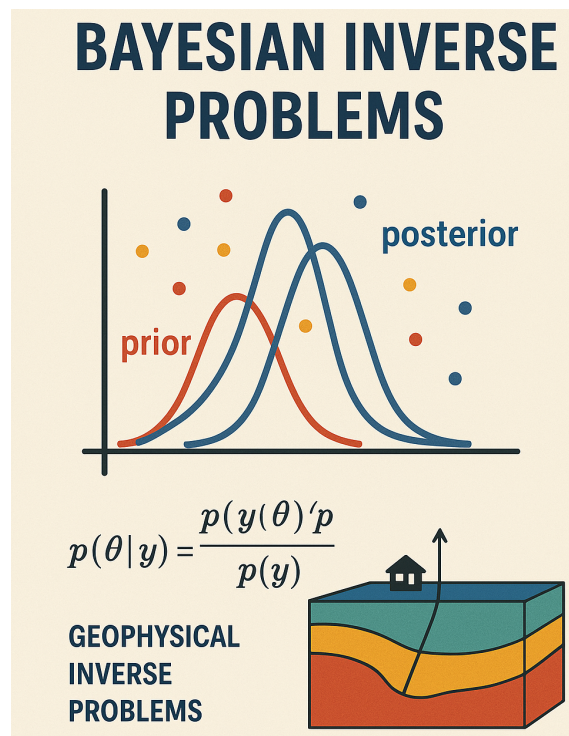


Inverse Problems and DA PRACTICAL

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Practical for Lecture 01

Ex. 1—III-Posedness

Consider the highly nonlinear Duffing's equation,

$$\ddot{x} + 0.05\dot{x} + x^3 = 7.5 \cos t$$

with (true) initial state $x(0) = 3$ and $\dot{x}(0) = 4$. This equation exhibits high sensitivity to the initial conditions.

1. Solve the equation using a suitable ODE integrator over the interval $t \in [0, 50]$.
2. Show that two very closely spaced initial states lead to a large discrepancy in the trajectories:
 - introduce an error of 0.03% - until when do we have an accurate forecast?
 - introduce an error of 0.06% - until when do we have an accurate forecast?

Ex. 2—Deterministic Inversion: Adjoint Method

- See slides of DA on Adjoints, pp. 4–14.

Consider the **convection-diffusion** equation, where the **diffusion coefficient is spatially varying**. This model is close to many physical situations, where the medium is not homogeneous and we have zones with differing diffusive properties.

- The system is described by

$$\begin{cases} -(a(x)u'(x))' - u'(x) = q(x), & 0 < x < 1, \\ u(0) = 0, \quad u(1) = 0. \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

- Define the L_2 -mismatch cost function as

$$J[a] = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 (u(x) - u^{\text{obs}}(x))^2 \, dx, \quad (2)$$

where $u^{\text{obs}}(x)$ denotes the observations on $[0, 1]$.

- Objective: Derive the gradient using the **Lagrangian** (or variational formulation).
- Step 1: Let the cost function

$$J^*[a, p] = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 (u(x) - u^{\text{obs}}(x))^2 dx + \int_0^1 p \left(- (au')' - u' - q \right) dx,$$

noting that

- \Rightarrow the second integral is zero when u is a solution of (1)
- \Rightarrow and that the **adjoint variable**, p , can be considered here to be a **Lagrange multiplier** function.

- Step 2: Take the variation of J^* with respect to

its variables, a and p ,

$$\begin{aligned}\delta J^* &= \int_0^1 (u - u^{\text{obs}}) \delta u \, dx \\ &+ \int_0^1 \delta p \overbrace{\left(- (au')' - u' - q \right)}^{=0} \, dx \\ &+ \int_0^1 p \left[(-\delta a u' - a \delta u' - \delta u)' \right].\end{aligned}$$

- Step 3: Integrate by parts, passing derivatives from u to p and define the **adjoint equation** and boundary conditions on p so as to obtain an integral expression for the variation δJ^* . Assume zero boundary conditions on the perturbation δu .
- Step 4: Based on the key result relating the variation to the gradient,

$$\delta J \doteq \nabla_{\mathbf{m}} J \delta \mathbf{m},$$

prove that the explicit expression for the gradient of J^* with respect to the unknown parameter a is given by

$$\nabla_{a(x)} J^* = u' p'.$$

- Conclusion: With
 - ⇒ one solution of the direct system (1), plus
 - ⇒ one solution of the adjoint system for p , we recover the gradient of the cost function with respect to the sought for diffusion coefficient, $a(x)$.
 - ⇒ This gradient can then be used to find (numerically) the optimal function $a(x)$ that minimizes J by a suitable descent algorithm, usually by a quasi-Newton method.

