

1 Estimating the Model via Data Augmentation: Parameterization Issues

A well known method to estimate the model is via data augmentation (DA) using forward filtering backward sampling (FFBS), as in Frühwirth-Schnatter [1994] and Carter and Kohn [1994]. The basic idea is to implement a Gibbs sampler with two blocks. The generic DA algorithm with parameter ϕ , augmented data θ , and data y obtains the $k + 1$ 'st state of the Markov chain, $\phi^{(k+1)}$, from the k 'th state, $\phi^{(k)}$ as follows:

Algorithm 1.

1. Draw θ from $p(\theta|\phi^{(k)}, y)$
2. Draw $\phi^{(k+1)}$ from $p(\phi|\theta, y)$

The first block runs a simulation smoother which draws the latent states from their conditional posterior distribution given the model parameters. This can be accomplished in a number of ways. FFBS is the original method proposed by Frühwirth-Schnatter [1994] and Carter and Kohn [1994], but alternatives include Koopman [1993], De Jong and Shephard [1995] and McCausland et al. [2011]. The second block draws $\phi = (V, W)$ from their joint conditional posterior which in this model turns out to be independent inverse Wishart distributions. In particular

$$V|\theta_{0:T}, y_{1:T} \sim IW\left(\Lambda_V + \sum_{t=1}^T v_t v_t', \lambda_V + T\right)$$

$$W|\theta_{0:T}, y_{1:T} \sim IW\left(\Lambda_W + \sum_{t=1}^T w_t w_t', \lambda_W + T\right)$$

where $v_t = y_t - F_t \theta_t$ and $w_t = \theta_t - G_t \theta_{t-1}$. We are calling this algorithm the *state sampler*.

The main problem with the state sampler is that in some regions of the parameter space, the Markov chain mixes poorly for some of the parameters. For example, in the univariate local level model ($F_t = G_t = 1$ for $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$) and similar models it is known that if the time constant variance of the latent states, W , is too small, mixing will be poor for W Frühwirth-Schnatter [2004].

One well known method of improving mixing and convergence in MCMC samplers is reparameterizing the model. Papaspiliopoulos et al. [2007] is a good summary. Most of the work in some way focuses on what are called centered and noncentered parameterizations. In our general notation where ϕ is the parameter, θ is the DA and y is the data, the parameterization (ϕ, θ) is a *centered parameterization* (CP) if $p(y|\theta, \phi) = p(y|\theta)$. The parameterization is a *noncentered parameterization* (NCP) if $p(\theta|\phi) = p(\theta)$. When (ϕ, θ) is a CP, θ is called a *centered augmentation* (CA) for ϕ and when (ϕ, θ) is a NCP, θ is called a *noncentered augmentation* (NCA) for ϕ . A centered augmentation is sometimes called a *sufficient augmentation* (SA) and a noncentered augmentation is sometimes called an *ancillary augmentation* (AA), e.g. in Yu and Meng [2011]. Like Yu and Meng, we prefer the latter terminology because it immediately suggests the intuition that a sufficient augmentation is like a sufficient statistic while an ancillary augmentation is like an ancillary statistic.

The key reasoning behind the emphasis on SAs and AAs is that typically when the DA algorithm based on the SA has nice mixing and convergence properties the DA algorithm based on the AA has poor mixing and convergence properties and vice versa. In other words, the two algorithms form a “beauty and the beast” pair. This property suggests that there might be some way to combine the two DA algorithms or the two underlying parameterizations in order to construct a sampler which has “good enough” properties all the time. Papaspiliopoulos et al. [2007] for example suggest alternating between the two augmentations within a Gibbs sampler. Some work focuses on using partially noncentered parameterizations that are a sort of

bridge between the CP and NCP, e.g. Papaspiliopoulos et al. for general hierarchical models and Frühwirth-Schnatter [2004] in the context of a particular DLM — a dynamic univariate regression with a stationary AR(1) coefficient.

