

Goodness-of-fit Test for Generalized Functional Linear Models via Projection Averaging

Feifei Chen^a, Kaiming Zhang^a, Yanni Zhang^a, Hua Liang^{1b}

^a*Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Beijing Normal University, Zhuhai, 519087, China*

^b*Department of Statistics, George Washington University, Washington, D.C. 20052, USA.*

Abstract

Assessing model adequacy is a crucial step in regression analysis, ensuring the validity of statistical inferences. For Generalized Functional Linear Models (GFLMs), which are widely used for modeling relationships between scalar responses and functional predictors, there is a recognized need for formal goodness-of-fit testing procedures. Current literature on this specific topic remains limited. This paper introduces a novel goodness-of-fit test for GFLMs. The test statistic is formulated as a U -statistic derived from a Cramér-von-Mises metric integrated over all one-dimensional projections of the functional predictor. This projection averaging strategy is designed to effectively mitigate the curse of dimensionality. We establish the asymptotic normality of the test statistic under the null hypothesis and prove the consistency under the alternatives. As the asymptotic variance of the limiting null distribution can be complex for practical use, we also propose practical bootstrap resampling methods for both continuous and discrete responses to compute p -values. Simulation studies confirm that the proposed test demonstrates good power performance across various settings, showing advantages over existing methods.

Keywords: Generalized functional linear models, Model checking, U -statistic, Projection Averaging

1. Introduction

Recently, works on functional models have been intensively studied due to the popularity of functional data analysis. Among these works, in many cases, we want to model the relationship between a real-valued response and a functional predictor. An early and influential work by James (2002) extended generalized linear models to this context, proposing the Generalized Functional Linear Model (GFLM). A canonical example of this model, detailed in their paper, is found in medical research: predicting a binary outcome, such as five-year survival, based on the trajectory of a patient's bilirubin levels over time.

¹Corresponding author: Hua Liang, hliang@gwu.edu.

Consider the following GFLM,

$$\mathbb{E}\{Y|X\} = F\left(\alpha_0 + \int_0^1 X(t)\beta_0(t)dt\right), \quad (1)$$

where Y is a univariate response variable taking values in $\mathcal{Y}$, a subset of real numbers, and its distribution is assumed to be a member of the exponential family. $X(\cdot)$ is a random predictor process that take values in $L^2(\mathbb{I})$, the space of square integrable functions defined on $\mathbb{I} = [0, 1]$. F is a known link function, α_0 is an unknown scalar and $\beta_0(\cdot)$ is an unknown infinite dimensional slope function. The conditional mean with respect to $X = X(\cdot)$ can be understood as a function of a collection of random variables $\{X(t) : 0 \leq t \leq 1\}$ throughout this paper.

Early estimation methods for model (1) include the Functional Principal Component Analysis (FPCA) based "reduce-then-regress" strategy by Müller and Stadtmüller (2005) and the direct penalized spline approach by Cardot and Sarda (2005). The theoretical properties of the popular FPCA method were then extensively studied. Hall and Horowitz (2007) established its optimal rate in the linear case but also identified its instability with closely spaced eigenvalues, while Dou et al. (2012) confirmed the optimal minimax rates for the FPCA-based estimator in the GFLM setting. To address the instability of the FPCA method, Yuan and Cai (2010) introduced a smoothness regularization framework based on Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Spaces (RKHS). This RKHS framework was later generalized to the GFLM setting by Shang and Cheng (2015). They established a Bahadur representation for functional data, which provides a unified treatment for various inference problems. Based on this Bahadur representation, they constructed asymptotically valid confidence intervals and prediction intervals, and proposed a penalized likelihood ratio test for testing the slope function. We therefore adopt this approach to estimate model (1) before implementing the testing procedure, as it provides both a robust estimation framework and the necessary theoretical inferential tools for our analysis.

When building a regression model, the interpretations could be misleading when the model is not adequate. It is therefore necessary to check the adequacy of a model, which is often performed through a goodness-of-fit testing procedure. It tests the validity of the considered model against general non-parametric alternatives in an omnibus way and can tell whether a more complex model is necessary or not. The primary objective of this paper is to develop a goodness-of-fit test for model (1), which encompasses functional linear regression models, functional logistic regression models, and functional Poisson regression models as special cases. Specifically, we test the following hypothesis in an omnibus way:

$$H_0 : P\left(\mathbb{E}\{Y|X\} = F\left(\alpha_0 + \int_0^1 X(t)\beta_0(t)dt\right)\right) = 1, \quad \text{for some } (\alpha_0, \beta_0) \in \mathcal{H}, \quad (2)$$

against

$$H_1 : P\left(\mathbb{E}\{Y|X\} \neq F\left(\alpha_0 + \int_0^1 X(t)\beta(t)dt\right)\right) > 0, \quad \text{for any } (\alpha, \beta) \in \mathcal{H}. \quad (3)$$

Here $\mathcal{H}$ denotes the parameter space of (α, β) , which will be specified in Section 2.2.

There are many well-developed techniques and methods for goodness-of-fit tests for finite-dimensional models. For instance, one prominent method is the use of residual-marked empirical processes (e.g., Stute, 1997 and Stute et al., 1998), and another is the application of nonparametric estimations (e.g., Härdle and Mammen, 1993 and Zheng, 1996). As the dimension of the predictors increases, the power performance of most tests greatly deteriorates due to the curse of dimensionality. To alleviate this problem, Zhu and An (1992), Zhu and Li (1998), Escanciano (2006) and Xia (2009) used projection-based methods. However, all these techniques are fundamentally designed for finite-dimensional predictors. Their direct application to functional models is therefore infeasible due to the infinite-dimensional nature of the data, which introduces unique complexities to the testing procedure and its theoretical properties.

Most of the existing research on goodness-of-fit tests for functional regression models focuses on linear models. For the scalar-on-function linear models, where the response is scalar and the predictor is functional, García-Portugués et al. (2014) and Cuesta-Albertos et al. (2019) constructed goodness-of-fit tests using projected empirical processes. The former integrated all projection directions, but no results on the weak convergence of the test statistic were provided. In contrast, the latter adopted several (not all) randomly chosen projection directions and then aggregated the resulting p -values. After projecting the functional predictor to the least favorable direction for the null hypothesis, Patilea and Sánchez-Sellero (2020) proposed a test statistic based on nonparametric kernel smoothing methods. Recently, Shi et al. (2025) developed an adaptive test that combines conventional global smoothing techniques with kernel-based methods. When the response is missing at random, Febrero-Bande et al. (2024) proposed a test statistic based on a marked empirical process. Zhang et al. (2023) considered a more complex scenario where the model also incorporates scalar predictors measured with additive errors. For this setting, they proposed a kernel-based test statistic constructed from residuals of the null model, which were obtained using the corrected profile least squares estimation. Shi et al. (2021) and Xia et al. (2024) studied the adequacy test of scalar-on-function linear quantile regression models. When the response is functional, Chen et al. (2020) and García-Portugués et al. (2021) proposed goodness-of-fit tests based on residual marked empirical processes for function-on-scalar and function-on-function linear models, respectively. For comprehensive surveys on the topic of goodness-of-fit tests for models involving functional data, one can refer to the reviews by González-Manteiga (2022) and González-Manteiga et al. (2023).

Goodness-of-fit tests for functional generalized linear or nonlinear regression models have received limited scholarly attention. To our knowledge, in the domain of functional single-index models that connect a functional predictor to a scalar response via an unknown link function, Xia et al. (2023) introduced an adaptive-to-model test for a given link function using functional sliced inverse regression. Meanwhile, Chan et al. (2023) developed a specification test with a U -statistic to verify the form of the

link function. Besides, Li et al. (2024) proposed a generalized functional regression test for the hypothesis $\Pr(\mathbb{E}\{\mathcal{L}(\varepsilon)|X\} = 0) = 1$, where $\mathcal{L}(\cdot)$ is a prespecified function of the model error ε . Therefore, a standard model checking test can be viewed as a special case of their framework, occurring when $\mathcal{L}(\varepsilon)$ is simply equal to ε .

