

# Pre-tutorial instructions

1. Please download and unzip the  
`Tutorials/Day5.../files' folder from the  
google drive
2. Launch matlab and make the `files' folder  
your current directory

# Tutorial:

# Parameter Fitting and Sensitivity Analysis

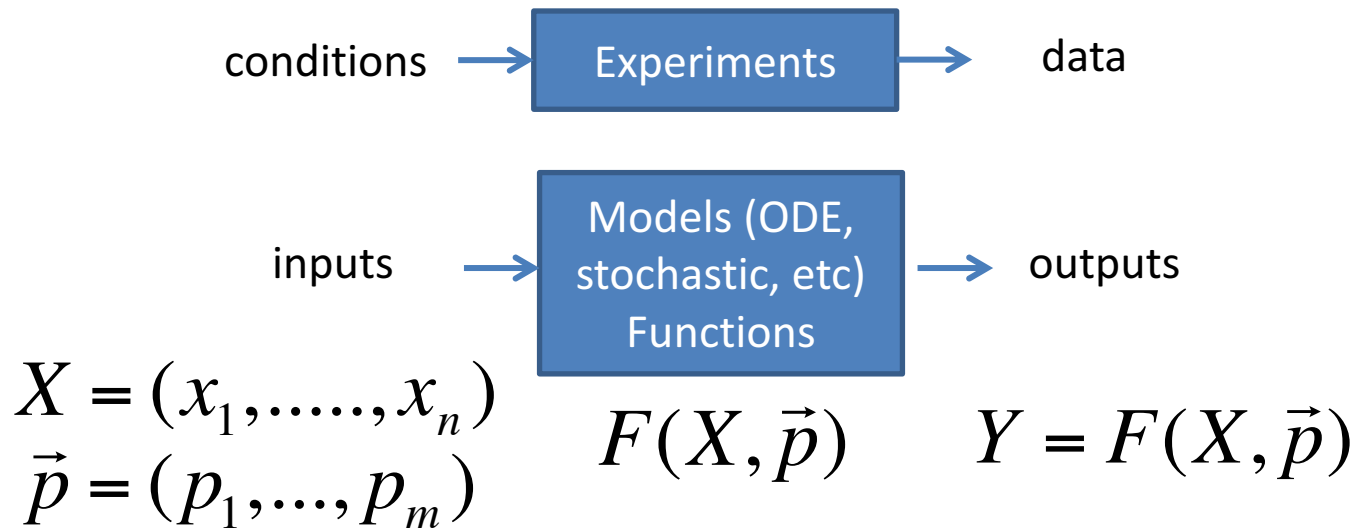
Meng Jin

Mar, 2017



# Overview

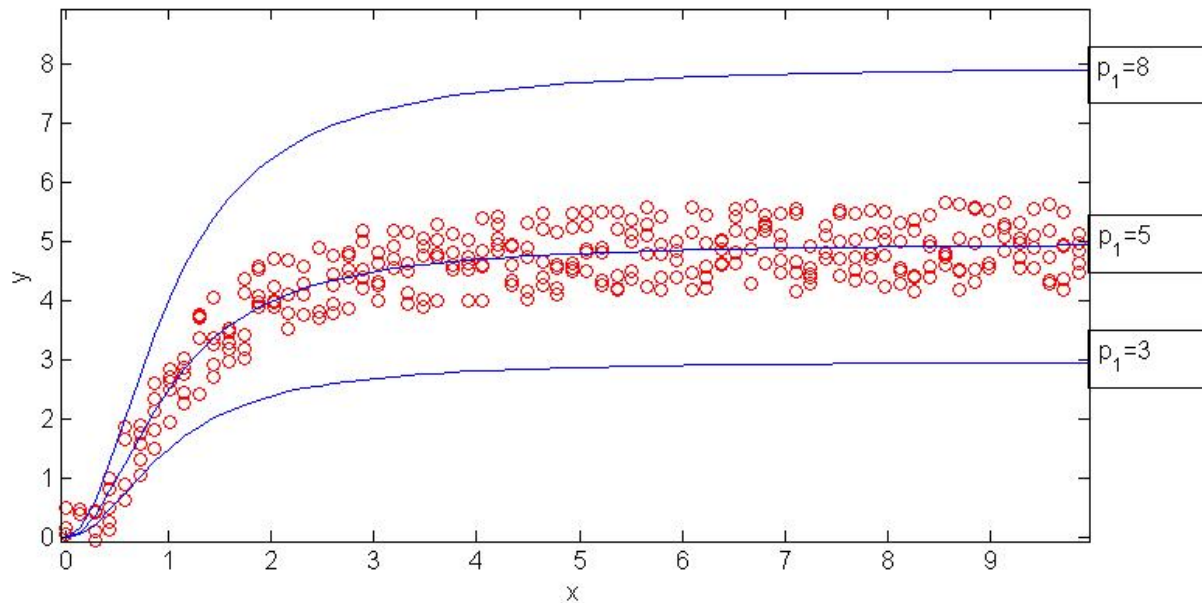
1. Parameter fitting: finding values of unknown parameters that reproduce observed data



# Overview

2. Sensitivity analysis: measuring how strongly parameters affect outputs

$$y = F(x, \vec{p}) = \frac{p_1 x^{p_2}}{p_3^{p_2} + x^{p_2}}$$



# Overview

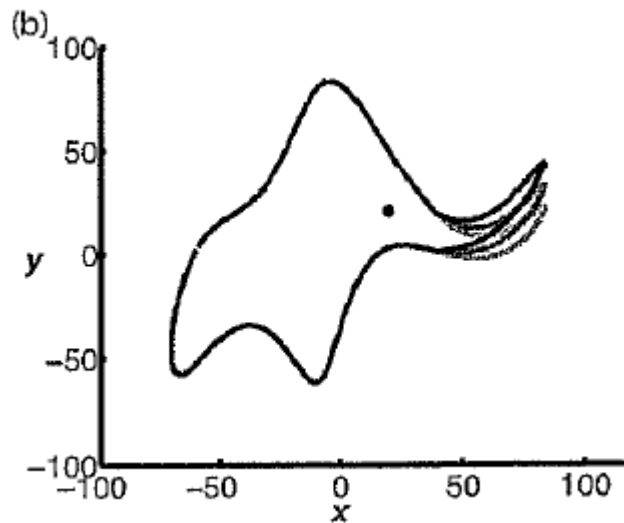
## Steps of parameter fitting

1. Select an appropriate mathematical model to describe observed experimental data  
what you have learned in previous tutorials
2. Define an “error” function  
which measures the agreement between experimental data and model results for given parameters
3. Adjust model parameters to get a “best fit”  
often involves minimizing the error function
4. Evaluate “goodness of fit” to experimental data  
(bootstrap, cross-validation)  
never perfect due to measurement noise
5. Estimate how parameters affect the model prediction  
(parameter sensitivity)

# Parameter fitting

*"With four parameters I can fit an elephant. With five I can make him wiggle his trunk."*

-John von Neumann



# Parameter fitting

*"With four parameters I can fit an elephant. With five I can make him wiggle his trunk."*

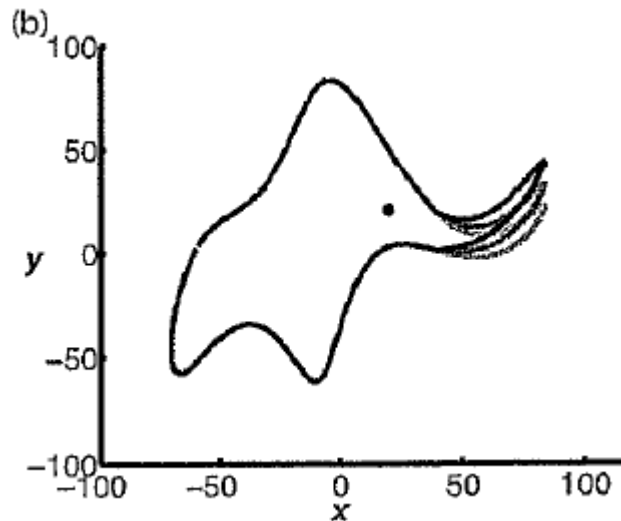
-John von Neumann

Aside:

$$x(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (A_k^x \cos(kt) + B_k^x \sin(kt)),$$

$$y(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (A_k^y \cos(kt) + B_k^y \sin(kt)),$$

Mayer, J., et al. Am. J. Phys. 78 (6). 2010



# Parameter fitting

*"With four parameters I can fit an elephant. With five I can make him wiggle his trunk."* -John von Neumann

- Given enough parameters, one can always fit data (overfitting)
- Goal is a minimal yet **predictive** model
  - Can make verifiable predictions for further experiments
  - Can be cross-validated on subsets of data





# Parameter fitting

- The "art" of hand-fitting
- Use optimization algorithms to find values of parameters that best reproduce a set of data

# Fitting methods

1. Define error function,  $E$ , to determine goodness of fit to data

Ex.:  $E(p) = \text{mean}((x_e(i) - x_m(i, p))^2)$

1. Then find  $\min(E(p))$  by taking steps in  $p$  space:

- a) Deterministic fitting: take defined steps in  $p$

– Fast, but can get stuck in local minimum

Ex.: parameter scan, steepest descent,

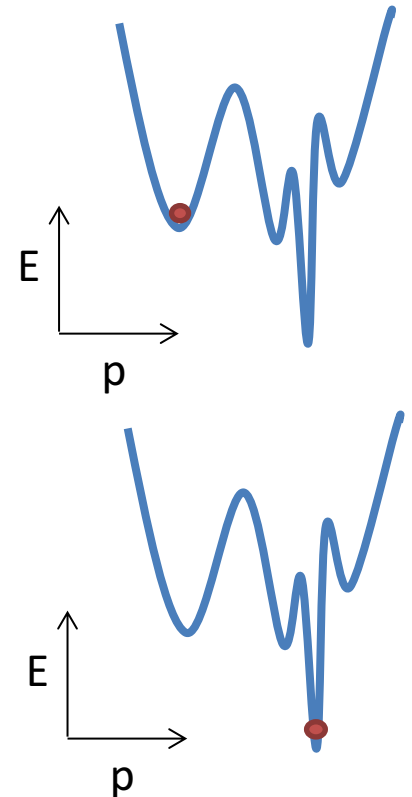
Newton methods, Levenberg –Marquardt, etc.

- b) Stochastic fitting: take noisy steps in  $p$

– Will find global minimum, given enough time

Ex.: random search, evolution algorithms,

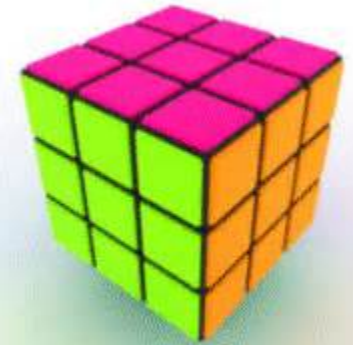
Metropolis, simulated annealing, particle swarm, etc.



