Note on implicit filters

Florimond Guéniat, Lionel Mathelin, and Yussuf Hussaini Hussaini

 $^{1)}$ Department of mathematics, Florida State Univ., 32306-4510 Tallahassee, Fl, US

²⁾ LIMSI-CNRS, 91403 Orsay cedex, France

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I. INTRODUCTION

In this article, the numerical cost and the accuracy of Implicit Particle Filter (IPF) are quantified, using Burger's equations and shallow water equations as scenarios. Identifying the uncertities in a data assimilation problem are specifically addressed.

IPF aims at estimating the state, the initial conditions or some parameters of a system, by using a model and observations. The observations can be noisy, and the model can be uncertain.

When the model is linear, and the noise Gaussian, the most suited class of methods are the Kalman filters. Uncertaintities are directly related to the parameters of the Gaussian. The generalization of Kalman filters, ensemble Kalman filters, and eal with non-linear model by using replica (particles) of the system to represent the posterior density of solutions, but it can perform poorly when the errors and noises are not Gaussian, 4D-Var and cost function-minimization techniques are very popular methods, giving usually accurate results, but they fail at quantifying the uncertainties in the results, with respect to the noise in the model and observations. The sensitivity analysis can not be considered as accurate, as soon as the noise can not be considered as small cite Plessix, review . Moreover, results are actually biased if the posterior pdf is multimodal, 3.

Indeed, IPF have been successfully used for data assimilation,⁴, system identification,⁵, and parameter estimation. It is particularly relevant for multimodal pdf; it provides an unbiased estimate of the solutions,⁶. The method relies on a few, carefully chosen, particles for the quantification of the conditional pdf of the system. Identifying these particles is done through a (costly) minimization, ensuring that each particle is associated with an high probable area of the pdf. The moments of the estimated pdf, as in standard MCMC methods, might be used for quantifying the uncertainties.

In this article, the precision and accuracy of IPF is qualitatively shown, and a roadmap for tackling the computational costs issue is proposed.

II. 4D-VAR

A. Preliminaries

Let's consider the state vector \boldsymbol{x} of a system of interest, evolving on the $n_{\mathcal{D}}$ manifold \mathcal{D} . This field is modelized through the set of equations f:

$$f(\boldsymbol{x}, \dot{\boldsymbol{x}}, q, t) = 0. \tag{1}$$

The model might not be perfect. Flaws can come, from instance, from uncertainties in the model parameters q, or on some initial conditions. Consequently, a functional J is introduced, in order to fit the model by taking in account observations at hand:

$$J(\boldsymbol{x},q) = \int_0^T j(\boldsymbol{x},q,t)dt. \tag{2}$$

For instance, one may want to minimize the discrepancy between the model predictions and some observations y:

$$j(\boldsymbol{x},q,t) = |h(\boldsymbol{x},q,t) - y(t)|^2$$

In the data assimilation context, the initial conditions are actually derived from the array of parameters $q \in \mathbb{R}^{n_q}$, with a relation $g: \mathcal{D} \times \mathbb{R}^{n_q} \to \mathbb{R}$:

$$q(\mathbf{x}(0), q) = 0.$$

Minimizing J gives the best initial conditions, in the sense that Eq. (1) will produce fields as compatible as possible with the observations.

Efficient and reliable methods for minimizing, such as the BFGSref algorithm, need the gradient of the functional with respect to the parameters. When $n_{\mathcal{D}}$ is large, approximating the gradient with finite differences become impractical. An powerful alternative to compute the gradient is to solve the adjoint equationref.

B. Computing the gradient of the cost functional

1. Theoretical part

Identifying the minimum of the J relies on the gradient of the functional with respect to the parameters: $D_q J = \frac{DJ}{Dq}$. For that, one can introduce the Lagrangian \mathcal{L} , associated with the two lagrangian parameters λ and μ :

$$\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{x}, \dot{\boldsymbol{x}}, q, \lambda, \mu) = \int_0^T \left[j(\boldsymbol{x}, q, t) + \lambda^{\dagger} f(\boldsymbol{x}, \dot{\boldsymbol{x}}, q, t) \right] dt + \mu^{\dagger} g(\boldsymbol{x}(0), q)$$
(3)

where † is the transpose operator. As f and g are null by construction, λ and μ can be designed for alleviating the computations.