Another method of combining the two DAs is through what Yu and Meng [2011] call interweaving. The idea is pretty simple: suppose that ϕ denotes the parameter vector, θ denotes one augmented data vector, γ denotes another augmented data vector, and y denotes the data. Then an MCMC algorithm that *interweaves* between θ and γ performs the following steps in a single iteration to obtain the $k + 1$ 'st draw, $\phi^{(k+1)}$, from the k 'th draw, $\phi^{(k)}$:

Algorithm 2.

1. Draw θ from $p(\theta|\phi^{(k)}, y)$
2. Draw $\gamma^{(k+1)}$ from $p(\gamma|\theta, y)$
3. Draw $\phi^{(k+1)}$ from $p(\phi|\gamma^{(k+1)}, y)$.

Notice that an additional step is added to algorithm 1, and the final step now draws ϕ conditional on γ instead of θ . This is the intuition behind the name “interweaving”—the draw of the second augmented data vector is weaved in between the draws of θ and ϕ . This particular method of interweaving is called a *global* interweaving strategy (GIS) since interweaving occurs globally across the entire parameter vector. It's possible to define a *componentwise* interweaving strategy (CIS) that interweaves within specific steps of a Gibbs sampler as well. Step two of the GIS algorithm is typically accomplished by sampling $\phi|\theta, y$ and then $\gamma|\theta, \phi, y$. In addition, γ and θ are often, but not always, one-to-one transformations of each other conditional on (ϕ, y) , i.e. $\gamma = M(\theta; \phi, y)$. Where $M(\cdot; \phi, y)$ is a one-to-one function. In this case, the algorithm becomes:

Algorithm 3.

1. Draw θ from $p(\theta|\phi^{(k)}, y)$
2. Draw ϕ from $p(\phi|\theta, y)$
3. Draw γ from $p(\gamma|\theta, \phi, y)$
4. Draw $\phi^{(k+1)}$ from $p(\phi|\gamma, y)$

When γ is a one-to-one transformation of θ , step 4 is an update $\gamma = M(\theta; \phi, y)$. The GIS algorithm is directly comparable to the *alternating* algorithm suggested by Papaspiliopoulos et al. [2007]. Given the same two DAs, θ and γ , and parameter vector ϕ , the alternating algorithm for sampling from $p(\phi|y)$ is as follows:

Algorithm 4.

1. Draw θ from $p(\theta|\phi^{(k)}, y)$
2. Draw ϕ from $p(\phi|\theta, y)$
3. Draw γ from $p(\gamma|\phi, y)$
4. Draw $\phi^{(k+1)}$ from $p(\phi|\gamma, y)$

The key difference between this algorithm and algorithm 3 is in step 3: instead of drawing from $p(\gamma|\theta, \phi, y)$, the alternating algorithm draws from $p(\gamma|\phi, y)$. In other words it alternates between two data augmentation algorithms in a single iteration. The interweaving algorithm, on the other hand, connects or “weaves” the two separate iterations together in step 3 by drawing γ conditional on θ in addition to ϕ and y .

Yu and Meng call a GIS approach where one of the DAs is a SA and the other is an AA an *ancillary sufficient interweaving strategy*, or an ASIS. They show that the GIS algorithm has a geometric rate of convergence no worse than the worst of the two underlying algorithms and in some cases better than the corresponding alternating algorithm. In models with a nice prior on ϕ in some sense, they also show

that the ASIS algorithm is the same as the optimal PX-DA algorithm of Meng and Van Dyk [1999], Liu and Wu [1999], Van Dyk and Meng [2001] and Hobert and Marchev [2008]. Their results suggest that ASIS is a promising approach to improve the speed of MCMC in a variety of models no matter what region of the parameter space the posterior is concentrated.

