

Data assimilation using 4D-Var and links to regularisation

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Introduction

Variational Data Assimilation

Tikhonov regularisation

Link between 4D-Var and Tikhonov regularisation

Work in progress



Outline

Introduction

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What is Data Assimilation?

Loose definition

Estimation and prediction (analysis) of an unknown, true state by combining observations and system dynamics (model output).



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Some examples

- ▶ Navigation
- ▶ Geosciences
- ▶ Medical imaging
- ▶ Numerical weather prediction



Data Assimilation in NWP

Estimate the **state of the atmosphere \mathbf{x}_i**

Observations \mathbf{y}

- ▶ Satellites
- ▶ Ships and buoys
- ▶ Surface stations
- ▶ Aeroplanes



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A priori information \mathbf{x}^B

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- ▶ a model how the atmosphere evolves in time (imperfect)

$$\mathbf{x}_{i+1} = M(\mathbf{x}_i)$$



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Assimilation algorithms

- ▶ used to find an (approximate) state of the atmosphere \mathbf{x}_i at times i (usually $i = 0$)
- ▶ using this state a forecast for future states of the atmosphere can be obtained
- ▶ **\mathbf{x}^A** : Analysis (estimation of the true state after the DA)



Data Assimilation in NWP

Underdeterminacy

- ▶ Size of the state vector \mathbf{x} : $432 \times 320 \times 50 \times 7 = \mathcal{O}(10^7)$
- ▶ Number of observations (size of \mathbf{y}): $\mathcal{O}(10^5 - 10^6)$



Schematics of DA

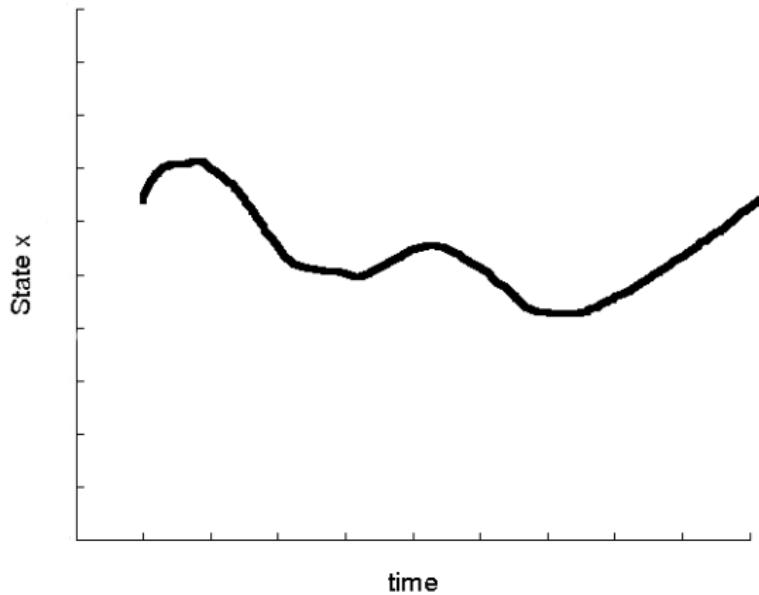


Figure: Background state \mathbf{x}^B



Schematics of DA

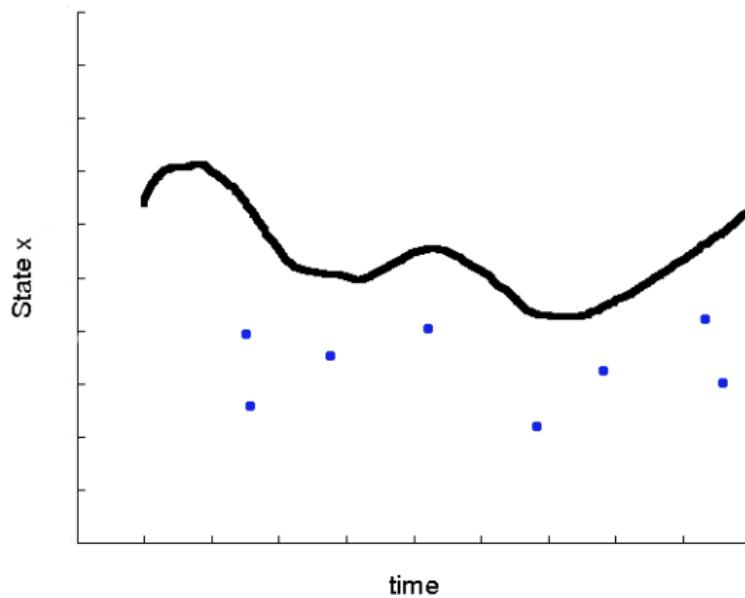


Figure: Observations y



Schematics of DA

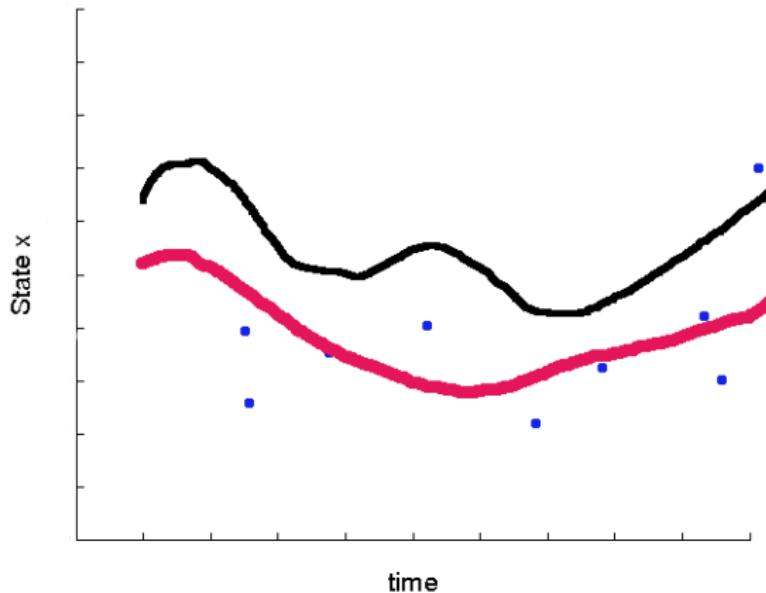


Figure: Analysis \mathbf{x}^A (consistent with observations and model dynamics)



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Optimal least-squares estimator

Cost function - 3D-VAR

Solution of the variational optimisation problem $\mathbf{x}^A = \arg \min J(\mathbf{x})$ where

$$\begin{aligned} J(\mathbf{x}) &= (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^B)^T \mathbf{B}^{-1} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^B) + (\mathbf{y} - H(\mathbf{x}))^T \mathbf{R}^{-1} (\mathbf{y} - H(\mathbf{x})) \\ &= J_B(\mathbf{x}) + J_O(\mathbf{x}) \end{aligned}$$



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Interpolation equations - Optimal Interpolation

