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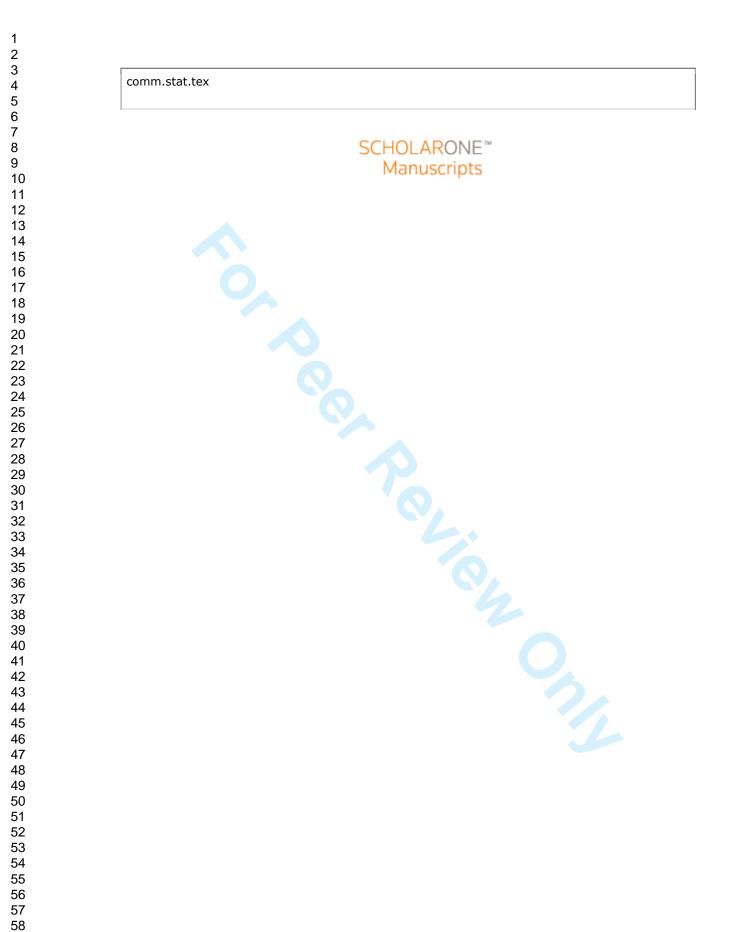


AUTOREGRESSIVE MODEL WITH PARTIAL FORGETTING WITHIN RAO-BLACKWELLIZED PARTICLE FILTER

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AUTOREGRESSIVE MODEL WITH PARTIAL FORGETTING WITHIN RAO-BLACKWELLIZED PARTICLE FILTER

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Key Words: particle filters; Bayesian methods; recursive estimation

ABSTRACT

We are concerned with Bayesian identification and prediction of a nonlinear discrete stochastic process. The fact, that a nonlinear process can be approximated by a piecewise linear function advocates the use of adaptive linear models. We propose a linear regression model within Rao-Blackwellized particle filter. The parameters of the linear model are adaptively estimated using a finite mixture, where the weights of components are tuned with a particle filter. The mixture reflects *a priori* given hypotheses on different scenarios of (expected) parameters' evolution. The resulting hybrid filter locally optimizes the weights to achieve the best fit of a nonlinear signal with a single linear model.

1. INTRODUCTION

The theory of approximation of nonlinear signals by piecewise linear functions has attained considerable attention over the recent decades (Tong, 1993), mainly in the field of control engineering, e.g., Kalman (1957). The method is popular, because in many technical applications, it offers a reasonable trade-off between the model complexity and performance (Sontag 2002; Savona 1988). Our method is motivated by the fact that if the transitions between two successive (almost) linear segments is smooth enough, it can be modelled with switching models, e.g., Judd and Mees (1995), Ragot *et al.* (2004), Rosenqvist and Karlström (2005), or model averaging, Raftery *et al.* (2010).