To gain some intuition about why interweaving works, recall that a typical problem with slow MCMC is that there is high autocorrelation in the Markov chain for ϕ , $\{\phi^{(k)}\}_{k=1}^K$, leading to imprecise estimates of $E[f(\phi)]$ for some function f . Our ultimate goal here is to reduce this dependence. In the usual DA algorithm, e.g. algorithm 1, when ϕ and θ are highly dependent in the joint posterior the draws from $p(\theta|\phi, y)$ and then from $p(\phi|\theta, y)$ won't move the chain much, resulting in high autocorrelation in the chain. Interweaving helps break this autocorrelation in two ways. First, by inserting the extra step, e.g. steps 2 and 3 together in 3, the chain gets an additional chance to move in a single iteration thereby weakening the autocorrelation. Second, when one of θ and γ is a "beauty" and the other is a "beast", as is often the case when they form a SA-AA pair, one of steps 2 and 4 in algorithm 3 will significantly move the chain even if the other step will not. This intuition suggests that the key is not so much that θ and γ form a SA-AA pair as that they form a beauty and the beast pair. It just so happens that SA-AA pairs are often great at accomplishing this.

1.1 The scaled disturbances

The next step is to apply the ideas of interweaving to sampling from the posterior of the dynamic linear model. Papaspiliopoulos et al. note that typically the usual parameterization results in a SA for the parameter ϕ . All that's necessary for an ASIS algorithm, then, is to construct an AA for ϕ . We immediately run into a problem because the standard DA for a DLM is the latent states $\theta_{0:T}$. From equations (??) and (??) we see that V is in the observation equation so that $\theta_{0:T}$ is not a SA for (V, W) while W is in the system equation so that $\theta_{0:T}$ is not an AA for (V, W) either. In order to find a SA we need to somehow move V from the observation equation (??) to the system equation (??) while leaving W in the system equation. Alternatively, we could find an AA by somehow moving W from the system equation to the observation equation while leaving V in the observation equation. A naive thing to try is to condition on the disturbances instead of the states and see if the disturbances for a SA or an AA for (V, W) . The disturbances $w_{0:T}$ are defined by $w_t = \theta_t - G_t\theta_{t-1}$ for $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$ and $w_0 = \theta_0$. However the DA algorithm based on the w_t 's is identical to the algorithm based on the θ_t because it turns out that the conditional distributions $p(V, W|\theta_{0:T}, y_{1:T})$ and $p(V, W|w_{0:T}, y_{1:T})$ are identical.

Papaspiliopoulos et al. suggest that in order to obtain an ancillary augmentation for a variance parameter, we must scale the sufficient augmentation by the square root of that parameter. Based on this intuition, note that if we hold V constant then $\theta_{0:T}$ is a SA for W from the observation and system equations, (??) and (??), i.e. we say $\theta_{0:T}$ is a SA for W given V , or for $W|V$. Similarly $\theta_{0:T}$ is an AA for $V|W$. This suggests that if we scale θ_t by W appropriately for all t we'll have an ancillary augmentation for V and W jointly. The same intuition suggests scaling $w_t = \theta_t - G_t\theta_{t-1}$ by W appropriately for all t in order to find an ancillary augmentation for (V, W) . We will work with the latter case since it has already been used in the literature, but the two are not the same even in the simplest DLMs.

To define the scaled disturbances in the general DLM, let L_W denote the Cholesky decomposition of W , i.e. the lower triangle matrix L_W such that $L_W L_W' = W$. Then we'll define the scaled disturbances $\gamma_{0:T}$ by $\gamma_0 = \theta_0$ and $\gamma_t = L_W^{-1}(\theta_t - G_t\theta_{t-1})$ for $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$. There are actually $p!$ different versions of the scaled disturbances depending on how we order the elements of θ_t , as Meng and Van Dyk [1998] note. No matter which ordering is chosen, we can confirm our intuition that the scaled disturbances are an AA for V and W jointly. The reverse transformation is defined recursively by $\theta_0 = \gamma_0$ and $\theta_t = L_W\gamma_t + G_t\theta_{t-1}$ for $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$. Then the Jacobian is block lower triangular with the identity matrix and T copies of L_W along the diagonal blocks, so $|J| = |L_W|^T = |W|^{T/2}$. Then from (??) we can write the full joint distribution