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}^A &= \mathbf{x}^B + \mathbf{K}(\mathbf{y} - H(\mathbf{x}^B)), \quad \text{where} \\ \mathbf{K} &= \mathbf{B} \mathbf{H}^T (\mathbf{H} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{H}^T + \mathbf{R})^{-1} \quad \mathbf{K} \dots \text{gain matrix} \end{aligned}$$



Four-dimensional variational assimilation (4D-VAR)

Minimise the cost function

$$J(\mathbf{x}_0) = (\mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{x}_0^B)^T \mathbf{B}^{-1} (\mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{x}_0^B) + \sum_{i=0}^n (\mathbf{y}_i - H_i(\mathbf{x}_i))^T \mathbf{R}_i^{-1} (\mathbf{y}_i - H_i(\mathbf{x}_i))$$

subject to model dynamics $\mathbf{x}_i = M_{0 \rightarrow i} \mathbf{x}_0$

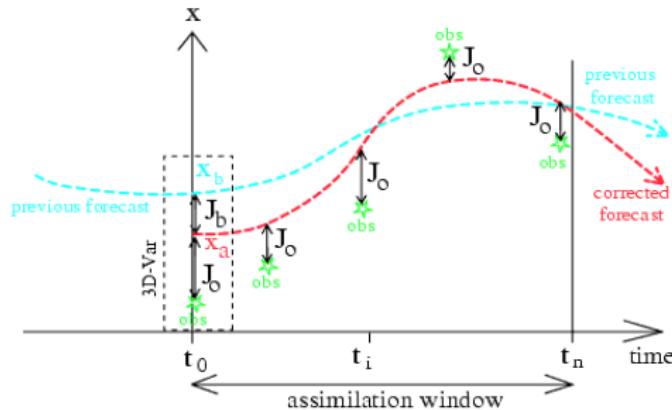


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4D-Var analysis

Model dynamics

Strong constraint: model states \mathbf{x}_i are subject to

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nonlinear constraint optimisation problem (hard!)



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Simplifications

- **Causality** (forecast expressed as product of intermediate forecast steps)

$$\mathbf{x}_i = M_{i,i-1} M_{i-1,i-2} \dots M_{1,0} \mathbf{x}_0$$

- **Tangent linear hypothesis** (H and M can be linearised)

$$\mathbf{y}_i - H_i(\mathbf{x}_i) = \mathbf{y}_i - H_i(M_{0 \rightarrow i} \mathbf{x}_0) = \mathbf{y}_i - H_i(M_{0 \rightarrow i} \mathbf{x}_0^B) - \mathbf{H}_i \mathbf{M}_{0 \rightarrow i} (\mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{x}_0^B)$$

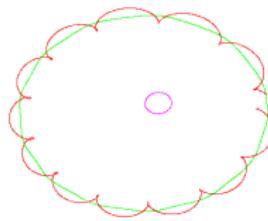
\mathbf{M} is the tangent linear model.

- **unconstrained quadratic optimisation problem** (easier).



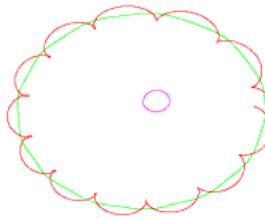
Example - Three-Body Problem

Motion of three bodies in a plane, two position (\mathbf{q}) and two momentum (\mathbf{p}) coordinates for each body $\alpha = 1, 2, 3$



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Equations of motion

$$H(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha} \frac{|\mathbf{p}_{\alpha}|^2}{m_{\alpha}} - \sum_{\alpha < \beta} \frac{m_{\alpha} m_{\beta}}{|\mathbf{q}_{\alpha} - \mathbf{q}_{\beta}|}$$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{q}_{\alpha}}{dt} = \frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{p}_{\alpha}}$$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{p}_{\alpha}}{dt} = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{q}_{\alpha}}$$



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- ▶ solver: partitioned Runge-Kutta scheme with time step $h = 0.001$
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- ▶ assimilation window is taken 300 time steps
- ▶ minimisation of cost function J using a Gauss-Newton method (neglecting all second derivatives)

$$\nabla J(\mathbf{x}_0) = 0$$

$$\nabla \nabla J(\mathbf{x}_0^j) \Delta \mathbf{x}_0^j = -\nabla J(\mathbf{x}_0^j), \quad \mathbf{x}_0^{j+1} = \mathbf{x}_0^j + \Delta \mathbf{x}_0^j$$

- ▶ subsequent forecast is take 3000 time steps
- ▶ R is diagonal with variances between 10^{-3} and 10^{-5}



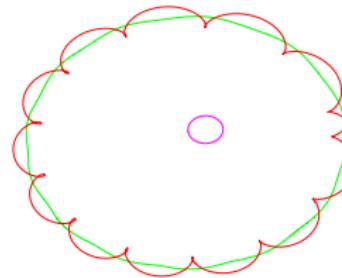
Changing the masses of the bodies

DA needs Model error!