In this paper, we propose a novel global test statistic in the form of a U -statistic derived from a Cramér-von-Mises metric to address the goodness-of-fit testing problem for GFLMs. Our approach is founded on a projection averaging strategy that systematically captures any model misspecification by projecting the functional predictors onto all possible one-dimensional directions, thereby overcoming the curse of dimensionality inherent in functional data. A key methodological contribution of this work is the transformation of a Cramér-von-Mises metric, which contains a complex integral over infinite-dimensional projection directions, into a computationally feasible U -statistic. This formulation not only greatly simplifies the calculation but also provides a solid foundation for the subsequent asymptotic analysis. Theoretically, our main contribution is the rigorous derivation of the asymptotic normality of the U -statistic under the null hypothesis. Furthermore, we establish the consistency of our test under global alternatives. To facilitate its practical application, we also develop bootstrap procedures to compute the p -values for both continuous and discrete responses. Extensive simulation studies validate our theoretical findings and demonstrate the preponderance of the proposed method in terms of statistical power.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we construct the test procedure and provide a brief outline of the estimation method to make the paper self-contained. Section 3 presents the asymptotic properties of the test statistic under the null and alternative hypotheses. In Section 4, bootstrap resampling procedures for both continuous and discrete responses are introduced to determine critical values. Simulation studies are then conducted to examine the performance of the proposed test. Section 5 concludes with some discussions. Proofs of the theoretical results are given in the Appendix.

2. Testing the generalized functional linear model

2.1. The basic idea and test statistic

To address the difficulty caused by the infinite dimensionality of the functional predictors, we approximate X with a truncated basis expansion, where the truncated dimension increases asymptotically as the sample size increases. Specifically, let $\{\psi_\nu\}_{\nu \geq 1} \subset L^2(\mathbb{I})$ be an arbitrarily fixed orthonormal basis of the function space $L^2(\mathbb{I})$. Then X can be expanded as

$$X = \sum_{\nu=1}^{\infty} \langle X, \psi_\nu \rangle_{L^2} \psi_\nu,$$

where $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{L^2}$ denote the inner product in $L^2(\mathbb{I})$. That is, $\langle X, \psi_\nu \rangle_{L^2} = \int_0^1 X(t) \psi_\nu(t) dt$. Define $X^p = (\langle X, \psi_1 \rangle_{L^2}, \dots, \langle X, \psi_p \rangle_{L^2})^\top$, where the superscript $\top$ denotes the transpose. The following proposition

enables us to transfer functional predictors to their projections. It extends the results in Zhu and An (1992), Zhu and Li (1998), and Escanciano (2006) to the functional predictors case and is similar to Lemma 1 in Patilea et al. (2016).

Proposition 1. *Assume that $e \in \mathbb{R}$ is a random variable with $E[e] = 0$. Then, for any stochastic process $X \in L^2(\mathbb{I})$, we have the following equivalence:*

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}\{e|X\} = 0 \text{ a.s.} &\iff \mathbb{E}\{e|\gamma^\top X^p\} = 0 \text{ a.s. } \forall \gamma \in \mathbb{S}^p, \forall p \geq 1, \\ &\iff \mathbb{E}\{eI(\gamma^\top X^p \leq x)\} = 0 \text{ a.s. } \forall x \in \mathbb{R}, \forall \gamma \in \mathbb{S}^p, \forall p \geq 1, \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where $I(\cdot)$ denotes the indicator function, $\mathbb{S}^p = \{\gamma \in \mathbb{R}^p : \|\gamma\| = 1\}$ is the unit sphere in $\mathbb{R}^p$, and $\|\cdot\|$ denotes the Euclidean norm.

Let $e = Y - F(\alpha_0 + \int_0^1 X(t)\beta_0(t)dt)$ denote the error term in model (1), then the null hypothesis in (2) is equivalent to $\mathbb{E}\{e|X\} = 0, \text{ a.s.}$. Proposition 1 implies that a test for H_0 can be constructed based on one-dimensional projections. This motivates us to consider test statistics based on the deviation between $\mathbb{E}\{eI(\gamma^\top X^p \leq x)\}$ and zero. Consider γ to be a random vector and $\mu(\cdot)$ is the distribution function of γ . Let $F_\gamma(\cdot)$ be the distribution function of $\gamma^\top X^p$ for a given γ and p . Then a Cramér-von-Mises type norm of $\mathbb{E}\{eI(\gamma^\top X^p \leq x)\}$ can be given by

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{\mathbb{S}^p} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left\{ \mathbb{E}\{eI(\gamma^\top X^p \leq x)\} \right\}^2 dF_\gamma(x) d\mu(\gamma) \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{S}^p} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{E}\{e_1 I(\gamma^\top X_1^p \leq x) e_2 I(\gamma^\top X_2^p \leq x)\} dF_\gamma(x) d\mu(\gamma) \\ &= \mathbb{E}\left\{ e_1 e_2 \int_{\mathbb{S}^p} I(\gamma^\top X_1^p \leq \gamma^\top X_3^p) I(\gamma^\top X_2^p \leq \gamma^\top X_3^p) d\mu(\gamma) \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

where e_1, e_2 are i.i.d. copies of e , and X_1, X_2, X_3 are i.i.d. copies of X , respectively. Further assume that γ is uniformly distributed on $\mathbb{S}^p$. Then, the following lemma, which was first proved by Escanciano (2006) and recently generalized by Kim et al. (2021), provides an explicit form for the integration.

Lemma 1. *For any nonzero vectors $U_1, U_2 \in \mathbb{R}^p$, we have*

$$\int_{\mathbb{S}^p} I(\gamma^\top U_1 \leq 0) I(\gamma^\top U_2 \leq 0) d\mu(\gamma) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2\pi} \text{Ang}(U_1, U_2),$$

where $\text{Ang}(U_1, U_2) = \arccos(U_1^\top U_2 / \{\|U_1\| \|U_2\|\})$ is the angle between the vectors U_1 and U_2 .

According to Lemma 1, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{S}^p} I(\gamma^\top X_1^p \leq \gamma^\top X_3^p) I(\gamma^\top X_2^p \leq \gamma^\top X_3^p) d\mu(\gamma) &= \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2\pi} \text{Ang}(X_1^p - X_3^p, X_2^p - X_3^p) \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \text{Ang}(X_1^p - X_3^p, X_3^p - X_2^p). \end{aligned}$$

The final step holds due to the geometric property that for any two vectors U_1 and U_2 , the angle $\text{Ang}(U_1, -U_2) = \pi - \text{Ang}(U_1, U_2)$. For simplicity, we denote $\text{Ang}(X_1^p - X_3^p, X_3^p - X_2^p)$ as $\text{Ang}(X_{13}^p, X_{32}^p)$

in the following. Then the Cramér-von-Mises type norm of $\mathbb{E}\{eI(\gamma^\top X^p \leq x)\}$ can be written as

$$\int_{\mathbb{S}^p} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left\{ \mathbb{E}\{eI(\gamma^\top X^p \leq x)\} \right\}^2 dF_\gamma(x) d\mu(\gamma) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \mathbb{E}\{e_1 e_2 \text{Ang}(X_{13}^p, X_{32}^p)\}.$$

According to the equivalence presented in Proposition 1, we can construct the test statistic based on an empirical version of $\mathbb{E}\{e_1 e_2 \text{Ang}(X_{13}^p, X_{32}^p)\}$. Recall that $X^p = (\langle X, \psi_1 \rangle_{L^2}, \dots, \langle X, \psi_p \rangle_{L^2})^\top$, which depends on the orthonormal basis $\{\psi_\nu\}_{\nu \geq 1} \subset L^2(\mathbb{I})$. Clearly, the practitioner would prefer a basis that allows for an accurate low-dimensional approximation of X and hence allows for a low p in the test procedure. To this end, we employ functional principal components, which provide optimal low-dimensional representations of X with respect to the mean squared error. Specifically, we first estimate the covariance operator of X from the sample curves X_i , $i = 1, \dots, n$, and then perform an eigen-decomposition to obtain the estimated eigenfunctions $\hat{\psi}_\nu$, $\nu = 1, \dots, p$. Consequently, the functional data X_i are approximated by $\hat{X}_i^p = (\langle X_i, \hat{\psi}_1 \rangle_{L^2}, \dots, \langle X_i, \hat{\psi}_p \rangle_{L^2})^\top$. Furthermore, a U -statistic type test statistic is defined as

$$T_n = \frac{1}{n(n-1)(n-2)} \sum_{i \neq j \neq k}^n \hat{e}_i \hat{e}_j \text{Ang}(\hat{X}_{ik}^p, \hat{X}_{kj}^p), \quad (5)$$

where (X_i, Y_i) , $i = 1, \dots, n$, are i.i.d. copies of (X, Y) and $\hat{e}_i = Y_i - F(\hat{\alpha}_n + \int_0^1 X_i(t) \hat{\beta}_n(t) dt)$, $i = 1, \dots, n$, are residuals. Here $\hat{\alpha}_n$ and $\hat{\beta}_n$ denote the estimators of parameters α and β under H_0 , respectively. The estimation procedures of the unknown parameters will be discussed in the following subsection.