# Deterministic fitting methods

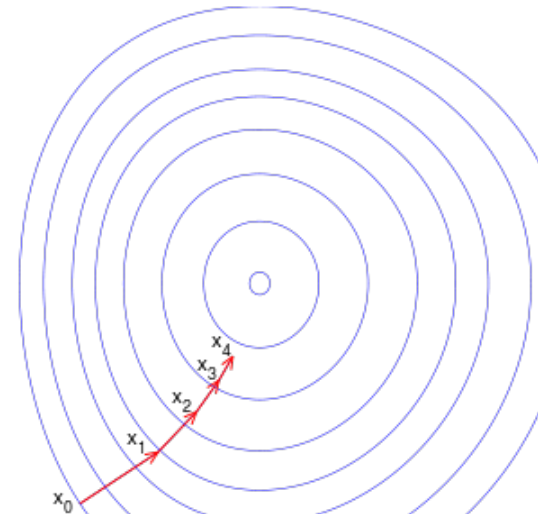
- Parameter scan:  
equal size steps through  
sections of parameter space
  - Fine with few parameters  
and coarse sampling

```
for p1=1..  
  for p2=1..  
    for p3=1..  
      E(p1,p2,p3)= ...  
    end  
  end  
end
```

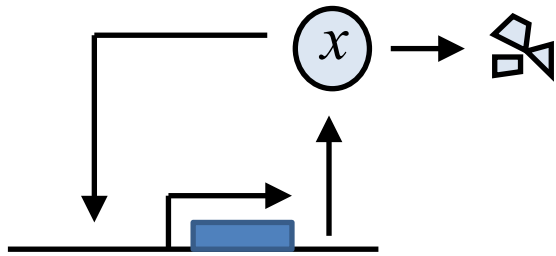


- Steepest (gradient)  
descent:  
direction of next step is  
proportional to negative to  
gradient of E
  - Can take many steps near a  
minimum, and can get stuck  
at local minima

```
for i=1..  
  p1=p1-dE/dp1  
  ...  
end
```



# Example: simple negative feedback data

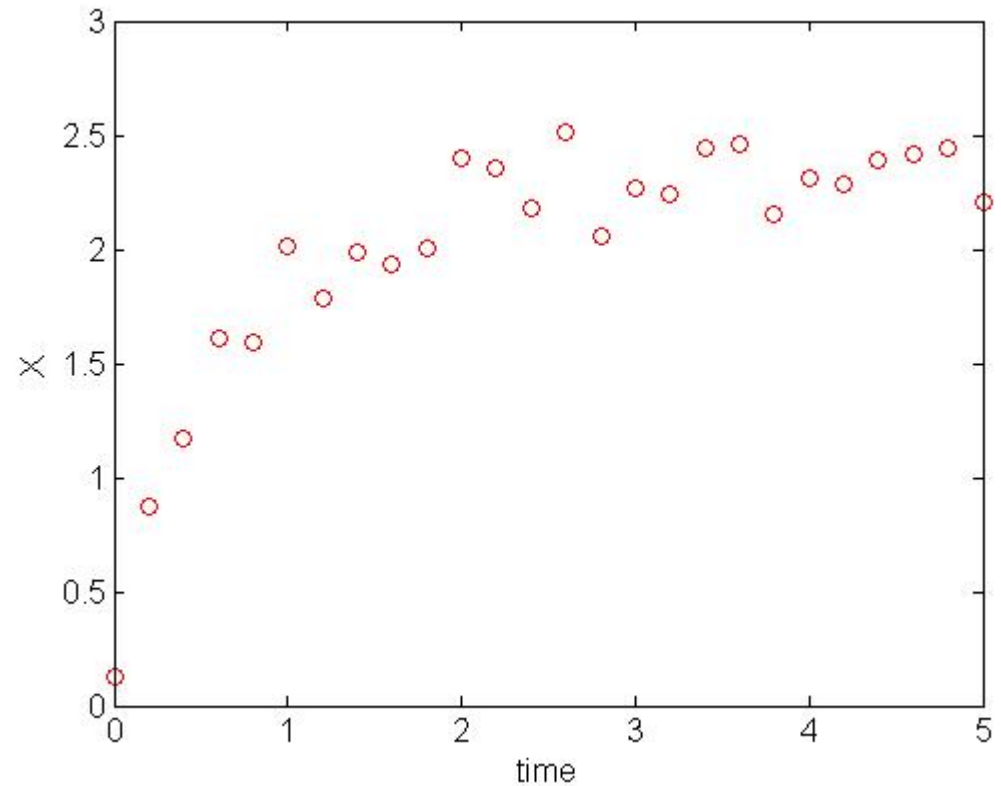


$$\dot{x} = \left( \frac{\alpha}{1 + Kx} \right) - \beta x$$

$$\beta = 1$$

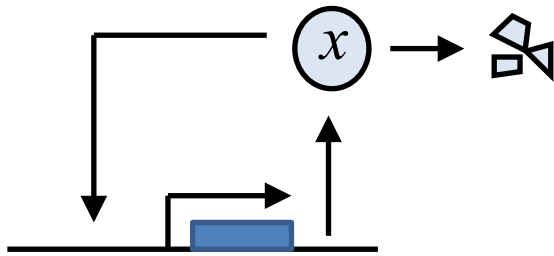
$$\alpha = ?$$

$$K = ?$$



# Example: simple negative feedback

guess

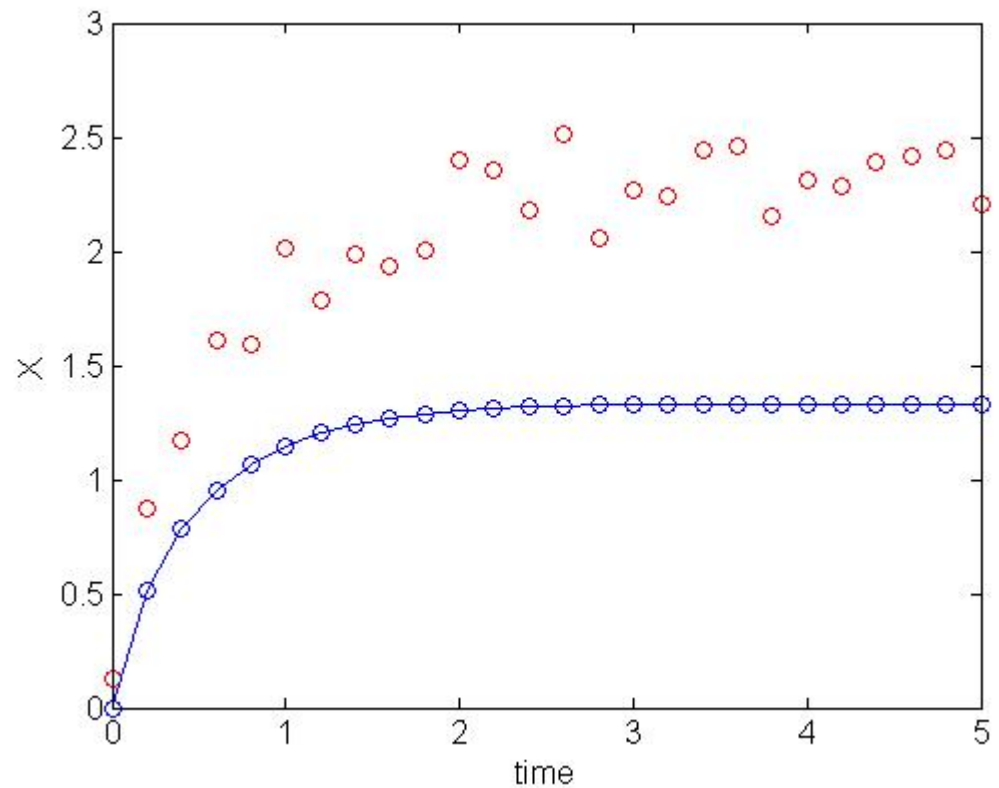


$$\dot{x} = \left( \frac{\alpha}{1 + Kx} \right) - \beta x$$

$$\beta = 1$$

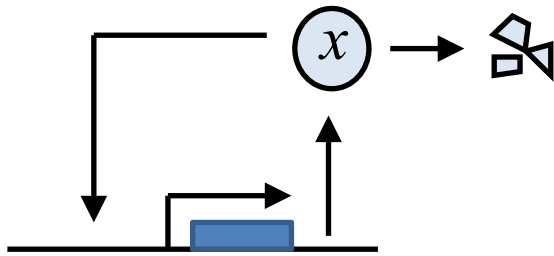
$$\alpha = 4$$

$$K = 1.5$$



NFB\_simple\_run.m

# Example: simple negative feedback error function



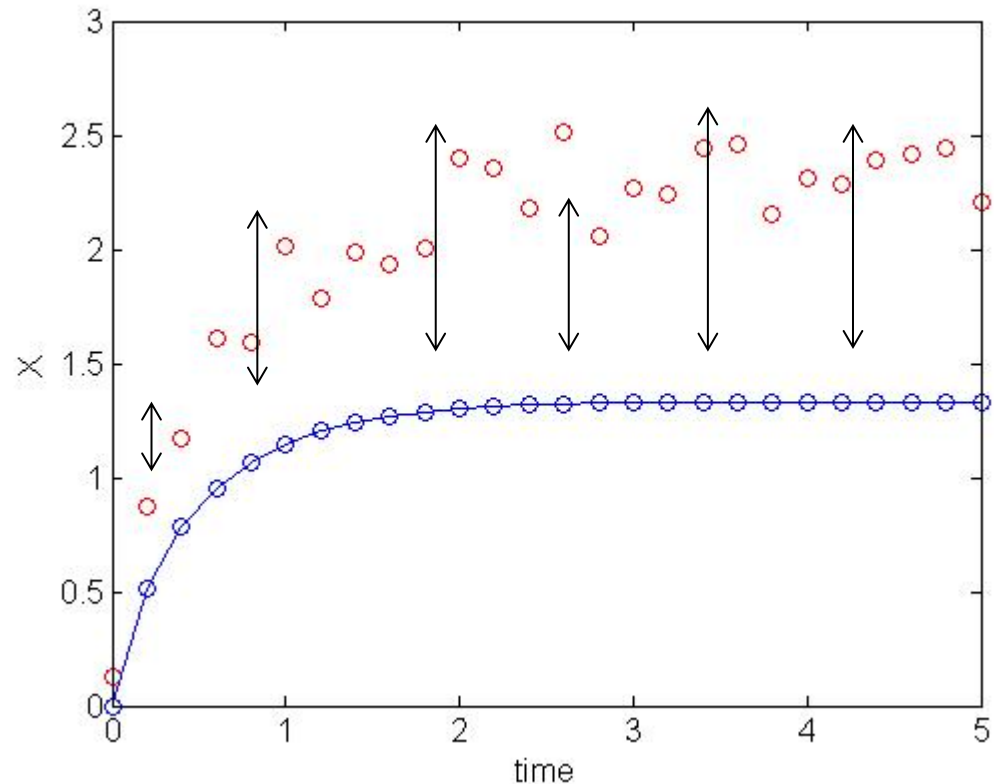
$$E(\vec{p}) = \sum_t (x_e - x_m(\vec{p}))^2$$

$$\dot{x} = \left( \frac{\alpha}{1 + Kx} \right) - \beta x$$

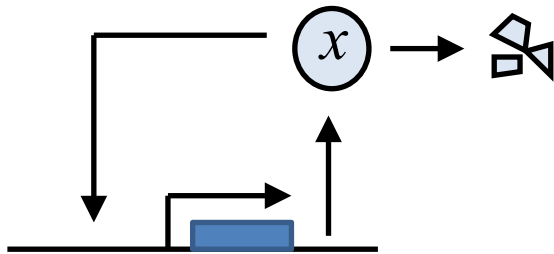
$$\beta = 1$$

$$\alpha = 4$$

$$K = 1.5 \Rightarrow E = 19.6$$



# Example: simple negative feedback parameter sweep



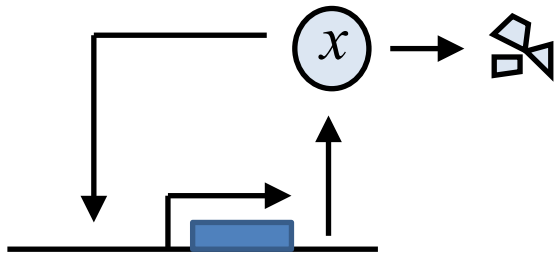
$$\dot{x} = \left( \frac{\alpha}{1 + Kx} \right) - \beta x$$

