Ann. Inst. Statist. Math. Vol. 42, No. 2, 221-251 (1990)

## ASYMPTOTIC BEHAVIOR OF *M*-ESTIMATOR AND RELATED RANDOM FIELD FOR DIFFUSION PROCESS Nakahiro Yoshida\*

Department of Applied Mathematics, Faculty of Engineering Science, Osaka University,

Toyonaka, Osaka 560, Japan

(Received September 6, 1988; revised June 30, 1989)

Abstract. The *M*-estimate which maximizes a positive stochastic process Q is treated for multidimensional diffusion models. The convergence in distribution of the process of ratio of Q's after normalizing is proved. The asymptotic behavior of *M*-estimates is stated. We present the asymptotic variance in general cases and in estimation by misspecified models.

Key words and phrases: Diffusion process, M-estimator.