The gradient $D_q \mathcal{L} = \frac{D\mathcal{L}}{Dq}$ of \mathcal{L} is:

$$D_{q}\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{x}, \dot{\boldsymbol{x}}, q, \lambda, \mu) = \int_{0}^{T} \left[\partial_{u} j(\boldsymbol{x}, q, t) d_{q} u + \partial_{q} j(\boldsymbol{x}, q, t) + \lambda^{\dagger} \partial_{u} f(\boldsymbol{x}, \dot{\boldsymbol{x}}, q, t) d_{q} \boldsymbol{x} + \lambda^{\dagger} \partial_{\dot{\boldsymbol{x}}} f(\boldsymbol{x}, \dot{\boldsymbol{x}}, q, t) d_{q} \dot{\boldsymbol{x}} + \lambda^{\dagger} \partial_{q} f(\boldsymbol{x}, \dot{\boldsymbol{x}}, q, t) \right] dt + \mu^{\dagger} \partial_{\boldsymbol{x}(0)} g(\boldsymbol{x}(0), q) dq_{\boldsymbol{x}(0)} + \mu^{\dagger} \partial_{q} g(\boldsymbol{x}(0), q).$$

$$(4)$$

As a matter of facts, $D_q \mathcal{L} = D_q J$.

The term in $d_{\dot{x}}$ can not be easily estimated. An integration by parts gives:

$$\int_0^T \lambda^{\dagger} \partial_{\dot{\boldsymbol{x}}} f(\boldsymbol{x}, \dot{\boldsymbol{x}}, q, t) d_q \dot{\boldsymbol{x}} dt = [\lambda^{\dagger} \partial_{\dot{\boldsymbol{x}}} f(\boldsymbol{x}, \dot{\boldsymbol{x}}, q, t) d_q \boldsymbol{x}]_0^T - \int_0^T \left\{ \dot{\lambda}^{\dagger} \partial_{\dot{\boldsymbol{x}}} f(u, \dot{\boldsymbol{x}}, q, t) + \lambda^{\dagger} d_t \partial_{\dot{\boldsymbol{x}}} f(\boldsymbol{x}, \dot{\boldsymbol{x}}, q, t) \right\} d_q \boldsymbol{x} dt$$

The term associated with $d_{\dot{x}}$ can now be replaced in Eq. (4). Ordering terms in this equation leads to:

$$D_{q}\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{x},\dot{\boldsymbol{x}},q,\lambda,\mu) = \int_{0}^{T} \left[\left(\partial_{\boldsymbol{x}} j(\boldsymbol{x},q,t) + \lambda^{\dagger} \partial_{\boldsymbol{x}} f(\boldsymbol{x},\dot{\boldsymbol{x}},q,t) - \left\{ \dot{\lambda}^{\dagger} \partial_{\dot{\boldsymbol{x}}} f(\boldsymbol{x},\dot{\boldsymbol{x}},q,t) + \lambda^{\dagger} d_{t} \partial_{\dot{\boldsymbol{x}}} f(\boldsymbol{u},\dot{\boldsymbol{x}},q,t) \right\} \right) d_{q}\boldsymbol{x} + \partial_{q} j(\boldsymbol{x},q,t) + \lambda^{\dagger} \partial_{q} f(\boldsymbol{x},\dot{\boldsymbol{x}},q,t) \right] dt + \left\{ \mu^{\dagger} \partial_{\boldsymbol{x}} g(\boldsymbol{x},q) - \lambda^{\dagger} \partial_{\dot{\boldsymbol{x}}} f(\boldsymbol{u},\dot{\boldsymbol{x}},q,t) \right\} |_{0} dq_{\boldsymbol{x}(0)} + \mu^{\dagger} \partial_{q} g(\boldsymbol{x}(0),q) + \left\{ \lambda^{\dagger} \partial_{\dot{\boldsymbol{x}}} f(\boldsymbol{x},\dot{\boldsymbol{x}},q,t) \right\} |_{T} d_{q}\boldsymbol{x}(T)$$

$$(5)$$

Proper choices for λ and μ allow to simplify the expression of $D_q \mathcal{L}$. The choice of $\lambda(T) = 0$ actually nullifies the term $\{\lambda^{\dagger} \partial_{\dot{\boldsymbol{x}}} f(\boldsymbol{x}, \dot{\boldsymbol{x}}, q, t)\}|_T d_q \boldsymbol{x}(T)$. Then, λ can be chosen as the solution of the so-called adjoint equation:

$$\left(\partial_{\boldsymbol{x}} j(\boldsymbol{x},q,t) + \lambda^{\dagger} \partial_{\boldsymbol{x}} f(\boldsymbol{x},\dot{\boldsymbol{x}},q,t) - \left\{\dot{\lambda}^{\dagger} \partial_{\dot{\boldsymbol{x}}} f(\boldsymbol{x},\dot{\boldsymbol{x}},q,t) + \lambda^{\dagger} d_t \partial_{\dot{\boldsymbol{x}}} f(\boldsymbol{x},\dot{\boldsymbol{x}},q,t)\right\}\right) = 0$$

integrated in backward time. Finally, the lagrangian parameter μ is set so it nullifies the component associated with $dq_{x(0)}$:

$$\left\{ \mu^{\dagger} \partial_{\boldsymbol{x}} g(\boldsymbol{x}, q) - \lambda^{\dagger} \partial_{\dot{\boldsymbol{x}}} f(\boldsymbol{x}, \dot{\boldsymbol{x}}, q, t) \right\} |_{0} = 0.$$

Then, computing $D_q\mathcal{L}$, hence D_qJ , is achieved by the integration of:

$$D_q J(\boldsymbol{x}, q) = \int_0^T \left[\partial_q j(\boldsymbol{x}, q, t) + \lambda^{\dagger} \partial_q f(\boldsymbol{x}, \dot{\boldsymbol{x}}, q, t) \right] dt + \mu^{\dagger} \partial_q g(\boldsymbol{x}(0), q).$$
 (6)

III. SYSTEM

A. Burgers equations

The burger equation stochastic part? is:

$$\partial_t \mathbf{x} + \frac{1}{2} \partial_z \mathbf{x}^2 - \nu \partial_{zz}^2 \mathbf{x} = 0.$$

 \boldsymbol{x} evolves on an $n_{\mathcal{D}}$ -dimensional manifold \mathcal{D} . We consider that it has been spatially discretized. The field \boldsymbol{x} can hence be modelized by $\hat{\boldsymbol{x}}$ through a set of ordinary differential equations $f(\hat{\boldsymbol{x}}, \hat{\boldsymbol{x}}, q, t) = 0$.

$$\dot{\hat{x}} + L(\hat{x}, q, t) + NL(\hat{x}, q, t) = 0 \equiv f(\hat{x}, \dot{\hat{x}}, q, t),$$

where $q \in \mathbb{R}^q$ are the parameters of the model. The solution is discretized with n_x points linearly spaced: $\hat{x} \in \mathcal{R}^{n_x}$, following an implicit scheme, in order to be solved by Newton iterations. The symbol is dropped in the following for the sake of readability.

$$\frac{\boldsymbol{x}_{i}^{n+1} - \boldsymbol{x}_{i}^{n}}{\Delta t} + \boldsymbol{x}_{i}^{n+1} \frac{\boldsymbol{x}_{i}^{n+1} - \boldsymbol{x}_{i-1}^{n+1}}{\Delta z} - \nu \frac{\boldsymbol{x}_{i+1}^{n+1} - 2\boldsymbol{x}_{i}^{n+1} + \boldsymbol{x}_{i-1}^{n+1}}{\Delta z^{2}} = 0$$
 (7)

More informations can be found in Sec. A

B. Shallow waters quations

We consider the SWE equations (in its Ito form?):

$$\partial_t u = -u\partial_x u - v\partial_y u - f v - g\partial_x h - b u
\partial_t v = -u\partial_x v - v\partial_y v + f u - g\partial_y h - b v
\partial_t h = -\partial_x ((H+h)u) - \partial_y ((H+h)v),$$
(8)

Ito? Owhere u and v are the surface velocity, h (resp. H) is the deviation of height (resp. mean height) from the botton. f is the Coriolis coefficient and v is the viscous drag coefficient. g is the acceleration due to gravity. This equation is spatially discretized.

IV. PARTICLE METHODS AND IMPORTANCE SAMPLING

A. Preliminaries

Consider a stochastic dynamical system, in the Ito formalism, evolving on an $n_{\mathcal{D}}$ -dimensional manifold \mathcal{D} :

$$dx(t) = f(x(t)) dt + GdW, \qquad x \in \mathcal{D},$$
(9)

with x the state of the system and $\mathfrak{f}: \mathcal{D} \to \mathcal{D}$ the flow operator. dW is a an $n_{\mathcal{D}}$ -dimensional Brownian motion (Wienner process) and G a diffusion $n_{\mathcal{D}} \times n_{\mathcal{D}}$ matrix. With a proper time scheme¹ associated with a time step δt , Eq. (9) becomes:

$$\boldsymbol{x}\left(t_{0}+\left(n+1\right)\delta t\right)=\mathfrak{F}\left(\boldsymbol{x}\left(t_{0}+n\delta t\right)\right)+\boldsymbol{G}\sqrt{\delta t}\boldsymbol{E},\tag{10}$$

where E is an $n_{\mathcal{D}}$ -dimensional realisation of the Wiener process. This model is to be understand as space and time discretization of a set of partial differential equations.