of $(V, W, \gamma_{0:T}, y_{1:T})$ as

$$\begin{aligned}
p(V, W, \gamma_{0:T}, y_{1:T}) &\propto \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} (\gamma_0 - m_0)' C_0^{-1} (\gamma_0 - m_0) \right] \\
&\times |W|^{-(\lambda_W + p + T + 2)/2} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \text{tr} (\Lambda_W W^{-1}) \right] \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \gamma_t' \gamma_t \right] |V|^{-(\eta_t + k + T + 2)/2} \\
&\times \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \left(\text{tr} (\Lambda_V V^{-1}) + \sum_{t=1}^T [y_t - F_t \theta_t(\gamma_{0:T}, W)]' V^{-1} [y_t - F_t \theta_t(\gamma_{0:T}, W)] \right) \right]
\end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

where $\theta_t(\gamma_{0:T}, W)$ denotes the recursive back transformation defined by the scaled disturbances.

So ultimately under the scaled disturbance parameterization we can write the model as

$$\begin{aligned}
y_t | \gamma_{0:T}, V, W &\stackrel{\text{ind}}{\sim} N(F_t \theta_t(\gamma_{0:T}, W), V) \\
\gamma_t &\stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} N(0, I_p)
\end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

for $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$ where I_p is the $p \times p$ identity matrix. Neither V nor W are in the system equation so the scaled disturbances are an AA for (V, W) . This parameterization is well known, e.g. Frühwirth-Schnatter [2004] use it in a dynamic regression model with stationary regression coefficient.

The DA algorithm based on $\gamma_{0:T}$ draws $\gamma_{0:T}$ from its conditional posterior and then (V, W) from their joint conditional posterior given $\gamma_{0:T}$. There are a couple methods of performing this draw, including applying one of the simulation smoothers directly to drawing $\gamma_{0:T}$, if possible, or using one of them to draw the latent states $\theta_{0:T}$ before transforming the states to the scaled disturbances. The draw from the joint conditional posterior of (V, W) is tricky because it is not a known density. We will illustrate how to accomplish it in a worked example in Section 1.3.

1.2 The scaled errors

The scaled disturbances immediately suggest another potential AA that seems like it should be analogous — the scaled observation errors or more succinctly the scaled errors. What we are referring to is $v_t = y_t - F_t \theta_t$ appropriately scaled by V in the general DLM. Now let L_V denote the Cholesky decomposition of V , that is $L_V L_V' = V$. Then we can define a version of the scaled errors (depending on how we order the elements of y_t this time) as $\psi_0 = \theta_0$ and $\psi_t = L_V^{-1} (y_t - F_t \theta_t)$ for $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$. This is a bit strange since in general $\dim(\psi_0) \neq \dim(\psi_t)$ for $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$. Ideally we might like an “ F_0 ” so that we can set $\psi_0 = F_0 \theta_0$ in order for ψ_0 to have the same dimension as ψ_1 . However, in general there is no F_0 . In some DLMs F_t is constant with respect to t so that we could set $F_0 = F$, but in dynamic regression for example, there is no natural “ F_0 ” assuming that we do not have the time-zero values of the covariates. To avoid this issue in practice, we simply leave $\psi_0 = \theta_0$ though transforming the initial value could in principle result in an algorithm with better properties.