Notational conventions: \propto denotes proportionality, i.e., equality up to a constant factor. A' denotes transpose of A. p(a|b) is a probability density function (pdf) of a (multivariate) random variable a given b. The pdfs are distinguished

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by their argument. $t \in \{1, 2, ...\}$ denotes discrete time instants. All integrations are over the maximal plausible support.

2. BAYESIAN APPROACH TO MODELLING

Assume that we are given a time series of real observations $Y^{t-1} = (y_1, \dots, y_{t-1})$ and our purpose is to determine its next value y_t . The statistical approach employs, among others, the parametric models describing the dependence of y_t on previous observation Y^{t-1} through conditional distributions pdf

$$p(\mathbf{y}_t | \mathbf{Y}^{t-1}, \mathbf{\Theta}). \tag{1}$$

Under the Bayesian treatment, Θ is a set of constant model parameters with pdf $p(\Theta|Y^{t-1})$. If this distribution is properly chosen from a class conjugate to the model (1), the Bayes' theorem yields a posterior pdf of the same type, and the recursive data update reads (Bernardo and Smith, 2001; Peterka, 1981)

$$p(\boldsymbol{\Theta}|\boldsymbol{Y}^{t}) = \frac{p(y_{t}|\boldsymbol{Y}^{t-1},\boldsymbol{\Theta})p(\boldsymbol{\Theta}|\boldsymbol{Y}^{t-1})}{p(y_{t}|\boldsymbol{Y}^{t-1})}.$$
(2)

The predictive pdf $p(y_{t+1}|Y^t)$ provides the Bayesian output prediction. Using the Chapman-Kolmogorov equation (Karush 1961), it holds that

$$p(y_{t+1}|\mathbf{Y}^t) = \int p(y_{t+1}|\mathbf{Y}^t, \mathbf{\Theta}) p(\mathbf{\Theta}|\mathbf{Y}^t) d\mathbf{\Theta} = \frac{I_{t+1}}{I_t},$$
(3)

where I denotes the normalizing integral, see, e.g., Peterka (1981).

Although the described methodology is important *per se*, its lack of adaptivity prevents successful application to nonstatic cases, when Θ is not time-invariant. For a time varying Θ_t , it is necessary to perform an additional update

$$p(\Theta_t | \mathbf{Y}^t) \to p(\Theta_{t+1} | \mathbf{Y}^t).$$
 (4)

Here, two significant cases can occur:

- 1. The evolution model $p(\Theta_{t+1}|\Theta_t, \mathbf{Y}^t)$ is known *a priori*.
- 2. A suitable model of parameter evolution is not known, but we can expect that they vary slowly.

Case (i) allows one to aggregate both (1) and $p(\Theta_{t+1}|\Theta_t, Y^t)$ into a single complex model. Then, Θ_t represents the system state and, under certain conditions, the estimation task leads to the well known Kalman filter, Peterka (1981).

However, there exists a wide variety of cases, when the explicit model of parameter evolution is not known. If we adopt the assumption of slowly varying parameters (ii), the popular group of estimation methods using forgetting provides a solution. It heuristically circumvents the problem of parameter model ignorance by recursive discounting the old and potentially outdated information carried by the parameter pdf. Formally, we introduce a forgetting operator \mathfrak{F} :

$$p(\mathbf{\Theta}_{t+1}|\mathbf{Y}^t) = \mathfrak{F}[p(\mathbf{\Theta}_t|\mathbf{Y}^t)].$$
(5)

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The application of the forgetting operator is equivalent to the time update in state-space models, Kárný (2006).

3. PARTIAL FORGETTING

The use of "classical" forgetting methods, e.g., exponential forgetting (Peterka, 1981), is limited in nonlinear cases. We present a new approach appealing to partial forgetting, Dedecius (2010). While it enumerates hypotheses about variability of elements of Θ_t , our modification is more general.