Let $h: \mathcal{D} \to \mathbb{R}^{n_p}$ be a sensor function, so an observation on the system is:

$$y(t) = h(x,t) + \sqrt{S}Y, \tag{11}$$

Y is an n_p -dimensional, standard-normal random variable, and \sqrt{S} a covariance matrix. Let also consider, without any loss of generality, that G = gId and $\sqrt{S} = \sqrt{s}Id$. In the following, the time will be discretized accordingly to δt . For any variable \star , \star $(t_0 + n\delta t)$ will be shortened as \star_n .

¹ Kloeden, P. E., Platen, E. (1999). Numerical solution of stochastic differential equations. Berlin: Springer, Klauder Petersen scheme

Probabilities derived from the Ito formulation

The fact that noises in Eqs. (10) and (11) are Gaussian does not mean that the probability density function (pdf) associated with the state of the system is Gaussian, as it will be shown in the following.

The probability that the $n_{\mathcal{D}}$ -dimensional random variable X^{n+1} coincide with a solution of the system described in Eq. (9), at time n+1 and with the state x_n as initial condition, is given by:

$$P_{int}^{\boldsymbol{x}_{n},n+1}\left(X^{n+1}\right) = P\left(X^{n+1}|\boldsymbol{x}_{n}\right).$$

This probability only depends on the system equations, i.e. Eqs. (9) and (10). The noise being Gaussian, the conditional probability is:

$$P_{int}^{\boldsymbol{x}_{n},n+1}\left(X^{n+1}\right) \propto \exp\left(-\left\|X^{n+1} - \mathfrak{F}\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{n}\right)\right\|_{2}^{2} / 2\delta t g^{2}\right). \tag{12}$$

On an other hand, the probability that the observation of the variable X^{n+1} is compatible with the observation of the system is given by:

$$P_{obs}^{n+1}\left(X^{n+1}\right) = P\left(h\left(X^{n+1}\right)|y_{n+1}\right).$$

Again, this probability only depends on the sensor function, see Eq. (11):

$$P_{obs}^{n+1}(X^{n+1}) \propto \exp\left(-\|h(X^{n+1}) - y_{n+1}\|_{2}^{2}/2s\right).$$
 (13)

From the Bayes' theorem, by combining Eq. (12) and Eq. (13), the probability $P_{SI}^{x_n,n+1}$ that X^{n+1} is a possible outcome from the previous state x_n , given the observation y_{n+1} , is:

$$P_{SI}^{\boldsymbol{x}_{n},n+1}\left(X^{n+1}\right) \propto P_{int}^{\boldsymbol{x}_{n},n+1}\left(X^{n+1}\right)P_{obs}^{n+1}\left(X^{n+1}\right) \tag{14}$$

From this writing, as a product, the pdf of $P_{SI}^{x_n,n+1}$ is not normal.

Generalization is straightforward. Having several observations $\{y_{n+i}\}_{\{i\in\{1,\dots,r\}\}}$ available at hand, between time t_n and t_{n+r} , is common. Consequently, Eq. (14) becomes:

$$P_{SI}^{\boldsymbol{x}_{n},n+r}\left(\boldsymbol{X}_{n+1}^{n+r}\right) \propto \prod_{i=1}^{r} P_{int}^{X^{n+i-1},n+i}\left(X^{n+i}\right) \prod_{i \in \{1,\dots,r\}} P_{obs}^{n_{i}}\left(X^{n+i}\right), \tag{15}$$

where $\boldsymbol{X}_{n+1}^{n+r} = \left\{X^{n+1}, \dots, X^{n+r}\right\}$ is now a $r \times n_{\mathcal{D}}$ -dimensional random variable, coinciding with a potential trajectory of the state between n+1 and n+r, and with $X^n = x_n$.