There is a real difficulty, however. With this definition of $\psi_{0:T}$ it is not straightforward to determine $p(\psi_{0:T} | V, W)$, i.e. to write down the model in terms of $\psi_{0:T}$ instead of $\theta_{0:T}$. When F_t is $k \times k$ (so that $\dim(y_t) = k = p = \dim(\theta_t)$) and is invertible for $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$, $\psi_{0:T}$ is a one-to-one transformation of $\theta_{0:T}$ and the problem is easier. Then $\theta_t = F_t^{-1} (y_t - L_V \psi_t)$ for $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$ while $\theta_0 = \psi_0$. The Jacobian of this transformation is block diagonal with a single copy of the identity matrix and the $F_t^{-1} L_V$'s along the diagonal, so $|J| = (\prod_{t=1}^T |F_t|^{-1}) |V|^{T/2}$. Then from (??) we can write the joint distribution of

$(V, W, \psi_{0:T}, y_{1:T})$ as

$$\begin{aligned}
p(V, W, \psi_{0:T}, y_{1:T}) &\propto \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} (\psi_0 - m_0)' C_0^{-1} (\psi_0 - m_0) \right] \\
&\times |V|^{-(\lambda_V + k + 2)/2} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \text{tr} (\Lambda_V V^{-1}) \right] \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^T \psi_t' \psi_t \right] \\
&\times |W|^{-(\delta_t + k + T + 2)/2} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \left(\text{tr} (\Lambda_W W^{-1}) + (y_t - \mu_t)' (F_t W F_t')^{-1} (y_t - \mu_t) \right) \right]
\end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

where we define $\mu_1 = L_V \psi_1 + F_1 G_1 \psi_0$ and for $t = 2, 3, \dots, T$, $\mu_t = L_V \psi_t - F_t G_t F_{t-1}^{-1} (y_{t-1} - L_V \psi_{t-1})$. The $|F_t|^{-1}$'s have been absorbed into the normalizing constant, but if the F_t 's depended on some unknown parameter then we could not do this and as a result would have to take them into account in a Gibbs step for F_t . Now we can write the model in terms of the scaled error parameterization:

$$\begin{aligned}
y_t | V, W, \psi_{0:T}, y_{1:t-1} &\sim N(\mu_t, F_t' W F_t) \\
\psi_t &\stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0, I_k)
\end{aligned}$$

for $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$ where I_k is the $k \times k$ identity matrix. Now we see immediately that the scaled errors, $\psi_{0:T}$, are also an AA for (V, W) since neither V nor W are in the system equation of this model, though note that both V and W are in the observation equation, so $\psi_{0:T}$ is not a SA for (V, W) or for either one given the other.

The DA algorithm based on $\psi_{0:T}$ is similar to that of $\gamma_{0:T}$ except we note that simulation smoothing can be accomplished by directly applying the algorithm of McCausland et al. [2011] because the precision matrix of $\psi_{0:T}$ retains the necessary tridiagonal structure. Also we mention in passing that there is a bit of symmetry in the — the joint conditional posterior of (V, W) given $\gamma_{0:T}$ is from the same family of densities as that of (W, V) given $\psi_{0:T}$ so that V and W essentially switch places. The upshot is that if we can draw from one we can draw from the other, so this part of our work has been essentially halved.

1.3 The “wrongly scaled” DAs

Recall that the scaled disturbances are defined by $\gamma_t = L_W^{-1} (\theta_t - G_t \theta_{t-1})$ and the scaled errors are defined by $\psi_t = L_V^{-1} (y_t - \theta_t)$ for $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$ where $L_W L_W' = W$ and $L_V L_V' = V$. Now define $\tilde{\gamma}_t = L_V^{-1} (\theta_t - G_t \theta_{t-1})$ and $\tilde{\psi}_t = L_W^{-1} (y_t - \theta_t)$ for $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$ and $\tilde{\psi}_0 = \tilde{\gamma}_0 = \theta_0$. In other words, the “tilde” versions of the scaled disturbances and the scaled errors are scaled by the “wrong” Cholesky decomposition, hence we call them the wrongly scaled disturbances and the wrongly scaled errors respectively. Once again note that each of these DAs have many variations depending on how the elements of θ_t or y_t are ordered, but we will ignore that issue.

