2. Error propagation

If the variance-covariance matrix (VCM) of n measurements is known, how can we calculate the VCM for a set of functions of these n measurements ?

- one linear function of *n* measurements
 - n uncorrelated (independent) measurements
- a vector of m linear functions
- one non-linear function
 - n uncorrelated (independent) measurements
- one vector of m non-linear functions
- Propagation of co-factor matrices

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Notations

n measurements (observed values):

 x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_n

their true errrors:

 $\varepsilon_1, \, \varepsilon_2, \, \cdots, \, \varepsilon_n$

... observed values – true values

 $arepsilon_i = x_i - \widetilde{x}_i \qquad (1 \leq i \leq n)$

$$egin{aligned} arepsilon_{n \cdot 1} &= egin{aligned} arepsilon_{1} &= egin{aligned} arepsilon_{1} &= egin{aligned} arepsilon_{1} & arepsilon_{1} &= egin{aligned} arepsilon_{1} & arepsilon_{1} & arepsilon_{1} & arepsilon_{1} & arepsilon_{1} & arepsilon_{2} & arepsilon_{1} & arepsilon_{2} & areps$$

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Error properties of n measurements

$$E(\varepsilon) = E\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_1 \\ \varepsilon_2 \\ \dots \\ \varepsilon_n \end{bmatrix} \right\} = \begin{bmatrix} E(\varepsilon_1) \\ E(\varepsilon_2) \\ \dots \\ E(\varepsilon_n) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \dots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \dots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$C_{\varepsilon\varepsilon} = E\left\{ \left[\varepsilon - E\left(\varepsilon\right)\right] \left[\varepsilon - E\left(\varepsilon\right)\right]^{\top} \right\} = E\left\{\varepsilon\varepsilon^{\top}\right\} = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{1}^{2} & \sigma_{12} & \cdots & \sigma_{1n} \\ \sigma_{21} & \sigma_{2}^{2} & \cdots & \sigma_{2n} \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ \sigma_{n1} & \sigma_{n2} & \cdots & \sigma_{n}^{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$egin{aligned} E\left\{x
ight\} &= E\left\{\widetilde{x}
ight\} = \widetilde{x} \ \\ C_{xx} &= E\left\{[x - E(x)][x - E(x)]^{ op}
ight\} = E[arepsilonarepsilon^{ op}] = C_{arepsilonarepsilon} \ _{n\cdot n} \end{aligned}$$

$$C_{m{xx}} = C_{m{arepsilonarepsilon}} = egin{bmatrix} \sigma_{12} & \sigma_{12} & \cdots & \sigma_{1n} \ \sigma_{21} & \sigma_{2}^2 & \cdots & \sigma_{2n} \ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \ \sigma_{n1} & \sigma_{n2} & \cdots & \sigma_{2n} \ \end{bmatrix}$$

Error propagation for one linear function

$$y = a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + \cdots + a_nx_n = a \cdot x$$

$$\underset{1\cdot n}{a} = (a_1, a_2, \cdot \cdot \cdot, a_n)$$

$$\widetilde{y} = a_1 \widetilde{x}_1 + a_2 \widetilde{x}_2 + \dots + a_n \widetilde{x}_n = a \cdot \widetilde{x}$$

$$\varepsilon_y = y - \widetilde{y} = ax - a\widetilde{x} = a \cdot \varepsilon$$

$$egin{array}{c} arepsilon & arepsilon_1 \ arepsilon & arepsilon_2 \ arepsilon & arepsilon \ arepsilon_n \ \end{array} egin{array}{c} arepsilon_1 \ arepsilon & arepsilon_2 \ arepsilon & arepsilon \ \end{array} egin{array}{c} arepsilon_2 \ arepsilon & arepsilon \ \end{array} egin{array}{c} arepsilon_2 \ arepsilon & arepsilon \ \end{array} egin{array}{c} arepsilon_2 \ arepsilon & arepsilon_2 \ arepsilon & arepsilon \ \end{array} egin{array}{c} arepsilon_2 \ arepsilon & arepsilon_2 \ arepsilon_2 \ arepsilon & arepsilon_2 \ areps$$

$$\sigma_y^2 = E\left[arepsilon_y^2
ight] = E\left[aarepsilon\cdot(aarepsilon)^ op
ight] = a\cdot E\left[arepsilonarepsilon^ op
ight] \cdot a^ op = a\; C_{xx}a^ op$$

$$= \left(\begin{array}{cccc} a_1, a_2, \cdots, a_n \end{array}\right) \left[\begin{array}{cccc} \sigma_1^2 & \sigma_{12} & \cdots & \sigma_{1n} \\ \sigma_{21} & \sigma_2^2 & \cdots & \sigma_{2n} \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ \sigma_{n1} & \sigma_{n2} & \cdots & \sigma_n^2 \end{array}\right] \left[\begin{array}{c} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ \cdots \\ a_n \end{array}\right]$$