$$\beta = 1$$

$$\alpha = [0.1, 10]$$

$$K = [0.01, 1]$$

# Example: simple negative feedback parameter sweep



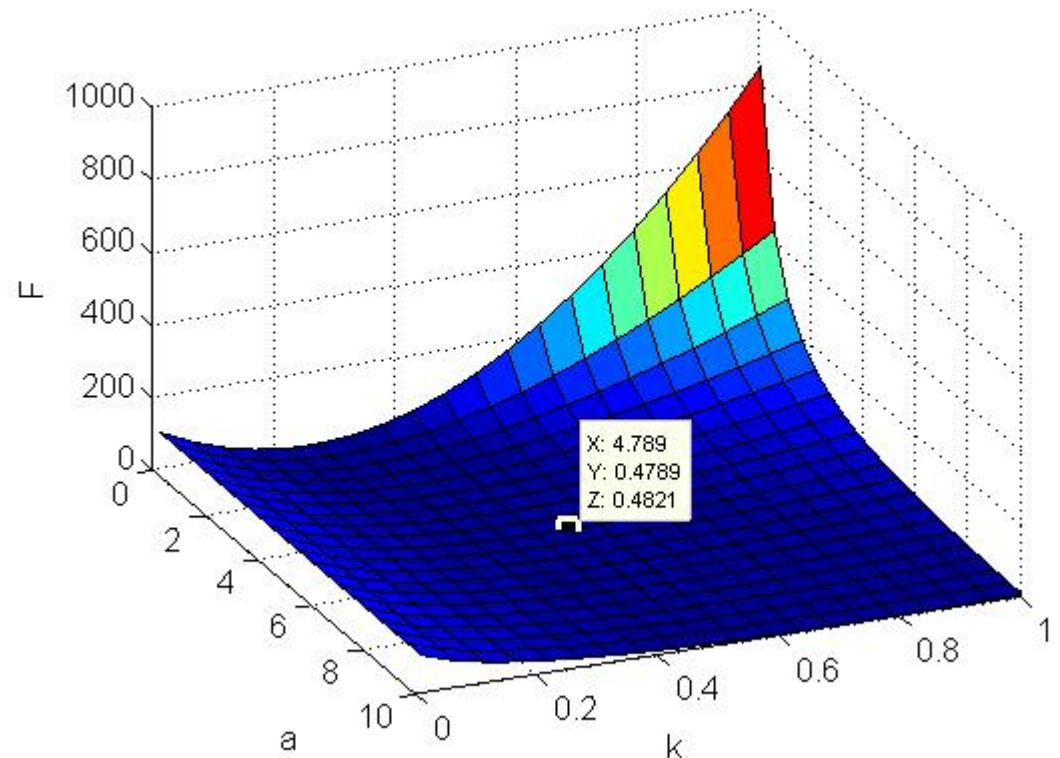
$$E(4.8, 0.48) = 0.48$$

$$\dot{x} = \left( \frac{\alpha}{1 + Kx} \right) - \beta x$$

$$\beta = 1$$

$$\alpha = [0.1, 10]$$

$$K = [0.01, 1]$$

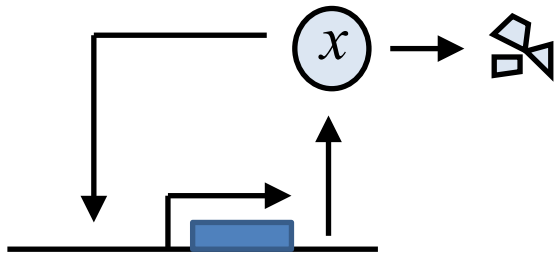


NFB\_simple\_paraSweep.m



# Example: simple negative feedback

one good set of parameters found by parameter sweep

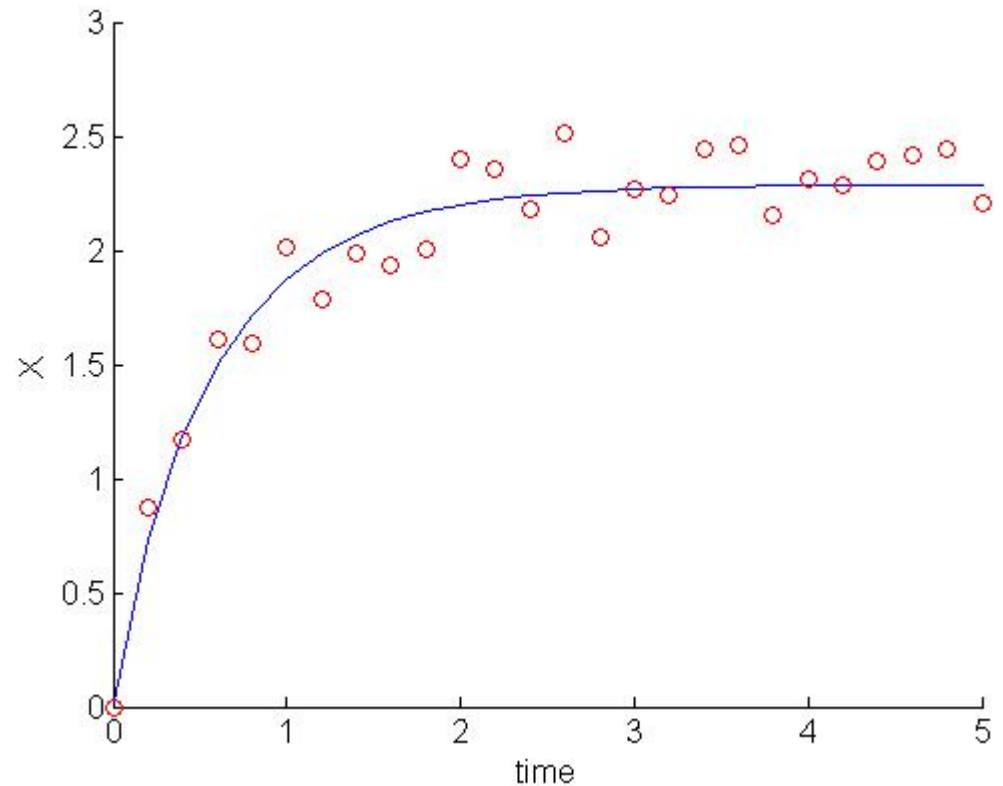


$$\dot{x} = \left( \frac{\alpha}{1 + Kx} \right) - \beta x$$

$$\beta = 1$$

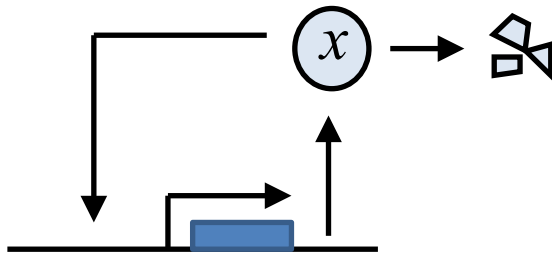
$$\alpha = 4.79$$

$$K = 0.479$$



NFB\_simple\_paraSweep.m

# Example: simple negative feedback steepest descent



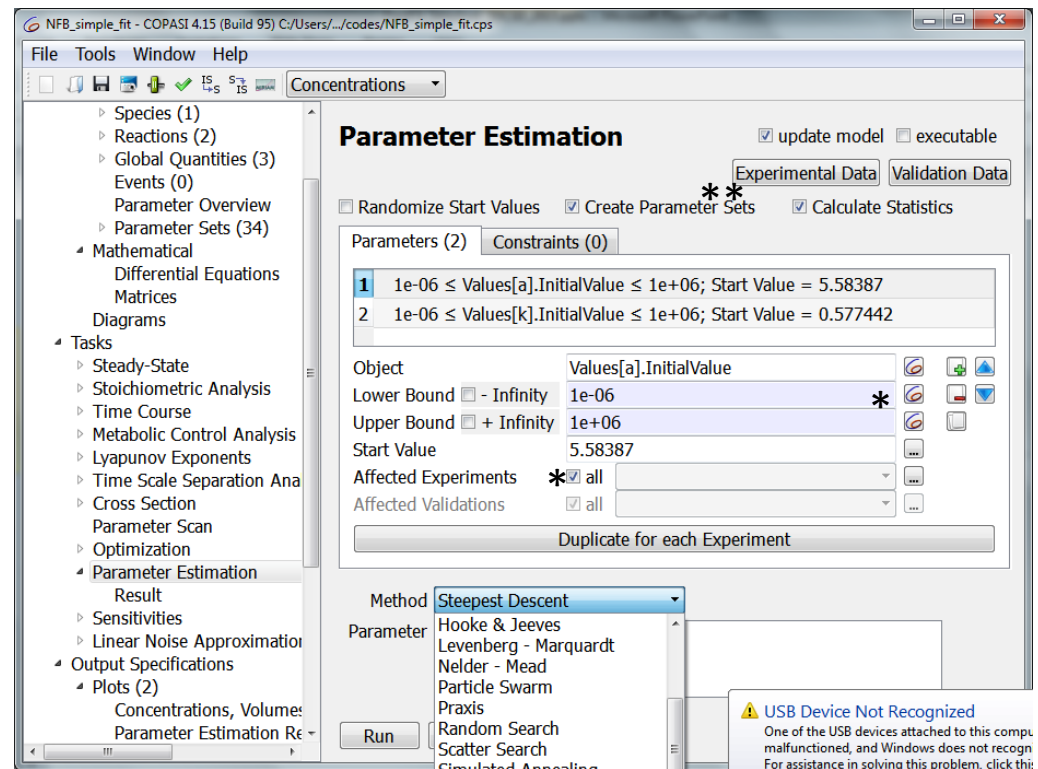
$$\dot{x} = \left( \frac{\alpha}{1 + Kx} \right) - \beta x$$

$$\beta = 1$$

$$\alpha = ?$$

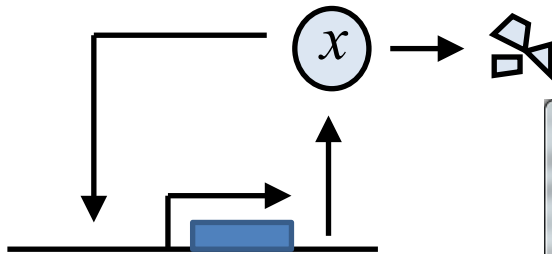
$$K = ?$$

- \*Set parameters with initial value [a,k]=[10,1]
- \*\*Ensure that experimental data (NFB\_simple\_data\_cop.txt) is specified correctly



NFB\_simple\_fit.cps

# Example: simple negative feedback steepest descent



-Ensure that experimental data  
(NFB\_simple\_data\_cop.txt) is specified correctly

$$\dot{x} = \left( \frac{\alpha}{1 + Kx} \right) - \beta x$$

$$\beta = 1$$

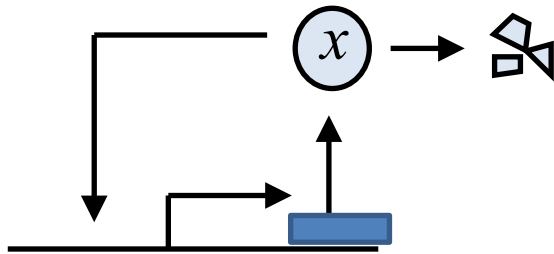
$$\alpha = ?$$

$$K = ?$$

| Column Name       | Type     | Model Object | Weight |
|-------------------|----------|--------------|--------|
| 1 Time            | Time     |              |        |
| 2 x.Concentration | depen... | [X]          | 1      |

