{2n}, \dots))$ converges in law to a sequence with law characterized by (17). $\square$

Since a degenerate p.d. can be considered as a Gaussian law with zero variance, a simple *convergence criterion for degenerate limits* can be obtained from a straightforward modification of Theorem 4.

THEOREM 5. – *In order that $(S_n)_{n \geq 1}$, derived from the exchangeable array A as in Theorems 2-3, converge in distribution to $(S_1, S_2, \dots) = (\gamma, \gamma, \dots)$, γ being*

any real number, it is necessary and sufficient that

$$m_n^*(\tau) - c_n \xrightarrow{P} \gamma, \quad \sigma_n^*(\tau)^2 \xrightarrow{P} 0 \quad q_n^{(\varepsilon)} \Rightarrow \delta_0$$

for every $\varepsilon > 0$ and some $\tau > 0$.

3.2 – Mixtures of stable laws

In agreement with Theorem 3 and Remark 1, we are now interested in the case in which the law of the limit $(S_1, S_2, \dots)$ is characterized by

$$(19) \quad E\left(\exp\left\{i \sum_{k=1}^m t_k S_k\right\}\right) = \int_{\Theta} \prod_{k=1}^m \exp\{g_{\alpha}(t_k; \gamma, c, \beta)\} \mu(d\gamma dc d\beta)$$

for every $(t_1, \dots, t_m)$ in $\mathbb{R}^m$, for every m in $\mathbb{N}$ and for some $\alpha \neq 2$. The “characteristic” quantities which pertain to the present case are gathered in the random vector

$$V_n := (m_{1n}^* - c_n, \lambda_n^*, \bar{\sigma}^*(1/n)^2, p^*, \mu_n^*).$$

It is worth taking into account, once again, the vector

$$W_n^{(1)} := (p^*, \mu_n^*)$$

μ_n^* being the convolution of n copies of the p.d. p_n^* of $\frac{X_{ij}}{b_n} - \frac{c_n}{n}$, when X_{ij} is distributed according to p^* . In view of these positions, V_n turns out to be a random vector from $(\Omega, \mathcal{F})$ into the measurable space $(S, \mathcal{S})$ for every n . The law of V_n will be indicated by $\tilde{Q}_n$.

After denoting the p.d. of $(m_{1n}^* - c_n, \lambda_n^*, \bar{\sigma}^*(1/n)^2)$ by $\kappa_n^{(\tau)}$, arguing as in the proof of Lemma 1 in [9] gives

LEMMA 3. – *Let A be the same array as in the previous theorems.*

(i) *If $\kappa_n^{(\tau)}$ converges weakly as $n \rightarrow +\infty$ to a probability measure κ such that $\kappa(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{M}^{\#} \times \mathbb{R}_+) = 1$, then each subsequence of $(\tilde{Q}_n)_{n \geq 1}$ contains a subsequence $(\tilde{Q}_{n'})_{n'}$, which converges weakly to a p.m. $\tilde{Q}'$ supported by $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{M}^{\#} \times \mathbb{R}_+ \times \bar{\mathbb{P}}_0 \times \bar{\mathbb{P}}$.*

(ii) *If $(S_{1n} - c_n)_{n \geq 1}$ converges in law, then each subsequence of $Q_n^{(1)}$ contains a subsequence $(Q_{n''}^{(1)})_{n''}$, which converges weakly to a p.m. $Q'^{(1)}$ supported by $\bar{\mathbb{P}}_0 \times \bar{\mathbb{P}}_0$.*

We describe the Skorokhod representation for the convergent subsequences $(\tilde{Q}_{n'})_{n'}$ and $(Q_{n''}^{(1)})_{n''}$ following the same line of reasoning as in the previous subsection. Therefore, let $\hat{V}_{n'}$ and $\hat{V}$ be random elements defined on $(\hat{\Omega}, \hat{\mathcal{F}}, \hat{P})$, such that the law of $\hat{V}_{n'}$ is $\tilde{Q}_{n'}$ for every n' , the law of $\hat{V}$ is $\tilde{Q}'$ and $\hat{V}_{n'}(\hat{\omega})$ converges to

$\hat{V}(\hat{\omega})$ for every $\hat{\omega}$ in $\hat{\Omega}$. Setting

$$\hat{V}_{n'} := (m_{1n'} \widehat{-} c_{n'}, \hat{\lambda}_{n'}, \widehat{\sigma(1/n')^2}, \hat{p}, \hat{\mu}_{n'})$$

and

$$\hat{V} := (\hat{m}, \hat{\lambda}, \hat{\sigma}^2, \hat{p}, \hat{\mu})$$

the following relations hold almost surely ($\hat{P}$).

(a) $\hat{\mu}_{n'}$ = convolution of n' copies of $\hat{p}_{n'}$ where $\hat{p}_{n'}((-\infty, x]) := \hat{p}((-\infty, b_{n'}(x + \frac{c_{n'}}{n'}))]$ for every x in $\mathbb{R}$.

