

# 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

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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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$$\mathbf{y}_i = H(\mathbf{x}_i)$$

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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

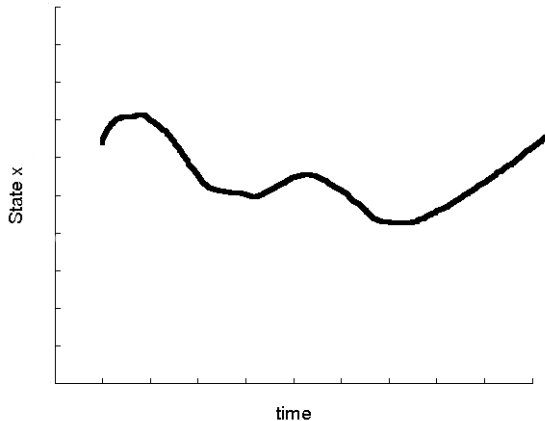


Figure: Background state  $x^B$



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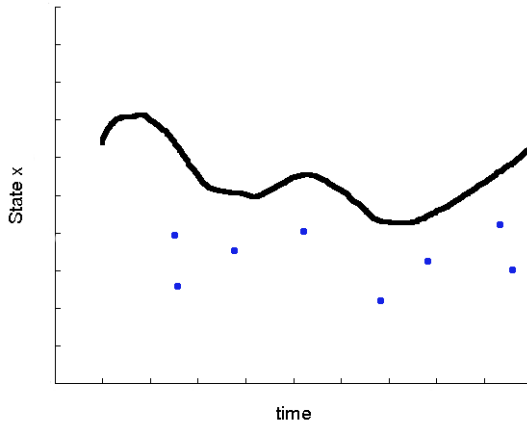


Figure: Observations  $y$



## Schematics of DA

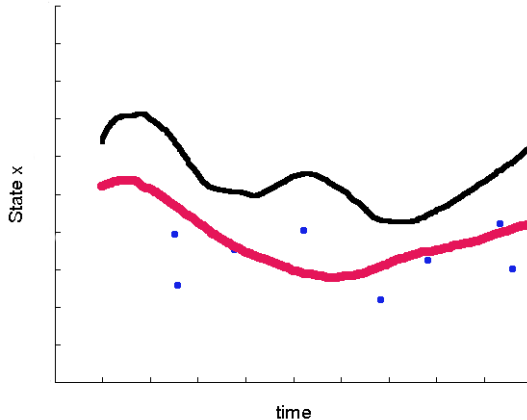


Figure: Analysis  $\mathbf{x}^A$  (consistent with observations and model dynamics)



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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  $\mathbf{x}_i = M_{0 \rightarrow i} \mathbf{x}_0$

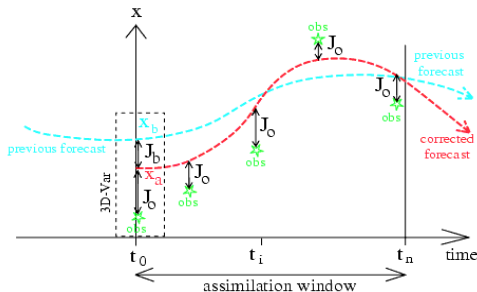


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## 4D-Var analysis

### Model dynamics

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

$$\mathbf{x}_i = M_{0 \rightarrow i} \mathbf{x}_0$$

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)

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

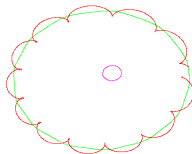
$\mathbf{M}$  is the tangent linear model.

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



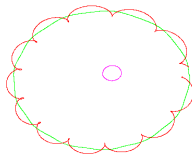
## Example - Three-Body Problem

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

$$\begin{aligned}
 H(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}) &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha} \frac{|\mathbf{p}_{\alpha}|^2}{m_{\alpha}} - \sum_{\alpha < \beta} \sum \frac{m_{\alpha} m_{\beta}}{|\mathbf{q}_{\alpha} - \mathbf{q}_{\beta}|} \\
 \frac{d\mathbf{q}_{\alpha}}{dt} &= \frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{p}_{\alpha}} \\
 \frac{d\mathbf{p}_{\alpha}}{dt} &= - \frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{q}_{\alpha}}
 \end{aligned}$$



## 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 previous forecast





## Example - Three-Body problem

- ▶ solver: partitioned Runge-Kutta scheme with time step  $h = 0.001$
- ▶ **observations** are taken as noise from the truth trajectory
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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  $10^{-5}$



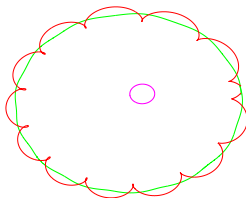
## Changing the masses of the bodies

DA needs Model error!

