

Globally Optimal Parameter Estimation of Nonlinear Dynamical Models is an Eigenvalue Problem

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Overview

- 1 Problem Statement
- 2 Output Difference Equation
- 3 Parameter Estimation
- 4 References

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Model Class

- Single output autonomous discrete-time polynomial state-space models of the form Σ

$$\Sigma : \begin{cases} \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1} = \mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k, \boldsymbol{\theta}) \\ \hat{y}_k = g(\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k, \boldsymbol{\theta}) \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k \in \mathbb{R}^n$ are the state variables at instant $k : k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, $\boldsymbol{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^\ell$ are the model parameters. $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^\ell \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, $g : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^\ell \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $\mathbf{f}, g \in \mathbb{R}[\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k, \boldsymbol{\theta}]$ where $\mathbb{R}[\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k, \boldsymbol{\theta}]$ is a multivariate polynomial ring, $\hat{y} \in \mathbb{R}$ is the model output variable.

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- Σ is identifiable, i.e., a model compliant trajectory $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = [\hat{y}_0 \ \hat{y}_1 \ \dots \ \hat{y}_{N-1}]^T \in \mathbb{R}^N$ is generated uniquely by some $\boldsymbol{\theta}^* \in \Theta \subset \mathbb{R}^\ell$, where Θ is an open neighborhood of \mathbb{R}^ℓ

Parameter Estimation

- Given observed output sequence

$\mathbf{y} = [y_0 \ y_1 \ \dots \ y_{N-1}]^T \in \mathbb{R}^N$, find a model compliant trajectory $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ generated by some $\boldsymbol{\theta}^*$, such that the observed data is 'closely' approximated.

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- Minimize

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\theta, \hat{\mathbf{y}}} \quad & \|\mathbf{y} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}\|^2 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \Phi(\theta, \hat{\mathbf{y}}) = \mathbf{0} \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

where $\Phi(\theta, \hat{\mathbf{y}}) = \mathbf{0}$, is a system of polynomial equations, such that $\mathcal{V}(\Phi)$, forms a manifold in $\mathbb{R}^\ell \times \mathbb{R}^N$ on which the model-compliant trajectory $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ and the corresponding model parameters θ lie.

- Opt. problem in (2) is non-convex

Parameter Estimation some history

Parameter Estimation some history

- In continuous-time models
 - polynomial state-space model \rightarrow output equation \rightarrow least squares cost function \rightarrow iterative gradient based solver (sub-optimal solution) [Denis-Vidal et al., 2003, Verdiere, 2005]

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 - output equation → prediction error model → recursive least squares → biased estimates (sub-optimal approach)
[Billings and Voon, 1984]

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Globally Optimal Parameter Estimation

polynomial state-space model → **output equation** →
least-squares cost function → **system of polynomial equations**
→ **eigenvalue problem**

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Output difference equation

The output difference equation

$$\Phi(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \hat{y}_{k+n}, \dots, \hat{y}_k) = 0 \quad (3)$$

relates the consecutive samples of a model compatible output sequence, and is a multivariate polynomial equation, such that

$$\Phi \in I_{\Sigma} \cap \mathbb{R} [\boldsymbol{\theta}, \hat{y}_{k+n}, \dots, \hat{y}_k] \quad (4)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} I_{\Sigma} = \langle & \hat{y}_k - g(\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k, \boldsymbol{\theta}), \\ & \hat{y}_{k+1} - g(\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k, \boldsymbol{\theta}), \boldsymbol{\theta}), \\ & \vdots \\ & \hat{y}_{k+n} - g(\mathbf{f}^n(\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k, \boldsymbol{\theta}), \boldsymbol{\theta}) \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

note that $I_{\Sigma} \in \mathbb{R} [\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k, \boldsymbol{\theta}, \hat{y}_k, \dots, \hat{y}_{k+n}]$