First consider $\tilde{\gamma}_{0:T}$. Notice that for $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$, $\tilde{\gamma}_t = L_V^{-1} L_W \gamma_t$ while $\tilde{\gamma}_0 = \gamma_0$. The reverse transformation is then $\gamma_t = L_W^{-1} L_V \tilde{\gamma}_t$. The Jacobian is then block diagonal with $L_W^{-1} L_V$ along the diagonal. Thus $|J| = |L_W|^{-T} |L_V|^T = |W|^{-T/2} |V|^{T/2}$. Then from (1) we can write the joint distribution of $(V, W, \tilde{\gamma}_{0:T}, y_{1:T})$ as

$$\begin{aligned}
p(V, W, \tilde{\gamma}_{0:T}, y_{1:T}) &\propto \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} (\tilde{\gamma}_0 - m_0)' C_0^{-1} (\tilde{\gamma}_0 - m_0) \right] |V|^{-(\lambda_V + k + 2)/2} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \text{tr} (\Lambda_V V^{-1}) \right] \\
&\times |W|^{-T/2} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^T (y_t - F_t \theta_t(\tilde{\gamma}_{0:T}))' V^{-1} (y_t - F_t \theta_t(\tilde{\gamma}_{0:T})) \right] \\
&\times |W|^{-(\lambda_W + k + 2)/2} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \text{tr} (\Lambda_W W^{-1}) \right] \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^T \tilde{\gamma}_t' (L_V^{-1} W (L_V^{-1})')^{-1} \tilde{\gamma}_t \right]
\end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

Then under $\tilde{\gamma}_{0:T}$ we can write the model as

$$\begin{aligned} y_t | \tilde{\gamma}_{0:T}, V, W &\stackrel{ind}{\sim} N(F_t \theta_t(\tilde{\gamma}_{0:T}), V) \\ \tilde{\gamma}_t &\stackrel{ind}{\sim} N(0, L_V^{-1} W (L_V^{-1})') \end{aligned}$$

for $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$. Since L_V is the Cholesky decomposition of V , the observation equation does not contain W . So $\tilde{\gamma}_{0:T}$ is a SA for $W|V$. Note also that since W and L_V are both in the system equation, $\tilde{\gamma}_{0:T}$ is not an AA for V nor for W .

Now consider $\tilde{\psi}_t = L_W^{-1} L_V \psi_t$ for $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$ where again $\tilde{\psi}_0 = \psi_0 = \theta_0$. Then $\psi_t = L_V^{-1} L_W \tilde{\psi}_t$ and the Jacobian is block diagonal with $L_V^{-1} L_W$ along the diagonal. So $|J| = |V|^{-T/2} |W|^{T/2}$ and from (3) we can write the joint distribution of $(V, W, \tilde{\psi}_{0:T}, y_{1:T})$ as

$$\begin{aligned} p(V, W, \tilde{\psi}_{0:T}, y_{1:T}) &\propto \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} (\tilde{\psi}_0 - m_0)' C_0^{-1} (\tilde{\psi}_0 - m_0) \right] \\ &\times |V|^{-(\lambda_V + k + 2)/2} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \text{tr} (\Lambda_V V^{-1}) \right] \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^T \tilde{\psi}_t' (L_W^{-1} V (L_W^{-1})')^{-1} \tilde{\psi}_t \right] \\ &\times |W|^{-(\lambda_W + k + 2)/2} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \text{tr} (\Lambda_W W^{-1}) \right] |V|^{-T/2} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^T (y_t - \tilde{\mu}_t)' (F_t W F_t')^{-1} (y_t - \tilde{\mu}_t) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

where we define $\tilde{\mu}_1 = L_W \tilde{\psi}_1 - F_1 G_1 \tilde{\psi}_0$ and for $t = 2, 3, \dots, T$ $\tilde{\mu}_t = L_W \tilde{\psi}_t - F_t G_t F_{t-1}^{-1} (y_{t-1} - L_W \tilde{\psi}_{t-1})$. In terms of $\tilde{\psi}_{0:T}$, the model is then:

$$\begin{aligned} y_t | V, W, \tilde{\psi}_{0:T}, y_{1:t-1} &\sim N(\tilde{\mu}_t, F_t' W F_t) \\ \tilde{\psi}_t &\stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0, L_W^{-1} V (L_W^{-1})') \end{aligned}$$

for $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$. Since $\tilde{\mu}_t$ only depends on W (through L_W) and not on V , V is absent from the observation equation. Thus $\tilde{\psi}_{0:T}$ is a SA for $V|W$. Again that both W and V are in the system equation so $\tilde{\psi}_{0:T}$ is not an AA for either V or W .