NFB\_simple\_fit.cps

# Example: simple negative feedback steepest descent



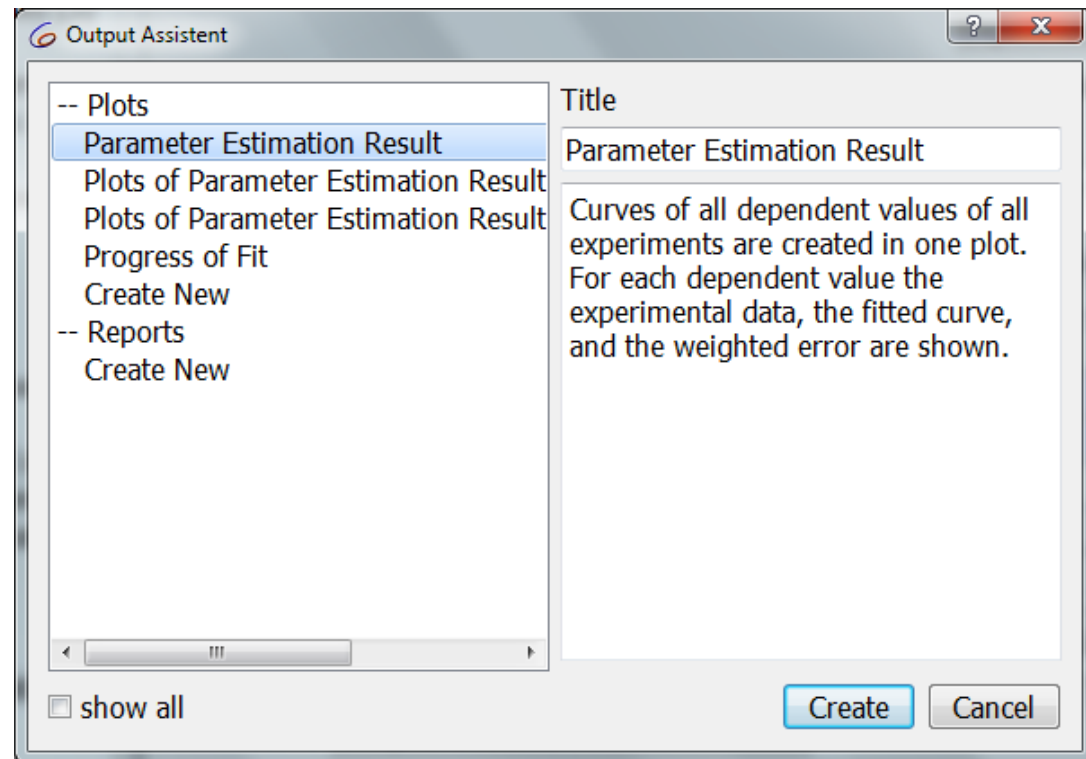
-set up plot in output assistant

$$\dot{x} = \left( \frac{\alpha}{1 + Kx} \right) - \beta x$$

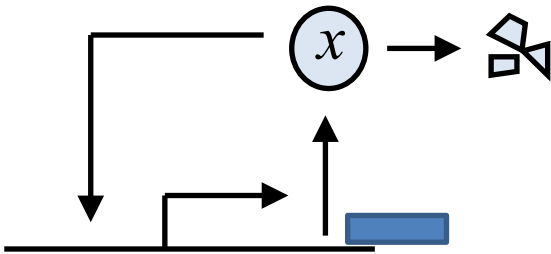
$$\beta = 1$$

$$\alpha = ?$$

$$K = ?$$



# Example: simple negative feedback steepest descent

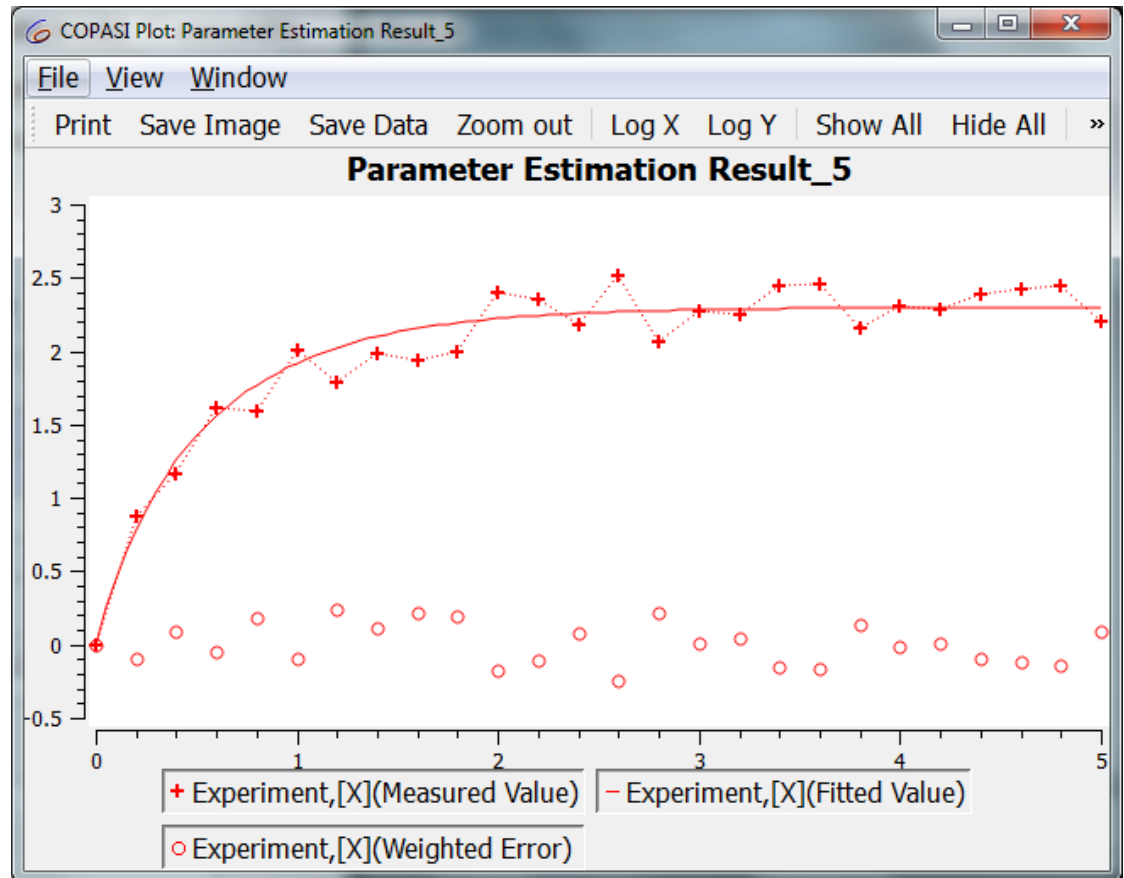


$$\dot{x} = \left( \frac{\alpha}{1 + Kx} \right) - \beta x$$

$$\beta = 1$$

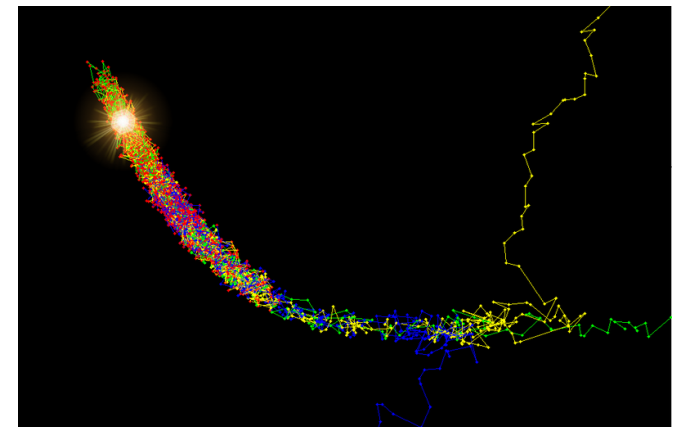
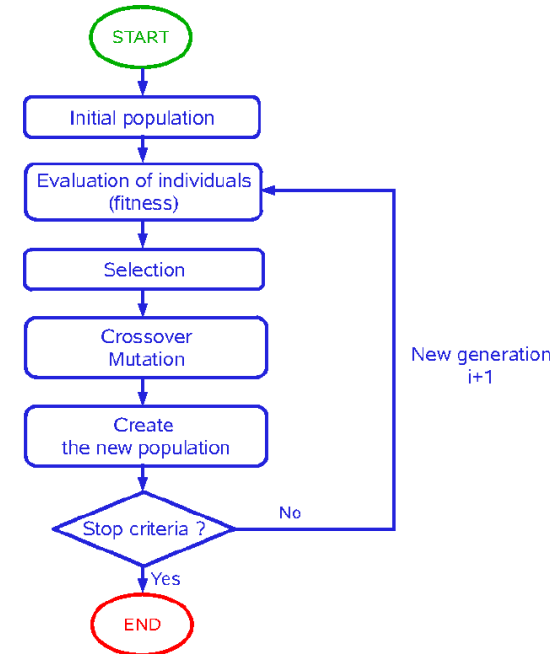
$$\alpha = 5.41$$

$$K = 0.589$$



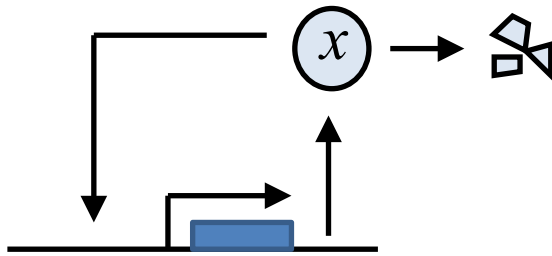
# Stochastic fitting methods

- Genetic algorithm (COPASI)
  - A population of parameter combinations (genotypes), competes for entry (selection) into the next generation
  - New members added by mutation and recombination of the fittest genotypes
- Metropolis algorithm (Matlab)
  - At each generation,  $i$ , take a random step in  $p$ . Keep it if  $E_i < E_{i+1}$ , or  $\exp((E_i - E_{i+1})/k_T) < \text{rand}[0,1]$



# Example: simple negative feedback

## Metropolis algorithm



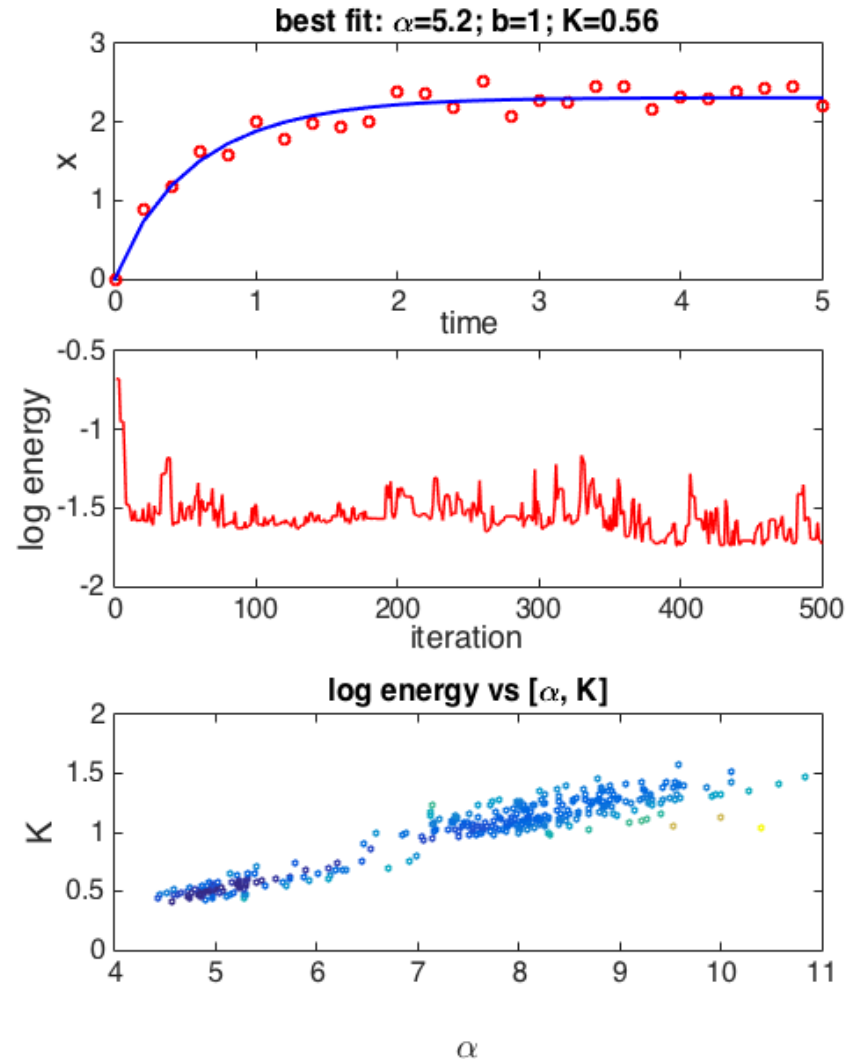
$$\dot{x} = \left( \frac{\alpha}{1 + Kx} \right) - \beta x$$

$$\beta = 1$$

$$\alpha \approx 5.2$$

$$K \approx 0.56$$

NFB\_simple\_Metropolis.m



- so I get several different parameter sets from fitting algorithms, how accurate are the estimated parameters for the data?
- What are the confidence intervals of parameters?  
(How frequently the observed interval contains the true parameters)
- Does the model overfit the data? Is the model adequate? How to compare two possible models?