(b) $\hat{\lambda}_{n'}$ = Lebesgue-Stieltjes measure associated to the distribution function

$$\hat{G}_{n'}(x) := -n'\hat{p}((-\infty, \frac{b_{n'}}{x}])\mathbb{I}_{(-\infty, 0)}(x) + n'\hat{p}((\frac{b_{n'}}{x}, +\infty))\mathbb{I}_{(0, +\infty)}(x)$$

for every x in $\mathbb{R}$.

$$(c) m_{1n'} \widehat{-} c_{n'} = n' \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{b_{n'}x}{b_{n'}^2 + x^2} \hat{p}(dx) - c_{n'}$$

$$(d) \widehat{\sigma(1/n')^2} = \limsup_n \frac{n}{b_n^2} \left[\int_{|x| < \frac{b_n}{n}} x^2 \hat{p}(dx) - \left(\int_{|x| < \frac{b_n}{n}} x \hat{p}(dx) \right)^2 \right].$$

Passing to the sequence $(Q_n^{(1)})_n$, one can state there are random elements $\hat{W}_{n''}^{(1)}$ and $\hat{W}^{(1)}$ such that the law of $\hat{W}_{n''}^{(1)}$ is $Q_{n''}^{(1)}$, the law of $\hat{W}^{(1)}$ is $Q^{(1)}$ and $\hat{W}_{n''}^{(1)}(\hat{\omega}) \rightarrow \hat{W}^{(1)}(\hat{\omega})$ pointwise. Using the same notation as in Subsection 3.1, $\hat{\mu}_{n''}$ turns out to be the convolution of n'' copies of $\hat{p}_{n''}$ for every n'' , with the exception of a set of $\hat{P}$ -probability zero.

With a view to the next criterion, it is worth introducing further specific notation, i.e.

$$\nu_{12}^{(n)} := \text{p.d. of } (m_{1n}^* - c_n, \lambda_n^*)$$

$\lambda_x :=$ Lebesgue-Stieltjes measure with distribution function $A_x(x) = -c^-|x|^\alpha \mathbb{I}_{(-\infty, 0)}(x) + c^+x^\alpha \mathbb{I}_{(0, +\infty)}(x)$, $x \in \mathbb{R}$, where c^+ and c^- satisfy $c^-, c^+ \geq 0$ and $c^- + c^+ > 0$

$$\mathbb{G}_\alpha := \{A_x(x) : c^-, c^+ \geq 0, c^- + c^+ > 0\}.$$

There is a one-to-one correspondence between $\mathbb{G}_\alpha$ and the class of all *Lévy spectral measures* of stable laws of index α . The null measure λ_0 , already evoked in the proof of Theorem 4, is obtained when $c^+ = c^- = 0$.

THEOREM 6. – *In order that $(S_n)_{n \geq 1}$, derived from the exchangeable array A as in Theorem 3, converge in law to a nondegenerate $(S_1, S_2, \dots)$ with p.d.*

characterized by

$$(20) \quad E\left(\exp\left\{i \sum_{k=1}^m t_k S_k\right\}\right) = \int_{\mathbb{R}_+ \times B_1} \left(\prod_{k=1}^m \exp\{g_\alpha(t_k; \gamma, c, \beta)\}\right) \mu_{23}(dcd\beta)$$

for a fixed α in $(0, 1) \cup (1, 2)$ and for some μ_{23} with

$$(21) \quad \mu_{23}((0, +\infty) \times B_1) > 0$$

it is necessary and sufficient that

$$(22) \quad \bar{\sigma}^*(1/n)^2 \xrightarrow{P} 0, \quad v_{12}^{(n)} \Rightarrow v_{12} \text{ with } v_{12}(\mathbb{R} \times (\mathbb{G}_\alpha \cup \{\lambda_0\})) = 1 \text{ and } v_{12}(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{G}_\alpha) > 0.$$

If this is so, then $b_n \equiv n^{1/\alpha} h(n)$,

$$(23) \quad \mu_{23}(dcd\beta) = v_{12}\left(\left\{(\eta, \lambda) : \frac{\pi \csc \frac{\pi\alpha}{2}}{2\Gamma(\alpha)} \lambda(-1, 1) \in dc, \frac{\lambda(0, 1) - \lambda(-1, 0)}{\lambda(-1, 1)} \in d\beta\right\}\right)$$

with the proviso that $0/0 := 0$, and

$$(24) \quad v_{12}\left(\left\{(\eta, \lambda) : \eta - \frac{\lambda(0, 1) - \lambda(-1, 0)}{1 - \alpha} = \gamma\right\}\right) = 1$$

γ being the same real number as in (20).