2.2. Estimation of parameters

The estimators of the intercept α_0 and the slope function β_0 play an important role in deriving the asymptotic properties of the test statistic T_n in (5). We adopt a roughness regularization approach proposed by Shang and Cheng (2015) to estimate α_0 and β_0 in an RKHS framework. They presented the convergence rate of estimators and established a Bahadur representation for functional data, which are essential to our theoretical analyses. To make the paper self-contained, we provide a brief introduction to the estimation procedures and notations below.

Let $\beta \in H^m(\mathbb{I})$, the m -order Sobolev space defined by

$$H^m(\mathbb{I}) = \{\beta : \mathbb{I} \mapsto \mathbb{R} \mid \beta^{(j)}, j = 0, \dots, m-1, \text{ are absolutely continuous, and } \beta^{(m)} \in L^2(\mathbb{I})\}.$$

Therefore, the unknown parameter $\theta = (\alpha, \beta)$ belongs to $\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{R} \times H^m(\mathbb{I})$. Based on the i.i.d. samples (X_i, Y_i) , $i = 1, \dots, n$, the regularized estimator $\hat{\theta}_n = (\hat{\alpha}_n, \hat{\beta}_n)$ is given by

$$\begin{aligned} (\hat{\alpha}_n, \hat{\beta}_n) &= \sup_{(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathcal{H}} \{\ell_{n, \lambda}(\theta)\} \\ &= \sup_{(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathcal{H}} \left\{ \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell \left(Y_i; \alpha + \int_0^1 X_i(t) \beta(t) dt \right) - \frac{\lambda}{2} J(\beta, \beta) \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where $\ell(y; a)$ is the log-likelihood function defined over $y \in \mathcal{Y}$ and $a \in \mathbb{R}$, $\lambda \geq 0$ is a non-negative tuning parameter, $J(\beta, \tilde{\beta}) = \int_0^1 \beta^{(m)}(t) \tilde{\beta}^{(m)}(t) dt$ is a roughness penalty. Note that we suppress the λ in $(\hat{\alpha}_n, \hat{\beta}_n)$ for simplicity. The smoothness and tail conditions on ℓ are given in Assumption 1 below.

Assumption 1. (a) $\ell(y; a)$ is three times continuously differentiable and strictly concave w.r.t. a . There exist positive constants C_0 and C_1 s.t.,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left\{ \exp \left(\sup_{a \in \mathbb{R}} |\ddot{\ell}_a(Y; a)| / C_0 \right) \mid X \right\} &\leq C_1, \\ \mathbb{E} \left\{ \exp \left(\sup_{a \in \mathbb{R}} |\ell_a'''(Y; a)| / C_0 \right) \mid X \right\} &\leq C_1, \quad a.s., \end{aligned}$$

where $\ddot{\ell}_a(y; a)$ and $\ell_a'''(y; a)$ are the second- and third-order derivatives of $\ell(y; a)$ w.r.t. a .

(b) There exists a positive constant C_2 s.t.,

$$C_2^{-1} \leq B(X) \equiv -\mathbb{E} \left\{ \ddot{\ell}_a \left(Y; \alpha_0 + \int_0^1 X(t) \beta_0(t) dt \right) \mid X \right\} \leq C_2, \quad a.s.$$

In addition, X is weighted-centered in the sense that $E\{B(X)X(t)\} = 0$ for any $t \in \mathbb{I}$.

(c) $\epsilon \equiv \dot{\ell}_a \left(Y; \alpha_0 + \int_0^1 X(t) \beta_0(t) dt \right)$ satisfies $\mathbb{E}\{\epsilon|X\} = 0$ and $\mathbb{E}\{\epsilon^2|X\} = B(X)$, a.s., where $\dot{\ell}_a(y; a)$ is the first-order derivative of $\ell(y; a)$ w.r.t. a .

Remark 1. Note that $\epsilon = \dot{\ell}_a \left(Y; \alpha_0 + \int_0^1 X(t) \beta_0(t) dt \right)$ in Assumption 1(c) is typically called score function in the generalized linear model framework. It is easy to calculate that

$$\epsilon = \frac{Y - \mathbb{E}\{Y|X\}}{a(\phi)},$$

where ϕ is a possible nuisance parameter in the exponential family and $a(\cdot)$ is a known function. ϕ is typically assumed to be identical over all observations, such as the variance σ^2 in linear regression (see Härdle et al., 2004, §5.2). Then we can conclude that, under the null hypothesis in (2), the error term

$$e_i = Y_i - F \left(\alpha_0 + \int_0^1 X_i(t) \beta_0(t) dt \right) = a(\phi) \epsilon_i, \quad i = 1 \dots, n, \quad a.s.,$$

and

$$\mathbb{E}\{e^2|X\} = a^2(\phi) \mathbb{E}\{\epsilon^2|X\} = a^2(\phi) B(X).$$

To analyze the asymptotic properties of the estimator in (6) within a RKHS framework, Shang and Cheng (2015) defined the inner product in $H^m(\mathbb{I})$ based on the weighted covariance function $C(s, t) = \mathbb{E}\{B(X)X(t)X(s)\}$, where the weighting term $B(X)$ is related to the link function and is defined in Assumption 1. Specifically, for any $\beta, \tilde{\beta} \in H^m(\mathbb{I})$, the inner product in $H^m(\mathbb{I})$ is defined as

$$\langle \beta, \tilde{\beta} \rangle_{H^m} = \int_0^1 \int_0^1 C(s, t) \beta(t) \tilde{\beta}(s) ds dt + \lambda J(\beta, \tilde{\beta}) =: V(\beta, \tilde{\beta}) + \lambda J(\beta, \tilde{\beta}).$$

Shang and Cheng (2015) showed that $H^m(\mathbb{I})$ is indeed a RKHS under $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{H^m}$ if the following Assumption 2 holds. Furthermore, for any $\theta = (\alpha, \beta), \tilde{\theta} = (\tilde{\alpha}, \tilde{\beta}) \in \mathcal{H}$, define

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \theta, \tilde{\theta} \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} &= \mathbb{E} \left\{ B(X) \left(\alpha + \int_0^1 X(t) \beta(t) dt \right) \left(\tilde{\alpha} + \int_0^1 X(t) \tilde{\beta}(t) dt \right) \right\} + \lambda J(\tilde{\beta}, \beta) \\ &= \mathbb{E} \{ B(X) \} \alpha \tilde{\alpha} + \langle \beta, \tilde{\beta} \rangle_{H^m}. \end{aligned}$$

By Proposition 2.1 in Shang and Cheng (2015), $\mathcal{H}$ is a Hilbert space under $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\mathcal{H}}$. We denote the corresponding norms of $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{H^m}$ and $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\mathcal{H}}$ by $\| \cdot \|_{H^m}$ and $\| \cdot \|_{\mathcal{H}}$, respectively.

Assumption 2. $C(s, t)$ is continuous on $\mathbb{I} \times \mathbb{I}$. Furthermore, define a linear bounded operator $\mathcal{C}(\cdot)$ from $L^2(\mathbb{I})$ to $L^2(\mathbb{I})$: $(\mathcal{C}\beta)(t) = \int_0^1 C(s, t) \beta(s) ds$, for any $\beta \in L^2(\mathbb{I})$ satisfying $\mathcal{C}\beta = 0$, we have $\beta = 0$.