# Bootstrap method

- How accurate are the estimated parameters for the data?
- A statistical technique uses random sampling with replacement to measure the accuracy of sample estimates.
- It allows us to quantify the uncertainty when you don't know enough about the estimation errors (i.e. not sure whether they are normally distributed).

# Bootstrap method

## key idea

If we have dataset  $D_0$  with  $N$  data points

1. Randomly select  $N$  data points from  $D_0$  with replacement as  $D_j^S$ , where  $D_j^S$  differs from  $D_0$  with a small fraction of the original points replaced by duplicated original points. (resampling with replacement)
2. Fitting the  $D_j^S$  data to get model parameter sets  $\vec{p}_j^S$ .
3. With big enough sampling times ( $j > 100$ ), we get the distribution of parameters.

*“to pull oneself up by one’s bootstraps”*

# Bootstrap method a simple example:

$$D_0$$

| Obs | X   | Y   |
|-----|-----|-----|
| 1   | 1.2 | 2.4 |
| 2   | 2.1 | 0.5 |
| 3   | 5   | 3.3 |

$$D_1^S$$

| Obs | X   | Y   |
|-----|-----|-----|
| 3   | 5   | 3.3 |
| 1   | 1.2 | 2.4 |
| 2   | 2.1 | 0.5 |

$$D_2^S$$

| Obs | X   | Y   |
|-----|-----|-----|
| 2   | 2.1 | 0.5 |
| 1   | 1.2 | 2.4 |
| 1   | 1.2 | 2.4 |

$$D_3^S$$

| Obs | X   | Y   |
|-----|-----|-----|
| 2   | 2.1 | 0.5 |
| 2   | 2.1 | 0.5 |
| 3   | 5   | 3.3 |

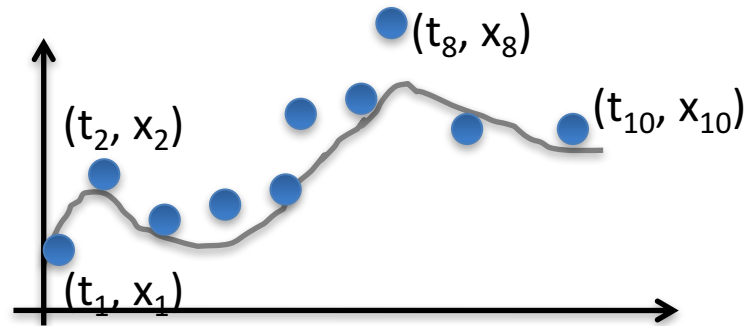
Estimate  $\vec{p}_1^S$

$\vec{p}_2^S$

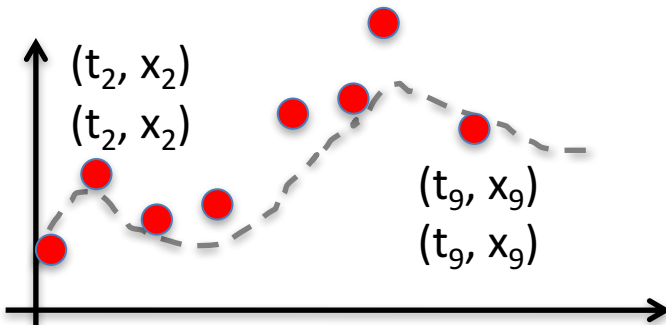
$\vec{p}_3^S$

# Bootstrap method for time series:

$D_0 \ (t_i, x_i), i=1,2,\dots,10$

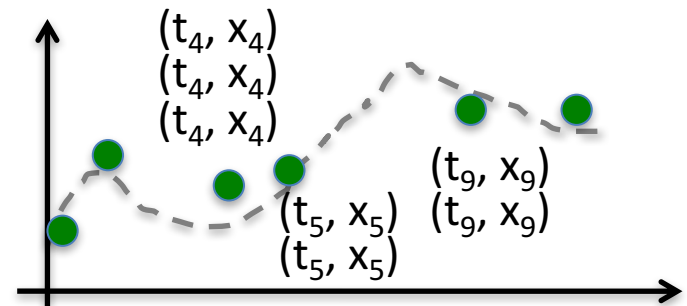


$D_1^S \ [1, 2, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 9]$



Estimate  $\vec{p}_1^S$

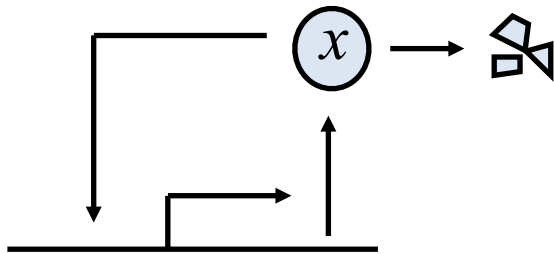
$D_2^S \ [1, 2, 4, 4, 4, 5, 5, 9, 9, 10]$



$\vec{p}_2^S$

# Example: simple negative feedback

## Bootstrap + Metropolis algorithm



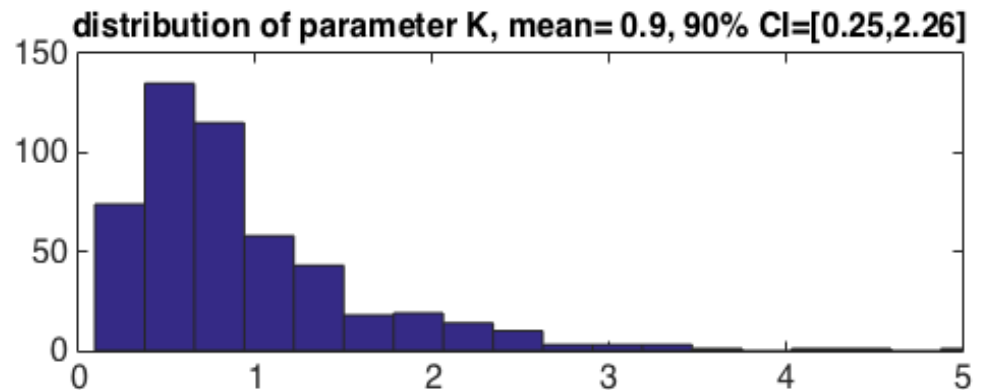
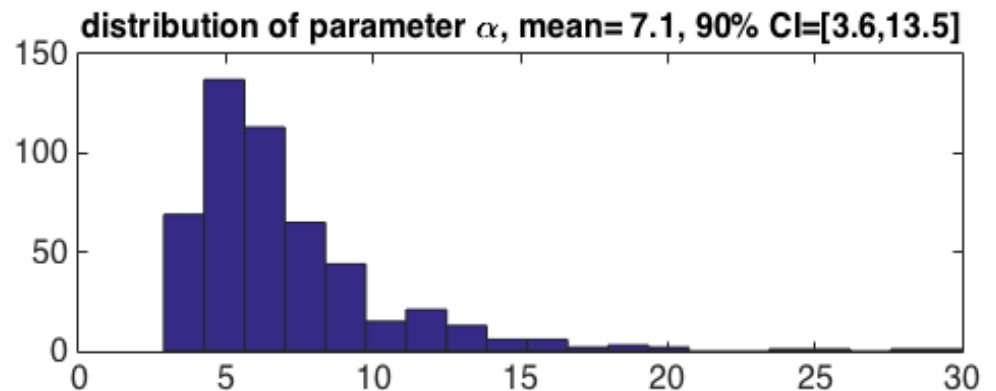
$$\dot{x} = \left( \frac{\alpha}{1 + Kx} \right) - \beta x$$

$$\beta = 1$$

$$\alpha \approx 5.2$$

$$K \approx 0.56$$

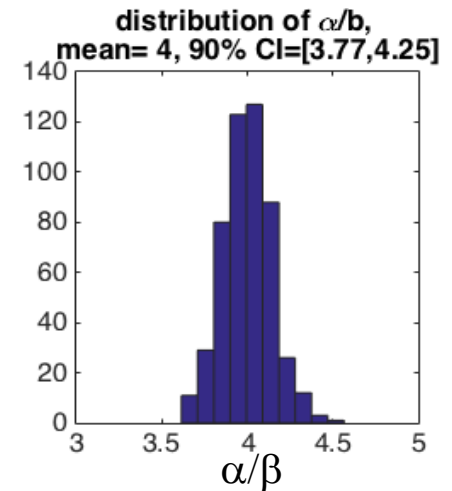
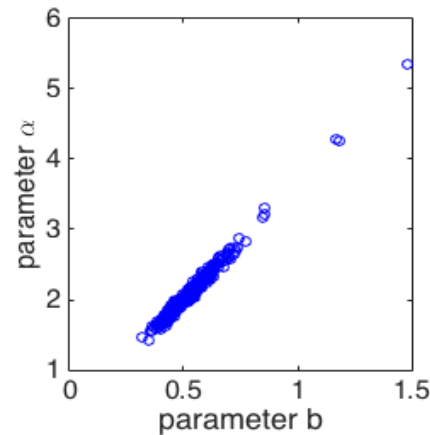
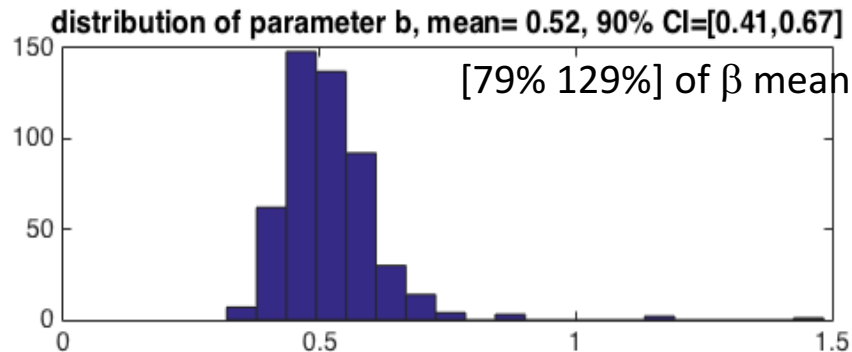
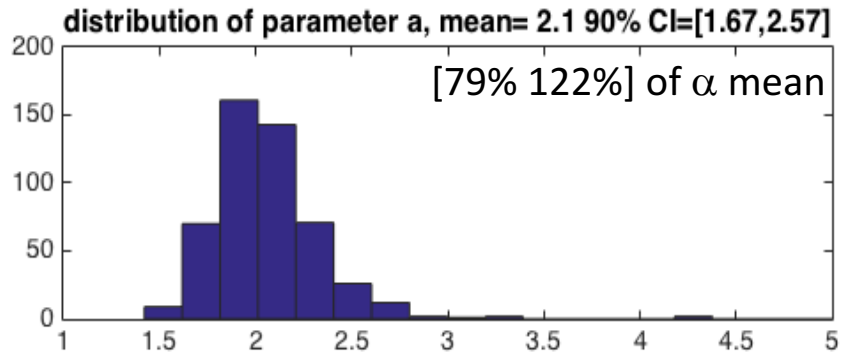
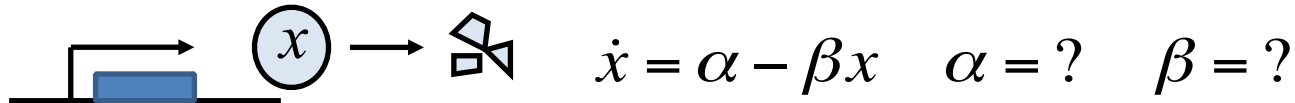
This is just one fit