Output difference equation

Construction of Φ

Given a single-output autonomous discrete-time (DT) polynomial state-space model Σ of order n (as in (1)), there exists a unique polynomial output difference equation of minimal degree, denoted by $\Phi(\theta, \hat{y}_{k+n}, \dots, \hat{y}_k) = 0$, which is the generator of the elimination ideal $I_{\Sigma|n} \in \mathbb{R}[\theta, \hat{y}_{k+n}, \dots, \hat{y}_k]$ where

$$\Phi \in \underbrace{I_{\Sigma} \cap \mathbb{R}[\theta, \hat{y}_{k+n}, \dots, \hat{y}_k]}_{I_{\Sigma|n}}$$

Moreover, Φ is of the same model order n and encapsulates the dynamical behavior of Σ in a single equation.

Output difference equation

Example

Consider the discretized Lotka–Volterra model

$$\Sigma_{\text{LV}} : \begin{cases} \hat{x}_{k+1}^{(1)} = \hat{x}_k^{(1)}(1 + b - p\hat{x}_k^{(2)}) \\ \hat{x}_{k+1}^{(2)} = \hat{x}_k^{(2)}(1 - d + p\hat{x}_k^{(1)}) \\ \hat{y}_k = \hat{x}_k^{(2)} \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

where the superscript over $\hat{x}_k^{(\cdot)}$ indicates the component of the state-variable.

Output difference equation

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where the superscript over $\hat{x}_k^{(\cdot)}$ indicates the component of the state-variable. Here, $I_{\Sigma_{LV}}$ can be generated using,

$$I_{\Sigma_{LV}} = \begin{matrix} & & & < \hat{y}_k - \hat{x}_k^{(2)}, \\ & & \hat{y}_{k+1} - \hat{x}_k^{(2)}(1 - d + p\hat{x}_k^{(1)}), \\ \hat{y}_{k+2} - \hat{x}_k^{(2)}(1 - d + p\hat{x}_k^{(1)})(1 - d + p\hat{x}_k^{(1)}(1 + b - p\hat{x}_k^{(2)})) & & & > \end{matrix} \quad (7)$$

In order to eliminate \mathbf{x}_k we will use consecutive Sylvester resultants

Sylvester Matrix and Resultants

Consider the system,

$$\begin{cases} f_1(x) = a_r x^r + a_{r-1} x^{r-1} + \dots + a_0 = 0, \\ f_2(x) = b_s x^s + b_{s-1} x^{s-1} + \dots + b_0 = 0 \end{cases}$$

which has common roots. Construct $\mathbf{M}\mathbf{k} = \mathbf{0}$ by multiplying $f_1(x)$ and $f_2(x)$ with powers of x s.t.,

$$\begin{matrix} s \text{ rows :} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ r \text{ rows :} \end{matrix} \left\{ \begin{array}{cccc|cccc} a_0 & a_1 & \dots & a_r & & & & \\ & a_0 & a_1 & \dots & a_r & & & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & & & & \\ & & & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & & \\ & & & & a_0 & a_1 & \dots & a_r \\ \hline b_0 & b_1 & \dots & b_s & & & & \\ & b_0 & b_1 & \dots & b_s & & & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & & & & \\ & & & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & & \\ & & & & b_0 & b_1 & \dots & b_s \end{array} \right\} \begin{bmatrix} x^0 \\ x^1 \\ \vdots \\ x^{r+s-1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$\mathbf{M} \in \mathbb{R}^{(r+s) \times (r+s)}$ is the **Sylvester matrix** [Cox et al., 2015]

