

Q: What is a State-Space Model (SSM) used for in time series forecasting?	A: SSMs model time series data by capturing both the system's dynamics and observation uncertainty using hidden latent states that evolve recursively over time.	Q: What are the two main components of a State-Space Model?	A: The state equation (process model) and the observation equation (measurement model).
Q: Define the state equation in a State-Space Model.	A: The state equation describes how the hidden state vector (X_k) evolves based on the previous state, inputs, and a noise term, formalized as $(X_{k+1} = \Phi X_k + \Gamma u_k + \eta_k)$.	Q: What role does the observation equation play in a State-Space Model?	A: It maps the hidden state vector to the observed data (Y_k) , modeling how latent dynamics are reflected in measurements, formulated as $(Y_k = H X_k + u_k + \epsilon_k)$.
Q: How do Hidden Markov Models (HMMs) relate to State-Space Models?	A: HMMs are a specialized type of SSM where hidden states follow a Markov process with discrete possible states, often used for systems with distinct regimes.	Q: What is the state transition matrix (P) in an HMM?	A: (P) is a matrix where each element (p_{ij}) represents the probability of transitioning from one state to another, maintaining a row-stochastic property.
Q: Describe the role of emission probabilities in an HMM.	A: Emission probabilities define the likelihood of observing a specific output given a hidden state, organized into an emission matrix.	Q: What is a Linear State-Space Model (LSSM)?	A: An LSSM uses linear transformations to model time-series data, balancing complexity and tractability, with continuous hidden states linked to outputs through matrix operations.

Q: How is the state equation structured in an LSSM?	A: It is expressed as $\{X_{k+1}\} = A_k X_k + B_k u_k + \eta_k$, where A_k and B_k represent the system dynamics and input effects, respectively.	Q: What is the measurement equation in an LSSM?	A: The measurement equation relates the state vector to observed data through $Y_k = C_k X_k + D_k u_k + \epsilon_k$, where C_k maps latent states to observations.
Q: What is the Markov property in State-Space Models?	A: The Markov property implies that the system's future evolution depends solely on the current hidden state, not on the full history of past states.	Q: How is an AR(p) model represented as a Linear State-Space Model (LSSM)?	A: An AR(p) model can be represented as an LSSM by defining a state vector with lagged values and using a state transition matrix to evolve the state vector over time.
Q: What is the purpose of similarity transformation in LSSMs?	A: Similarity transformations allow different internal state representations that yield the same input-output behavior, showing that the observable dynamics are invariant under these transformations.	Q: Explain the concept of controllable and observable canonical forms in LSSMs.	A: Controllable and observable canonical forms are specific configurations of system matrices that simplify analysis, with controllable form focused on input control and observable form on reconstructing states from outputs.
Q: What is the primary goal in parameter identification for LSSMs?	A: The goal is to estimate system matrices A, B, C and initial state x_0 to best fit observed input-output data, often using gradient descent.	Q: How does Backpropagation Through Time (BPTT) assist in training LSSMs?	A: BPTT calculates gradients over sequential data by unrolling dependencies, enabling the optimization of parameters in LSSMs.

Q: What is the primary challenge when using gradient-based methods on LSSMs or RNNs?	A: The vanishing and exploding gradient problem often linked to the eigenvalues of the state matrix which affects stability during training.	Q: Describe the forward pass in the BPTT algorithm for LSSMs.	A: In the forward pass, the model propagates information through the state-space equations to generate predictions at each time step.
Q: What is a Jacobian tensor in the context of BPTT for LSSMs?	A: It represents the gradient of state variables with respect to parameters, essential for calculating parameter updates during backpropagation.	Q: How is the total loss function defined in LSSMs during training?	A: The total loss is the average squared error across time steps, measuring the alignment between predicted and observed outputs over a specified time horizon.