Let us define a finite set \mathcal{H} of hypotheses $\{H_i\}$ regarding the distribution of Θ_{t+1} given Θ_t . The distributions induced by these hypotheses are merged together in form of a finite mixture,

$$p(\boldsymbol{\Theta}_{t+1}|\boldsymbol{Y}^t, \boldsymbol{\pi}_t) = \sum_i \boldsymbol{\pi}_{i,t} \ q_i(\boldsymbol{\Theta}_{t+1}|\boldsymbol{Y}^t), \quad \sum_i \boldsymbol{\pi}_{i,t} = 1,$$
(6)

i.e., the posterior distribution of Θ_{t+1} is represented by a finite mixture of hypothetical pdfs $q_i(\Theta_{t+1}|\mathbf{Y}^t)$.

A theoretically correct solution would express one hypothetical pdf for each (almost) linear window. In practice, this is hardly possible and a generalization of the approach is exploited. The hypotheses $H_i \in \mathcal{H}$ enumerate several cases, that are likely to occur. Their number depends on a specific task, mainly the signal properties, and the user's ability to guess the properties of Θ_t in each window. For instance, we may state a hypothesis about each particular element of $\Theta_t = \{\Theta_{1,t}, \dots, \Theta_{N,t}\}$ and about all of them in one shot:

$$H_{0}: \qquad p(\Theta_{t+1}|\mathbf{Y}^{t},H_{0}) = p(\Theta_{t}|\mathbf{Y}^{t}) \\ = q_{0}(\Theta_{t+1}|\mathbf{Y}^{t}) \\ H_{1}: \qquad p(\Theta_{t+1}|\mathbf{Y}^{t},H_{1}) = p(\Theta_{2,t},\dots,\Theta_{N,t}|\mathbf{Y}^{t},\Theta_{1,t}) \\ \times \mathfrak{F}[p(\Theta_{1,t}|\mathbf{Y}^{t})] = q_{1}(\Theta_{t+1}|\mathbf{Y}^{t}) \\ \vdots \\ H_{N}: \qquad p(\Theta_{t+1}|\mathbf{Y}^{t},H_{N}) = p(\Theta_{1,t},\dots,\Theta_{N-1,t}|\mathbf{Y}^{t},\Theta_{N,t}) \\ \times \mathfrak{F}[p(\Theta_{N,t})] = q_{N}(\Theta_{t+1}|\mathbf{Y}^{t}) \\ H_{N+1}: \qquad p(\Theta_{t+1}|\mathbf{Y}^{t},H_{N+1}) = \mathfrak{F}[p(\Theta_{t}|\mathbf{Y}^{t})] \\ = q_{N+1}(\Theta_{t+1}|\mathbf{Y}^{t})$$

This particular set of N + 1 hypotheses is an example of many possible choices. The two extreme hypotheses H_0 and H_{N+1} represent the user's belief that none or all parameter vary, respectively. The remaining hypotheses H_1, \ldots, H_N concern the case of variability of Θ_t 's one element (with appropriate index). We can choose different operators \mathfrak{F} or completely expert pdfs $q_i(\Theta_{t+1}|\mathbf{Y}^t)$ as well.

Working with the mixture (6) would require a rather complex treatment. Instead, we prefer to find a single pdf \tilde{p} of the same class as the components, minimizing the expected Kullback-Leibler divergence of p on \tilde{p} , given by

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\mathcal{D}(p||\tilde{p})|\mathcal{H}, \boldsymbol{\pi}_{t}, \boldsymbol{Y}^{t}\right] =$$

$$= \underbrace{\mathbb{E}\left[\int p(\boldsymbol{\Theta}_{t+1}|\boldsymbol{Y}^{t}, \boldsymbol{\pi}_{t}) \frac{p(\boldsymbol{\Theta}_{t+1}|\boldsymbol{Y}^{t}, \boldsymbol{\pi}_{t})}{\tilde{p}(\boldsymbol{\Theta}_{t+1}|\boldsymbol{Y}^{t}, \boldsymbol{\pi}_{t})} \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{\Theta} \middle| \mathcal{H}, \boldsymbol{\pi}_{t}, \boldsymbol{Y}^{t}\right]}_{\rightarrow \min}.$$
(7)

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It can be shown, that $\mathcal{D}(f||g) \ge 0$ with equality for f = g almost everywhere, Kullback and Leibler (1951). A solution, for certain analytical cases (Dedecius, 2010), defines the approximate pdf $\tilde{p}(\Theta_{t+1}|\mathbf{Y}^t, \pi_t)$, which may be directly used as the next prior distribution pdf in (2).

