

# Simulations and manuscripts

Mark Blyth

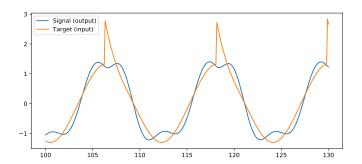


#### Week's activities

- **№** NODYCON paper
- Splines experiments



#### Last time...





Finite differences doesn't play nicely with splines



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  - Probable cause: data exists where knots don't, or knots exist where data don't
  - Can't understand why either would happen
  - Code errors aren't helpful



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  - Still doesn't work



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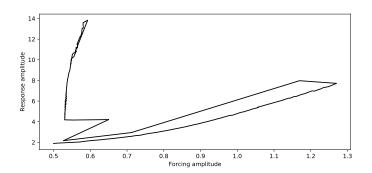
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- Another idea: use evenly-spaced knots, instead of an optimized knot set
  - Choice of exterior knots becomes difficult
  - More chance to cover entire data range with knots, to avoid invalid spline models
  - Some success



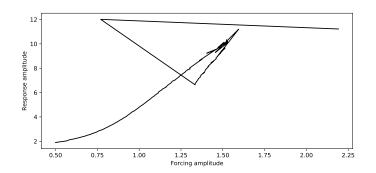
# Evenly spaced knots, small finite-differences



Looks bad, but no issues from invalid splines models



# Evenly spaced knots, larger finite-differences



Looks bad, but no issues from invalid splines models



I don't really understand what's going wrong in those plots

Played with...



- Played with...
  - Number of knots



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  - Evenly spaced vs. optimized knot positions



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  - ► Newton iteration convergence tolerance
  - Pseudo-arclength stepsize
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- No intuition about when and why things break



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  - Number of knots
  - Evenly spaced vs. optimized knot positions
  - Newton iteration convergence tolerance
  - Pseudo-arclength stepsize
  - Finite differences perturbation size
- Never managed anything better than those plots
- No intuition about when and why things break
- Finicky hyperparameters make the method impractical even if it did work



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- Result: smooth changes in the knot points cause smooth changes in the model
  - ► Might make finite differences more robust?
  - Also easier to understand, more explainable: no mysterious choice of exterior knots; more intuition about how discretisation changes the model



# Next steps

- Choose paper and make slides for lab group meeting
- Try interpolating splines discretisation
  - Start with simplest-possible (ie. non-Bayesian) approach, see what happens
- Edit continuation paper
- Write up extended conference paper

Also, annual leave October 19th - 23rd