$$m_s = 1.0 \rightarrow m_s = 1.1$$

$$m_p = 0.1 \rightarrow m_p = 0.11$$

$$m_m = 0.01 \rightarrow m_m = 0.011$$



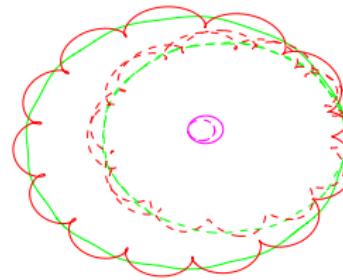
Changing the masses of the bodies

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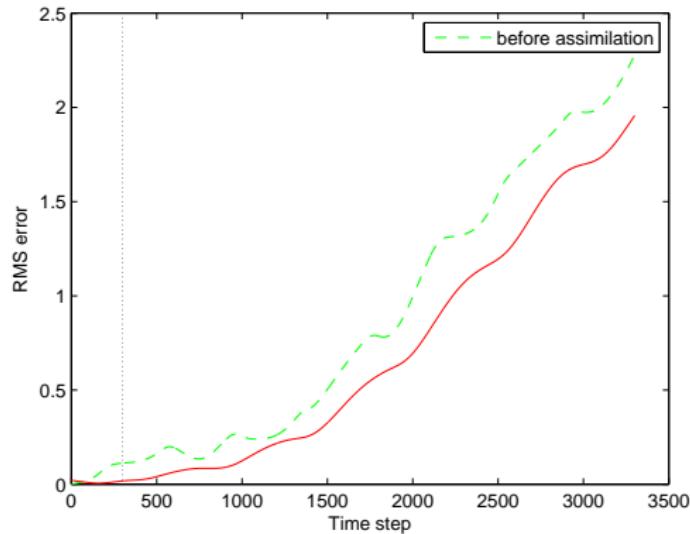
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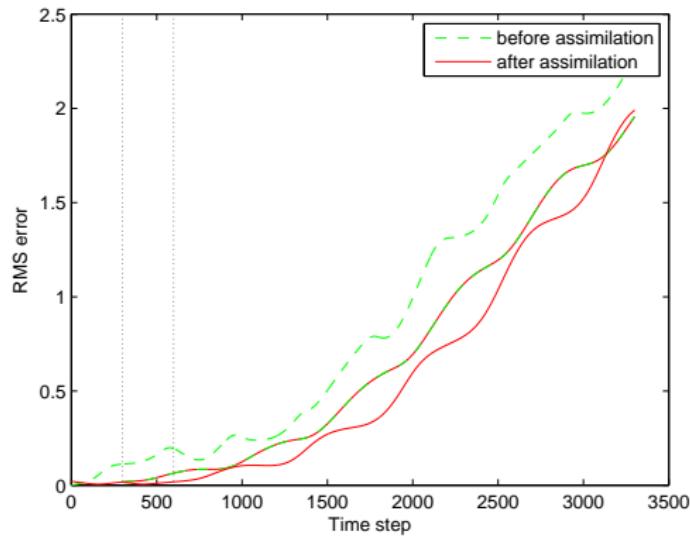
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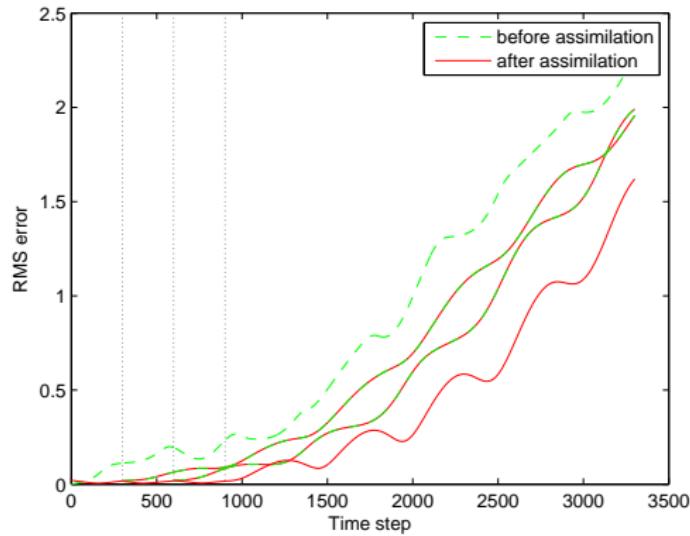
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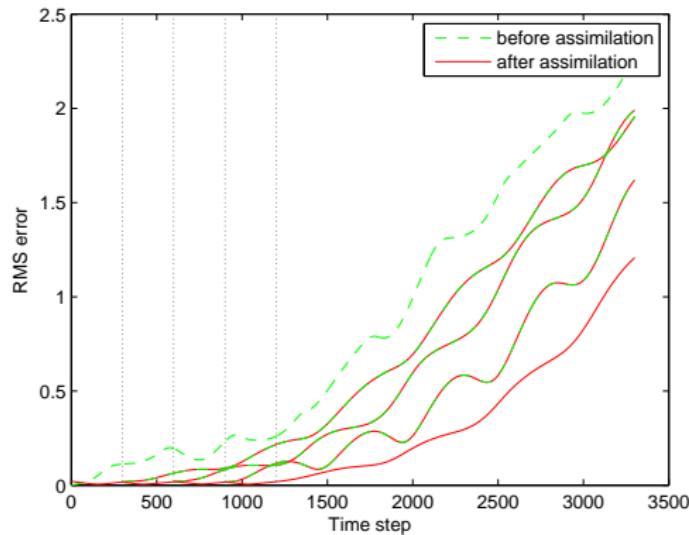
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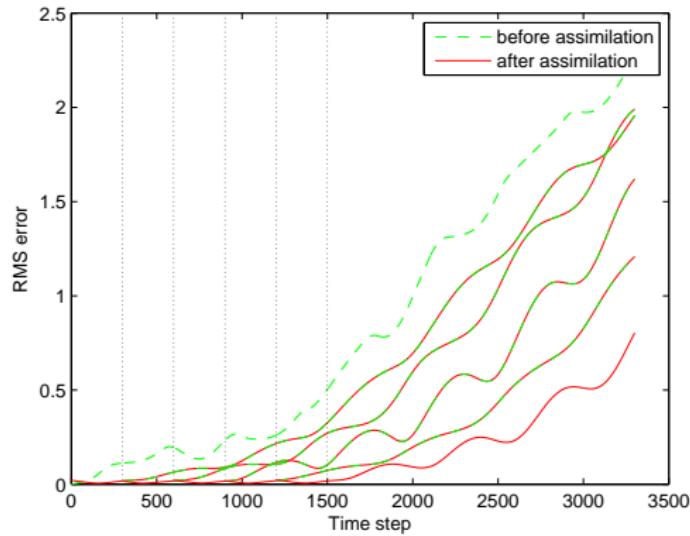
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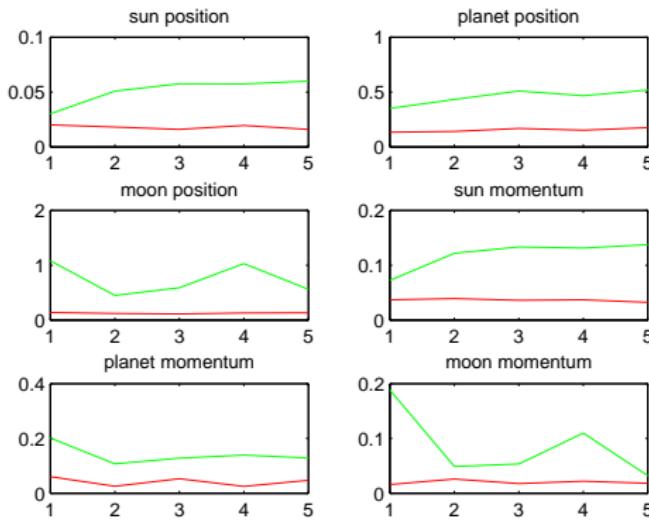
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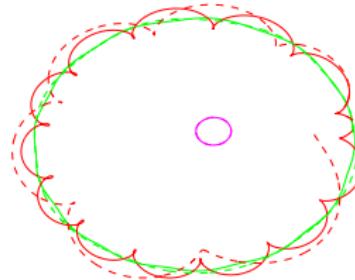