PROOF. – Necessity. Weak convergence of the law of S_n to a p.d. characterized by (20)-(21) for a fixed α in $(0, 1) \cup (1, 2)$ implies, through Theorem 3, that $b_n \equiv n^{1/\alpha} h(n)$. In view of Lemma 3 (ii) and the ensuing Skorokhod representation one gets

$$\prod_{k=1}^m \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{it_k x} \hat{\mu}_{n''}(dx) \rightarrow \prod_{k=1}^m \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{it_k x} \hat{\mu}(dx)$$

and

$$\lim_{n''} E\left(\exp\left\{i \sum_{k=1}^m t_k (S_{kn''} - c_{n''})\right\}\right) = \int_{\mathbb{R}_+ \times B_1} \left(\prod_{k=1}^m \exp\{g_\alpha(t_k; \gamma, c, \beta)\}\right) \mu_{23}(dcd\beta).$$

Then, from de Finetti's representation theorem, there are $\hat{c}$ and $\hat{\beta}$ so that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{itx} \hat{\mu}(dx) = \exp\{g_\alpha(t; \gamma, \hat{c}, \hat{\beta})\} \quad (t \in \mathbb{R})$$

with $\hat{P}$ -probability one. This representation is independent of the choice of (n'') and then, by repeated application of the Skorokhod representation based on Lemma 3, what is valid for (n'') turns out to be valid for the entire sequence. This implies that either $\hat{\mu}$ is degenerate or $\hat{p}$ belongs to the domain of attraction of the stable law of index α and parameters $\gamma, \hat{c}, \hat{\beta}$. Since, in view of (21), the latter case

holds with positive $\hat{P}$ probability, then $\hat{\lambda}_n \Rightarrow \hat{\lambda} \in \mathbb{G}_\alpha \cup \{\lambda_0\}$, $\widehat{m_{1n}} - c_n \rightarrow \hat{\eta}$, $\overline{\sigma}(1/n)^2 \rightarrow 0$ and (22)-(24) are valid. See the classical central convergence criterion in Subsection 24.5 C of [18].

Sufficiency. When (22) is in force, Lemma 3 (i) and the Skorokhod representation yield $\hat{\lambda}_{n'} \Rightarrow \hat{\lambda}' \in \mathbb{G}_\alpha \cup \{\lambda_0\}$, $\hat{m}_{1n'} - c_{n'} \rightarrow \hat{\eta}'$, and $\overline{\sigma}(1/n')^2 \rightarrow 0$. Consequently, the classical central convergence criterion applied to the sequence (n') , gives $\hat{\mu} \in \overline{\mathbb{P}}_0$ and $\int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{itx} \hat{\mu}(dx) = \exp\{g_\alpha(t; \hat{\gamma}', \hat{c}', \hat{\beta}')\}$. Furthermore, denoting the law of $(\hat{\gamma}', \hat{c}', \hat{\beta}')$ by μ , one has

$$\mu(d\gamma dcd\beta) \\ = v_{12} \left(\left\{ (\eta, \lambda) : \eta - \frac{\lambda(0, 1) - \lambda(-1, 0)}{1 - \alpha} \in d\gamma, \frac{\pi \csc \frac{\pi\alpha}{2}}{2\Gamma(\alpha)} \lambda(-1, 1) \in dc, \frac{\lambda(0, 1) - \lambda(-1, 0)}{\lambda(-1, 1)} \in d\beta \right\} \right)$$

which is independent of (n') . Hence the entire sequence $(S_n)_n$ converges in distribution and the limiting law meets

$$(25) \quad E \left(\exp \left\{ i \sum_{k=1}^m t_k S_k \right\} \right) = \int_{\Theta} \left(\prod_{k=1}^m \exp\{g_\alpha(t_k; \gamma, c, \beta)\} \right) \mu(d\gamma dcd\beta)$$

with $\mu(\mathbb{R} \times (0, +\infty) \times B_1) > 0$, thanks to (22). Then from Remark 1 one obtains that (20)-(21) are valid. $\square$

Considering Theorem 3, it remains to analyze the case of limiting mixtures of stable laws of index $\alpha = 1$, which appears when $b_n = nh(n)$. In view of Remark 1(1), one sees that the admissible limiting c.f.'s are defined by

$$(26) \quad E \left(\exp \left\{ i \sum_{k=1}^m t_k S_k \right\} \right) = \int_{\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}_+} \left(\prod_{k=1}^m \exp\{g_1(t_k; \gamma, c, 0)\} \right) \mu_{12}(d\gamma dc)$$

for every $(t_1, \dots, t_m)$ in $\mathbb{R}^m$, m in $\mathbb{N}$, μ_{12} being any p.d. satisfying

$$(27) \quad \mu_{12} \neq \delta_{\gamma_0} \cdot \delta_0 \quad \text{for any } \gamma_0 \in \mathbb{R}.$$

THEOREM 7. – *In order that $(S_n)_{n \geq 1}$, derived from the exchangeable array A as in Theorem 3, converge in law to a nondegenerate $(S_1, S_2, \dots)$ with p.d. characterized by (26)-(27) it is necessary and sufficient that*

$$(28) \quad \overline{\sigma}^*(1/n)^2 \xrightarrow{P} 0, \quad v_{12}^{(n)} \Rightarrow v_{12} \quad \text{with } v_{12}(\mathbb{R} \times (\mathbb{G}_1 \cup \{\lambda_0\})) = 1 \text{ and } v_{12} \neq \delta_{\gamma_0} \cdot \delta_{\lambda_0}.$$

