

AN INVARIANCE PRINCIPLE FOR PROCESSES INDEXED BY TWO  
PARAMETERS AND SOME STATISTICAL APPLICATIONS

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*Abstract:* Let  $D((0, 1]^2)$  denote the space of all functions on  $(0, 1]^2$  with no discontinuities of the second kind. We prove weak invariance principles in the space  $D((0, 1]^2)$  for processes of the form  $\int h(H_{n+m}(t))dF_n(t)$ ,  $m, n \geq 1$ , where  $F_n$  and  $G_m$  are two independent empirical distribution functions of independent, identically distributed sequences of random variables,

$$H_{n+m} = (n + m + 1)^{-1}(nF_n + mG_m),$$

and where  $h$  belongs to a certain class of functions on the open unit interval. The appropriate topology in  $D((0, 1]^2)$  is given by uniform convergence on compact sets. This type of processes is central in nonparametric statistics having applications to two-sample linear rank statistics and signed rank statistics.

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