Root mean square error over whole assimilation window

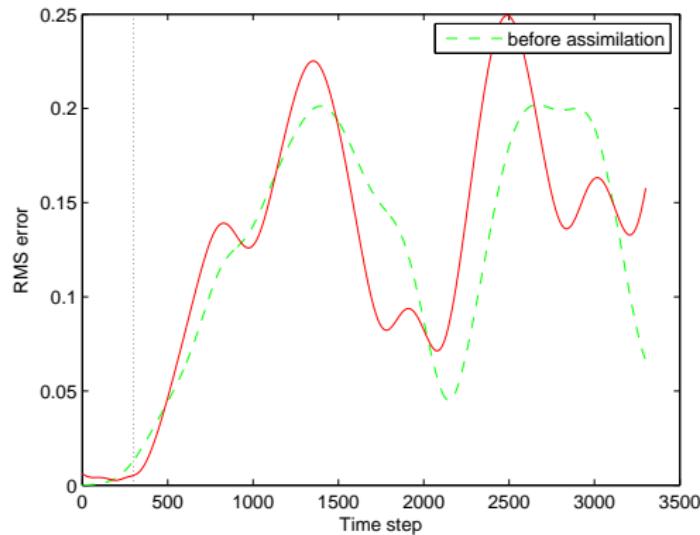


Changing numerical method

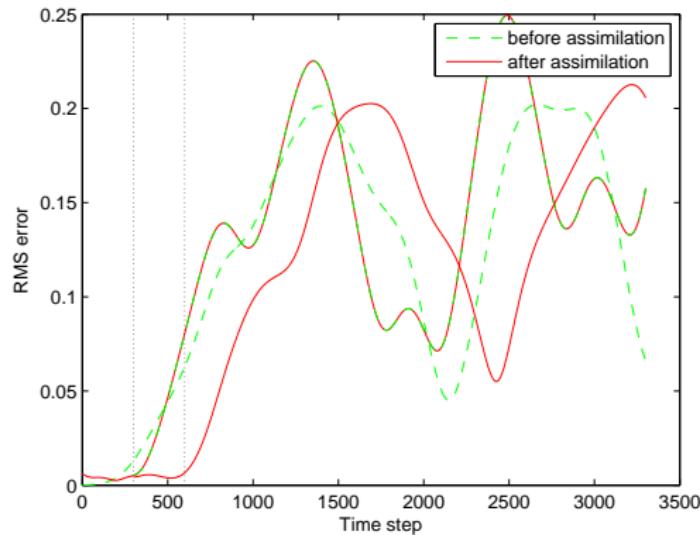
- ▶ **Truth trajectory:** 4th order Runge-Kutta method with local truncation error $\mathcal{O}(\Delta t^5)$
- ▶ **Model trajectory:** Explicit Euler method with local truncation error $\mathcal{O}(\Delta t^2)$



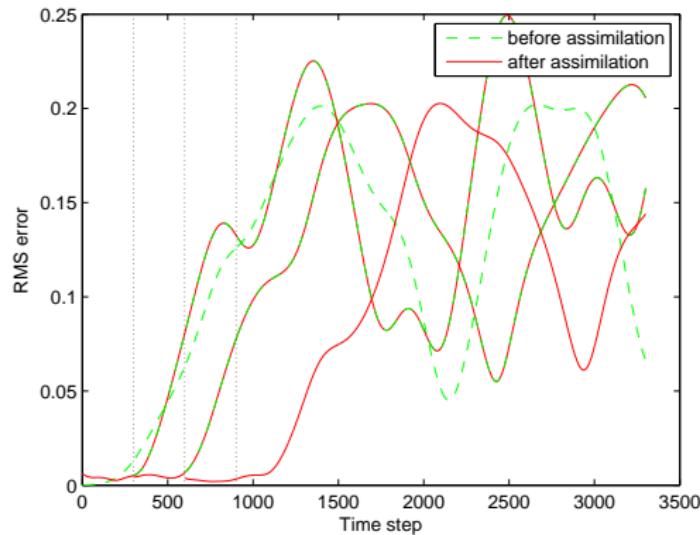
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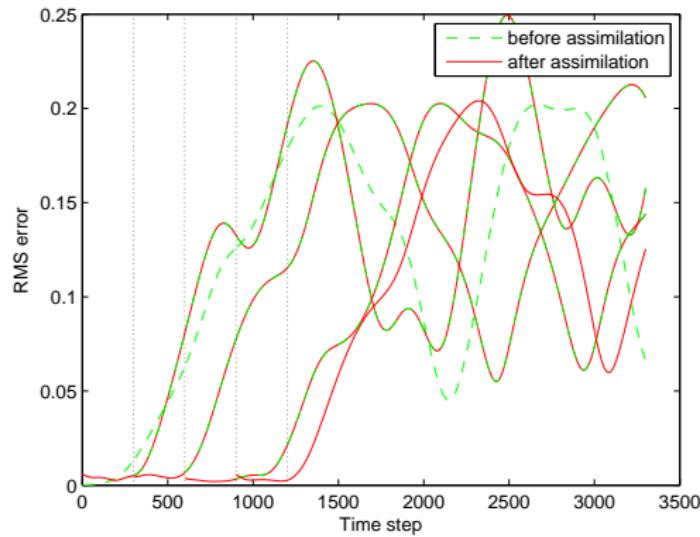
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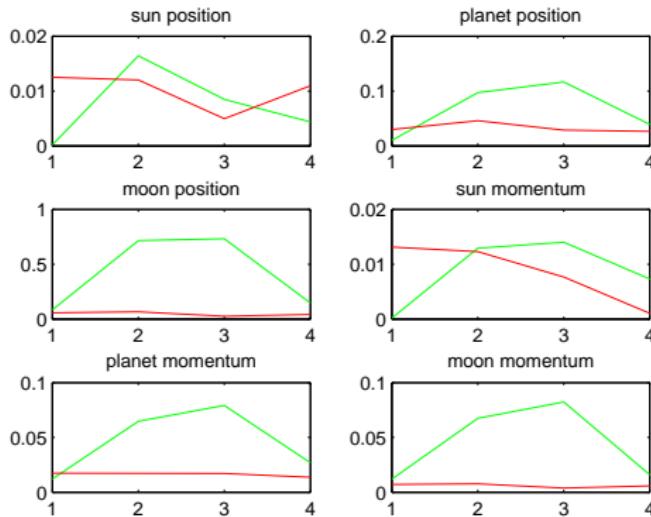
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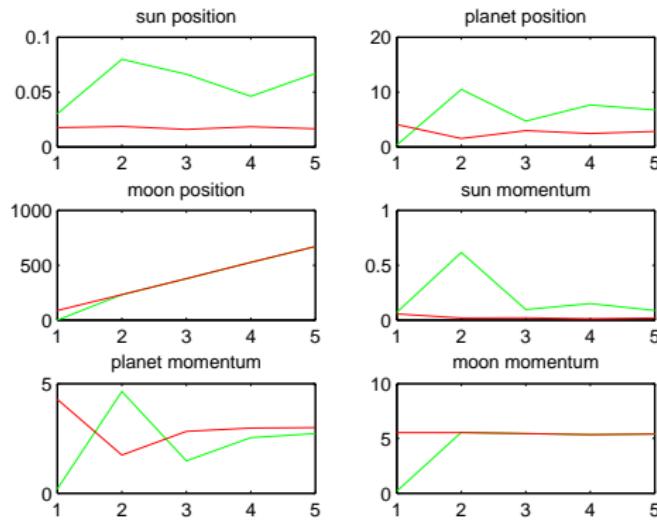
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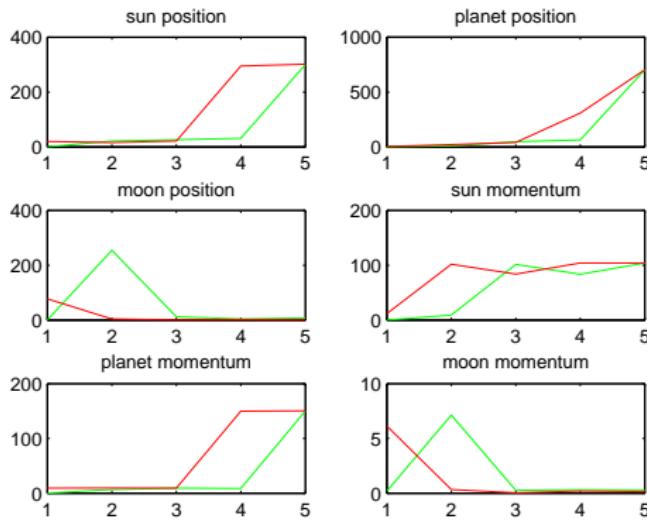
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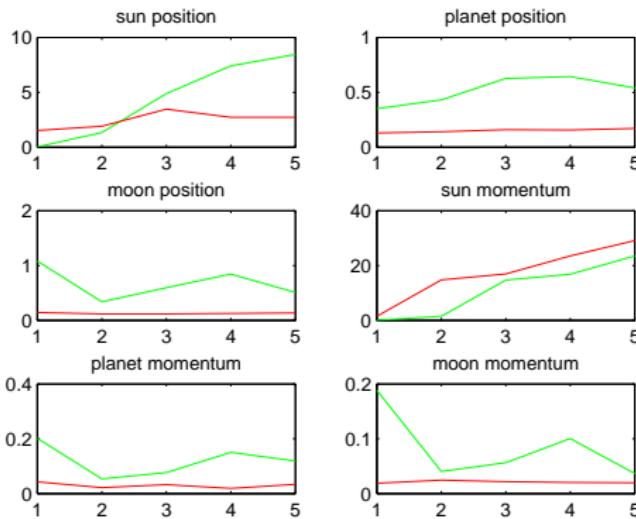
Less observations - observations in sun only