4. RAO-BLACKWELLIZED PARTICLE FILTER

Let $\Psi_{t+1} = (\Theta'_{t+1}, \pi'_t)'$ be a real column vector. Given the value of π_t , the minimization (7) yielding the approximation $\tilde{p}(\Theta_{t+1}|Y^t, \pi_t)$ of (6), can be evaluated. The approximate pdf can be used for linear recursive estimation of model (1). Since weights π_t are unknown, we attempt to estimate the joint pdf of regression parameters and weights $p(\Psi_{t+1}|Y^t)$. We exploit the natural factorization of Ψ_{t+1} and decompose the pdf $p(\Psi_{t+1}|Y^t)$ as follows

$$p(\Psi_{t+1}|Y^t) = \underbrace{p(\Theta_{t+1}|Y^t, \pi_t)}_{\text{linear}} \underbrace{p(\pi_t|Y^t)}_{\text{PF}}$$
(8)

where $p(\Theta_{t+1}|Y^t, \pi_t)$ is analytically tractable while $p(\pi_t|Y^t)$ is not. The latter pdf is approximated using particle filter (PF) theory, Doucet *et al.* (2001).

Particle filtering refers to a range of techniques for generating an empirical approximation of the pdf

$$p\left(\mathbf{\Pi}^{t}|\mathbf{Y}^{t}\right) \approx \frac{1}{M} \sum_{j=1}^{M} \delta\left(\mathbf{\Pi}^{t} - \mathbf{\Pi}^{t,(j)}\right),\tag{9}$$

where $\mathbf{\Pi}^{t} = (\pi_{1}, ..., \pi_{t})$ and $\mathbf{\Pi}^{t,(j)}$, j = 1, ..., M are independent identically distributed samples from the posterior, and $\delta(\cdot)$ denotes the Dirac δ -function. Therefore, this approach is feasible only if the we can sample from the exact posterior $p(\mathbf{\Pi}^{t} | \mathbf{Y}^{t})$. If this is not the case, the samples can be drawn from a chosen proposal distribution (importance function), $f(\mathbf{\Pi}^{t} | \mathbf{Y}^{t})$, as follows:

$$p\left(\mathbf{\Pi}^{t}|\mathbf{Y}^{t}\right) = \frac{p\left(\mathbf{\Pi}^{t}|\mathbf{Y}^{t}\right)}{f\left(\mathbf{\Pi}^{t}|\mathbf{Y}^{t}\right)} f\left(\mathbf{\Pi}^{t}|\mathbf{Y}^{t}\right)$$
$$\approx \frac{p\left(\mathbf{\Pi}^{t}|\mathbf{Y}^{t}\right)}{f\left(\mathbf{\Pi}^{t}|\mathbf{Y}^{t}\right)} \frac{1}{M} \sum_{j=1}^{M} \delta\left(\mathbf{\Pi}^{t} - \mathbf{\Pi}^{t,(j)}\right).$$
(10)

Using the properties of the Dirac δ -function, the approximation can be written in the form of a weighted empirical distribution, as follows:

$$p\left(\mathbf{\Pi}^{t}|\mathbf{Y}^{t}\right) \approx \sum_{j=1}^{M} w_{t}^{(j)} \delta\left(\mathbf{\Pi}^{t} - \mathbf{\Pi}^{t,(j)}\right),\tag{11}$$

$$w_t^{(j)} \propto \frac{p\left(\mathbf{\Pi}^{t,(j)}|\mathbf{Y}^t\right)}{f\left(\mathbf{\Pi}^{t,(j)}|\mathbf{Y}^t\right)}.$$
(12)

Under this importance sampling procedure, the true posterior distribution needs only to be evaluated pointwise.