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Sylvester Resultant

if $f_1(x)$ and $f_2(x)$ have a common root, then $\det \mathbf{M} = 0$

$$\text{Res}(f_1, f_2, x) = \det(\text{Syl}(f_1, f_2, x))$$

Output difference equation

Example

Let us first eliminate the state variable $\hat{x}_k^{(2)}$, First, let's consider

$$\text{Res} : \begin{cases} f_1(\hat{x}_k^{(2)}) = \hat{y}_k - \hat{x}_k^{(2)} \\ f_2(\hat{x}_k^{(2)}) = \hat{y}_{k+1} - (1 - d + p\hat{x}_k^{(1)})\hat{x}_k^{(2)} \end{cases}$$

we can construct the Sylvester matrix as,

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \hat{y}_k & -1 \\ \hat{y}_{k+1} & -(1 - d + p\hat{x}_k^{(1)}) \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{Syl}(f_1, f_2, \hat{x}_k^{(2)})} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \hat{x}_k^{(2)} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\text{Res}(f_1, f_2, \hat{x}_k^{(2)}) = \det(\text{Syl}(f_1, f_2, \hat{x}_k^{(2)})) = \hat{y}_k(1 - d + p\hat{x}_k^{(1)}) - \hat{y}_{k+1}$$

Output difference equation

Example

Now, let's consider

$$\text{Res} : \begin{cases} f_2(\hat{x}_k^{(2)}) = \hat{y}_{k+1} - (1 - d + p\hat{x}_k^{(1)})\hat{x}_k^{(2)} \\ f_3(\hat{x}_k^{(2)}) = \hat{y}_{k+2} + f_{31}(b, d, p, \hat{x}_k^{(1)})\hat{x}_k^{(2)} + f_{32}(b, d, p, \hat{x}_k^{(1)})(\hat{x}_k^{(2)})^2 \end{cases}$$

we can construct the Sylvester matrix as,

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \hat{y}_{k+1} & -(1 - d + p\hat{x}_k^{(1)}) & 0 \\ 0 & \hat{y}_{k+1} & -(1 - d + p\hat{x}_k^{(1)}) \\ \hat{y}_{k+2} & f_{31}(b, d, p, \hat{x}_k^{(1)}) & f_{32}(b, d, p, \hat{x}_k^{(1)}) \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{Syl}(f_2, f_3, \hat{x}_k^{(2)})} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \hat{x}_k^{(2)} \\ (\hat{x}_k^{(2)})^2 \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\text{Res}(f_2, f_3, \hat{x}_k^{(2)}) = \det(\text{Syl}(f_2, f_3, \hat{x}_k^{(2)}))$$

Output difference equation

Observe

$$\text{Res}(f_1, f_2, \hat{x}_k^{(2)}), \text{Res}(f_2, f_3, \hat{x}_k^{(2)}) \in \mathbb{R}[b, d, p, x_k^{(1)}, \hat{y}_k, \hat{y}_{k+1}, \hat{y}_{k+2}]$$

eliminate $\hat{x}_k^{(1)}$ by computing,

$$\Phi = \text{Res}(\text{Res}(f_1, f_2, \hat{x}_k^{(2)}), \text{Res}(f_2, f_3, \hat{x}_k^{(2)}), \hat{x}_k^{(1)}) = 0$$

which is,

$$\hat{y}_k^2 \hat{y}_{k+1} (pd - p) + \hat{y}_k \hat{y}_{k+1}^2 p - \hat{y}_k \hat{y}_{k+1} (bd - b) - \hat{y}_{k+1}^2 (b + 1) + \hat{y}_k \hat{y}_{k+2} = 0$$

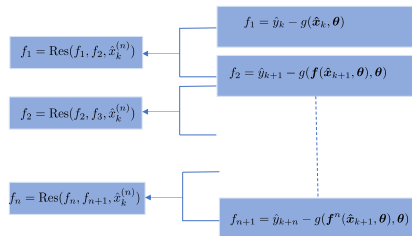
Summary: Output difference equation

$$f_1 = \hat{y}_k - g(\hat{\mathbf{x}}_k, \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

$$f_2 = \hat{y}_{k+1} - g(\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1}, \boldsymbol{\theta}), \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