If this is so, then $b_n \equiv nh(n)$, and

$$(29) \quad \mu_{12}(d\gamma dc) = v_{12} \left(\left\{ (\eta, \lambda) : \eta \in d\gamma, \frac{\pi}{2} \lambda(-1, 1) \in dc \right\} \right)$$

$$(30) \quad v_{12}(\{(\eta, \lambda) : \lambda(0, 1) - \lambda(-1, 0) = 0\}) = 1.$$

PROOF. – Necessity. Weak convergence of the law of S_n to a p.d. characterized by (26)-(27) implies, through Theorem 3, that $b_n \equiv nh(n)$. In view of Lemma 3 (ii) and the ensuing Skorokhod representation,

$$\prod_{k=1}^m \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{it_k x} \hat{\mu}_{n''}(dx) \rightarrow \prod_{k=1}^m \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{it_k x} \hat{\mu}(dx)$$

and

$$\lim_{n''} E \left(\exp \left\{ i \sum_{k=1}^m t_k (S_{kn''} - c_{n''}) \right\} \right) = \int_{\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}_+} \left(\prod_{k=1}^m \exp \{g_1(t_k; \gamma, c, 0)\} \right) \mu_{12}(d\gamma dc).$$

Then, from de Finetti's representation theorem, there are $\hat{\gamma}$ and $\hat{c}$ so that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{itx} \hat{\mu}(dx) = \exp \{g_1(t; \hat{\gamma}, \hat{c}, 0)\} \quad (t \in \mathbb{R})$$

with $\hat{P}$ -probability one. This representation is independent of the choice of (n'') and, then, what is valid for (n'') turns out to be valid for the entire sequence. This implies that, for $\hat{\omega}$ fixed, either $\hat{\mu}$ is a unit mass or $\hat{\mu}$ belongs to the domain of attraction of the stable law of index $\alpha = 1$ and parameters $\hat{\gamma}$, $\hat{c}$, and $\hat{\beta} = 0$. Then $\hat{\lambda}_n \Rightarrow \hat{\lambda} \in \mathbb{G}_1 \cup \{\lambda_0\}$, $\widehat{m_{1n}} - c_n \rightarrow \hat{\eta}$ and $\widehat{\sigma(1/n)^2} \rightarrow 0$. Hence $v_{12}^{(n)} \Rightarrow v_{12}$ with $v_{12}(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{G}_1 \cup \{\lambda_0\}) = 1$ and (28)-(30) are valid. Furthermore, in view of (27), $v_{12} \neq \delta_{\gamma_0} \cdot \delta_{\lambda_0}$, for any γ_0 in $\mathbb{R}$.

Sufficiency. When (28) is in force, Lemma 3 (i) and the Skorokhod representation yield $\hat{\lambda}_{n'} \Rightarrow \hat{\lambda}' \in \mathbb{G}_1 \cup \{\lambda_0\}$, $\hat{m}_{1n'} - c_{n'} \rightarrow \hat{\eta}'$, $\widehat{\sigma(1/n')^2} \rightarrow 0$ and, consequently, the classical central convergence criterion – Subsection 24.5 C of [18] – applied to the subsequence (n') entails $\hat{\mu} \in \overline{\mathbb{P}}_0$ and $\int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{itx} \hat{\mu}(dx) = \exp \{g_1(t; \hat{\gamma}', \hat{c}', \hat{\beta}')\}$. Furthermore, the law μ of $(\hat{\gamma}', \hat{c}', \hat{\beta}')$ meets

$$\mu(d\gamma dc d\beta) = v_{12} \left(\left\{ (\eta, \lambda) : \eta - (\lambda(0, 1) - \lambda(-1, 0)) \int_0^\infty \frac{\chi(y) - \sin y}{y^2} dy \in d\gamma, \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. \frac{\pi}{2} \lambda(-1, 1) \in dc, \frac{\lambda(0, 1) - \lambda(-1, 0)}{\lambda(-1, 1)} \in d\beta \right\} \right)$$

which is independent of (n') . Therefore, the entire sequence $(S_n)_n$ converges in distribution to $(S_1, S_2, \dots)$ and, by Remark 1, the limiting law is characterized by

$$E \left(\exp \left\{ i \sum_{k=1}^m t_k S_k \right\} \right) = \int_{\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}_+} \left(\prod_{k=1}^m \exp \{g_1(t_k; \gamma, c, 0)\} \right) \mu_{12}(d\gamma dc)$$

for every $(t_1, \dots, t_m)$ and m . Hence, by the uniqueness of de Finetti's measure, $\hat{\beta}' = 0$ $\hat{P}$ -a.s., and

$$\begin{aligned}\mu(d\gamma dcd\beta) &= \nu_{12} \left(\left\{ (\eta, \lambda) : \eta \in d\gamma, \frac{\pi}{2} \lambda(-1, 1) \in dc \right\} \right) \cdot \delta_0(d\beta) \\ &= \mu_{12}(d\gamma dc) \delta_0(d\beta).\end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, since $\nu_{12} \neq \delta_{\gamma_0} \cdot \delta_{\lambda_0}$, $(S_1, S_2, \dots)$ is nondegenerate. Finally, an application of Theorem 3 yields $b_n = nh(n)$.