In the case of both wrongly scaled DA algorithms, the smoothing step can be accomplished in a manner analogous to the ‘‘correctly scaled’’ DA algorithms, i.e. the scaled disturbance and scaled error algorithms. The draw from the joint conditional posterior of (V, W) is from a nonstandard density that, like for the correctly scaled DA algorithms, has a certain symmetry property. Specifically $V, W | \tilde{\gamma}_{0:T}, y_{1:T}$ and $W, V | \tilde{\psi}_{0:T}, y_{1:T}$ have densities from the same family so that by changing which of $\tilde{\gamma}_{0:T}$ or $\tilde{\psi}_{0:T}$ is conditioned on, V and W essentially switch places. This class of densities is different from the correctly scaled DA case, however. We will demonstrate this through an example in Section .

2 Interweaving in the DLM: Global and Componentwise

We now have five DAs for the generic DLM with known F_t 's and G_t 's. For simplicity we'll assume that $\dim(y_t) = \dim(\theta_t)$ and F_t invertible for $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$ so that the scaled errors are easy to work with. The five DAs are the states, $\theta_{0:T}$, the scaled disturbances $\gamma_{0:T}$, the scaled errors $\psi_{0:T}$, the wrongly scaled disturbances $\tilde{\gamma}_{0:T}$, and the wrongly scaled errors $\tilde{\psi}_{0:T}$. This allows us to construct several GIS algorithms based on algorithm 3. The main algorithms we consider are the state-dist, state-error, dist-error, and triple interweaving algorithms. The names should be intuitive, but for example the state-dist algorithm interweaves between the states $\theta_{0:T}$ and the scaled disturbances $\gamma_{0:T}$. Strictly speaking, the order in which we sample the DAs in the algorithm does matter, but Yu and Meng note that this tends not to make much difference. To illustrate, algorithm 5 is the state-dist GIS algorithm:

Algorithm 5.

1. Draw $\theta_{0:T}$ from $p(\theta_{0:T}|V^{(k)}, W^{(k)}, y_{1:T})$
2. Draw $(V^{(k+0.5)}, W^{(k+0.5)})$ from $p(V, W|\theta_{0:T}, y_{1:T})$
3. Update $\gamma_{0:T}^{(k+1)}$ from $\gamma_0 = \theta_0$ and $\gamma_t = (L_W^{(k+0.5)})^{-1}(\theta_t - G_t\theta_{t-1})$ for $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$
4. Draw $(V^{(k+1)}, W^{(k+1)})$ from $p(V, W|\gamma_{0:T}, y_{1:T})$

where again $L_W^{(k+0.5)}$ is the Cholesky decomposition of $W^{(k+0.5)}$. In practice we may want to break up step 4 into two steps if it is easier to draw from the full conditionals of V and W rather than drawing them jointly.

None of the GIS algorithms we can construct are ASIS algorithms — none of the DAs are a SA for (V, W) . The states, $\theta_{0:T}$, are a SA for $W|V$ though, so this motivates a CIS algorithm. A partial CIS algorithm is immediate:

Algorithm 6.