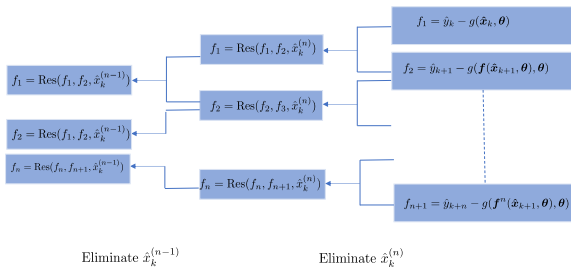
$$f_{n+1} = \hat{y}_{k+n} - g(\mathbf{f}^n(\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1}, \boldsymbol{\theta}), \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

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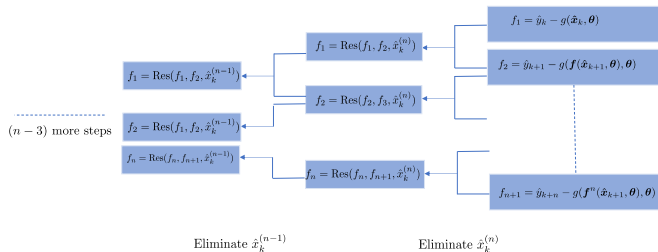


Eliminate $\hat{x}_k^{(n)}$

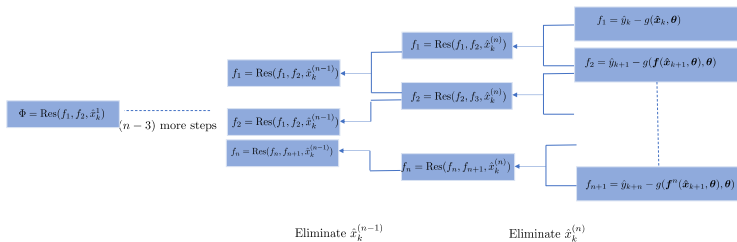
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Manifold of the Model Compliant Data

Given model compliant data,

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = [\hat{y}_0, \dots, \hat{y}_{N-1}]^T \in \mathbb{R}^N$$

the output equation $\Phi(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \hat{y}_{k+n}, \dots, \hat{y}_k) = 0$ is satisfied by all \hat{y}_k where $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$.

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the output equation $\Phi(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \hat{y}_{k+n}, \dots, \hat{y}_k) = 0$ is satisfied by all \hat{y}_k where $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$. Consider the system of equations,

$$\Phi(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \hat{\mathbf{y}}) = \begin{bmatrix} \phi(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \hat{y}_0, \dots, \hat{y}_n) \\ \phi(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \hat{y}_1, \dots, \hat{y}_{n+1}) \\ \vdots \\ \phi(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \hat{y}_{N-n-1}, \dots, \hat{y}_{N-1}) \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{0}, \quad (8)$$

where $\Phi \in \mathbb{R}[\boldsymbol{\theta}, \hat{\mathbf{y}}]$ $\Phi : \mathbb{R}^{N+\ell} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{N-n}$. $\mathcal{V}(\Phi)$ describes the positive dimensional variety over which the model compatible data and the associated model parameter lie.

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Parameter Estimation as system of polynomial equations

Minimize the misfit as

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\theta, \hat{\mathbf{y}}} \quad & \frac{1}{2} \|\tilde{\mathbf{y}}\|_2^2 = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}\|_2^2, \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \Phi(\theta, \hat{\mathbf{y}}) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

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The Lagrangian is,

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta, \hat{\mathbf{y}}) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}\|_2^2 + \boldsymbol{\lambda}^T \Phi \tag{9}$$

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$$\mathcal{L}(\theta, \hat{\mathbf{y}}) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}\|_2^2 + \boldsymbol{\lambda}^\top \Phi \quad (9)$$

The associated FONCs are,

$$\partial \mathcal{L} / \partial \hat{\mathbf{y}} = -(\mathbf{y} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}) + \left(\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \hat{\mathbf{y}}} \right)^\top \boldsymbol{\lambda} = 0, \quad (10)$$

$$\partial \mathcal{L} / \partial \theta = \left(\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta} \right)^\top \boldsymbol{\lambda} = 0 \quad (11)$$

$$\partial \mathcal{L} / \partial \boldsymbol{\lambda} = \Phi = 0 \quad (12)$$

Here, $\boldsymbol{\lambda} \in \mathbb{R}^{N-n}$, and (10)- (12) is a square system of polynomial equations with $(N) + \ell + (N - n)$ equations.