Less observations - observations in moon only



Less observations - observations in planet and moon only



Observations in all timescales necessary!



N-dimensional (chaotic) Lorenz system (Lorenz95)

The system is given by

$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} = -x_{i-2}x_{i-1} + x_{i-1}x_{i+1} - x_i + F, \quad i = 1, \dots, N,$$

cyclic boundary conditions $x_0 = x_N$, $x_{-1} = x_{N+1}$, $x_{N+1} = x_1$.

- ▶ $F = 8$, $N = 40$ (13 positive Lyapunov exponents). Model error introduced by parameter change $F_{mod} = 10$.
- ▶ solver: Runge-Kutta method with time step $h = 0.001$



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- ▶ solver: Runge-Kutta method with time step $h = 0.001$
- ▶ observations are taken as noise from the truth trajectory
- ▶ assimilation window: 1000 time steps
- ▶ subsequent forecast: 5000 time steps

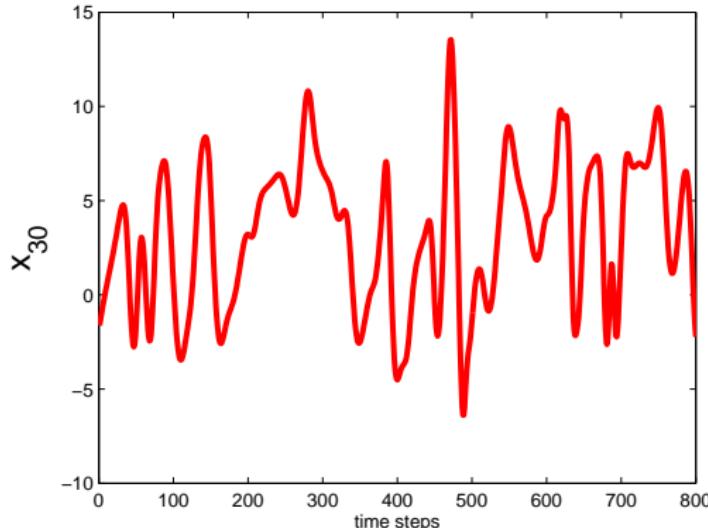


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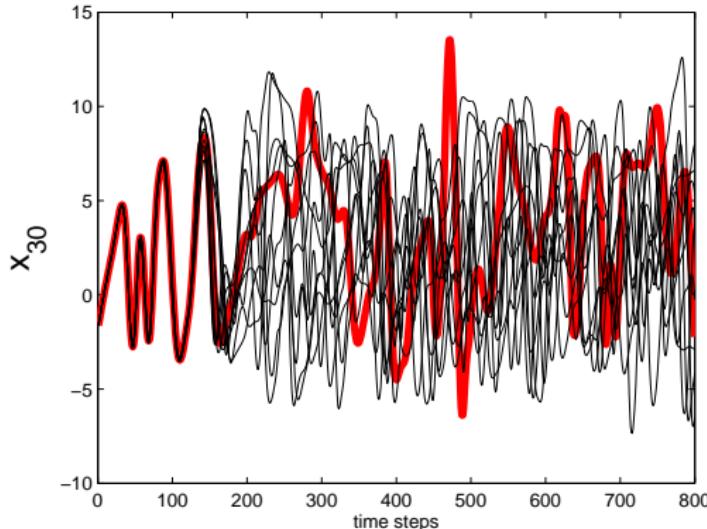