1. Draw $\theta_{0:T}$ from $p(\theta_{0:T}|V^{(k)}, W^{(k)}, y_{1:T})$
2. Draw $V^{(k+1)}$ from $p(V|W^{(k)}, \theta_{0:T}, y_{1:T})$
3. Draw $W^{(k+0.5)}$ from $p(W|V^{(k+1)}, \theta_{0:T}, y_{1:T})$
4. Update $\gamma_{1:T}^{(k+1)}$ from $\gamma_0 = \theta_0$ and $\gamma_t = (L_W^{(k+0.5)})^{-1}(\theta_t - G_t\theta_{t-1})$ for $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$
5. Draw $W^{(k+1)}$ from $p(W|V^{(k+1)}, \gamma_{0:T}, y_{1:T})$

This algorithm is actually the same as a version of the state-dist interweaving algorithm with some of the steps rearranged, specifically algorithm 5. So it should be similar in performance to a GIS algorithm.

With a little more work, we can also construct a full CIS algorithm that also turns out to be essentially the same as another GIS algorithm. Here we employ the wrongly scaled disturbances and errors. Recall that the wrongly scaled disturbances are $\tilde{\gamma}_0 = \gamma_0 = \theta_0$ and for $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$, $\tilde{\gamma}_t = L_V^{-1}(\theta_t - G_t\theta_{t-1})$ and the wrongly scaled errors are $\tilde{\psi}_0 = \psi_0 = \theta_0$ and for $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$, $\tilde{\psi}_t = L_W^{-1}(y_t - F_t\theta_t)$. Now we already now that $\gamma_{0:T}$ is an AA for $W|V$ and $\tilde{\gamma}_{0:T}$ is a SA for $W|V$, so the two form an AA-SA pair for $W|V$. Similarly, $\psi_{0:T}$ is an AA for $V|W$ while $\tilde{\psi}_{0:T}$ is a SA for $V|W$ so together they form an AA-SA pair for $V|W$. Now we can construct a full CIS algorithm:

Algorithm 7.

1. Draw $\tilde{\psi}_{0:T}$ from $p(\tilde{\psi}_{0:T}|V^{(k)}, W^{(k)}, y_{1:T})$.
2. Draw $V^{(k+0.5)}$ from $p(V|W^{(k)}, \tilde{\psi}_{0:T}, y_{1:T})$
3. Update $\psi_{0:T}$ from $\psi_0 = \tilde{\psi}_0$ and $\psi_t = (L_V^{(k+0.5)})^{-1}L_W^{(k)}\tilde{\psi}_t$ for $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$.
4. Draw $V^{(k+1)}$ from $p(V|W^{(k)}, \psi_{0:T}, y_{1:T})$.
5. Update $\tilde{\gamma}_{0:T}$ from $\psi_{0:T}$, $W^{(k)}$, and $V^{(k+1)}$.
6. Draw $W^{(k+0.5)}$ from $p(W|V^{(k+1)}, \tilde{\gamma}_{0:T}, y_{1:T})$
7. Update $\gamma_{0:T}$ from $\gamma_0 = \tilde{\gamma}_0$ and $\gamma_t = (L_W^{(k+0.5)})^{-1}L_V^{(k+1)}\tilde{\gamma}_t$ for $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$.
8. Draw $W^{(k+1)}$ from $p(W|V^{(k+1)}, \gamma_{0:T}, y_{1:T})$

Steps 1-4 constitute a Gibbs step for V and steps 5-8 constitute a Gibbs step for W . It turns out that $p(W|V, \tilde{\gamma}_{0:T}, y_{1:T})$ and $p(W|V, \theta_{0:T}, y_{1:T})$ are the same density, and also that $p(V|W, \tilde{\psi}_{0:T}, y_{1:T})$ and $p(V|W, \theta_{0:T}, y_{1:T})$ are the same density. The upshot is that step 1 of algorithm 7 can be replaced with a draw from $p(\theta_{0:T}|V, W, y_{1:T})$, and any time we condition on one of the “wrongly scaled” variables, we can condition on $\theta_{0:T}$ instead. It can be shown that this algorithm and the dist-error algorithm can each have their steps rearranged so that the two algorithms are the same. This suggests that we should expect the two algorithms to perform similarly.

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