NFB\_simple\_metropolis\_bootstrap.m

# Example: synthesis-degradation

## Bootstrap + Metropolis algorithm



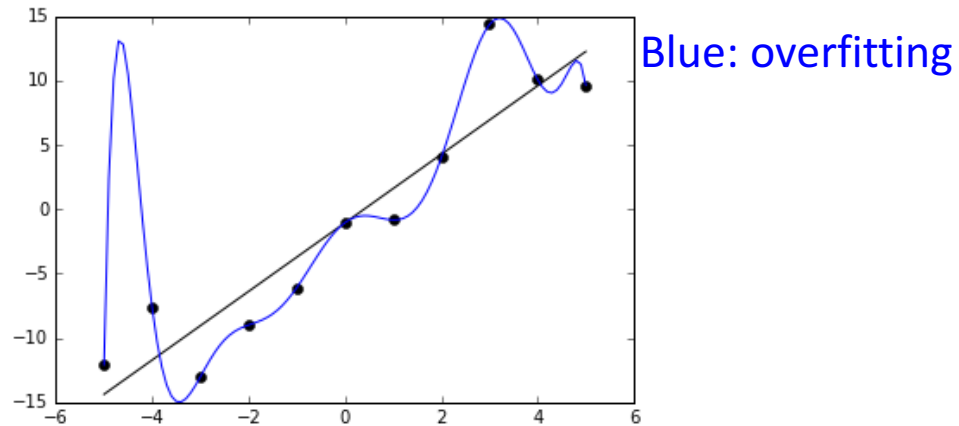
[94% 106%] of  $\alpha/\beta$  mean

`syndeg_simple_metropolis_bootstrap.m`

# Cross-validation

Concerns:

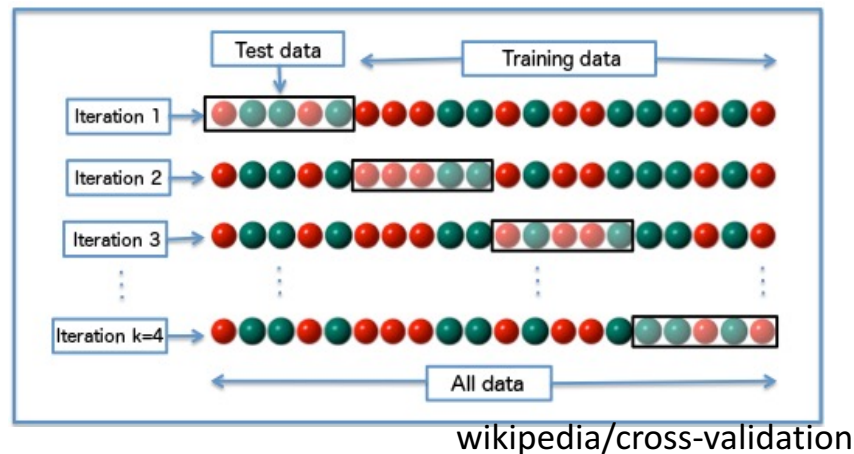
- Overfitting



- How do I know which model is better?

# Cross-validation

- Split the data into 2 non-overlapping sets, one is training data set, the other is test data set
- use the training data set to train a model, get fitted parameters
- Use fitted parameters to predict the test data set
- calculate errors between “prediction” and test data



- The error tells how well the model predicts “new” data (big error: likely to be overfitting and worse prediction )



# Cross-validation

## Steps

- divide the data into K roughly equal parts

|     | k=1   | k=2   | k=3   | k=4   | k=5   |
|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1   | Test  | Train | Train | Train | Train |
| 2   | Train | Test  | Train | Train | Train |
| ... |       |       |       |       |       |
| 5   | Train | Train | Train | Train | Test  |

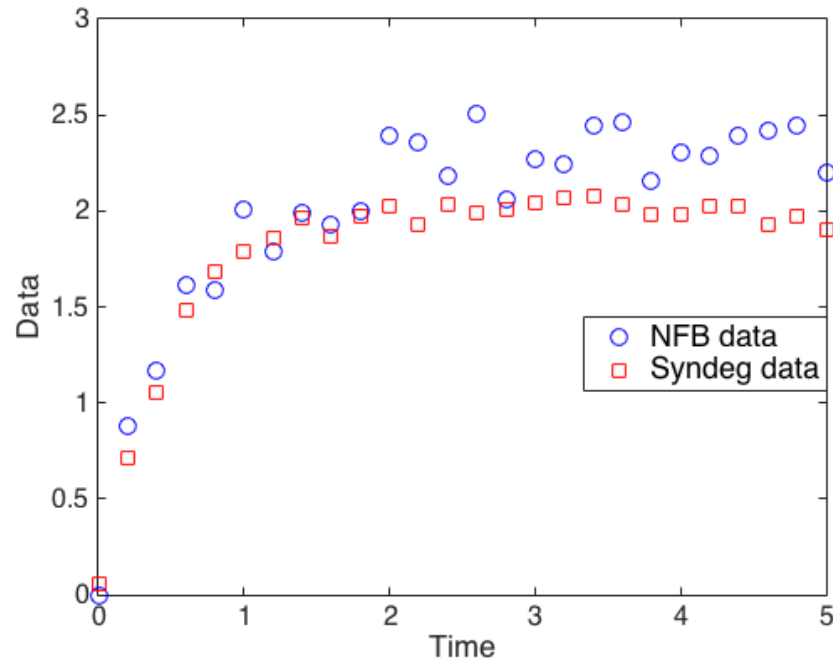
- for each  $k=1, 2, \dots, K$ , fit the model to the other  $K-1$  parts to get  $\vec{p}_k$  and compute its error in prediction the  $k$ th part:  
$$E(\vec{p}_k) = \sum_{i \in kth \text{ part}} (y_i - \hat{y}_i(\vec{p}_k))^2$$
- For all  $k$  parts, this gives the cross-validation error

$$CV(\vec{p}) = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K E(\vec{p}_k)$$

# Cross-validation

## Example:

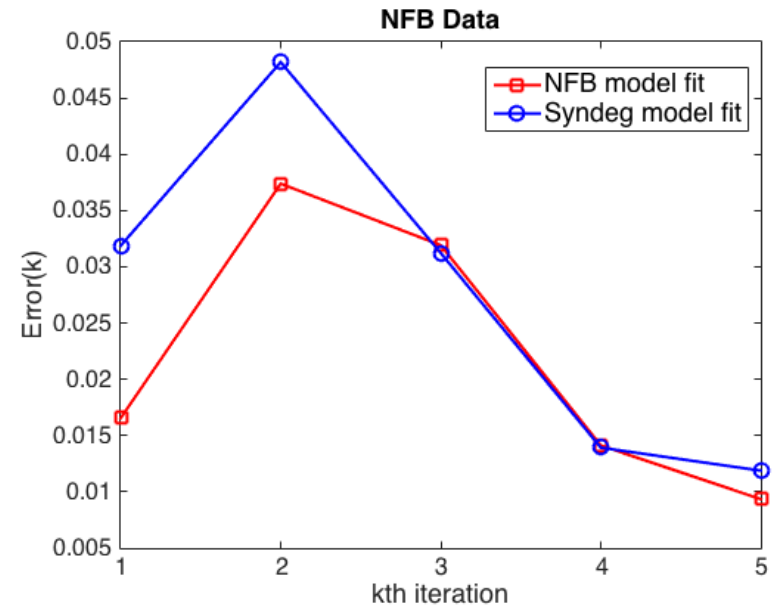
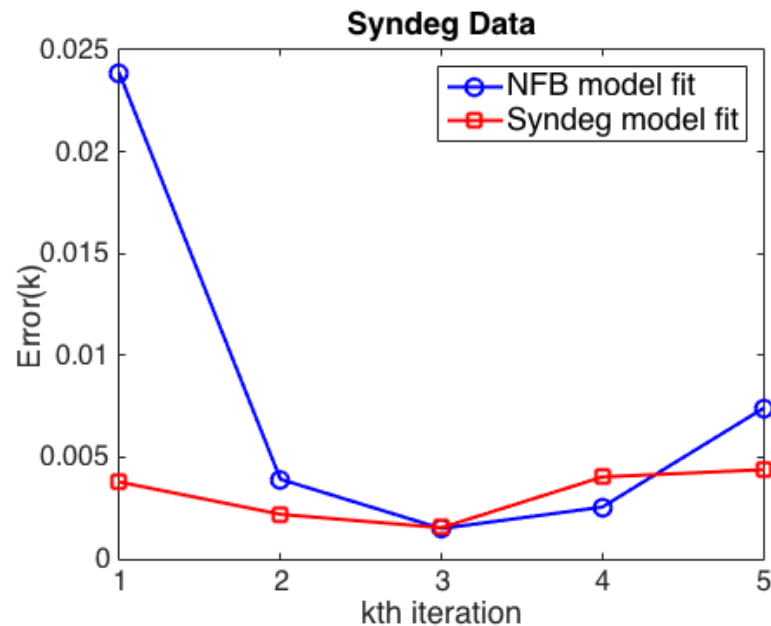
synthesis-degradation or  
simple negative feedback?



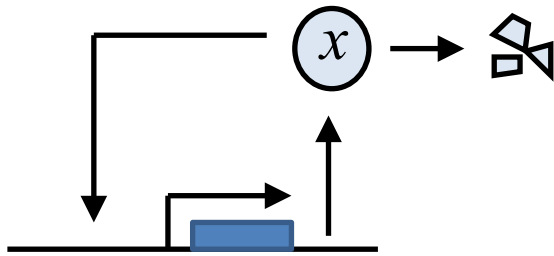
# Cross-validation

## Example:

synthesis-degradation or  
simple negative feedback?



# Example: delayed autorepression



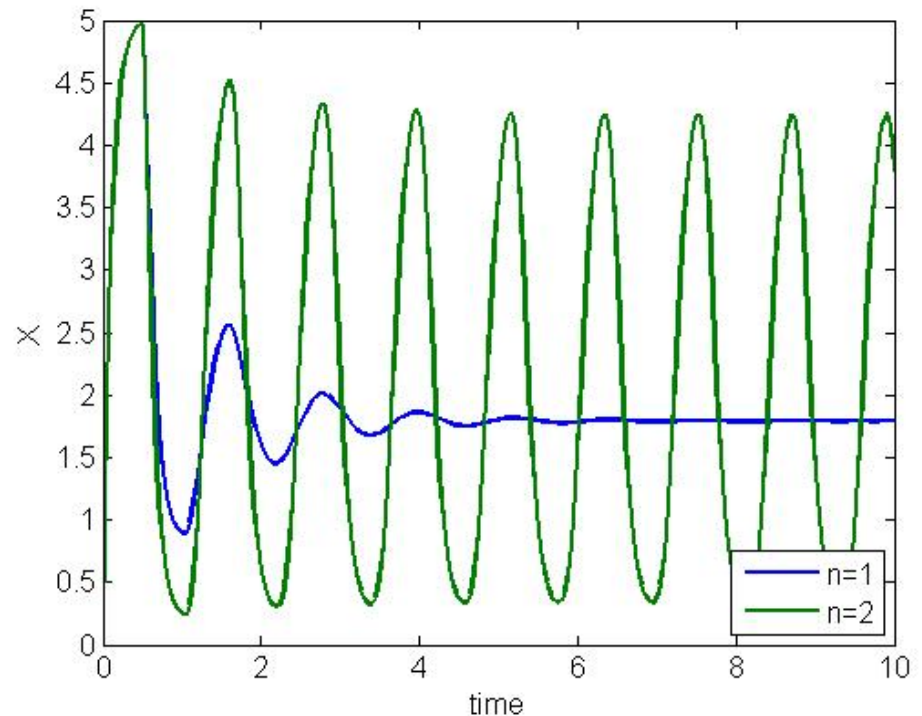
$$\dot{x} = \left( \frac{\alpha}{1 + x(\tau)^n} \right) - \beta x$$