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

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

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



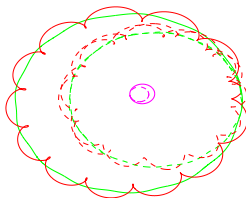
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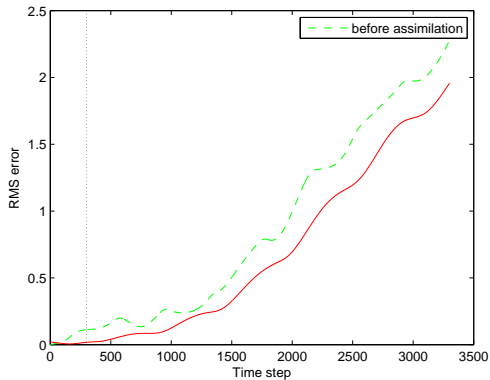
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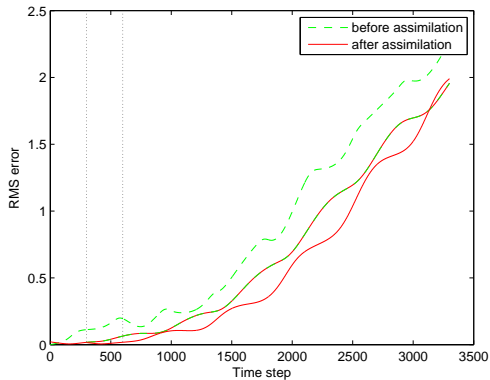
$$m_m = 0.01 \rightarrow m_m = 0.011$$



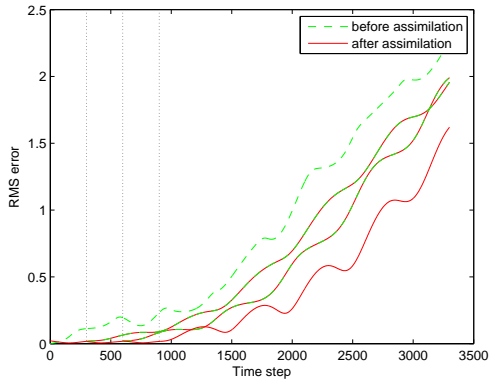
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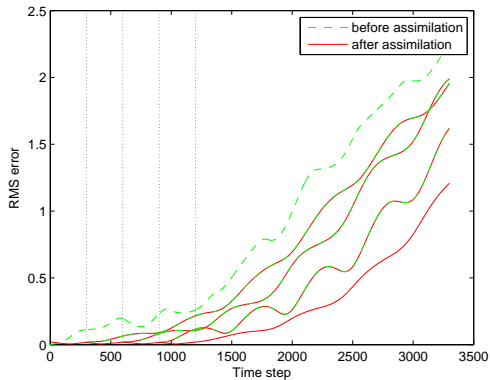
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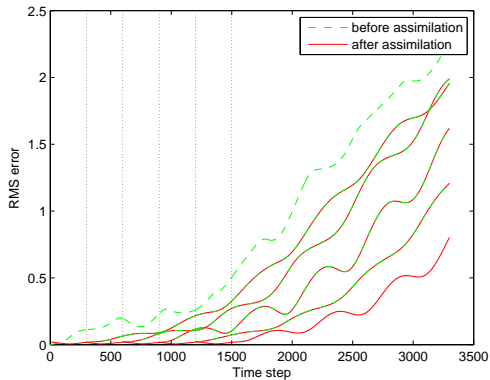
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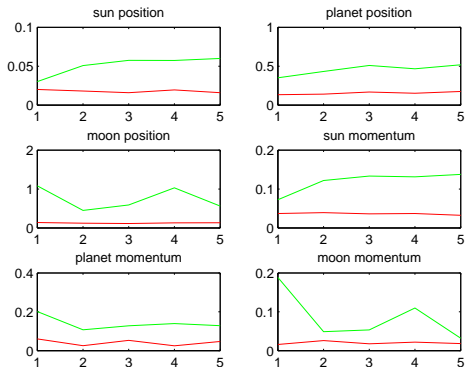