Error propagation law for uncorrelated observations

$\sigma_{ij} = 0$ for $i \neq j$; C_{xx} becomes a diagonal matrix

$$y = a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + \cdots + a_nx_n = a \cdot x$$

$$\sigma_y^2 = a_1^2 \cdot \sigma_1^2 + a_2^2 \cdot \sigma_2^2 + \dots + a_n^2 \cdot \sigma_n^2$$

Example 1.2

Given: y = 2 $x_1 - 3$ $x_2 - x_3$ and $\sigma_1 = 1$ mm, $\sigma_2 = 2$ mm, $\sigma_3 = 3$ mm; ε_1 , ε_2 , ε_3 are independent of each other.

Sought: $\sigma_y = ?$

$$\sigma_y^2 = (+2)^2 1^2 + (-3)^2 2^2 + (-1)^2 3^2 = 4 + 36 + 9 = 49 \ mm^2 \ , \quad \text{or} \quad \sigma_y = \sqrt{49} = 7 \ mm$$

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Error propagation for a vector

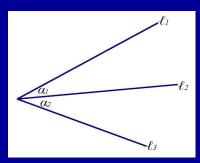
$$y = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{A}_{m \cdot n} x_{n \cdot 1}$$

$$A_{m \cdot n} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$C_{yy} = E\{[y - E(y)][y - E(y)]^{\top}\} = A E\{[x - E(x)][x - E(x)]^{\top}\}A^{\top} = m \cdot m$$

$$=A C_{xx}A^{\top}$$

Example: Error propagation



$$lpha = \left[egin{array}{c} lpha_1 \ lpha_2 \end{array}
ight] = \left[egin{array}{ccc} -1 & +1 & 0 \ 0 & -1 & +1 \end{array}
ight] \left[egin{array}{c} \ell_1 \ \ell_2 \ \ell_3 \end{array}
ight] = A \cdot L$$

$$A = \left[egin{array}{ccc} -1 & +1 & 0 \ 0 & -1 & +1 \end{array}
ight] \;, \quad L = \left[egin{array}{ccc} \ell_1 \ \ell_2 \ \ell_3 \end{array}
ight]$$

$$C_{lphalpha} = AC_{LL}A^ op = \left[egin{array}{cc} 4 & -2 \ -2 & 4 \end{array}
ight]$$

$$\sigma_1=\sigma_2=\sigma_3=\pm 1.41^{\prime\prime}$$

$$C_{LL} = \left[egin{array}{ccc} \sigma_1^2 & & & \ & \sigma_2^2 & & \ & & \sigma_3^2 \end{array}
ight] pprox \left[egin{array}{ccc} 2 & & & \ & 2 & \ & & 2 \end{array}
ight]$$

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Error propagation for two vectors: covariance matrix

$$y = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{A}_{m \cdot n} \underbrace{x}_{n \cdot 1}$$

$$z = \begin{bmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \\ \dots \\ z_p \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} & \dots & b_{1n} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} & \dots & b_{2n} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ b_{p1} & b_{p2} & \dots & b_{pn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \dots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{B}_{p \cdot n} \underbrace{x}_{n \cdot 1}$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix} B = \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} & \cdots & b_{1n} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} & \cdots & b_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ b_{p1} & b_{p2} & \cdots & b_{pn} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$C_{yz} = E\{[y - E(y)][z - E(z)]^{\top}\} = A E\{[x - E(x)][x - E(x)]^{\top}\}B^{\top} = AC_{xx}B^{\top}$$

 $=AC_{xx}B^{ op}$

Taylor series expansion of a non-linear function

$$y=f(x_1,x_2,\cdots,x_n)$$

$$y^0 = f(x_1^0, x_2^0, \cdots, x_n^0)$$

$$\begin{cases} x_i = x_i^0 + \delta x_i & (1 \le i \le n) \\ y = y^0 + \delta y & \end{cases}$$

Taylor series expansion

$$egin{aligned} y &= f(x_1^0 + \delta x_1, \ x_2^0 + \delta x_2, \ \cdots, \ x_n^0 + \delta x_n) = \ \ &= f(x_1^0, x_2^0, \cdots, x_n^0) + rac{1}{1!} \left[rac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} \delta x_1 + rac{\partial f}{\partial x_2} \delta x_2 + \cdots + rac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} \delta x_n
ight] \end{aligned}$$

på grund av små värden används enbart första graden (strunta i raden nedan)

$$+\frac{1}{2!} \left[\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1^2} \, \delta x_1^2 + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1 \partial x_2} \, \delta x_1 \, \delta x_2 + \dots + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1 \partial x_n} \, \delta x_1 \, \delta x_n \right] + \dots$$

$$\delta y \approx \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} \, \delta x_1 + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_2} \, \delta x_2 + \dots + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} \, \delta x_n$$

Linearization!