The challenge for on-line algorithms is to achieve recursive generation of samples and evaluation of the importance weights. Using standard Bayesian calculus, (12) may be written in the following recursive form:

$$w_t^{(j)} \propto \frac{p(y_{t+1}|\mathbf{Y}^t) p\left(\boldsymbol{\pi}_t^{(j)} | \boldsymbol{\pi}_{t-1}^{(j)}\right)}{f\left(\boldsymbol{\pi}_t^{(j)} | \boldsymbol{\Pi}^{t-1,(j)}, \mathbf{Y}^t\right)} w_{t-1}^{(j)}$$
(13)

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Furthermore, if $f\left(\pi_t^{(j)}|\mathbf{\Pi}^{t-1,(j)}, \mathbf{Y}^t\right) = p\left(\pi_t^{(j)}|\pi_{t-1}^{(j)}\right)$, then the importance density becomes only dependent on the π_{t-1} and \mathbf{y}_t . This is particularly useful in the common case when only a filtered estimate of the posterior $p(\pi_t|\mathbf{Y}^t)$ is required at each time step. It means that only the $\pi_t^{(i)}$ need to be stored, Ristic *et al* (2004). Then, the marginal posterior density $p(\pi_t|\mathbf{Y}^t)$ can be approximated as

$$p\left(\boldsymbol{\pi}_{t}|\mathbf{Y}^{t}\right) \approx \sum_{j=1}^{M} w_{t}^{(j)} \,\delta\left(\boldsymbol{\pi}_{t} - \boldsymbol{\pi}_{t}^{(j)}\right). \tag{14}$$

Substituting (14) into (8) yields

$$p\left(\boldsymbol{\Psi}_{t}|\boldsymbol{Y}^{t}\right) = \sum_{j=1}^{M} w_{t}^{(j)} p\left(\boldsymbol{\Theta}_{t}|\boldsymbol{\pi}_{t}^{(j)},\boldsymbol{Y}^{t}\right) \delta\left(\boldsymbol{\pi}_{t}-\boldsymbol{\pi}_{t}^{(j)}\right)$$
(15)

Now, we have to sample from the space of π_t . The weights can be evaluated recursively:

$$w_t^{(j)} \propto \frac{p\left(\boldsymbol{y}_t | \boldsymbol{\pi}_t^{(j)}\right) p\left(\boldsymbol{\pi}_t^{(j)} | \boldsymbol{\pi}_{t-1}^{(j)}\right)}{f\left(\boldsymbol{\pi}_t^{(j)} | \boldsymbol{\pi}_{t-1}^{(j)}, y_t\right)} w_{t-1}^{(j)}.$$
(16)

For exact marginalization, all proofs of global convergence hold, Doucet et al, 2000.

5. IMPLEMENTATION Let the model (1) be a linear Nth-order autoregressive model with Gaussian disturbances

$$p(y_t | \mathbf{Y}^{t-1}, \mathbf{\Theta}_t) = p(y_t | \varphi_t, \theta_t, \mathbf{Y}^{t-1}) \sim \mathcal{N}(\varphi_t' \theta_t, \sigma^2),$$
(17)

where $\varphi_t = (y_{t-1}, \dots, y_{t-N}, 1)'$ is a regression vector and $\theta_t \in \mathbb{R}^{N+1}$ is a vector of regression coefficients, and $\sigma^2 \in \mathbb{R}^+$ is the noise variance. The Bayesian paradigm exploits the Gauss-inverse-Wishart distribution as a suitable conjugate prior distribution, Kárný (2006).

$$p(\boldsymbol{\Theta}_t | \boldsymbol{Y}^{t-1}) \sim \mathcal{G}i \mathcal{W}(\boldsymbol{V}_t, \boldsymbol{v}_t), \tag{18}$$

where $V_t \in \mathbb{R}^{(N+1)\times(N+1)}$ denotes an extended information matrix, i.e., a positive-definite symmetric matrix. The term $v_t \in \mathbb{R}^+$ stands for the degrees of freedom, Peterka (1981). The data update rule (2) reads