As pointed out by Shang and Cheng (2015), a cornerstone of the theoretical analysis is the construction of an eigen-system in $H^m(\mathbb{I})$ that simultaneously diagonalizes both $V(\cdot, \cdot)$ and $J(\cdot, \cdot)$. We assume that such an eigen-system exists; see Sections S.2–S.5 in the supplement to Shang and Cheng (2015) for more details about how to construct an eigen-system satisfying the following Assumption 3.

Assumption 3. There exists a sequence of functions $\{\varphi_\nu\}_{\nu \geq 1} \subset H^m(\mathbb{I})$ such that $\|\varphi_\nu\|_{L^2} \leq C_\varphi \nu^a$ for each $\nu \geq 1$, some constants $a \geq 0, C_\varphi > 0$ and

$$V(\varphi_\nu, \varphi_\mu) = \delta_{\nu\mu}, \quad J(\varphi_\nu, \varphi_\mu) = \rho_\nu \delta_{\nu\mu} \quad \text{for any } \nu, \mu \geq 1,$$

where $\delta_{\nu\mu}$ is Kronecker's notation, and ρ_ν is a nondecreasing nonnegative sequence satisfying $\rho_\nu \asymp \nu^{2k}$ for some constant $k > a + 1/2$. Here we denote $a_n \asymp b_n$ if and only if there exist positive constants c_1, c_2 such that $c_1 \leq a_n/b_n \leq c_2$ for all n . Furthermore, any $\beta \in H^m(\mathbb{I})$ admits the Fourier expansion $\beta = \sum_{\nu=1}^{\infty} V(\beta, \varphi_\nu) \varphi_\nu$.

We present the regularity conditions on the predictor process X and rate conditions on the penalty parameter λ to obtain the convergence rate and the Bahadur representation for GFLMs in Assumptions 4 and 5, respectively.

Assumption 4. Let $\|X\|_{L^2}^2 = \int_0^1 X^2(t) dt$. There exists a constant $s \in (0, 1)$ such that

$$\mathbb{E} \{ \exp(s \|X\|_{L^2}) \} < \infty.$$

Moreover, suppose that there exists a constant $M_0 > 0$ such that for any $\beta \in H^m(\mathbb{I})$,

$$\mathbb{E} \{ \langle X, \beta \rangle_{L^2}^4 \} \leq M_0 \left[\mathbb{E} \{ \langle X, \beta \rangle_{L^2}^2 \} \right]^2.$$

Assumption 5. Denote $h = \lambda^{1/(2k)}$, where k is specified in Assumption 3. As $n \rightarrow \infty$, $h = o(1)$, $n^{-1/2} h^{-1} = o(1)$, $\log(h^{-1}) = O(\log n)$, and $n^{-1/2} h^{-(a+1) - ((2k-2a-1)/(4m))} (\log n)^2 (\log \log n)^{1/2} = o(1)$ hold, where a is also specified in Assumption 3.

The following lemmas, adapted from Shang and Cheng (2015), present the convergence rate and the Bahadur Representation of $\hat{\theta}_n$, respectively.

Lemma 2 (Convergence rate). *Suppose that Assumptions 1–5 hold, then*

$$\|\hat{\theta}_n - \theta_0\|_{\mathcal{H}} = O_P(r_n),$$

where $r_n = (nh)^{-1/2} + h^k$.

Lemma 3 (Bahadur Representation). *Suppose that Assumptions 1–5 hold. Then*

$$\|\hat{\theta}_n - \theta_0 - S_n(\theta_0)\|_{\mathcal{H}} = O_P(a_n),$$

where $S_n(\cdot)$ denotes the Fréchet derivative of the criterion function $\ell_{n,\lambda}(\cdot)$ in (6) with respect to θ . Here we suppress the λ in $S_n(\cdot)$ for simplicity. The remainder rate a_n is given by

$$a_n = n^{-1/2} h^{-(4ma+6m-1)/(4m)} r_n (\log n)^2 (\log \log n)^{1/2} + C_\ell h^{-1/2} r_n^2,$$

with $C_\ell \equiv \sup_{x \in L^2(\mathbb{I})} \mathbb{E} \{ \sup_{a \in \mathbb{R}} |\ell_a'''(Y; a)| \mid X = x \}$.

3. Asymptotic properties

In this section, we investigate the asymptotic behaviors of T_n under the null hypothesis and the alternatives, respectively. The following theorem states the asymptotic normality of the test statistic T_n under the null hypothesis.

Theorem 1. *Suppose that Assumptions 1–5 hold, the data $(X_i, Y_i), i = 1, \dots, n$, are i.i.d. copies of (X, Y) . Under H_0 in (2), if $p = o(n^{1/4})$, we have*

$$\frac{nT_n}{10\sqrt{2\mathbb{E}\{H_n^2(Z_1, Z_2)\}}} \xrightarrow{d} N(0, 1),$$

where $H_n(Z_1, Z_2)$ is defined in equation (30) and Z_1, Z_2 are i.i.d. copies of $Z = (e, X)$.

Remark 2. Note that $\mathbb{E}\{H_n^2(Z_1, Z_2)\} = O(h^{-2})$ by equation (31), Theorem 1 indicates that the convergence rate of T_n is $O(nh)$, which is slightly slower than the parametric rate $O(n)$. This is attributed to the slightly slower convergence rate of $\hat{\theta}_n$, which can be seen in Lemma 2. As pointed out by Shang and Cheng (2015), this is a price to pay for obtaining the Bahadur Representation within the GFLM framework, which is essential to establish the asymptotic normality of T_n . Besides, although the asymptotic normality has been established, its asymptotic variance, as shown in (31), is rather tricky to estimate. Therefore, we employ two different resampling procedures, one for continuous responses and the other for discrete responses, to determine the critical values in numerical studies.

In the following, we investigate the asymptotic behavior of T_n under the alternative H_1 in (3). Note that model (1) is misspecified under H_1 , while the unknown parameter is still obtained by (6). Denote

$$(\tilde{\alpha}_0, \tilde{\beta}_0) = \sup_{(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathcal{H}} \mathbb{E} \left\{ \ell \left(Y; \alpha + \int_0^1 X(t) \beta(t) dt \right) \right\},$$

and

$$\tilde{\epsilon} = \dot{\ell}_a \left(Y; \tilde{\alpha}_0 + \int_0^1 X(t) \tilde{\beta}_0(t) dt \right).$$

The following theorem presents the asymptotic behavior of the test statistic T_n under H_1 .

Theorem 2. *Suppose that Assumptions 1–5 hold, the data $(X_i, Y_i), i = 1, \dots, n$, are i.i.d. copies of (X, Y) . Under H_1 in (3), if $p = o(n^{1/4})$, we have*

$$T_n \xrightarrow{p} \mathbb{E} \{ \tilde{\epsilon}_1 \tilde{\epsilon}_2 \text{Ang}(X_{13}, X_{32}) \} > 0,$$

where $\tilde{\epsilon}_1$ and $\tilde{\epsilon}_2$ are i.i.d. copies of $\tilde{\epsilon}$, and

$$\text{Ang}(X_{13}, X_{32}) = \arccos \left(\frac{\langle X_1 - X_3, X_3 - X_2 \rangle_{L^2}}{\|X_1 - X_3\|_{L^2} \|X_3 - X_2\|_{L^2}} \right).$$

Theorem 2 shows that our proposed test is consistent since $nhT_n \xrightarrow{p} \infty$ under H_1 .

4. Numerical studies

We present the numerical performance of the proposed test in this section. The corresponding R code is available.

4.1. Resampling procedures

As the asymptotic variance of the test statistic T_n under the null hypothesis is rather difficult to estimate, we employ different bootstrap resampling procedures to determine the critical values for both continuous and discrete responses.