$$\beta = 10$$

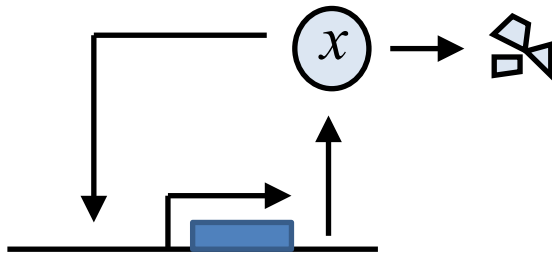
$$\alpha = 50$$

$$\tau = 0.5$$

$$n = ?$$



# Example: delayed autorepression, Metropolis algorithm



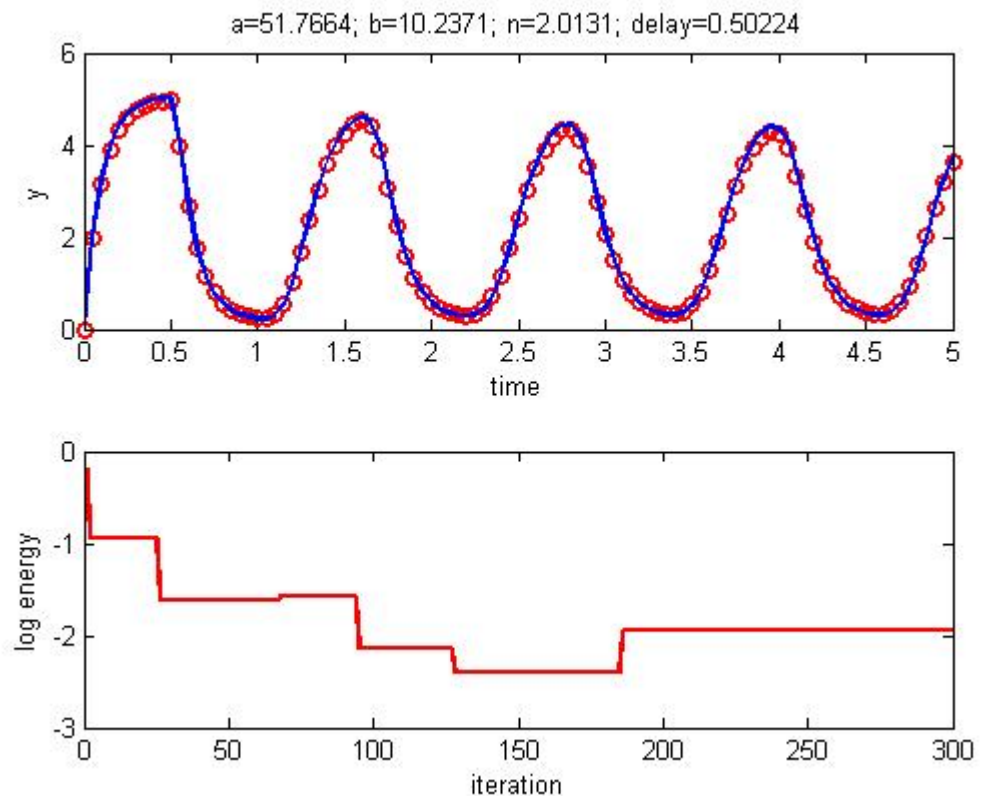
$$\dot{x} = \left( \frac{\alpha}{1 + x(\tau)^n} \right) - \beta x$$

$$\beta = ?$$

$$\alpha = ?$$

$$\tau = ?$$

$$n = ?$$

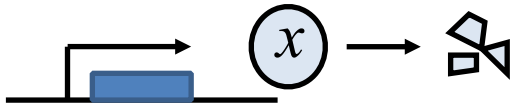


NFB\_del\_metropolis.m

# Fitting stochastic models

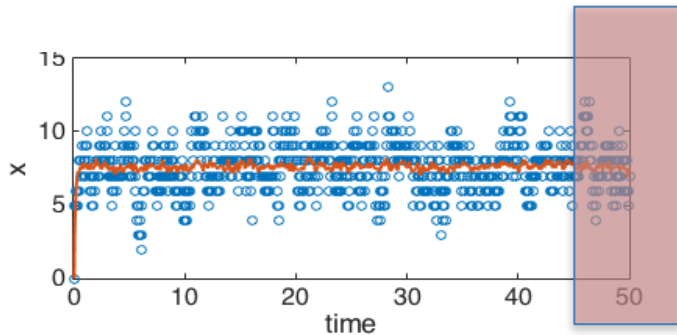
- Single output trajectory is noisy, may not be sufficient to fit the data
- Need good observed and simulated process statistics
- Consider other measures for the error function:
  - mean and standard deviation of variables
  - if periodic, mean of period or amplitude
  - if periodic, variance of peak heights or peak times
  - etc.
- Ex.:
$$E = \text{mean}((\text{mean}X_o - \text{mean}X)^2 + (\text{std}X_o - \text{std}X)^2)$$
$$E = \text{mean}((\text{mean}T_o - \text{mean}T)^2 + (\text{std}T_o - \text{std}T)^2)$$

# Example: stochastic synthesis degradation



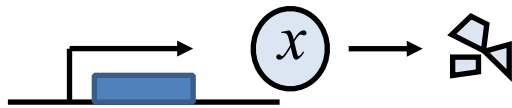
$$\dot{x} = \frac{\alpha}{1 + \left(\frac{x}{C_0}\right)^n} - gx$$

$$C_0 = 5 \quad n = 3 \quad \alpha = ? \quad g = ?$$



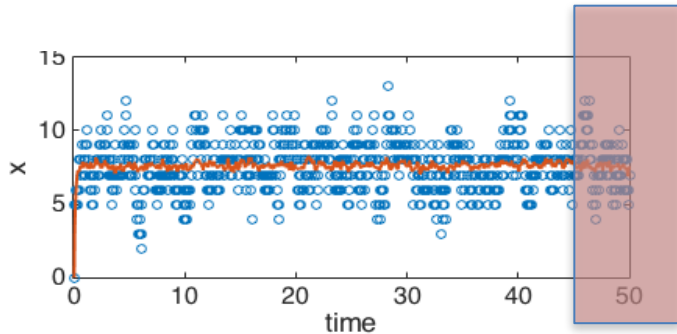
If we know the mean and std ...

# Example: stochastic synthesis degradation

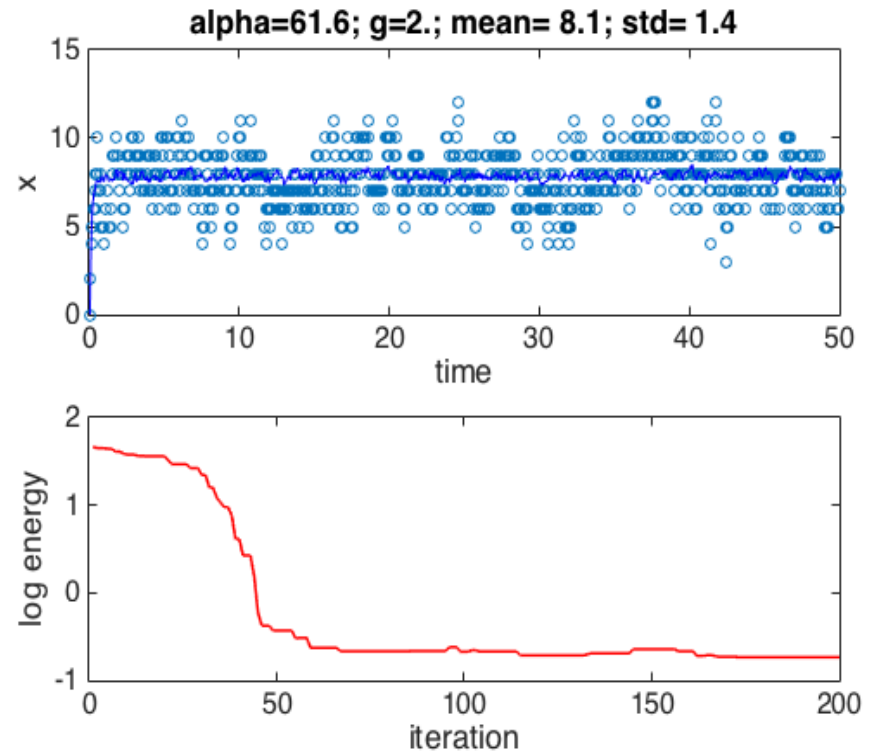


$$\dot{x} = \frac{\alpha}{1 + \left(\frac{x}{C_0}\right)^n} - gx$$

$$C_0 = 5 \quad n = 3 \quad \alpha = ? \quad g = ?$$



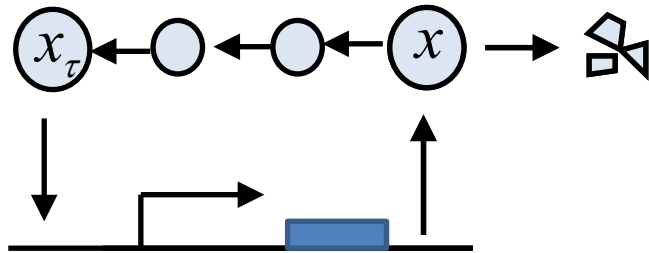
If we know the  
mean and std ...



**NFB\_syndeg\_gil\_metropolis.m**

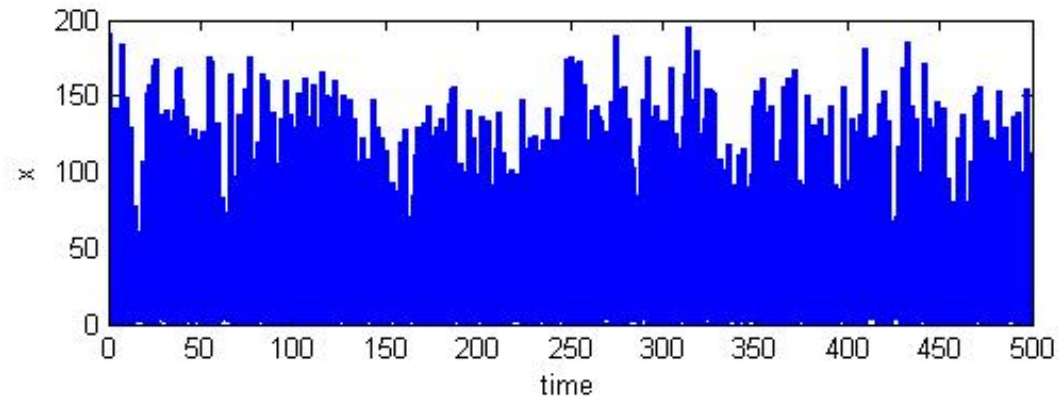
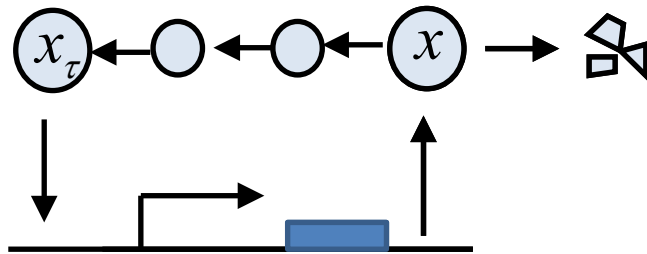