Ex. 3: Adjoint method—constant parameter case

- The code `adj_inv.py` solves a constant-valued parameter estimation inverse problem

$$-bu''(x) + cu'(x) = f(x))$$

with $u(0) = u(1) = 0$ and the cost function (2).

- Create a fully-documented notebook based on this code, with:
 - ⇒ formulation of the problem;
 - ⇒ presentation of the adjoint equation and the expression for the cost function and its gradient.
- Run the code and compare the accuracy of the inversion for:
 - ⇒ varying noise levels, starting from zero;

- ⇒ varying initial guesses for b and c ;
- ⇒ tuning of the L-BFGS optimizer.
- Draw detailed conclusions regarding the complexity (difficulties) of the inversion.

Ex. 4: Adjoint method—variable parameter case

In Exercise 2 above, we derived the adjoint state and cost function gradient for the **convection-diffusion** ordinary differential equation, with a **spatially varying diffusion coefficient**.

- The code `adj_inv_cx.py` solves a slightly simpler version of the variable parameter estimation inverse problem, where

$$-u'' + c(x)u' = f(x)$$

with $u(0) = u(1) = 0$ and the cost function (2).

- Create a fully-documented notebook based on this code, with

⇒ formulation of the problem;

- ⇒ presentation of the adjoint equation and the expression for the cost function and its gradient;
- ⇒ explanation of the regularization strategy.
- Run the code and compare the accuracy of the inversion for
 - ⇒ varying noise levels, starting from zero;
 - ⇒ varying initial guesses for $c(x)$;
 - ⇒ different (simpler) functions for the spatially-varying coefficient $c(x)$.
- Draw detailed conclusions regarding the complexity (difficulties) of the inversion.

Ex. 5: Adjoint method—Linear PDE

- The natural extension of the ordinary differential equations seen above is the initial-boundary-value problem known as the **diffusion equation**,

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \nabla \cdot (\nu \nabla u) = 0, \quad x \in (0, L), \quad t > 0,$$
$$u(x, 0) = u_0(x), \quad u(0, t) = 0, \quad u(L, t) = \eta(t).$$

- This equation has multiple origins emanating from different physical situations.
 - ⇒ The most common application is **particle diffusion**, where u is a concentration and ν is a diffusion coefficient.
 - ⇒ Then there is **heat diffusion**, for which u is a temperature and ν is a thermal conductivity.
 - ⇒ The equation is also found in finance, being closely related to the Black-Scholes model.

- ⇒ Another important application is **population dynamics**.
- ⇒ These diverse application fields, and hence the diffusion equation, give rise to a number of **inverse and data assimilation problems**.
- A variety of different controls can be applied to this system:
 - ⇒ **internal** control, $\nu(x)$: this is the parameter identification problem, also known as tomography;
 - ⇒ **initial** control, $\xi(x) = u_0(x)$: this is a source detection IP or DA problem;
 - ⇒ **boundary** control, $\eta(t) = u(L, t)$: this is the “classical” boundary control problem, also a parameter identification IP.
- As above, we can define the mismatch/L2 **cost function**,

$$J[\nu, \xi, \eta] = \frac{1}{LT} \int_0^T \int_0^L (u - u^{\text{obs}})^2 \, dx \, dt,$$

which is now a space-time multiple integral, and its related **LAGRANGIAN**,

$$J^* = \frac{1}{LT} \int_0^T \int_0^L (u - u^{\text{obs}})^2 \, dx \, dt \\ + \frac{1}{LT} \int_0^T \int_0^L p [u_t - (\nu u_x)_x] \, dx \, dt.$$

- Now take the variation of J^* ,

$$\delta J^* = \frac{1}{LT} \int_0^T \int_0^L 2(u - u^{\text{obs}}) \delta u \, dx \, dt \\ + \frac{1}{LT} \int_0^T \int_0^L \delta p \overbrace{[u_t - (\nu u_x)_x]}^{=0} \, dx \, dt \\ + \frac{1}{LT} \int_0^T \int_0^L p [\delta u_t - (\delta \nu u_x + \nu \delta u_x)_x] \, dx \, dt,$$

and perform **integration by parts** to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\delta J^* = & \frac{1}{LT} \int_0^T \int_0^L \delta \nu u_x p_x \, dx \, dt \quad (3) \\ & - \frac{1}{LT} \int_0^L p \, \delta u|_{t=0} \, dx \\ & + \frac{1}{LT} \int_0^T p \, \delta \eta|_{x=L} \, dt,\end{aligned}$$

where we have defined the **adjoint equation** as

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial p}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\nu \nabla p) &= 2(u - u^{\text{obs}}), \quad x \in (0, L), \quad t > 0 \\ p(0, t) &= 0, \quad p(L, t) = 0, \\ p(x, T) &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