For a continuous response Y , we adopt the wild bootstrap strategy, which is widely used in the framework of model checking. For example, García-Portugués et al. (2014) and Cuesta-Albertos et al. (2019) used this strategy to calibrate residuals of functional linear models. The following Algorithm 1 states the detailed resampling steps. When the outcome is discrete, the residuals are also discrete, so the wild bootstrap resampling is not applicable. Motivated by Li et al. (2023), we propose a model-based bootstrap strategy to deal with discrete responses. Take the binary response as an example; the following Algorithm 2 outlines the detailed steps for functional logistic regression models.

Algorithm 1 Bootstrap resampling procedure for continuous response.

Step 1. Compute the test statistic T_n as in (5).

Step 2. Generate random variables $v_1, \dots, v_n$ independently from a two-point distribution which takes values $(1 \mp \sqrt{5})/2$ with the probabilities $(5 \pm \sqrt{5})/10$. Let

$$Y_i^* = F\left(\hat{\alpha}_n + \int_0^1 X_i(t)\hat{\beta}_n(t)dt\right) + \hat{e}_i v_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, n.$$

Step 3. Based on the bootstrap samples (X_i, Y_i^*) , $i = 1, \dots, n$, compute the bootstrap test statistic T_n^* as in (5).

Step 4. Repeat Steps 2–3 B times to obtain $T_n^{*1}, T_n^{*2}, \dots, T_n^{*B}$ for some large integer B .

Step 5. For a given significance level $\alpha \in (0, 1)$, take the $(1 - \alpha)$ quantile of T_n^{*j} , $j = 1, \dots, B$, as the critical value $c_{n,\alpha}$, and $B^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^B \mathbb{I}\{T_n^{*j} \geq T_n\}$ as the estimated p -value $\hat{p}$.

Step 6. Reject H_0 if $T_n > c_{n,\alpha}$ or $\hat{p} < \alpha$.

Algorithm 2 Bootstrap resampling procedure for binary response.

Step 1. Compute the test statistic T_n as in (5).

Step 2. Denote $\hat{Y}_i = F(\hat{\alpha}_n + \int_0^1 X_i(t)\hat{\beta}_n(t)dt)$, $i = 1, \dots, n$. Let $p_1^*, \dots, p_n^*$ be n observations sampled from $\hat{Y}_1, \dots, \hat{Y}_n$ without replacement. Generate $Y_i^*, i = 1, \dots, n$, from independent Bernoulli distributions, where Y_i^* has the probability of success p_i^* .

Step 3. Based on the bootstrap samples (X_i, Y_i^*) , $i = 1, \dots, n$, compute the bootstrap test statistic T_n^* as in (5).

Step 4. Repeat Steps 2–3 B times to obtain $T_n^{*1}, T_n^{*2}, \dots, T_n^{*B}$ for some large integer B .

Step 5. For a given significance level $\alpha \in (0, 1)$, take the $(1 - \alpha)$ quantile of T_n^{*j} , $j = 1, \dots, B$, as the critical value $c_{n,\alpha}$, and $B^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^B \mathbb{I}\{T_n^{*j} \geq T_n\}$ as the estimated p -value $\hat{p}$.

Step 6. Reject H_0 if $T_n > c_{n,\alpha}$ or $\hat{p} < \alpha$.

4.2. Simulations

Our simulation study considers two settings. Example 1 presents a functional linear model, while Example 2 focuses on a generalized functional linear model with the logit link function. For each setting, all experiments were repeated 500 times to assess the Monte Carlo performance of the tests. The number of bootstrap replications used to determine the critical value was set to $B = 1000$. The tests are conducted at sample size $n \in \{50, 100\}$ and significance level $\alpha \in \{1\%, 5\%, 10\%\}$. For the number of orthonormal bases p , we adopted two distinct strategies: a data-driven approach and a fixed-value approach with $p \in \{5, 10\}$. The data-driven p was selected as the minimum number of components required to capture no less than 95% of the total explained variance, whereas the fixed

values were employed for comparative purposes. All the parameters that need to be set during the estimation process are in accordance with settings of Shang and Cheng (2015).

Example 1. *In this example, we consider the goodness-of-fit test for the functional linear regression model:*

$$Y_i = \int_0^1 X_i(t)\beta(t) dt + a \int_0^1 X_i(t)X_i(t) dt + \epsilon_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$

where

- $X_i(t) = \sum_{j=1}^{100} \sqrt{\kappa_j} \eta_j \phi_j(t)$. Here the covariance operator of covariate processes has eigenvalues $\kappa_j = j^{-1.7}$ and eigenfunctions $\phi_1(t) = 1$, $\phi_j(t) = \sqrt{2} \cos((j-1)\pi t)$, $j \geq 2$. The η_j 's are independent standard normal while t are 1000 points evenly spaced over $[0, 1]$;
- $\beta(t) = r \sum_{j=1}^{100} \theta_j \phi_j(t)$. Let $r^2 = 1.5$ and $\theta_j = \bar{\theta}_j / \|\bar{\theta}\|_2$, where $\bar{\theta}_j = b_j \cdot I_j$ for $j = 1, 2$ and $\bar{\theta}_j = 0$ for $j > 2$. Specifically, $b_1, b_2 \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} \text{Unif}(0, 1)$, and (I_1, I_2) follows a multinomial distribution $\text{Mult}(1; 0.5, 0.5)$;
- ϵ_i are i.i.d. standard normal error term independent of X ;
- Take $a \in \{0, 0.05, 0.10, 0.15, 0.20\}$ as the distance away from the null.

Example 2. *In this example, we consider the goodness-of-fit test for the functional logistic regression model:*

$$P(Y = 1|X) = \frac{\exp\left(\int_0^1 X(t)\beta(t) dt + a \exp\left(\int_0^1 X(t)\beta(t) dt\right)\right)}{1 + \exp\left(\int_0^1 X(t)\beta(t) dt + a \exp\left(\int_0^1 X(t)\beta(t) dt\right)\right)}$$

where

- $X_i(t) = \sum_{j=1}^{100} \sqrt{\lambda_j} \eta_{ij} V_j(t)$. Let $\lambda_j = (j - 0.5)^{-2} \pi^{-2}$, $V_j(t) = \sqrt{2} \sin((j - 0.5)\pi t)$, for $j = 1, 2, \dots, 100$. The η_{ij} 's are independent truncated normals, i.e. $\eta_{ij} = \xi_{ij} I_{\{|\xi_{ij}| \leq 0.5\}} + 0.5 I_{\{\xi_{ij} > 0.5\}} - 0.5 I_{\{\xi_{ij} < -0.5\}}$, and ξ_{ij} 's are standard normal random variables. Similarly, t are 1000 points evenly spaced over $[0, 1]$;
- $\beta(t) = 3 \times 10^5 (t^{11}(1-t)^6)$;
- Take $a \in \{0, 0.25, 0.50, 0.75, 1\}$ as the distance away from the null.

We first investigate the influence of the number of orthonormal bases p on the test performance. Table 1 reports the results of our proposed test for Example 1. For clearer interpretation, Figure 1 displays the results at the 5% significance level from Table 1. As shown in these results, our test maintains good control of the empirical size and achieves comparable performance across different p . We adopt the data-driven p for all subsequent simulations.

We next evaluate the finite-sample performance of the proposed test through a comparative simulation study with two methods: the tests presented in García-Portugués et al. (2014) and Cuesta-Albertos et al. (2019), which can be implemented via the R functions `rp.flm.statistic()` and `PCvM.statistic()`, available in the `fda.usc` package, respectively. Both tests considered the goodness-of-fit test for the functional linear model based on projected empirical processes. The former integrated all projection directions and then defined a statistic that is essentially the average of projected Cramér-von Mises statistics (denoted as $PCvM$). While the latter adopted several (not all) randomly chosen projection directions and then constructed both Cramér-von Mises type (denoted as CA_1) and Kolmogorov-Smirnov type (denoted as CA_2) test statistics. However, once we obtain the model residuals by Shang and Cheng (2015)’s estimation method, we can directly apply the residuals to tests $PCvM$, CA_1 , and CA_2 , and obtain the p -values by Algorithms 1 and 2. For a more comprehensive comparison, we also make comparisons with tests $PCvM$, CA_1 , and CA_2 in Example 2, which involves the functional logistic regression model. It is also noteworthy that both García-Portugués et al. (2014) and Cuesta-Albertos et al. (2019) employed the estimation method proposed by Cardot et al. (2007). To ensure a fair comparison, we report results using both the estimators of Shang and Cheng (2015) and Cardot et al. (2007) in Example 1.