The probability P_{DA}^n that the system is in a given state X^n at the given time n can be derived from Eq. (15):

$$P_{DA}^{n}\left(\boldsymbol{X}_{n}^{n+r}\right) \propto \prod_{i=1}^{r} P_{int}^{X^{n+i-1},n+i}\left(X^{n+i}\right) \prod_{i \in \{1,\dots,r\}} P_{obs}^{n_{i}}\left(X^{n+i}\right), \tag{16}$$

with $X_{n+1}^{n+r} = \{X^n, \dots, X^{n+r}\}$. Data assimilation, as system identification, aims at identifying the state of the considered system, at any desired time. Consequently, $\chi \equiv \operatorname{argmax}(P_{DA}^n)$ (resp. $\chi \equiv \operatorname{argmax}(P_{SI}^{x_n,n+r})$ corresponds to the best solution of the data assimilation (resp. system identification) problem,⁴⁻⁶. The form of Eqs. (12) and (13) implies that minimizing $F_{SI} = -\log P_{SI}^{x_n,n+r}$ and $F_{DA} = -\log P_{DA}^n$ is numerically preferable.

In the following, the notation P (resp. F) will refer indistinctly to $P_{SI}^{\boldsymbol{x}_n,n+r}$ or P_{DA}^n (resp. F_{SI} or F_{DA}), when no confusion is possible. Similarly, X will refer to the considered random variable, and its dimension will be short-named

Identifying the maximum can be, alternatively, efficiently done by 4D-VAR, refs, when the distribution associated with P_{DA} is known to be mono-modal².

² if note, the estimation might be biased. Weir 2013

For state identification, as for data assimilation, the initial conditions x_n in Eq. (15) are often unknown. This problem is usually tackled by considering m particles, *i.e.* replicas of the system³. For each particle i, an initial condition x_n^i is guessed. Maxima are computed from Eq. (15), for all the initial guesses.

By the law of large numbers, it allows to estimate the moments of the pdf, that is, for system identification, the mean state x_n , by averaging the results.

Estimating the moments of the a given pdf might need a consequent number of particles refs, and both the storage and the identification of samples from that pdf might be near to impossible. Actually, when strictly following the law of large numbers, all the particles has the same importance. An option is, instead of drawing random particles, to identify particles more representative of the probability density function (pdf) associated with P. Hence, less particles are needed for an accurate estimation of the pdf properties.

C. Importance sampling

Intuitively, a particle carries more information on the probability, as soon as it is associated with a high probability in Eq. (14) (resp. (15) or (16)). Moreover, estimations of the pdf properties rely on drawing samples from the pdf. A sample has to be a possible outcome of the physical system described by Eq. (9) for being meaningful.

Importance sampling, 4,5 , ref is allows to tackle both these issues. The key is to consider an easy-to-sample pdf p. Some samples X_i are drawn from it. These samples are mapped with the actually hard-to-sample pdf P. It also provides a quantification of the importance of each sample with respect to the pdf, namely the weight of each particle, so the estimation of the moments are not biased.

The weights of X_i are:

$$w(X_i) = \frac{P(X_i)}{p(X_i)}. (17)$$

For being efficient, it is necessary that the maxima of p and P coincide. If not, some particles will be associated with low weights, and are hence of a low importance. Because of potential storage limitations and computational costs, such particles are to be avoided, and the objective is to identify particles with comparable weights.

In order to construct a p density, let consider ξ , an intermediate random variable. ξ is drawn from a $n_{\mathcal{D}}$ -dimensional Gaussian pdf. Such a variable is, of course, far from being a possible outcome of the physical system. It will be used as an intermediate for identifying a high probability sample X, solution of the algebraic equation,⁵:

$$F(X) - \Phi_F = \xi^t \xi / 2,\tag{18}$$

where $\Phi_F = F(\chi)$ is the given minimum of F, identified for instance with a 4D-VAR method.

The sample X has then an high probability to remains close to χ , as ξ is drawn for a 0 mean pdf.

In order to identify the weight from Eq. (17), one has to compute the probability $p_X(X)$ of drawing X from Eq. (18). By the substitution rule, p_X is related to the probability $P_{\xi}(\xi)$ of drawing the sample ξ by:

$$p_X(X)\left|\det\frac{\partial X}{\partial \xi}\right| = P_{\xi}(\xi).$$

Consequently, with Eq. (17), the weight associated to the sample X is:

$$w(X) = \frac{P(X)}{P_{\xi}(\xi) / \left| \det \frac{\partial X}{\partial \xi} \right|}.$$
 (19)