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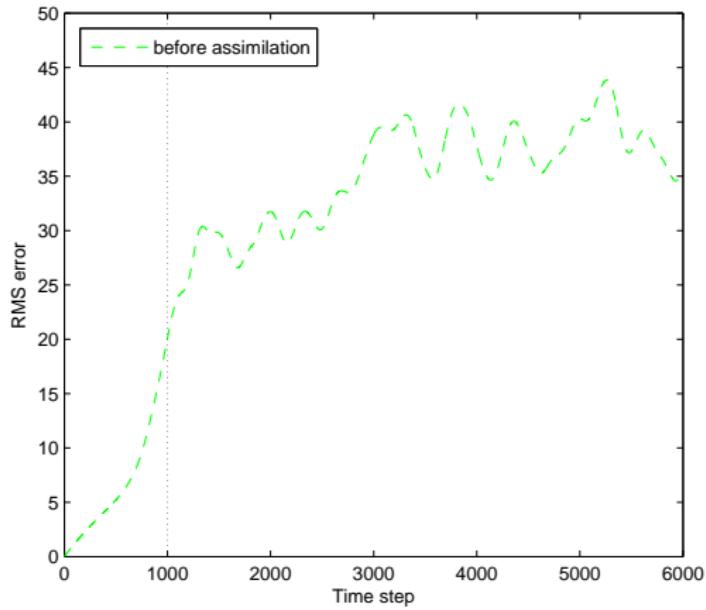
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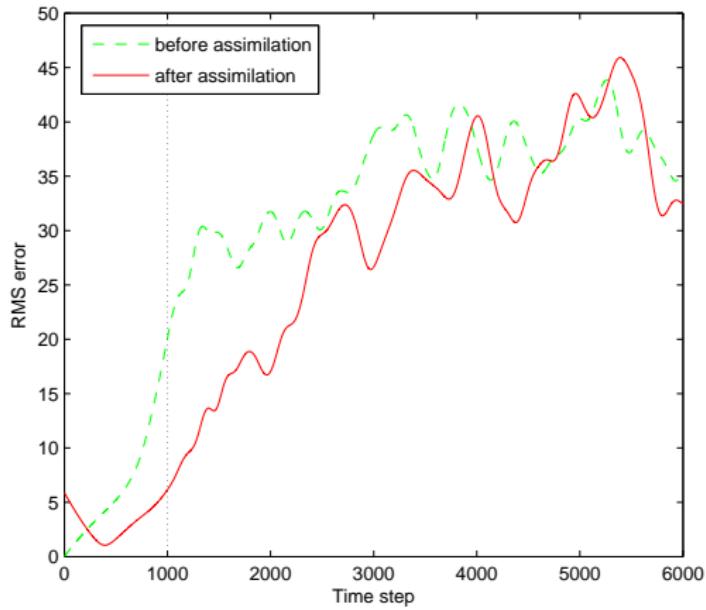
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Root means square error before assimilation



Root means square error after assimilation



4D-Var and the Kalman Filter

- ▶ Sequential data assimilation, background is provided by the forecast that starts from the previous analysis
- ▶ covariance matrices $\mathbf{B}^F, \mathbf{B}^A$
- ▶ forecast/model error $\mathbf{x}_{i+1}^{\text{Truth}} = \mathbf{M}_{i+1,i} \mathbf{x}_i^{\text{Truth}} + \boldsymbol{\eta}_i$ where $\boldsymbol{\eta}_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{Q}_i)$, assumed to be uncorrelated to analysis error of previous forecast



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State and error covariance forecast

$$\text{State forecast} \quad \mathbf{x}_{i+1}^F = \mathbf{M}_{i+1,i} \mathbf{x}_i^A$$

$$\text{Error covariance forecast} \quad \mathbf{B}_{i+1}^F = \mathbf{M}_{i+1,i} \mathbf{B}_i^A \mathbf{M}_{i+1,i}^T + \mathbf{Q}_i$$



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State and error covariance analysis

$$\text{Kalman gain} \quad \mathbf{K}_i = \mathbf{B}_i^F \mathbf{H}_i^T (\mathbf{H}_i \mathbf{B}_i^F \mathbf{H}_i^T + \mathbf{R}_i)^{-1}$$

$$\text{State analysis} \quad \mathbf{x}_i^A = \mathbf{x}_i^F + \mathbf{K}_i (\mathbf{y}_i - \mathbf{H}_i \mathbf{x}_i^F)$$

$$\text{Error covariance of analysis} \quad \mathbf{B}_i^A = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{K}_i \mathbf{H}_i) \mathbf{B}_i^F$$



The Kalman Filter Algorithm

Extended Kalman Filter

Extension of the Kalman Filter Algorithm to nonlinear observation operators H and nonlinear model dynamics M , where both H and M are linearised.



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Extended Kalman Filter

Extension of the Kalman Filter Algorithm to nonlinear observation operators H and nonlinear model dynamics M , where both H and M are linearised.

Equivalence 4D-Var Kalman Filter

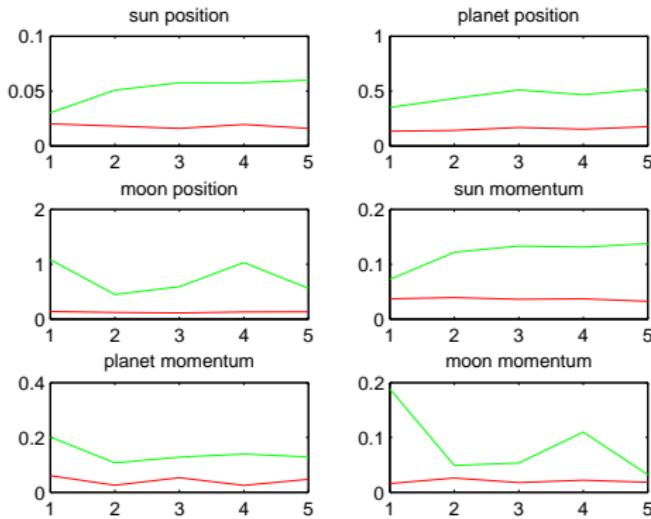
Assume

- ▶ $\mathbf{Q}_i = 0, \forall i$ (no model error)
- ▶ both 4D-Var and the Kalman filter use the same initial input data
- ▶ H and M are linear,

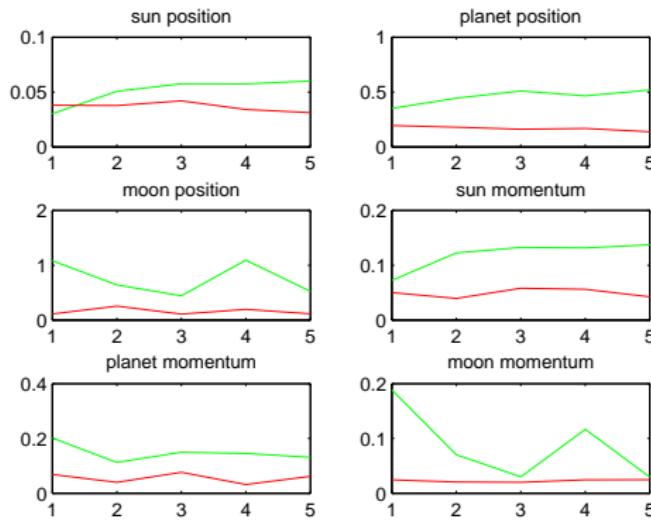
then 4D-Var and the Kalman Filter produce the same state estimate \mathbf{x}^A at the end of the assimilation window.