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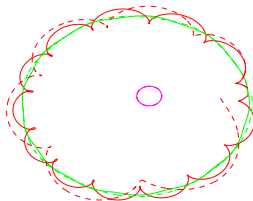


## Root mean square error over whole assimilation window

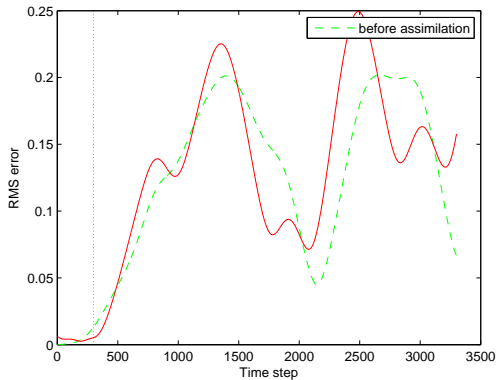


## Changing numerical method

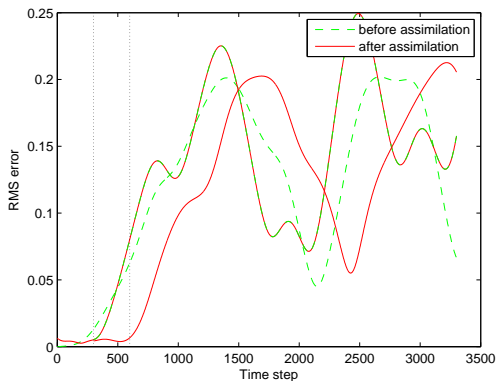
- **Truth trajectory:** 4th order Runge-Kutta method with local truncation error  $\mathcal{O}(\Delta t^5)$
- **Model trajectory:** Explicit Euler method with local truncation error  $\mathcal{O}(\Delta t^2)$



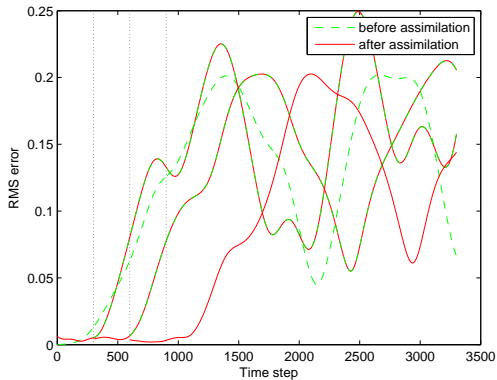
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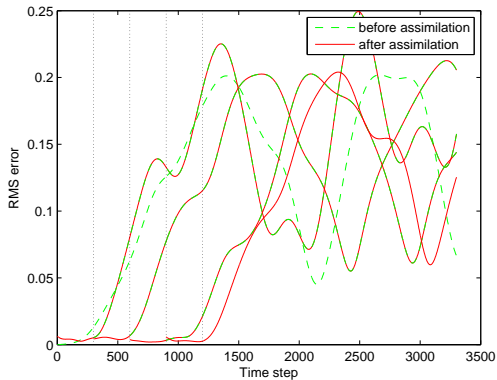
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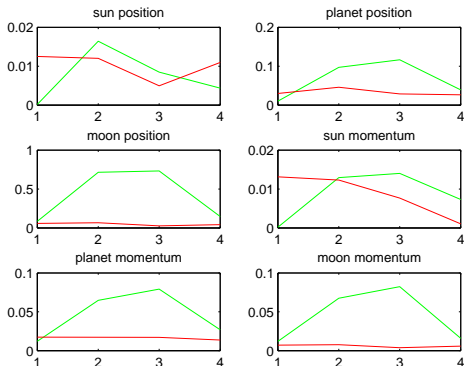
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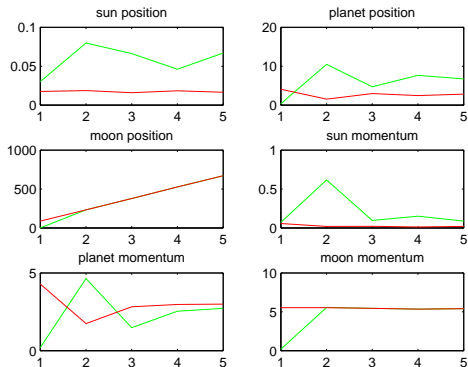
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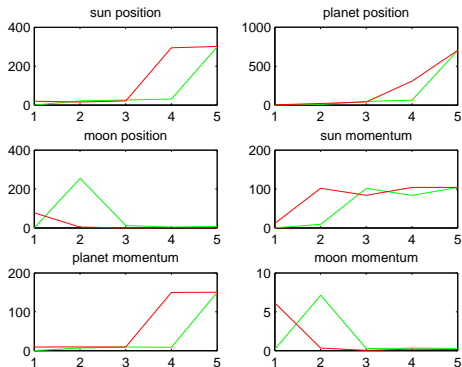