# Example: stochastic delayed autorepression

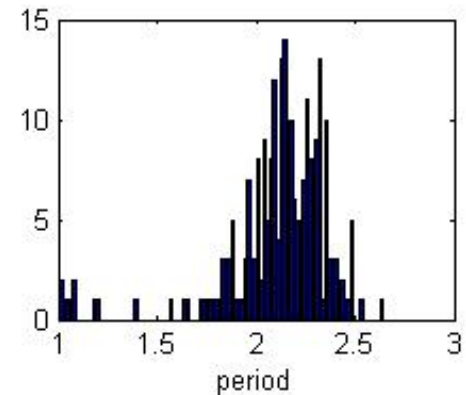
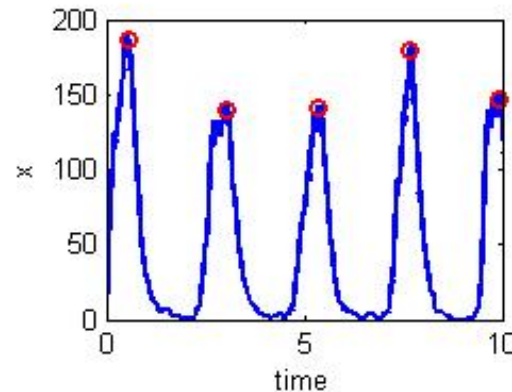


$$\dot{x} \approx \left( \frac{\alpha}{1 + x(\tau)^n} \right) - \beta x$$

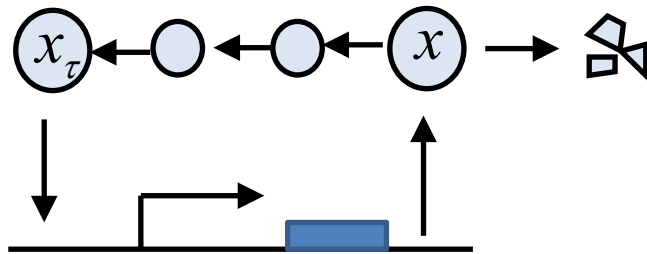
# Example: stochastic delayed autorepression



$$\dot{x} \approx \left( \frac{\alpha}{1 + x(\tau)^n} \right) - \beta x$$



# Example: stochastic delayed autorepression

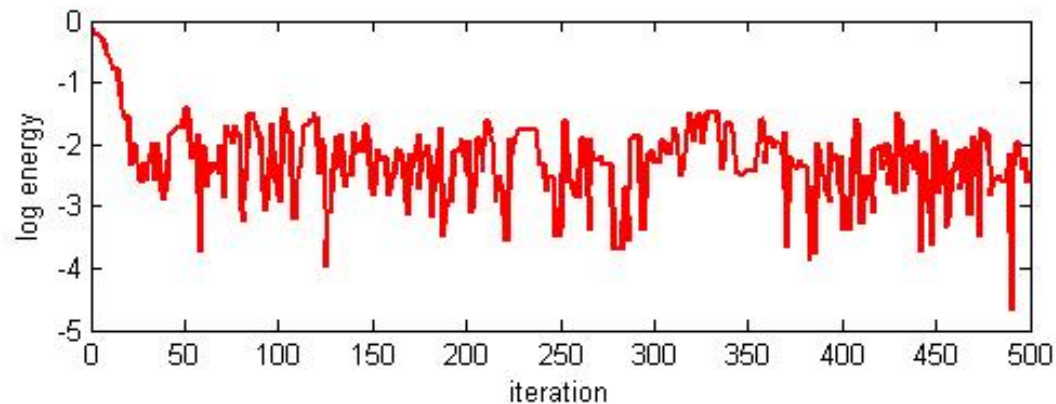
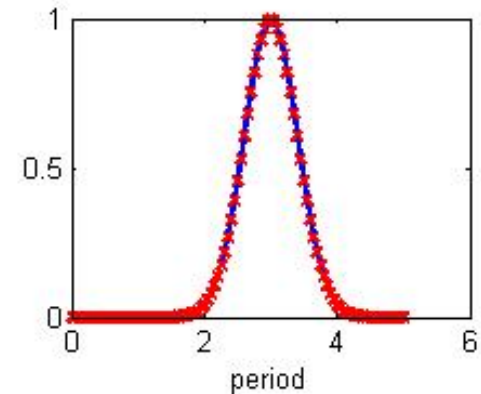
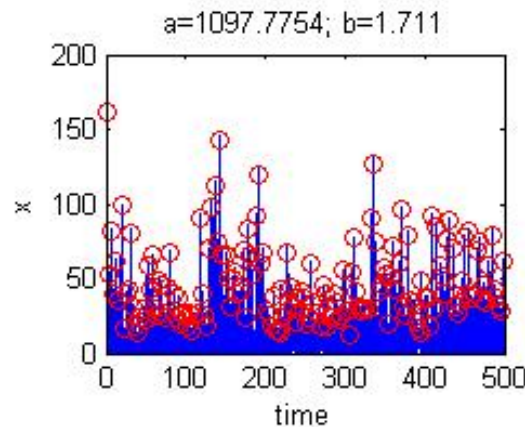


$$\dot{x} \approx \left( \frac{\alpha}{1 + x(\tau)^n} \right) - \beta x$$

$$\alpha = ?$$

$$\beta = ?$$

...



# Sensitivity Analysis

- Quantifying how much variation of inputs affects variation of output "observables" in the model
  - How model responses to parameters perturbation?
- Useful for:
  - Finding redundant, or inconsequential inputs
    - these may help simplify the model
  - Identifying inputs that cause high fluctuation for a given output
    - these inputs can be prioritized for further study
- Disclaimer:  
it can give incorrect results due to assumptions of the model

# Parameter sensitivity

- Quantifying how variation of parameters affect variation of output "observables" (ex.: direct output, steady state, period, amplitude)
- Local methods
  - Parameters are varied one at a time by a small amount, around steady state
  - the effect of individual perturbations on the outputs are calculated

$$S = \frac{(Output_a - Output_{ss}) / Output_{ss}}{(P_a - P_o) / P_o}$$

# Parameter sensitivity

For a general ODE model of the form:  $\frac{d\vec{x}}{dt} = f(\vec{x}, \vec{p}, t)$

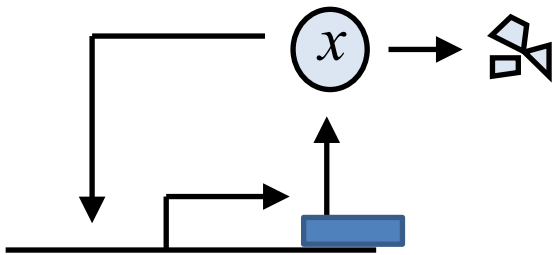
where  $\vec{x}$  is the vector of variables,  $\vec{p}$  is the m-vector of model parameters. Then, for given parameter set

$$x_i(t, \vec{p} + \Delta\vec{p}) = x_i(t, \vec{p}) + \sum_{j=1}^m \frac{\partial x_i}{\partial p_j} \Delta p_j + O(x^2)$$

First-order local sensitivity coefficients:  $S(x_i, p_j) = \frac{\partial x_i}{\partial p_j}$

In reality, sensitivity coefficients are normalized to be dimensionless (no unit):  $S(x_i, p_j) = \frac{\partial x_i / x_{i\_ss}}{\partial p_j / p_j}$

# Example: delayed negative feedback sensitivity



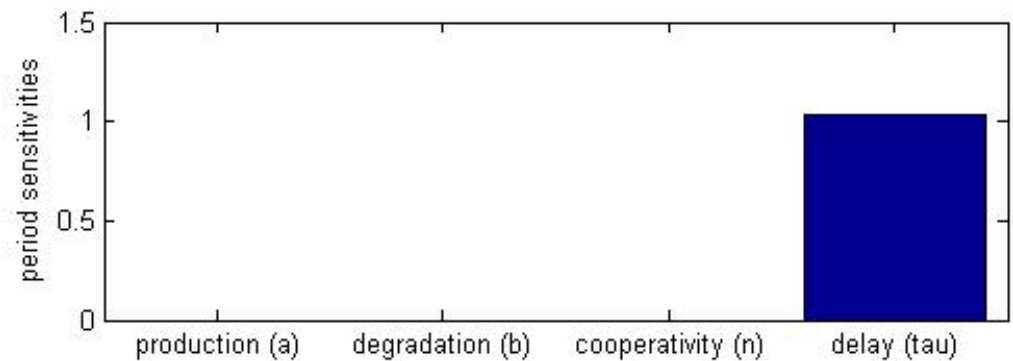
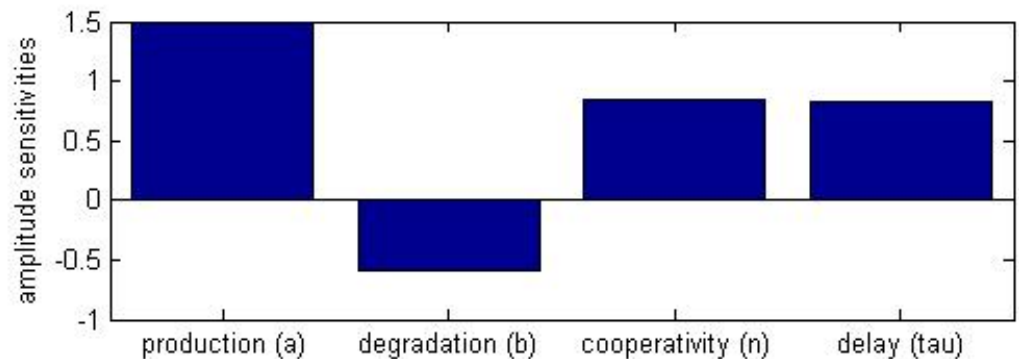
$$\dot{x} = \left( \frac{\alpha}{1 + x(\tau)^n} \right) - \beta x$$

$$\beta = 10;$$

$$\alpha = 50$$

$$n = 2$$

$$\tau = 0.5$$



NFB\_delay\_sens.m

# The end

- Thank you for your participation
- Exercise time!





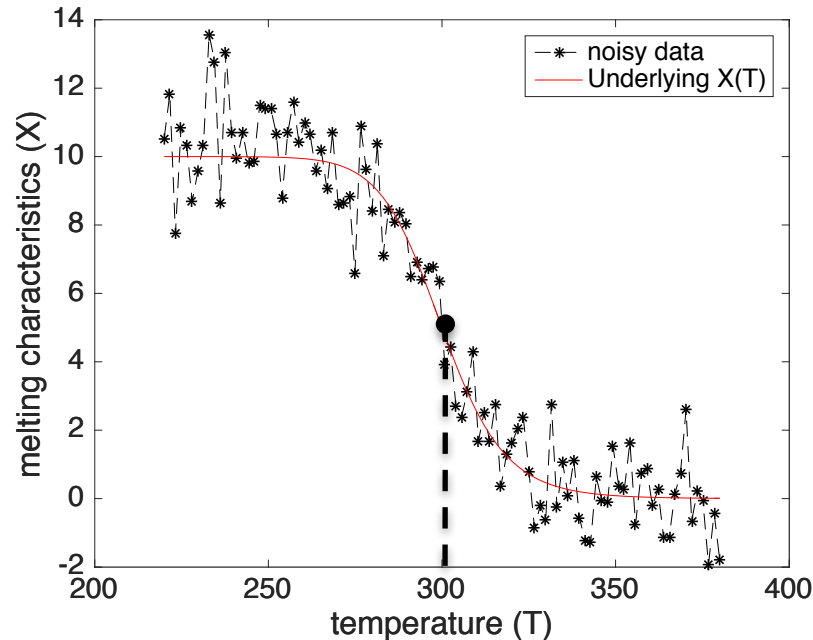
# Exercises

1. Load the exercise\_data.mat, try to fit the data to a positive feedback model with metropolis algorithm

$$\dot{x} = a + \frac{x^n}{1 + Kx^n} - bx, \quad (a, b, K, n)$$

2. Using bootstrap method to get the confidence intervals of parameters
3. Test whether a simple synthesis-degradation method would be a better model.
4. Tm problem (see next slide)

# Melting temperature problem



Melting temperature  $T_m = 300K$

Fit with:

$$X(T) = \frac{X_U + X_N K(T)}{1 + K(T)}$$

$$K(T) = \exp\left(\left(\frac{1}{T} - \frac{1}{T_m}\right) \cdot (\Delta E / k)\right)$$

Four parameters:  $T_m, X_U, X_N, (\Delta E / k)$

**Question:** given the noisy data, how confident can we be about the fitted  $T_m$ ?