RMS error over whole assimilation window - using 4D-Var



RMS error over whole assimilation window - using Kalman Filter



Example - Three-Body Problem

- ▶ solver: partitioned Runge-Kutta scheme with time step $h = 0.001$
- ▶ **observations** are taken as noise from the truth trajectory
- ▶ **background** is given from a perturbed initial condition
- ▶ assimilation window is taken 300 time steps
- ▶ minimisation of cost function J using a Gauss-Newton method (neglecting all second derivatives)
- ▶ application of 4D-Var



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- ▶ application of 4D-Var
- ▶ **Compare using $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{I}$ with using a flow-dependent matrix \mathbf{B} which was generated by a Kalman Filter before the assimilation starts (see G. Inverarity (2007))**



Example - Three-Body Problem

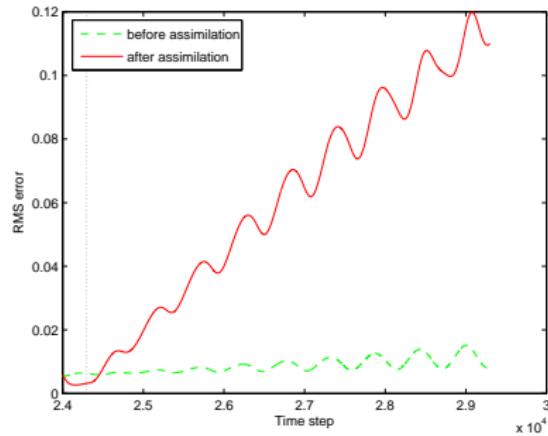


Figure: 4D-Var with $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{I}$



Example - Three-Body Problem

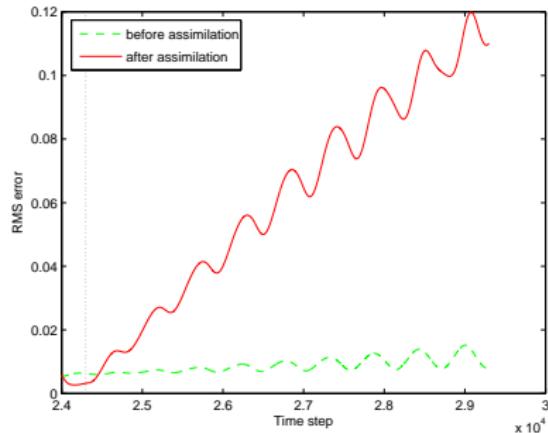


Figure: 4D-Var with $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{I}$

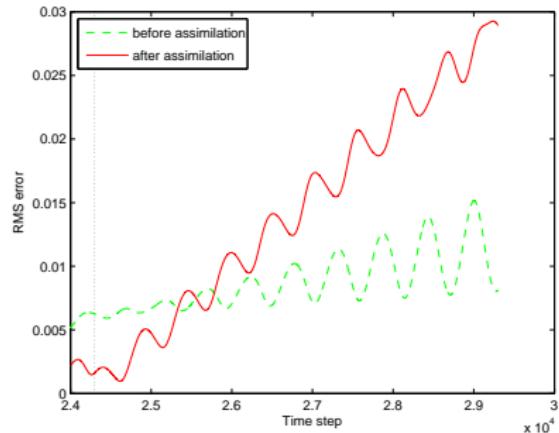


Figure: 4D-Var with $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{P}^A$



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Ill-posed problems

Given an operator \mathbf{A} we wish to solve

$$\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$$

it is **well-posed** if

- ▶ solution exists



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Equation is ill-posed if it is not well-posed.



Linear, finite dimensional case

Finite dimensions

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but ..

In the finite dimensional case one can replace \mathbf{A}^{-1} by its pseudo-inverse \mathbf{A}^\dagger , but

- discrete problem of underlying ill-posed problem becomes **ill-conditioned**
- **singular values of \mathbf{A} decay to zero**



A way out of this - Tikhonov regularisation

Solution to the minimisation problem

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{x}_\alpha &= \arg \min \left\{ \|\mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{b}\|^2 + \alpha \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \right\} \\ &= (\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A} + \alpha \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{b}\end{aligned}$$

where α is called the regularisation parameter.



Bayesian Interpretation

Assuming X, B are random variables then

$$\pi(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{b}) = \pi(\mathbf{b}|\mathbf{x})\pi(\mathbf{x})/\pi(\mathbf{b}),$$

Maximum a posteriori estimator is maximum of a posteriori pdf, hence minimise w.r.t. \mathbf{x}

$$-\log(\pi(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{b})) = -\log(\pi(\mathbf{b}|\mathbf{x})) - \log(\pi(\mathbf{x}))$$



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Example

If X and $\eta = B - AX$ are normally distributed then

$$\pi(\mathbf{x}) = C_1 \exp\left(-\frac{\|\mathbf{x}\|^2}{2\sigma_x^2}\right) \quad \text{and} \quad \pi(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{b}) = C_2 \exp\left(-\frac{\|\mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{b}\|^2}{2\sigma_\eta^2}\right)$$

and Tikhonov cost functional is

$$J(\mathbf{x}) = \|\mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{b}\|^2 + \alpha \|\mathbf{x}\|^2$$



Tikhonov regularisation using Singular Value Decomposition

Using the SVD of $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U}\Sigma\mathbf{V}^T$ the regularised solution in Tikhonov regularisation is given by

$$\mathbf{x}_\alpha = (\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A} + \alpha \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{b}$$



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Relation between 4D-Var and Tikhonov regularisation

4D-Var minimises

$$J(\mathbf{x}_0) = (\mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{x}_0^B)^T \mathbf{B}^{-1} (\mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{x}_0^B) + \sum_{i=0}^n (\mathbf{y}_i - H_i(\mathbf{x}_i))^T \mathbf{R}_i^{-1} (\mathbf{y}_i - H_i(\mathbf{x}_i))$$

subject to model dynamics $\mathbf{x}_i = M_{0 \rightarrow i} \mathbf{x}_0$



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subject to model dynamics $\mathbf{x}_i = M_{0 \rightarrow i} \mathbf{x}_0$

or

$$J(\mathbf{x}_0) = (\mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{x}_0^B)^T \mathbf{B}^{-1} (\mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{x}_0^B) + (\hat{\mathbf{y}} - \hat{\mathbf{H}}(\mathbf{x}_0))^T \hat{\mathbf{R}}^{-1} (\hat{\mathbf{y}} - \hat{\mathbf{H}}(\mathbf{x}_0))$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\mathbf{H}} &= [H_0^T, (H_1 M(t_1, t_0))^T, \dots, (H_n M(t_n, t_0))^T]^T \\ \hat{\mathbf{y}} &= [\mathbf{y}_0^T, \dots, \mathbf{y}_n^T] \end{aligned}$$

and $\hat{\mathbf{R}}$ is block diagonal with \mathbf{R}_i on diagonal.