Table 2 reports the empirical size and power of the tests T_n , $PCvM$, CA_1 , and CA_2 at various significance levels for Example 1, using the estimators from both Shang and Cheng (2015) (denoted by SC) and Cardot et al. (2007) (denoted by CAP). It can be observed that the influence of the two estimation methods on the test results under the linear regression model is small. Note that Cardot et al. (2007) derived a central limit theorem in the functional linear regression model. We conjecture that our proposed test can also be constructed based on Cardot et al. (2007)’s estimators within a linear framework. Furthermore, it can be extended to more complex models as long as a Bahadur representation is obtained. Irrespective of the estimation method, our test attains higher power than the competing tests. This stable trend attests to the robustness of the proposed procedure.

We present a unified comparison by visualizing in Figures 2 and 3 the results corresponding specifically to the Shang and Cheng (2015) estimator from Tables 2 and 3, respectively. Figure 2 demonstrates that when the null hypothesis holds with $a = 0$, T_n maintains good control of the empirical size. Under the alternatives, its empirical power grows with both the distance from the null a and the sample size n , confirming the test’s consistency. Furthermore, T_n exhibits greater power at smaller significance levels α and larger values of a . Even at $\alpha = 0.10$, its performance remains comparable to $PCvM$ and is slightly superior to CA_1 and CA_2 . Turning to Example 2, which involves a functional logistic regression model, Figure 3 shows that T_n achieves substantially greater power across all simulation conditions. The proposed test demonstrates strong and reliable performance in both examples, confirming its broad applicability for GFLMs and its effectiveness at small significance levels.

Table 1: Simulation Results for Example 1: Empirical size and power of the proposed test T_n , comparing data-driven p and fixed $p = 5, 10$ selection of the orthonormal bases for sample sizes $n = 50, 100$ at 1%, 5%, and 10% significance level.

n	a	1% Level			5% Level			10% Level		
		data-driven	5	10	data-driven	5	10	data-driven	5	10
50	0	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.058	0.060	0.058	0.110	0.102	0.106
	0.05	0.026	0.032	0.030	0.090	0.094	0.092	0.156	0.150	0.152
	0.1	0.096	0.088	0.088	0.238	0.240	0.242	0.328	0.334	0.338
	0.15	0.246	0.242	0.242	0.456	0.452	0.448	0.580	0.582	0.584
	0.2	0.432	0.434	0.440	0.674	0.674	0.672	0.792	0.786	0.786
100	0	0.006	0.004	0.004	0.052	0.054	0.054	0.116	0.116	0.108
	0.05	0.072	0.070	0.068	0.140	0.132	0.132	0.234	0.238	0.238
	0.1	0.226	0.228	0.226	0.448	0.432	0.430	0.568	0.568	0.574
	0.15	0.544	0.526	0.532	0.816	0.812	0.816	0.882	0.880	0.884
	0.2	0.862	0.858	0.862	0.952	0.948	0.950	0.972	0.972	0.972

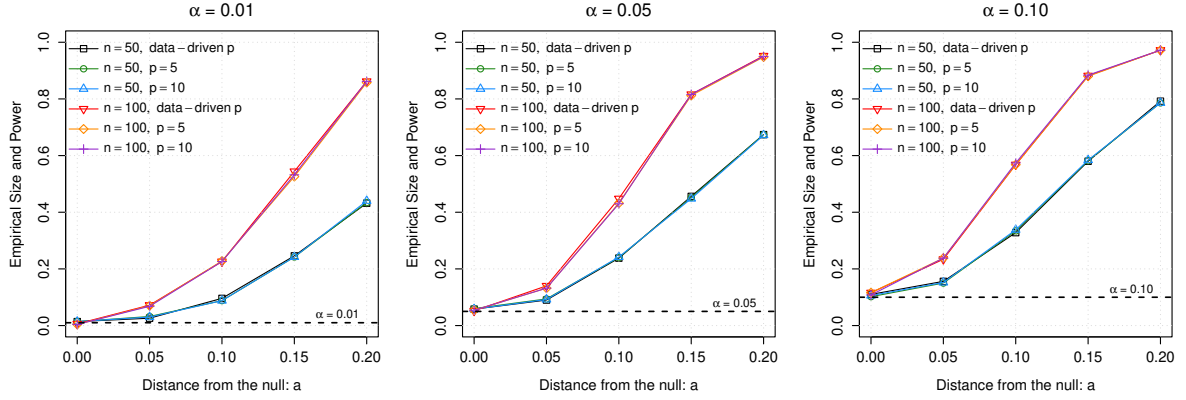


Figure 1: Simulation Results for Example 1. The test performance of the proposed test T_n , comparing data-driven p and fixed $p = 5, 10$ selection of the orthonormal bases for sample sizes $n = 50, 100$ at 1%, 5% and 10% significance level.

Table 2: Simulation Results for Example 1. Empirical size and power of the proposed test T_n , García-Portugués et al. (2014)’s tests $PCvM$, and Cuesta-Albertos et al. (2019)’s test CA_1 and CA_2 at 1%, 5% and 10% significance level with $n = 50, 100$ and data-driven p .

Est.method	n	a	1% Level				5% Level				10% Level			
			T_n	CA_1	CA_2	$PCvM$	T_n	CA_1	CA_2	$PCvM$	T_n	CA_1	CA_2	$PCvM$
SC	50	0	0.014	0.008	0.008	0.012	0.058	0.048	0.052	0.058	0.110	0.090	0.092	0.114
		0.05	0.026	0.016	0.022	0.028	0.090	0.076	0.082	0.098	0.156	0.126	0.138	0.148
		0.1	0.096	0.070	0.080	0.086	0.238	0.178	0.202	0.226	0.328	0.286	0.308	0.334
		0.15	0.246	0.174	0.202	0.208	0.456	0.392	0.412	0.432	0.580	0.518	0.544	0.566
		0.2	0.432	0.344	0.386	0.404	0.674	0.598	0.638	0.660	0.792	0.720	0.758	0.782
	100	0	0.006	0.004	0.002	0.006	0.052	0.038	0.040	0.056	0.116	0.086	0.090	0.112
		0.05	0.072	0.048	0.048	0.068	0.140	0.122	0.116	0.132	0.234	0.204	0.208	0.236
		0.1	0.226	0.178	0.190	0.220	0.448	0.378	0.400	0.418	0.568	0.504	0.522	0.554
		0.15	0.544	0.466	0.498	0.504	0.816	0.758	0.800	0.802	0.882	0.842	0.860	0.868
		0.2	0.862	0.810	0.840	0.838	0.952	0.928	0.946	0.946	0.972	0.956	0.968	0.966
CAP	50	0	0.016	0.010	0.008	0.014	0.058	0.046	0.046	0.058	0.108	0.078	0.086	0.106
		0.05	0.024	0.022	0.022	0.026	0.100	0.082	0.084	0.100	0.152	0.128	0.128	0.144
		0.1	0.096	0.074	0.082	0.086	0.240	0.188	0.206	0.238	0.342	0.294	0.304	0.338
		0.15	0.248	0.184	0.196	0.224	0.472	0.398	0.438	0.452	0.588	0.532	0.552	0.578
		0.2	0.446	0.360	0.398	0.416	0.688	0.614	0.664	0.672	0.798	0.724	0.764	0.796
	100	0	0.010	0.002	0.004	0.010	0.050	0.040	0.036	0.052	0.106	0.080	0.092	0.108
		0.05	0.068	0.050	0.048	0.068	0.144	0.118	0.122	0.134	0.242	0.208	0.206	0.232
		0.1	0.230	0.182	0.200	0.214	0.450	0.382	0.396	0.410	0.566	0.496	0.524	0.556
		0.15	0.540	0.460	0.510	0.514	0.822	0.756	0.800	0.800	0.878	0.848	0.860	0.874
		0.2	0.868	0.816	0.852	0.850	0.952	0.922	0.946	0.942	0.974	0.954	0.968	0.968