Parameter Estimation as system of polynomial equations

Consider the FONC in (11),

$$\left(\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta}\right)^T \lambda = 0$$

here, $\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta} \in \mathbb{R}^{(N-n) \times \ell}$

Parameter Estimation as system of polynomial equations

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here, $\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta} \in \mathbb{R}^{(N-n) \times \ell}$ we know from [Nömm and Moog, 2016], if the model Σ is identifiable then,

$$\text{rank} \left(\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta} \right) = \ell \tag{13}$$

Parameter Estimation as system of polynomial equations

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$$\text{rank} \left(\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta}\right) = \ell \quad (13)$$

and since $\lambda \in \text{null} \left(\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta}\right)^T$, we can write,

$$\lambda = \mathbf{V}(\theta, \hat{\mathbf{y}}) \mathbf{c}$$

where, $\mathbf{V} \in \mathbb{R}^{(N-n) \times (N-n-\ell)}$ and $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{R}^{N-n-\ell}$. \mathbf{V} is the basis of the nullspace of $\left(\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta}\right)^T$ and the components of \mathbf{V} , $v_{ij} \in \mathbb{R}[\theta, \hat{\mathbf{y}}]$

Parameter Estimation as system of polynomial equations

The FONCs can be re-written as,

$$-(\mathbf{y} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}) + \left(\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \hat{\mathbf{y}}} \right)^T \mathbf{V} \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{0} \quad (14)$$

$$\Phi = 0 \quad (15)$$

Here, (14)- (15) is a square system with $N + (N - n)$ equations

Parameter Estimation: Example $n = 1$

Let's first consider a first order model with one model parameter

$$\Sigma_1 : \begin{cases} \hat{x}_{k+1} = \theta \hat{x}_k^3 \\ \hat{y}_k = \hat{x}_k \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

The output difference equation is given as,

$$\phi(\hat{y}_k, \hat{y}_{k+1}, \theta) = \hat{y}_{k+1} - \theta \hat{y}_k^3 = 0 \quad (17)$$

The parameter in θ is globally identifiable [Nömm and Moog, 2016], thus we can expect it to find a unique minimizer

Parameter Estimation: Example $n = 1$

Given $\mathbf{y} = [1.00685 \quad 0.59511 \quad 0.02801]^T$ we can write (10)- (12) for Σ_1 as,

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \left(\begin{bmatrix} \hat{y}_0 \\ \hat{y}_1 \\ \hat{y}_2 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 1.00685 \\ 0.59511 \\ 0.02801 \end{bmatrix} \right) + \begin{bmatrix} -3\theta\hat{y}_0^2 & 0 \\ 1 & -3\theta\hat{y}_1^2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 \\ \lambda_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ \\ \begin{bmatrix} -\hat{y}_0^3 & -\hat{y}_1^3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 \\ \lambda_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ \\ \begin{bmatrix} \hat{y}_1 - \theta\hat{y}_0^3 \\ \hat{y}_2 - \theta\hat{y}_1^3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{array} \right.$$

Parameter Estimation: Example $n = 1$

Given $\mathbf{y} = [1.00685 \quad 0.59511 \quad 0.02801]^T$ we can write (10)- (12) for Σ_1 as,

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Solving (25) using

HomotopyContinuation.jl [Breiding and Timme, 2018], we find the globally optimal solution

$$(\theta, \hat{y}_0, \hat{y}_1, \hat{y}_2) = (0.5194, 1.0228, 0.5558, 0.0891)$$

Parameter Estimation: Example $n = 1$

There exists a partial linear structure in the system (25), such that the system can be written as a multiparameter eigenvalue problem (MEVP) of the form