4. – Sums of exchangeable r.v.'s

In this section we show how to use the results expounded in Section 3 to deal with the convergence of sums

$$(31) \quad T_n - c_n = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n X_i - a_n}{b_n} \quad (n = 1, 2, \dots)$$

where the X_n 's are exchangeable r.v.'s and the c_n 's are the same as in (2). Then, according to the notation introduced in Section 2, the law of $(X_n)_{n \geq 1}$ obeys

$$P\{(X_1, \dots, X_n) \in A_1 \times \dots \times A_n\} = E \left(\prod_{k=1}^n p^*(A_k) \right)$$

for every $A_1, \dots, A_n$ in $\mathcal{R}$, n in $\mathbb{N}$. To explain how some propositions in Section 3 can produce both new results and improvements on the existing ones, we proceed to embed the above problem into the same array $A := \{X_{ij} : i, j = 1, 2, \dots\}$ of exchangeable r.v.'s as in the previous section. In fact, the statement of necessary and sufficient conditions in order that (31) converge in law can be viewed as equivalent to the problem of determining necessary and sufficient conditions for the convergence of the sum $S_{1n} - c_n$ concerning the elements of the first row of that array. If $(S_{1n} - c_n)_{n \geq 1}$ converges in law, from Lemma 1 every subsequence of $(S_n)_n$ contains a subsequence $(S_{n'})_{n'}$ which converges in law. The limiting p.d., which in general depends on (n') , agrees with that given in Theorem 2. In Section 6 of [9] an interesting case is studied where the aforesaid representation is invariant w.r.t (n') , namely the case in which the limiting law is assumed to be Gaussian. An analogous circumstance happens of course if one assumes that $(S_{1n} - c_n) \xrightarrow{d} \gamma$, γ being some real number. Then, Theorem 5 in Subsection 3.1 can be applied to provide an immediate and complete formulation of a *weak law of large numbers* partially studied in [21].

THEOREM 8. — *In order that $(T_n - c_n)_{n \geq 1}$ be convergent in probability to zero it is necessary and sufficient that the following conditions be satisfied for some $\tau > 0$ and every $\varepsilon > 0$.*

$$(32) \quad \frac{n}{b_n} \int_{[-\tau b_n, \tau b_n]} x p^*(dx) - c_n \xrightarrow{P} 0$$

$$(33) \quad \frac{n}{b_n^2} \int_{[-\tau b_n, \tau b_n]} x^2 p^*(dx) - c_n^2 \xrightarrow{P} 0$$

$$(34) \quad n(p^*((-\infty, -\varepsilon b_n]) + p^*((\varepsilon b_n, +\infty))) \xrightarrow{P} 0$$

In general, unlike the two instances just mentioned, the theorems in Subsections 3.1-3.2 fail to produce necessary and sufficient conditions in order that the law of (31) be weakly convergent to a specific p.d. On the other hand, they can be used to state suitable sufficient conditions in a quite direct way. As an illustration, we first consider the problem solved through Theorem 2.1 in [15] where the limiting law of $(T_n - c_n)_{n \geq 1}$ is assumed to be a mixture of Gaussians. Since here the class of Gaussians is thought of as including all point masses δ_a as a varies in $\mathbb{R}$, the above problem concerns conditions under which the limiting c.f. of $T_n - c_n$ is presentable as

$$(35) \quad \int_{\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}_+} \exp\left\{it\gamma - \frac{t^2}{2}\sigma^2\right\} \mu_{12}(d\gamma d\sigma^2) \quad (t \in \mathbb{R}).$$

With a view to the applicability of suitable results proved in the previous section we have to assume some conditions which, together with convergence to (35), may produce the *invariance* of the limit w.r.t. (n') . Therefore, we shall assume

$$(36) \quad n(p^*((-\infty, -\varepsilon b_n]) + p^*((\varepsilon b_n, +\infty))) \xrightarrow{P} 0 \quad (\varepsilon > 0)$$

which, besides being consistent with limiting forms studied in the previous sections, appears as a hypothesis also in Theorem 2.1 in [15]. As far as this theorem is concerned, we are now in a position to provide a direct proof of an improved formulation of it, as mentioned in [16]. The argument is partially based on the proof of Theorem 8 in [9]. We take this opportunity to point out a few minor oversights. On page 239 of [9], lines 16 and 3 from the bottom, equations

$$\frac{S_{1\ n_k''r} - b_{n_k''r}}{a_{n_k''r}} = \frac{S_{1\ n_k'r} - b_{n_k'r}}{a_{n_k'r}} \frac{a_{n_k'r}}{a_{n_k''r}} + \frac{b_{n_k'r} - b_{n_k''r}}{a_{n_k''r}} + \frac{X_{1\ n_k'r+1} + \dots + X_{1\ (n_k'+1)r}}{a_{n_k''r}}$$