## Less observations - observations in sun only

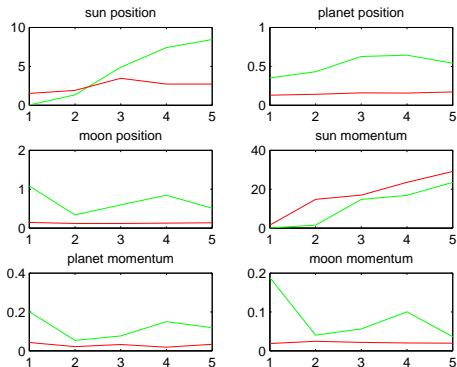




## Less observations - observations in moon only



## 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

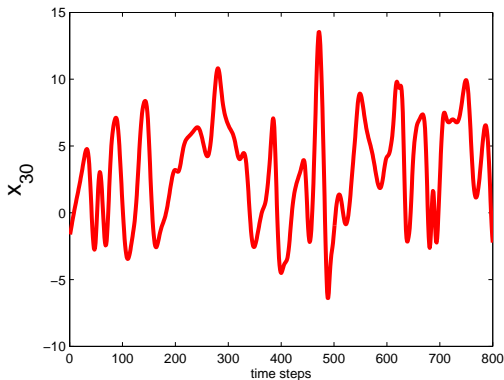


## Lorenz95 dynamics

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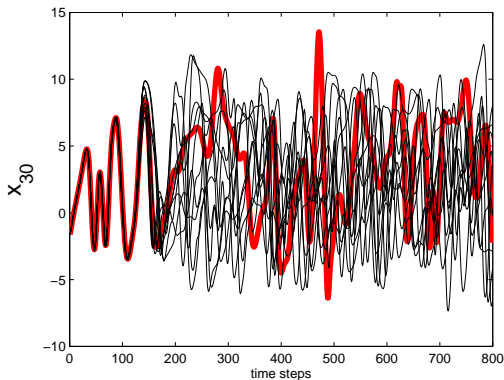


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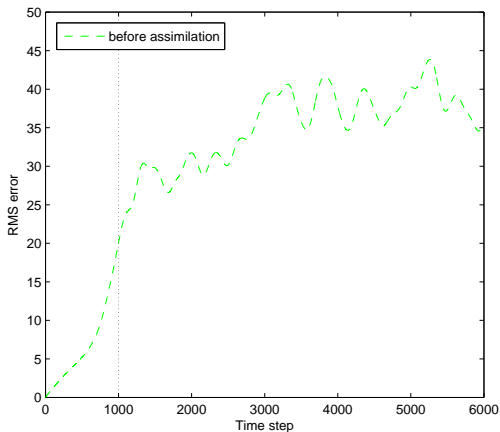
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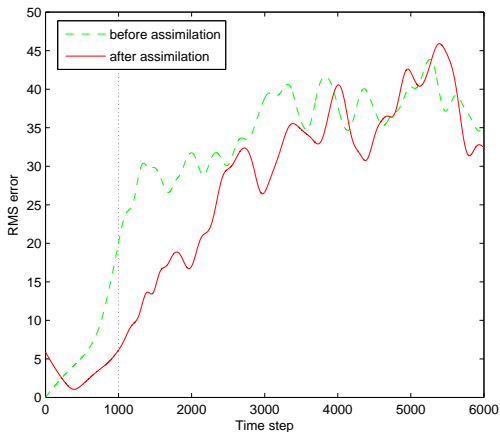
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## Root means square error before assimilation