- As before, this equation is of the same type as the original diffusion equation, but must be solved **backwards in time**.
- Finally, from (3) we can pick off each of the three

desired terms of the gradient,

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla_{\nu(x)} J^* &= \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T u_x p_x \, dt, \\ \nabla_{u|_{t=0}} J^* &= -p|_{t=0}, \\ \nabla_{\eta|_{x=L}} J^* &= p|_{x=L}.\end{aligned}$$

- **Conclusion:**

- ⇒ Once again, at the expense of a single (backward) solution of the adjoint equation, we obtain explicit expressions for the gradient of the cost function with respect to each of the three control variables.
- ⇒ This is quite remarkable and completely avoids “brute force” or exhaustive minimization, though, as mentioned earlier, we only have the guarantee to find a local minimum.
- ⇒ However, if we have a good starting guess that is usually obtained from historical or other “phys-

ical” knowledge of the system, we are sure to arrive at a good (or at least, better) minimum.

- **Exercise:** go through the calculations, step-by-step, and reproduce the results.

Ex. 6: Adjoint method—Nonlinear PDE

We study here Burgers' Equation (a simplified, but realistic model for **Navier-Stokes**) with control of the initial condition and boundary control.

- Viscous Burgers equation in the interval $x \in [0, L]$ is defined by

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} - \nu \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} &= f, \\ u(0, t) &= \psi_1(t), \quad u(L, t) = \psi_2(t), \\ u(x, 0) &= u_0(x).\end{aligned}$$

- The **control vector**

$$(u_0(x), \psi_1(t), \psi_2(t)).$$

- The **cost function** is taken as

$$J(u_0, \psi_1, \psi_2) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T \int_0^L (u - u^{\text{obs}})^2 dx dt.$$

- The **adjoint model** is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial p}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + \nu \frac{\partial^2 p}{\partial x^2} &= u^{\text{obs}} - u, \\ p(0, t) &= 0, \quad p(L, t) = 0, \\ p(x, T) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

- **Gradient/variation/directional derivative** of J is finally,

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{J} [u_0, \psi_1, \psi_2] (\delta_u, \delta_1, \delta_2) &= - \int_0^L \delta_u p(x, 0) dx \\ &\quad + \int_0^T \nu \delta_2 \frac{\partial p}{\partial x}(L, t) \\ &\quad - \nu \delta_1 \frac{\partial p}{\partial x}(0, t) dt \end{aligned}$$

that gives,

$$\nabla_{u_0} J = -p(x, t = 0)$$

$$\nabla_{\psi_1} J = -\nu \frac{\partial p}{\partial x}(x = 0, t)$$

$$\nabla_{\psi_2} J = \nu \frac{\partial p}{\partial x}(x = L, t).$$

- These explicit gradients enable us to solve **inverse problems** for
 - ⇒ the initial condition, which is a **data assimilation** problem;
 - ⇒ or for the boundary conditions, which is an optimal **boundary control** problem;
 - ⇒ or for both.
- **Exercise:** Consider a parameter identification

problem for the viscosity ν . Derive the adjoint and gradient expressions for this case.

DA Codes

Various open-source repositories and codes are available for both academic and operational data assimilation.

1. DARC: <https://research.reading.ac.uk/met-darc/> from Reading, UK.
2. DAPPER: <https://github.com/nansencenter/DAPPER> from Nansen, Norway.
3. DART: <https://dart.ucar.edu/> from NCAR, US, specialized in ensemble DA.
4. OpenDA: <https://www.openda.org/>.
5. Verdandi: <http://verdandi.sourceforge.net/> from INRIA, France.

6. PyDA: <https://github.com/Shady-Ahmed/PyDA>, a Python implementation for academic use.
7. Filterpy: <https://github.com/rlabbe/filterpy>, dedicated to KF variants.
8. EnKF; <https://enkf.nersc.no/>, the original Ensemble KF from Geir Evensen.