**Table for reporting responses to reviewers’ comments**

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| **Examiners comment** | **Student’s response** | **Change made to thesis (if any)** | **Page reference** |
| Page 6, para 1, line 9. Change ” at the end of the line to “ and make this change throughout as  needed | Fixed. This error was not present anywhere else in the thesis. | Changed as requested | Page 6, para 1, line 9 |
| Page 6, para 3, line 3. Change graph to graphs. |  |  |  |
| Page 7, line 7. You may want to point to the definition of coupling time since it has not yet been defined |  |  |  |
| Page 9, line 2. Change n to *n* |  |  |  |
| Page 18, section 2.3.2.3, para1, last line. There are extra commas around the ... . Also, it seems like t\_2 is missing from the condition. |  |  |  |
| Page 48, last line, sentence starting with “Since our proof...”. It was unclear how you meant a similar approach could extend your results: To the criticial temperature? You do address some of this in the  conclusions to Part 1, but it might be good to clarify here what you mean. |  |  |  |
| For the second part of the thesis, it might be nice to have a brief summary of your results right before/after explaining Lindsay’s approach in section 6.2. I was left a bit unsure as to what the contribution of the thesis was until I had read through a good deal of Chapter 6. It would be nice to set your results in the context of the introduction is possible. It may also be nice to give a few  specific directions for future work in the area in section 6.5. |  |  |  |
| There is a problem with Figure 6.6 on page 80. The plot claims to show the ‘likelihood curve’ (f θ (x 1 ),f θ (x 2 )) as θ traverses the parameter space, with  (x 1 ,x 2 ) = (0,0.4) and f θ (x) = f(x−θ) where f(·) is ?the triangular density with width 1/2?. However, the form of this density is  f(x) = {  4 − 16|x| for |x| ≤ 0.25,  0 otherwise.  }  In particular the maximal value is 4, not 1 as suggested by the plot. The problem can be remedied by  - mutliplying the markings on the axes by 4 and  - replacing x 2 with 0.2  without changing the qualitative features of the plot. |  |  |  |
| The estimator (7.13) is not necessarily consistent without extra assumptions on the distribution of the errors U\_jk . In particular the Fourier transform φ\_U(t) must be real-valued, so the U\_jk 's need have a symmetric distribution about zero; see condition (2.2) in Delaigle et al. (2008). This should be mentioned at some point in the lead-up to (7.13); this is an opportune moment  to foreshadow the assumption A7 that is made in the following section. |  |  |  |
| The comparison of the MATLAB and R implementations of the methods of Chapter 7 is inadequate. Since computational implementation is the focus of Chapter 7, more work is needed to explain the observed differences in  performance between the MATLAB and R versions, other than to say ‘We are unsure as to why out implementation in R tends to produce worse objec-  tive values than out implementation in MATLAB....we do not know exactly what is going on.’ This last phrase should preferably not appear in a PhD  thesis, it would be better to identify a few possible causes and investigate them; even if they do not reveal anything it is important to show that such  issues are not to blame to assist other future researchers (perhaps this was done but not mentioned?).  There are various aspects one could explore, I list a few below (there are many others):  - Are there any tuning parameters used in either the MATLAB or R  implementations? If so, are they set to the same values?  - The R package NlcOptim is a third-party package written by an ‘ordinary R user’ (as opposed to a built-in function developed by the R Core Team). It is written entirely in R code, and does not appear to call any compiled C, Fortran or C++ code, unlike the general-purpose optimisation functions ‘built-in’ to R. Can the same be said of the MATLAB implementation? Does a Fortran, C or C++ version of this  algorithm exist which could be used in R (see the R extensions manual:  https://cran.r-project.org/doc/manuals/R-exts.pdf for how to  do this).  At least two possible causes should be investigated and reported on. |  |  |  |
| The reference numbered [56] seems to be incomplete and possibly incorrect; I could not find the work it seems to refer to |  |  |  |
| Page 75 I believe that σ\_2 = 0.4^2 should in fact be σ\_2 = 0.4^2 ; please check. |  |  |  |
| Page 78 It should be explicitly pointed out that H and H\_Q are the same, or the definition at (6.32) could be written as  H = H Q = ··· . |  |  |  |
| Page 83 I believe that in inequality (6.65), the θ\_j should be θ^∗ ; please check. |  |  |  |
| Pages 92-3 In the proof of Theorem 6.9, reference is made to results in Lemmas which have not yet been presented e.g. Lemma 6.10. In such cases  it would improve readability slightly to insert the word ‘below’ to make clear  to someone reading the work linearly that it has not yet been read (this is done at other points in the thesis but not here). |  |  |  |
| Page 112 At the end of the second paragraph of 7.2.4, it says ‘...we will  explore this further in Section 6.3’. It is perhaps the case that the intention was 7.3. Please confirm. |  |  |  |
| Page 116 It is better to use the term ‘mass point(s)’ when referring to the points of support of a discrete distribution. The term ‘mass(es)’ is ambiguous, is sometimes used for the actual probability/weight supported on the point, as well as for the point itself. |  |  |  |