Table 3: Simulation Results for Example 2. Empirical size and power of the proposed test T_n , García-Portugués et al. (2014)'s tests $PCvM$, and Cuesta-Albertos et al. (2019)'s test CA_1 and CA_2 at 1%, 5% and 10% significance level with $n = 50, 100$ and data-driven p .

n	a	1% Level				5% Level				10% Level			
		T_n	CA_1	CA_2	$PCvM$	T_n	CA_1	CA_2	$PCvM$	T_n	CA_1	CA_2	$PCvM$
50	0	0.008	0.008	0.004	0.008	0.046	0.034	0.028	0.046	0.090	0.082	0.070	0.088
	0.25	0.052	0.048	0.040	0.050	0.144	0.128	0.120	0.146	0.234	0.188	0.188	0.222
	0.5	0.198	0.142	0.150	0.182	0.410	0.314	0.354	0.384	0.516	0.428	0.456	0.494
	0.75	0.456	0.348	0.386	0.410	0.684	0.570	0.596	0.654	0.782	0.694	0.718	0.752
	1	0.714	0.602	0.628	0.694	0.890	0.788	0.846	0.870	0.944	0.890	0.910	0.930
100	0	0.016	0.012	0.014	0.014	0.050	0.048	0.050	0.054	0.106	0.080	0.080	0.090
	0.25	0.108	0.070	0.084	0.100	0.234	0.196	0.194	0.236	0.358	0.274	0.286	0.332
	0.5	0.456	0.372	0.406	0.432	0.676	0.600	0.634	0.666	0.772	0.718	0.722	0.752
	0.75	0.818	0.726	0.770	0.806	0.938	0.886	0.892	0.934	0.968	0.938	0.954	0.962
	1	0.984	0.960	0.976	0.978	0.998	0.994	0.994	0.996	1.000	0.996	0.998	1.000

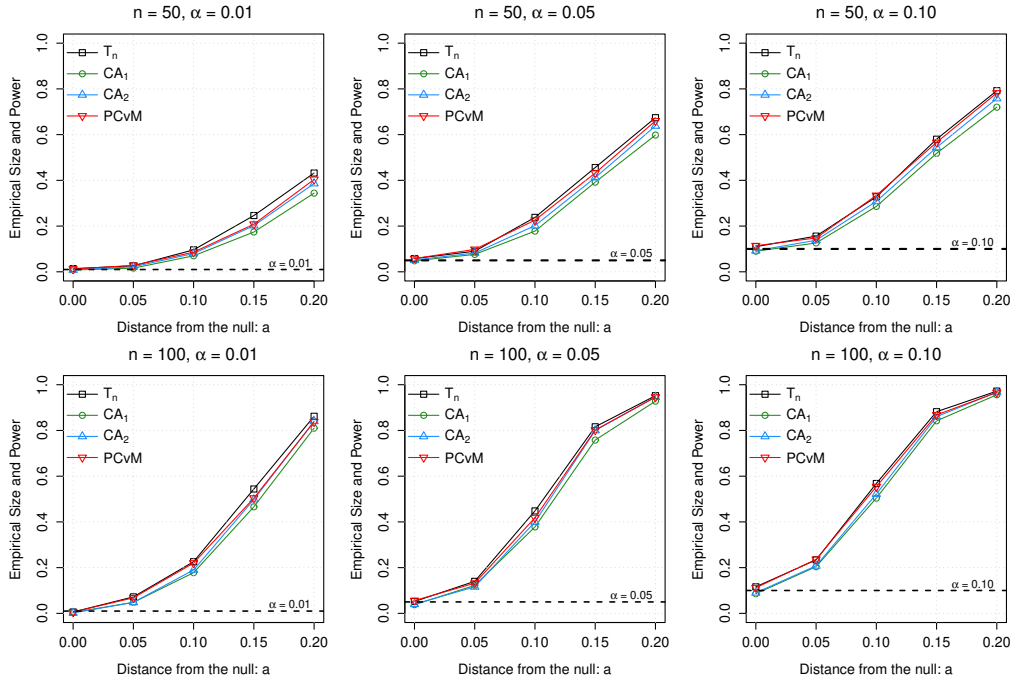


Figure 2: Simulation Results for Example 1. The test performance of the proposed test T_n , García-Portugués et al. (2014)'s tests $PCvM$, and Cuesta-Albertos et al. (2019)'s test CA_1 and CA_2 using Shang and Cheng (2015)'s estimation method at 1%, 5% and 10% significance level with $n = 50, 100$ and data-driven p .

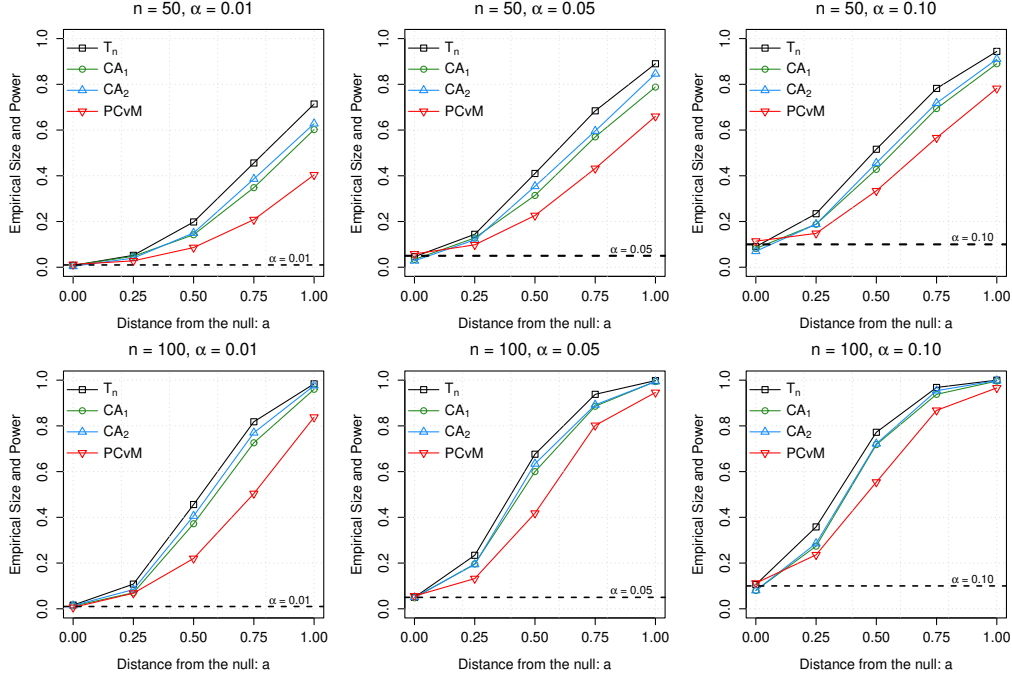


Figure 3: Simulation Results for Example 2. The test performance of the proposed test T_n , García-Portugués et al. (2014)’s tests $PCvM$, and Cuesta-Albertos et al. (2019)’s test CA_1 and CA_2 at 1%, 5% and 10% significance level with $n = 50, 100$ and data-driven p .

5. Discussion

This paper develops a novel goodness-of-fit test for GFLMs, a domain where model checking procedures are still relatively scarce. A fundamental challenge in this area arises from the infinite-dimensional nature of functional predictors, which often renders traditional testing methodologies computationally intractable or theoretically difficult. To overcome this difficulty, our method introduces a projection averaging framework that culminates in a U -statistic. This formulation effectively transforms the intractable problem of integrating over all projection directions into a tractable analytical form. A central theoretical contribution of this work is the derivation of the asymptotic null distribution for this U -statistic. We establish that our test is consistent under the alternatives, ensuring its ability to detect a wide range of model misspecifications. The finite-sample validity of these theoretical results was confirmed by the simulation studies in Section 4.