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \hat{y}_0 - 1.00685 & -3\theta\hat{y}_0^2 & 0 \\ \hat{y}_1 - 0.59511 & 1 & -3\theta\hat{y}_1^2 \\ \hat{y}_2 - 0.02801 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -\hat{y}_0^3 & -\hat{y}_1^3 \\ \hat{y}_1 & -\theta\hat{y}_0^3 & 0 \\ \hat{y}_2 & -\theta\hat{y}_1^3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathcal{M}(\theta, \hat{y})} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \lambda_1 \\ \lambda_2 \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{0}$$

here, (23) is 4-parameter 4th degree MEVP. Using MacaulayLab [Vermeersch and De Moor, 2022] we find the same globally optimal solution.

Parameter Estimation: Example $n=1$

We can incorporate the identifiability rank condition which allows us to write $[\lambda_1 \ \lambda_2]^T = [\hat{y}_1^3 \ -\hat{y}_0^3]^T c$ such that the resulting system of equation is,

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \left(\begin{bmatrix} \hat{y}_0 \\ \hat{y}_1 \\ \hat{y}_2 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 1.00685 \\ 0.59511 \\ 0.02801 \end{bmatrix} \right) + \begin{bmatrix} -3\theta\hat{y}_0^2 & 0 \\ 1 & -3\theta\hat{y}_1^2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{y}_1^3 \\ -\hat{y}_0^3 \end{bmatrix} c = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} \hat{y}_1 - \theta\hat{y}_0^3 \\ \hat{y}_2 - \theta\hat{y}_1^3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{array} \right.$$

HomotopyContinuation.jl yields the same globally optimal solution, however the equivalent MEVP is of degree 6 which makes solving the EP using MacaulayLab inefficient

Parameter Estimation: Example $n=1$

We will now consider a special case where $N = 2n + 1$. Since we can write $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{f}_{\text{comp}}(\mathbf{x}_0, \boldsymbol{\theta})$, satisfies (15), we can substitute it in (14), resulting in a smaller system of equations $2n + \ell$ equations in $2n + \ell$ variables. For the cubic model we are already in the situation where $N = 2n + \ell = 3$, the FONCs reduce to,

$$\left\{ \left(\begin{bmatrix} \hat{x}_0 \\ \theta \hat{x}_0^3 \\ \theta^4 \hat{x}_0^9 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 1.00685 \\ 0.59511 \\ 0.02801 \end{bmatrix} \right) + \begin{bmatrix} -3\theta \hat{x}_0^2 & 0 \\ 1 & -3\theta^2 \hat{x}_0^6 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \theta^3 \hat{x}_0^9 \\ -\hat{x}_0^3 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \mathbf{c} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

The solution is (0.5194, 1.0228). Note, that the resulting system of equations is of degree 16. The final question is a Numerical one, is it better to work with more equations of lower degree OR less equations of higher degree.

Parameter Estimation: Lotka–Volterra ($n = 2$)

Consider we are given $N = 6$ measured sequence from the Lotka–Volterra model (6).

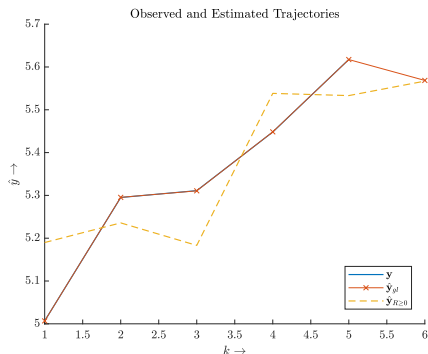


Figure: Estimation of $N = 6$ datapoints where $\ell = 3$ requires a maximum 13 equations, which are of degree 5.

Overview

- 1 Problem Statement
- 2 Output Difference Equation
- 3 Parameter Estimation
- 4** References

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