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Error propagation for a non-linear function

$$\varepsilon_y \approx \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} \varepsilon_1 + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_2} \varepsilon_2 + \dots + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} \varepsilon_n = a_1 \varepsilon_1 + a_2 \varepsilon_2 + \dots + a_n \varepsilon_n = a \cdot \varepsilon$$

$$arepsilon = \left[egin{array}{c} arepsilon_1 \ arepsilon_2 \ arphi \ arepsilon_n \end{array}
ight], \quad a = (a_1,\ a_2,\ \cdots,\ a_n)\ , \quad a_i = rac{\partial f}{\partial x_i}\ , \quad i = 1,2,\cdots,n$$

$$\sigma_y^2 = E\left\{ [y - E(y)]^2 \right\} = a \ C_{xx} a^{\top}$$

$$C_{xx} = C_{oldsymbol{arepsilon}} = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_1^2 & \sigma_{12} & \cdots & \sigma_{1n} \\ \sigma_{21} & \sigma_2^2 & \cdots & \sigma_{2n} \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ \sigma_{n1} & \sigma_{n2} & \cdots & \sigma_n^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

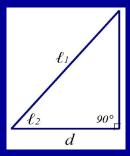
For uncorrelated observations ($\sigma_{ij} = 0$, $i \neq j$):

$$\sigma_y^2 = \left(rac{\partial f}{\partial x_1}
ight)^2 \sigma_1^2 + \left(rac{\partial f}{\partial x_2}
ight)^2 \sigma_2^2 + \dots + \left(rac{\partial f}{\partial x_n}
ight)^2 \sigma_n^2$$

Error propagation for a non-linear function

Example 1.3

A slope distance has been measured to $\ell_1=103.132$ metres with standard error $\sigma_1=\pm 3$ mm. The corresponding vertical angle has been measured to $\ell_2=45^0$ with standard error $\sigma_2=\pm 6''$ (Cf Figure 1.1). What is the standard error (σ_d) of horizontal distance $d=\ell_1\cos\ell_2$?



$$\ell_1 = 103.132 \; \mathrm{metres} \quad \sigma_1 = \pm 3 \; mm$$

$$\ell_2 = 45^0$$

$$\sigma_2=\pm 6''$$

$$d = \ell_1 \cos \ell_2$$

$$\sigma_d=$$
 ?

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Error propagation for a non-linear function

 $d = \ell_1 \cos \ell_2$

$$\varepsilon_d = \frac{\partial f}{\partial \ell_1} \ \varepsilon_1 + \frac{\partial f}{\partial \ell_2} \ \varepsilon_2$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial \ell_1} = \cos \ell_2 = \cos 45^0 = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \quad \text{(no unit)}$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial \ell_2} = -\ell_1 \sin \ell_2 = 103.132 \ \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \ (\text{metres})$$

$$\sigma_d^2 = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial \ell_1}\right)^2 \ \sigma_1^2 + \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial \ell_2}\right)^2 \ \sigma_2^2 = \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right)^2 \ \sigma_1^2 + \left(103.132^m \ \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right)^2 \ \sigma_2^2$$

Error propagation for a non-linear function

$$\sigma_d^2 = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial \ell_1}\right)^2 \ \sigma_1^2 + \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial \ell_2}\right)^2 \ \sigma_2^2 = \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right)^2 \ \sigma_1^2 + \left(103.132^m \ \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right)^2 \ \sigma_2^2$$

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$$radian = \rho'' = \frac{360 \cdot 3600''}{2\pi} \approx 206 \ 265''$$

$$\sigma_d^2 = \frac{1}{2} (3^{mm})^2 + \left(103 \ 132^{mm} \ \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right)^2 \left(\frac{6''}{\rho''}\right)^2 \approx \frac{9}{2} + \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 \frac{1}{2} \cdot 36 = 9 \ mm^2$$

$$\sigma_d = \sqrt{9} = 3 \ mm$$

Error propagation for m non-linear functions

$$y = \left[egin{array}{c} y_1 \ y_2 \ \dots \ y_m \end{array}
ight] = \left[egin{array}{c} f_1(x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_n) \ f_2(x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_n) \ \dots \ f_m(x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_n) \end{array}
ight]$$

$$arepsilon_y = \left| egin{array}{c} arepsilon_{y_1} \ arepsilon_{y_2} \ dots \ arepsilon_{y_m} \end{array}
ight| = egin{array}{c} A & arepsilon \ m \cdot n & n \cdot 1 \end{array}$$