D. Random map

Solving Eq. (18) is a necessary step. For that, Morzfeld et al.⁵ proposed to use the following ansatz:

$$X = X(\lambda) = \chi + \lambda L^t \xi / \sqrt{\xi^t \xi}, \tag{20}$$

 $^{^3\,}$ e.g., in Markov Chain Monte Carlo simulations

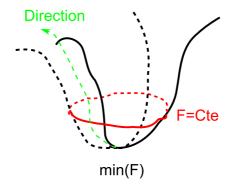


FIG. 1. Illustration of the methodology for drawing samples. The red curve corresponds to iso-values of $F(X) = Fmin + 1/2\xi^T \xi$. The green curve illustrate the random direction associated with ξ . The sample is found at the intersection of these two curves.

where λ is a real parameter, and L^t is the Choleski decomposition of H^{-1} , H being the Hessian of F, evaluated in χ . It minimizes the dispersion of the jacobian $\left|\det \frac{\partial X}{\partial \xi}\right|$ when considering different particles, and hence the dispersion of weights,⁵.

A BFGS-algorithm is then used for identifying the λ minimizing Eq. (18).

Computing the weight needs the evaluation of the jacobian of the maps between the reference sample X and the random variable ξ . Following⁵, let be $\rho = \sqrt{\xi^t \xi}$.

Differentiating Eq. (20) leads to:

$$\frac{\partial X}{\partial \xi} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} \lambda L^t \xi / \sqrt{\xi^t \xi}
= L^t \left(\frac{\partial \lambda}{\partial \xi} \xi / \sqrt{\xi^t \xi} + \lambda \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} \xi / \sqrt{\xi^t \xi} \right)$$
(21)

V. RESULTS

A. Burgers equations

To illustrate the methodology discussed above, we now consider the Burgers' equations presented is Sec. III A. The objective is the identification of the initial conditions, knowing only some observations.

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Appendix A: Burgers' equations and adjoint equations

We recall here the expression fro Eq. (7):

$$\frac{\boldsymbol{x}_{i}^{n+1} - \boldsymbol{x}_{i}^{n}}{\Delta t} + \boldsymbol{x}_{i}^{n+1} \frac{\boldsymbol{x}_{i}^{n+1} - \boldsymbol{x}_{i-1}^{n+1}}{\Delta z} - \nu \frac{\boldsymbol{x}_{i+1}^{n+1} - 2\boldsymbol{x}_{i}^{n+1} + \boldsymbol{x}_{i-1}^{n+1}}{\Delta z^{2}} = 0$$

The ith component of f is then:

$$f_i\left(\boldsymbol{x}, \dot{\boldsymbol{x}}, q, t\right) = \dot{\boldsymbol{x}}_i + \boldsymbol{x}_i \frac{\boldsymbol{x}_i - \boldsymbol{x}_{i-1}}{\Delta z} - \nu \frac{\boldsymbol{x}_{i+1} - 2\boldsymbol{x}_i + \boldsymbol{x}_{i-1}}{\Delta z^2}.$$

Consequently, the partial derivatives with respect to \boldsymbol{x} are:

$$\partial_{\boldsymbol{x}_{j}}f_{i}\left(\boldsymbol{x},\dot{\boldsymbol{x}},q,t\right)=\frac{1}{\Delta z}\left(2\boldsymbol{x}_{i}\delta_{i,j}-\delta_{i-1,j}\right)+\frac{1}{\Delta z^{2}}\left(\delta_{i+1,j}-2\delta_{i,j}+\delta_{i+1,j}\right).$$

The partial derivative with respect to \dot{x} is:

$$\partial_{\dot{x}} f(x, \dot{x}, q, t) = Id,$$

and then

$$dt\partial_{\dot{\boldsymbol{x}}}f\left(\boldsymbol{x},\dot{\boldsymbol{x}},q,t\right)=0.$$

The cost function is associated with:

$$j(\boldsymbol{x},q,t) = ||\boldsymbol{x} - y(t)||^2$$

Hence, the partial derivatives with respect to q and x:

$$\partial_q j(\boldsymbol{x}, q, t) = 0,$$

$$\partial_{\mathbf{x}} j(\mathbf{x}, q, t) = 2 * (\mathbf{x} - y(t)).$$

The parameters q are actually the initial conditions. Hence, n_q is equal to n_D . As a matter of fact, g is:

$$g(\mathbf{x}(0), q) = \mathbf{x}(0) - q = 0.$$

Then, the partial derivatives of g follow:

$$\partial_q g(\boldsymbol{x}(0), q) = -Id,$$

and

$$\partial_u g(\boldsymbol{x},q)|_0 = Id.$$