The developed framework warrants further investigation in several promising directions. An extension involves adapting our methodology to broader classes of functional models, such as functional additive models or semi-parametric models with an unknown link function. Moreover, the core principle of projection averaging presents a promising approach for goodness-of-fit tests for high-dimensional regression. This problem is fundamentally distinct from existing applications of projection averaging

methods, such as the two-sample test in Kim et al. (2021), which does not involve parameter estimation. A crucial challenge for a goodness-of-fit test is to rigorously account for the influence of the preliminary penalized estimators on which the test residuals depend, thereby constituting a significant area for future research.

Acknowledgments

This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (12101055) and the Guangdong Basic and Applied Basic Research Foundation (2024A1515011453).

References

- Cardot, H., Mas, A., Sarda, P., 2007. Clt in functional linear regression models. *Probability Theory and Related Fields* 138, 325–361. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00440-006-0025-2>.
- Cardot, H., Sarda, P., 2005. Estimation in generalized linear models for functional data via penalized likelihood. *Journal of Multivariate Analysis* 92, 24–41. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmva.2003.08.008>.
- Chan, L., Delsol, L., Goia, A., 2023. A link function specification test in the single functional index model. *Advances in Data Analysis and Classification* URL: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11634-023-00545-7>, doi:10.1007/s11634-023-00545-73.
- Chen, F., Jiang, Q., Feng, Z., Zhu, L., 2020. Model checks for functional linear regression models based on projected empirical processes. *Computational Statistics & Data Analysis* 144, 106897.
- Cuesta-Albertos, J.A., García-Portugués, E., Febrero-Bande, M., González-Manteiga, W., 2019. Goodness-of-fit tests for the functional linear model based on randomly projected empirical processes. *The Annals of Statistics* 47, 439–467. doi:10.1214/18-AOS1693.
- Dou, W.W., Pollard, D., Zhou, H.H., 2012. Estimation in functional regression for general exponential families. *The Annals of Statistics* 40, 2421–2451.
- Escanciano, J.C., 2006. A consistent diagnostic test for regression models using projections. *Econometric Theory* 22, 1030–1051. doi:10.1017/S0266466606060506.
- Febrero-Bande, M., Galeano, P., García-Portugués, E., González-Manteiga, W., 2024. Testing for linearity in scalar-on-function regression with responses missing at random. *Comput. Statist.* 39, 3405–3429.

- García-Portugués, E., Álvarez-Liébaná, J., Álvarez-Pérez, G., González-Manteiga, W., 2021. A goodness-of-fit test for the functional linear model with functional response. *Scand. J. Stat.* 48, 502–528. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1111/sjos.12486>, doi:10.1111/sjos.12486.
- García-Portugués, E., González-Manteiga, W., Febrero-Bande, M., 2014. A goodness-of-fit test for the functional linear model with scalar response. *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics* 23, 761–778. doi:10.1080/10618600.2013.812519.
- González-Manteiga, W., 2022. A review on specification tests for models with functional data. *Spanish Journal of Statistics* 4, 9–40. URL: <https://api.semanticscholar.org/CorpusID:257337776>.
- González-Manteiga, W., Crujeiras, R.M., García-Portugués, E., 2023. A review of goodness-of-fit tests for models involving functional data, in: *Trends in mathematical, information and data sciences—a tribute to Leandro Pardo*. Springer, Cham. volume 445 of *Stud. Syst. Decis. Control*, pp. 349–358. URL: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-04137-2_29, doi:10.1007/978-3-031-04137-2_29.
- Hall, P., Horowitz, J.L., 2007. Methodology and convergence rates for functional linear regression. *The Annals of Statistics* 35, 70 – 91. doi:10.1214/009053606000000957.
- Härdle, W., Mammen, E., 1993. Comparing nonparametric versus parametric regression fits. *The Annals of Statistics* 21, 1926–1947. doi:10.1214/aos/1176349403.
- Härdle, W., Müller, M., Sperlich, S., Werwatz, A., 2004. *Nonparametric and Semi-parametric Models*. Springer Series in Statistics, Springer Berlin Heidelberg. URL: <https://books.google.com/books?id=wqX7CAAAQBAJ>.
- James, M.G., 2002. Generalized linear models with functional predictors. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society. Series B* 64, 411–432.
- Kim, I., Balakrishnan, S., Wasserman, L., 2021. Robust multivariate nonparametric tests via projection averaging. *Annals of Statistics* 48, 3417–3441. doi:10.1214/19-AOS1936.
- Li, G., You, M., Zhou, L., Liang, H., Lin, H., 2024. A projection-based diagnostic test for generalized functional regression models. *Statist. Sinica* 34, 1973–1995.
- Li, X., Chen, F., Liang, H., Ruppert, D., 2023. Model checking for logistic models when the number of parameters tends to infinity. *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics* 32, 241–251. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10618600.2022.2084403>, doi:10.1080/10618600.2022.2084403.
- Müller, H.G., Stadtmüller, U., 2005. Generalized functional linear models. *The Annals of Statistics* 33, 774–805.

- Patilea, V., Sánchez-Sellero, C., 2020. Testing for lack-of-fit in functional regression models against general alternatives. *J. Statist. Plann. Inference* 209, 229–251. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jspi.2020.04.002>, doi:10.1016/j.jspi.2020.04.002.
- Patilea, V., Sánchez-Sellero, C., Saumard, M., 2016. Testing the predictor effect on a functional response. *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 111, 1684–1695. doi:10.1080/01621459.2015.1110031.
- Shang, Z., Cheng, G., 2015. Nonparametric inference in generalized functional linear models. *The Annals of Statistics* 43, 1742–1773. doi:10.1214/15-AOS1322.
- Shi, E., Liu, Y., Sun, K., Li, L., Kong, L., 2025. An adaptive model checking test for the functional linear model. *Bernoulli* 31, 894–921. URL: <https://doi.org/10.3150/24-bej1752>, doi:10.3150/24-bej1752.
- Shi, G., Du, J., Sun, Z., Zhang, Z., 2021. Checking the adequacy of functional linear quantile regression model. *J. Statist. Plann. Inference* 210, 64–75. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jspi.2020.05.003>, doi:10.1016/j.jspi.2020.05.003.
- Stute, W., 1997. Nonparametric model checks for regression. *The Annals of Statistics* 25, 613–641. doi:10.1214/aos/1031833666.
- Stute, W., Thies, S., Zhu, L.X., 1998. Model checks for regression: an innovation process approach. *The Annals of Statistics* 26, 1916–1934. doi:10.1214/aos/1024691363.
- Xia, L., Du, J., Zhang, Z., 2024. A nonparametric model checking test for functional linear composite quantile regression models. *J. Syst. Sci. Complex.* 37, 1714–1737. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11424-024-3169-1>, doi:10.1007/s11424-024-3169-1.
- Xia, L., Lai, T., Zhang, Z., 2023. An adaptive-to-model test for parametric functional single-index model. *Mathematics* 11. URL: <https://www.mdpi.com/2227-7390/11/8/1812>, doi:10.3390/math11081812.
- Xia, Y.C., 2009. Model checking in regression via dimension reduction. *Biometrika* 96, 133–148. doi:10.1093/biomet/asn074.
- Yuan, M., Cai, T.T., 2010. A reproducing kernel hilbert space approach to functional linear regression. *Annals of Statistics* 38, 3412–3444.
- Zhang, T., Sun, Z., Sun, L., 2023. Goodness-of-fit test for partial functional linear model with errors in scalar covariates. *J. Statist. Plann. Inference* 227, 91–111. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jspi.2023.04.001>, doi:10.1016/j.jspi.2023.04.001.

- Zheng, J.X., 1996. A consistent test of functional form via nonparametric estimation techniques. *Journal of Econometrics* 75, 263–289. doi:10.1016/0304-4076(95)01760-7.
- Zhu, L.X., An, H.Z., 1992. A method for testing nonlinearity in regression models. *Journal of Mathematics (Wuhan)* 12, 391–397.
- Zhu, L.X., Li, R.Z., 1998. Dimension-reduction type test for linearity of a stochastic regression model. *Acta Mathematicae Applicatae Sinica (English Series)* 14, 165–175. doi:10.1007/BF02677423.