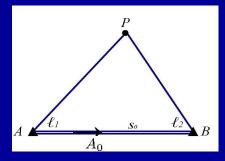
$$\varepsilon = \left[\begin{array}{c} \varepsilon_1 \\ \varepsilon_2 \\ \dots \\ \varepsilon_n \end{array} \right]$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix}
a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\
a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\
\vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\
a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \cdots & a_{mn}
\end{bmatrix}$$

$$a_{ij}=rac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j}\;.\;\;\;(i=1,2,\cdots,m;\;j=1,2,\cdots,n)$$

$$C_{yy} = E\left\{ [y - E(y)][y - E(y)]^{\top} \right\} = A C_{xx}A^{\top}$$

Example: Error propagation for 2 non-linear functions



$$A_0 = 120^0$$

 $s_0 = 750.000$ metres

$$\ell_1 = \ell_2 = 60^0$$

$$\sigma_1=\sigma_2=\sigma=$$
 2 "

Relations between the two measurements and the derived coordinates:

$$x=x_a+s_0rac{\sin\ell_2\;\cos(A_0-\ell_1)}{\sin(\ell_1+\ell_2)}$$

$$y = y_a + s_0 rac{\sin \ell_2 \ \sin (A_0 - \ell_1)}{\sin (\ell_1 + \ell_2)}$$

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Example: Error propagation for 2 non-linear functions

Relations between true errors of derived coordinates and true errors of the measurements

$$x = x_a + s_0 \frac{\sin \ell_2 \cos(A_0 - \ell_1)}{\sin(\ell_1 + \ell_2)}$$

$$y = y_a + s_0 \frac{\sin \ell_2 \sin(A_0 - \ell_1)}{\sin(\ell_1 + \ell_2)}$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{c} \varepsilon_x \\ \varepsilon_y \end{array}\right] = A \cdot \left[\begin{array}{c} \varepsilon_1 \\ \varepsilon_2 \end{array}\right]$$

$$A = \left[egin{array}{ccc} a_{11} & a_{12} \ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{array}
ight]$$

$$a_{11}=rac{\partial x}{\partial \ell_1}=-rac{s_0}{
ho''}rac{\sin\ell_2\cos(A_0+\ell_2)}{\sin^2(\ell_1+\ell_2)}$$

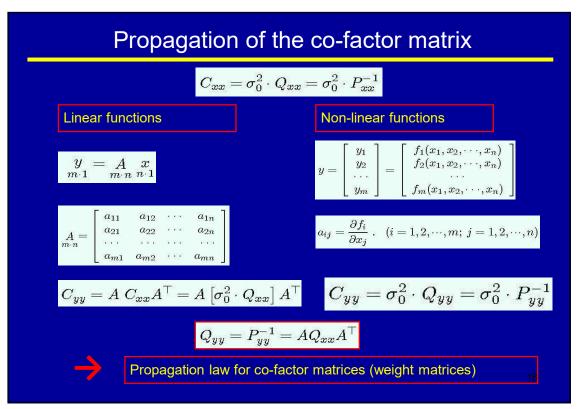
$$a_{12}=rac{\partial x}{\partial \ell_2}=+rac{s_0}{
ho''}rac{\sin\ell_1\cos(A_0-\ell_1)}{\sin^2(\ell_1+\ell_2)}$$

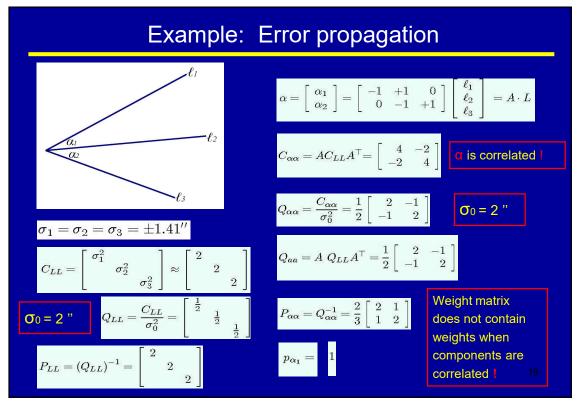
$$a_{21} = rac{\partial y}{\partial \ell_1} = -rac{s_0}{
ho''} rac{\sin \ell_2 \sin (A_0 + \ell_2)}{\sin^2 (\ell_1 + \ell_2)}$$

$$a_{22} = rac{\partial y}{\partial \ell_2} = +rac{s_0}{
ho''} rac{\sin \ell_1 \sin (A_0 - \ell_1)}{\sin^2 (\ell_1 + \ell_2)}$$

$$A=rac{s_0}{0.75\cdot
ho''}\left[egin{array}{cc} rac{\sqrt{3}}{2} & rac{\sqrt{3}}{4} \ 0 & rac{3}{4} \end{array}
ight]$$

lı = le=60°





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Summary: Errors and Error Propagation

- Error propagation for one linear function
- Error propagation for one non-linear function
- Error propagation for m linear/non-linear functions
- Error propagation for co-factor matrices

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