## 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

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

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



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### State and error covariance analysis

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Kalman gain } \mathbf{K}_i &= \mathbf{B}_i^F \mathbf{H}_i^T (\mathbf{H}_i \mathbf{B}_i^F \mathbf{H}_i^T + \mathbf{R}_i)^{-1} \\ \text{State analysis } \mathbf{x}_i^A &= \mathbf{x}_i^F + \mathbf{K}_i (\mathbf{y}_i - \mathbf{H}_i \mathbf{x}_i^F) \\ \text{Error covariance of analysis } \mathbf{B}_i^A &= (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{K}_i \mathbf{H}_i) \mathbf{B}_i^F \end{aligned}$$



# 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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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

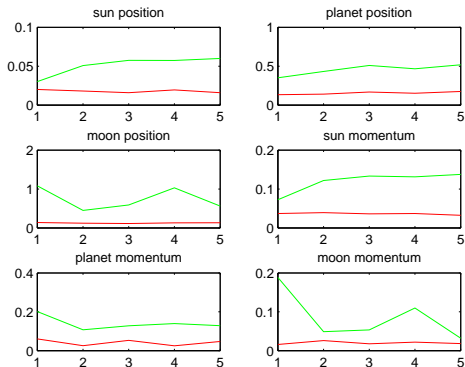
Assume

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

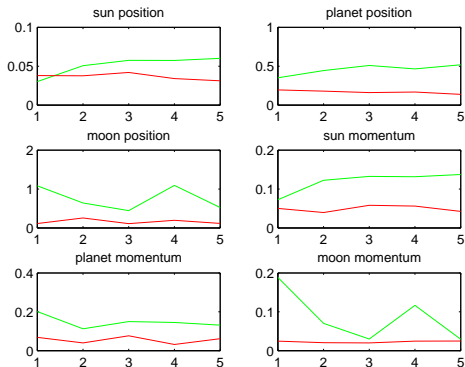
then 4D-Var and the Kalman Filter produce the same state estimate  $\mathbf{x}^A$  at the end of the assimilation window.



## 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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- ▶ minimisation of cost function  $J$  using a Gauss-Newton method (neglecting all second derivatives)
- ▶ 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

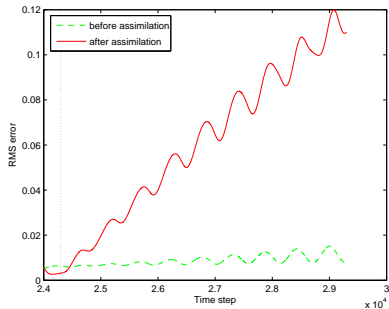


Figure: 4D-Var with  $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{I}$



## Example - Three-Body Problem

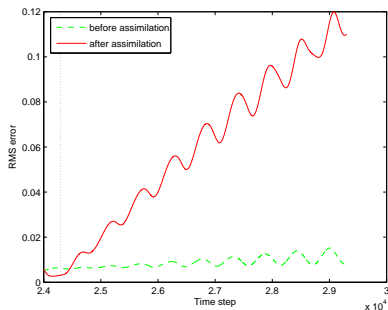


Figure: 4D-Var with  $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{I}$

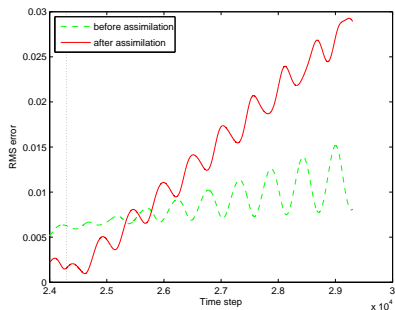


Figure: 4D-Var with  $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{P}^A$



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Tikhonov regularisation

Link between 4D-Var and Tikhonov regularisation

Work in progress



## 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

- ▶  $\mathbf{A} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ , then  $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$  is well-posed if  $\mathbf{A}^{-1}$  exists.