an

$$\frac{S_{1\ rn+s} - b_{rn+s}}{a_{rn+s}} = \frac{S_{1\ rn} - b_{rn}}{a_{rn}} \frac{a_{rn}}{a_{rn+s}} + \frac{\sum_{i=rn+1}^{rn+s} X_i}{a_{rn+s}} + \frac{b_{rn} - b_{rn+s}}{a_{rn+s}}$$

should be

$$S_{1\ n_k''r} - \frac{b_{n_k''r}}{a_{n_k''r}} = S_{1\ n_k'r} - \frac{b_{n_k'r} a_{n_k'r}}{a_{n_k'r} a_{n_k''r}} + \frac{b_{n_k'r} - b_{n_k''r}}{a_{n_k''r}} + \frac{X_{1\ n_k'r+1} + \dots + X_{1\ (n_k'+1)r}}{a_{n_k''r}}$$

and

$$S_{1\ rn+s} - \frac{b_{rn+s}}{a_{rn+s}} = S_{1\ rn} - \frac{b_{rn} a_{rn}}{a_{rn} a_{rn+s}} + \frac{\sum_{i=rn+1}^{rn+s} X_i}{a_{rn+s}} + \frac{b_{rn} - b_{rn+s}}{a_{rn+s}},$$

respectively.

THEOREM 9. — Suppose $(T_n - c_n)_{n \geq 1}$ converges in law to a nondegenerate r.v. T distributed according to (35). Then, if (36) holds true, one of the following two cases takes place.

Either

$$(37) \quad \begin{aligned} & b_n \equiv \sqrt{nh(n)} \\ & m_n^*(\tau) - c_n \xrightarrow{P} \gamma_0, \quad \sigma_n^*(\tau)^2 \xrightarrow{d} \sigma^{*2} \text{ for some } \tau > 0 \\ & \gamma_0 \text{ is a real number, } \sigma^{*2} \text{ a (finite) r.v. with p.d. } \rho_1 \neq \delta_0, \mu_{12} = \delta_{\gamma_0} \cdot \rho_1 \end{aligned}$$

or

$$(38) \quad \begin{aligned} & b_n \equiv nh(n) \\ & m_n^*(\tau) - c_n \xrightarrow{d} \gamma^*, \quad \sigma_n^*(\tau)^2 \xrightarrow{P} 0 \text{ for some } \tau > 0 \\ & \gamma^* \text{ is an r.v. with p.d. } \rho_2 \neq \delta_a \text{ for every } a \text{ in } \mathbb{R}, \mu_{12} = \rho_2 \cdot \delta_0. \end{aligned}$$

Conversely if (37) ((38), respectively) holds together with (36), then $(T_n - c_n)_{n \geq 1}$ converges in law to a nondegenerate r.v. T with c.f. (35) and $\mu_{12} = \delta_{\gamma_0} \cdot \rho_1$ ($\rho_2 \cdot \delta_0$, respectively).

PROOF. — First, use the fact that convergence of $(T_n - c_n)_{n \geq 1}$ or, equivalently, of the sum $(S_{1n} - c_n)_{n \geq 1}$ associated with the first row of the array A , implies that each subsequence of $(S_n)_{n \geq 1}$ contains a subsequence $(S_{n'})_{n'}$ which converges in distribution to $(S'_1, S'_2, \dots)$. Combination of (36) with Theorem 1, applied to the above convergent subsequence, is enough to conclude that the law of $(S'_1, S'_2, \dots)$ is a mixture of products of Gaussian p.d.'s in their wide sense (i.e. including unit masses). See, in particular, Theorem 4 and Corollary 1 in [9]. From this together with Theorem 2 and Remark 1 — that can be applied in view of the specific features of the elements of A — one deduces that either $b'_m \equiv \sqrt{m}$ and the law of S'_1 is of type (35) with $\mu_{12} = \delta_{\gamma_0} \cdot \rho_1$, or $b'_m \equiv m$ and the law of S'_1 is of type (35) with $\mu_{12} = \rho_2 \cdot \delta_0$. Moreover, mimicking the proof of Theorem 8 in [9] shows that either

$b'_m \equiv \sqrt{m}$ for all convergent subsequences $(S_{n'})_{n'}$, or $b'_m \equiv m$ for all convergent subsequences $(S_{n'})_{n'}$. It should be noted that γ_0, ρ_1, ρ_2 might depend on (n') . On the other hand, in the former case, the representations of the limiting c.f.'s of two convergent subsequences of $(T_n - c_n)$ must satisfy

$$e^{it\gamma'_0} \int_{\mathbb{R}_+} \exp\left\{-\frac{t^2}{2}\sigma^2\right\} \rho'_1(d\sigma^2) = e^{it\gamma_0} \int_{\mathbb{R}_+} \exp\left\{-\frac{t^2}{2}\sigma^2\right\} \rho_1(d\sigma^2) \quad (t \in \mathbb{R}).$$