Relation between 4D-Var and Tikhonov regularisation

Solution to the optimisation problem

Linearise about \mathbf{x}_0 then the solution to the optimisation problem

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is given by

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Singular value decomposition

Assume $\mathbf{B} = \sigma_B^2 \mathbf{I}$ and $\hat{\mathbf{R}} = \sigma_O^2 \mathbf{I}$ and define the SVD of the observability matrix $\hat{\mathbf{H}}$

$$\hat{\mathbf{H}} = \mathbf{U} \Sigma \mathbf{V}^T$$

Then the optimal analysis can be written as

$$\mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{x}_0^B + \sum_j \frac{s_j^2}{\mu^2 + s_j^2} \frac{\mathbf{u}_j^T \hat{\mathbf{d}}}{s_j} \mathbf{v}_j, \quad \text{where} \quad \mu^2 = \frac{\sigma_O^2}{\sigma_B^2}.$$



Relation between 4D-Var and Tikhonov regularisation

If \mathbf{B} and $\hat{\mathbf{R}}$ are not multiples of the identity

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Variable transformations

$$\mathbf{B} = \sigma_B^2 \mathbf{F}_B \text{ and } \hat{\mathbf{R}} = \sigma_O^2 \mathbf{F}_R \text{ and}$$



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Variable transformations

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μ^2 can be interpreted as a regularisation parameter.



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This is **Tikhonov regularisation!**



Example

Burger's equation

$$u_t + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \nu \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$$

Optimal solution (4D-Var)

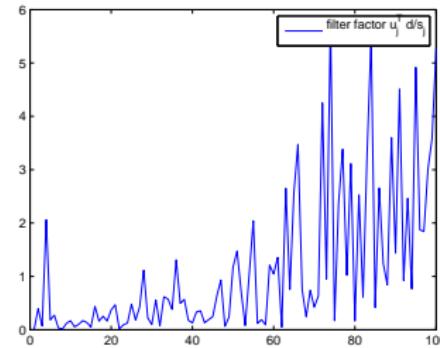
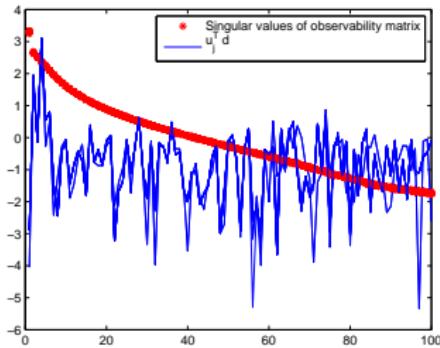
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Singular value analysis - observations everywhere

Optimal solution (4D-Var)

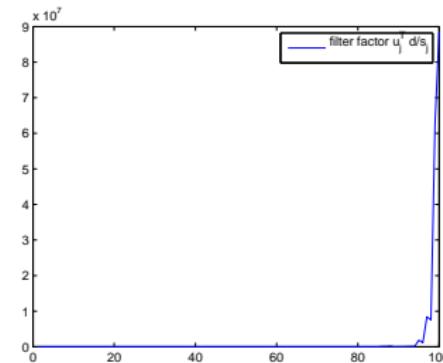
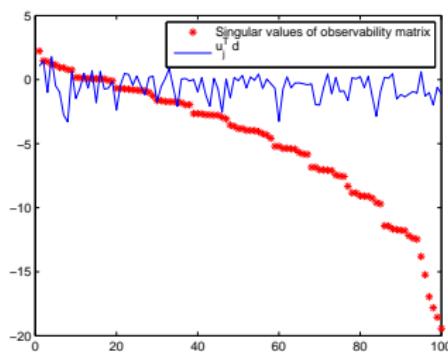
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Singular value analysis - observations every 10 points

Optimal solution (4D-Var)

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L1 regularisation (with N. Nichols, University of Reading)

In image processing, L_1 -norm regularisation provides edge preserving image deblurring!

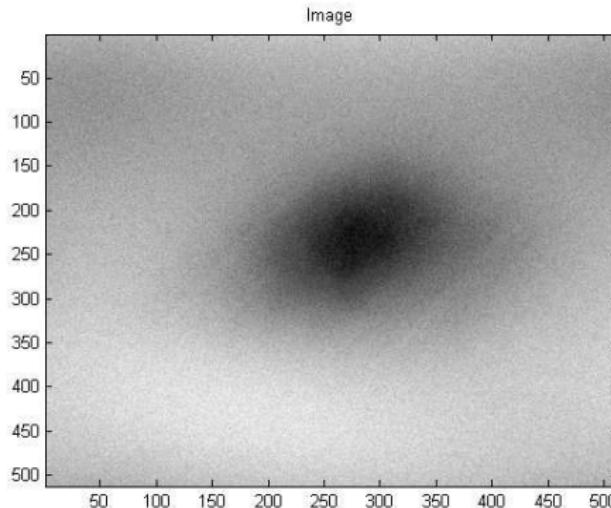


Figure: Blurred picture



L1 regularisation

In image processing, L_1 -norm regularisation provides edge preserving image deblurring!

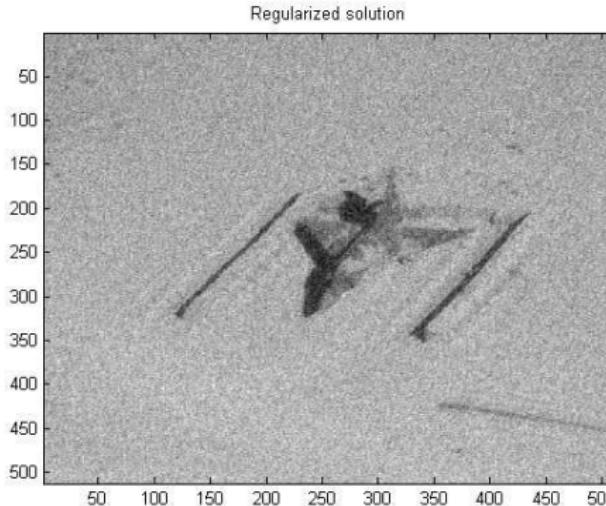


Figure: Tikhonov regularisation $\min \{ \| \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b} \|^2 + \alpha \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \}$



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Figure: L1-norm regularisation $\min \{ \| \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b} \|^2 + \alpha \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \}$



L1 regularisation

In image processing, L_1 -norm regularisation provides edge preserving image deblurring!

- ▶ L1 regularisation might be also beneficial in Data Assimilation
- ▶ 4D Var smears out sharp fronts



L1 regularisation

In image processing, L_1 -norm regularisation provides edge preserving image deblurring!

- ▶ L1 regularisation might be also beneficial in Data Assimilation
- ▶ 4D Var smears out sharp fronts
- ▶ L1 regularisation has the potential to overcome this problem



Model error identification

Blind Deconvolution

Instead of the (linear) model

$$\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{Ax} + \mathbf{e}$$

use

$$\mathbf{b} = (\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{E})\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{e}$$

where both \mathbf{e} and \mathbf{E} are unknown.



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over all choices of \mathbf{e} and \mathbf{E} (regularised total least squares).



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Identify and **analyse model error** and analyse influence of this model error onto the DA scheme