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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

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

where  $\alpha$  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

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

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  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{\Sigma}\mathbf{V}^T$  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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$$\mathbf{x}_\alpha = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{s_i^2}{s_i^2 + \alpha} \frac{u_i^T \mathbf{b}}{s_i} \mathbf{v}_i$$



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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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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

$$\hat{\mathbf{H}} = [H_0^T, (H_1 M(t_1, t_0))^T, \dots, (H_n M(t_n, t_0))^T]^T$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = [\mathbf{y}_0^T, \dots, \mathbf{y}_n^T]$$

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

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



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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  $\hat{\mathbf{H}}$

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

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

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



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$$\hat{J}(\mathbf{z}) = \mu^2 \|\mathbf{z}\|_2^2 + \|\mathbf{F}_R^{-1/2} \hat{\mathbf{d}} - \mathbf{F}_R^{-1/2} \hat{\mathbf{H}} \mathbf{F}_B^{-1/2} \mathbf{z}\|_2^2$$

$\mu^2$  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)

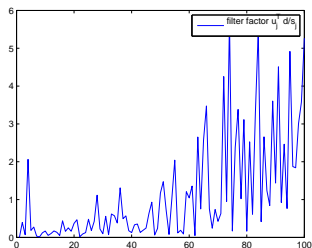
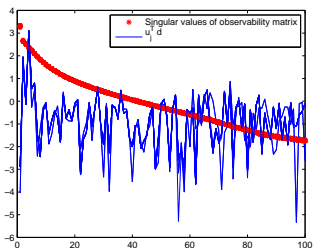
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## Singular value analysis - observations everywhere

Optimal solution (4D-Var)

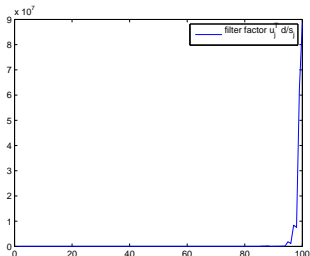
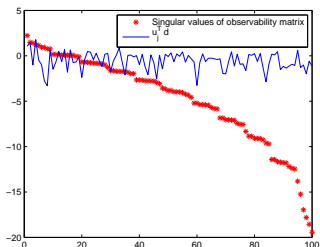
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## Singular value analysis - observations every 10 points

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!

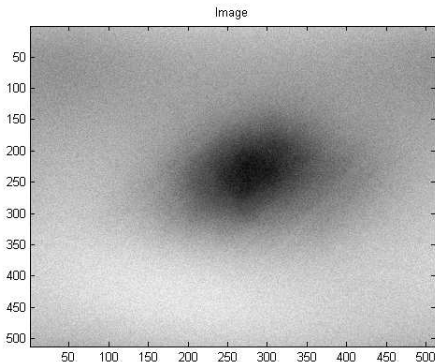


Figure: Blurred picture



## L1 regularisation

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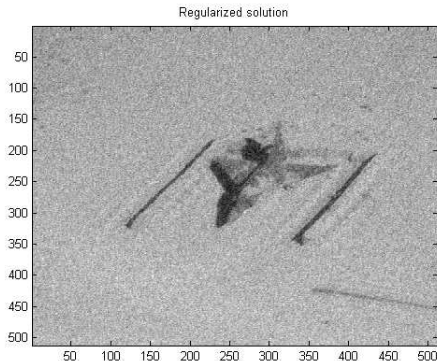


Figure: Tikhonov regularisation  $\min \{ \|\mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{b}\|^2 + \alpha \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \}$



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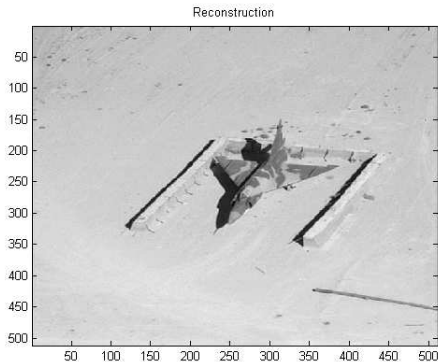


Figure: L1-norm regularisation  $\min \{ \|\mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{b}\|^2 + \alpha \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \}$



## 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!

- ▶  $L_1$  regularisation might be also beneficial in Data Assimilation
- ▶ 4D Var smears out sharp fronts
- ▶  $L_1$  regularisation has the potential to overcome this problem



## Model error identification

### Blind Deconvolution

Instead of the (linear) model

$$\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{e}$$

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