Since this equation implies that $\gamma_0 = \gamma'_0$ and, in turn, $\rho_1 = \rho'_1$ from identifiability of scale mixtures of Gaussians, the limiting law of $(S'_1, S'_2, \dots)$ is independent of (n') . Then, each subsequence that converges weakly at all converges weakly to the law having finite dimensional c.f.'s $\int_{\mathbb{R}_+} \prod_{k=1}^m e^{it_k \gamma_0 - t_k^2 \sigma^2 / 2} \rho_1(d\sigma^2)$, which, thus, turns out to

be the weak limit of the S_n 's. Hence, (37) follows immediately from Theorem 4. Analogously, in the latter case, one shows that the limiting c.f. of $(T_n - c_n)$ is of type (35) with $\mu_{12} = \rho_2 \cdot \delta_0$, ρ_2 being independent (n') , and the previous argument, with Theorem 7 in the place of Theorem 4, leads to (38). Finally, Theorems 4 and 7 can be invoked to verify sufficiency of (37) and (38), respectively. $\square$

As already pointed out, hypothesis (36) turns out to be redundant if one assumes that the limiting law of $T_n - c_n$ is a proper Gaussian p.d. See Theorems 8-9 and Subsections 7.2-7.4 in [9].

We go on to examine conditions for convergence to mixtures of stable laws different from the Gaussian. The leading role of assumption (36) in the previous theorem is now played by

$v_2^{(n)}$, that is the law of λ_n^* , converges weakly to a p.d. v_2 such that

$$(39) \quad v_2(\mathbb{G}_{\alpha,0} \cup \{\lambda_0\}) = 1 \text{ and } v_2(\mathbb{G}_{\alpha,0}) > 0, \text{ with } \mathbb{G}_{\alpha,0} := \{\lambda \in \mathbb{G}_\alpha : \lambda(0,1) - \lambda(-1,0) = 0\}$$

and α fixed in $(0,1) \cup (1,2)$.

It should be noticed that a weaker version of (39) has been used in Theorem 6. A restriction is here introduced to guarantee that $\beta = 0$, according to the meaning of β pointed out by (23). Indeed, we are interested in limiting mixtures with c.f.

$$(40) \quad e^{it\gamma} \int_{\mathbb{R}_+} e^{-c|t|^\alpha} \rho(dc) \quad (t \in \mathbb{R}, \rho \neq \delta_0).$$

We restrict ourselves to this kind of limits since, as we shall see in a while, the uniqueness of the mixing measure, when one considers the convergence in law of $T_n - c_n$, crucially depends on the identifiability of the parametric family of laws appearing in the limiting mixture.

THEOREM 10. – *Let (39) hold true. Then, $(T_n - c_n)_{n \geq 1}$ converges in law to a non degenerate r.v. distributed according to (40) if and only if*

$$(41) \quad b_n \equiv n^{1/\alpha} h(n), \quad m_{1n}^* - c_n \xrightarrow{P} \gamma, \quad \bar{\sigma}^*(1/n)^2 \xrightarrow{P} 0$$

are satisfied w.r.t. the exchangeable law of $(X_n)_{n \geq 1}$. If this is so, then

$$\rho(dc) = \nu_2 \left(\left\{ \lambda \in \mathbb{G}_{\alpha,0} : \frac{\pi \csc \frac{\pi\alpha}{2}}{2\Gamma(\alpha)} \lambda(-1, 1) \in dc \right\} \right) \neq \delta_0(dc).$$

It should be noted that convergence to a stable p.d. with c.f. $t \rightarrow \exp \{i\gamma t - c_0 |t|^\alpha\}$, for some c_0 in $(0, +\infty)$, occurs when, in the previous theorem, $\rho_3 = \delta_{c_0}$.

PROOF. – To prove necessity we embed, once again, the problem into the exchangeable array A , and consider $(S_{1n} - c_n)_{n \geq 1}$ in the place of $(T_n - c_n)_{n \geq 1}$. In view of the convergence in law of $(S_{1n} - c_n)_{n \geq 1}$, every subsequence of $(S_n)_{n \geq 1}$ includes a subsequence $(S_{n'})_{n'}$ which converges in law. After a simple manipulation to reformulate (39) in terms of Lévy-Khintchine spectral measures (see Section 6.2 in [13]), one sees that combination of (39) with Theorem 1 leads to conclude that the limiting law of $(S_{n'})_{n'}$ is a mixture of products of copies of the same stable law with index α and $\beta = 0$ or, alternatively, of the same point mass. On the other hand, exchangeability of the elements of A can be considered, in conjunction with the assumption $\nu_2(\mathbb{G}_{\alpha,0}) > 0$, to obtain, through Remark 1 and uniqueness of de Finetti's representation, that the above limiting law is presentable as (R_2) with $\alpha' = \alpha$, γ nonrandom constant and $\mu'_{23} = \mu'_2 \cdot \delta_0$. Then, in view of (40), the relation

$$e^{it\gamma'} \int_{\mathbb{R}_+} e^{-c|t|^\alpha} \mu'_2(dc) = e^{it\gamma} \int_{\mathbb{R}_+} e^{-c|t|^\alpha} \rho(dc)$$

must hold for every t in $\mathbb{R}$. This easily entails $\gamma' = \gamma$ and $\mu'_2 = \rho$, proving that the limiting law of $(S_{n'})_{n'}$ is independent of (n') . Combining this with tightness of $(S_n)_n$ yields the convergence in law of this sequence and, so, Theorem 6 can be applied – with $\mu_{23} = \rho \cdot \delta_0$ and $\rho \neq \delta_0$ – to obtain (41). On the other hand, Theorem 6 can also be invoked to prove that (41) in conjunction with (39) yield convergence of $(T_n - c_n)_{n \geq 1}$ to a nondegenerate r.v. distributed according to (40). $\square$