$$V_t = V_{t-1} + (y_t, \varphi'_t)'(y_t, \varphi'_t)$$
$$v_t = v_{t-1} + 1.$$

There are various methods accomplishing the time update based on forgetting (5), e.g. Peterka (1981), Jazwinsky (1970), Kulhavý and Kárný (1984), and many others. The approximation of mixture (6) of GiW pdfs, in the sense of minimizing the Kullback-Leibler divergence (7), is thoroughly described in Dedecius (2010). The weights π_t are sampled from the Dirichlet distribution $Dir(\pi_t)$ by a particle filter. The evolution model $\pi_t | \pi_{t-1}$ is given by the following transition pdf

$$\boldsymbol{\pi}_t | \boldsymbol{\pi}_{t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}ir(\boldsymbol{\pi}_{t-1}/\Delta + s), \tag{19}$$

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where Δ is the width of the random walk and *s* is the stabilization term. Δ , *s* and the proposal distribution are *a priori* given by the user. A popular choice of the proposal distribution $f\left(\pi_t^{(j)} | \pi_{t-1}^{(j)}, y_t\right) = p\left(\pi_t^{(j)} | \pi_{t-1}^{(j)}\right)$ simplifies (16),

$$w_t^{(j)} \propto p\left(\boldsymbol{y}_t | \boldsymbol{\pi}_t^{(j)}\right) w_{t-1}^{(j)}$$

There exist other optimal choices of proposal density as well, see, e.g., Doucet et al. (2001).

6. SIMULATION

In this simulation, we analyze a time series $y_t = \mathbf{x}(t) + e_t$, where x(t) is given by the *x*-component of the Lorenz system, Lorenz (1963)

$$\begin{split} \dot{x} &= \sigma(y-x) \\ \dot{y} &= \rho x - y - xz \\ \dot{z} &= -\beta z + xy \end{split}$$

and $e_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0,1)$. We numerically integrate the system by the fourth-order Runge-Kutta algorithm with time step 0.05 and parameters $\sigma = 10$, $\rho = 28$, and $\beta = 8/3$. The integration was initialized with $x_0 = 0, y_0 = 1$ and $z_0 = 1.05$. The sampling period coincides with the integration step. The system was modelled using a second-order autoregressive model (17) with $\varphi_t = (y_{t-1}, y_{t-2}, 1)$. Its parameters were estimated using partial forgetting with hypotheses formulated in Section , where \mathfrak{F} is the exponential forgetting with factor 0.95. The result of modelling the first 500 samples is depicted in Fig. 1. We can see, that after the learning period (approximately first 100 samples), the estimator stabilizes and the model achieves a good performance.

CONCLUSION

The autoregressive model with partial forgetting within the Rao-Blackwellized particle filter was discussed. We presented a hybrid filtering method, where a subset of parameters is estimated using a particle filter. The rest of the parameters are estimated conditionally linear. The presented algorithm in its basic form performs well, however, there is a lot of space for further improvements, e.g., use of an adaptive proposal in the particle filter.

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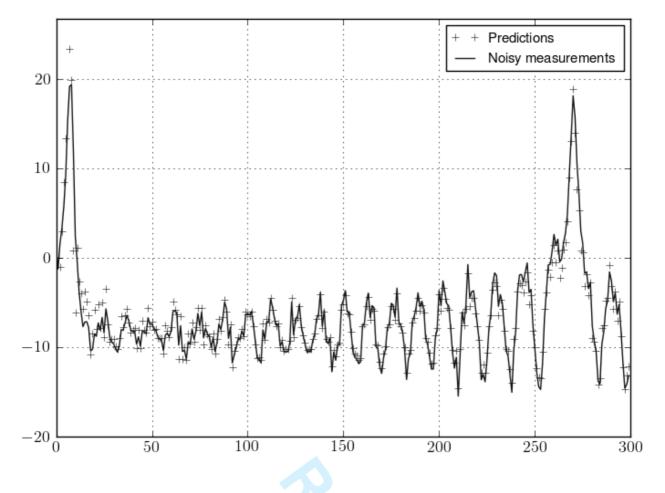


Figure 1: Results of the numerical experiment.

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