Finally, we deal with limiting p.d.'s having the form of mixtures of Cauchy p.d.'s. More specifically, we shall consider limiting c.f.'s like

$$(42) \quad e^{it\gamma} \int_{\mathbb{R}_+} e^{-c|t|} \rho(dc) \quad (t \in \mathbb{R}, \rho \neq \delta_0).$$

The key hypothesis we shall now assume is

$$(43) \quad \nu^{(n)}, \text{ that is the law of } (m_{1n}^* - c_n, \lambda_n^*), \text{ converges weakly to } \delta_{\gamma} \cdot \nu_2$$

where $\nu_2(\mathbb{G}_1 \cup \{\lambda_0\}) = 1$, $\nu_2 \neq \delta_{\lambda_0}$.

THEOREM 11. – *Let (43) be in force. Then, $(T_n - c_n)_{n \geq 1}$ converges in law to a nondegenerate r.v. with c.f. like (42) if and only if*

$$(44) \quad b_n = nh(n), \quad \bar{\sigma}^*(1/n)^2 \xrightarrow{P} 0$$

hold true w.r.t. the exchangeable law of $(X_n)_{n \geq 1}$. If this is so, then

$$\nu_2(\{\lambda \in \mathbb{G}_1 : \lambda(0, 1) - \lambda(-1, 0) = 0\}) = 1$$

and

$$\rho(dc) = \nu_2\left(\left\{\lambda \in \mathbb{G}_1 : \frac{\pi}{2}\lambda(-1, 1) \in dc\right\}\right) \neq \delta_0(dc).$$

We omit the proof since it follows from Theorem 7 with the same arguments used to prove Theorem 10.

5. – Final remarks

We conclude the paper with a few comparative remarks concerning, in one hand, the approach followed in the previous section and, on the other hand, an adaptation of it we would like to develop in a future work. In fact, in the previous section we clung to the general lines fixed in [9] for partially exchangeable r.v., even if exchangeability is the property of real interest for the present paper. The main reason of this choice has to be ascribed to our wish to clarify in which sense the original setting is free of the misunderstandings evoked in [15] erroneously. On the other hand, confining ourselves to exchangeable random elements leads to limiting laws presentable as mixtures of stable laws w.r.t. their canonical parametrization. In view of this fact, one wonders whether it is possible to substitute conditions, which – like (22), (28), etc. – involve convergence of p.d.'s of random measures, with conditions about convergence of random numbers. Indeed, a substitution of this kind could give rise to more effective convergence criteria. As an illustration of the study we desire to develop, here we give a description of the conditions one could consider to provide a version of Theorem 10 agreeing with the new viewpoint. It is worth stating beforehand that Theorems 2 and 3, together with Skorokhod representation, will continue to play an important role. Start by fixing α in $(0, 1) \cup (1, 2)$ and introduce conditions, that could be combined in

various ways in the sequel:

$$(45) \quad \frac{x^2 q^*(x)}{\int_{-x}^x y^2 p^*(dy)} \xrightarrow{a.s.} \frac{2-\alpha}{\alpha} \quad \text{as } x \rightarrow +\infty$$

$$(46) \quad nq^*(b_n) \xrightarrow{d} c^* \neq 0$$

$$(47) \quad \frac{p^*((b_n, +\infty)) - p^*((-\infty, -b_n))}{q^*(b_n)} \xrightarrow{P} 0 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow +\infty$$

with $q^*(x) := p^*((-\infty, -x]) + p^*((x, +\infty))$ defined for every $x > 0$. Condition (45) imitates the necessary and sufficient condition in order that p^* be attracted by some stable law of index α in $(0, 2]$. On the other hand, (47) mimics the condition in order that β in $g_x(t; \gamma, c, \beta)$ be zero. See, e.g., Section 25.2 B (ii) in [18]. Finally, we take into account condition

$$(48) \quad m_{1n}^* - c_n \xrightarrow{P} \gamma.$$

The limiting c.f.'s we consider for the present example are the same as in (40). Then, a new convergence criterion could read as follows: *Under (45)-(47), a necessary and sufficient condition in order that $(T_n - c_n)_{n \geq 1}$ converge to a random number with c.f. (40) is that (48) be in force.*

A possible advantage of this formulation could be that (39) is replaced by a condition in the real field like (45). In any case, a comparative analysis of the two approaches could be made efficacious by significant, illustrative examples. We intend to expand this aspect in conjunction with the theory developed in a future work.

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